

He upholds the mechanism of the material World ; but here its province ends : respecting the subjects on which, above all others, it concerns mankind to be well informed, namely, the will of God in his moral government, and the future prospects of the human race, Reason only assures us of the absolute need in which we stand of a Revelation. Many of the greatest proficient in philosophy have felt and expressed these distinctions. “ The consideration of God’s Providence (says Boyle) in the conduct of things corporeal may prove to a well-disposed Contemplator, a Bridge, whereon he may pass from Natural to Revealed Religion.” † ‡

“ Next (says Locke) to the knowledge of one God, Maker of all things, a clear knowledge of their duty was wanting to mankind.”

And He, whose name, by the consent of nations, is above all praise, the inventor and founder

† Christian Virtuoso, 1690. P. 42.

‡ “ Natural Religion, as it is the first that is embraced by the mind, so it is the foundation upon which revealed religion ought to be superstructed, and is as it were, the stock upon which Christianity must be engrafted. For though I readily acknowledge natural religion to be *insufficient*, yet I think it very *necessary*. It will be to little purpose to press an infidel with arguments drawn from the worthiness, that appears in the Christian doctrine to have been revealed by God, and from the miracles its first preachers wrought to confirm it ; if the unbeliever be not already persuaded, upon the account of natural religion, that *there is a God, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” Boyle’s Christian Virtuoso, Part II. prop. 1.