

least, if not one third of our whole existence; the limbs of the most athletic individual lose their power of motion after a few hours of unre-mitted exertion; even the brain, which during the hours of sleep and the interruption of all the common functions of the body frequently represents to the internal senses the most busy scenes of active life—even the brain may be exhausted by unusual fatigue, or other causes, and may thus involve the general system in the stupor of apparent death—but the heart, unless on such occasions as the momentary interruption of a swoon, never rests: so that, whether we look back to that period of our existence, when, in our yet imperfect state, there could scarcely be discovered the faint outline of those members, which in after life constitute man's strength and beauty, the presence of the heart may be recognised by the impulse of its vibratory motion, though its form is yet undefined, or at least indistinguishable; or whether, on the other hand, we look forward to the latest moments of protracted disease, or expiring old age, the same organ is the last part of our frame which continues to give immediate proof of vital motion.

The privation of light is rarely, if ever, total: for though the empire of time is divided in nearly equal proportion between day and night, there are comparatively few nights in which there is not diffused through the air a sufficient