

**ESSAY ON THE
HAPPINESS OF
THE LIFE TO COME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649576234

Essay on the Happiness of the Life to Come by Charles Louis de Villette

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CHARLES LOUIS DE VILLETTE

**ESSAY ON THE
HAPPINESS OF
THE LIFE TO COME**

ESSAY

ON THE

HAPPINESS

OF

THE LIFE TO COME.

..... What if Earth
Be but the shadow of Heaven, and things therein
Each to other like, more than on Earth is thought.

MILTON.



BATH, PRINTED BY R. CRUTTWELL;
AND SOLD BY
T. CADELL, STRAND, AND C. DILLY, POULTRY, LONDON.

M DCC XCIII.

D

PREFACE.



THE following Essay is extracted from a French book, entitled "Essai sur la Felicité de la Vie à venir, par C. L. de Villette." The Translator has selected those parts alone which seemed most calculated to awaken such ideas of the life to come, as it appears to have been the Author's principal aim to produce; and has ventured to make some alterations and additions.

To familiarize the joys of heaven to our imagination, without degrading them by too close a comparison with

our present pleasures;—to place them in such a point of view, as to warm the heart without dazzling the understanding;—to represent our occupations in the celestial abodes, as holding such affinity with our earthly pursuits, that, in order to be admitted to the privileges of the former, we must observe the strictest rectitude in the objects of the latter;—to direct our views in every event beyond the narrow bounds of time, to a happy eternity, where that which is in part shall be swallowed up in that which is perfect;—these are the views of the Translator, as they evidently were those of the Author.

It

It must indeed be acknowledged, that, after all our endeavours to describe the joys of heaven, our mortal understanding can never acquire an adequate idea of that glorious state, in which we shall be partakers of the divine nature, and be conformed to the image of Christ. But nothing surely can so effectually detach us from low pursuits, and unworthy inclinations, or inspire the true Christian with gratitude and moderation in prosperity, with resignation and fortitude in adversity, with humble and ardent piety, universal benevolence, and every virtue becoming a being destined for immortality, and a professor of the gospel

gospel of Christ, as the habit of reflecting on those superior enjoyments which the soul will experience, when, the veil of mortality being withdrawn, we shall see God "face to face," and partake of that "fulness of joy" which is in his presence for evermore.



INTRODUCTION.

TO prove the superiority of our immortal to our mortal state; to assert that the body will be purified by death from its natural imperfections, and be raised spiritual and perfect, and that the faculties of the soul will acquire a nearer resemblance to that pure spirit from whom they proceed, would be an useless attempt; since to those who examine the words of eternal life, these truths are incontestibly evident. But what the changes will be, which shall then take place in us,

is seldom enquired; and they are by many people considered as inconceivable, not only in their degree, but in their nature also. That with regard to the former, they far exceed all which we can imagine, is clear from the words of Scripture: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.* Beloved, now are we the sons of God; but it doth not yet appear what we shall be."† But I apply these passages to their degree alone; and it is the object of the following Essay to prove, that the knowledge we have of the nature of the universe, and of the ways of God, as revealed to us in the gospel, may furnish us

* 1 Cor. ii. 9. Isaiah lxiv. 4.

† 1 John iii. 2. See also 2 Cor. xii. 2.

with