

THE
BEAUTIES AND UTILITIES OF A LIBRARY.

SECTION I.

Theologies, Mythologies, and Religions.

The first section of this splendid Library contains over sixteen hundred volumes, which consist of Theology, Religions, and History of Religions, together with learned and antiquarian researches into the Religions, Mythologies, and Philosophies of the East. The importance of the present section will be at once perceived when we make the reflection, that the foundation of all *sound* morality is *true* Religion—not the Religion of forms and ceremonies—of cant and mere profession—but the Religion which is manifested by faith and good works.

It will readily be acknowledged (and almost universally)—that every question relative to the great interests of the human race should be based on Christian principles. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; and *thy neighbour as thyself*. A new commandment I give unto you, saying—*Love one another*. Again,—*Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them*.

These sentiments and principles should be at the root, and in the pith of all our institutions—they should be the Alpha and Omega of all our transactions; and in no institutions should they be more conspicuous, and in no transactions should they be more blended, than in those institutions and in those transactions which are established and carried on for the formation and support of laws to regulate human conduct, and to ameliorate the condition of the helpless and unfortunate.

Theoretically this is universally acknowledged; but it is precisely because it is not recognized *practically* that the