

THE DEFORMED AND HANDSOME LEG.

BY DR. FRANKLIN.

THERE are two sorts of people in the world, who, with equal degrees of health and wealth, and the other comforts of life, become, the one happy, and the other miserable. This arises very much from the different views in which they consider things, persons, & events—and the effects of those different views upon their own minds.

In whatever situation men can be placed, they may find conveniencies and inconveniencies: in whatever company, they may find persons and conversations more or less pleasing: at whatsoever table, they may meet with meats and drinks of better and worse taste, dishes better and worse dressed. In whatever climate, they will find good and bad weather: under whatever government, they will find good and bad laws, and good and bad administration of those laws. In every poem, (or work of genius) they may see faults and beauties. In almost every face and every person, they may discover fine features and defects, good and bad qualities.

Under these circumstances, the two sorts of people abovementioned fix their attention, those who are disposed to be happy on the convenience of things, the pleasant parts of conversation, the well dressed dishes, and goodness of the wines, the fine weather, &c. and enjoy all with cheerfulness. Those who are to be unhappy think and speak only of the contraries: hence they are continually discontented themselves, and by these remarks, sour the pleasures of society, offend personally many people, and make themselves every where disagreeable. If this turn of mind was formed in nature, such unhappy persons would be the more to be pitied. But as the disposition to criticise and be disgusted, is perhaps, taken up originally by imitation, and is unawares grown into a habit, which, tho' at present strong,