

without remorse. There is nothing in this world fit to be compared with it—when purified by religion; all its wishes and desires tend to celestial enjoyments, which are not liable to change. The virtuous man looks back on his past conduct without regret; because his fate cannot but be happy. His mind is the seat of cheerfulness, and his actions are the soundness of felicity; he is rich amidst poverty; and no one can deprive him of what he possesses; he is perfection, for his life is spotless; and he has nothing to wish for; since he possesses every thing. Alexander was celebrated for courage; Ptolemy for his learning; Trajan for his love of truth—Antoninus for his piety—Constantine for his temperance—Scipio for his continence—and Theodosius for his humility. Oh! glorious virtue, which in some way or other, rewards all its admirers, and without which there can be no real happiness.

MARRIAGE.

Marriage always effects a decided change in the sentiments of those who come within its sacred pale under a proper sense of the responsibilities of the married state. However delightful the intercourse of wedded hearts, there is, to a well regulated mind, something extremely solemn in the duties imposed by this interesting relation. The reflection that an existence which was separate and independent is ended, and that all its hopes and interests are blended with those of another soul, is deeply affecting, as it imposes the conviction that every act which shall influence the happiness of the one, will colour the destiny of the other. But when this union is that of love, this feeling of independence is one of the most delightful that can be imagined. It annihilates the habit of selfish enjoyment, and teaches the heart to delight in that which gives pleasure to another. The affections become gradually enlarged, expanding as the ties of relationship and the duties of life accumulate around, until the individual, ceasing to know an isolated existence, lives entirely for others, and for society. But it is the generous and the virtuous alone, who thus enjoy this agreeable relation. Some hearts there are too callous to give nurture to a delicate sentiment. There are minds too narrow to give play to an expansive benevolence. A degree of magnanimity is necessary to the existence of disinterested love or friendship.

ASTRONOMY.

COMETS

A writer at Inverness, who discusses the subject of Streamers, is of opinion that the Earth is a comet, and the aurora borealis its tail. Newton maintained the tails of comets to be vapour ascending by means of the sun's heat, other philosophers say they are produced by the action of the sun upon the atmosphere of comets, or on the substance of comets themselves, or on the electric matter through which they pass. In short, the sun is the principal agent in their production, by acting on these bodies themselves, or on the atmosphere by which they are surrounded, or the element through which they move. This is quite analogous to Marian's theory of aurora, in all essential particulars. Electricity has been supposed to be the principal agent in the production both of aurora borealis and the tails of comets. The tails of comets are observed generally to be a little concave towards the sun. Foster's observation in the South Sea, and the appearances of the aurora now described, exhibit the same result. The tails of comets are produced, or to speak more correctly, are seen, when these bodies approach their perihelion, that is in winter. The direction of the tails of comets are from the sun, so are the courses, generally, of the varying aurora. There is nothing extravagant in the supposition that the aurora may be visible to an observer in Mars or Jupiter, as an appendage or tail to the Earth. Would the earth, then, when still nearer the sun, and proceeding with increased velocity, be accompanied by aurora borealis greatly increased in splendour, duration, and extent? On the hypothesis of Marian, it undoubtedly would, and the converse of the problem is equally true, that the aurora would disappear altogether when the earth receded from the sun, and decreased its velocity. In conclusion, the writer hints, that the varying belts of Jupiter and the rings of Saturn may be brought within the range of these speculations, as possible regulated by the same laws.

To converse well is of more importance in every day life than to write well. But they are both talents or acquirements of inestimable value, the possession of one of which need in no instance exclude that of the other. On the contrary, if properly cultivated, they are mutual promoters.