

him with sullen look, treats him with scorn, and goes so far as to buffet him; would he not be rightly considered a monster in human shape? Change the comparison to a man who is kind, upright, liberal and patriotic, who wins the esteem and confidence of his fellow-men, is the man of their choice, and yet passes by his Creator without any mark of homage, scorns every religious obligation, scoffs at religious belief and religious profession. Is he not with all his commanding personal qualities the most misshapen of moral monsters, and before the bar of infinite rectitude the veriest of criminals? God is not only Lord of Lords but Father of Fathers, "from whom all fatherhood is named." He must exact the homage of His intelligent creatures, the love and obedience of His children. "The son honoreth the father, and the servant his master; if, then, I be a father, where is my honor? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts." Malachias, the prophet, in these words gave utterance to the cry of human nature as well as to the commandment of God.

This obligation of adoring God and recognizing His supreme rights extends beyond the sphere of private life and the precincts of home and the walls of the church. It follows man into all his relations of social and public life. God is the Creator of society no less than of the individual person. Societies and nations as such owe honor and obedience to him who is "King of Kings," must bow in adoration to Him "before whom all nations are as though they were not." Even according to the maxims of pagan wisdom, to found and govern a nation, without inculcating respect for the Deity, is to build in the air and lay the foundations in ether. The reason is simple enough, all those forms of reverence and respect, which like cement hold in their place the various elements of the social edifice, are derived from the supreme reverence of the Divine