

to be in a prosperous train; when India, previously so hopeless and dispiriting in a religious point of view, began to assume, under his pastoral care, a cheering aspect, and its hitherto barren fields to yield to the hand of Christian cultivation. The sceptic, indeed, might derive a plausible argument for his impious scheme from so mysterious a dispensation;—the Christian may as fully feel the difficulty involved in it; but the effect of it in him is, to increase his devout confidence in the Almighty Disposer of events, as his only resource in such a perplexity: and the sentiment which actuates and consoles him, in such a case, is, “I became dumb and opened not my mouth, for it was thy doing.”

Bishop Middleton, when he accepted the call of his church and country to lay the foundation of our Oriental Church establishment, was well aware of the many difficulties he must encounter;—he knew that, in wearing the Indian mitre, he should place no chaplet of roses on his brows, and that, like the man of God of old, who proclaimed the solemn sentence against the idolatrous altar in Bethel, he should be imperatively required to postpone the calls of personal ease and gratification to the holy commission on which he was about to proceed:—it was not, therefore, without much anxious deliberation, that he ultimately decided on embarking on the hazardous enterprise, and nerved himself to that degree of pious hardihood, required in one, who should aspire to the glory of becoming the Christian Gama of his age.

“At first he shrunk from the magnitude of the charge, and declined it. But, upon mature consideration, he thought it unworthy of a Christian minister to suffer the difficulty of the office, or dangers of the climate, to deter him from the performance of a duty, to which Providence was pleased to call him. ‘You will easily imagine,’ (he says, in a letter addressed to the writer of these memoirs,) ‘that in accepting this office, I have sustained a severe conflict of feelings. I had even declined it. But when I came to settle the account with my own heart, I really found I had little to allege in behalf of my decision. I began to consider that I had yielded to some unmanly considerations, when I ought rather to have counted my comfort, and my connexions, and my prospects at home, as altogether worthless in comparison with the good, of which it might possibly be the design of Providence to make me the instrument. How far, even now, I have reasoned rightly, God alone knows; but I have endeavoured to view the subject impartially, and I trust in the Almighty to bless the work in which I am to engage.’”—P. xvii.

When he once had made the decision, how completely he bent the whole force of his mind to the sublime charge which he had undertaken, may be judged by the following rules which he wrote down during his voyage:—

“Invoke divine aid.—Preach frequently, and as ‘one having authority.’—Promote schools, charities, literature, and good taste: nothing great can be accomplished without policy.—Persevere against discouragement.—Keep your temper.—Employ leisure in study, and always have some work in hand.—Be punctual and methodical in business, and never procrastinate.—Keep up a close connexion with