

tempted by the utmost power and most insidious arts of Satan, and was then, as he is now, "touched with a feeling for our infirmities;" but he looked from the present transient indulgence to the painful retribution reserved for hardened and impenitent offenders, and no language could more forcibly impress upon the minds of his hearers the terrors of the alternative. *The manner* in which these verses are to be understood seems to be, that if we find that by looking upon any forbidden object our eyes are leading us to offend against God, it would be far better for us to become blind from that moment, than incur the risk of falling into sin and being condemned to eternal banishment from the presence of Him who is of too pure eyes to behold iniquity. A great many of the persons who then listened to our Saviour's words were poor and labouring people, who earned their subsistence by their own industry, and to them the loss of a right hand would have brought poverty and want with it; but yet our blessed Saviour, merciful, kind, and compassionate as he has always been, speaks of this loss as a very trifling misfortune indeed, compared with the ruin of the immortal soul through the indulgence of sin. He who knew so well the value of the never dying soul that he consented to suffer the most painful and lingering death, to open for us a way of salvation, tells us that it is better to sacrifice a right eye or a right hand, and that these members should perish, than that our whole body should be cast into hell. You all know that a very short time ago a person in this village was in danger of losing her life through the effects of a cancer, which had been found incurable through any other means than an amputation; there seemed no alternative left for the sufferer