

us with delight. Every gentle application to the senses, then, is a pleasure, and every violent shock a pain; and as the causes which occasion violent, happen more rarely in Nature than those which produce mild and moderate effects; and as animals, by the exercise of their senses, acquire in a little time the habit of avoiding every thing offensive or hurtful to them, and of distinguishing, and of approaching such as are pleasing; so without doubt they enjoy more agreeable sensations than disagreeable ones, and the amount of their pleasures exceed the amount of their pain.

In man, physical pleasure and pain form the smallest part of his sufferings or enjoyments. His imagination, never idle, seems perpetually employed to increase his misery; presenting to the mind nothing but vain phantoms, or exaggerated images. More agitated by these illusions, than by real objects, the mind loses its faculty of judging, and even its dominion; the will, of which it has no longer the command, becomes a burthen; its extravagant desires are sorrows; and, at best, its prospects are delusive pleasures, which vanish as soon as the mind, resuming its place, is enabled to form a judgment of them.

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