

ed miserable by captivity or a prison ; as little too did I think that my gilded prospects could be obscured ; but it was the happy delusion of youth ; and I fervently wish there was no deception. But that Being, who "sits upon the circle of the earth, and views the inhabitants as grasshoppers," allots all our fortunes.

Although I have drank so largely from the cup of sorrow, yet my present happiness is a small compensation. Twice has my country been ravaged by war, since my remembrance; I have detailed the share I bore in the first ; in the last, although the place in which I live was not a field of bloody battle, yet its vicinity to Ticonderoga, and the savages that ravaged the Coos country, rendered it perilous and distressing. But now no one can set a higher value on the smiles of peace, than myself. The savages are driven beyond the lakes, and our country has no enemies. The gloomy wilderness that forty years ago secreted the Indian and the beast of prey, has vanished away ; and the thrifty farm smiles in his stead ; the Sundays, that were then employed in guarding a fort, are now quietly devoted to worship; the tomahawk and scalping knife have given place to the sickle and plough-share ; and prosperous husbandry now thrives, where the terrors of death once chilled us with fear.