

indignation, or the vindictive punishments of a displeased and offended God ; yet, in their spiritual atmospheres, or in those higher and elevated regions of the mind where those Divine truths are seen above (or within) the clouds of the letter, there are no such manifestations, *no anger, no wrath, no vindictive emotions*, nothing that savours of *punishment* or the *infliction of torture* ; but we should then see the WORD OF GOD in a clearer, purer, and truer light ; and the Lord would be revealed to us more nearly as He really is, *i. e.* as our Creator and re-creator, Saviour, restorer, healer, redeemer and benefactor ; as our Father, our heavenly Father ; all merciful and all-benignant, and seeking only to help us—do us good and make us better : as having patience with us ; forbearing and loving ; and instead of inflicting punishment upon us for our misdoings, or even our evil doings, as striving to reform us, and even save us as far as possible from the penalties which our own evils were bringing upon us. Such would be the changed appearance in the aspect of our heavenly Father's face, as also of His revealed WORD, when we behold it above the thick clouds in which its image has been enveloped in passing through the earthy coverings of the human scribe to whom those revelations came. It is only whilst viewing the Lord through those misty veils, those impure and perverted states of mind through which these revelations passed, and in which they were enveloped, that they assumed those outward appearances ; and yet, it is from this tintured and even tainted outward aspect that the Christian world has drawn all its ideas of the character, quality and disposition of the Creator towards His creatures ! knowing no more of His *real* and *true* character than those untutored Indian tribes who

“ See God in clouds, and hear Him in the wind ; ”

only with this difference, that it cannot be said of them that “ professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”

But although great advances have been made in the reading and understanding of the *Book of Nature*, none have been made in reading and understanding the WORD OF GOD in Revelation. Thus, whilst the *works* of God are now viewed from the *Newtonian* stand-point, His WORDS are still read, as it were, from the *Ptolemaic* ;—the one are seen and read *above* the sensuous cloud ; the other, *under* it ; and, whilst the one presents real truths, the other presents only the *appearances* of truth. How much this must be to the disadvantage of theologic lore ! Indeed there has been progress in everything but the understanding of