

preciating its value, or too negligent to secure its benefits.

It seems as if there were a system of monopoly, prejudice, infatuation, and obstinacy, not only in all kinds of trade, but in all the affairs of life; and those who have the most right and interest to remove those evils, have generally the least inclination to produce the means. But the most difficult part to subdue or remove of all these evils is, to overcome *prejudice*; and in nothing are people more prejudiced, or capricious, than in the choice of their food, although this depends entirely upon habit; for whatever food people are accustomed to in early youth, they generally prefer through life. It is difficult, for instance, to make a British peasant eat of a fine ragout, or to induce a fine gentleman to partake of beef and plum-pudding; because the different habits they have been accustomed to, or taught, make both ridiculous and unpalatable to their opposite tastes and different conceptions. People would not eat bread if they had never been accustomed to it, and it is astonishing, in this luxuriant age, that they ever eat of so vulgar and cheap a food. But perhaps they have more desire for it when it is dear and scarce than when it is cheap and plentiful.

It has been lately said, by some interested per-