

quantity of light for many of the purposes of life. Nor, with respect to those persons who either were born blind, or became blind in early infancy, is the absence of light felt with any degree of severity; for, in such instances, although the individual may be made to understand that he wants some faculty which those around him possess, there cannot be however any consciousness of privation where there never had been actually any enjoyment; or where there was no recollection of it, if it had for a time existed. And even in the case of individuals who have been deprived of sight long subsequently to birth, although the recollection of the former enjoyment must more or less imbitter their present state; yet so long as the offices of surrounding friends are the means of administering to their comfort, more especially if those offices are fulfilled with kindness, the mind soon becomes reconciled to the privation: for it is a fact, repeatedly observed, that blind persons under such circumstances are usually cheerful. Nor ought we to forget the compensation which nature affords to those who are deprived of sight, in the consequently quickened activity of some of the other senses.

Let us however suppose for a moment that, all the faculties and recollections of man remaining unaltered, and the general processes of nature continuing, if possible, the same as they are