

self, and gave him an education suitable to these views; but the strong predilection of the son to the fine arts frustrated these views; and he was no sooner at liberty to choose for himself than he decidedly determined to abandon the study of the law, and to attach himself to that of painting alone.

Poetry, painting, and music have, with justice, been called sister arts. The finer feelings of the human mind are the object on which they all are intended to operate; and it seldom happens that any person excels much in one of these arts who is not likewise an admirer of the others. Mr Aikman was fond of poetry; and was particularly delighted with those unforced strains which, proceeding from the heart, are calculated to touch the congenial feelings of sympathetic minds, and make them vibrate with that delicate unison which those alone who have felt it can appreciate. It was this propensity which attached Mr Aikman so warmly to Allan Ramsay, the the Doric bard of Scotland, whose artless strains have been admired wherever the language in which he wrote was known. Though younger than the bard, Mr Aikman, while at college, formed an intimate acquaintance with Ramsay, which constituted a principal part of his happiness at that time, and of which he always bore the tenderest recollection. It was the same delicate bias of mind which at a future period of his life, attached him so warmly to Thomson, who unknown, and unprotected by others at that time, stood in need of, and obtained the warmest patronage of Aikman; who perhaps considered it as one of the most fortunate occurrences in his life that