

of a series of Papers on moral subjects, illustrative of the origin of justice as arising from resentment.

Having thus very briefly run over the most striking features in the Society's proceedings during the year just elapsed, one is naturally tempted to indulge a slight excursion into the probable consequences of the connexion necessarily subsisting among the members of the great republic of letters throughout the world. It is scarcely possible that the intimate connexion extending to individuals inhabiting the most distant regions of the Globe, shall not be productive of other beneficent objects, besides those which are immediately sought by the individuals in question. By means of these literary and scientific relations, a reciprocation of good offices, a reciprocation of sympathetic feeling, is unavoidably established between persons who speak the most dissimilar languages, who are naturally actuated, by almost invincible prejudices, and who seem at first sight to be pursuing the most opposite interests. For it is the necessary result of mental culture, to lead to the conviction that all men have the same interests, that they are actuated by the same desires, subject to the operation of equally generous feelings, and consequently liable to no well grounded cause for regarding each other with suspicion or hatred. The causes of dislike are accidental ; those of friendship, universal and perpetual.

The objects aimed at by the promoters of knowledge and science, and taste, require the co-operation of associates under every meridian. The more remote the situation of any of them may be the more the information they have to communicate is desired, the more their notices of natural objects are requisite to fill up the chasm of observation ; and the more varied the form in which any political Society exists, the more carefully its peculiarities deserve to be noted, the more ample contributions will a view of its structure afford to the exhaustless history of man.

In so extensive a field of cultivation, it must happen that the labourers shall be all nations, and of all languages. Even during the sanguinary struggle in which the present century commenced, a struggle in which the usages that had for ages prevailed as to the exchange or release of prisoners of war, or of accidental prisoners, were suspended or abrogated, and all articles of value obtained by mutual commerce committed to the flames ; even then