

and we shall then perceive that solitude and dignified retirement can alone afford true pleasure, and give us what all the vain enjoyments of the world will never bestow, consolation in death, and hope of everlasting life. But the bed of death discovers most clearly the difference between the just man, who has quietly passed his days in religious contemplation, and the man of the world, whose thoughts have only been employed to feed his passions and gratify his desires. A life passed amidst the tumultuous dissipations of the world, even when unsullied by the commission of any crime, concludes, alas, very differently from that which has been spent in the bowers of solitude, adorned by innocence and rewarded by virtue.

Were mankind to examine on what their hope of future bliss is founded, and anticipate that day of discovery and decision which is hastening upon them, it would excite diligence and awaken their attachment to inferior objects. To a mind conscious of his native dignity and immortality, this employment cannot be unpleasing or unprofitable. It is the highest proof of wisdom so to act in our present situation, that, when removed to another, the change may be as happy as it will be lasting. We need not fear that this will diminish our present happiness. The Gracious Being who formed us, requires no service at our hand but what will promote our present good. "Godliness is profitable to all things;" by living in conformity to its rules, we escape many evils, and are preserved in virtue and innocence. We enjoy every gratification that can give delight to a reasonable mind. Were mankind generally influenced by this noble principle, how happy then might be the state of human society. They would then cease to be miserable in a "Miserable World." The voice of discord would then be no longer heard. The various ranks and classes of men would be connected in the strongest and most pleasing band of union. "Righteousness and peace would kiss each other," and the present state of existence would be only a happy prelude to one still more exalted and glorious in the realms of eternal day.

By experience I well know that the highest happiness which is capable of being enjoyed in this "miserable world," consists in a peace of mind, and strict adherence to the principles of the Christian religion; and by experience I can assure my dear readers that the rich and the poor, the hap-