

perpetrated in the light of day, and thrown a thousand links about the bad passions of men, who neither feel its sanction, nor for one moment think of it as a law proclaimed for their acceptance by the mouth of the Almighty. And thus it is that the law of honor, however false and imperfect as a rule of life, has been exalted and purified by the law of God.

If the poet's song inflamed, and the funeral oration sanctified the heroic courage of the citizens of Greece and Rome, they were taught also to believe in the supremacy of conscience, and to regard vice as a violation of the law of their moral nature. A lofty standard of right and wrong was ever set up before them ; and, however corrupt their practice, virtue was honored, at least in word, and was never permitted to pass before their view without its fitting eulogy.

The law of God is indeed written in the heart in characters too plain to be easily misunderstood ; and hence, unless when fettered by system or blinded by passion, men have seldom wandered far from the truth in their speculative judgments between right and wrong.—*Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report ; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things**. This is the language of St Paul—a man quite as deeply impressed with a conviction of the depravity of our nature as the other Apostles ; and in fervent zeal and knowledge of mankind superior to them all. Yet does he never shut out the better feelings of

* Philip. iv. 8: