

tion ; and that he had figured out in his mind almost the very course of travels, which by a kind Providence, he was in after life permitted to pursue. His religious exercises at this time, were regular, sincere and interesting ; and were beginning to manifest that independent and manly thinking, for which, in after life, he was so very remarkable.

In July, 1823, Kitto was removed to the Poor's House. It was agreed that he should lodge and board with Mr Burnard and give his time wholly to study and mental improvement. This arrangement was secured through the influence of a number of literary friends in Plymouth, who had become acquainted with Kitto's talents, from perusing many of his letters privately and reading some of them in the *Plymouth Weekly Journal*. A subscription was raised by these gentlemen through means of a circular ; and the subscription turned out to be something handsome. In this situation Kitto continued till May 1824. Often does he refer to the period, as one of the happiest in his whole life. He was permitted to visit the Reading-room of Plymouth Library, to read or consult whatever book he pleased, and to study whatever appeared to him most enticing or most useful. At the request of Mr Harvey, the Mathematician, he applied himself to Mathematics, but he could not then, and he never did make any progress in them. He tells himself, he could never "cross the asses' bridge, without falling into the water." He read all the best writers on this subject, and studied the works of the deepest thinkers. He expresses regret in one of his letters, that he spent so much time on this science ; he says : "I do not care a pin for Metaphysics now. That head-breaking subject, the origin of our ideas, chiefly interested me ; and the uncertainty in which I was, after all my labour, left, as to whether we had any innate ideas—or any ideas at all—gave me disgust to metaphysical enquiry, so that I have, I believe, not looked into any metaphysical work since." These remarks he afterwards somewhat qualifies ; but to the end of life he believed and said, he was no metaphysician. Metaphysics is a noble and useful study for the youthful mind. It is a first rate practical trainer. Its immediate use may not be discerned by the student, but the effects it produces, are beyond all price. It invigorates every power, and braces every nerve, so that the youth when he becomes the man, is toughened and furbished for the real, the material battles of life. This very result occurred in the case of Kitto. His mind felt its effects ; his powers were invigorated by it ; his writings have caught its spirit. Hence it is that we see, especially in his letters, that Metaphysics are ever and anon peeping out ; and some of the noblest passages of his works are noble—are splendid, just because of the Metaphysical speculations which they contain. Yes, John Kitto, thou wast a true Metaphysician in thy day, although thou didst not know it and would not believe it. It was during this period that he published a small volume of essays, but all that can be said of it now, is that it brought him little of fame, and less of cash.

The Plymouth subscription could not last for ever. Accordingly, in about a twelvemonth, we find his friends busily engaged in looking out a new situation for him. Some thought of sending him to college, with a view to his taking orders, but this idea was soon given up. Others thought of engaging him with Mr Groves, a dentist, in Exeter, where he was to be employed four or five hours each day, and the rest of the time he was to have to himself. Of the latter situation he accepted, and in May 1824 bade adieu to Plymouth and commenced his weary wanderings through the world. During his residence at Exeter, he was very happy, and found in Mr Groves