

THE CALLIOPE.

by a kindred cloud ; whose mind is tinged by the same deepening ill ; that they may together darkly brood over the same imaginary evils ; interchange their gloomy thoughts ; and see the future and life through the same dark and disastrous glass. It is this same warmth and impetuosity of nature, which softens and decreases as we glide on towards manhood, leading us so quickly to form ties of friendship and love, which leads us also as suddenly to break those ties, and places us under the guidance of those impulses which drive us into so many acts of folly, and into bursts of unbecoming passion on the most trivial provocations, when utterance is given to words that alienate from us the affections of friends, whom we had shortly before gained and held in high value. These remarks apply with only too much truth to our youths. Their games and associations are daily marred and interrupted by some violent and unseemly quarrel, frequently about nothing. One maintains that he is in the right, the other asserts equally dogmatically that he is right ; an appeal is then made to the bystanders, without, however, any attention being paid to their opinion, the reciprocal-abuse being continued as violently as ever ;—the whole is then summed up by a mutual accusation of lying. Offence is at this given on both sides, and the parties separate with the determination not again to speak to one another. Highminded and praiseworthy resolve ! evidence of noble spirit ! It must not be thought that these scenes are confined to the youngsters ; they as frequently occur between those from whom better things and better sense are expected. In any case these disputes should not be allowed to arise ; a desire to avoid them should exist, whereas, to all appearance there exists a contrary tendency. Insult is frequently given without cause ; and in such case those who retort in similar terms can hardly be blamed, The point disputed should be settled amicably either by concession, or appeal to bystanders ; but no such proceeding is taken ; such does not seem desired by the parties at difference ; quarrel seems preferable to peace ; enmity to friendship ; noise to quiet ; abuse to compliment ; reason and judgment are speedily dismissed, and fiery passion and deafening noise reign instead. When the dispute has ceased ; when passion has cooled down and yielded precedence to reason, and ceased to pervert our better nature ; the noblest course for the *ci-devant* wranglers to pursue would be to forget the causes of their disagreement ; to join hands in amity ; to ask and give forgiveness ; and to let bygones be bygones. But very few do so. Fancying themselves deeply injured and “nursing their wrath to keep it warm,” they brood over their imaginary wrongs, and exaggerate them into dimensions fearfully greater than their original ones, if they really had original ; their enmity increases in proportion, until that which was at first a trivial difference has grown into a deep and lasting enmity. The thought of forgiveness never enters their minds ; means are only sought to increase their animosity. It rankles within ; takes a firm hold upon the heart, and seldom if ever leaves it, and often unhappily tinges the whole course of action through life. Such are often the consequences of those quarrels which we all ever seem so ready to engage in. How should they be avoided !