

[The content of the *Disease* essay is not in order in the original.]

How happy is he, who can say, "I am free from pain," and how much more ought he to praise God! How thankful ought he to be, who is in health! But the diseased one should not complain, because he is afflicted, for "whom God loveth, he chasteneth."

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

Disease.

By Disease we mean sickness, and it may exist either in a permanent or temporary form, The number of diseases is very great, almost innumerable.

Disease originates from our doing things, contrary to the rules of nature and of health.

It is advantageous as well as disadvantageous. It may be productive of good as well as bad effects. When we are diseased, although we cannot perform manual labor, can have opportunities of improving our mental activities. We can read books, and thereby acquire a knowledge of the things, which we could not enjoy, unless we were in a different position of life.

We become acquainted with the frivolities of the world, and

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But let us view its disadvantages.

The infant's merry prattling is taken away by it, and its cheek is bedewed by tears, instead of being lighted with/by smiles.

In the pursuit of knowledge, the student is cut off by it.

The merchant, travelling the road of fortune, is suddenly stopped by coming in contact with it.

Disease blasts the prospects of the young man, and wilted the hopes of the old, with disappointment through its influence.

It both succeeds and precedes age. If it come first, it whitens the hair and marks the cheek with furrows of pain. It takes away the strength and activity of the body, and leaves us in one step of the grave.

If it succeed old age, it lays us in the tomb. It destroys our mental abilities, and we become deranged. In short, if we never are restored to health, we, always experience the most bitter anguish. We pass go to bed to pass sleepless nights away, and arise next morning to find that we have always to realize the worst of pains.

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its temptations, which we are prevented from being let into.

We become acquainted with the fickleness of fortune, and rejoice that we occupy such a position, that does not require our seeking wealth. It learns us to pity and to be pitied.

By the perusal of the lives of others similarly afflicted, we can solace ourselves with the thought that we are not all, who are diseased, and from the same source, we may learn to endure our afflictions with meekness, piety, and goodness, and to understand the way of righteousness, which leads us to eternal life.

But let us view it in its disadvantageous position.

The infants merry prattling is changed into groans; its laugh, to tears, and its whole figure looks like “skin and bones”

The wan student, in pursuit of knowledge, is cut off by it. The merchant’s hopes and fortunes vanish, when they come in contact with it.

The patient become impatient, the sweet-tempered, perish, and bad qualities take the place of good.

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If disease precede old age; the hair of the young is whitened prematurely; the fair cheek becomes sallow, and is marked with furrows of pain.

Disease blasts the prospects of the young, and by it the hopes of the old are wilted with disappointment.

It takes strength from the strong; agility from the active; intellect from the intellectual.

In short, if those, who are afflicted with it, are never restored to health, they always will experience the most bitter anguish. They retire to bed to pass sleepless nights away, and a wake next morning, not refreshed by that sleep, which invigorates the limbs of the healthy, to undergo the most excruciating pains.

How happy must he be, who can say, “I am free from pain.” How much more ought the healthy to thank God, that he has permitted them to enjoy uninterrupted health! But those, who are diseased should not complain, for “whom God loveth He chasteneth.”

E. S. Mitchell,

Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>.

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