

wrong, nay, is it not most obviously consistent with right reason, to ask that he would enable us to distinguish truth from error in any human production we may desire to peruse—and enable us, from the materials thus providentially placed within our reach, to form a correct judgment of the course we should pursue ?

In the perusal of any volume that bears on the particular walk of Christian usefulness, which we have chosen, there is a most obvious propriety in such an exercise,—and every Christian must feel it to be an exalted privilege, to look up to Him from whom cometh that “wisdom which is profitable to direct ;” and beseech him to be our supreme, controlling counsellor and guide. Nor can I discover any thing that does not most completely harmonize with Christian duty and Christian feeling, in the habit of converting the impressions produced and the emotions awakened, by the annals of history—the records of biography—and the strains of sacred poetry, into the utterances, or, by all but God, unheard ejaculations of fervent and effectual prayer.

I must not detain you by an extended application of the same principle, to the other means of mental culture, namely, solitary reflection, and social conversation. The application can easily be made ; and if with these as well as with every branch of religious, professional, benevolent