

ARTS OF BEAUTY. (a)

CHAPTER I.

FEMALE BEAUTY.

"Look upon this face,
Examine every feature and proportion,
And you with me must grant this rare piece finish'd.
Nature despairing e'er to make the like,
Brake suddenly the mould in which 'twas fashioned;
Yet, to increase your pity, and call on
Your justice with severity, this fair outside
Was but the cover of a fairer mind."

MASSINGER'S *Parliament of Love*.

It is a most difficult task to fix upon any general and satisfactory standard of female beauty, since forms and qualities the most opposite and contradictory are looked upon by different nations, and by different individuals, as the perfection of beauty. Some will have it that a beautiful woman must be *fair*, while others conceive nothing but brunettes to be handsome. A Chinese belle must be fat, have small eyes,