

ral sisters married to leading men, is so highly esteemed for his merits, that they have formally elected him their sovereign, and vested him with considerable powers. This gentleman wished to have remained a citizen of the United States; but having served under the British during the late war, and his property being considerable in Georgia, he could not be indulged;

he therefore retired amongst his friends, and has zealously taken part in their interests and politics.

What may be the event, time will evince; but it is to be hoped, that the conciliatory measures, adopted in all Indian transactions by the United States, will have the desired good effects.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE MISERIES OF HUMAN LIFE: AND THE VIRTUE OF HUMANITY INCULCATED BY A STRIKING EXAMPLE.

**A**MIDST the miseries, to which human life is liable, nothing is so generally dreaded as poverty, since it exposes mankind to distresses, that are but little pitied, and to the contempt of those who have no natural endowments superior to our own. Every other difficulty or danger a man is enabled to encounter with courage and alacrity, because he knows that his success will meet with applause, and no bravery will always find its admirers; but in poverty, every virtue is obscured, and no conduct can entirely secure a man from reproach. Cheerfulness, as an admirable author observes, is here insensibility; and dejection, fullness; its hardships are without honour, and its labours without reward. Notwithstanding this, there is perhaps no station more favourable to the growth of virtue, where the seeds of it are previously planted in the mind. The poor man is, from his situation, cut off from a thousand temptations to vice; and that levity and dissipation of thought, which are the common attendants of ease and affluence, are obliged to give way to the steady exercise of reason and cool reflexion, which are as closely connected with wisdom, as vice with folly. But when poverty is felt in its utmost extreme, it then becomes excessively dangerous; and some deviations from rectitude are with difficulty avoided.

The man, who can support with courage the proud man's contumely, may shrink at the prospect of a prison; and he who can cheerfully feed on the coarsest viands, will perhaps be unable to resist the importunate solicitations of hunger, to deviate from the strait road of equity, where it leads through a barren waste, and where there are fruits at a distance to tempt his approach. Where this is the case, we must pity the unhappy wretch, who is unable to withstand the power of such temptations—temptations that may

be doubled, by the multiplied distress of seeing a family ready to perish.

The learned and pious Boerhave observes, 'that he never saw a criminal carried to execution, without asking his own heart, who knows whether this man is not less guilty than I?' Were all mankind to ask the same question, justice would frequently be executed with less rigour, and perhaps the malefactor would be restored to virtue by the hand of mercy, stretched out to his relief, instead of being deprived of life, for a crime which perhaps few would have been able in the same circumstances to withstand.

I cannot here forbear illustrating these remarks, by relating a passage in the life of *Monf. de Sallo*, a gentleman to whom the literary world is obliged for the invention of the journals or reviews of the works of the learned, in all parts where letters are cultivated. This passage I shall take from the lives of the eminent French writers. In the year 1662, when Paris was afflicted with a long and severe famine, *Monf. de Sallo*, returning from a summer evening's walk with only a little footboy, was accosted by a man, who presented a pistol, and in a manner far from the resolution of a hardened robber, asked him for his money. *M. de Sallo* observing that he came to the wrong man, and that he could get but little from him, added, 'I have only three pistoles about me, which are not worth a scuffle; so, much good may do you with them, but let me tell you, you are in a bad way.' The man took them, and without asking him for more, walked off with an air of dejection and terror. The fellow was no sooner gone, than *Monf. de Sallo* ordered his boy to follow him, to see where he went, and to give him an account of every thing. The lad obeyed and followed him through several obscure streets, and at length saw him enter a baker's shop, where he observed him change