

TRACTS

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[No. 19.]

ON

THE HARMONY

OF THE

DIVINE ATTRIBUTES.

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If there is any kind of knowledge at all important for man to acquire, that truth which reveals the real character of his God must be worthy of his most diligent search. With what thankfulness of heart, then, should we hail the revelation of divine truth, that opens to our understandings the character of our heavenly Father, that not merely declares him TO BE, but makes known his excellencies; shews us what he truly is; invites and encourages us to seek his face, and to acquaint ourselves with him, that we may love him, and be happy in yielding obedience to his just and gracious commands. To come to the Bible, in the exercise of our best endeavours to understand its truth, looking humbly to the great source of wisdom for the ability to do so, is the way of searching the Scriptures, that will be pleasing to the Lord and profitable to ourselves. When men come to the inspired volume to learn the character of God, and read therein expressions which appear to clash with each other in the descriptions they afford of his attributes, instead of being content with what any popular system of faith may assert as the true doctrine, their unquestionable duty is, to examine, compare, and judge, that the genuine truth may be discovered, and that they may not be led away by any of those mere appearances of truth which, both in natural and spiritual science, are necessarily found upon the surface of things. Thus, when we read of the terror and fierceness of God's wrath, and that he is angry with the wicked every day, instead of resting in the idea that the feelings of wrath and anger do really exist in the divine mind, our endeavour should be to ascertain what is the true meaning of such expressions, and how they are to be understood, consistently with those passages which declare the fulness