

PLEASURES OF KNOWLEDGE.

“The root you set, and watered with your care,

See how it flourishes with blossoms fair—
Mark how those tender shoots their growth display,

As learning lends her light and points the way,
While moral and religious aids combine
To stamp with dignity your good design.”

The reading of books, what is it, but conversing with the wisest men of all ages and countries, who thereby communicate to us their most deliberate thoughts, choicest notions and best inventions, couched in good expression, and digested in exact method?

And as to the particular objects of study, all have their use and pleasure.

The very initial study of tongues and grammatical literature is very profitable and necessary as the inlets to knowledge, whereby we are enabled to understand wise men speaking their sense in their own terms and lively strains; whereby we are especially assisted to drink sacred knowledge out of the fountains, the divine oracles. Luther would not part with the little Hebrew he had for all the Turkish empire.

The perusal of history, how pleasant illumination of mind, how useful direction of life, how sprightly incentives to virtue, doth it afford! How doth it supply the room of experience, and furnish us with prudence at the expense of others, informing us about the ways of action, and the consequences thereof, by examples without our own danger or trouble! How may it instruct and encourage us in piety, while therein we trace the paths of God in men, or observe the method of Divine Providence, how the Lord and Judge of the world in due season protecteth, prospereth, blesseth, rewardeth innocence and integrity; how he crosseth, defeateth, blasteth, curseth, punisheth iniquity and outrage; managing things with admirable wisdom, to the good of mankind and advancement of his own glory.

The mathematical sciences, how pleasant is the speculation of them to the mind. How

useful is the practice to common life. How do they whet and excite the mind. How do they enure it to strict reasoning and patient meditations.

Natural philosophy, the contemplation of this great theatre or visible system presented before us; observing the various appearances therein and inquiring into their causes; reflecting on the order, connexion, and harmony of things; considering their original source and final design; how doth it enlarge our minds, and advance them above vulgar amusements, and the admiration of those petty things about which men care and bicker! How may it serve to work in us pious affections of admiration, reverence, and love toward our Creator, whose eternal divinity is clearly seen, whose glory is declared, whose transcendent perfections and attributes of immense power, wisdom, and goodness, are conspicuously displayed; whose particular kindness towards us men doth evidently shine in those his works of nature.—DR. BARROW.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

THE CAPTIVE BABES RECOVERED.

At the period of the story which I am about to relate, the Huguenots had been residents of Oxford somewhat more than three years. They had erected a sufficient number of rude dwellings, and had made good progress in clearing and cultivating the earth. The close of autumn was again approaching, and every thicket and copse assumed that variety of hue which gives such beauty and brilliance to the forests of New England. The children of the colonists might be seen bearing towards their homes baskets of those nuts which were to vary the banquet of their winter evenings. Ere the morning sun had melted the white frost from the earth, their little fingers, regardless of cold, were busily employed in separating the chesnut from its armed sheath; and they were delighted to trace in the productions of the hazle bush a strong resemblance to the filbert of their native clime.