

any other of its laws. It consists as much with the regularity and the sureness of this mechanism that the petition of one man should move the consent of another, as that the beneficence of the one should move the other to gratitude, or that his injustice should move to resentment, or that his wit should move to laughter, or that his virtue should move to esteem, or that his genius should move to admiration. These are so many laws of the human constitution; and that particular law by which it is, that one man's desire, preferred in the form of a request, should move another man to generosity or compassion—so far from invading the regularities of our mental system, is itself one of these regularities. It forms one of the vehicles on which the history of the human species is carried forward—a moving force in that vast and complicated mechanism, all whose evolutions nevertheless have as sure a dependence on the nature and principles of the mechanism, as the movements of the Planetary System have on the few simple laws that belong to Astronomy. When one man asks and another man bestows, it is in virtue of an established sequence; that still preserves the moral economy of Creation in a certain and established order. And multiplied as these sequences are—countless though they be, both in diversity and in number, throughout all the walks of human society—largely mingling and partaking though they do with other laws and other sequences—yet altogether, we behold a progression that is steadfast and a combination that is harmonious. And there positively nought in this one succession between