

of that period, but all until this day, and by which he will continue to benefit future believers till the appearing of Christ, even so long as the human race remains? For his writings, as a wall of adamant, fortify the church in every land; and he, as a most noble champion, even now stands forward in front of the host, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and destroying reasonings and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God. All these things he effects by the wonderful epistles, so full of divine wisdom, which he left for our use."

### EVANGELICAL RELIGION THE SOURCE OF PLEASURE.

#### PART IV.

*The privileges and prospects of Evangelical Religion capable of affording the highest enjoyment.*

'Tis Religion that can give  
Sweetest pleasures while we live;  
'Tis Religion can supply  
Solid comfort when we die.  
After death its joys will be  
Lasting as eternity;  
Be the living God my friend,  
Then my bliss will never end.

It is a just remark of the pious Matthew Henry, that "Interest is the Governness of the world." That religion ought to be loved for its own sake is a fact that cannot be denied; but that men are regulated in their conduct by the advantages, real or imaginary, that may accrue to them is equally undeniable. The sacred writers very frequently exhort to the fear of God, and to the discharge of every holy and relative duty, by representing the advantages resulting from such a line of conduct. And there is no subject more interesting to the Christian himself, or on which he dwells with greater pleasure when recommending religion to others, than the privileges she confers, and the prospect she discloses. In our former papers we have examined the nature of Evangelical Religion, and investi-

gated its doctrines and its duties, and have seen that they are calculated to impart the highest satisfaction to the mind; and we now propose to consider its privileges and its prospects. We are aware that it cannot be disputed that these tend to the happiness of man; but we would do more than raise the subject above dispute;—we would wish to excite in the mind of the reader an ardent interest in the subject, and a holy resolution to embrace the religion of Jesus.

In examining the privileges of religion, we cannot but advert to the tranquillity and peace of mind it imparts to its possessor. It is a fine expression of the evangelical prophet to Jehovah, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed upon thee, because he trusteth in thee." How beautifully has this statement been exemplified by believers in every age! The world of nature presents to us a scene of warfare; man rises against man, and brute against brute; and in the moral world it is the same. The passions of the soul are found conflicting with each other; foes internal and external are seeking the destruction of our peace; evil tempers and disappointments of various kinds constantly destroy our serenity, and beset our paths; our enjoyments fly from us, and we resemble the waves of the sea when in violent agitation. Hence it is said "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." But who needs to be told that the religion of the gospel calms the conflicting tempests of the soul, and enables the believer to triumph even in the midst of the greatest trials? The man who has become sensible of his rebellion against God, must needs be unhappy to see the Governor of the universe about to exert his vengeance against him. But behold in the gospel a way in which we can flee from his wrath. Jesus makes an atonement; faith leads us to repose on his sacrifice; and "being