

ment of the moral character, not only of the individual, but of his parents also, and of all his immediate connexions. The mutual affection, for instance, that takes place and is cemented between the infant and its mother, during the lengthened period in which the latter nurses her offspring; the stimulus, which is given to the exertions of the other parent in supplying the increasing wants of those who depend on him for support; and the general feeling and expression of good-will and attachment, which bind together the numerous individuals of the same family; all coincide to increase the sum of human happiness and virtue. Whereas, were the infant born with all its powers complete, and capable of exerting those powers as soon as born, independently of the assistance of parent, or sister, or brother; what would then remain of those endearing relations, but the empty name?

How incorrect then is the conclusion of the poet in that otherwise most beautiful passage of his poem! “The new-born babe, which, like the
“shipwrecked mariner, lies prostrate on the
“ground, naked and destitute of every assist-
“ance required for the support of life, pierces
“the surrounding air with its incessant cries;
“as if foreseeing the long train of miseries which
“it must hereafter encounter. And yet the ten-
“der foal and lamb not only begin to crop the