

which human nature is capable, is distinctly marked; and "in all these things," according to the sacred historian, were "the nations defiled" which God cast out before his people. And should we want further illustration on the subject? we need refer only to the first chapter of the Romans, where a picture of heathen morals, as correct as it is humiliating, is drawn by a masterly hand.

Modern idolatry breathes no purer spirit; for its gods are of the same vicious character. Indeed it is supposed by a celebrated oriental scholar, that the gods of the east are the same radically as those worshipped by the ancients; and it must be admitted, that the marks of resemblance are so numerous, and some so prominent, that they appear too striking to be regarded as mere casualties: but be this as it may, one thing is certain, the gods of Asia, in point of contaminating influence, are not a whit behind the gods of the ancients. They breathe the same spirit, they sanction the same crimes, and they receive a similar worship; so that their votaries like the ancient pagans described by the great Apostle, are "filled with unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness and maliciousness;"—they are "full of envy, murder, debate, deceit and malignity;"—they are "whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, and disobedient to parents;"—they are "without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful." Such was the moral picture