

God, which at the present time attracts the attention of men, beyond all former example ; and of offering an humble contribution for advancing the influence of religion, as the rightful associate of all other knowledge.

It is incumbent on me to state that, beyond a general approbation of the subject, the Committee is not answerable for any thing that has been advanced. The sentiments and arguments which have been submitted to you, rest upon the responsibility of the lecturer alone.

There are some remaining subjects respecting which I am desirous of obtaining the approbation of my indulgent auditors ; especially of the young persons, who are the delight of our families and the hope of our churches ; —“for ye are our glory and joy.”

I. I congratulate you upon the increasing ATTENTION which is evidently paid to the objects of sensible SCIENCE. By the studies of Natural History, my young friends, you become acquainted with “the wondrous works of HIM that is excellent in knowledge ; and, by those of Natural Philosophy, you investigate the causes and results of the changes which you or others have observed in the objects noticed by your senses. This is a part, at least, of what the wise man describes as “applying the heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom and the reason of things.”* It is a subject for much thankfulness to the Author of all good, that so many of you have been furnished, by the affectionate liberality of your parents, with the means of laying a foundation for these acquisitions, and of commencing to build worthily upon that foundation. Yet those who have been thus favoured in a less degree ought, by no means, to be discouraged. It is an humiliating fact, that the class of persons which has enjoyed such opportunities in their most perfect form, is not uni-

* Eccl. vii. 25.