

privilege of his reason ; and force him humbly to adore the great composer of their wondrous frames, and the author of his own superior wisdom.

Disappointments will often happen to the best and wisest of men, (not through any imprudence of theirs, nor even through the malice or ill-design of others ; but merely in consequence of some of those cross incidents of life which could not be foreseen,) and sometimes to the wisest and best concerted plans. Without some degree of patience exercised under injuries, (as offences and retaliations would succeed to one another in endless train,) human life would be rendered a state of perpetual hostility. Never delay till to-morrow, (for to-morrow is not yours ; and though you should live to enjoy it, you must not overload it with a burden not its own,) what reason and conscience tell you ought to be performed to-day.

The first could not end his learned treatise without a panegyric of modern learning and knowledgo in comparison of the ancient ; and the other falls so grossly into the censure of the old poetry, and the preference of the new, that I could not read either of these strains without indignation, which no quality among men is so apt to raise in me as sufficiency, the worst composition out of the pride and ignorance of mankind. All the world acknowledges the *Æneid* to be perfect in its kind ; and, considering the disadvantage of the language, and the severity of the Roman Muse, the poem is still more wonderful ; since, without the liberty of the Grecian poets, the diction is so great and noble, so clear, so forcible, and expressive, so chaste and pure, that even all the strength and compass of the Greek tongue, joined in Homer's fire, cannot give us stronger and clearer ideas, than the great Virgil has set before our eyes ; some few instances excepted, in which Homer, through the force of genius, hath excelled.

VI.—Although the effect fell short of what is ascribed to fabulous legislators and founders of states, yet to none ever were ascribed more tokens of magnanimity and greatness of mind. I look upon it as my duty, so long as I keep within the bounds of truth, of duty, and of decency. How many are there by whom these tidings of good news were never heard ! He says nothing of it himself, and I am not disposed to travel