

the infinite perfections of God, veneration and filial love to him, cordial submission to his authority, delight in his precepts, the thankful reception of his gospel, and the repose of the soul in HIM as the ground of its immortal hopes.

So shall we answer the purposes of our existence, and shall be prepared for the momentous changes which are hastening on, and in which we have a never-dying interest. Infinite happiness or infinite woe will be the result of a due regard to these considerations, or a contempt of them. This result for eternity will be the product of our present character, as it is seen by the Omniscient; a product *necessary*, by the laws of our intellectual nature, and *just* under the government of eternal rectitude.*

God has written the lesson of responsibility and retribution upon the large scale of affinity and sequence, through the whole empire of nature. The felicities of holiness and the punishments of sin, are not arbitrary inflictions, but grow out of the necessary constitutions which the All-wise Sovereign has fixed for the good order of his universe. Hence, it is not less an inevitable certainty, from physical truths and rational evidences, than it is a primary doctrine of the Bible, that "they who hate knowledge and choose not the fear of the Lord, who reject his counsels and despise his reproof, shall eat of the fruit of their own way."†

* This portion (p. 276 to 282,) was prepared and written; but, by a mortifying accident, was omitted in the delivery of the lectures.

† Prov. i. 29—31. With this coincide the reasonings of Mr. Babbage, in his chapter "On the Permanent Impressions of our Words and Actions on the Globe we inhabit." Laplace had observed that "the curve described by [the motion of] a single molecule of air or any fluid is subjected to laws as certain as those of the planetary orbits: there is no difference between them, but which arises from our ignorance." Mr. Babbage pursues the idea, and shows that "these aerial pulses, unseen by the keenest eye, unheard by the acutest ear, unperceived by human senses,