

verse; but the crowded state of the population of this part of the Island, has induced a state of society incompatible with this great command.

People in moderate circumstances are deterred from marrying, for fear of bringing both themselves and their offspring to penury and want. And those of better fortunes are more solicitous to form a sort of matrimonial partnership, founded upon pecuniary equality, than an alliance cemented by mutual love and affection, which are the only sure guarantees of future felicity.

Among the lower classes matrimony is discouraged by the more opulent, lest they should in the end be called upon to maintain their progeny. And though I am no enemy to "love in a cottage," yet I must confess, that love under a hedge is but a chilly dalliance; and therefore I cannot blame those who discourage marriage amongst persons who have no visible means of supporting their families.

This state of society is not a matter of