

the progress of him, who is determined to press forward till his journey shall end in the dark valley of the shadow of death.

Amidst all the innumerable branches of knowledge, which solicit the attention of human minds, there can be none of so much importance, religion only excepted, as that which shall constitute the subject of the following lectures—the Healing Art. For the soul in the diseased body, like the martyr in his dungeon may retain its value, but has lost its usefulness!

Such is the nature of man, under the strong power of sense and sympathy; influenced by all the elements around him, and the energies of thought within him; wearing out his immortal covering; sapping the foundation of his house of clay; while the passions pour a continual storm upon the wheels of life. Thus circumstanced, and impelled forward by the combined actions of so many agents, to that "bourne from whence no traveler returns," it is not astonishing if man, although the soul is superior to the body, should bestow upon the care of the latter, the principal portion of his labors and his life.

Medicine is therefore a study, not only of curious inquiry, but of deep interest, to families and individuals, who, after what has been done by its professors, ought, in fact, to be their own physicians. And this great desideratum Dr. Thomson professes to aid and establish, by his own discoveries.

To promote health of body and tranquility of mind, the sages of antiquity labored with the most severe and incessant toil. They studied the constitution of man, that they might find out the seat of his

maladies, and the sources of his misery.

To assuage the sorrows of the heart, and lift the load of melancholy from the desponding mind; to restore to the wounded spirit its elasticity and vigor; they exhaust all the powers of reason, and all the arguments and arts of their divine philosophy. Sometimes they succeeded, but they often failed. It was from a deep sense of the inadequacy of their feeble powers to eradicate the disorders of mind, that led them to look for divine succor, to that benevolent Being, who sits upon the circle of the heavens, and showers his mercies down upon the world. And this aid was not implored in vain. The day arrived. The veil of superstition was rent in fragments.—The apostle from the hill of Mars, led them to the knowledge of their unknown God. He conducted them to the infinite sources of wisdom and consolation, in *Him in whom there is fullness of joy, at whose right hand are pleasures for ever more.*

In their application to the disease of the body, the Greeks were more successful than in their application to the mind. And if we may believe the current testimony of ancient writers, they had more power over their patients, in stemming the inroads of dissolution, than the moderns have obtained after all the improvements of advancing science.—It is certain, they often arrested the career of death when he appeared in his most awful and end terrific forms. Athens was rescued from the plague by the skill of a single man!

It was in the commencement of the second year of the Peloponnesian war, that the plague broke out