

THE
LIBERAL CHRISTIAN.

Vol. II.

SEPTEMBER, 1855.

No. 9.

NATURAL SYMBOL OF THE RESURRECTION.

BY REV DR. FURNESS.

I WATCHED last summer with wonder and admiration the changes which the butterfly undergoes before it attains to its winged state. First, there was a clumsy, slowly moving worm, confined to the plant on which it fed. It had no eyes apparently, and could only feel its way. Its feet were the rudest stumps. After a few days, in which it did nothing but eat and rest alternately, it ceased feeding, and crawled laboriously up, where it could suspend itself with its head downwards. Remaining motionless in this position for some hours, it next broke and cast off its caterpillar skin, and took a delicate pale green shape like an urn, dotted with spots of pure metallic gold without any appearance of head or feet, a mere oblong ball. In this form, more beautiful than any sarcophagus that Art ever fashioned, it continued for a fortnight, at the end of which time the pale green pendant grew dark and blue, and the varied colors of the butterfly's wings, folded up within, orange, white and black, began to show through. And soon the chrysalis broke, and forth there