tiality of the satirist, who pockets his scourge, and is all over-acted grimace, at the approach of every titled knave or simpleton. It must however be admitted that if Young often praised the worthless, he never abused the virtuous, which is too often a kindred propensity. Though every line of the Universal Passion sparkles with wit or anti­thesis, the reader must regret with Swift that the poet was not either more angry or more merry. The greater part both of Young's rhyme and blank verse, for he is the most unequal of all poets, is of a structure more peculiar than pleasing to the ear.

Young, *Thomas,* one of the most distinguished men of the present age, was born at Milverton in Somersetshire on the 13th of June 1773. Both his parents were Quakers, and he was the youngest of ten children. His father bore the same name with himself ; his mother was a niece of Dr Brockelsby, an eminent physician in London. His parents, we are informed, were among “ the strictest of a sect, whose fundamental principle it is, that the perception of what is right or wrong, to its minutest ramifications, is to be looked for in the immediate influence of a Supreme intelligence, and that therefore the individual is to act upon this, lead where it may, and compromise nothing. To the bent of these early impressions he was accustomed in after-life to attribute, in some degree, the power he so eminently pos­sessed of an imperturbable resolution to effect any object on which he was engaged, which he brought to bear on every thing he undertook, and by which he was enabled to work out his own education almost from infancy, with little comparative assistance or direction from others.”

At a very early period, he became an inmate in the fa­mily of his maternal grandfather, Robert Davies of Mine­head ; who, although engaged in mercantile avocations, had cultivated a taste for classical literature, and, without being a very deep or accurate scholar himself, was anxious to in­spire his grandson with the love of scholarship. Here he learned to read with fluency when he was only two years old. He was afterwards placed under the tuition of a vil­lage schoolmistress ; and, during the intervals of his attend­ance, he was occupied with the task of committing to me­mory various English, and even some Latin poems. It is stated that he easily retained the words, although unac­quainted with their meaning ; but this mode of exercising his memory can scarcely be regarded as very judicious. Before he had completed his sixth year, he attended the seminary of a dissenting minister. He was next sent to a school at Bristol, where he remained about a year and a half, and where, as his biographer remarks, “ the deficiency of the instructor appears to have advanced the studies of the pupil, as he here first became his own teacher, and had by himself studied the last pages of the books used, before he had reached the middle under the eye of the master.” During the holidays he appears to have derived no small advantage from his acquaintance with one of his father’s neighbours, a land-surveyor and land-steward ; in whose office he was indulged with the use of mathematical and philosophical instruments, and, what was then of more im­portance, with the perusal of three volumes of a Dictionary of Arts and Sciences. New sources of knowledge were thus opened to him, and the delight which they afforded seemed to be inexhaustible.

In the year 1782 he was sent to the school of a Mr Thompson at Compton in Dorsetshire. Of this preceptor he was accustomed to speak with great respect, as a man of an enlarged and liberal mind ; and under his tuition, he proceeded through the ordinary course of Greek and Latin classics, together with the elementary parts of mathematics. The master possessed a miscellaneous library of moderate extent ; and of this he encouraged his pupils to make a free use, allowing them a certain degree of discretion in the em­ployment of their time. This method of proceeding was peculiarly adapted to the taste and exigencies of such a pupil as Thomas Young, whose prematurity of judgment, accompanied with an insatiable thirst of knowledge, quali­fied him to act as his own preceptor. He rose earlier and went to bed later than his companions, and was thus en­abled to devote himself to a surprising variety of pursuits. By the aid of a school-fellow, who had some French and Italian books, he rendered himself tolerably familiar with those languages. “ The next study he undertook was bo­tany ; and for the sake of examining the plants which he gathered, he attempted the construction of a microscope from the descriptions of Benjamin Martin. This led him to optics ; but in order to make his microscope, he found it necessary to procure a lathe. Every thing then gave way to a passion for turning, and science was forgotten for the acquirement of manual dexterity ; until, falling upon a demonstration in Martin, which exhibited some fluxionol symbols, he was never satisfied till he had read and mas­tered a short introduction to the doctrine of fluxions. Mr Thompson had left in his way a Hebrew Bible. He began by enabling himself to read a few chapters, and was soon absorbed in the study of the principal oriental languages. At the age of fourteen, when he quitted Mr Thompson’s school, he was thus more or less versed in Greek, Latin, French, Italian, Hebrew, Persic, and Arabic ; and in form­ing the characters of those languages, he had already ac­quired much of the beauty and accuracy of penmanship which was afterwards so remarkable in his copies of Greek compositions, as well as of those subjects connected with the literature of ancient Egypt.” Such a statement as this might appear scarcely credible, if we were not possessed of the most unexceptionable evidence that, in every stage of his intellectual career, Young was a very remarkable person.

After he had completed the fourteenth year of his age, he went to reside in the family of Mr David Barclay of Youngsbury in Hertfordshire. Through the intervention of Sir William Watson, it had been arranged that Young and a grandson of Mr Barclay should pursue their studies under a private tutor ; but in the mean time the person who had been engaged, found a situation which appeared more advantageous ; and Young, who was only about a year and a half older than his companion, began to act as his preceptor. They were afterwards joined by another youth, named Hodgkin, who was of an age somewhat more advanced, and who in 1794 published a work entitled “ Cal­ligraphia Græca.” Young did not however relinquish his office of tutor, and he found himself capable of directing the studies of both his companions. About this early pe­riod of his life, he exhibited symptoms of what was supposcd to be incipient consumption ; but under the care and skill of Dr Brockelsby and Baron Dimsdale, he recovered his health without suffering any ultimate inconvenience. Nor did his studies experience any material interruption ; for we are informed that he was enabled to pursue his labours through nearly the whole duration of his indisposition, and that he merely relieved his attention by what to him answered the purpose of repose, namely, a course of reading in such Greek authors as amused the weariness of his confinement. From 1787 to 1792, he resided during summer in Hertford­shire, and during winter in London. With only the occa­sional assistance of some masters in the metropolis, he ren­dered himself perfectly familiar with the great poets and philosophers of antiquity. Of his daily studies he preserved ample notes. “ Of the various and conflicting opinions of the ancient philosophers,” says Mr Gurney, “ he had drawn up a most admirable analysis ; and as his reading was not merely the gaining words and phrases, and the minuter dis­tinctions of dialects, but was invariably also directed to what was the end and object of the works he laboured through, it is probable that the train of thought into which