

ADDRESS TO YOUNG LADIES.

BY MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY.

Will you permit me, my dear young friends, to speak to you freely as to daughters? You doubtless need no argument to convince you of the excellence of industry. We will devote a few thoughts only to those branches of it which belong peculiarly to our own sex. It is one of our privileges that we have such a variety of interesting employments. Time need never hang upon our hands, who have it continually in our power to combine amusement with utility. If we leave any vacancy for ennui to creep in, it must surely be our own fault.

Needle-work, in all its countless forms of use, elegance, and ornament, has been the appropriate occupation of women. From the shades where its simple process was to unite the fig-leaf, to the days when the most exquisite tissues of embroidery rivalled nature's pencil, it has been their duty and their resource. The most delicate efforts of the needle claim a high rank among feminine accomplishments.—But its necessary departments should be thoroughly understood. The numerous modifications of mending are not beneath the notice of the most refined young lady. To keep her own wardrobe perfectly in order, she doubtless considers her duty. A just regard to economy, a wish to add to the comfort of all around, and a desire to aid in the relief of the poor, will induce her to become expert in those inventions by which the various articles of apparel are repaired, altered, or renovated. A very sensible, rational self-complacency arises from the power of making “auld claihts look amaist as well as new.”

I regret that the quiet employment of knitting has become so nearly obsolete. In many parts of Europe it continues a favourite branch of female occupation. It is so among the classic shades of Greece; and Russell, in his *Tour in Germany*, speaking of the Saxon ladies, says, “They are models of industry, whether at home or abroad; knitting and needle-work know no interruption. A lady would think little of forgetting her fan; but could not spend half an hour without her implements of industry.” Knitting is adapted to those little intervals of time when it would be scarcely convenient to collect the more complicated apparatus of needle-work. It is the friend of twilight, that sweet season of reflection so happily described by a Scottish writer, as that brief period “when the shuttle stands still before the lamp is lighted.” Neither are the productions of the knitting-needles so valueless as those who take no part in them are disposed to pronounce. Yet, if there are any who consider so humble a branch of economy unworthy their regard, they may still be induced to patronize it for the sake of the comfort it administers unto the poor. Their laborious occupations and limited leisure often preclude their attention to this employment; and a pair of thick stockings in