

The position here advanced is altogether incorrect and groundless, and may even be charged with impiety. No part of the Divine economy was so arranged as to employ, or make, the poetical gods, and other idolatrous objects he has mentioned, the means of educating those heathen, for the purpose he has mentioned. The Hebrew people were divinely and specially chosen for the worship and service of the true God, and to preserve the knowledge and practice of the true religion, for the benefit of all other nations, through all succeeding time. For these purposes a divinely revealed system of religion was given to them. Of all the rest of mankind, who possessed no such written revelation, it is declared in Scripture, "that which may be known of God is manifest in them, for God hath shewed it unto them;" and that "when they knew God," from his visible works, "they glorified him not as God, neither were they thankful, but became vain in their imaginations;" and "changed the glory of the incorruptible God, into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things, and changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator." And "for this cause God gave them up unto vile affections," and to "a reprobate mind." All this, with the detailed descriptions of their profanity, and their debased wickedness, and abominations of every kind, are given in Romans, chap. 1, and in other parts of Sacred Scripture. How, then, was it possible that such systems of debased and debasing idolatry, and such corresponding wickedness and abominations in practice, could be the means of educating the nations who were so involved in them, to the same purpose as that to which the Hebrews were destined, namely,—to preserve in the earth the knowledge and worship, and service of the true God? Such false and abominable systems had the manifest tendency and effect of carrying them with a rapid progression

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