

The character of the Being who made the atonement is another doctrinal point most wisely adapted to the wants of man. Whatever may be said as to those engaged in intellectual pursuits, and accustomed to abstractions, the great body of men have ever associated some material or human characteristic in their idea of God. And the Old Testament, out of regard to this want of human nature, has made most of its representations of the Deity quite anthropomorphous. But it is in the character of Jesus Christ that this want is most fully met. In that character, the divine and the human are so beautifully blended as to invite confidence without destroying veneration. Had it been said only that the *Word was with God, and was God*, man would feel as if there were an infinite gulf between him and his Saviour. But when it is added, that the *Word was made flesh and dwelt among us*, the idea of a common nature draws us to him, and especially when he calls us his brethren, and declares that he was tempted in all points as we are, for the very purpose of affording succor to them that are tempted, and to stand as our Daysman, our Advocate and Intercessor, our hearts can no longer resist the appeal, and we approach the throne of grace boldly, because we know that we have a sympathizing Friend to plead our cause. And yet he is an almighty Friend; and what more can we ask? No wonder that the heart cleaves to such a Saviour with a supreme and undying love.

“Clothed with our nature still, he knows  
The weakness of our frame,  
And how to shield us from the foes  
Whom he himself o’ercame.

“Nor time, nor distance e’er shall quench  
The fervor of his love;  
For us he died in kindness here,  
For us he lives above.”