

students of nature to penetrate far into the works of the Almighty. After all the discoveries of ancient and modern times, the reflection of Job is still just, *how little a portion is heard of him?* Man's affections are not in a better state than his understanding. These incline to evil. Some men, who have had the advantages of correct education, become a disgrace to themselves and their connexions; others, though eminent for piety and virtue, are not without moral defects, sufficient to prove that *there is not a just man upon earth that doeth good and sinneth not.*

The institutions of christianity are designed and calculated to rectify the disorders introduced by sin, to enlighten the understanding in the knowledge of God and Christ, to subdue the passions, to purify the affections of the heart, to bend the will to righteousness, to facilitate the performance of all the great duties and charities of life. But many instances occur, in which this excellent end is not at all accomplished; and in others the accomplishment is only in part. Persons of the most upright and spiritual character are *compassed with infirmity*. Tho' christians *have put off the old man with his deeds; and put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of their Creator*; yet the old man does not wholly leave them, and the new man is only in a state of infancy and progressive improvement. The period of their natural lives is required, and the con-