

Lord Lyttelton was not more conspicuous for his genius and his virtues, than the second Lord Lyttelton for his talents and his vices.

There are many who, though they do not subscribe to the creed of the phrenologist, are yet unconsciously influenced by its doctrines ; and never, perhaps, was the phrenological belief more general than now, that the human race, like some of the inferior races, is greatly dependent, for the development of what is best in it, on what I shall venture to term purity of breed. It has become a sort of axiom, that well-dispositioned intellectual parents produce a well-dispositioned intellectual offspring ; and of course, as human history is various enough, when partially culled, to furnish evidence in support of anything, there have been instances adduced in proof of the position, which it would take a long time to enumerate. But were exactly the opposite belief held, the same various history would be found to furnish at least as many evidences in support of it as of the other. The human race, so far at least as the mental and the moral are concerned, comes very doubtfully, if at all, under the law of the inferior natures. David Hume, better acquainted with history than most men, gives what seems to be the true state of the case. "The races of animals," he says, "never degenerate when carefully attended to ; and horses in particular always show their blood in their shape, spirit, and swiftness ; but a coxcomb may beget a philosopher, as a man of virtue may leave a worthless progeny." It is not uninteresting to observe how strongly the philosophy of the remark is borne out by the facts of Hume's own History. The mean, pusillanimous, foolish John was the son of the wise, dauntless Henry the Second, and the brother of the magnanimous Richard *Cœur de Lion*. His immediate descendant and successor, nearly as weak, though somewhat more honest than