

THINGS USEFUL AND AGREEABLE.

[SELECTED.]

The soul has its green fields, and waving woods, and running waters, and in and beside them can refresh itself with perpetual delight. Without fatigue it can ascend mountains, and gaze on illimitable scenes of air and earth, or stray through grassy meadows, and feel no languor from the noontide heat.

A simple glance at the powers of the mind,—its capacities, store-houses of memory, range of thought, taste, refinement, capabilities of happiness, and exquisite organization,—affords strong presumptive evidence that it was not made to perish with the body. So wonderful a structure, animating this living material organization, connected with all external structures—with the earth, sun, and stars;—so Godlike a substance,—united to the great God, soaring for companionship with angels, capable of loving and adoring the Supreme Being, could not have been made to sport here awhile, amid an ocean of mysteries and uncertainties, to be at last flung as a worthless wreck upon the shores of eternity.

There are some beautiful appearances which frost frequently assumes, to cheer us, as it were, and give an agreeable exercise to our taste in the absence of that loveliness which the hand of an indulgent Creator sheds so profusely over our fields and gardens in the genial months of spring and summer. Hoar frost is occasioned by the freezing of mist or dew. It forms elegant and varied foliations on the glass of windows;—this happens when the air within the room is impregnated with moisture. The coldness of the glass causes the floating vapor to be condensed on its surface, where it shoots out, as it freezes into those flowery crystals which excite our admiration.

Damascus is a celebrated City of Asia Minor, frequently mentioned in the Bible. It is situated about one hundred and thirty-six miles north-east of Jerusalem, and contains a population of about one hundred and seventy thousand inhabitants. The situation of the city, in a beautiful valley, well-watered, and surrounded by orchards, has been celebrated with enthusiasm by Oriental writers. The city was formerly famous for the manufacture of sabres, or swords, of a peculiarly fine temper; and the beautiful figured linens and silks called *damasks* take their name from this city. It was on his journey to this city that St. Paul was converted.

The Danube River is the largest in Europe. It rises in the Grand Duchy of Baden, in Germany, runs through Bavaria, Austria, Hungary, and Turkey, to the Black Sea, into which it empties by five mouths. Its whole length is about eighteen hundred miles, and, in its course, it receives the waters of about sixty rivers.

In Cordova, in Spain, there is a Cathedral which is divided into seventeen aisles, by rows of marble columns, of which there are seven hundred and seventy-eight.

Persian painting is so purely mechanical that even those unacquainted with drawing and coloring will find no difficulty in it. It differs from painting generally in this particular, that no attempt is made to copy from