

necessary to good breeding, she had a native affability and sweetness of deportment, which shamed all the formal rules of politeness; and without the least advantage from example, but rather the contrary, she could easily distinguish gaiety from licentiousness, and decorum from formality.

Perfectly aware of the misfortune to which she was reduced by her father's bad conduct, and of the little prospect she had of living in the world according to her birth, she reflected that all that could make her easy under her present or future sufferings, was patience and humility; and she therefore endeavoured, as much as possible, not to think on the pleasures which those who are in possession of great fortunes enjoy, but rather on the little wants & exigencies of those who, either are born to nothing, or, like herself, have been deprived of their first hopes. She considered that to be poor, was not always to be miserable; and that riches are often accompanied by much unhappiness. This enabled her to know that content was sufficient to render any station comfortable, and that without it, every one must be the reverse. Thus, without any aid from books, she was at fifteen a philosopher in her way of thinking, and perhaps more truly so, practically, than the most celebrated of those who, theoretically, have laid down morals and maxims before us, as the best guides of our sentiments and actions.

As to her person, she was of middle stature, perfectly well formed, easy and genteel in her shape and motions. If the features of her face could not be said to be cast in the mould of perfect beauty, there was so much regularity & harmony in them, that, joined to a very delicate complexion, large and expressive blue eyes, fine hair and