

life'. When will the sons of men learn to think of thee as they ought? When will they learn humanity from the afflictions of their brethreu'; or moderation and wisdom', from the sense of their own fugitive state'?

BLAIR.

SECTION V.

Exalted society, and the renewal of virtuous connexions, two sources of future felicity.

BESIDES the felicity which springs from perfect love', there are two circumstances which particularly enhance the blessedness of that "multitude who stand before the throne"; these are', access to the most exalted society', and renewal of the most tender connexions'. The former is pointed out in the Scripture', by "joining the innumerable company of angels', and the general assembly and church of the first-born"; by sitting down with Abraham', and Isaac', and Jacob', in the kingdom of heaven';" a promise which opens the sublimest prospects to the human mind'.

2 It allows good men to entertain the hope', that', separated from all the dregs of the human mass', from that mixed and polluted crowd in the midst of which they now dwell', they shall be permitted to mingle with prophets', patriarchs', and apostles', with all those great and illustrious spirits', who have shone in former ages as the servants of God', or the benefactors of men'; whose deeds we are accustomed to celebrate'; whose steps we now follow at a distance'; and whose names we pronounce with veneration'.

3 United to this high assembly', the blessed', at the same time', renew those ancient connexions with virtuous friends', which had been dissolved by death'. The prospect of this awakens in the heart', the most pleasing and tender sentiment that perhaps can fill it', in this mortal state'. For of all the sorrows which we are here doomed to endure', none is so bitter as that occasioned by the fatal stroke which separates us', in appearance for ever', from those to whom either nature' or friendship' had intimately joined our hearts'.

4 Memory', from time to time', renews the anguish'; opens the wound which seemed once to have been closed'; and', by recalling joys that are past and gone', touches every spring of painful sensibility'. In these agonizing moments', how relieving the thought', that the separation is only temporary', not eternal'; that there is a time to come of re-union with those with whom our happiest days were spent'; whose joys and sorrows' once were ours'; whose piety and virtue' cheered' and encouraged us'; and from whom', after we shall have landed on the peaceful shore where they dwell', no revolutions of