

safely recommended. Instead of viewing the principle of benevolence as a merely sentimental feeling to be cherished by abstract reflection, and inflamed by fanciful representations of human nature, let it be brought forth into public life ; let it come into contact with things as they are ; and let its influence be exerted to relieve actual misery. Seeking for its objects with impartiality and care ; weighing with nice discrimination opposite or interfering claims ; marking with accuracy the endless diversities of aspect which the human character and condition assume ; proportioning its effects to its means, and guarding against the danger of allowing the feelings of the moment to gain the ascendancy over the solid decisions of the judgment—the emotion of benevolence will be transformed into a rational, regular, and habitually operative principle. It will no longer be liable to counteraction from the state of the animal spirits, nor will it vary with the varying humours of the mind. At the same time, however, it ought not to be forgotten that the beneficence which produces these effects must itself be regulated by principle. A connection must be established between the natural feelings of the human mind and the powerfully constraining influence of moral and religious truth. To *godliness* must be added brotherly kindness and charity. Native benevolence must be ingrafted on the root of Christian principle. In this way it will be refined and purified and regulated. Thus will love to God and man be exhibited in their just connections, and thus will we imitate him “ who went about doing good.”

II. Habits of brotherly kindness and charity enable us to form just views of human nature.—There are few subjects concerning which more erroneous sentiments are entertained than the moral state and character of man. For this, it is by no means difficult to account. The mind, it has been observed, like the eye, while it sees every other object, cannot see itself. Men are so completely occupied with external concerns, matters in which interest and ambition find gratification, that they overlook themselves and