

of some captain or general, renowned in arms ; of some promising youth, cut off at his entrance on the stage of the world ; of some gray haired father, who withstood the blasts of many years, and at length sunk into the earth. What are they now ? *dust* ; and no other distinction of dust, but what appears upon their grave stones.

Were we thus often to place ourselves under *death's gloomy cypress shades, where a ray of fantastic vanity does not pierce* ; we would be more habitually impressed with the imperfection of all earthly concerns. The young would learn to moderate their affections in the pursuit of vain and fugitive pleasures. And the aged would see the folly of seeking after gain, as the constituent of happiness. It has been often remarked of old people, that the longer they live, the more they are glued to the world. This second childhood is much more unreasonable than the first ; and subversive of their peace, in the inevitable hour of separation from the objects of their undue attachment.

2d.—Man's mental operations and external conduct partake of the imperfection, which belongs to the present system of things. Sin has darkened and deranged his faculties. His views of truth and error, right and wrong, are so indeterminate ; that differences of opinion on such points have always existed, and continue to distract society. The light of science has not enabled the