

have become ashamed of the homage that he once had rendered to the worth and importance of Christianity.

32. This, notwithstanding, remains one of the finest examples of the way in which the Natural bears upon the Christian theology; and of the outgoings, by which the one conducts to a landing-place in the other. We hold that there are many such outgoings: that at the uttermost margin of the former there is a felt want, and that, in accurate counterpart to this, the latter has something to offer in precise and perfect adaptation thereto. Now the great error of our academic theism, as commonly treated, is, that it expresses no want; that it reposes in its own fancied sufficiency; and that all its landing-places are within itself, and along the uttermost limits of its own territory. It is no reproach against our philosophical moralists, that they have not stepped beyond the threshold of that peculium, which is strictly and appropriately theirs; or not made incursion into another department than their own. The legitimate complaint is, that, on taking leave of their disciples, they warn them not of their being only yet at the outset or in the prosecution of a journey, instead of having reached the termination of it. They in fact take leave of them in the middle of an unprotected highway, when they should have reared a finger-post of direction to the places which lie beyond. The paragraph which we have now extracted, was just such a finger-post — though