

life, which to most youth of nineteen would have been one of danger; and though the prizes for Latin Verse and for the English Essay were added to his honors, he left the university with all the native modesty he had carried thither, and with the cordial love of his contemporaries, who could feel no mortification at being vanquished by such an opponent, and no envy at the laurels of one who bore them so meekly. "From that moment to the day of his death," says Sir Edward West, the present chief justice of Bombay, "his course was one track of light, the admiration of Britain and India." From Brazenose College he was elected to a fellowship at All Souls, and soon after went abroad. The continent, at that time, afforded but small choice for an English traveller; and those scenes which, as a scholar, he would probably have preferred to visit, were not then accessible. He was, therefore, obliged to content himself with Germany, Russia, and the Crimea; and how closely he could observe, and how perspicuously impart his observations, appears from the note in Dr. Clarke's Travels in the latter countries, which he was permitted to extract from Mr. Heber's MS. Journal, and attach to his own pages. Having returned to England, and been presented to the family living of Hodnet, in Salop, he married Amelia, daughter of Dr. Shipley, the late Dean of St. Asaph, and thenceforward willingly devoted himself to the enjoyment of those domestic charities, which no one was better fitted to promote, and to the discharge of those unobtrusive duties which fill up the life of a country clergyman. Here it was that he moved in a sphere too circumscribed, it might be said, for his talents, but in which his moral qualities shone with admirable lustre. Distinction he might have sought with success in any profession, but he was satisfied with a life of comparative obscurity,—and he who so lately had surpassed all his compeers in the several pursuits of an university, and given a pledge to the world that in the higher provinces of poetry "an excellent spirit was in him," might be found daily conversing with the ignorant, and "giving subtlety to the simple,"—the adviser to whom they could resort in difficulties—the confessor to whom they would scruple not to open their griefs. Yet all this was done, so that no man could know it beyond the parties themselves; done without effort, and forgotten as soon as done, or if living, living only in the grateful remembrance of those whom he had befriended. Many were the good deeds which were brought to light by his death, and, but for his death, would have been, perhaps, forever hid; and few persons there were in his own parish, who had not then some instance of his zeal, his charity, his humility, his compassion, to communicate, which had come under their own immediate observation, and which served to bring him very vividly back to the minds of those who knew him best. Indeed, by such incidents many of the more delicate features of his character might be best discovered—that simplicity of mind which was ever true to nature—that courteousness and good breeding (if we may so speak) which even marked his behaviour to the poorest and meanest of his neighbours—that confiding temper which never feared to be abused—that guileless singleness of heart which would rather be deceived (as he often was) than entertain a suspicion—that utter disregard of self which, perhaps, was the most striking, as it certainly was the least attainable, of all his virtues—that lively faith which was ever tracing the hand of Providence, where others saw nothing but system or chance—and that disposition to rank mankind by their proficiency in holiness, rather than by their wealth, their title, or their talents, and to look up to him with the most reverence whom he thought to stand highest in the favor of God.

Active, however, as was the life of Mr. Heber, it was still a studious life: Though addressed to a congregation for the most part unlettered, his sermons exhibited no marks of haste; his lamp was not negligently trimmed because it was in some degree to shine under a bushel. It might not indeed be easy for all those who heard him, properly to appreciate the range of scripture knowledge they displayed, or their flowing and metaphorical, yet intelligible language; but all could perceive the address with which he was wont to extract useful and practical lessons from passages in Holy Writ, which in other hands might have been barren and profligate—