



Further Observations, &c.

THAT the opinions of the ancients, on most subjects, in all ages of the World, have been held in the highest veneration, is well known; and when modestly called in question, have always been strongly, and it may be truly said, obstinately defended.

Thus the philosophy of Aristotle, for many centuries, prevailed every where among the learned. When Descartes expressed his doubts concerning its truth, and proposed another mode of philosophizing, he was immediately, and warmly opposed. If Voltaire's suspicions were well founded, his death was premature: for he says, "That he died at Stockholm, in the flower of his age, in the midst of some literati, who were his enemies, and under the hands of a physician, to whom he was odious." *Letters on the English Nation*, page 94, edit. 2d.

In less than half a century afterwards, the illustrious Sir Isaac Newton, called the philosophy of Descartes in question. This gave great offence, and he was condemned in general by many who understood not his principles.