

But in whatever scenes I have been thrown, this conviction has ever been brought home to my heart, that religion is the only true wisdom, and the only abiding happiness. She is the only support and consolation when all other helps fail. In inexperienced youth, she is the best and safest guide; in more advanced years, she is the wisest counsellor and the truest friend; and in old age, she alone can make "the hoary head a crown of glory." In affliction, she sustains and comforts the mourner, by teaching him not to sorrow as others who have no hope; in prosperity, she gives a zest to all the enjoyments of life by making them rational and innocent; and in death, that last great change, which cometh alike to all, she dispels the dark, portentous cloud which hangs over the grave, and exhibits the tomb to the trembling soul, as the gate which opens upon the mansions of immortal felicity and glory.

Of religion, therefore, alone may it emphatically be said—"Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

