

CHAPTER III.

THE PROPER EMPLOYMENT OF LIFE—DESCRIBED BY ITS QUALITIES—FIRST QUALITY—SECOND QUALITY—THIRD QUALITY—REMARKS.

“God teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven.” Job. xxxv. 11.

HITHERTO we have only ascertained that, since our nature is composed of various powers of action, it is evidently the design of the Creator, in introducing us into being, that we should exercise them; and that, while mankind cannot be charged with suffering life to pass in a state of total inaction, their energies have yet been expended on unworthy objects. The question, therefore, which we profess to be discussing, has been but partially answered: In what does the proper employment of the life of man consist? We shall enter more fully into the consideration of it in the present chapter.

The inquiry is one of immense importance, and the writer almost shrinks from the responsibility which he has taken upon himself by proposing it. Instead of attempting a direct answer to it, he prefers to point out