

the series of God's operations. It is a deviation from the ordinary course of events, but accomplished by the determinating will of the Supreme Being, through the agency of the instruments proper in every case, and for purposes of the highest wisdom and goodness requiring such an interposition. The Scriptures abundantly show that the Divine Wisdom has not lavished away miracles; but, so far as we know, has wrought them only for the purpose of accrediting the claim of some one who professed to be the bearer of a revelation from God. To every reflecting person this must appear to be a purpose of pure and exalted benevolence, and most worthy of the Supreme Being, the infinitely Wise and Good. The undeniable evidence of our entire dependence; the consciousness, which each of us carries in his own breast, of wants, capacities, and desires, stretching out of the sphere of our present existence, expanding the more as the more they are gratified, thus proving their illimitable character, and authorizing the expectation of another life with improved faculties of action and sensibilities to enjoyment or suffering;—these and their associated considerations MUST impress us with the desirableness of obtaining something more than that sentiment of the Deity which we derive by inferences from what we see of his works, in their monuments of the past or their displays of the present; the universal and unceasing manifestations of knowledge and power, of consummate wisdom in the application of knowledge and power, and of beneficence, appearing in so many beautiful forms, yet chequered with so many dark shades of sin and pain and wo. The wondrous evidence thus set before us of the physical government of God, warrants our belief that he exercises a *moral* government; and that, in proportion as mind is a nobler object than insensible matter, or, according to some, mere ideas impressed upon an unknown substra-