

the most prominent duties in the most "terse" and emphatic language.

The text embraces, in a few words, doctrines of grave character and responsibility. In the first place, we are commanded to "fear God;" and in the second, to "honour the king." And, as the style of St. Peter's composition so much, in many places, resembles that of St. Paul's; so we find that, like that great apostle, not only does one sentence refer to a preceding, but, in many instances, the one is so closely linked to the other, in its meaning and construction, that it would be hard to separate the one from the other, without material detriment to the instruction sought to be conveyed. Indeed, we might justly go farther, and say, that, at times, it would seem as if certain passages were *indissolubly* connected; and that a *separation* would *altogether* endanger the doctrines involved.

And surely, if, in any one passage more than another of his valuable epistles, the observation holds good, that before us is the example!

Such is the grand and beautifully expansive genius of our "pure and undefiled religion,"—such its wide and comprehensive character, that when, with the "heart, and soul, and strength," we love our God, and, as His creatures, render Him a willing and ready obedience, by this very act we, at the same time, discharge all our duties to our fellow-beings, whatever may be their rank or station in this world.

God is holy, wise, just, and gracious; and, therefore, when He is pleased to adopt us as His children, and when we are enabled confidently and faithfully to look up to Him as our Father, and to endeavour, by His grace, implicitly to do His will, and imitate His divine example, we are, in pursuing such a course, not only discharging our duty to our heavenly, but also to our earthly, parent and sovereign; that is, so far as weak and fallible beings *can* discharge their duty.

But let us proceed, at once, to consider this *two-fold duty* contained in our text:

Firstly, by ascertaining what is meant by "*fearing God*;" and