

THE  
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THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD"—Prov, xix. 1

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THE MORAL EFFECTS OF CALVINISM.

*Concluded*

IV. *Calvinism imparts peace and confidence to the believer.*—This effect naturally results from the principles already illustrated. God does everything according to plan. There is nothing left to chance or mere accident. "Not so much as a sparrow can fall to the ground without the knowledge of our heavenly Father." In this doctrine the Calvinist devoutly believes. Firmly does he look abroad upon the world, and whatever its tumults may be, he knows and believes that his heavenly Father can hush them all; and that when his own time comes, he will do it. Amid the storm, he has peace; when "many hearts are failing them for fear," he has confidence. The reason is, he knows that the world is governed by method,—that it is not guided by a blind fate, but by a wise, rational and intelligent ruler—and that nothing can come to pass without his permission or command.

Of this peace and confidence, we might give many examples selected from the lives of the pious and holy. They are numerous. They crowd upon our memory. They are a complete phalanx. They rise up before the mind, "an exceeding great army." But there is no need to hesitate in our choice. In Calvin himself, we have a most apt and pertinent illustration. No man realized better his own principles. Let us glance at him for a moment; it may not prove unprofitable.

*The person*—the general appearance of Calvin was favorable to him. His body was symmetrically formed. The casket was not unworthy of the jewel which it contained. Not tall, but of a middle size and firmly built—not fleshy, but sinewy and full of nerve—he was well fitted for hard and continuous labor. But it was in his countenance, that the man appeared. It was swarthy. His features were sharp, lineal and well defined; his brow was broad and high; his lip firm. It is the eye, however, which commonly tells of the spirit within; and every one of his biographers and almost all his contemporaries, refer emphatically to the eye of