

a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient ; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness ; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity ; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful : who, knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." A very dark picture ! And yet it is borne out, in its every line, by history. The description, too, it must be observed, was intended by the sacred writer to apply to nations which had reached, in many respects, a high stage of civilization. There can be no doubt that Paul had principally in view the polished Greeks and Romans,—whose poets and historians are to this day looked upon as models of literary taste,—whose speculative philosophers had prosecuted inquiry, in the different departments of intellectual science, to a point of advancement which has scarcely yet been passed,—and whose moralists had produced treatises on questions of duty, not much inferior to any thing that would probably ever have emanated from unassisted reason. Nor if we turn from ancient to modern times do we perceive any indications of a material improvement in human character, where the influence of divine truth is not in operation. On the contrary, there is much in recent history, as well as in the records of times antecedent to the introduction of Christianity, which proves too convincingly that man without the Gospel is essentially such as the sentences quoted declare him to be. With all the progress that has been made in various kinds of knowledge, with all the wonderful discoveries in physical science that are bursting upon the world, with all the unprecedented achievements of mechanical genius, we do not find, where the Gospel is rejected,