

vinced that to his knowledge of the world he is indebted for his present exemption from the cares of business, for the enjoyment of his country retirement, and the envy of his neighbours. In his great veneration for this kind of knowledge he forgets that the same arts which hasten the acquisition of wealth very generally supply temptations to impair honesty. Some think they arrive at this knowledge, by running from country to country, by having been ruined by an opera-girl at Paris; by associating with the black-legs, lords, and bullies of pugilistic notoriety in the British capital, by racing and gambling in the Southern States of our American neighbours, or staring at ex-kings, ex-generals, and other *xx's* at Saratoga or Ballstown springs. To some a very easy path leading to the acquisition of this knowledge is opened by the ace of spades, and superior sagacity in discovering the ruin of the cards, or when to bet on the odd trick, is the standard of merit in their eyes. It is knowledge of the world which directs Mrs. Treacle in the choice of her gown, or the cut of her cap, as well as in the putting up of her pickles, and in the patterns of her furniture. It is knowledge of the world which persuades the spendthrift that in expence alone consists the art of *savoir vivre*; and which teaches the usurer to withhold his loan till the premium is doubled; and the increase of this knowledge, which all these people consider as residing in themselves, begets that comfortable contempt which one class entertains for the other; it justifies the man of riches in his detestation of his poorer neighbour, and instructs the man of pleasure to despise the sons of tallow and tobacco. It is likewise knowledge of the world which the man of fashion acquires his reading in the different forms of salutation; the due de