

sea of adversity ; the scenes of this life are continually shifting, and "the fashion of the world passeth away !" Mankind in this world are ever subject to ills, infirmities, and disappointments—pains and perplexities are the long-lived plagues of human existence—but religion is the balm that heals those wounds, it was this that preserved me, and prevented my committing violence on myself at the melancholy moment when I was doomed to experience one of the severest trials of this life—when doomed to witness the melancholy fate of an affectionate and only sister, the companion of my youth, torn from her fond parents, and for many months confined within the thick walls of a gloomy prison, and from thence conveyed, (at the very moment that a pardon was obtained for her) to the gallows, there to suffer, like one of the greatest monsters of depravity, an ignominious death !—to view her lifeless corpse suspended in the air, surrounded by a throng of un pitying spectators !

But alas ! it is the will of God, to which we must submit. It was at this trying moment that he sent Religion and reason to my aid, and bid me no longer grieve for her whom I could not and ought not wish to recall to this troublesome world—for her whom I had just reason to believe had gone to the regions of eternal day, above the reach of sorrow, vice, or pain.

The consideration of the sorrows of this life and the glories of the next is our best support. Dark are the ways of Providence while we are wrapt up in mortality ; but convinced there is a God, we must hope and believe that all is right.

I am fully sensible, my dear fellow mortals, that our lives are strewn with difficulties, troubles, and disappointments ; that we daily experience the rod, which furnishes to us a lesson highly worthy of instruction. It is the very nature of things requisite that we meet with trouble while here below, in order that we know how to prize the felicity which awaits us in the heavens above : that he who bravely encounters the trials and misfortunes of this world, outbraves them all, counting them but as momentary afflictions comparatively to the joys which are set before him in futurity. We are apt to find fault, and conclude we are possessed of a greater share of worldly affliction than our fellow men, or more than our proportion in the scale of justice ; and are ready, as it were, to call heaven to witness our petition ; but I am persuaded man-