

qualified to be our own guides, and the framers of our own happiness, are wholly dependant creatures; that the pursuits, on which we entered with the highest hopes, abound with unforeseen difficulties and mock our expectation of substantial good. The various disappointments incident to premature opinions, extravagant hopes and misplaced affections, justify the saying in the text *I have seen an end to all perfection.*

This declaration is the result of experience.— It is still well that men learn wisdom from experience. But all do not. Some turn a deaf ear to the voice of events; and despise every attempt of sound reason and affectionate friendship to put them right. They retain, in some degree, the folly of their first days, and continue the dupes of original error. They still look for perfection and happiness, where neither of them is to be found. Like the spider, when one web of ideal good is destroyed, they weave another in its room; and too often go on in this manner, till death closes the scene.

For the benefit of such characters, and of all who are in danger of drawing erroneous conclusions from superficial views of men and things, and of entertaining expectations which can never be realized; it may be well to dwell a little longer on the sentiment of the text, and to exhibit it in different lights.

1st.—It is obvious that material enjoyments and