

sordid or mercenary. She loves the souls of men, and labours to accomplish their salvation ; but she also respects the human will, and treats man with all the consideration due to "*a free agent.*"

Christianity is both benignant and gracious ; merciful to all, and of great kindness. She is often displeased, but never angry ; often grieved, but never irritated—occasionally stern, but never repulsive : and although the conduct of impenitent and obdurate sinners fills her with apprehension and alarm, she follows them with tears and prayers, and offers them salvation without money and without price. And when neither tears nor prayers will prevail she places herself before them ; stands as it were between them and perdition, and says—“ Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread ; and your labour for that which satisfieth not ; hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”

The resources which Christianity has at her disposal, and the munificence that regulates the distribution of them, and her wonderful adaption to man under every possible variety of phase and circumstances are such, that it requires the varied and glowing colours of antithesis to sketch these features of her character. She is sorrowing yet always rejoicing : having nothing, and yet possessing all things : poor, yet making many rich. She is a foot to the lame, and an eye to the blind ; a light to them that sit in darkness—a comfort to the afflicted—a help in every time of trouble—a friend that sticketh closer than a brother—and to all that imbibe her spirit, and experience her saving power, she will give an ornament of grace, a crown of glory, and an everlasting inheritance. In a word, Christianity is the true philanthropist—the real civilizer—the genuine reformer—the chief utilitarian, and the greatest of all progressionists. Yea, the model of every excellency—the mirror of every virtue—the pillar and ground of the truth, and “ *the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*”

But to speak of this issue of God’s boundless love, as it deserves to be spoken of, our lips should be touched with hallowed fire ; and our inmost souls endued with “ the wisdom that cometh down from above.” But she needs no encomium ; her works praise her in the gates ; her record is on high ; and although she is of divine origin and lineage she delights to sojourn among men ; and longs for the day when the tabernacle of God shall be set up among them ; and when grace shall reign in every heart through righteousness, unto eternal life, by our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this CHRISTIANITY prays—for this she preaches, for this she