

of superior merit and fortune, in your addresses to my Silvia?

SIR JOHN.

I own the obligation, and, but that I am resolv'd never to marry—

WELFORD.

Not marry, sir! why 'tis a debt due to your ancestors—you are the medium 'twixt them and posterity, which in you must fail unless prevented by a prudent and timely choice; and an ample estate, obtain'd by their industry, be possess'd by strangers to their blood.

SIR JOHN.

As to my ancestors, they have had their time, as I now have mine; they liv'd to please themselves, and so will I. As to posterity, I shall not trouble myself about what I know nothing of, and which may, or may not be, notwithstanding all the care we can take about it.

WELFORD.

Since I find, what I hop'd had been only the warmth of youth, to be principles with you, you are justly accountable for their consequences.

SIR JOHN.

Notwithstanding your present circumstances, I look upon you as a gentleman. In your youth, as a soldier of fortune, you had opportunities of knowing the world beyond most men; which join'd to your good sense and just observation, qualifies you to give advice the best of any man I know. And I appeal to your own experience, whether marriage be not a state of life, attended with innumerable cares, disappointments, and inquietudes?

WELFORD.