

justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom also we have received the atonement and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Are we the subjects of poverty, affliction, and disappointments? Revelation exhibits Jehovah as our friend, and reposing on its statements we may sing in the hour of sorrow with the pious Psalmist, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble! therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God." It is the happiness of the Christian to be interested in the favour of Him who made the earth, and who upholds all things by the word of his power. Possessing this privilege, he turns to the sacred volume and reads "exceeding great and precious promises," in which he is deeply interested; believing these he smiles at the frowns of the world, he rises superior to disease, and exemplifies the language of Young—

"His hand the good man fastens on the skies,  
And bids earth roll, nor feels her idle whirl."

Amidst the sorrows of life, and the cares attendant on humanity, religion teaches us to exercise entire resignation to the will of God, and to give up ourselves to his disposal; it convinces us that whatever he does is best, and leads us to be content with such things as we have, knowing that God is better acquainted with our necessities than we are ourselves, that he will withhold "no good thing" from us, and that "we have in heaven a more enduring substance." And is there not an indescribable pleasure in such sentiments and assurances as these? Can the principles, the pleasures, the wealth, or the honors of the world impart such blessedness? O how do all these shrink into mere insignifi-

cance when there possessor is brought into trying circumstances! At such a period the Christian character bursts through the cloud of sorrow, and the principles that govern his conduct exhibit their splendour, and shew him, like the sun, beautiful in the glory of his Maker.

The connexions to which the religion of the gospel introduces us must not be forgotten in our enumeration of its privileges. It is true that the men of the world would teach us to regard the followers of Jesus as enthusiasts and fanatics; it is true that they have always been treated as "the off-scouring of all things," and as "unfit to live;" but He who estimates all things according to their real worth holds them in very different regard. He considers them as "the excellent of the earth," who give to the world its principal value,—as "the salt of the earth," who preserve it from destruction,—as the "jewels" he will one day be careful to collect,—and, in a word, as his "portion," his "inheritance," and those whom he purchased at an infinite price. And when men are taught to view things through a proper medium, they have a great attachment to all in whom they can trace a resemblance to the Saviour. They account it a happiness to be numbered with them, and delight in the enjoyment of their intercourse.

The advantages of Christian fellowship are very considerable. We are thus encouraged to persevere in the way to heaven, notwithstanding the obstacles and the enemies we have to encounter; in the hour of danger we are admonished,—in the season of perplexity instructed,—and in the day of sorrow our cases are borne on the hearts of our brethren to the throne of God. Union with the followers of Jesus dispels many discouragements, frees us from numerous temptations, enables us to prosecute our plans for the furtherance of his glory, and makes us blessings to the world at large.