

"When gathering clouds around we view,
And days are dark and friends are few,"

He tells us in the voice of Nature to look upward for support and consolation—that no enemy hath done this, but that if an additional mantle of joy grief is thrown over us it is only to assist the 'principle of life,' in so renovating the system as to prepare it for its glorious resurrection. The year of nature is an emblem of the year of the soul; and while we see the wisdom of present evil to the plants and trees of the earth, shall we not also believe in the wisdom of afflictions to the soul? While the natural objects of sense are annually dying, man still lives and sees the beginning, life and end of myriads of the inanimate creatures of God.

Let then the storms of Winter blow and the icy mantle still cover the earth; they are the signs of the same Father who beautifies the Spring and the Summer, and 'crowns the year with his goodness.' They are to us evidences of that kind hard which makes the 'momentous evil productive of final good,' and teaches us to look through Nature to its God. The natural winter is but typical of the moral winter, and amid the weaknesses of age assures us that a Spring shall visit the grave, and every man arise to be judged according to the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or whether they be evil.

AN IMITATION OF MASILLON.

Oh Lord! how strong are my passions; how they triumph over reason—how unrestrained by thy holy law. Great God! How weak am I. I can resolve, re resolve, applaud my resolution, seem invulnerable, feel temptation, resist, waver, desire, will and act in the space of one short hour. Then I can reflect, judge, condemn, aggravate, sorrow, weep, blush, pray, hope, resolve, feel, assault, abhor, reject, consider, waver, and again offend thee. Oh how inconstant am I! Then I am filled with fervent desires for holiness, and again I am indifferent—then I am thankful, and again I am ungrateful—then I am on fire to glorify thee, and again I am afraid to confess thee—then I am enamoured with thy word, and again it presents no charms: O my sickness! Immutable God! I am, indeed, a changeable worm; but oh, make me as a rock. O great Being! let not thine

ears be shut to my supplications. O pity me. Let not my senses rule, but do thou chain them, and let reason, assisted by thee, have the sway.

Raleigh, one of the most illustrious heroes that England ever bred—a man equally celebrated for valour, for genius, and for learning, was not ashamed to address his wife, in the view of approaching dissolution, in the following pious strain—

"Love God, and begin betimes. In him you shall find true and everlasting comfort. When you have travelled & wearied yourself, with all sorts of worldly cogitations, you shall sit down by sorrow in the end. Teach your son also to serve and fear God while he is young, that the fear of God may grow up in him. Then will God be a husband to you, and a father to him—a husband and father that can never be taken from you."

GLEANINGS.

Whenever you speak any thing, think well, and look narrowly what you speak; of whom you speak, and to whom you speak, lest you bring yourself into great trouble.

Our pleasures are, for the most part, short, false, and deceitful; and like drunkenness, revenge the jolly madness of one hour, with the sad repentance of many.

Never expect any assistance or consolation in thy necessities from drinking companions.

Biogenes being at Olympia, saw at that celebrated festival some young men of Rhodes, arrayed most magnificently. Smiling, he exclaimed, 'This is pride.' Afterwards meeting with some Lacedaemonians in a mean and sordid dress, he said, 'And this also is pride.'

The vanity of young men, in loving fine clothes and new fashions, and valuing themselves by them, is one of the most childish pieces of folly that can be, and the occasion of great profuseness and undoing of young men. Avoid curiosity, and too much expensiveness in your apparel; let your apparel be comely, plain, decent, cleanly, not curious or costly; it is the sign of a weak head piece to be sick for every new fashion, or to think himself the better in it, or the worse without it.