

sert practically the superiority of the expanding mind over the weak and indulged body ; as well as pious to make a sacrifice for God. Christian females, on account of their natural delicacy, will often shrink from the keen and cutting atmosphere, when the appointed hour arrives for going their rounds to present their tracts, or to collect for Bible and Missionary Societies,—a department of toil which usually falls to their lot ; but when their health is not likely to be endangered, a courageous promptitude and perseverance will have the happiest effect upon themselves and upon the cause which they serve. Mr. Wesley once said, in reference to a bitter journey he took into the north, in the month of February, 1745 : “ Many a journey have I had before, but one like this I never had, between wind, and hail, and rain, and ice, and snow, and driving sleet, and piercing cold. But it is past. Those days will return no more, and are therefore as though they had never been.

‘ Pain, disappointment, sickness strife,  
Whate’er molests or troubles life ;  
However, grievous in its stay,  
It shakes the tenement of clay ;  
When past, as nothing we esteem,  
And pain, like pleasure, is a dream.’ ”

It is well for us to have high examples ; and though we cannot exhort upon our young friends to emulate the toils of that great man, yet we may exhort them to imitate in their sphere the hallowed cheerfulness with which they were encountered.

In winter the privations of the poor are generally great, out-door employment being scarce, and fuel dear ; and although the poor of our country are greatly elevated in point of comfort over the corresponding class in other countries,—Russia, for instance,—yet compared with the flourishing tradesman, or even with the higher mechanic, the lower labouring classes have to struggle much with their indigence. Nor, as far as legislation is concerned, can it be otherwise in an empire whose very social existence depends upon the harmonious union of high and low, rich and poor : so variously are the gifts of Providence distributed, whether of wealth, or influence, or wisdom, that equality among men can possibly have no existence but an ideal one, and that only in the dreams of infidel political theorists. It was the authority which said, ‘ The poor ye always have with you.’ Hence then we want the bland influence of our religious youth. Go, ye who are beloved by your families, and esteemed by your Christian companions, and during the months of winter, go, with whatever influence and address God has given you, and form to yourselves a circle of attached and grateful friends in the cottages around you. It is necessary that you should always, or even often, give money ; for money may not always be at your disposal to give. You effect more when you take an affectionate interest in their sorrows, trials, and wants, when you speak encouraging words to their children ; when