

arities of any religious denomination. They too readily conclude that their party possesses every degree of excellence, and that other parties are mere sectarians or schismaticks, and most egregiously wrong in their principles and practice.

There is hardly an object, engaging the young mind, which is not the subject of precipitant and incorrect opinion. How fondly does it dream of perfect happiness in earthly pleasures and acquisitions! How eagerly does it pursue some phantom, which the imagination paints in the richest colours and most fascinating charms! Paradise is at the end of every path, which youthful fancy marks out. The difficulties which intervene, and the possibility of ultimate disappointment are rarely, if at all, contemplated. Self diffidence, which checks the boldness of adventure and produces caution, is none of the distinctions of youth. The mind reposes upon itself, upon its own powers, as adequate to every enterprise, as sufficient to gain every object of desire; independently of the efforts of rivalry, and the mutation of human affairs. A broad foundation is thus laid, by imagination alone, for disappointment and trouble in the subsequent stages of life.

As we advance and become acquainted with real life; the spell is broken, the fantastic vision disappears. We find that neither men nor things are entitled to the character which we imagined them to hold; that we ourselves, instead of being