

the accession of the first rays of knowledge. And the result is distress and embarrassment, perhaps, vice and infamy. But all this, whenever it does happen, arises plainly from the imperfect manner in which knowledge is diffused. It is the scarcity of education, that prompts the vanity of him who has received a little, and allures him out of the plain road which his ancestors have beaten, and which his countrymen still tread. The misfortunes which take place in this manner, are consequences of the very evil of which I complain. They arise from the rarity of education, and cannot be prevented but by rendering it more common.

With regard to women, it is undeniable, that ignorance, and the thoughtlessness arising from ignorance, are the sources of the greatest number of deviations from virtue and respectability. Ignorance leaves women a prey to the arts of the seducer. It diminishes the effect of those religious sentiments which are the greatest supports of their natural love of modesty and decorum. It begets an improvidence, and an inattention to future honour and respect, which are as fatal to the correct conduct of women, as destructive of the industry and frugality of men. It is an observation of Dr. SMITH's, in his "Wealth of Nations," that those unfortunate women who live in London by prostitution, are chiefly supplied from the least cultivated, and least enlightened parts of the British dominions. In the manufacturing towns throughout Great Britain, they consist in general, of those who have been collected in crowds, and at an early