

culcates adherence to duty, constancy in virtue and dependence upon God, it no less frequently expresses in animating strains, the immortality of reasonable natures, and the future inheritance of the righteous. This has been the joy and solace of good men in every age, their constant light in darkness, their unfailing comfort in adversity, their perpetual support under persecution. The most apparently insurmountable obstacles and formidable difficulties, have dwindled into insignificance and empty shadow, equally unsubstantial, when brought into competition with everlasting life and the promised crown. The hope of a future state, and the cheering certainty of its near approach, have, in every land, and in every period of time, when this celestial beam of consolation had dissipated the horrible darkness by which reason is enveloped, and through which it ineffectually essays to pierce and penetrate beyond, made captivity freedom, slavery liberty, and thrown around the exile the attractions and endearments of domestic life.

In the present day, this is the humble Christian's steadfast succour, his exhaustless fount of consolation, when distressed and forlorn, when deprived of his dearest relations, and nearest ties of affection and consanguinity; for what else can strengthen and revive him? "When friends have vanish'd from their view
less home,
And he is left companionless to roam,
O! What can cheer his melancholy way,
But hopes of union in the land of day!"

When surrounded by complicated difficulties, and encompassed by dangers while traversing this "vale of tears," the thorny wilderness of time, the pious Christian is assured in the word of God, "that all things work together for good, to them that love God."

OUR THOUGHTS.

Guard well thy thoughts, for they are heard in heaven. All the elementary principles of moral conduct may be found in the thoughts; they are the seeds of action, the faint lineaments of good or evil, the ground work of the

whole picture of human life. The whole current of morality flows from these little fountains which retire inwardly, until lost in the secret chambers of the mind and perception. The wretch that trembles before the bar of insulted justice, who is horror-struck while faithful witnesses are developing his turpitude, and while he expects from the lips of the judge the sentence of the law, which has no ears to listen to his supplications may trace back all his guilt and wretchedness to his thoughts. The murderer, whose hands have been stained with the blood of his fellow man, who pitied not the cries of his victim when about to strike the last fatal blow, and who survived his deed of death only to die more hideously, first by the gnawing of his own conscience, and then by the stern hand of retributive justice, may thank his thoughts for all this horrid consummation. He, who has linked crime with crime, making one enormity necessary to cover another, until he has passed a concatenation of revolting atrocity, may lay the first link of the chain his thoughts. The apostate from his God, who once carried a high profession, and seemed to outstrip the foremost in zeal and diligence, but who now grovels in vice, and finds his companions among the groundlings of sensuality, the scandal of his profession, and the grief of his friends, may find the commencement of his infamy and defection in his thoughts. Ye candidates for immortality, "How long shall your vain thoughts lodge within you!"

All young people, I think, set out in life with good-nature, generosity and benevolence, with a ray, at least, from the whole constellation of virtues; but in their passage through the world, they meet with such frequent instances of baseness, dishonesty and perfidy, that, like Brutus, they are at length brought almost to think Virtue itself but a name; and if not strongly imbued with Religion, grow lukewarm in its practice; or are tempted, like dupes at play, to deal back again upon others those deceits and frauds which they have themselves been bubbled by.