

department of literature and art, and of theoretical and practical science. This however is not all. Knowledge indeed is power. But whether it be a power for good, or for evil, depends on its being employed for the one purpose, or the other. And one great reason why Scotland, small as it is among the nations, has exerted, and still, we may without boasting say, exerts so mighty a power for good, is just because her sons have received a superior Education, under the direction of religious principle. It is endeared to us above all, to whatever portion of the Visible Church we may have there belonged, as the land where the tree of life is found planted beside the tree of knowledge—of the Church as well as of the University and the School,—where we have been privileged to enjoy the inestimable blessings of religious, as well as intellectual, instruction. Surely then it well becomes us, on a day of annual remembrance like this, solemnly to unite in thankfulness to God, for having, in His providence, cast our lot in our youth in such a land, to offer up our humble supplications, that He would enable us to shew by our lives, by works of faith and labours of love, our gratitude for the benefits which He has thus conferred, and to seek to derive from His holy Word those lessons by which we may be guided in the performance of this duty. And surely it well becomes us to live, and to act, as the children of so many mercies ought to do.

It has sometimes been objected, not certainly by those best qualified to form an impartial judgment, that the religion of Scotland is rather doctrinal than practical,—more of the head and of the lip, than of the heart and of the life. This objection, it might be shewn, arises in general from a difference in religious views, and from imperfect acquaintance with the subject, but the best answer to the objection is the practical one, that no where perhaps is there to be found a more moral population. In like manner it is for us as Scotsmen, my Brethren, in our heart, and in our actions, in all the outward circumstances in which we may be placed, and with all the outward advantages which God has given, to endeavour, by the blessing of God, to maintain a high standard of religion, and morality in this the land of our adoption. Surely to us are peculiarly applicable the words of the aged Joshua, when about to go the way of all the earth, who calling unto him the elders