fold improvement. This, the continuation of liberal policy upon the part of Great-Britain, and patriotic exertions in the natives of that iſland, cannot fail to produce.

A ſeparation from America, at ſome period, was looked for by writers on all ſides as inevitable;—that the period of ſeparation was haſtened by the conduct of Great-Britain, has been deplored by many. Be this as it may, the circumſtance of the disjunction having taken place when it did, will moſt probably be viewed by Britons in after-ages as an happy event; and our experience, ſince the eſtabliſhment of peace, ſeems abundantly to confirm this opinion.

The hiſtory of all nations which have flouriſhed and declined, concurs in proving, that there is an height of greatneſs in every empire beyond which it cannot paſs, at which it ſeldom continues ſtationary, and from whence the declenſion is with greater or leſs rapidity, as various circumſtances conſpire; but what is a more melancholy conſideration, and ſtrengthened by the opinion of one of the firſt political writers of this century, Mr. Hume, is, that an empire having once declined, can never recover its former greatneſs. Had it unfortunately happened that Great-Britain was at the *acme* of her conſequence and improvement before the late war, as it has been repeatedly ſaid, and a moſt conſiderable part of that conſequence reſulting from the American poſſeſſions, with what accelerated velocity muſt ſhe have been precipitated upon the ſeparation from her colonies; particularly at a period when, from the accuſtomed fate of empires arrived at their height, it was natural to expect her fall? Has this event happened? Nay, has any circumſtance occured which may fairly indicate even the approach of ſuch a period? On the contrary, has not Great-Britain rebounded with an incredible vigour from a ſtate of actual diſtreſs? and have not her advances in commercial and political conſequence, ſince the æra of peace, demonſtrated, that ſhe ſtill preſſes forward with youthful ſtrength? While the late illuſtrious exertion upon the appearance of hoſtility*, fully proved that the animating ardour of her moſt warlike times exiſted without impair; and thus gave a confidence in the enjoyment of that moſt invaluable bleſſing PEACE, by a diſplay of the ſpirit and ability to repel WAR.

Added to the proſpect of internal conſequence, the poſſeſſion of the yet improveable commerce of the Eaſt-Indies is to be conſidered as a prodigious advantage.

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## NATURE OF THE VITALITY OF MAN.

[*From Biſhop Horſley's Sermon, preached before the Humane Society, March 22d, 1789.*]

ALTHOUGH we *muſt* believe, if we believe our bible, that the union of ſoul and body is the firſt principle of animation in the human ſubject; it is by no means a neceſſary conſequence, that the life of man is in no degree, and in no part, mechanical. Since man is declared to be a compound, the natural preſumption ſeems to be, that the life of this compounded being is itſelf a compound. And this experience and obſervation prove to be indeed the caſe. Man's life is compounded of the life of the intellect and the animal life. The life of the intellect is ſimply intelligence, or the energy of the intelligent principle. The animal life is itſelf a compound, conſiſting of the vegetable life combined with the principle of perception. Human life, therefore, is an aggregate of at leaſt three ingredients: Intelligence, Perception, and Vegetation. The loweſt and the laſt of theſe, the vegetable life, is wholly in the body, and is mere mechaniſm; not a mechaniſm which any human ingenuity may imitate, or even to any good degree explore; but the exquiſite mechaniſm of a divine artificer. Still it is mechaniſm; conſiſting in a ſymmetry and ſympathy of parts, and a correſpondence of motions conducive, by mechanical laws eſtabliſhed by the Creator's wiſdom, to the growth, nouriſhment, and conſervation of the whole. The wheels of this wonderful machine are ſet a-going, as the ſcriptures teach us, by the preſence of the immaterial ſoul; which is therefore not only the ſeat of intelligence, but the ſource and center of the man's entire animation. But it is in this circumſtance only, namely, that the immaterial mover is itſelf attached to the machine, that the vegetable life of the body

* Summer of 1787.