

is the way to render a person infamous after death; it is to sharpen, if we may so speak, the tongues of spectators to pierce the memory of these men with a thousand cutting reproaches, a thousand bloody imprecation.

"But if you have so strong a passion for signalizing your memory, to all posterity, I will shew you the true method, and teach you to gain the way of becoming esteemed and celebrated by all the world, and also to appear before God with confidence at the last day. And how may you acquire a reputation in this life, and open the mouths of mankind in your praise, and also receive high commendations in the future life? It is not by marble and superb structures, by great houses, parterres, groves, and baths; but it is by transferring your wealth from your hands to those of the poor. This is to render your memories immortal; this transaction will cover a multitude of sins, and enable you to appear with great boldness before God. Represent to yourself how mankind will speak of you after death. *Behold, will they say, this man so merciful and charitable, this man so humble and so complaisant, who distributed his abundant wealth among the needy. He hath dispersed, saith David; he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever.* It is the natural quality of riches, that they remain in our hands in proportion as we distribute them; but they destroy those who possess them while they retain and hold them captive. *He hath dispersed, says the Psalmist, and bestowed his gifts and liberalities on the poor: attend to what immediately follows: His righteousness endureth for*

*ever.* He hath distributed his riches in a single day, and his righteousness remains to all eternity, and shall render his memory immortal. Do you not perceive a transaction the recollection of which runs coeval with eternity, and which includes riches, the magnitude of which cannot be expressed by human language?

"Let us labour to acquire a reputation by similar edifices; for those which we construct with stone, will not only be of no avail, but will proclaim our condemnation with a loud voice, and serve as so many columns on which our infamy shall be engraven as on eternal brass. We shall carry along with us the crimes we committed in raising these edifices, and shall leave them behind us, which instead of procuring for us a cold and sterile reputation, will cover us with shame and confusion, and they shall pass into other hands, even before we are cold in the grave. For this happens to the affairs of this world; they quickly pass from this to that person, and no sooner do they go into the hands of a second person than they remove to those of a third. To-day we say this is the house of such a man, to-morrow it shall have another master, and in a short season it is in the hands of another owner. In the mean time we delight in imposing upon ourselves, instead of considering that these riches are only but for our use, and that whatever care we take they will pass into other hands, and perhaps very different ones to those whom we may have selected for our heirs.

"But if you burn with a desire of rendering your memory immortal, observe how the widows remembered