

to consider the impression it produced on the speculations of a former age. Its greatest fault is the contracted view it takes of the capacities of man—allowing him, indeed, the faculty of reflecting and following out trains of thought according to the rules of abstract reasoning; but depriving him both of his powers of imagination and of his moral sense. Hence it produced, I think, a chilling effect on the philosophic writings of the last century: and many a cold and beggarly system of psychology was sent into the world by authors of the school of Locke; pretending, at least, to start from his principles, and to build on his foundation. It is to the entire domination his “Essay” had once established in our University that we may, perhaps, attribute all that is faulty in the Moral Philosophy of Paley—the work on which I now proceed to comment.

I would ever wish to speak with reverence of a man whose name is an honour to our academic body, and who did, I believe, during his time, much more for the cause of revealed truth than any other writer of his country. His homely strength and clearness of style, and his unrivalled skill in stating and following out his argument, must ever make his writings popular: and, speaking for myself, I cannot describe, in terms too strong, the delight I once experienced in studying his Moral Philosophy, where truth after truth seemed to flash on the mind with all the force of demonstration—on questions too which, in other hands, seemed only involved in mystery and doubt. On this account, if there be a defective principle in his system, it ought the more boldly to be combated, lest the influence of his name and the charm of his philo-