

views superfluous, by asking where is the wisdom of seeking to remove by means of bitter drugs an ailment that can be cured with sugar-candy.

Having established the importance of Poetry, he proceeds to determine what it is that poetry consists in; and this he decides is 'Flavour' (*rasa*).^{*} Between this and the Vedántic conception of the Deity, he does his best (in his third section) to make out a parallel, which the reader will be the more likely to understand, if he have some previous acquaintance with Vedántic speculations.

It is worth noticing that the notion of reckoning *metre* among the circumstances that constitute poetry is not even hinted at by our critic. The fact that the learned of India are accustomed to put into verse almost all their driest treatises—on law, physic, divinity, &c.—affords a ready enough explanation why the accident of metre should not be mistaken by them for the essence of poetry. Their test of poetry, (under which title, as we shall see, they reckon "poetry in prose"—*gadya kavya*), coincides pretty closely with that specified by Whately as the test of "good poetry," when he says (Rhet. p. 344,)—"The true test is easily applied: that which to competent judges affords the appropriate *pleasure* of Poetry, is *good* poetry, whether it answer any other purpose or not: that which does *not* afford this pleasure, however instructive it may be, is not good *Poetry*, though it may be a valuable *work*." The Archbishop goes on to say, "Notwithstanding all that has been advanced by some French critics, to prove that a work, not in metre, may be a Poem, (which doctrine was partly derived from a misinterpretation of a passage in Aristotle's Poetics,) universal opinion has always given a contrary decision. Any composition in *verse*, (and none that is not,) is always called, whether good or bad, a Poem, by all who have no favourite hypothesis to maintain." The paṇḍits furnish apparently an exception to the universality of this dictum, for if

^{*} *Vákyam rasátmakam kavyam*—see p. 10.