

2 They hear amidst them', that still voice which a good conscience brings to their ear': "Fear not', for I am with thee'; be not dismayed', for I am thy God'." They apply to themselves the comfortable promises with which the gospel abounds'. They discover in these the happy issue decreed to their troubles', and wait with patience till Providence shall have accomplished its great' and good designs'.

3 In the mean time', Devotion opens to them its blessed and holy sanctuary': that sanctuary in which the wounded heart is healed', and the weary mind is at rest'; where the cares of the world are forgotten', where its tumults are hushed', and its miseries disappear'; where greater objects open to our view than any which the world presents'; where a more serene sky shines', and a sweeter and calmer light beams on the afflicted heart'.

4 In those moments of devotion', a pious man', pouring out his wants' and sorrows' to an Almighty Supporter', feels that he is not left solitary' and forsaken' in a vale of wo'. God is with him'; Christ' and the Holy Spirit' are with him'; and though he should be bereaved of every friend on earth', he can look up to heaven to a Friend that will never desert him'.

BLAIR.

SECTION IV.

The close of life.

WHEN we contemplate the close of life'; the termination of man's designs' and hopes'; the silence that now reigns among those who', a little while ago', were so busy', or so gay'; who can avoid being touched with sensations at once awful' and tender'? What heart but then warms with the glow of humanity'? In whose eye does not the tear gather', on revolving the fate of passing' and short-lived man'?

2 Behold the poor man who lays down at last the burden of his wearisome life'. No more shall he groan under the load of poverty' and toil'. No more shall he hear the insolent calls of the master', from whom he received his scanty wages'. No more shall he be raised from needful slumber on his bed of straw', nor be hurried away from his homely meal', to undergo the repeated labours of the day'.

3 While his humble grave is preparing', and a few poor and decayed neighbors are carrying him thither', it is good for us to think', that this man too was our brother'; that for him the aged' and destitute wife', and the needy children', now weep': that', neglected as he was by the world', he possessed', perhaps', both a sound understanding', and a worthy heart'; and is now carried by angels to rest in Abraham's bosom'.