

A SERMON.

1 Cor. XV. 53--"This mortal must put on immortality."

REFLECTION on the animal powers of man, and on the termination of that state called DEATH, simply as matter of fact, is accompanied with considerations sufficient to excite our most eager curiosity, yet at the same time to deprive that curiosity of its characteristic vanity, and to give to it a seriousness, a tenderness, and circumspection, becoming the difficulty, the interest and importance of the subject. If death happened only to a few individuals, at long and stated intervals—or only in a particular country, to a single class of beings—it would not even thus be to them altogether a matter of concern. It would awaken intense anxiety, deep and painful sympathy, in the bosom of all their fellow creatures. We should be curious to know what could be the nature, the extent, and the cause of those struggles with which life generally departs. We could not but regret that they did not all arise from the mere love of the present state, which to many is sufficiently miserable to make any change seem advantageous. Nor could the instinctive dread which we entertain of sinking into nothing, explain it. The doctrine of annihilation is too contradictory—too ill supported to be stoutly maintained, except by those whose interests would make them wish not to be. And even then, they can not believe what they wish: mark them on the bed of sickness, with the symptoms, the visage of death staring them in the face! The troubled countenance and unsettled eye—the sudden shiver—the half checked, half uttered groan—the fretful temper, and the broken voice, faltering ere yet death's watchman springs his rattle in their throats—these, all these, testify their unwilling belief in a future state, and their mental strife on entering its gloomy porch: and when life had departed, we could not but inquire what it was, and whither it had gone? On beholding the inanimate mass hastening to stench and rottenness, we could not but wonder what had become of the sentient active principle that so lately