

God is infinitely wise and holy, and he is therefore infinitely happy. Angels too, are far more wise and holy than men ; and as they are more wise and holy, they are proportionably more happy : how transcendently happy then must our first Parents have been before the fall. The earth had not yet suffered the curse ; sin had not yet entered, and spread its rueful ravages ; pain and sickness were strangers to the body ; inquietude, fear and remorse, were strangers to the soul.—The soul, conscious of innocence, and admitted to the fullest communion with its Maker, felt the joy, and reflected the serenity of heaven.—O happy, happy pair ! a cloudless mind, a clear conscience, your continual feast ; health, the charmer, your companion ; every Angel your friend ; God himself your Father, and Paradise your home. And, but for sin, this high felicity would never have had an end. What man then was, he was destined, while obedient, always to be ; or if there was to be any change, it was to be a change only from glory to glory. This corruptible would never have seen corruption, nor this mortal been subjected to mortality.

“ Such is the image, in which our first Parents were originally made. It consisted in knowledge and holiness, and happiness. And all this, had not sin entered the world, would have been to us, an eternal and eternally increasing inheritance.”

THE CONFESSOR.

No. 2.

SIR,

I am sufficiently humbled to become your first correspondent. Some years ago, “I retired from the army, and settled on a farm. For several months, the novelty of every thing around me was amusing, and I laboured with vigour. But not having been accustomed to daily toil, and the novelty passing away, I became listless and sighed for the Army, and the comforts of the Mess.

Indulging in such thoughts, I became more and more uneasy. I neglected even to look after my servants ; and seeing things going to destruction, my temper soured, and I became disagreeable at home. My poor wife, friendless in a strange land, was left for days together with three child-