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acquire, when they flow from the sensibility of a
ng heart? If one be not moved by affection, even
osing him influenced by principle, he will go no
ner than strict principle appears to require. He
advance slowly and reluctantly. As it is justice,
generosity, which impels him, he will often feel as
lk what he is required by conscience to perform.
ereas, to him who is prompted by virtuous sensibili-
every office of beneficence and humanity is a plea-
e. He gives, assists, and relieves, not merely because
is bound to do so, but because it would be painful for
to refrain. Hence, the smallest benefit he confers
is in its value, on account of its carrying the affection
the giver impressed upon the gift. It speaks his heart ;
the discovery of the heart is very frequently of great-
consequence than all that liberality can bestow. How
en will the affectionate smile of approbation gladden
humble, and raise the dejected? How often will
look of tender sympathy, or the tear that involunta-
falls, impart consolation to the unhappy? By means
this correspondence of hearts, all the great duties
which we owe to one another are both performed to
ore advantage, and endeared in the performance.
om true sensibility flow a thousand good offices, ap-
rently small in themselves, but of high importance to
e felicity of others; offices which altogether escape
e observation of the cold and unfeeling, who, by the
rdness of their manner, render themselves unamiable,
en when they mean to do good. How happy then
ould it be for mankind, if this affectionate disposition
eailed more generally in the world! How much
ould the sum of public virtue and public felicity be in-
eased, if men were always inclined to *rejoice with*
them that rejoice, and to weep with them that weep.
But, besides the effect of such a temper on general
tue and happiness, let us consider its effects on the
ppiness of him who possesses it, and the various plea-
es to which it gives him access. If he be master of
hes or influence, it affords him the means of increas-