

sigh; "but, my young friend, does the Bible often form a part of your studies?"

Francis had expected this question, but when it was put to him with an air of such tender concern for his welfare, he felt confused and abashed as he replied—"I have often perused the sacred volume with attention, and seldom fail to refer to it on the Sabbath."

"I am sorry it has not been the daily companion of your thoughts—Do you believe the sacred truths it contains?"

"Yes, in a general way; but doubts will sometimes arise."

"You may thank your modern philosophers, in a great measure, for that," returned Mr. Irvin. "Read the sacred volume more attentively, and those doubts will vanish. Make it your companion, and it will ultimately bestow on you that peace and happiness, the possession of which you so ardently desire. It is a counsellor that will not deceive; a friend who will never desert you in the hour of need, but prove your safeguard and support through the trials of this world, and an unerring guide and passport to the next." Mr. Irvin paused, exhausted by the earnestness with which he had enforced his argument; but perceiving the eyes of young Stanhope bent on the ground, and full of tears, he changed the sub-