

the finer feelings of our compassion should be called into operation, and our hearts melt in pity for them. But how very different are the feelings of the blind in this matter, who have felt all the evils & disadvantages arising from the want of this one single sense. Milton, the most accomplished and sublime poet modern times have produced, lamented his mental darkness in the following pathetic strains:—

“Seasons return, but not to me returns  
Day, or the sweet approach of ev'n or morn.  
Or sight of vernal bloom, or summer's rose,  
Or flocks, or herds, or human face divine;  
But cloud instead, and ever-during dark,  
Surround me—from the cheerful ways of  
man  
Cut off, and for the book of knowledge fair,  
Presented with a universal blank  
Of nature's works, to me expung'd and  
raz'd,  
And wisdom at one entrance quite shut  
out,”

And again, in strains as melancholy:—

———But chief of all,  
O loss of sight! of thee I most complain;  
Blind among enemies! O worse than  
chains,  
Dungeon, or beggary, or decrepid age!  
Sight, the prime work of God, to me's  
extinct,  
And all her various objects of delight  
Annul'd———.

And we might here quote a numberless host of authors, who have shone, at various times, in the firmament of letters, lamenting the great disadvantages they laboured under from the loss of sight—but the above will be sufficient to convince us of the high value we ought to put on this gift.

We owe the possession of most of the pleasures and comforts of this life to sight, as by it our steps are guided and our bodies protected from many accidents. Our minds are enlightened, improved and instructed from the treasury of creation and the productions of the human intellect. To the sight the chisel is indebted for its power of forming the shapeless marble into the most expressive images of the human form, and the pencil to tracing on canvas the beauties of

nature, and handing down to posterity, as in reality, the works and portraits of men, which the mutilating hand of time has long ago crumbled into dust. To the sight also we not only owe all the researches in Philosophy and the Arts and Sciences, but all the splendid imagery with which the poet has clothed his ideas in conveying them to the mind. The discovery of the telescope and the microscope, two instruments that have tended greatly to raise man in intelligence, and enable him to meditate, with wonder and astonishment, on those works of the Almighty which before were looked on with carelessness and indifference, resulted from sight. With the one we explore the regions of heaven, and search into immensity of space which is far beyond the reach of the naked eye, and with the other discover a world on every leaf, and see the whole earth teeming with living beings.

Without sight the beauties of nature would have been a blank, and the mind of man would have never been estimated. The knowledge of the planetary system would have been unknown, and the reappearance of comets after being invisible for three or four hundred years, would not have been seen, and man would have been ignorant of the beautiful order and scenery which pervades the whole works of the Almighty Jehovah, and, above all, the plan of redemption through Christ his only son to a guilty and ruined world.

Let us who possess this with all the other senses and faculties of the mind and body, offer up to God a song of grateful praise for his mercies, and express ourselves as his servant of old. “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?”

DELTA.

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Who forgets, and does not forget himself, in the joy of giving, and of accepting, its sublime.

The first war undertaken, for religion was that of the Arminian Christians, to defend themselves against the persecution of Maximin.