

ter of the best collection of drawings in the world, having purchased two or three capital collections in this city; the last, belonging to Cardinal Albanis, for fourteen thousand crowns, consists of three thousand large volumes, one third of which are original drawings of the best masters; the others, collections of the most celebrated engravings. And lately, there has been purchased for his majesty all the museum of Mr. Smith, at Venice, consisting of his library, prints, drawings, designs, &c. I think it is highly probable that the arts and sciences will flourish in Great Britain, under the protection and encouragement of a monarch who is himself so excellent a judge of merit in the fine arts."

Sir Joshua Reynolds was, at first, the King's chief favourite among artists; but his patronage was subsequently transferred in a more particular manner to Mr. West, President of the Academy. Struck with the superior merits of an historical design by Mr. West, then a very young man, his majesty commissioned him to paint a composition for the royal collection; and, with that delicate consideration which unites the true gentleman with the patron, left the subject to the painter's choice. The subject selected by Mr. West was that of Regulus resigning himself to the ambassadors of Carthage. The excellence of the picture, for which his majesty gave the artist one thousand guineas, is the best comment on the judgment of his royal employer.

PLEASURE ARISING FROM BOOKS.

AT the head of all the pleasures which offer themselves to the man of education, (remarks an intelli-