

Theology—let us, in the spirit we are now recommending, propose a few considerations on the subject of certain difficulties which regard His character and ways. The object, we repeat, is not to encourage temerity of speculation but to repress it—that, abstaining from matters too high for us, we may keep on that humbler track where there is both a steady light and a firm pathway.

19. The difficulties to which we refer stand all related to the imagination, that where there is a Creator of infinite power united with infinite goodness, there should be a creation of instant and universal blessedness. Now they are the exceptions to this which have ministered so much perplexity to the speculatists in theological science. They seem to impair the omnipotence or the benevolence of God; and it is in the attempt to reconcile existing appearances with the one or other of these attributes, that so many an adventurous flight has been taken into the region of transcendentals. Now, without any attempt at a positive reconciliation, we think that we can adduce so much as should lead us to keep the whole question in abeyance. Without offering to throw light upon the question, we shall do enough if we simply neutralize it. There is many a conceivable topic of human thought regarding which there is an utter want of evidence either on the one side or on the other—in which case if it do not help, neither should it hinder our conviction upon other topics that are shone upon by evidence, and which lie accessible to human inquiry. A thing may be far removed from us in ulterior darkness, like a