

now, the existence of light were withdrawn from this earth : what would then be the condition of mankind ? How could those occupations of life be pursued which are necessary for the supply of our simplest wants ? Who in that case should yoke the ox to the plough, or sow the seed, or reap the harvest ? but indeed under such a supposition there would soon be neither seed for the ground, nor grain for food : for, if deprived of light, the character of vegetation is completely altered ; and its results, as far as general utility is concerned, destroyed. Or suppose, further, that these necessary supplies of life were no longer required, on account of some consequent alteration in our physical constitution ; or that they were procured for us by any unknown means ; yet, in all the higher enjoyments of our nature, how cheerless, how utterly miserable would be our situation. Under such circumstances, wisdom would not only be

“ at one entrance quite shut out,”

but no other entrance could then be found for it ; for of the other senses, the only remaining inlets of knowledge with reference to an external world, there is not one, which, if unaided by sight, could be of any practical value. With respect indeed to our inward feelings, though we should, on the one hand, be spared, by the privation of light, the worse than corporeal pain of the averted eye of those who ought to meet us