

of our nature. How high is the honour to which we have been raised, and how great the gratitude which we owe to "the Former of our bodies, and the Father of our spirits," in that he hath created us in such a manner as to make us capable of receiving the impress of his own unappreciable excellencies !

According to the order in which we have placed the active powers of man, we would determine the degree in which the exercise of any of them is necessary to the accomplishment of the end of our being. Those of the *first* class are the least necessary : some of them, indeed, may remain altogether unemployed, and that end be, nevertheless, substantially gained ; though defect of some kind will, in this case, be found existing somewhere, as already remarked. Those of the *second* class are more necessary than the former ; the law of exercise admits here of fewer exceptions, though some must undoubtedly be granted. Those of the *third* class are more important still ; the exercise of them is, consequently, more imperiously demanded ; and the exceptions, if any can be admitted, are extremely limited. But those of the *fourth* class are the most necessary of all ; and no exception whatever can be supposed admissible in respect of them.

To spend our lives in an employment which exercises only the corporeal powers of our nature would be brutish. It would be to rise somewhat higher, if to this were added the exercise of the social affections—higher still, if a second addition were made of the intellectual faculties ; and a still higher ascent would be gained, if to this were added the exercise of the moral powers. But the most excellent employment of which we can form any conception is one which not only exercises