

full admission of the doctrine concerning death as the penalty of sin, to consider them as declaring that in this manner death acquired dominion over the first man and his posterity ; that is, the human race universally. The entire view of the case leads us to believe that, in the state of pristine purity, the bodily constitution of man was exempted from the law of progress towards dissolution which belonged to the inferior animals. It must have been maintained in that distinguished peculiarity, by means to us unknown : and it would seem probable that, had not man fallen by transgression, he and each of his posterity would, after faithfully sustaining an individual probation, have passed through a change without dying, and have been exalted to a more perfect state of existence.

In addition to these considerations, it ought to be especially recollected, that the anatomical structure of the larger part of animal species presents demonstration that they were created to live upon animal food. Some persons have strangely affirmed the contrary, and have supposed that, by persevering practice, lions and wolves and all carnivorous creatures might be brought to live on a vegetable diet. Every physiologist must smile at this monstrous absurdity. A few species indeed are omnivorous ; and this circumstance has misled some persons. It follows, that those predictions of the peace and happiness of the Messiah's reign, which picture the ferocious and venomous animals as becoming herbivorous and harmless, must be understood, as they are by Christian expositors generally, as beautiful poetry, expressing the moral influence of the gospel.\*

III. In the second and third of these lectures, several

\* Upon this subject, I beg to refer to Dr. Buckland's recently published Sermon on "The Sentence of Death," preached before the University of Oxford ; and to the Supplementary Note A of this volume.