

ever in the presence of God, and to enjoy the blessings of infinite benevolence, untainted by that moral pollution that now mixes up itself with all our enjoyments.

Sin being removed far from us, its inseparable companion sorrow shall be equally unknown. Here we must needs taste the bitter effects of transgression against the Source of purity and bliss, but there holiness and happiness shall constantly attend on each other, and each add to the glory of its companion.

Our friends, who, in this world, like ourselves, display the imperfections attendant on even the best of men on earth, shall be there freed from every infirmity, and the most unbounded confidence be reposed in each; while the certainty of our pleasures and our intercourse being secure from interruption or close, shall give a new zest to our enjoyments, and make them absolutely perfect.

The employments in which the Christian shall be engaged, are such as perfectly accord with his nature and disposition. To review the dealings of God, to study his character, to converse on his love, and to render him the praise of our hearts, are employments in which we now engage with pleasure; what then must they be when we recount all his dealings towards us, and ascertain the springs which regulated every dispensation; when we shall see him as he is, and know even as we are known; when we "shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of God?"

"Then shall our passions all be love,  
And all our powers be praise."

And what adds to the glory of this prospect is, that this "hope of eternal life" is not founded on an uncertain basis, but on the word of Him who cannot lie. It was prepared by Jehovah in his purposes before the foundation of the world; it is promised

again and again to each of those who believe in his name, who are made heirs to this inheritance; he has already given us an earnest of this inheritance by the desires he has implanted, and the graces he has bestowed; and, relying on his word, we already know much of the happiness we shall more fully enjoy when we have passed the valley of the shadow of death. There, raised to dignity unknown even to angels, and brought to the throne of God, we shall drink of the river of the water of life, and pluck the fruit of the tree of immortality. No serpent there shall tempt us from the fountain of our bliss, but "we shall be ever with the Lord," enjoying the riches of his love as long as he himself shall exist.

Let it be remembered that what we have now exhibited is a very imperfect sketch of the glories of the world to come. "Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them who love him." Enough, however, has been said to shew the infinite superiority of the believer in Christ to the man of the world; and now let the reader decide, does the religion of the gospel tend to melancholy? Will infidelity, or what has been termed the religion of nature, thus support the mind under afflictions, and introduce to connexions so honourable? No: its pleasures are worthless, and its prospects are dim. Evangelical Religion gives present comfort, and leads to immortal happiness; but infidelity over-spreads the mind with gloom now, and conducts to eternal despair hereafter.

*(To be concluded in our next.)*

THE SHARK.—I hastened to the spot to ascertain the matter, when I perceived a huge monster of a shark sailing along—now near the surface of the wafer, and now sinking down apparently in pursuit of his prey. At this moment, a native on the choppah rock of one of the boats, with a rope in his hand