

VII. The effect resulting from this revifal of our conduct, is very different, according as the judgment we pafs on it, abfolves or condemns us. In the first cafe, we find ourfelves in a ftate of fatisfaction and tranquillity, which is the pureft and fweeteft recompence of virtue. A pure and untainted pleafure accompanies always thofe actions that are approved by reafon; and reflexion renews the fweets we have tafte, together with their remembrance. And indeed what greater happinefs is there than to be inwardly fatisfied, and to be able with a juft confidence to promife ourfelves the approbation and benevolence of the fovereign Lord on whom we depend? If on the contrary, confcience condemns us, this condemnation muft be accompanied with inquietude, trouble, reproaches, fear, and remorse; a ftate fo difmal, that the ancients have compared it to that of a man tormented by the furies. *Every crime, fays the fatyrist, is difapproved by the very perfon that commits it; and the firft punifhment the criminal feels, is that he cannot avoid being felf-condemned, were he even to find means of being acquitted before the prætor's tribunal.*

Subfequent
confcience is
either quiet,
or uneasy.

*Exemplo quodcunque malo committitur, ipfi
Displicet auctori: prima hæc eft ultio, quod, fe
Judice, nemo nocens absolvitur, improba quamvis
Gratia fallaci prætoris vicerit urnâ.*

Juven. Sat. 13. v. 1.

*He that commits a fin, fhall quickly find
The preffing guilt lie heavy on his mind;
Tho' bribes or favor fhall assert his caufe,
Pronounce him guiltlefs, and elude the laws:*

Q 4

None