

It is hardly strange that to the acutest minds, unenlightened by revelation, this world should seem to be a hopeless enigma ; or that it should be looked upon as a state of retribution, and that the half Christian Manichee should imagine two supreme principles, one of good and the other of evil, holding with each other an everlasting war. But there are two doctrines of revelation that solve the dark riddle, and show to the eye of faith the full-orbed glories of the Divine Benevolence behind the thickest clouds. One of these doctrines is, that the world is in a fallen condition, and because sin has entered it, suffering has followed ; so that, in fact, *the whole creation groaneth and travaileth together in pain*. The other is, that God's providence sits watchfully above the whole scene, and so controls every event, that the final result shall be happiness and glory. It is wonderful how these truths resolve the most agitating doubts, and anchor the soul to a rock amid the fiercest tempests of life. Faith does not fear but that infinite power, wisdom, and benevolence will bring order out of confusion, peace out of discord, holiness out of pollution, and everlasting happiness out of temporary misery. She can see how wisely adapted even the evils of life are to the moral discipline essential to a fallen being. And when the tempests howl around, and the billows come pouring over her, it is enough for her to *know that all things work together for good, to them that love God*. She has reached that happiest condition of human existence, unre-served submission to the will of God.

Springing from such a system of doctrines, cordially embraced, there are hopes and consolations such as nothing else can give. All other hopes and consolations fail to satisfy ; but these leave nothing to be desired. The man does not cease to be interested in this world, but he is more interested