

the conflict provisioned for all its alternatives—to whom life was Christ, and death was gain. The power of a Christian conscience wielded the sword of the Spirit against the swords of tyrants; and that ethereal weapon it was which prospered the patriots, and got them the victory.

What, then, is atheism to do for men? Make them happy? Some miseries it may mitigate for the moment—benumbing the sense of guilt, and the fear of wrath. It may serve a like purpose as the stupefaction of inebriety to the despairing mariner, who drinks the intoxicating draught and then laughs wildly at the tempest, and falls into deep sleep amid the howlings of the wind and the lashings of the waves, to awake only when 'the proud waters have gone over his soul.' Atheism may for the present qualify wretchedness; it cannot impart felicity. There is nothing in its negations to communicate positive bliss, and all who would find joy and peace must seek them in believing. The favour of God—the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—will make any man happy, truly, perfectly, permanently happy; and no darkness is so profound as not to be dissipated by the light of God's countenance.