

THE CALLIOPE

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POETRY.



Shun delays—they breed remorse ;
Take thy time while time is lent thee ;
Creeping snails have weakest force ;
Fly their fault least thou repent thee.
Good is best when soonest wrought,
Lingering labors come to nought.

Written for the 'Calliope.'

BY ETHA.

"Know then thyself, presume not God to scan,
The proper study of mankind is man."

"Know thyself." In the acquirement of knowledge, in the various departments of literature and science, we willingly devote the whole of our days laboriously and unremittingly, but to that important study, which requires the eyes to turn inwards and to peruse, carefully, slowly and thoughtfully the pages of the mind, so fraught with the most momentous and instructive lessons, and marred by as many errors of which they should be purged, we seldom and reluctantly turn. Some shrink from the task ; their pride holds them with firm, unrelaxing grasp from attempting to discover and to remedy faults in themselves, as such an act would strike a cruel and painful blow to that pride which they cherish so closely and fondly. Others again are restrained by motives of fear ; the voice of conscience buried beneath, and temporally extinguished by the heap of moral filth above it, on being disinterred by the penetrating glance of search, would raise her voice in tones that would strike dis-

may and despair to the heart of vice's votary ; that nature, prostituted by vice would raise such a voice of woe on beholding her degraded state as to drive frantic her abuser. Drowning every voice of conscience ; disregarding every appeal and struggle of a fettered and abused nature, he strives to forget that he has a conscience and a moral nature, and sinks down deeper and deeper into the dismal and wretched pit of profligacy, misery and utter debasement, and finally vanishes in its horrid depths into eternal perdition. While not a few with minds too contracted to perceive their weaknesses neglect the precept 'know thyself' as inapplicable to them, regarding their follies, prejudices, &c., as but marked peculiarities of character, or things to be retained rather than renounced.

If each were to say to himself, "let me know myself," and to bend his gaze anxiously within, with a firm determination to detect and destroy every weakness, every folly, every prejudice, to supply every want ; to learn the exact compass of his mind, man would seldom be overtaken by those disappointments which embitter life ; he would escape all the painful blows at his pride which the world perpetually deals at those who assume much ; be saved from the most of those failures in enterprises which sweep from him in one fatal moment all he possesses, the accumulation of toil some years ; which plunge thousands of beings into hopeless misery, and summon up the gaunt spectre starvation to haunt their empty homes ; which cast to