

NOTES OF A TRIP TO THE OLD LAND.

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Numerous and weighty are the advantages derivable from travelling. It widens the circle of our ideas and sympathies; it breaks up time-honoured prejudices; it rubs off the rust that seclusion genders; it dissipates the conceit that springs from continually comparing ourselves with equals or inferiors, and sends us back, if we are not utterly incorrigible, wiser, humbler and better. By travel we enlarge our horizon, and correspondingly widen our views of man and the universe. We discover the immense variety of opinions, wants, sentiments, convictions, presented by our common humanity; and we learn that these develop themselves under a corresponding diversity of institutions, governments, religions and customs. As our acquaintance with mankind enlarges, we become less dogmatic, and more genial, tolerant and sympathetic. The more widely we observe the varied conditions under which the human family exist, the more we are convinced that true happiness may be attained anywhere and everywhere; and we become aware

“How small, of all that human hearts endure,
The part which laws or kings can cause or cure;
Still to ourselves, in every place confined,
Our own felicity we make or find.”

Carried beyond our own little boundaries, we are made acquainted with wider interests, higher modes of life and thought, grander and nobler views. As we pass from place to place, like Goldsmith's philosophic traveller, “exulting in the good of all mankind,” we find that true happiness is not confined to any one spot or people, and we agree with the poet when he says—

“And yet, perhaps, if countries we compare,
And estimate the blessings which they share,
Though patriots flatter, yet shall wisdom find
An equal portion dealt to all mankind;
As different good; by art or nature given,
To different nations makes their blessings even.”

Those who reside in the Colonies specially require to travel, and above every thing, to visit the Mother-land. “Home keeping youths,” says Lord Bacon, “have ever homely wits.” In every new country there is, of necessity, much wanting that can only be found where art and science have long had their chosen home; where liberty, won amid blood and tears; has fostered genius; where commerce has accumulated wealth with its refinements; and the division of labour, consequent on the pressure of multitudinous wants, has quickened discovery and stretched every human faculty to the utmost intensity. It is no reproach to a colony that it has not the refined society, the ma-