

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAN.

CHAPTER V.

IN our last we endeavoured to shew, from the very fact that man is a sinner, and a sufferer, his importance in the moral system. His power to sin is proof of his free agency and ability to love, to serve, to honour, and obey God. In the present chapter we wish to call the attention of our readers to *what God has done and is doing for the salvation of our race.* As we proceed, we trust the importance of man will become more and more apparent. That God has set his heart of love upon man in a most wonderful manner, and in a degree which can never be fully comprehended by us to all eternity, is evident from the fact, *that the second person of the Blessed Trinity became incarnate with a view to our redemption.*

Soon after the fallen condition of our race was known in the capital of the universe, a missionary society was organised in the Palace of the King of kings.

When the question was asked, Can anything be done to bring back the wandering world, and save the lost?—When the question was asked, Is there no possibility of reclaiming the rebels who have been guilty of the basest ingratitude and the blackest crime? Yes, yes, was the answer which flowed from the lips of the Prince of Peace, the King's own and only Son. "Father, here am I, send me; I will go after them, I will seek and save them, I will redeem them from death, by giving my life a ransom for theirs." We may well conceive that the congregated multitudes of angels who had just heard of the insurrection which had taken place in this far distant province of Jehovah's empire, would be all ear to hear what the Divine counsel would propose on missions, and what plan would be adopted and put in execution. There is, we may imagine, silence in heaven at this period for the space of half an hour. But the Divine Father breaks that profound silence by saying, "Deliver from going down into the pit, for I have found a ransom." The angels heard this statement with wonder and astonishment. They could not fully understand all that was contained in the statement which the Supreme Governor had made respecting the nature of this mission, its yet future development, and glorious results. The whole plan of grace had, up till this period, been hid in the unfathomed depths of the in-