

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it ; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Who is not struck with the exalted character and office assigned to man in this passage by his Creator ? And the features of his character that give him this preëminence are distinctly stated. It is not his physical organization ; for though fearfully made in this respect, he is scarcely superior to some of the monkey tribe denominated quadrumanous, or even to the mammiferous animals. But his exaltation rests on his intellectual and moral powers. That rich sentence, *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him*, is full of meaning and interest. The image of God ! What is that ? Who would dare apply such language to man, if God had not done it ? A Being of infinite moral and intellectual attributes, immaterial and immortal, condescends to state, without qualification, that he has stamped his own image upon a creature of his hand, and therefore gives him dominion over all other creatures in the same world. If some of them show a spark of intelligence, not one discovers a single moral characteristic ; and as to intellect, if any of them possess it at all, it is immeasurably inferior to man's. If the idiot and the long-degraded savage show a mental hebetude and grossness even inferior to many of the brutes, the