

THE SWEETS OF SOLITUDE:

OR INSTRUCTIONS TO MANKIND,
HOW THEY MAY BE HAPPY IN A MISERABLE
WORLD.

"I've often thought and so think still,
Men may be happy if they will."

In this "Miserable World," so termed by a great portion of mankind, **HAPPINESS** appears to be their great pursuit: yet how few are there who have approached the goal of their constant pursuit and wishes! The only man who can be considered happy, is he who can reconcile himself to his circumstances, be they what they may; who can wean himself from the fashionable follies of the world, and content himself to live within the limits of his income. But how few are there who have the fortitude and resolution to pursue such a plan of conduct! The lust of power, the blandishments of wealth, the phantom of honour, are so many stumbling-blocks to their felicity.

Discontent is the universal bitter of human life: there are but very few who do not complain of some want or other, although the want arises only from the caprice of their will; things go not right if they run not on the wheels of their fancy, and turn about with the windmill of their brain. Not to amuse ourselves with hopes or fears, but to rest satisfied with our present circumstances, is alone the way to contentment; for he who wants nothing, possesses every thing. It is a contented mind that will give us happiness, as a constant in all conditions.

It is the part of a prudent man not to be elated with prosperity, nor irresolute in misfortune. The good man like the valiant soldier, will act up to his character, and behave brave-