

God—till, after having done full justice both to our opportunities and our powers, we had made the most of all the available evidence that was within our reach, and possessed ourselves of all the knowledge that was accessible.

19. We can conceive how, under the influence of these considerations, one should begin and prosecute the study of Natural Theology, till he had exhausted it. But an interesting inquiry remains. We have already endeavoured to estimate what the proper leadings of the mind are, at the commencement and along the progress of the study. The remaining question is, What were the proper leadings of the mind at the termination of it?

20. And first it will be seen, on the principles which we have already endeavoured to establish, that no alleged defect of evidence in Natural Theology can extinguish the use of it—a use which might still remain, under every conceivable degree whether of dimness or of distinctness in its views. Even the faint and distant probabilities of the subject, may still lay upon us the duty of careful and strenuous inquiry; and that long anterior to our full acquaintance with the certainties of the subject. The verisimilitudes of the question are the signal-posts, by following the intimations of which, we are at length conducted to the verities of the question. Although Natural Theology, therefore, should fail to illuminate, yet, by a moral force upon the attention, it may fully