

those that published it." This was the case at the first preaching of the Gospel, when the gross darkness of heathen idolatry covered the earth; this also was the case at what may be called its republication at the time of the Reformation, when the gross darkness of papal idolatry had almost put out the light of truth in the church; and so shall it be again, should another and perhaps last cloud of error envelope the world with darkness,* which seems even now beginning to gather, and may we not hope that it will be followed by that happy time, foretold by the prophet, when "*the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea?*" The old curse on Ham's offspring shall then cease, he shall no longer be a servant of servants to his brethren; then shall the curse also that has driven the children of Abraham after the flesh into every region of the globe, cease, and they shall look on Him whom they pierced, and be restored to the favour of their God, and to their own land;† and next, in its own day, the original curse, also pronounced upon Adam and his posterity, shall be obliterated and done away for ever.

Taking all the circumstances I have noticed into consideration, I trust I have made it clear, that the variations observable in the different races of men are not of such a nature as to render it impossible, or improbable, that they all should have been derived from a common stock: and that the degradations observable in some of them, and approximation to the highest of the brutes, was caused not by the will and fiat of the Creator, but by their own wilful departure from him, and voluntary self-debasement. *Because they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, he gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things that are not convenient;* further, that with respect to those characters, which distinguish one nation from another, they

* See Appendix, Note 17.

† See Appendix, Note 18.