

philosophers of this country are a set of sober-minded men, who have betrayed no hostility to revealed truth. An exclusive devotion to one subject inevitably makes a man narrow-minded; and a successful career of intellectual toil may make a man proud and full of self, and so take from him the best graces of a Christian character. But failings like these belong to the infirmities of our nature, and are not confined to any one profession or pursuit: they may be seen in the characters of sagacious lawyers or learned divines, as well as of laborious philosophers. It would, indeed, be ridiculous to say, that all living philosophers are religious men. Like their neighbours, they have their besetting sins: but many of them are men of pure lives and firm believers in revelation; and among them may be found some who shine forth as illustrious patterns of Christian holiness.

A sceptic may, indeed, think that the whole system of things, moral and physical, has no principle of continued rest—that it has only been jostled into a condition of unstable equilibrium, which may be destroyed by the first movement of any of the component elements. Such a one may reasonably fear the progress of discovery; for his system wants the essential principles of cohesion. But a sincere believer in the word of God has no fear of this kind: for he knows that all the parts of the natural world are wisely fitted together—that the Lord of all nature is a being *without variableness or shadow of turning*—and that truth, of whatever kind, as seen in the mind of man, is but a perception of his Maker's will.

A man of deep thought and great practical wisdom—one whose piety and benevolence have for