

## CHAPTER VIII.

*On the Relation in which the special Affections of our Nature stand to Virtue ; and on the Demonstration given forth by it, both to the Character of Man and the Character of God.*

1. THERE are certain broad and decisive indications of moral design, and so of a moral designer, in the constitution of our world, which, instead of expounding at great length, we have only stated briefly or incidentally—because, however effective as proofs, they possess a character of such extreme obviousness, as to require no anxious or formal explanation ; but, on the instant of being presented to their notice, are read and recognised by all men. One patent example of this in the constitution of man, is the force and prevalence of compassion—an endowment which could not have proceeded from a malignant being ; but which evinces the Author of our nature to be himself compassionate and generous. Another example may be given alike patent and recognisable, if not of a virtuous principle in the human constitution, at least of such an adaptation of the external world to that constitution—that, with the virtuous practice which that principle would both originate and