

In the midst of this alarming Apostacy from Religion, Towns arose like the Moon amid the gloom of midnight darkness, and reflected from behind the cloud a weak but permanent light. His example and ministry were instrumental of preventing the progress of evil. The precepts he taught were confirmed and illustrated by the force of his own carriage. In his life he shewed the analogy between a just theory and good practice. Religion was proved to be a system infinitely beneficial to the moral character of man. Its great influence upon the life and manners, was evinced, by its transforming effect upon himself, and upon those who associated with him.

If religion is a blessing, it is a blessing of the first magnitude; and to preserve it in purity, and assist it in its operation is the duty of all mankind. Where it has its proper and legitimate effect, it assimilates the character of man into the image of God. Its genuine influence acting upon the human heart, is invariably followed by conformity to Jesus Christ. From that moment the conformation of the intellectual character assumes a new form, and its habits contract a new bias.

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