

THE COUNTRY BURIAL. 69

fo forward, that they won't stay till they are married - But you are melancholy, Mrs. Silvia,

SILVIA.

A little thoughtful ; I hope you'll excuse me.

G. GABBLE.

Why truly, neighbour Busy, these must needs be great hardships upon you ; for no marriages, no lyings-in.

G. BUSY.

It is not that which I complain of ; for to say the truth, I don't find but that single people have as many children as those that are married ; but then they are such infidels, as to let their children die without christening, and what signifies to the midwife, a lying-in, without a christening ?—I had once some thoughts of going to London, but I am informed that it is worse there than here ; for there are, it seems, a number of women who get their livelihood by being naught with any man that will pay them for it, and yet never have any children at all.

SILVIA.

I can't guess what my father designs by sending for these people. *[Aside.]*

G. COSTIVE.

Good lack-a-day ! then they have no need of a midwife, for certain.

G. BUSY.

No, no ; the surgeons do all their business.