rect taste tne beauties of the great writers of antiquity. Notwithstanding his admiration for Dr Priestley, he was an early convert to the antiphlogistic theory of chemistry; which, with all its errors, was still a material step in the advancement of science.

In 1781 he went to Edinburgh, with the view of ouali- fying himself for the profession of physic, and he had the advantage of attending Dr Black’s lectures, which were then in great reputation. In October 1782, he entered as a pensioner of Christ’s College, Cambridge, where he be­came intimately acquainted with the late Professor Har­wood, who had been first a surgeon in India, but having lost, by the misconduct of an agent, the fortune which he had there acquired, submitted cheerfully to the toil of re­commencing his career as a physician, though already past the middle age. His talents for conversation were such as were extremely likely to captivate a young man of superior discernment ; and he formed a friendship with Tennant which continued uninterrupted throughout their lives. At Cambridge he studied a little of the mathematics in the works of Newton, but much more of chemistry and botany : he already began to exercise his inventive powers in an at­tempt to economize the consumption of fuel in distillation, which he did not make public until twenty years after, though he mentioned it at the time to some of his friends. He also occupied himself incessantly in general, and espe­cially in political reading, though he was far from having the air of a student ; but his rooms were always in confu­sion, from the mixture of heterogeneous materials that were accumulated in them. His residence at Cambridge was perhaps the happiest time of his life ; his spirits unwearied, his health unbroken, his feelings acute, and his conversa­tion brilliant though simple and unaffected.

In the summer of 1784 he paid a visit to Denmark, to Sweden, and to Scheele, whose acquaintance extremely de­lighted him, and most of all from the simplicity of the ap­paratus that he employed in his researches. A year or two afterwards he went to France, and being taken ill at Paris, he was joined there by his friend Harwood, with whom he returned through Holland and the Netherlands, at the time when the bigoted people of the Low Countries were in insurrection against a philosophical despot, while Holland remained free and prosperous.

He was particularly intimate with Dr Milner, the master of Queen's College, and was recommended by his signature, together with those of Waring, Maskelyne, Jebb, and Wat­son, as a fellow of the Royal Society, into which he was admitted in January 1785. He removed, together with his friend Harwood, in December 1786, from Christ’s Col­lege to Emanuel, and in 1788 he took the degree of ba­chelor of physic. In 1791 he communicated to the Royal Society his very interesting discovery of a mode of obtain­ing carbon from the carbonic acid. Having observed that charcoal did not decompose the phosphate of lime, he con­cluded that phosphorus ought to decompose the carbonate of lime; and the result fully justified his manner of reasoning.

He paid a third visit to the Continent in 1792, intending to pass through France into Italy, and arrived at Paris not long before the 10th of August; but he saw some indica­tions of an impending convulsion, and was fortunate enough to quit Paris on the 9th. He visited Gibbon at Lausanne, and was much interested in the sagacity which this eminent writer displayed in his conversation. He proceeded to Rome and Florence, where he was fully impressed with all the admiration that he had been taught to anticipate for the treasures of ancient and modern art possessed by those cities ; and in his return through Germany, he was greatly amused by the mixture of knowledge and credulity which he observed among the studious of that country. At Paris in 1793 he found every thing enveloped in gloom and over­whelmed with terror. His friend Lametherie was alarmed

by the visit which he paid him ; but he had the integrity to preserve for him entire some property of considerable value, with which he had intrusted him.

Upon his arrival in London. Mr Tennant took chambers in the Temple, and was in the habit of living much with some of his early acquaintance, who had adopted the law as their profession ; to his own he was in great mea­sure indifferent, neither seeking to practise it, nor being well calculated to succeed greatly in it with the public, though he studied it with attention, and took pains to make himself master of its history and philosophy, being a particular admirer of Sydenham, when considered in rela­tion to the age in which he lived. He took his degree of doctor of physic in 1796 ; and in the same year he gave the Royal Society a paper on the quantity of carbonic acid afforded by the diamond, which he measured by heating it with nitre, and obtaining a precipitate by the addition of muriate of lime; and he found that the diamond afforded no more carbonic acid than an equal weight of charcoal. A subsequent communication contained the result of his observations on the action of heated nitre on gold and platina.

The love of travelling appeared to be his predominant passion. In his travels, he studied not only the natural and political history of the countries which he saw, but also their languages, and the philosophy of their etymologies. He likewise observed the peculiarities of their agriculture ; and, in 1797, he determined, after visiting an agricultural friend in Lincolnshire, to devote his attention to practical farming as a serious pursuit. He purchased some allot­ments of unenclosed land in that neighbourhood, but he left the management of them chiefly to his friend, and after­wards made considerable additions to the property by further purchases. In 1798 or 1799, he bought a tract of newly enclosed land on the Mendip Hills, near Chedder, where he built a house, and resided for some months every summer through the remainder of his life. These speculations, though their results were at first doubtful, yet succeeded remarkably well on the whole ; more especially consider­ing the benefit which his health derived from the travel­ling and the exercise that they rendered necessary; but they occupied too much of his attention, and of that time which might have been employed so much more to the advantage of the public, and to his own ultimate satisfaction.

In 1799 he gave the Royal Society a paper on the mag­nesian limestone, or dolomite, which he considers as rather a combination than an accidental mixture ; and the forms of the crystals, as they have been determined by later ob­servers, together with the laws of definite proportions, have tended to confirm this conjecture. He found that grain will scarcely germinate, and soon perishes, when sown in the neutral carbonate of magnesia. In 1802 he published his paper on emery, which he showed to be a substance similar to the corundum or adamantine spar of China, and not an ore of iron, as had been commonly supposed. In the month of July he was making some experiments on crude platina, when he discovered in it a singular dark powder, which was left undissolved by the nitro-muriatic acid, and which was also observed the next year by Messrs Descotils and Vauquelin. In 1804 Dr Tennant showed that the powder contained two new metals, which he named *iridium* and *osmium ;* and he received the Copleian medal from the Royal Society in November, as an acknowledg­ment of the merit of his various chemical discoveries. In 1805 and 1806 he paid two successive visits to Ireland, by way of Scotland, one of them in company with Browne the traveller, for whom he had a high esteem, and to whom he suggested the observation of the temperature of boiling water as a mode of determining the heights of mountains ; a method, however, which bad been long before recom­mended by Achard and others.