



THE DIVINE OMNIPOTENCE.

Oh! look up to the soft blue sky,
Arching above thee, bright and fair;
Gold is the heart, and dull the eye,
Which feels not, sees not God is there!

Look round thee, on this spacious earth,
With every varied beauty rife;
Starts not an instant thought to birth
Of Him whose presence gives it life?

Survey the billowy, boundless deep;
Is there no voice salutes thine ear—
Whispering, when tempests o'er it sweep,
In still small accents—God is here,

Glance upward—in night's silent hour,
To countless orbs in glory bright;
These speak, unheard, their Maker's power,
Whose presence is their source of light!

Hark to the winds! which come and go,
O'er seas unfathomed, wastes untrod,
Are they not heralds, to and fro,
Of Him—in whom they live and move!

Last—but not least, O torn within!
With humble hope, and holy prayer,
For in each heart, redeem'd from sin,
The ETERNAL GOD is present there

How can it be a truthless dream,
When through His Son on Him we call?
SINCE HE, THE OMNIPOTENT SUPREME,
Is every where, and all in all!

INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY.

Who can cast his eye over the nations which profess and those which reject the Gospel, without beholding in it the benignest of earthly agencies and the divinest of Heaven's gifts! Who can compare the East, which it has deserted, with the West, which it pervades—the uniform decrepitude of society in the one with its various moral life in the other, the triumph of violence and superstition there with the gradual spread of knowledge and just government here, without recognising in it an influence preservative of the health and conducive to the progress of the general mind? Whether or not its extension throughout the foremost communities of our world be the chief cause of their advancement, whether it be the germ or the fruit of their civilization, there is still an undeniable affinity between its spirit and the noblest tendencies of the human race. What religion ever produced so little misery in its corruptions, and so lofty a virtue by its native power? It has presided, like a creative energy, over the moral world, and constructed new types of character, and new forms of genius, and new visions of ideal good. Science, poetry, and art have given it the homage of their mingled voices; the sorrowful, the anxious, and the happy, have knelt together at its shrine; the peasant has felt its nobility, and the

sage rejoined in its illumination; and, if its name has sometimes spread a shield over its persecutor, in its spirit the persecuted have found the consolation of inward dignity and the strength of quenchless will. Faith of our fathers! in the strength of whose virtue they toiled, and in the peace of whose promise they suffered; in whose hope they fell asleep in Jesus, and with whose providence they now dwell for evermore! Faith of bards and philosophers, of prophets and martyrs, of the best friends of humanity, and foes of misery and wrong! Faith of Milton and of Howard, which inspired the muse of the one to breathe the strains of piety and liberty at once, and armed the spirit of the other to brave disease, and pierce the prison gloom, that no child of guilt might be without his solace! Faith of the people! whose generosity none have been able to extinguish, and with whose tendencies to freedom tyrants have grappled in vain! Not yet are all thy triumphs won; not till the last and lowest victim of poverty, and ignorance, and sin, have been redeemed, and raised to the consciousness of intelligence and the sense of immortality! In meek majesty hast thou been borne over the high places of our world, like thy great author on the Mount of Olives. Descend yet deeper into the vales, where human suffering hides itself and weeps. Still behold the city of our dwelling through tears and pity, and make us worthy to join in the exulting cry, Hosannah! to the son of David! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord! —Martineau.

EXTENT OF RUSSIA.

The superficial extent of Russia has varied in a greater degree than that of any other country with the political changes to which the government has been subjected. Russia occupies an incredible space upon the map. It comprehends a vast portion of Europe, and a third part of Asia. It thus naturally divides itself into two great parts, separated from each other by the great Caspian chain, the Oural mountains, and the Oural river. That part which spreads into Asia covers a surface of about 700,000 square leagues, about 280,000 of which are productive; the rest, which lies near the north pole, and off in the eastern direction from the desolate heights of Mongolia, the border of the Chinese empire, being utterly lifeless and unsusceptible of culture. This immense tract constitutes that portion of the Russian dominions called Siberia. The southern extremity, bounded by China, is formed of a lofty and sterile table land, in which the rivers take their source, and from thence the country gradually slopes towards the Frozen Ocean, into which it empties its waters. The only diversities in this enormous province are from a greater to a lesser degree of inclement climate and barrenness. The middle and southern latitudes are comparatively

fertile and cultivated; but the northern and eastern parts are covered with dense woods, or locked up in eternal ice. In the south the summers are insupportably hot, and the winters rigid in an equal degree; or rather, the seasons are always in the extreme, and may be considered as producing nearly the same effects upon the human frame. These miserable deserts, separated from Europe by mountains and rivers, and from China by a border of stone and ice, and running up to Behring's Straits, which divide them from America, are scantily peopled by a squalid and scattered population of 2,000,000 inhabitants. The fur of the wild animals that winter through its forests, the metal that is dug out of its mountains, and the oil of the fish that lives in its gloomy seas, are the chief produce which this extensive territory sends into Europe. The European division of the empire contains a population of about 60,000,000, on a surface of 100,000 miles. From the Oural mountains, the plain makes a gradual descent to the west, there it is terminated by the Baltic, and the neighbouring states of Sweden and Prussia.—This great surface presents many varieties of climate and soil, and has been divided into three regions—the hot, the temperate, and the cold. The northern part falls towards the White Sea and the Frozen Ocean, is incapable of cultivation, and is, for the most part, woody and marshy. The richest and most fertile part of European Russia is that which stretches to the southward, and lies between the boundaries of the Caspian Sea and the sea of Azof. In that territory the soil and climate are equally favourable to production.—Extract from a New work.

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