

CHRIST THE IMAGE OF GOD.

BY REV. J. H. THOM.

THE fullest and truest conception of Christianity would be obtained by developing the significance of that description of Christ, which represents him as the *Image of God*. An Image gives all the *proportions* of the original, though upon a smaller scale—as when some boundless expanse of earth and sky is pictured, in every feature, on the smallest tissue of tender nerves within the eye. Thus when Christ is called the Image of God, it is meant that what God is on the scale of Infinity,—that Christ is, on the scale of Humanity. God possesses every moral attribute that characterized Jesus, and in the same relations to each other,—but in an infinitely greater and fuller degree. The moral features are the same,—only, in the one case, on the scale of created being,—in the other, on the scale of the eternal and immeasurable Mind. Thus, Christ's spirit of Mercy is the Image of God's Love; Christ's Holiness, of God's Holiness; Christ's active Goodness, of that Beneficence which worketh ever, and interrupts its loving constancy by no Sabbath pause; Christ's union of Sinlessness with compassion for Sin, the image of that Holy yet forgiving Father, whose arms are ever open to the wanderer, though he says to that holier child, who strays and wanders not, "Son, *thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.*" The divine light diffused through the Universe; and in all the workings of Providence, was concentrated within the soul, and in the person, of Christ, that he might convey directly a representation of God to the soul of Man. "God, who com-