

made for contests of this kind ; and our author says, it often affected him much, to see the object of the dispute, sitting in pensive silence, and awaiting the termination of the combat, which was to decide her fate. Sometimes a woman happens to be won by a man whom she mortally hates ; but even in this case, she must be passive, should she at the same time be torn from a man she really loves.

It is generally, however, young women, or at least such as have no children, who thus frequently change masters ; for few are fond of maintaining the children of others, except on particular occasions.

Some of the aged, particularly if they have the reputation of being conjurers, possess great influence over the rabble, and sometimes prevent such irregularities. As far, indeed, as their own family and connections are concerned, they will exert their utmost influence ; but when their own relations are guilty, they seldom interfere. This partial con-