

Moreover, see what immense advantages attended this exercise of God's power! God hath appeared to us; we know Him no longer in the abstract, or by conjecture, but as visible, as like to ourselves,—in the form which we habitually love. He can be our friend, one that hath partaken of our infirmities, that hath been tempted like unto us, that hath suffered sorrow and tasted death. How much lighter, too, must his commands appear, spoken as they were by a human mouth! When God thundered forth His law on Sinai, the people entreated Moses, saying, "speak thou to us, and we will hear: let not the Lord speak to us, lest we die." (Exod. xx. 19.) And so, how mildened must not all the precepts of the New Law appear to us, when proceeding from the lips of one so meek, so gentle, so affectionate in our regard!

Still more consoling is the consideration of the sublime dignity to which we have been raised by the incarnation of the Son of God. If He stooped low, indeed, to accomplish it, He exalted us proportionably high. Our nature subsists in the Godhead, and sitteth at the right hand of God, elevated above the angelic spirits, whose nature He did not assume. Oh, the immensity of the Divine wisdom and power which are comprehended in this inestimable mystery! What should we have been without it? Poor earth-born creatures, condemned for ever to creep upon the surface of this world, or aspire, with ineffectual efforts, after that higher state from which we had fallen! Oh, how foolish is the wisdom of this world, its noblest conceptions, its sublimest meditations, com-