

something in man far nobler, far more worth his cherishing and serious care, than merely his animal nature ;—which in itself is good and excellent, and must be tended—and that with care and thankfulness, though it be inferior to the immortal mind within us. And this is a proper foundation for those higher exercises of the soul, with regard to our contemplations of the glorious world we live in, and what is rationally to be hoped for, by each man after death,—which result in astonishment, and in unfeigned praise and gratitude to the bounteous Lord of all. It is on this account only,—were there no other good gained by our social union,—that I have hitherto proposed my services, and shall continue to render them to this society : since, I consider, there is a high duty discharged, in seriously endeavouring to set forth in a plain and intelligible manner any subject of true and important science ; whatever tends to elevate the general mind and feelings of those, with whom it is our lot to live. Let our aim then be,—never to degenerate ;—not to be content merely with bare amusement ; but rather to be ambitious of genuine instruction ; of desiring to have our views of society and social attainments, i. e. of the sublilities of morals, exemplified in history, or debated upon among us ; or else, the angelic exercises of the human intellect set forth to our minds in the wondrous discoveries perpetually abounding throughout the realms of nature ;—to have such prospects I say, enlarged, accurately extended, and brought into that true point of sight, where all our knowledge shall unite and distinctly harmonize,—displaying clearly to our view, the goodness, the wisdom and the power of that one great Being, who has created us all, in his own good and gracious image !

But to gain this desirable end, Mr. President, each must join heartily in the work : the lecturers and debaters must put no indolent hand to the plough : they must be in earnest. And, on the other hand, the auditors must yield a willing attention to what has been proposed for their instruction and amusement, not without toil and patient thought. Let us each put our shoulder to the wheel ; and we shall then perceive the fabled Hercules to be already descending from the clouds to aid us. If the number of our forces be indeed diminished ; then let those who are left, stand by their colours more closely : the harder the task, the greater will be the glory of success ! Let us shew, that fewer can accomplish, what no numbers