

The constant recommendation, of late, to alleviate and console the distresses of the maritime and other classes of suffering people, has been *patience**; but patience is a slow and sad cure for poverty, although it is certain enough in its effects; for the evils of life must have a termination, and the most wretched mortal knows, that they cannot last, with him, in this world for ever. Patience is, no doubt, a friend to sorrow, and by whose aid many privations and evils may be endured; but the want of employment creates despondency, and a people who are suffering under the pinching calls of hunger, can be but ill supported by the virtue of patience alone. Would their admonitors be patient under such trials of affliction? It is easy to approve and recommend such a principle, but it is difficult to endure the necessity which produces it; for its effect must extinguish all hope in this world but one, and that is the cessation of being; but mankind, in general, act as if they thought they should live for ever, and as if no sacrifice or consideration were due to any of the human race but themselves.

* The Committee of the House of Commons for the Relief of the Poor, in their second report, recommend, in the emphatic words of Mr. Burke, patience, prudence, fortitude, and indeed all the virtues; in order, no doubt, that things may find their level, but the world now pretty well knows how this level will generally terminate, when left to itself.