

man is, under the dark economy of Paganism ; and so give token to what he would be, under the bright economy of a full and finished revelation. It is thus that the Searcher of the heart will find out data for a reckoning, even among the rudest of nature's children, or among those whose spiritual light glimmers most feebly. Even the simple theology of the desert can supply the materials of a coming judgment—so that the Discerner of the inner man will be at no loss for a principle, on which He might clearly and righteously try all the men of all the generations that be upon the face of the earth.

16. The second important bearing of this principle is on the subject of religious education. For what is true of a savage is true of a child. Its moral may outrun its argumentative light. Long anterior to the possibility of any sound conviction as to the character or existence of a God, it may respond with sound and correct feeling to the mere conception of Him. We hold, that, on this principle, the practice of early, nay even of infantine religious education, may, in opposition to the invectives of Rousseau and others, be fully and philosophically vindicated. For the effect of this anticipative process is, that, though it do not *at once* enlighten the mind on the question of a God, it at least awakens to the question. It does not consummate the process ; but in as far as the moral precedes the intellectual, it makes good the