

to the effective contemplation of heavenly and invisible realities!

Our compassionate Creator has wisely adapted his revelation to our present condition; the way of life, the means of salvation, our need of mercy, are written as with a sunbeam in his word, "He who runs may read;" but it does not appear to have been any part of his intention to unveil to us completely, the glories of the heavenly state. And why? "He knows our frame," and is well aware that we could not sustain ourselves under such a display. We have heard of some Christians being so overwhelmed with the vivid and commanding representations of future realities, given by a late eloquent minister, (Robert Hall) as to feel themselves incapacitated, for some days, to engage in their ordinary avocations; yet he and they only saw "through a glass, darkly;" what then would be the effect to mortal man of an unshrouded exhibition of those glories? It would be more than he could endure. Neither the powers of the mind, nor the faculties of the body could sustain, the "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory," which such an exhibition would, as it were, lodge upon them. How wise then, and how benevolent is our God, in the revelations he has given of his glory! He has revealed it to us that we may seek it, appreciate its superior value, and "set our affection on things above;" but he has revealed it "through a glass, darkly," "within the veil," that it may be adapted to our present mode of conceptions, and to our feeble capacities, and that they may not be overpowered by "the glory of so great a light." See Acts xxii. 11.

Reflect then, Christian, if this representation is correct, how great will be the change effected on our persons by him, "who will change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according

to the working whereby he is able to subdue even all things unto himself." How invigorated its energies! How enlarged its capacities! How purified, how perfected our natures! And how great must be that glory, how ineffable that felicity, which now can only be seen by faint and shadowy representations! Value then your hopes, rejoice in your privileges. "Now are we the sons of God, but it doth not yet appear what we shall be." "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face."

G. L.

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION.

"In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night."—Gen. xxi. 40.

We often hear persons speak of very sudden changes of weather as peculiar to our climate. It is, doubtless, a subject of remark every where. It was so in the land of Mesopotamia, in the days of Jacob, and it is so in the land of Palestine or Syria at this day. Frequently the traveller finds a burning heat by day, and freezing cold by night.

A traveller of the last century relates, that he and his company, on the 16th of May, found the heat near Tyre so great, that though they took their repast on the grass, under a large tree, by the side of a small river, they were nearly burnt up alive, and they were obliged to continue in the situation until six or seven in the afternoon, when they again set sail, but could get no further than the ruins of Tyre, where they were obliged to pass a considerable part of the night. They suffered greatly from the cold, which was as violent and sharp as the heat of the day had been burning. "I am sure," he says, "I shook as in the depth of winter, more than two or three full hours." We were in the hands of four or five fishermen, who did nothing but throw their nets into the sea, often with no success, in the mean while *roasting*