

dis-
t last
ra—
ueer
sible
ad-
..... 244

INTRODUCTION.

NOTHING is more common among worldly-minded and thoughtless men, than to act as if the events of human life were an entire chance medley, produced by no particular known cause, governed by no conceivable law, and leading to no necessary result. With such an impression, it is to be expected that the lives of these persons should pass away uninfluenced by uniform and efficient principle. With them, everything is unsettled, and nothing settled. The mistake under which they labour affects even their phraseology, and gives birth to terms which can have no place in the vocabulary of the Christian. From the sum total of their discourses, a hearer might infer that life's pursuits, like the tickets in a lottery-wheel, are thrown together for the scramble of general speculation; to be parcelled out and drawn for by adventurous competitors, as fortune and the fates may ordain. From the tenor of their communications, it would appear they are perfectly independent; that each was the lord and master of everything around; the

and
to—
er—
duct
chor
the
Mr.
om-
ves
l—
ual-
e to
in-
er-
of
irit
his
Al-
nd
he
ad-
... 263