

we should desire that it persisted for ever. Like the stray member of a secure and blissful family, it hath turned into a wayward comfortless ill-conditioned thing, that still teems however with the recollection of its high original, and wildly gleams and gladdens in the hope of its coming regeneration. It hath all the characters now of being in a transition state—and with all those symptoms of restlessness about it which brooding insect undergoes ere it passes into the death-like chrysalis, and comes forth again in some gay and beauteous expansion on the fields of our illumined atmosphere. Meanwhile it is in sore labour; and the tempest's sigh, and the meteor's flash, and not more the elemental war than the conflict and the agony that are upon all spirits—the vexing care, and the heated enterprise, and the fierce contention, and the battle-cry both that rises among the inferior tribes throughout the amplitudes of unpeopled nature, and that breaks as loudly upon the ear from the shock of civilized men—above every thing the death, the sweeping irresistible death, that makes such havoc among all the ranks of animated nature and carries off as with a flood its successive generations—these are the now overhanging evils of a world that is groping in darkness for its God.

26. There are certain topics in Natural Theology which we would rather pass over in this rapid and cursory way, than bring them each successively forward, in the shape of a distinct and definite argument. We conceive that injury is done to a cause, when the stress of it is laid in any great or