

satisfactory and substantial manner. I can even recollect that some men pretty far advanced in life, preserved the same wise principles, and maintained the distinction between unavoidable and voluntary ignorance.

A very different plan is now pursued in the world ; with what success I shall not say, but it is certain that we can find very few in the early periods of life who are content to be ignorant. The greater part seem to have overcome every difficulty when they have acquired the alphabet, and the multiplication-table, and other kinds of knowledge pour in upon them so fast, that long before the period of manhood they have acquired all that they desire, and are old in every thing but years.

Among other consequences of this plan it has given rise to the breed of puppies, a description of the human species very different from that known under the same name by my predecessors in periodical writing. Puppies in former days were ignorant, and contented to be so ; knowledge was not in their way, and they contrived to fill up departments in society, where it was not wanted. Our modern puppies, however, are distinguished by an uncommon affectation of knowledge, from the arcana of state down to the figure of a quadrille, from the system of the universe down to razorstrops and toothpowder. This is so much worse than downright ignorance as it is more difficult to remove. The wise man has indeed long ago determined that there is more hope of a fool than of a young man "wise in his own conceit," and I am happy to strengthen my own opinion by so venerable an authority.

All knowledge is comparative ; but, although amongst wise men, some are content to know one thing, and some another, and although all