

meeting them in the spirit of recklessness, or viewing in them the triumph of disorder, or shrinking from them in imbecile fear, we recognise their position in a system of universal Providence, various in its means, but paternal in its spirit and beneficent in its ends ; when "none of these things move us," except to a more reverential sense of mystery, and a serener depth of trust. In a season of mortality, it is surely impossible to forget the relations of other scenes to this : that departure from this life is birth into another ; that the immortal rises where the mortal falls ; that the farewell in the vale below is followed by greetings on the hills above ; so that if sympathy with mourners here permit, the sorrows of the bereaved on earth are the festival of the redeemed in heaven.

We render the appropriate worship of the season, when we think of the painful passages of human life, not merely as proceeding from God, but as incident to our own lot ; not merely in the spirit of religion, but in that of *self-application*. It is difficult for the living and the vigorous to realize the idea of sickness and of death : and though within a few paces of our daily walks there are beings that lie in the last struggle, and some sufferer's moan escapes with every breath that flies, yet whenever pain fairly seizes our persons in his grasp, or enters and usurps our homes, we start as if he were a stranger. And perhaps it will be asked, "Why should it be otherwise ? Why forestal the inevitable day, and let the damp cloud of expectation fall on the illuminated passages of life ?" I grant that to remember the conditions of our existence with such result as this, to think of them in an abject and melancholy spirit, is no act of wisdom or of duty. I know of no obligation to live with an imagination ever haunted by mor-