

the public. The condition of the mendicant poor is always humiliating ; but when there is a presumption that the beggar's poverty has been occasioned by his vices, his solicitations excite little compassion, and even his importunity extorts but scanty alms.

There is no other way of avoiding such wretchedness, but by avoiding the folly and extravagance which produce it. Be it then your fixed purpose to act a rational and sober part. Not that I would harden your hearts against the entrance of pity, or shut your hands against the claims of distress. Exercise compassion and beneficence, only guide your affairs with discretion. Live by principle, and prescribe to yourselves an honourable economy. Cherish no superfluous desires, and incur no unnecessary expense, that if accident or growing infirmities should disable you for service, it may be in your power to retire to some decent station, in which the last years of life may be useful and happy.

But here you will naturally recollect that this is not the whole of the provision which it becomes you to make for the future. Melancholy and uncomfortable were the stormy voyage of human life, if it conducted us to no safe haven of peace and of joy. But beyond this sea of trouble there is a harbour of everlasting