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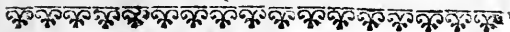
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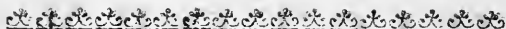
HISTORY

OF

Femmy and Fenny Fessamy.

V O L. III.





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THE
HISTORY
OF
Femmy and Jenny Jessamy.

V O L. III.

By the AUTHOR of
The HISTORY of Betsy Thoughtless.



L O N D O N :

Printed for T. GARDNER, at *Cowley's Head*,
facing *St. Clement's Church*, in the *Strand*;
and sold by all Bookfellers in Town and
Country.

M,D,CC,LIII.



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THE
HISTORY
OF

Jemmy and Jenny Jessamy.

VOL. III.

CHAP. I.

Shews the character of Jemmy in a light which will be thought worthy approbation by some readers, and equally ridiculed by others.



O W much soever Jemmy was taken up on going to bed, with the thoughts of when and where he should meet his mistress, according to her desire, he did not forget next morning an appointment he had made to breakfast with a gentleman,

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B

man,

man, in order to look over some curiosities that had been brought from Rome at the last jubilee.

In his way thither, as he was passing by the door of a great Mercer, he was surpris'd with the sight of lady Hardy starting out upon him, and before he had time to speak, or indeed to think whether he ought to do so in that place or not, 'Well, mr. Jeffamy, cried she in a low voice, what answer may I expect to the letter I sent last night?' — 'Such a one, madam, reply'd he, as I hope will give you no future cause to reproach me.'

'I should be glad,' said she, and was going on; but something, which will hereafter be discover'd, prevented her, and she ran back into the shop in the greatest hurry and confusion: Jemmy imagin'd that the sight of some person who knew her had given her this alarm; but as it was improper to follow her, and he did not chuse to saunter about the street in hope of speaking to her again, he went directly to the place where he was expected.

He staid no longer at this visit than mere civility required;—the task enjoin'd him

him by lady Hardy ran very much in his head, and he could not be easy till he had found some means or other of performing it.

He was returning home so deeply buried in cogitation, that though he went through the park, which at that time was very full of company, he saw nor took notice of any body in it, till Belpine meeting him in this unusual musing accosted him with a slap on the shoulder, accompanied by these lines borrow'd from Farquair's Recruiting-Officer :

Spleen, thou worst of fiends below,
Fly, I conjure thee, by this magic blow.

‘ What in the name of wonder, pursued he, has wrought this transformation? — What fair cruel she has the power to engross you to herself, and make you absent amidst a throng of beauties.’

The sight of him, together with the salutation he had given him, put Jemmy in mind of something he had never thought on before : — ‘ Faith, Belpine, answer'd he laughing, your guess is partly right ; — I was thinking of a lady, though no
B 2 ‘ cruel

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‘cruel one, and just wishing for such a
‘friend as you.’

‘Then here I am apropos, cried the
‘other ;— What act of friendship am I
‘to be employ’d in?’ — ‘Come home
‘with me, and I will tell you, reply’d
‘Jemmy.’ — ‘With all my heart, said
‘Belpine, I will only speak to a couple
‘of gentlemen I see yonder, and be after
‘you in a moment.’

Jemmy was now astonish’d at his own
stupidity ; so anxious as he had been to find
a proper place for the consummation of
his amour with lady Hardy, yet he had
never once thought of having recourse to
Belpine for that purpose, who was a single
man, had handsome lodgings, and look’d
upon by him as sufficiently his friend to
oblige him in a much greater matter than
the use of his apartment for a few hours.

He walked slowly on, and the other
overtook him before he reach’d his own
door ;—as soon as they were come into
the house and shut up together, Jemmy
told him, that having a small affair of
gallantry with a woman of condition, who
would not venture to any house of public
resort, the favour he requested of him
was

was to lend him his lodgings to entertain her in.

To this the other reply'd, that he was glad of the opportunity of contributing to his pleasures ;—‘ but, said he, we must be very cautious, — my landlady, you must know, is a formal piece of stuff, and piques herself mightily on the reputation and honesty of her house ;— I will therefore sneak privately out before you come, that she may not know I am abroad, and when my man has shew'd you and your fair companion up stairs, he shall tell the old cant that you are relations of mine come to visit me.’

Belpine looked extremely thoughtful all the time he was speaking, which Jemmy interpreting as the effect of his great zeal and care that every thing should be conducted to his satisfaction, heartily embraced and thank'd him for.

The other grew every moment more serious ; but asked him on what day and at what hour he intended to bring his mistress.—‘ That must depend upon herself, said Jemmy, and what opportunity chance and our good fortune may be-

‘ friend us with ; — but I shall take care
 ‘ to give you timely notice.’

‘ I suppose, resumed Belpine, as this
 ‘ affair is to be a mighty secret, I must
 ‘ not be trusted with the name of this
 ‘ fine lady.’ -- ‘ No, friend, reply’d Jemmy,
 ‘ you must excuse me there ; — she is a
 ‘ person of fashion, and a married wo-
 ‘ man.’ — ‘ Aye, return’d Belpine, in a
 ‘ voice scarce articulate, through his
 ‘ inward agitations, and you might have
 ‘ added too, — a lewd, — a base, and a most
 ‘ ungrateful woman.’

‘ What do you mean, sir ? demanded
 ‘ Jemmy somewhat startled at his looks
 ‘ and manner of speaking.’ — ‘ Before I
 ‘ answer you, cried Belpine, tell me, I
 ‘ conjure you, by all our friendship, — tell
 ‘ me truly, whether you have yet enjoy’d
 ‘ her ?’ — ‘ No, upon my honour, reply’d
 ‘ the other still more surpris’d ; — but
 ‘ wherefore do you ask ? — she is perhaps
 ‘ your mistress.’

‘ Would to Heaven, said Belpine, that
 ‘ she were mine, — or yours, — or any
 ‘ man’s mistress, so she were not my
 ‘ uncle’s wife, and dignify’d with the
 ‘ name of lady Hardy.’

Never was any one in a greater consternation than Jemmy was on hearing this ;—he had been told, indeed, somewhat concerning his having an uncle who had married a girl of mean extraction, but knew nothing of his name nor of the particulars of the story.— ‘ What, cried he hastily, is sir Thomas Hardy your uncle ?’

‘ Yes, reply’d the other sullenly, he is my mother’s brother, and I was always look’d upon as his undoubted heir, but by his marriage with this curst Jezabel I am like to be defraud’d of an estate of upwards of two thousand pounds a year.’

Jemmy having by this time a little recovered himself from his surprise, was very much affected with these last words ; — ‘ You shall not be a looser by any act of mine, said he ; if lady Hardy were more handsome than she is, and I loved her more than I ever did, be assured I would henceforth for ever shun her presence, and forego the gratification of my desires, rather than be guilty of attempting any thing which might happen to prove an injury to my friend.’

‘ This is generous, indeed, cried Belpine embracing him, and what I could have expected from no man but yourself: — you will pardon, dear fir, continued he, the warmth of some expressions I may have let fall; — but I cannot keep my temper in due bounds whenever I think on my uncle’s dotage, and the misfortunes I may possibly be reduced to by it.’

After many repeated assurances on the one side, and retributions on the other, Jemmy bethought himself of asking him how it came into his head to guess that lady Hardy, of all womankind, was the mistress he had spoke of, and intended to have brought to his lodgings.

‘ It can be call’d, indeed, no more than a conjecture, reply’d Belpine, yet was it such a conjecture as amounted almost to a certainty; you know, pursued he, that you spoke to her this morning at the door of a shop in Chandos-street; — I was sitting in a parlour window just opposite to it, and had the opportunity of beholding with what hurry of looks and motion her impudent ladyship flew out to meet you; and how presently after conscious guilt
‘ and

JEMMY *and* JENNY JESSAMY. 9

‘ and fear at sight of me, on turning her
‘ head that way, made her leave you, and
‘ retire with as much precipitation as
‘ she had come out.

‘ This, went he still on, was enough
‘ to give a strange suspicion of your in-
‘ timacy, and I thought to have asked
‘ you by what means you came to be so
‘ well acquainted with one of our family;
‘ but you prevented me by making a
‘ request which confirmed me in what I
‘ had so much reason to believe before;
‘ and also that you were entirely ignorant
‘ of the near relationship between me
‘ and that vile woman.’

‘ You do me justice, said Jemmy;
‘ nothing could be farther from my
‘ thoughts than that she was your aunt;
‘ —I knew her before she had any ex-
‘ pectations of being so, and when she
‘ was much more innocent than I fear
‘ she is at present.’

He then, on the desire of the other,
related the manner of his first acquaint-
tance with Celia of the woods, and the
many accidents which had interven’d
and hinder’d the completion of what at
that time he so ardently had desired, and
she seem’d not very averse to grant.

On his having finish'd this recital ;—
 ‘ When I consider, said Belpine, what
 ‘ you are, and what she was at the time
 ‘ of her acquaintance with you in the
 ‘ wood, I could almost pity her for not
 ‘ being able, even after marriage, to
 ‘ banish an idea so agreeable, and which
 ‘ had made the first impression on her
 ‘ heart ; but, my dear friend, it is not
 ‘ for your sake alone that she has trans-
 ‘ gressed the rules of virtue, and even of
 ‘ decency ;—others have proved the too
 ‘ great warmth of her constitution ; some
 ‘ unquestionable instances of this have
 ‘ came to my knowledge ; — be assured
 ‘ I speak not this out of malice, nor
 ‘ in regard of my uncle’s honour would
 ‘ mention it at all, if I did not think it
 ‘ might serve to fortify you in the reso-
 ‘ lution you have taken of never seeing
 ‘ her any more.’

A sort of a contemptuous smile spread itself all over Jemmy’s face at this supposition ;—he assured Belpine that there was no occasion for any proofs of that lady’s levity to enable him to keep the promise he had made ; and that as he never was possess’d of anything more than a transient inclination for her, he could throw it off without feeling the least pain.

‘ Whatever

‘ — Whatever anecdotes therefore, said he, you favour me with will only serve to gratify my curiosity.’

Belpine was, however, preparing to recollect the passages he had to relate; but their discourse had already taken up so much time, that before he could begin, a servant came into the room and told his master that dinner was upon table.

‘ Well then, said Jemmy to his guest, you must do penance with me, — a batchelor’s table is always thinly served; but I indulg’d somewhat too plentifully last night, so mortify to day with a boil’d chicken and small beer.’

In speaking these words, he took Belpine by the hand and led him into another room, where it is not to be doubted but that they found more covers already placed than he had made mention of.



C H A P. II.

Contains, besides other matters, some farther particulars relating to lady Hardy, which she did not think proper to make any mention of to Femmy in the detail she had given him of her adventures.

DINNER was no sooner over,—all the apurtenances of it removed, and the servants withdrawn, than Belpine began the little narrative he had promised, in these or the like terms:

“ It was always my custom, said he,
 “ even from my childhood, to go to
 “ Oxfordshire and pay my respects to
 “ my uncle three or four times every
 “ year; nor did I refrain continuing to
 “ give him this mark of my duty and
 “ affection after his marriage; though
 “ as you may suppose, it was an event
 “ which gave me great uneasiness.

“ The first time I saw my new aunt
 “ I found her busily employed in learn-
 “ ing french, music, and dancing; she
 “ seem’d,

“ seem’d, and I believe really was, no
 “ less desirous of becoming mistress of
 “ those accomplishments than her fond
 “ husband was that she should be so,
 “ passing all those hours he suffer’d her
 “ from his presence either in reading
 “ some books which he had presented to
 “ her, or in the study of the lessons
 “ given her by her masters;—her beha-
 “ viour was also full of humility and
 “ courtesy: — in a word, as much as I
 “ was prejudiced against her, which I
 “ confess I greatly was, I could see
 “ nothing in her to condemn during this
 “ visit, which lasted near three weeks,
 “ as unwilling that my uncle should
 “ think I took any umbrage at the
 “ change of his condition.

“ I went not down again till six
 “ months after, having been detain’d in
 “ London by a long fit of sickness,
 “ which it was thought would have been
 “ my last; — but, — good God, how
 “ strange a transformation had happen’d
 “ in the family in that time! — on my
 “ arrival—most of the old servants were
 “ removed, and new ones in their places;
 “ —all my aunt’s preceptors were dis-
 “ miss’d; and her ladyship, instead of
 “ the tractable obliging creature I had
 “ left her, was now grown haughty,
 “ fullen

“ fullen and reserved, scarce spoke but
“ in her husband’s presence, and then
“ with only an assumed softness: — in
“ fine, every thing was the very reverse
“ of what it had been, except my uncle
“ himself, and he too, I thought, ap-
“ peared less chearful and satisfied than
“ usual.

“ But what the most amaz’d me was,
“ to find that in the change of domes-
“ ticks was included an old gentle-
“ woman, who had lived with my uncle
“ for seven or eight and twenty years in
“ quality of a house-keeper, and being
“ a distant relation of my father’s, and
“ reduced by misfortunes to go to ser-
“ vice, had been recommended by my
“ mother to take care of his affairs;
“ which trust she so well discharged,
“ and gave my uncle such content, that
“ he used frequently to say, that as long
“ as they both lived Jamison, for so she
“ is call’d, and he should never part.

“ I took the liberty of asking my
“ uncle what was become of her, but he
“ only reply’d, that she was a foolish
“ woman,—that he had discharged her,
“ —and that he had done with her:— I
“ rejoin’d, that I hoped she had been
“ guilty of nothing to incur his dis-
“ pleasure.”

“ pleasure.” — ‘ I tell you, cried he,
 ‘ peevishly, she is a foolish impertinent
 ‘ woman,— say no more about her ;’—
 “ I obey’d, but could not keep myself
 “ from putting some questions concern-
 “ ing her removal to those of the servants
 “ who had lived there in her time, but
 “ could get no other answer from any
 “ of them than a shake of the head, or
 “ a shrug of the shoulder.

“ All this increased my wonder; but
 “ on hearing she was at present boarded
 “ at a little farm-house about three or
 “ four miles off, I got one of my uncle’s
 “ horses and went thither one morning,
 “ under pretence of riding for the air.

“ Notwithstanding the good creature
 “ received me with the greatest joy ima-
 “ ginable, I found the utmost difficulty
 “ in prevailing on her to acquaint me
 “ with the reason of her having left a
 “ place where she had been so useful as
 “ well as so much respected; and all I
 “ could get from her for a good while
 “ was, that sir Thomas had now no
 “ occasion for a house-keeper, having so
 “ good a lady, and such like evasive
 “ answers; which convincing me there
 “ was some mystery in the affair, made
 “ me

“ me the most sollicitous for an explanation.

“ I press’d, however, in such strong terms that she at last consented to satisfy me :”—‘ Your aunt is a base woman, said she, and deserves to be exposed; but as ill as sir Thomas has used me I should be sorry that he should be made the jest of the county, therefore would not mention what I am going to relate to any person in the world—besides yourself, nor even to you if I did not know you would be obliged, for your own sake, to keep it secret.’

“ After this, she asked me if I did not remember that the last time I was down there was a young French Hugonot who made part of the family, and had been agreed with by sir Thomas to teach her ladyship the language for two guineas a month and his board.

“ I told her I knew very well there had been such a man; and she proceeded to inform me that this fellow presently grew a prodigious favourite with lady Hardy,—that she was always praising him, and was so extravagantly silly as even to ask the maids if they
“ did

“ did not think monsieur La Noye was
“ a very handsome man.” — ‘ This,
‘ said mrs. Jamison, occasion’d whispers
‘ in the family, which were little to her
‘ ladyship’s advantage ; but for my part
‘ I really look’d upon her behaviour as
‘ the effect of simplicity, and not of
‘ guilt, as some of them imagined, till
‘ happening to go into the best chamber
‘ to see if every thing was in order, as
‘ I had made it be clean’d the day be-
‘ fore, who did I see there but my lady
‘ and this La Noye upon the bed toge-
‘ ther ;—they had forgot, it seems, to
‘ fasten the door, and the posture I sur-
‘ prised them in admitted no doubt of
‘ their guilt ; I was so thunder-struck
‘ that I had not the power to go either
‘ forward or backward, but stood motion-
‘ less as a stock ;—the fellow started up
‘ and rush’d by me out of the room,—
‘ my lady, you may be sure, was in con-
‘ fusion enough,—she ran to me, threw
‘ herself at my feet, burst into tears, and
‘ cry’d, “ Dear Jamison don’t betray me.”
‘ —Oh, madam, said I, I never thought
‘ to have seen what I have seen.’—‘ I was
‘ half asleep, rejoin’d she, when he came
‘ into the room, and I scarce knew what
‘ I did ; — therefore, dear mrs. Jamison
‘ do not ruin me,—do not tell sir Thomas ;
‘ indeed

‘ —indeed I will never be guilty of the
‘ like again.’

“ I could not forbear interrupting the
“ good woman in this part of her story,
“ said Belpine, by venting my indigna-
“ tion in a volley of curses on that
“ scandal to our family ; but she con-
“ jured me to moderate my passion, and
“ resolve to shew no future marks of it,
“ or protested she would reveal no far-
“ ther ; I gave my promise to do as
“ she desired, and she went on.”

‘ The deceitful creature, resumed she,
‘ hung about me all the time she was
‘ speaking with such a shew of innocence
‘ and grief, that at last, I am ashamed
‘ to say it, her tears, — her seeming pe-
‘ nitence, — her humiliation melted me
‘ into pity, and I promised never to
‘ mention what I had discovered, on
‘ condition she would never repeat her
‘ offence ; and also that she should make
‘ some pretence to sir Thomas for getting
‘ the vile seducer of her honour removed
‘ out of the family.

‘ This she bound herself by the most
‘ solemn imprecation to perform ;—but
‘ alas !—one day—another, and another,
‘ still came on, and pass’d away without
‘ any

any proof, or even probability of the
 sincerity of her conversion ;— she took
 care, indeed, not to be surpris'd in the
 manner she had been ; but I easily saw
 by sir Thomas's behaviour, and some
 words he let fall in casual conversation,
 that there was no thought of parting
 with this French fellow till her ladyship
 was made perfect in the language.

I express'd my sentiments very plainly
 to her on this head, on which she told
 me that monsieur had not taken any
 freedoms with her since the time I
 catch'd them together, and that he had
 sworn never to attempt the like again ;
 and added, that though she would be
 glad to get rid of him, and could not
 endure the sight of him, yet she could
 find no excuse to make to sir Thomas
 for leaving off learning French till she
 was become mistress of it, which she
 was far from being as yet.

This not satisfying me, I renewed my
 remonstrances to her as often as I had
 an opportunity ; but I soon found that
 instead of working the effect I aimed
 at, she rather seem'd more hardened by
 them ;—every time I spoke she answer'd
 in a more lofty strain ; and at last told
 me that she would not be teaz'd ;—
 that

‘ that it was sufficient she did not repeat
 ‘ her fault, and as for the rest she knew
 ‘ what was proper to be done, and would
 ‘ not be kept in leading-strings by any
 ‘ servant of her husband’s.

‘ I now plainly saw, that she was no
 ‘ less wicked though more wary than she
 ‘ had been ;—I was troubled at the shame
 ‘ she would bring upon my master, and
 ‘ was debating within myself whether or
 ‘ not I should relate to him the discovery
 ‘ I had made, and all that had pass’d
 ‘ upon it between us, when an unfore-
 ‘ seen accident saved me the pains of
 ‘ thinking any farther on the matter.

‘ Her ladyship, who, as you may sup-
 ‘ pose, was never much respected by the
 ‘ servants on account of her birth, be-
 ‘ came every day less so through the strong
 ‘ suspicion they had of her incontinency ;
 ‘ but the insolence of her gallant was
 ‘ intolerable to all of them, especially to
 ‘ Humphrey, who being the oldest ser-
 ‘ vant in the house, except myself, would
 ‘ not submit to the impertinent com-
 ‘ mands of that French renegado ; this
 ‘ causing many quarrels, he resolved to
 ‘ leave sir Thomas’s service ; but, before
 ‘ he went, had an opportunity of reveng-
 ‘ ing

ing himself on those who were the occasion of his doing so.

‘ I was one morning with sir Thomas in his closet, settling my accounts, as I always did every month, when this Humphrey came running in and told him that my lady was in the summer-house at the farther end of the garden, and desired he would come to her that minute, for there was a great curiosity to be seen there.’—‘ What little a cy has she got in her head now, I wonder, said sir Thomas? but I’ll go.’—‘ Your honour must come immediately, cried the fellow, or the sight will be gone. — Well, well, reply’d he, she must be humour’d ;’—in speaking this he threw down the papers, and hurried away as fast as the burthen of his years would let him.’

‘ I staid some little time in the closet expecting sir Thomas would soon return ; but finding he did not, left it and went down :— I had just got to the bottom of the stairs when he came in follow’d by my lady,—both of them with countenances strangely discomposed.’—‘ Sirrah, said he, very angrily to Humphrey, who happen’d to be in the passage,— how dare you tell me that
‘ your

‘ your lady wanted to speak with me in
 ‘ the summer-house?’—‘ Sir, reply’d the
 ‘ fellow, with the greatest assurance, —I
 ‘ saw my lady and the young French-
 ‘ man run thither very fast, so I thought
 ‘ there might be something very extra-
 ‘ ordinary to be seen,—so made bold to
 ‘ tell your honour of it.’ —‘ You are an
 ‘ impudent rascal, cried sir Thomas, and
 ‘ went up stairs, still followed by my
 ‘ lady.

‘ I wonder’d what all this meant, but
 ‘ was soon after inform’d of the whole
 ‘ matter: — the fellow, it seems, being
 ‘ convinced in his own mind that my
 ‘ lady and this Frenchman were too great,
 ‘ had watch’d all their motions, and find-
 ‘ ing that they retir’d almost every morn-
 ‘ ing into this summer-house, when they
 ‘ knew sir Thomas was reading, or other-
 ‘ wise employed in his closet, he had
 ‘ taken this method of giving the injured
 ‘ husband an opportunity of detecting
 ‘ them.

‘ I did not approve of Humphrey’s pro-
 ‘ ceeding in this point, and told him that
 ‘ let the matter be how it would, he must
 ‘ not hope to keep his place after what
 ‘ he had done; he reply’d, that he did not
 ‘ care how soon he was discharged,—
 ‘ that

‘ that he had got money enough to set
 ‘ up an ale-house, and would not stay in
 ‘ any service where he must be insulted
 ‘ by people no better born than himself,
 ‘ and not half so honest.’

“ Here, said Belpine, I could not for-
 ‘ bear interrupting Mrs. Jamison a second
 ‘ time, by asking how the shameful pair
 ‘ behaved on the approach of my uncle.”
 ‘ —All that can be known of that part
 ‘ of the story, reply’d she, I was told by
 ‘ the gardener, who happened to be at
 ‘ work very near the place; — he said
 ‘ that Sir Thomas, on finding the door
 ‘ made fast, knock’d and called to be let
 ‘ in, but no answer being made he
 ‘ beckoned the gardener to him, and bid
 ‘ him clamber up to the window and
 ‘ get in that way; but on his attempt-
 ‘ ing to do so the door was opened
 ‘ by those within, and Sir Thomas having
 ‘ gain’d entrance, the man withdrew
 ‘ and went again to his work; — he told
 ‘ me that the Frenchman came out in a
 ‘ few minutes looking very pale and dis-
 ‘ composed, and that neither Sir Thomas
 ‘ nor his lady appeared in a much better
 ‘ condition, though they staid some time
 ‘ after, as he supposed, to talk the bu-
 ‘ siness over.

‘ What pass’d between them on this
 ‘ score, pursued mrs. Jamison, is im-
 ‘ possible to be known ;—all that I can
 ‘ tell you is, that monsieur La Noye was
 ‘ dismiss’d entirely from the family within
 ‘ two hours after ;— that my lady either
 ‘ was or pretended to be very sick, and
 ‘ sir Thomas appeared in a worse humour
 ‘ than ever I had seen him :—Humphrey
 ‘ was discharged that same day, and the
 ‘ next the poor gardener and two other
 ‘ servants; for what reason I know not,
 ‘ shared the same fate : — indeed, I little
 ‘ thought it would also have been mine ;
 ‘ but all the distinction I had to boast of
 ‘ from the rest was, to be the last turn’d
 ‘ off.’

Belpine was going on, when Jemmy
 was called suddenly away to a gentle-
 woman, who his servant told him was
 very earnest to speak with him ;— who
 this person was, and what her business,
 the reader shall not wait long to be in-
 form’d.





C H A P. III.

If it cannot be said to deserve any encomium, it must at least be allowed to stand in no need of an apology.

THIS person who Jemmy had been told was so importunate to see him was no other than mrs. Comode;—lady Hardy, after having been obliged to leave him so abruptly in the morning, went directly to this woman, and commission'd her to find him either at his own house or where-ever else he could be heard of, in order to excuse her behaviour by relating the accident which had occasion'd it; and also to know of him if he had yet thought of a convenient place for their meeting.

This necessary woman deliver'd her message with the utmost punctuality; and added, that she was extremely sorry for not having at present an apartment to accommodate them with;—‘But, your honour may depend, said she, that nothing in my power shall be wanting to oblige both you and the good lady.’

Jemmy received all this with great coolness, and only told her that lady Hardy should have a full declaration of his sentiments in a letter that same evening, — ‘ Which, said he, I will direct
‘ under a cover to you, as usual, and
‘ perhaps will be the last trouble I shall
‘ give you.’

She seem'd pretty much astonish'd on hearing him speak in this manner, and was going to make some reply; but he told her he had a friend within whom he could not leave alone any longer, so begg'd her pardon, and rung the bell for a servant to open the door.

He paused for some moments before he return'd to Belpine, considering whether he should inform him of the visit he had just received; but as he was so nearly interested in the honour of sir Thomas Hardy, he thought it best not to say any thing to him of an affair which was of no consequence in itself, and would only serve to add to the chagrin he was already in.

The other no sooner saw him re-enter the room, and that he was prepared to give attention to what he had to say, than

than he resumed his discourse in words to this effect :

“ There is now little remaining to inform you of, said he, Mrs. Jamison only told me, that for three or four days after La Noye was dismiss'd, her infamous ladyship kept her chamber ; whether by the order of Sir Thomas, or that she was really indisposed, she could not be certain ; but during that time her artifices so far prevail'd upon him, that he not only discharged all those servants who he thought had any suspicion of her crime, but also forbid them from ever coming within his doors again on any pretence whatsoever.

“ I then ask'd her if she thought my uncle was really convinced of the infidelity of his wife ;” — “ As much as I am myself, reply'd she, though he will not seem to be so, because the excessive fondness he has for her will not suffer him to part from her.

“ I rather think, said I, that he stands in awe of the just ridicule of the world, for having married, at his years, a girl whose conduct obliged him to get rid of in so short a time.

‘ It may be owing partly to the one,
 ‘ and partly to the other of these motives,
 ‘ answer’d she; but however that may
 ‘ be, I can assure you that he will suffer
 ‘ no body to come near him that he ima-
 ‘ gines has the least suspicion of her
 ‘ virtue.

‘ This is sufficiently evident in the case
 ‘ of La Noye, added she; but I can
 ‘ give you another instance since the
 ‘ banishment of her Frenchman, she has
 ‘ been catch’d in pretty close conference
 ‘ with a young gentleman, who has been
 ‘ for some time a guest at a neighbouring
 ‘ seat; though sir Thomas has been told
 ‘ that a fine diamond ring, which her
 ‘ ladyship pretended to have lost, has
 ‘ been seen on the finger of that spark,
 ‘ he only affected to laugh at the intelli-
 ‘ gence, and has since broke off all ac-
 ‘ quaintance with the person from whom
 ‘ he received it.’

“ This is the sum of that account
 “ given me by Mrs. Jamison, said Bel-
 “ pine to Jemmy, and I must be in fact
 “ as stupid as my uncle affects to be; if
 “ I doubted the truth of it:—Judge then,
 “ my dear friend, continued he, of the
 “ unhappiness of my situation;— I am
 “ every

“every moment in danger of being de-
 “prived of my inheritance by the incon-
 “tinency of this vile woman, and if I
 “make any attempt to detect her infamy
 “am equally in danger of losing it by
 “my uncle’s displeasure.”

Jemmy could not help agreeing with him, that there was, indeed, somewhat extremely precarious in his case; but told him he ought to console himself with this reflection, that as lady Hardy had never yet been pregnant, she might in all probability not be so while Sir Thomas Hardy lived.

After this the conversation between them turn’d on various subjects, till Belpine having an engagement that evening took his leave; but before they parted Jemmy told him that his business in London being now entirely finish’d, he intended to set out the next morning for Bath, where he knew Jenny by this time expected him.

Belpine was not altogether so much chagrin’d at this intelligence as he would have been some days before; for though he would have been glad to have kept him from Jenny, yet he was pleas’d at his removing himself out of the way of
 lady

lady Hardy :— men who are themselves deceitful, are always slow in giving credit to the sincerity of others ;— he had not enough depended on the promise Jemmy had made of breaking off all intercourse with his aunt, till he found him resolved to go from the place she was in, and to which it was not likely he should return till she had left it, as he had heard sir Thomas say he intended to stay but a few days longer.

But not even this demonstration of his friend's honour towards him had the power of touching his ungrateful heart with any remorse for what he had done, or of obliging him to desist from the prosecution of his wicked attempt to break the union between him and Jenny ; as the reader must have observed by the letter he sent to her under the character of a supposed rival, and the invidious hints he threw out in the visit he made her on her arrival in town.

As for Jemmy, he was not much surpris'd at the account given him of lady Hardy's conduct ;—by the little he had seen of her behaviour since his renewing an acquaintance with her in the character she now bore, he was perfectly convinced that she had a great genius as well as inclination

nation for intrigues, and had also often imagined that an amour, such as she was about to enter into with him, was not a thing in which she was altogether unpracticed.

He was not therefore sorry that his friendship for Belpine obliged him to discontinue an amorous correspondence with her; and as it was an affair at present not of his own seeking, and he had given into not through the force of passion but merely for the sake of amusement, cannot be supposed to give him any pangs in quitting.

He thought it a great pity, however, that a woman endowed by nature with beauty, wit, and every thing requisite to adorn the station to which she was raised, should know so little how to improve or to deserve the good fortune that had befallen her; and, in this serious humour, remembering the promise he had given to her emissary of making a full declaration of his sentiments by way of a letter, sat down immediately and wrote to her in the following manner:

To lady HARDY.

MADAM,

“ I KNOW not how you will relish
 “ this epistle, but am very certain you
 “ ought to look upon it as the greatest
 “ proof both of love and friendship that
 “ can be given by man ; — be not there-
 “ fore startled when I tell you that I must
 “ see you no more ; — it is for your sake,
 “ and yours alone, that I have taken
 “ this resolution, and tear myself away
 “ from all the joys which beauty, such as
 “ yours, has the power of bestowing.

“ I have well consider'd the conse-
 “ quences which must infallibly attend
 “ your entering into an amorous engage-
 “ ment with me, and find that all the
 “ love I could offer in return would be
 “ too poor a recompence for those in-
 “ numerable difficulties and dangers to
 “ which you would be perpetually ex-
 “ posed by it.

“ Exert then the whole force of your
 “ reason to curb the incroachments of
 “ lawless passion in your own heart, and
 “ to disdain the shew of it in another ; —
 “ set a true value on yourself, and be-
 “ lieve that no man living can deserve
 “ that

“ that merely for the gratification of his
“ desires you should sacrifice your honour,
“ — virtue, — reputation, — peace of
“ mind, and, in fine, all that is valuable
“ in your sex.

“ This advice may appear very odd
“ in a man of my years; but the less
“ you expected it from me the more
“ impresson it ought to make on you;
“ you are not only a wife, but also bound
“ by a double obligation to be just; —
“ remember the station for which you
“ were design'd by nature, and be not in-
“ sensible of that to which you are raised
“ by fortune; — look round on the mag-
“ nificence of every thing about you; —
“ think to whom you owe it, and let
“ gratitude supply the place of love for
“ a husband who so dearly prizes you.

“ I allow that old age has something
“ in it extremely disagreeable to youth;
“ —yet, methinks, the many advantages
“ you enjoy might compensate for that
“ one deficiency; and also remind you,
“ that as sir Thomas, by the course of
“ nature, cannot long be with you, it is
“ only by observing a proper conduct
“ while he lives that you can, after his
“ decease, have any right to expect the
“ honour-

“ honourable addresses of a person capable
 “ of making you more happy.

“ Before I take my leave I have one
 “ thing more to add, tho’ it be a secret
 “ which my sex would hardly forgive me
 “ for revealing; — we men are apt to
 “ think a woman is never singly kind;
 “ — that the favours she grants to one,
 “ she is equally liberal of to others; and,
 “ in this opinion, are seldom very thank-
 “ ful for the blessings we enjoy; — if
 “ you take this truth upon the assurance
 “ I give you of it, pride will enable you
 “ to forbear making the experiment. —
 “ Farewel, believe that, tho’ I cease hence-
 “ forth all correspondence with you, I
 “ am,

“ With the best wishes,

“ Madam,

“ Your ladyship’s

“ Most humble and

“ Obligated servant,

J. JESSAMY.

POST-

P O S T S C R I P T.

“ MADAM,

“ To attempt sending to me again,
 “ either by letter or message, will be
 “ giving yourself an unprofitable trouble;
 “ for, besides the resolution I have made
 “ of avoiding a communication which I
 “ can neither answer to myself nor the
 “ regard I have for you, I shall infallibly
 “ leave this town to-morrow morning.

This he sealed up and put under a cover directed to Mrs. Comode, in which he wrote these lines :

“ MADAM,

“ Pray deliver the inclosed with your
 “ accustomed care, and you will oblige

“ Your humble servant,

“ J. JESSAMY.

It must be owned that the advice contained in the above was very good; but whether Jemmy would have acted in this manner if his passion for the lady had been more strong or his friendship for Belpine less sincere, is a moot-point, and must be left to the decision of the judicious reader.

C H A P. IV.

Contains a brief recital of Jemmy's journey and return, with some other particulars, which if not very interesting will be found necessary, however, to be inserted.

THE morning dew was yet upon the grass; when Jemmy, attended by one servant, set out for Bath in a post-chaise; — it happened a little unluckily for him that this was the very day that lady Speck's coach had broke down, and the company been obliged to put up at the first village till it was repaired; but for which accident he might have spared himself part of his journey, and met those upon the road whom he went to seek at a greater distance.

Finding, on his arrival at Bath, that Jenny had left the place, he was no less disappointed and vexed than he had expressed himself to be in the letter he sent to her from thence; — he took a lodging in the same house the ladies had quitted, and put many questions to the mistress of
it

it concerning the motive of their departing so suddenly; but all she could answer was, that she believed it was on miss Wingman's account, as the old lady's steward had been sent down, after which they had presently prepared for going.

In order to divert his thoughts, he no sooner had put off his travelling dress than he went to the Long-room; —but as it often happens that seeking pleasure we encounter pain, so it was with Jemmy, —here he met with something which instead of dissipating the gloominess of his mind, served only to render it more heavy.

There was a great deal of company, many of whom Jemmy had a slight acquaintance with, but none with whom he had any intimacy excepting one gentleman, who on the moment of his entering the room ran to embrace him, — “Dear Jack,” cried Jemmy to him, you wonder, I believe, to see me here at this tail of the season.” — “No faith, reply'd the other, I should have wonder'd if I had seen you here before: —I have always observed that married people, and people that are going to break off, are always careful to avoid each other; — they are like buckets in a well, — one up and the other down.”

“What

“What do you mean, demanded
 “Jemmy a little gravely?”—“How dull
 “of understanding you affect to be, said
 “the other; miss Jeffamy left Bath one
 “day,—you come to it the next;—do you
 “think the world don’t see into this?—
 “It was not, however, quite so politic,
 “methinks; you should have staid a day
 “longer at least; for sure you must meet,
 “if not clash, upon the road.”

“If I had been so fortunate, reply’d
 “Jemmy, you would not have found me
 “at Bath; for I assure you it was only
 “my impatience to see that lady that
 “brought me hither.”—“Then there is
 “nothing in the story of your breaking
 “with her, cried the gentleman, and go-
 “ing to be married to miss Chit.”—“Just
 “as much, return’d he, as that you are
 “going to be made King of the Ro-
 “mans.”

The other was about to make some
 answer; but all farther discourse between
 them on this head was prevented for the
 present, by several gentlemen, who seeing
 Jemmy at a distance, came that instant to-
 wards him to pay their compliments to
 him on his arrival.

As Jemmy had never been the least sensible that any report was raised of his infidelity to Jenny, till he was told it by Mr. Morgan, he was the more surpris'd to hear it at Bath, and from the mouth of a person who had left London before he thought such a thing had ever been talk'd of there.

This making him extremely curious to know who had been his informers, he took an opportunity, when most of the company were engag'd at play, to propose to him passing the remainder of the evening together at a tavern, to which the other readily agreed, and they immediately adjourn'd.

They had no sooner seated themselves than Jemmy renewed the conversation which had been interrupted in the Long-room, and desired his friend, in the most earnest terms, to let him know by whom, and in what manner, he had been told so wild and so improbable a story as that of his breaking off with Miss Jessamy, and making his addresses to Miss Chit?

“Faith, my dear Jessamy, reply'd the other, I am afraid I shall be able to give you but little satisfaction in this point :

‘ point:—I think that the first time I
 ‘ ever heard any thing of it was at White’s
 ‘ chocolate-house, the day before I left
 ‘ London;—but there being a good deal
 ‘ of company, I cannot for my soul re-
 ‘ collect what gentleman began the dis-
 ‘ course, though I know I was a good
 ‘ deal surpris’d at it, remembering that
 ‘ I had heard you express some uneasiness
 ‘ that your affairs in town would not
 ‘ permit you to accompany me to Bath,
 ‘ where, you then said, the best part
 ‘ of yourself, meaning miss Jessamy, was
 ‘ already gone.

‘ I must confess, continued he, that my
 ‘ journey, and one affair or other of my
 ‘ own, put this intelligence quite out of
 ‘ my head; till on my coming hither I
 ‘ found it the discourse of almost all the
 ‘ tea-tables where I have been;—some
 ‘ condemning, — others excusing your
 ‘ change; but every one agreeing in the
 ‘ certainty of the fact.’

Here Jemmy could not keep himself
 from expressing some astonishment, that a
 thing so utterly without the least founda-
 tion in truth should be able to obtain
 such credit, and more especially that it
 should already have reach’d to such a
 distance as Bath.

‘ For

‘ For my part, resumed the gentleman,
 ‘ I see nothing strange in all this ; — a
 ‘ story once raised, whether true or false,
 ‘ immediately spreads itself like wild-
 ‘ fire, and runs through the ears and
 ‘ tongues of as many as have any ac-
 ‘ quaintance with the persons concern’d
 ‘ in it.—Do you not know what the poet
 ‘ tells us ?

On Eagles wings immortal scandals fly.

‘ Besides, said he, Bath is the same
 ‘ thing as London ;—people are so per-
 ‘ petually going backwards and forwards,
 ‘ that what is talked on in one place can
 ‘ never be long a secret in the other.—
 ‘ You may also find another reason for
 ‘ the propagation of this rumour ;—you
 ‘ cannot suppose that either yourself or
 ‘ miss Jessamy are so little known, or so
 ‘ indifferent to the world, as that it should
 ‘ not be interested in whatever concerns
 ‘ you.’

This compliment was lost upon Jemmy
 in the humour he was at present ;— they
 were going on, however, with some far-
 ther discourse on the same subject, when
 something else coming that instant into
 the gentleman’s mind, he ask’d him sud-
 denly

denly if he had heard any thing of the hurly-burly that had happen'd in the house where miss Jeffamy and the other ladies lodged ; — to which Jemmy answer'd in the negative, and desired to know of what nature.

The other then repeated to him what he had heard from the mouth of common fame ; — that a woman, who it was said had been kept by Celandine, and ran mad on his quitting her, had attempted to stab miss Jeffamy ; — that mr. Lovegrove had sent him a challenge on that young lady's account, which he refused to accept ; but that some brulée happening between them afterwards, they were both carried before a magistrate, where mr. Lovegrove, being proved the aggressor, was obliged to give bail ; and the other, to avoid being pointed at for a coward, went directly out of the town.

“ Well, but the occasion, my dear
 “ friend, cried Jemmy hastily, how was
 “ Celandine answerable for the fury of
 “ his forsaken mistress ? or if he could
 “ be so, how came Lovegrove, who all
 “ the world knows courts lady Speck,
 “ to be so warm in his resentment on
 “ the account of any other woman ? ”

‘ Indeed,

‘ Indeed, reply’d the other, the whole affair seems to me, and to all whom I have heard speak of it, as much a mystery as it can be to yourself: — I can only tell you what happen’d; — but as to the why and the wherefore, it must be left to time, and the parties themselves to unfold.’

Jemmy’s impatience to know every thing relating to an event in which he thought himself so deeply interested, made him persecute his friend with a thousand questions, which were altogether unavailing, as the other had it not in his power to inform him in any more than he had already done.

Hoping, however, to get better intelligence at home, he took leave of his friend more early than otherwise he would have done, yet came to his lodging too late for what he had propos’d; — the gentlewoman of the house was gone to bed, and he was compell’d to defer taking any measures for the satisfaction of his curiosity till the next day.

In the morning the mistress of the house, on his requesting it, drank chocolate with him in his own apartment; but
at

at first was very cautious in her replies to the interrogatories he put to her, till finding he was already informed of the quarrel between mr. Lovegrove and Celandine, and also on whose account it happen'd, she made no scruple of relating to him all she knew of the transaction of the garden, and the danger miss Jessamy had been in from the jealous rage of mrs. M—.

Let any one, who is truly a lover, judge how much Jemmy must be shock'd on hearing the double danger to which his mistress had been expos'd; and as he doubted not but his presence would have secur'd her from meeting either with the one or the other of these insults, he severely condemn'd himself for having suffer'd any thing to keep him from her.

He met with several of his acquaintance here, who would fain have detain'd him among them during the remainder of the season; but all the persuasions in the world would not now have prevail'd upon him to stay a moment longer than he could conveniently depart.

By way of attonement for the vexation, and perhaps the slights Jenny might have sustain'd through the report of his infidelity,

infidelity, he resolv'd to shew that he came to Bath only for her sake, and that neither the place nor company had any charms for him now she was gone.

Accordingly he set out for London, after giving one day's rest to his servant, who, as he had wrote to Jenny, was very much hurt by a fall he had received in the journey thither.

C H A P. V.

Displays love in colours very different from those in which that passion generally appears, and seems calculated chiefly for the entertainment of the young and fair; but will scarcely be displeasing to such as are not so, with this proviso, that they have no share of envy in their composition.

NOT the sybils of antiquity, nor those enthusiasts who mounted the hallowed tripod, more mistook for the inspiration of their fictitious deity the frenzy of their own heated imaginations, or were more deceiv'd themselves, or capable

capable of deceiving others, than those lovers are who dignify with the sacred name of a pure and virtuous affection that passion which is excited merely by beauty and the difference of sex.

I have heard of some ladies of that romantic turn of mind as not to be convinced of their lovers sincerity without the most fatal proofs, and have took in good earnest what the humourous poet meant only in ridicule :

He that will hang or beat out's brains,
The devil's in him if he feigns.

But though it is to be hoped that far the greater number are of a more reasonable way of thinking; yet I am afraid that even among some of these the hero of this history will be look'd upon as no more than a half lover at the best;—he could be perfectly easy and gay out of his Jenny's company;—nay,—and what is less to be forgiven, amuse the hours of absence from her in an amorous conversation with other women, when with her he has hitherto discovered none of those impatiencies,—those alternate hopes and fears,—those extravagancies which men so frequently put in practice, and which their mistresses are apt to take as the
most

most certain indications of a true and ardent passion.

Yet, in spite of all these deficiencies, — omissions, — commissions, and other sins against the god of love, I doubt not to bring him, by degrees, into the good graces of the most imperious, vain, and tyrannic of my fair readers.

It will appear that he loved the object of his honourable flame much more than he knew he did himself ; — he had never been sensible of the least jealousy on her account, nor indeed, had taken much pains to prevent that passion from laying hold on her ; yet no sooner had he reason to believe she was made acquainted with the story of his falshood, than he felt all the pangs, which he supposed had seized her heart on receiving a shock so unexpected.

What was wanting in the violence of that passion he had for her was abundantly made up with tenderness ; — he trembled not for himself but her ; — conscious of his innocence, he had no cause to dread the reproaches she might meet him with ; but was ready to sink under the apprehensions of what she endured, till he was fully clear'd of this unjust accusation.

It

It was now that he first began to feel that burning impatience to be with her which all lovers pretend to have, though few perhaps, very few, in reality experience;—it was not that he so much languish'd to feast his eyes upon her beauties, or his ears with her wit and engaging conversation, tho' both had charms for him preferable to those of any other woman in the world; but it was to ease her of all suspence in regard to his integrity; and convince her, by the most unquestionable testimony, that he was incapable of love for any but herself.

Let the discreet, and judging part of womankind speak their opinion of a lover such as this, and I believe Jemmy himself might safely appeal to the verdict they would give.

The freedom with which from their infancy they had been accusom'd to converse together abolish'd all manner of ceremony between them; but had more been required, Jemmy's eagerness to see her would not have permitted him to make use of any at this time:—he order'd the postilion to drive directly to the house where she was lodged, and without going home, or having any thoughts of chang-
ing

JEMMY *and* JENNY JESSAMY. 49
ing his travelling dress, flew up stairs, nor
even waited till a servant should apprise
her of his arrival.

This, however, being the day in which
his letter had made her expect his coming,
she had taken care to be at home and
alone, judging it improper there should
be any witnesses of a conversation which
she knew not but might be of too much
importance to be divulged.

On seeing him enter the room, she rose
hastily from her seat and received the em-
brace he gave her with the same sweet-
ness and obliging air with which she had
always treated him — “ My dear, — dear
“ Jenny, cried he, throwing himself a
“ second time upon her bosom, — how
“ many disappointments have I suffer’d
“ before I could attain the blessing I now
“ enjoy ?”

‘ I should have shared with you in
‘ those disappointments, answered she
‘ smiling, if I had not been assured that
‘ whatever pleasures you missed the en-
‘ joyment of at Bath were very well at-
‘ toned for by others that you met with
‘ in London.’

“ Cruel farcaſm, rejoin’d he, looking
 “ earneſtly on her face, — could I have
 “ expected it from a mouth ſo much
 “ uſed to ſoftneſs? — If to have been
 “ detained from the preſence of all my
 “ ſoul holds dear; — if to have been
 “ involved in affairs to which my nature
 “ is the moſt averſe; — if to have been
 “ aſperſed, — ſcandalized, — doubly
 “ wounded in my love and honour by
 “ a villainous report; — if theſe are
 “ pleaſures, I have indeed met with e-
 “ nough to gratify the ſpleen of my
 “ worſt enemies, but ſhould methinks
 “ excite my Jenny’s pity.

“ One cannot rightly pity, reply’d
 “ ſhe more ſeriouſly, what one is not
 “ perfectly acquainted with; — you may
 “ perhaps have had ſome embarasments
 “ which you did not think proper to
 “ communicate to me, and I was loth
 “ to depend too much on what I heard
 “ from others.

“ The leſs you have depended, ſaid
 “ he, the more generous you are, and
 “ the more fortunate I am; — I need
 “ not aſk what it is you mean; — I know
 “ you have been told that I am in-
 “ conſtant, perfidious; — that, inſen-
 “ ſible to your merits and the happineſs
 “ ordained

“ ordained for me by the best of fathers,
 “ I have basely transferred my vows and
 “ affections to another.

“ This story, continued he, perceiving
 “ she was silent, false and absurd as in it-
 “ self it is, has not only gained strange
 “ credit here, but I find has also been
 “ carried down to Bath, and cannot have
 “ escaped your ears. — I hope you know
 “ your Jemmy better than to imagine
 “ there was even a possibility of there be-
 “ ing the least truth in it; yet the unea-
 “ siness you may have felt through your
 “ regard for me, in finding it believed
 “ by others, has given me a mortification
 “ beyond what I am able to express.”

‘ Much pains has indeed been taken,
 ‘ reply’d Jenny, to perswade both my-
 ‘ self and friends, that you no longer
 ‘ thought me worthy of your affection,
 ‘ and were weary of the engagement
 ‘ made for us by our parents; but I assure
 ‘ you that I never gave the least credit
 ‘ to any insinuations of this kind, tho’
 ‘ made in the most specious manner ima-
 ‘ ginable.

She was going on, — but Jemmy
 could not forbear interrupting her, by
 catching her in his arms, and testifying

by that action, as well as by the most rapturous expressions, the grateful sense he had of the justice she had done him.

After having indulged him for some moments, ‘ It was not, said she, that I was
 ‘ thus tenacious of your constancy through
 ‘ any vanity of my own merits, but
 ‘ through a perfect confidence in the
 ‘ sincerity of your heart; — I was far
 ‘ from thinking it impossible that you
 ‘ should cease to love me, but then I
 ‘ also thought it impossible that you would
 ‘ not at the same time cease all professions
 ‘ of it; — I always believed you in-
 ‘ capable of deceit, and therefore could
 ‘ not give credit to your change of senti-
 ‘ ments in respect to me, while you con-
 ‘ tinued to assure me they were the same
 ‘ as ever.

“ Charming, — angelic Creature !”
 cried he, seizing her a second time, and
 pressing her with the extremest tenderness
 to his breast, “ How beyond all descrip-
 “ tion villainous, as well as stupid, must
 “ be the man who could wrong such ex-
 “ celling sweetness, — such unparallel’d
 “ goodness ! ”

Jenny then told him, that whoever had
 propagated this report must certainly be
 greatly

greatly interested in having it believed, since such uncommon methods had been taken for that purpose, — ‘as you will presently be convinced, continued she, by what I have to shew you.

In speaking these words she ran hastily to a little cabinet, and having taken thence the letter which had been sent to lady Speck at Bath, and that other which she had received herself since her coming to town from a pretended rival, put them both into his hands, and desired him to peruse them.

Jemmy read them over with an equal mixture of rage and astonishment; — he now plainly saw, that to break the union between him and Jenny must have been a thing contrived by some person who was an enemy to both, and could not proceed merely from the vanity of miss Chit, in imagining him her lover; — much less could he think it possible that any woman was capable of raising such a report, for the sake of revenge, against a man for not loving her, who had never pretended to do so.

He repeated to Jenny, without the least reserve, the motive of his being at first introduced to that young lady's acquaintance,

acquaintance, and of the visits he continued to make at her house, till he was informed by Mr. Morgan what the world said of it;— protested, as he might do with the greatest veracity, that he never had the least thought of making an amorous address to her on any score whatever.

They were still upon this topick, and endeavouring, by various conjectures, to fathom the bottom of an affair which seemd so mysterious to both of them, when a servant came into the room to lay the cloth, Jenny having ordered supper should be served up that night in her own chamber.

This changed the subject of their entertainment for the present; but the business of the table was no sooner over than more and greater matters came upon the carpet.



C H A P. VI.

Will be found yet more affecting than the former, unless the reader is as dull as perhaps he may think the author.

WHEN our lovers had regained the opportunity of communicating freely to each other all that their minds were charged with, Jemmy, who had thought a good deal of what had been told him concerning the insults Jenny had received from Celandine and his outrageous mistress, began to testify a desire of being fully informed in the particulars of an adventure he had heard but an imperfect account of at Bath.

Jenny hesitated not to comply with his request; but tho' she expatiated, with all the wit and satire she was mistress of, on Celandine's behaviour in regard to the challenge sent him by mr. Lovegrove, yet she took care to avoid setting his impertinence towards herself in so bad a light as she might have done, and it indeed deserved.

Never had this young lady given a greater demonstration of her prudence, than in thus shadowing over, as much as truth would permit, the insolence of Celandine; — she consider'd that it was not unlikely that Jemmy might some time or other meet him, and think himself obliged to call him to a severe account for an affront offerd to the woman whom it was so publickly known he was about to marry.

She soon found how necessary had been the precaution she had taken; — Jemmy flew into the extremest rage at the presumption of Celandine, even on hearing it in the manner she recited it; and she was obliged, before she could bring him to any degree of moderation, to remind him that all the actions of so egregious a coxcomb proceeded more from folly than design, and merited rather contempt than indignation from a man of sense.

“ You see, my dear Jenny, said he,
“ how many inconveniencies have at-
“ tended the protraction of our marriage
“ so much beyond the time in which it
“ was expected to have been consum-
“ mated; — for heaven’s sake, there-
“ fore,

“ fore, let us put an end to the suspense
 “ that every one is in, and convince
 “ the world that we indeed are born
 “ only for each other.

‘ Could you then resolve, cried she,
 ‘ with an air which had something very
 ‘ meaning in it, to renounce all the joys
 ‘ of an unhoufed condition, as Otway
 ‘ calls a fingle life, and give up your
 ‘ liberty before fully fatiated with the
 ‘ fweets you men find in it? — How
 ‘ would it found at mrs. Comode’s, that
 ‘ mr. Jeffamy was become a husband?

“ Mrs. Comode!” repeated he; she
 made no answer prefently, but went again
 to her cabinet to fetch the letter he had
 intended for lady Hardy, and put it open
 into his hands.

‘ How would marriage, my dear
 ‘ Jemmy refumed she, agree with the
 ‘ promife you made in this, — of coming
 ‘ to the arms of the kind ſhe to whom
 ‘ you wrote it, with a heart intirely unin-
 ‘ cumbered with any cares but thofe of
 ‘ pleafing her?

The confternation he was in at this
 fight is utterly impoffible to be defcribed;
 but recovering himfelf from it as well as

he could, — “ Before I make any attempt,
 “ said he, either to excuse or justify my
 “ conduct in this point, tell me, I con-
 “ jure you, by what means this letter
 “ came into your possession.

‘ You need but turn the paper, an-
 ‘ swerd she, and the superscription will
 ‘ inform you :’ — he did so, and finding
 it — ‘ To miss Jessamy at Bath,’ — in-
 stantly discovered the mistake he had com-
 mitted, and cried out in the greatest con-
 fusion, — “ Good God! — how justly
 “ is my folly punished! —” then turning
 to Jenny, — “ Yet when known, con-
 “ tinued he, by how odd an accident I
 “ was betray’d into this error, you will,
 “ I am sure, forgive me.”

‘ I will know nothing farther of this
 ‘ matter, reply’d Jenny, nor shall I ever
 ‘ think of it hereafter ; — all I desire is,
 ‘ that when we marry you will either
 ‘ have no amours, or be more cautious
 ‘ in concealing them ; — and in return,
 ‘ I promise never to examine into your
 ‘ conduct, — to send no spies to watch
 ‘ your motions, — to listen to no tales
 ‘ that might be brought me, nor by any
 ‘ methods whatever endeavour to discover
 ‘ more than you would have me.’

“ Generous creature, rejoin’d he kissing
 “ her hand, yet permit me to assure you,
 “ by all my hopes of happiness, that the
 “ fault I am now detected in was never
 “ eagerly pursued by me ;— that it was
 “ only an intention ; — did not proceed
 “ to fact ;—and that an angel’s form can
 “ hereafter never tempt me to swerve,
 “ even in thought, from the fidelity I
 “ owe my dear forgiving Jenny.”

‘ Make no vows on this last head, I
 ‘ beseech you, said she ; I have heard
 ‘ people much older, and more experien-
 ‘ ced than ourselves, say that the surest
 ‘ way to do a thing is to resolve against
 ‘ it.

‘ Besides, my dear Jemmy, added she
 ‘ with the most engaging sprightliness,—
 ‘ I shall not be so unreasonable to expect
 ‘ more constancy from you than human
 ‘ nature and your constitution will allow ;
 ‘ and if you are as good as you can, may
 ‘ very well content myself with your en-
 ‘ deavours to be better.’

What so much gains upon the soul as
 to meet endearments where we expected
 only reproaches, according to the words
 of a late honourable author ?

Kindness has resistless charms,
 All things else but faintly warms ;
 It gilds the lover's fervile chain,
 And makes the slave grow pleased and
 vain.

To find Jenny thus turning into pleasan-
 try what would have made other women
 swell into a storm of rage and jealousy,
 transported Jemmy almost beyond him-
 self ; he thought she was somewhat su-
 perior to mortality and half divine, and
 ascrib'd to her what mr. Addison makes
 Juba say of Cato's daughter :

The virtuous Marcia tow'rs above her
 sex,

True, she is fair, O how divinely fair !
 But then the lovely maid improves her
 charms,

With wisdom, modesty, good-nature,
 And sanctity of manners.—

In the exuberance of his present ad-
 miration, he gave her such praises as not
 being able to endure the hearing, she put
 her hand before his mouth to silence,—

' Hold Jemmy, said she, you cannot
 ' entertain me with any thing less agree-
 ' able, than encomiums which, thank
 ' Heaven, I am not so silly as to ima-
 ' gine

‘ gine I deserve:—If you would oblige
‘ me let us change the conversation.’

“ Oh Jenny,—Jenny,—Jenny,” cried he, sending forth a tender sigh between every repetition of her name, — “ How
“ is it possible for me to think or speak
“ of any thing but your transcendent
“ goodness and my own unworthiness ?”

In pronouncing these last words he fix’d his eyes upon the letter which had given him so much confusion, and he had thrown upon the table after having seen what it was. — Jenny perceiving on what his looks were bent, snatch’d it hastily away, and running to a candle set it immediately on fire.—‘ This testimonial of your fault, said she, shall no
‘ more rise up against you, and as it consumes, may all remembrance of it forever be extinguish’d.’

The heart of Jemmy was so much overwhelmed with love and gratitude at this action, and the words that accompanied it, that he could not refrain the most extravagant demonstrations of what he felt ; — he threw himself at her feet, and embraced her knees with transports not to be described, nor even by himself express’d.

It was with a great deal of difficulty that she made him rise from the posture he was in, and much more that she prevailed on him to talk no more on this affair; to which, on whatever topic she began, he would still return.

The time pass'd so swiftly, as well as sweetly, in this tender intercourse, that the lovers never so much as thought on hours, nor once look'd upon their watches, till the sonorous guardian of the night, with his usual solemnity, thunder'd in their ears,—‘Past two o'clock.’

It was now that Jemmy first reflected how much he had transgress'd on his dear mistress's repose, and therefore prepared to take an unwilling leave; but she would not suffer him to go till her servant, none of his own being there, had got a chair for him, which being brought, they embraced, kiss'd, and parted, the behaviour of each to the other having imprinted a mutual satisfaction in their minds, greater than ever either of them had before experienced.

C H A P. VII.

Is very concise, and presents the reader only with some few passages, by way of a preparative for events, shortly to ensue, of an infinitely far greater consequence.

THE good-natured reader must certainly be pleased to find, that all the base artifices of Belpine were so entirely frustrated;—that all his endeavours to dissolve the union between the lovers had only served to cement it the more firmly;—they were now in a fair way of being as happy as could be wish'd; and that the ungenerous contriver of the plots against them had the mortification to see all his labour had been thrown away.

He could not, indeed, any longer flatter himself with the least hopes of success;—the last conversation he had with Jemmy before he went to Bath, and that he had with Jenny on her arrival from that place, convinced him that neither the one nor
the

the other were to be wrought upon by any projects he could frame.

Besides the disappointment of those vain hopes he had entertain'd of becoming one day the master of Jenny's person and fortune, it vexed him to the heart to have lost himself in the good graces of miss Chit; not that he had any regard for her, on her own account; but because, as has been already observed, he was solicitous for an employment at court, where he knew that young lady had a very great interest.

He had never attempted to visit her since the concert, when, as the reader may remember, she had given him a rebuff which might well make him fearful of approaching her again, without some more plausible pretence than it was in his power to make, to cover the occasion he had given her of offence.

It also fell out, very unluckily for him, that just at this time the post he was endeavouring to procure happened in the disposal of a certain great person, who, it was said, was too nearly allied to miss Chit to have refused any thing she ask'd; — well therefore might he be chagrined at having, by a foolish scheme, incurr'd
the

the displeasure of one so able, and where he had reason to believe, would otherwise have been so ready to serve him.

Miss Chit had, indeed, a great deal of good-nature, and an inclination to afford all the assistance in her power, to any one who she thought either wanted or deserved it ;— she had been acquainted with Belpine for a considerable time, had look'd upon him as a very facetious tea-table visiter, and he had not deceived himself in believing she would have exerted her whole interest in his favour.

But all the good-will she once had for him was now justly converted into an adequate resentment ;— she was gay and flighty, but wanted not understanding ;— she plainly saw he had imposed upon her on Mr. Jessamy's account, by the answer that gentleman had sent to her card of invitation ; and as she was not able to conceive with what design he had made her the dupe, it gave her the more disquiet, and dwelt the longer on her mind.

She likewise found he had told the same story he had done to herself to several of her friends, who were continually teasing her with one question or another concerning this imaginary lover ; nor could all
her

her protestations that she knew nothing of the matter; pass with any of them for more than maiden bashfulness.

All this while, however, she knew not how much she suffer'd in the opinion of some people, till a pretty extraordinary chance discover'd it to her.

On account of some apprehensions of an inward decay, she had been advised to drink milk warm from the Cow with conserve of roses; and in compliance with this recipe, went every morning into the Park, and sat upon a bench while her maid prepared the dose she was to take.

It happen'd that at one of these times two elderly gentlemen came and placed themselves on the same seat;—they took no other notice of her than the compliment of—'By your leave, madam;'—nor did she much regard the near neighbourhood of them, as their age and gravity defended her from the fears of being treated by them with any of those impertinencies she might have had reason enough to expect from the more young and gay.

They talked only of the weather,—the calamity of the times,—and such like common topics of conversation, till he,
who

who appeared to be somewhat the oldest of the two, started up on a sudden and went hastily towards a footman who he saw passing along on the other side of the Mall.

On his return,—‘ If I am not mistaken, said his friend the person you have been speaking to belongs to Mr. Jessamy.’—“ Yes reply’d he, I did not know his master was in town, but it seems he came last night.”—‘ Are you acquainted with him, pray.—“ No otherwise, said he, than by seeing him at a coffee-house where I sometimes go; but I am told he is a very accomplish’d gentleman.” — ‘ As any in town, rejoin’d the old gentleman pretty eagerly;—and I can tell you, has as few of the vices of it.’

Before we proceed any farther, it is highly proper to inform the reader, that the person who spoke with so much friendly warmth was no other than that very Mr. Morgan, mention’d in the nineteenth chapter of the second volume of this history, for the remarkable conference he had with Jemmy on account of his supposed infidelity to Jenny.

This hearty well-wisher of Jemmy was about to add something farther in his praise, but was hinder'd from doing so at that time by the others saying, that he had heard some talk of the match between him and miss Jessamy was broke off, and that he made his addresses at present to a young lady call'd miss Chit.

‘ Nothing in it, upon my word, sir,
 ‘ reply'd mr. Morgan a little peevishly ;
 ‘ —all an idle story, raised by the vain
 ‘ girl herself:—I heard it too, and I be-
 ‘ lieve was the first that told him of it ;
 ‘ but I never saw a man so much sur-
 ‘ prised and vexed.—She wanted to draw
 ‘ him in, I suppose ; — she has a good
 ‘ voice, it seems, and plays on the Harp-
 ‘ sichord ;—he made her some few visits
 ‘ on that score, and she was so silly as
 ‘ either to believe him really in love with
 ‘ her, or to endeavour to make others
 ‘ believe so if she could ; — that is all,
 ‘ upon my honour, sir.’

It is easy to conceive what miss Chit must feel on being witness of this discourse:—on hearing mr. Jessamy named, she had sat longer than else she would have done, out of mere curiosity of knowing what would be said of him, but little expected.

expected to hear such a character of herself ;—she as yet, however, restrain'd the passion she was in, and mr. Morgan went on.

‘ Thank Heaven I have no daughters, resumed he ; formerly a young maid was ready to blush to death at being told a man was in love with her ; but now, forsooth, the girls are as proud of a new lover as they are of a new suit of cloaths, and want as much to shew it ;—but, a-lack-a-day, miss Chit quite miss'd her mark in my friend Jessamy ; —he loves music, 'tis true ; but is not to be sung or play'd out of his senses.’

She could now hold out no longer ;—
 “ Do you know this miss Chit, sir, demanded she, whom you speak of in this contemptuous manner ? ” — ‘ No truly, madam, answer'd he ; but if I did, should make no scruple to tell her my mind on this occasion.’ — “ If you had the least acquaintance with her, return'd she, you would find she stood in no need of any lessons you could give.—I can assure you she despises the thoughts of drawing in any man ; — she is above it ;— and as for boasting of her lovers, has too many who are
 “ really

“ really such for her to be vain on any
“ imaginary single one.”

With these words she quitted the bench, and casting a disdainful look on mr. Morgan took hold of her maid's arm and tripp'd down the walk with the utmost precipitation.

What the gentlemen said of her after she was gone, or whether mr. Morgan had any guess that she was the person he had been speaking of is not material, I shall only say that the affronted lady went home in the greatest agitations ;— that she wept,—raved,—curst Belpine as the primary cause of all this, and at last took a resolution to do what will presently be shewn.





C H A P. VIII.

Contains a most extraordinary, as well as unexpected turn in the lovers affairs, not fit to be read by those who have very tender hearts or watery eyes.

THE joy one feels on being forgiven an offence which one repents, and is heartily ashamed of, can be surpass'd by nothing but that most sublime satisfaction which must fill the mind of the person who forgives ; — both our lovers were equally pleased with themselves and with each other, and there wanted but one thing to complete the felicity of either.

As for Jenny, it cannot be supposed that she wished a supream happiness than what she now enjoy'd in a full assurance of the affection and sincerity of her dear Jemmy ; but we will not pretend to say that his desires were altogether so much circumscrib'd, — he thought it was now high time to fulfil the agreement made between their parents, and the more so, as it would be the only sure way of to-
tally

tally silencing the present invidious report, and of preventing all others of the like nature from being propagated hereafter.

This last, he thought, would be a prevailing motive with her, and therefore resolved to omit neither that nor any other argument which all the love and wit he was master of could furnish him with, to gain her consent to a speedy celebration of their nuptials.

The pleasing contemplations on Jenny's behaviour towards him the evening before, — her thousand amiable qualities, and the idea of that happiness he hoped shortly to be in full possession of, kept him in bed somewhat longer than was his custom; but he was no sooner up and dress'd, than he hastened to the apartment of that dear mistress who had been the sole object both of his dreams and waking thoughts.

He found miss Wingman with her, but was not sorry he did so; for as he knew that lady was acquainted with the story of his imaginary fallhood, by the letter which had been sent to lady Speck, he made no scruple of saying to Jenny great part of what he would have done,
had

had she not been present; nor was Jenny at all displeas'd that this young lady should be witness how little foundation there was for the reports which had been spread.

‘ Indeed, my dear,’ said miss Wingman, on hearing him press the completion of their marriage,—‘ I think you ought not to refuse compliance with mr Jessamy’s desires, if it were only to make him some amends for the vexation he must have endured in the late scandal thrown upon him.’

‘ First be generous yourself, before you direct others to be so, reply’d Jenny laughing; mr. Jessamy cannot have suffer’d more, or with less reason, than lord Huntley has done; and when I see you inclined to make a reparation, I may perhaps be prevail’d upon to follow your example.’

‘ I do not know how soon I may be oblig’d to it, resum’d that lady; for sir Thomas Welby and my mamma are so ashamed and concern’d at the injury they have done my lord by their unjust suspicions, that, by way of attonement, they are for making a present of me to him, almost whether I will or not.’

‘ Excellent, i’faith, cried Jemmy, you
 ‘ are caught, my dear Jenny, and have
 ‘ made a promise without knowing you
 ‘ did so;—I shall, however, be obliged
 ‘ to watch and pray for lord Huntley’s
 ‘ happiness, as I find my own so much
 ‘ depends upon it.’

They went on in the same strain of
 pleasantry all the time miss Wingman
 staid; but after she was gone Jemmy
 began to renew his suit with more se-
 riousness, and had the pleasure to find it
 was not altogether rejected, though not
 immediately comply’d with.

‘ It is not owing to the want of affec-
 ‘ tion for you, said she with the most
 ‘ enchanting softness, but rather to an
 ‘ excess of it, that I would yet a little
 ‘ longer protract what you at present
 ‘ seem so earnestly to desire;—men are
 ‘ often deceived in their own hearts;—
 ‘ I speak not to reproach you for any
 ‘ amours you may have been engaged
 ‘ in, or that I am jealous of any you
 ‘ may hereafter be engaged in;—no,—
 ‘ my dear Jemmy, I should not think
 ‘ that even marriage gave me a right to
 ‘ censure, or to pry into your actions;
 ‘ it is for your own sake alone that I
 ‘ would

‘ would have you forbear making a vow
of constancy till you are very certain of
being quite out of love with variety; but
rather continue in a condition which al-
lows you full liberty to pursue whatever
pleasures you think fit, without having
any occasion to condemn yourself.’

‘ I should be ready to condemn my-
self to everlasting horrors, cried he,
could I be capable of lavishing one
tender thought on any but she who so
well deserves all, and much more than
I can pay.—I confess I have been guilty
of some follies; but in all my amuse-
ments with your sex, my heart had
never the least share; —no,— that was
always,—is,—and ever must be intire-
ly,—unchangeably,—inviolably devot-
ed to my only dear, dear Jenny.’

They were in the midst of this tender
conversation, when the persons with whom
—Jenny boarded, hearing Jemmy was above,
sent to intreat he would honour them
with his company at dinner that day;
to which invitation, for the sake of not
being separated from Jenny, he willingly
accepted.

These people were well-bred, and per-
fectly cheerful, but the lovers liking no

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company so well as that of each other,
staid no longer with them than decency
demanded, and Jemmy had again an op-
portunity of repeating his solicitations,
which he did in the most pressing and
emphatic terms.

How far he would have been able to
prevail is uncertain ; — Jenny's servant
came into the room, and told her that
a young lady, who called herself miss
Chit, was in a chair at the door, and
desired leave to wait on her.

On hearing the name of miss Chit,
Jemmy and Jenny look'd upon each other
with the utmost astonishment.—‘ Are you
‘ acquainted with her, cried he?’—‘ Not
‘ in the least, answer'd she, nor can ima-
‘ gine what should bring her here ;—but
‘ go, said she to the man, and shew her
‘ up.’

They had no time to form any con-
jectures, the lady immediately came in,
and Jenny rose to receive her with her
accustom'd politeness, but mixt with a
certain reserve, which she neither could
nor endeavour'd to throw off.

‘ You are doubtless surpris'd, madam,
‘ said miss Chit, at receiving a visit
‘ from

' from one so much a stranger to you,
 ' but you will pardon the liberty I have
 ' taken when you know the necessity that
 ' obliged me to it.' — ' I cannot suppose,
 ' madam, reply'd Jenny, that you would
 ' have given yourself this trouble without
 ' being induced by some extraordinary
 ' motive.' — ' An extraordinary one, in-
 ' deed, madam, resumed the other; and
 ' I am very glad to meet you here, mr.
 ' Jessamy, continued she, addressing her-
 ' self to Jimmy, — as what I have to
 ' say to this lady concerns you also.' —
 ' You are certainly in the right, madam,
 ' added he very gravely; for whatever
 ' relates to this lady must infallibly con-
 ' cern me too.'

' I never believed the contrary, sir, said
 ' miss Chit, nor doubted of the sincerity
 ' of your attachment to one so deserving
 ' of it; — and it was, in some measure,
 ' to do justice to you, that brought me
 ' hither, as well as to vindicate myself
 ' from the most cruel aspersion that ever
 ' was laid on any one of my sex.

No reply being made to these words,
 she went on, — ' It is scarce possible, said
 ' she, that either of you can have escaped
 ' the hearing a report, which, absurd as
 ' it is, has been strangely propagated about

town, concerning the intended marriage between you being broke off; but you perhaps may be ignorant that your pretended friend Belpine was the sole author of this invention.

Belpine, cried they both out at the same time,—Sure, madam, you mistake.—Yes, — Belpine, rejoined she, for what base ends I know not, would fain have had me so weak as to believe mr. Jessamy was not only false to his first vows; but also false on my account:— I pretend not to be free from the follies my sex are charged with, yet was never vain enough to believe a man in love with me till he had told me so himself; and therefore gave no credit to all he said and swore upon that subject:— his artifices, however, wrought so far upon my father, and all those of my friends with whom he had any acquaintance, that wherever I went I was entertain'd with no other discourse than my imaginary conquest;— I was very much amazed at all this; but other thoughts kept it from dwelling much upon my mind, till this morning I was grossly affronted by being told that I myself had spread about this foolish story, as having flatter'd myself that the few visits mr. Jessamy had favoured me with were

were made on the account of his having a passion for me.

‘It is no matter, madam, cried Jemmy, by whom or in what manner this ridiculous story has been propagated; — but tell me, was it from Belpine that you were first informed of this pretended villainy?’

‘Yes, sir, answered she, it was by him — and him alone, that your character has been traduced, Miss Jessamy without doubt disquieted, and myself attempted to be deceived; as you will presently be convinced if you have patience to listen to the monstrous detail I can give you of his behaviour.’

She then went on, and gave a succinct account of all the particulars she knew of Belpine’s conduct in this affair, which, as the reader is already perfectly acquainted with, need not be here repeated.

Jenny opened not her lips, but listened with the greatest attention to all she said; — but Jemmy could not keep himself from interrupting her almost at every sentence by some vehement exclamation, and when he spoke not, discovered by his gestures all the marks of an overboiling rage.

Well, madam, cried he, perceiving she had done, — I see that Belpine has been the Boutefeu; — for what reason he has been so, it belongs to me to penetrate: — he said no more, but snatching up his hat, which lay on a table near him, flew down stairs without taking any other leave.

Jenny, having observed the agitations he had been in, was extremely frighted at this last action; — she ran and opened the door, which he had flung after him as he went, and called as loud as she could to him, to come back; but he either heard not, or would not at that time obey her summons.

She then stamp'd with both her feet, and rung the bell for her footman with such violence as snapp'd the wire by which it hung; — Run, cry'd she, overtake Mr. Jessamy, who is just gone out of the house; — tell him I must needs speak with him, and desire he will return this instant.

It is not to be doubted, but that the fellow did his best; but notwithstanding all the speed he made, the person he pursued was gone quite out of sight: — this
 increa-

increasing the ferment on Jenny's spirits,
 — ' I wish, madam, said she to miss
 ' Chit, you had reserved the story you
 ' have been telling till you had found me
 ' alone; — it is dangerous to let one
 ' gentleman know too much of the in-
 ' juries he has sustained from another.'

' I should be sorry, madam, reply'd
 ' that young lady, that what I meant
 ' well should prove the contrary; but I
 ' flatter myself the event will give me no
 ' cause for repentance; — Mr. Jessamy, I
 ' hope, will only examine Belpine on
 ' this affair; — he is not worthy of his
 ' sword; — nor, as base men are gene-
 ' rally cowards, will scarcely be provoked
 ' to meet it.'

Jenny making no answer, and continu-
 ing to walk about the room in a disorder-
 ed motion, the other easily perceived her
 company was not desired, so took her
 leave without much ceremony on either
 side.

Impossible is it to describe the appre-
 hensions, the alarms, which shook the
 tender heart of Jenny for what might be
 the consequences of the discovery miss
 Chit had made; — she figured to herself
 all that was terrible on the occasion, and

could scarce bear up under the ideas of her own formation.

But if she suffer'd so much through the fears of what might, or might not happen, what must the cruel certainty inflict, when in about three hours after she saw Jemmy enter the room with a countenance pale and confus'd, and his cloaths sprinkled in many places with blood!—

‘ Oh Heavens! cry'd she, what have you been doing? ’ — ‘ An act of justice, ’ reply'd he, which I can repent of for no other reason than as it compels me to be once more separated from you. — I know not but I have kill'd the villain Belpine, and prudence requires that I should be out of the way for a short time. ’ — ‘ But whither will you go? ’ demanded she in a voice scarce articulate, — ‘ Where can you be safe? ’ — ‘ I have already taken care of that, answered he, all is prepared for my departure, and I but stay to snatch one dear embrace. ’

‘ Go then, — Oh go! cry'd she, and hazard not your safety by a moment's delay. ’ — Tho' she spoke this with all the courage she could assume, yet she could not so well conceal the trembling of her whole frame, while he held her in his

his arms, but that he found, and was pierced with them to the soul;—I cannot go, said he, and leave you thus.’ — ‘You must, — you must, rejoin’d she, — your presence, while this danger threatens you, is much more terrible to me than your absence can be.’

He then told her, that a boat waited to carry him that night to Greenwich, — that he should take a post-chaise from thence to Dover, and hoped to be in Calais before that time the next day : — on hearing this, she in a manner forced him from her arms, and never was there a more tender, tho’ hasty parting, than between those two so equally loving and beloved.

CH A P. IX.

Is inserted for no other purpose than merely to gratify the curiosity of the reader.

TH E event which once more separated our lovers is of so interesting a nature, that I believe there are but very few who will not be desirous of knowing those particulars concerning it which

Jemmy had no opportunity of relating to his fair mistress; in the short time his safety allow'd him to stay with her.

But first, — as some people may be apt to think that miss Chit, in making the discovery she had done, had a view to the consequences which ensued; and that in mere spite to Jemmy for not loving her, and to Belpine for having imposed upon her, she had taken this method of revenging herself on both; — in justice to her character I must therefore beg leave to observe, that if this had been the case, she would rather have chose to have wrote the whole matter to Jemmy, with whom she was acquainted, than have gone in person to a lady to whom she had never spoke in her whole life, and from whom she could not be certain of meeting a very candid reception.

On hearing herself accused in the manner she had been by mr. Morgan, and not doubting but that Jenny, as the party most concerned, had been equally severe upon her on that occasion, she came, in the heat of her passion, to clear herself to that lady from the imputation of a vanity of which she was indeed not guilty; and to convince her, by relating the whole proceeding of Belpine in this affair, that she

she neither was, nor ever imagined herself her rival in Jemmy's affections.

It is true, that on seeing him there she might have forbore making any mention of Belpine, or the business on which she came; — but then, what other excuse could she have made to Jenny for this visit, at least she was not at that time prepared with any, so that it must be allow'd the mischief she did sprung more from inadvertency than design?

As for Jemmy, no body, I believe, will either wonder at or condemn his just indignation, on finding himself thus treacherously dealt with, by a person he had loved and so much confided in; — the laws both of honour and of nature obliged him to demand some satisfaction for the injury that had been done him; and he must have been little of a lover, and indeed little of a man, not to have resent'd it in the manner he did.

Fired with a rage impossible to be express'd, he had not patience to wait the dull formality of a challenge; but the moment he left Jenny's apartment flew in search of that infamous traducer of his reputation.

As he knew most of the houses frequented by Belpine, he went from one to another enquiring for him, but without success, and was just going home in order to send him a summons to meet him the next morning, when in his way thither he saw, by the light of the lamps, for it was then dark, the person he had vainly sought for, coming out of a tavern with another gentleman arm in arm.—
‘Belpine,’ cried he. ‘Jessamy, rejoin’d the other, What, left Bath so soon?’—
‘Yes, resumed Jemmy,—and must needs speak with you this instant.’—‘I was going to supper with this gentleman,’ said Belpine, but will put off my engagement if your business be of any importance.’—‘It is, reply’d Jemmy, and cannot be delay’d.’

Belpine perceiving by his manner of speaking that he had somewhat more than ordinary in his mind, and perhaps imagining it might be some new incident relating to lady Hardy, excused himself to his friend for quitting him, and they went into the tavern and up into the same room where he, Belpine, and the other gentleman had been drinking.

The bottles and glasses were not yet removed, but as soon as they were so, and fresh wine brought in,—‘Now, my dear friend, your pleasure, said Belpine.’ —‘To tell you that you are a villain!’ reply’d Jemmy,—‘a most consummate villain.’—‘A villain, sir, retorted Belpine.’ —‘Yes, — I again repeat the name,’ cried Jemmy,—‘a villain, — a base incendiary, or you would not, by the most monstrous of all falsehoods, have defamed the character of one you call’d your friend, — and endeavour’d to break the bands of union between two hearts inseparably link’d by love and honour.’

Conscious guilt now stared this base man in the face, and assisted the reproaches of his injured friend; — he affected, however, an intire ignorance of what he was accused of; and would fain have seem’d to take as only a jest what the other said to him.

But our hero was in too great a heat to endure this trifling; — he told him that he had learned the truth of every thing from miss Chit;—that she was now with Jenny, and insisted that he should either go with him to those two ladies, — re-
nounce

nounce all he had said, and ask pardon on his knees, or with his sword defend the injustice he had done.

To this he sullenly reply'd, that he knew of no obligation he was under to do either the one or the other. — ‘Then you are a coward, — a scoundrel, and a poltroon, cry’d Jemmy, and deserve to be used as such;’ — with these words he took one of the Glasses, which the drawer had fill’d before he left the room, and threw full in his face; — the other could not now be any longer passive, — both their swords were out in an instant, — they made several thrusts, and Belpine had the advantage of having the first hit by wounding his antagonist in the arm; but this slight hurt was soon return’d with double interest, — Jemmy making a furious push ran him quite through the body; — he fell immediately, crying out, — ‘Oh! I am kill’d.’

Jemmy ran to him, but he spoke no more, nor shewed the least signs of life; on which he thought it behoved him to make the best of his way out of the house, which he did directly; though not without ordering a drawer, as he pass’d by the bar, to go up to the gentleman above.

After

After he had got out of that street he stood still awhile, to consider what course he should take in case Belpine was really dead; and on reflecting how much circumstances were against him, found it most adviseable to leave England, till he should hear whether the wound he had given him was mortal or not.

Having resolved on this, he called upon a Surgeon of his acquaintance and directed him to go immediately to the Tavern where he had left Belpine, contenting himself with having his own Arm, which had only a flesh wound, dressed and bound up by the Apprentice.

He then went home and made his servants get every thing ready for his departure; — they loved their master too well not to be very expeditious in executing his command; and, indeed, as it was not likely but that what had happened would presently be known, there was no time to be lost; — the danger he was in, however, would not prevent him from bidding adieu to his dear Jenny, as has been already said.

As for Belpine, he was not dead, nor speechless, as he had said to be, but
finding

finding himself deeply pierced had fallen out of policy to prevent his enemy from giving a second blow; — so apt are men of mean minds to judge of others by themselves.

A surgeon had been sent for by the people of the tavern before Jemmy's friend arrived; — both these gentlemen coming almost at the same time examined the wound together; but neither of them could pretend as yet to give his opinion how far it might be dangerous.

The condition he was in not permitting him to be put either into a coach or chair, they were obliged to lay him on a mattress, and cover'd close over with blankets, make him be carried by two fellows on a bier to his lodgings; — both the surgeons immediately follow'd, saw him into bed, and gave exact directions in what manner he should be order'd till they should attend him again the next morning, which they did very early, as believing his case extremely dangerous.

To their care, and the secret remorse of his own conscience for having so justly incurr'd the misfortune now fallen upon him, we shall leave him for a time, and
return

return to subjects more capable of affecting the heart of every generous reader.



C H A P. X.

Treats of divers things, some of little, some of greater consequence; but none that will afford much matter of entertainment to those who read for no other end than merely to divert themselves.

EVERY passion of the human mind gains double energy by our own endeavours to conceal it;—like fire, which being smother'd for a time bursts out at last with greater violence;—Jenny, who had behav'd with so much seeming resolution while Jemmy was with her, could not see him turn his back to leave her; she knew not for how long, and on so dreadful an occasion, without falling into the extremest agonies;—all her moderation, almost all her reason, forsook her at this juncture. — ‘He is gone! cried she, he is gone!—perhaps for ever, and I am left to waste my youth in unavailing grief:—but what of that, — selfish that I am,—in comparison of him; how small

‘ small a share of pity is my due?—His
 ‘ single loss is all I have to mourn, while
 ‘ he, dear unhappy wanderer, is driven
 ‘ at once from his native country,—from
 ‘ love,—from friendship,—fortune, with-
 ‘ out any other companion than the dire
 ‘ reflection of having embrued his hands
 ‘ in the blood of a fellow creature.—Bel-
 ‘ pine was wicked, continued she, but
 ‘ justice might have overtaken him with-
 ‘ out the guilt of him he had wrong’d.
 ‘ —Oh what is honour!—this impatience
 ‘ of indignities, as the poet calls it:’

This raging fit of virtue in the soul,
 This painful burthen, which great minds
 must bear,
 Obtain’d with danger, and possess’d
 with fear.

This was the manner in which the
 generous and truly amiable Jenny lamented
 the accident that had happen’d;—she
 wept not for the absence of her lover,
 but for the occasion that enforced it;—
 such was the delicacy of her soul, that
 his real infidelity would not have inflicted
 on her the thousandth part of those ago-
 nies she now endured on his having so
 fatally resent’d the aspersion; and so dear
 was he to her, that she would have wish’d

to see him even unfaithful rather than unhappy.

It might perhaps be too affecting, tho' all that could be said would be far short of the truth of what she suffer'd during this whole cruel night; — the morning, however, brought her some consolation; — she heard that Belpine was not dead, and to find that he had not been killed upon the spot, as Jemmy had imagined, affording her some hopes that his wounds might not be mortal, gave her as much satisfaction as a person in her circumstances was capable of feeling.

The whole adventure being presently blaz'd abroad, all her friends, and more of her acquaintance than, at that time, she wish'd to see, came to visit her, and make their compliments of condolance; — among the number of the former were lady Speck, miss Wingman, mr. Lovegrove, and sir Robert Manley. After having express'd their concern for the accident, as it might give mr. Jessamy much trouble, especially if his antagonist should die, they told her that lord Huntley was to give them a concert that evening upon the river, and would fain have persuad'd her to have accompanied them, in order, as they said and really meant, to divert those

those melancholy thoughts which could not but rise in her mind on what had happen'd.

It is not to be imagined that she gave the least ear to so unseasonable an invitation; but they continuing to press her with a great deal of earnestness to accept it;—‘Oh,’ said she, bursting into tears, which hitherto she had restrain’d in their presence,—‘can you think me capable of making one in a party of pleasure, while the liberty, perhaps the life of him ordain’d to be my husband is in danger?—No,—till I know him safe, music would be discord to my ears, and every thing that gives joy to others add to my affliction.’

On hearing this, sir Robert Manley could not forbear breaking into a kind of rhapsody, — ‘Happy mr. Jeffamy,’ cried he, by his very misfortunes rendered yet more blest in the proofs of such exalted tenderness.

Mr. Lovegrove said little less in praise of her constancy and generosity; and the ladies afterwards gave over urging her any farther on the subject they had done, but employ’d the whole time they staid with

with her in discourses more suitable to her present humour.

But what was most of all obliging to her, was a promise the two gentlemen made of taking care to inform themselves, from day to day, of the true condition of Belpine's wounds, and letting her have an exact account, to the end she might transmit it to Mr. Jessamy, and enable him the better to judge what course he had to take.

Several others of her acquaintance, who hearing what had happen'd, came to visit her on that occasion, and those among them who were most apprehensive on Jemmy's account, forbore to speak their sentiments in her presence; but, on the contrary, all joined to comfort her with hopes which they were far from entertaining themselves;—so that she pass'd this night with somewhat more tranquility than she had done the preceding one.

Between her broken slumbers, however, a thousand melancholy reflections return'd upon her mind;—her thoughts pursued the dear unhappy fugitive in his wanderings, they painted him to her troubled imaginations in the most forlorn
and

and pitious moving figure, thus traveling by night, and exposed to dangers almost equal to those from which he fled;—nor when her eyes, doubly fatigued with tears and watching, were closed again in sleep, did the sad ideas intirely quit her head.

The next day brought with it something which threw her into fresh agitations,—she was no sooner up than her maid presented her with a letter, which had been left for her by a footman sometime before she had quitted her bed, she having lain that morning longer than was her usual custom.

She was a little surpris'd as not knowing the hand on the superscription; but, on her opening it, found it from miss Chit, and contain'd the following lines;

To miss JESSAMY,

MADAM,

“ I AM extremely sorry to send you
 “ any intelligence that may add to
 “ the disquiet I am sensible you are al-
 “ ready under; but there are some cases
 “ in which it is absolutely necessary that
 “ even the most painful truths should be
 “ reveal'd;—you will find this relating
 “ to mr. Jessamy, is so; and therefore
 “ do

“ do not condemn, as an over officious-
 “ ness in me, what I now take the liberty
 “ to communicate.

“ One of the surgeons who attends
 “ Belpine has declared, that, according
 “ to the best of his judgment, his patient
 “ cannot live; on which a search-warrant
 “ is issued out against mr. Jessamy, it
 “ being already known that he has ab-
 “ sconded from his house.

“ This, madam, my father heard last
 “ night at a coffee-house; and moreover,
 “ that the people of the tavern, as well
 “ as a gentleman who it seems was with
 “ Belpine when he was met by mr.
 “ Jessamy, have offer'd to depose that
 “ he took him aside, prevail'd with him
 “ to leave his company, and go with
 “ him into a private room, where he
 “ soon after left him for dead.

“ I cannot pretend to any understand-
 “ ing in such matters; but they say, that
 “ in the eye of the law these circum-
 “ stances will make the affair appear
 “ very black on the side of mr. Jessamy,
 “ and that the fact will not be consider'd
 “ as a rencounter, or a fair duel, but as
 “ a downright premeditated murder.

“ As I cannot suppose that to whatever
 “ place Mr. Jeffamy is retired you are
 “ ignorant of it, I thought it highly
 “ proper to give you this intimation, to
 “ the end you may apprise him of the
 “ greatness of his danger, and warn him
 “ to keep extremely close; — indeed I
 “ should never have forgiven myself, if
 “ by neglecting to do so any worse acci-
 “ dent, than what has already happen’d,
 “ should ensue; — but I will trouble you
 “ no farther, than to assure you that I
 “ am,

“ With all due respect,

“ Madam,

“ Your most obedient,

“ Humble servant,

“ S. CHIT.”

“ P. S. My poor father is troubled be-
 “ yond measure at this event, and
 “ swears that, old as he is, if he had
 “ sooner been convinced of the baseness
 “ of Belpine, which till now he never
 “ was, he would have taken upon
 “ himself to punish it.”

Jenny had but just finish'd the reading this epistle, when she was conviaced of the truth of the intelligence it contain'd, — the officers of justice came in, — produced their warrant, and one of them very civilly intreated her leave to do what, by virtue of their commission, they were impowered to have done without it.

She seem'd a little surpris'd notwithstanding, and said, with an air of some resentment, that it seem'd very odd to her that they should come to search her lodgings for a gentleman; — to which another of them, more surly than he who had spoke first, replied, — that they had orders to search not only her lodgings, but all that house, and every other which mr. Jessamy had been known to frequent.

She said no more, but suffer'd them to pass wherever they would, and they discharged their duty with so much diligence, as to leave no place unlook'd into, that was big enough to have concealed a much less person than him they sought for.

Tho' Jenny had nothing to apprehend on this score, yet the sight of these men, and the errand they came upon,

was an extreme shock to her; but she presently received another yet greater, when the person with whom she boarded told her, without considering the consequence of what he said, that he was credibly informed that notice had been sent to all the ports to prevent Mr. Jessamy from making his escape out of the kingdom.

These words struck her with such a horror, that she was very near falling into fits; and it was not in the power of all that both he and his wife could say afterwards to pacify her grief, or to make her be persuaded that Mr. Jessamy must needs be in Calais before any orders to stop him could arrive at Dover.

They remonstrated to her, that if he travelled all night, as it was not to be doubted but he did, he would certainly reach the port by the next day at noon; and as there was always some one or other of the packets ready, might embark the same hour he came;—‘So that, my dear miss, cried he merrily, you may depend upon it your lover long before now has been regaling himself with good Burgundy, and some *Quelque-chose* or other, *a-la-mode de France.*’

She could not help allowing the reasonableness of his arguments ;— but imagination, that creative faculty, which has the power to raise us to the utmost pinnacle of happiness, or sink us into the lowest depths of despair, form'd so many accidents which might retard her dear Jemmy's journey, and render him too late to avoid the pursuit made after him, that she could not think she ought to flatter herself with the hopes of his being safe till she was positively assured he was so.

C H A P. XI.

Contains some occurrences deserving the attention of the reader.

IN a continual rack of thought, to which all the persuasions of her friends could not give the least intermission, did the fair heroine of this history pass her nights and days, till Jemmy, being safely arrived at Calais, sent her the following epistle :

To miss JESSAMY.

My for ever dear, dear JENNY.

“ THE concern I saw you under on
 “ my departure has hung more
 “ heavy on my spirits than even the oc-
 “ casion that inforced it ; but I assure
 “ you that none of your commands have
 “ been lost upon me, — I have taken all
 “ the precautions that human prudence
 “ could suggest not to render your kind
 “ wishes unavailing, and preserve a life
 “ which I am so happy as to know you
 “ set some value upon.

“ The date of this will inform you
 “ that I have now reach'd an asylum,
 “ from whence it is not in the power
 “ of my enemies to snatch me ; — but
 “ perhaps, after all, I might have spared
 “ your tender heart the cruel alarm I
 “ have given it, and myself the trouble
 “ of coming hither : — since I left London
 “ I have sometimes been tempted to
 “ hope that Belpine is not dead, and
 “ that it was no more than a swoon in
 “ which I left him ; — if so, with what
 “ transport shall I soon return to thank
 “ my dear Jenny for all her unequal
 “ goodness ?

“ It is you, — and you alone, — my
 “ everlasting charmer, — that can make
 “ either my life or liberty a blessing ;
 “ and when this cursed affair is once
 “ over, I shall then doubly taste the
 “ sweets of both ; — for oh, — my soul, —
 “ I now feel that the apprehensions of
 “ being deprived of you, are infinitely
 “ more terrible to me than those of be-
 “ coming an exile, — an outlaw, — a va-
 “ gabond.

“ But I will not turn the eyes of my
 “ imagination that way ; — my reason,
 “ my resolution faulter at it, — and as
 “ Otway says,

Madness lies there, and Hell is in
 the thought.

“ I will rather endeavour to believe
 “ the best, and that the first intelligence
 “ I receive from England will intirely
 “ banish these sad ideas from my mind ;
 “ — but whatever I suffer, or shall here-
 “ after suffer, I beg my dear Jenny will
 “ exert all her fortitude to repel the
 “ invasions of an over much grief and
 “ pity ; — let your answer to this assure
 “ me, that you bear with moderation
 “ this sudden turn in our late blest con-
 E 4. “ dition,

“ dition, which is the only consolation
 “ can at present be received by him who
 “ is,

“ With a love unutterable,

“ Soul of my soul,

“ Your most faithfully,

“ And most passionately

“ Devoted lover and servant,

“ J. JESSAMY.”

“ P. S. In the distraction of my thoughts
 “ I had like to have sent this away
 “ without informing you where an
 “ answer might find me, — pardon
 “ therefore the wildness of my brain,
 “ and direct for me at monsieur Grand-
 “ sine’s, the Silver Lion in Calais.”

The joy which filled the affectionate heart of Jenny, on finding her dear Jemmy had so happily avoided all the pursuit might be made after him, was so great, that for a time it intirely dissipated all her other anxiety.

But the ease she enjoy’d was momentary, — all the information the enquiries that her friends could procure was, that
 tho’

tho' Belpine was not dead, he was far from being out of danger, and the consideration on what consequences his death must produce, in case his wound should prove mortal, rendered her incapable of enjoying any lasting or perfect satisfaction.

It cannot be supposed that she contented herself with once perusing a letter she had so much languished for;— she read it over and over, and the oftener she did so, the more a flood of tenderness poured in upon her soul; but the reader will be better able to judge, by her own words, of the disposition she was in, than by any description I am able to give of it.

After having well weighed what apprehensions they were which seem'd to give him the most pain, she thought herself obliged, both by love and gratitude, to make use of her utmost endeavours to remove them, as will be seen in the answer she gave to his letter, which was wrote in the following terms:

To JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

“ My very dear JEMMY,

“ I Congratulate you on your fortunate
 “ arrival at Calais;— you cannot more
 “ rejoice on finding yourself in a place

“ of safety; than I have done in the know-
 “ ledge that you are so; — I have also
 “ the pleasure to acquaint you, that Bel-
 “ pine still lives, — I wish I could length-
 “ en the intelligence by adding, that there
 “ are hopes of his recovery, but that is a
 “ satisfaction as yet denied us.

“ But wherefore, my dear Jemmy, do
 “ you wound my heart with apprehen-
 “ sions for which you have not the least
 “ ground; — do you know so little of
 “ your Jenny as to believe that any change
 “ of circumstances can change her senti-
 “ ments in regard to you? — No, — if
 “ the vain supposition of losing me di-
 “ sturbs your peace, henceforth be per-
 “ fectly at rest; for be assured, that where-
 “ ever you are I will be.

“ Take not this as a flight of sudden
 “ passion, which I may hereafter be tempt-
 “ ed to repent of and retract, but as the
 “ firm and determinate resolution of my
 “ soul, founded on the principles of ho-
 “ nour, of duty, and of justice, as well as
 “ inclination.

“ Love for each other, my dear Jemmy,
 “ was the first lesson taught us in our
 “ most early years, and I have too long
 “ been accustomed to the practice, to be
 “ capable.

“capable of swerving from it; — should
 “therefore the fate of Belpine, which
 “Heaven forbid, be such as our worst
 “fears suggest, you have no more to do,
 “on the news of it, than to go directly
 “into Paris, and provide a proper place
 “for my reception;—and there, if you
 “continue to desire it, the English Am-
 “bassador’s Chaplain may fulfil the en-
 “gagement made for us between our pa-
 “rents.

“Farewell, — I flatter myself that you
 “will find some satisfaction in the assu-
 “rance I now give you of being,

“With all the tenderness,

“You can wish or expect,

“My dear Jemmy,

“Sincerely faithfully,

“And ever yours,

“J. JESSAMY.

“P. S. I must do our common friends
 “the justice to let you know they are
 “greatly affected at your misfortune, all
 “of them, at least that I see;—indeed if
 “they were not, they would find little

“ welcome from me. — Once more adieu;
 “ — I expect to hear from you again by
 “ the first post.

Jenny, not doubting but what she had wrote would afford great relief to the anxieties of her lover, found in that thought sufficient to calm those she had felt within herself; — such is the effect of a real tenderness, as to make us take pleasure in every thing that we imagine will give pleasure to the person beloved.

And now let those readers, who in the beginning of this history were apt to look on *Jemmy* and *Jenny* as two insensibles, acknowledge their mistake, and be convinced that flames which burn with rapidity at first are soonest wasted, and that a gentle, and almost imperceptible glow of a pure affection, when once raised up by any extraordinary incident, sends forth a stronger and more lasting heat.

I remember to have formerly read a little pamphlet, entitled, ‘ *Reflections on the different effects of love,*’ which contains many pretty observations on the subject I am speaking of; but I know of none more just than this of *Mr. Dryden*:

Love various minds does variously in-
spire,

He stirs in gentle nature's gentle fire,

Like that of incense on the altars laid ;

But raging flames tempestuous souls
invade ;

A fire which every wind of passion blows,

With pride it mounts, and with re-
venge it glows.

It may easily be perceived, by those who consider the motives on which the events of this history depend, that our lovers were not thus stirred up by accidents relating merely to themselves, but by such as concerned each other ; — Jemmy had not fought with Belpine but for the discontent and affronts which he thought his dear Jenny had suffer'd thro' his base artifices ; — nor would Jenny have discovered any part of the warmth she now did, had she not been invigorated by the perplexity and danger of her Jemmy.

Nothing certainly can be more truly worthy of admiration than the love, — the constancy, — the generosity, of this amiable lady, who at her years could so readily renounce her native country, — kindred, and all the amusements to which
her.

her youth had been accustomed, and resolve to live in a perpetual banishment, if by the death of Belpine, the man ordain'd to be her husband in his more prosperous circumstances, should now be reduced to the condition of an exile.

Nor was Jemmy, gay and unthinking, as he has sometimes appeared, at all inferior to his charming mistress, in giving her the most unquestionable and exalted proofs of the sincerity and disinterestedness of his passion, as the next chapter will declare.

C H A P. XII.

Recites a passage which will certainly be extremely agreeable to all the ladies; it is much to be feared, however, that there are but very few of them who can, with any reason, flatter themselves with experiencing the like.

JENNY, who had the mortification of hearing every day that Belpine grew rather worse than better, began to call to mind every trifling accident that had happen'd to give her any disgust in England, to the end that she might have the less
love

JEMMY *and* JENNY JESSAMY. III

love for it, and be more reconciled to the thoughts of leaving it for ever;—she found it, indeed, a thing of no great difficulty to conquer all the reluctance she might at first have on that score;—the society of the man she loved, and by whom she was so much beloved, was an over-balance for all she was about to quit for his sake, and her whole mind was now taken up with the manner in which she should order her affairs so as to be prepared to go whenever the circumstances of things should call her.

Her resolution being settled, her thoughts by degrees became so too, and she now enjoy'd more serenity than she had known since the accident that drove Jemmy from her; but the post not bringing her a letter as she expected, some part of her former discontents began to revive in her;—she was, however, too well assured of his punctuality not to impute this disappointment to some other cause than his neglect.

She soon found that she had done him no more than justice in this point;—mr. Morgan came the next morning to visit her;—as she had not seen him since she was a girl, his coming at this juncture a little surpris'd her, and he kept her in suspense for some time, by making her a
thousand

thousand compliments, after the fashion of old men, on the improvements he found in her stature and beauty, before he related to her the business which had brought him thither.

At last, tho' not till after many circumlocutions, by way of prelude, — ‘ I have
 ‘ a present for you, my pretty lady, said
 ‘ he; I received a letter last night from
 ‘ my good friend mr. Jeffamy, and some-
 ‘ thing inclosed for you, which he commis-
 ‘ sion'd me to deliver into your own hands;
 ‘ — here it is, continued he, giving her a
 ‘ packet, take it, I believe it will not
 ‘ be displeasing to you.’

‘ I have no apprehensions of receiving
 ‘ any thing that can be so, either from
 ‘ him or you, sir, reply'd she, you will
 ‘ therefore pardon my impatience to see
 ‘ what it contains.’ — ‘ Aye, — aye, cry-
 ‘ ed he, read it by all means, — I would
 ‘ have you read it while I am here.’

He then retired to a window and took up a book while she opened the packet, in which was a large parchment, heavy with the weight of seals, and a letter from Jemmy containing these lines ::

To miss JESSAMY.

“ **W**ITH what words, — O thou
 “ more than woman, — thou angel
 “ of thy sex, — shall I express that rush
 “ of joyous astonishment, — that extacy
 “ which on the reading your dear letter
 “ overwhelm’d my heart! — Can you
 “ then resolve to leave your native coun-
 “ try, with all the charms you once
 “ found in it? — Can you do this for my
 “ unworthy sake, — consent to share my
 “ fate, and live in exile with your Jem-
 “ my? — Yes, — I know you can, —
 “ you have said it, and will not promise
 “ without meaning to perform.

“ Thus transcendently blest in your af-
 “ fection, the goods of fortune would be
 “ below my care if you had no interest in
 “ them; — nor would even life itself be
 “ of any estimation with me were it not
 “ dear to you; — but as they both are
 “ yours, eternally devoted to you, they
 “ ought not to be neglected by me.

“ On my relating my affair with Bel-
 “ pinè in all its unhappy circumstances,
 “ to a lawyer who happen’d to come over
 “ with me, he told me I ought to take
 “ proper methods for securing my estate,
 “ in

“ in case the wound I had given should
 “ prove mortal; — I approved of his ad-
 “ vice, and as there is no English attorney
 “ at Calais, he has been so good as to draw
 “ up an instrument for that purpose him-
 “ self, — which is the same I now send to
 “ you.

“ You will find by it, my dear Jenny,
 “ that I am no longer possess’d of any
 “ lands or hereditaments; — you are the
 “ mistress of all that once was mine; —
 “ to whom, indeed, should I commit
 “ my estate but to her who has my soul
 “ in keeping?

“ I have wrote to mr. Morgan and
 “ mr. Ellwood to assist you in whatever
 “ cares may attend this accession, and also
 “ to my steward and house-keeper to re-
 “ ceive their orders henceforward from
 “ you, who have now the only right to
 “ command and to direct their services.

“ What remittances I may have occa-
 “ sion for I shall become your petitioner
 “ to grant, and doubt not but your cha-
 “ rity will extend itself as far as you think
 “ my wants may reasonably require; —
 “ I am sure that I can feel none the
 “ thousandth part so great as that of your
 “ dear society, which, without my da-
 “ ring

“ ring to ask, you have already promised
 “ to relieve.”

“ I should be glad methinks, however,
 “ to know the certainty of my doom ; —
 “ that is, — whether I may have hope of
 “ returning to England, or must content
 “ myself with being a denizen of France ;
 “ tho’ in whatever place my lot is cast,
 “ fate will find it very difficult to render
 “ me unhappy, while permitted to sub-
 “ scribe myself,

“ With the most pure and perfect passion,

“ My dearest Jenny’s,

“ Fervently and unalterably:

“ Devoted Servant,

“ J. JESSAMY.

“ P. S. I need not tell my dear Jenny
 “ with how much impatience I shall long
 “ for the arrival of the next mail, and
 “ every mail till we are so happy as to
 “ meet again.

Having read the letter, she unfolded the
 writing which accompany’d it, and found
 it was a deed of conveyance to herself of
 Jemmy’s

Jemmy's whole estate, both real and personal; — as she knew not well the nature of these things, nor for what end this had been done, it threw her into so deep a reverie that she forgot Mr. Morgan was in the room.

But that gentleman, perceiving she had done reading, returned to the seat he had lately quitted, and, taking her by the hand, ask'd her with a smile what she thought of the gift her lover had made her. — ‘ Indeed, sir, answered she, I know
 ‘ not what to think; and should be at
 ‘ a very great loss how to behave on the
 ‘ occasion, if I did not depend on being
 ‘ directed by one or other of the two
 ‘ worthy persons mentioned in Mr. Jes-
 ‘ famy's letter.

He then explained to her all she wanted to know, and concluded with some compliments on the confidence Mr. Jesfamy reposed in her; — ‘ If ever I see
 ‘ him again, said he pleasantly, I shall
 ‘ tell him that he relies much on his own
 ‘ merit to imagine he can secure the af-
 ‘ fection of so a fine lady after endowing
 ‘ her with a fortune which may entitle her
 ‘ to the addresses of the first nobleman in
 ‘ the kingdom.

' He need not be very vain, returned
 ' she, to be intirely free from all appre-
 ' hensions on that score.—But, sir, con-
 ' tinued she, there is another danger
 ' which perhaps he has not thought of ;
 ' — I have a kinsman, who, tho' a very
 ' distant one, is yet my heir in case I die
 ' unmarried, and would certainly, after
 ' my demise, seize on every thing which
 ' could be proved had been in my pos-
 ' session at that time.'

' Demise, cry'd mr. Morgan, how can
 ' such a thought come into your head ?
 ' —A virgin in her bloom talk of dying !'
 ' — Things more unlikely, sir, have come
 ' to pass, said she, and I am for leaving
 ' nothing to chance, especially on such an
 ' account as this ; — as the first proof,
 ' therefore, of that assistance mr. Jessamy
 ' makes me hope for from you, I must
 ' intreat you will provide me an able
 ' lawyer that I may make my will, and
 ' by bequeathing back to mr. Jessamy
 ' his own estate, with my whole fortune
 ' annexed to it, unite both according as
 ' our parents always intended they should
 ' be.

Mr. Morgan looked on her with the
 highest admiration all the time she was
 speaking ;

speaking ; but making no immediate answer she went on, insisting that he would do as she desired, to which he at last consented, and promised to bring an attorney with him in the afternoon ; they had some farther conversation together, in which Jenny display'd herself so well, without aiming to do so, that he departed quite amazed and charmed to find such generosity, such justice, and such prudence in a person of her years.

When she was left alone, and had leisure to reflect on what Jemmy had done, it did not seem at all strange to her that he should have reposed so much confidence in her, because she thought there was not a possibility for any woman in the world to be wicked enough to abuse such a trust ; but she wonder'd at the haste he made to execute a deed of this nature, which she could see no necessity for on the score of what had passed between him and Belpine, at least as yet.

After a little pause, — ‘ It must certainly be, cry'd she, that the dear, the generous man, has caused this instrument to be drawn up merely for my sake, that if any unforeseen accident should snatch him suddenly from the world, I should then remain in an undisturbed

disturbed possession of all he left behind ; — no other motive can have induced him to act in this manner ; and it was only the secret sympathy of my soul with his that has put it into my head to make a will in his favour.

It pleased her to think she had found a way to be even with him in his tender scare, and longed for the return of Mr. Morgan, that she might put in execution what she had devised.

That gentleman came in the afternoon, and according to the promise she had exacted from him, brought with him an able lawyer of his particular acquaintance, whom, as soon as the first civilities were over, she immediatly set to work upon the business for which she had desired his presence.

The writing being intirely finished in all its forms, and witnessed by Mr. Morgan and the people of the house, whom Jenny had ordered to be called up for that purpose, she deposited it in Mr. Morgan's hands, desiring him to keep it till she should die, unless some accident should oblige her to demand it back ; — this he assured her he would do, still affecting to smile, tho' admiring within himself a precau-

precaution so uncommon in a young lady.

But whatever either he or his friend the lawyer might think of her on this occasion, they were afterwards convinced, by the vivacity and sprightliness of her conversation and behaviour, during the whole time they continued with her, that it was not by any melancholy vapours she had been instigated to the step she had taken, and which appeared so extraordinary to them, as indeed it well might do to persons who never had an opportunity of being acquainted with the greatness of her mind.



C H A P. XIII.

Affords less matter either of instruction or entertainment than many of the former ; though perhaps more of both than can be found in some other late histories of the same nature with this.

HOW preferable are the enjoyments of the mind to those of the body ! Persons of a truly delicate way of thinking find a much greater pleasure in their own contemplations, on a delightful subject, than those of less refined ideas are capable of tasting in the utmost gratification of the senses.

Our amiable Jenny felt a more perfect satisfaction in the proof she had received of her lover's affection, and in that she had just shewn of her own for him, than she had ever known when with him, and no cross accident had interven'd to oblige either of them to exert, and display their mutual tendernefs.

She was in a most delightful situation of mind on this occasion, when Mr. Morgan made her another morning visit, on a business which he doubted not but would greatly add to her contentment, — it was this :

The sincere good-will he had towards Jemmy had made him indefatigable in his endeavours to find out the true state of Belpine's condition ; — he had gone and sent several times to the house where he lodged, without being able to get any satisfactory account, sometimes being told one thing, and sometimes another ; — they even refused to let him know who were the surgeons that attended him ; — this however he got intelligence of from the people of the tavern where the accident had happened ; — the first to whom he applied seemed a little uneasy at the questions he put to him, — made very short and evasive answers, the plainest of which was, — ‘ That if the gentleman lived, it would be a miracle.

Mr. Morgan, not contenting himself with this, went directly to the other, who was the same that had been sent by Jemmy, and whom he found of a much more communicative disposition, tho' less able
to

to give him the information he desired; — he said, that on examining the wound, he had thought it a very bad one, but when he went the next morning to visit Mr. Belpine, he was told by somebody about him that there was no need of his attendance, and that he was not permitted to stay in the room even while the first dressings were taken off, tho' he had earnestly requested it. — Mr. Morgan then asked him, if he apprehended the wound to be mortal, by what he had seen of it at first. — ‘ I then thought it so, reply'd the surgeon, for had it been as I imagined he must have died in twelve hours; — but as he has lived till now, I think I may safely pronounce him out of danger, except a fever takes him.’

He then went on, and gave so many reasons, from the structure of the human body, to prove that if Belpine's wound had been mortal, he must have died long before the time which had elapsed since his receiving it, that the hearty old gentleman was quite convinced, and run immediately to make Jenny partaker of the joyful news.

She was, indeed, extremely pleased; but said, she could not conceive what motive should induce Belpine or his friends

to give out that he was still in danger if he was not really so. — ‘Spite, cry’d mr. Morgan, nothing but spite, — as my friend Lee somewhere has it:

Spite, by the Gods, proud spite, and
burning envy.

‘I see into his design, continued he, as well as if I were of his cabinet council; — the venemous revengeful rascal thinks, as long as he can make people believe his life is despaired of, mr. Jeffamy will be obliged to keep out of the way; but he may be out in his politics, — the surgeon assures me that he will depose upon oath that the wound is not mortal; and if so, mr. Jeffamy may come over as soon as he pleases, — bail will be taken for him.’

‘Ah, sir, let him not trust to that, cried Jenny hastily, and I beseech you do not advise him to it when you write.’ — ‘I advise him, madam, answered he, not I, indeed, — I shall only tell him what I think, — he may do as he pleases.’

‘You may be certain, sir, resumed she, that I should greatly rejoice in mr. Jeffamy’s return, if he could come
‘without

‘ without any hazard either of his life or
 ‘ liberty ; — but you must pardon me if
 ‘ I am not altogether so sanguine in this
 ‘ matter as you seem to be : — I am apt
 ‘ to hope and believe with you, that Bel-
 ‘ pine is not in so dangerous a way as is
 ‘ pretended ; — but then, methinks, we
 ‘ ought not to build too much upon the
 ‘ asseveration of this surgeon, whose judg-
 ‘ ment we cannot be sure is infallible.’

Mr. Morgan was about to say some-
 thing in answer to this but was prevented,
 Jenny’s servant open’d the door instant-
 ly, and told her that lady Speck was just
 coming up stairs, on which he took his
 leave for that time.

After the usual salutations at a first
 meeting were over, and they had seated
 themselves, — ‘ If the heart is to be judg-
 ‘ ed by the countenance, said lady Speck,
 ‘ looking earnestly on her fair friend, I
 ‘ may hope, my dear, that yours is some-
 ‘ what less depress’d than it has been of
 ‘ late.

On her speaking in this manner, Jenny
 made no scruple to repeat to her all she
 had been told by mr. Morgan in regard
 to Belpine’s condition, and also the reasons
 which both of them had assigned for his

causing it to be reported so much worse than in effect it was.

‘ Belpine must certainly be one of the
 ‘ most mischievous fellows in the uni-
 ‘ verse, said lady Speck, and since you
 ‘ have now got a more perfect intelli-
 ‘ gence of his situation, I may venture to
 ‘ let you know that nothing can be more
 ‘ terrible than the account given of it by
 ‘ his servant, both to sir Robert and mr.
 ‘ Lovegrove, who I assure you did not
 ‘ fail to make the enquiries they promised
 ‘ when they were here last; — and it has
 ‘ been only because they were unwilling
 ‘ either to deceive you, or to be the bear-
 ‘ ers of an unwelcome truth, that they
 ‘ have deny’d themselves the pleasure of
 ‘ waiting on you for some days.

Jenny express’d herself in the most grateful terms for the generous concern those gentlemen had seem’d to take in her affairs; and then began to turn the conversation on some other topics; but there was something in the behaviour of Belpine which appeared so peculiar as well as base, in the opinion of lady Speck, that she could talk of little else all the time she staid, which indeed was not very long, her ladyship being in her deshabille, and in haste to go home to dress for dinner.

She

She was no sooner gone, than Jenny's servant acquainted her that a lady, who call'd herself Sophia, had been to wait on her. — ' Sophia, cried she hastily, — why then did you not shew her up?' — ' You had company, madam, answer'd he, and she said she rather chose to wait on you when you were quite alone, and that she would come again in the afternoon to see if you were so.

If the reader has forgot this young lady he may have recourse to the second chapter of the first volume, where he will find her character at large; and now need only to be told that Jenny, who had not heard of her being in town, was extremely glad that she should have a person near her in whom she placed more confidence than in most others of her acquaintance.

The pleasure of this friend's return did not however make her forget that it was post-day, and that she had an obligation to discharge which could not be dispensed with by any other; and therefore, to prevent any interruption which delay might occasion, sat down immediately and wrote the following lines :

To JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

My dear JEMMY,

“ I Received the trust you reposed in
 “ me of which I shall be a very faith-
 “ ful steward ; but I have just heard some-
 “ thing which makes me hope you might
 “ have spared yourself that trouble ; —
 “ your worthy friend mr. Morgan will
 “ write to you the particulars, and per-
 “ haps subjoin some advice, which tho’
 “ I am certain he means well, cannot
 “ consent you should comply with ; —
 “ so much as I prize your presence I
 “ should tremble to behold you here
 “ while there remains even the most dif-
 “ tant menace either to your life or li-
 “ berty.

“ A little time, of course, must put an
 “ end to our suspense, — till then there-
 “ fore, I conjure you, content yourself
 “ with the assurance I have given you,
 “ and now again repeat, that if you can-
 “ not come to me, I will go to you, and
 “ endeavour, by every thing in my power,
 “ to soften the asperity of all other losses.

“ I fear, indeed, you pass your days
 “ in a manner uncomiortable enough, —
 “ without friends, — without acquain-
 “ tance,

“ tance, — without any companion but
 “ your own melancholy thoughts, — no-
 “ thing to please, or even to amuse your
 “ mind : — I am ignorant of the place
 “ you are in, — I only know it is on
 “ the sea-coast ; — there, methinks, I see
 “ you often wandering, casting a wishing
 “ eye towards what you left behind, and
 “ almost cursing fortune for the depriva-
 “ tion. — Tell me, my Jemmy, does my
 “ fancy paint your situation such as it is ?
 “ — I shall rejoice to find myself de-
 “ ceived, and to hear that Calais is not
 “ wanting in matters of agreeable enter-
 “ tainment ; — believe you can give no
 “ account so welcome to me as that of
 “ your being perfectly easy ; — endea-
 “ vour, at least, to make yourself so, I
 “ beseech you, till the circumstances of
 “ things permit you to be happy, and
 “ to make happy all your friends, par-
 “ ticularly her who is,

“ With an unfeign'd affection,

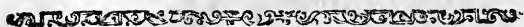
“ Dear Jemmy,

“ Yours eternally,

“ J. JESSAMY.

“ P. S. I cannot close this without once
 “ more conjuring you, not for your own
 “ sake but mine, not to think of return-
 “ ing till we shall be well assured that
 “ Belpine has left his chamber.

She soon found how much she had been in the right to lay hold of the first opportunity to prepare the above, otherwise she might have been prevented from doing it at all that day ; for Sophia, who had a great deal to say to her, came very early in the afternoon.



C H A P. XIV.

Contains a very strange and detestable instance of perfidiousness and ingratitude, in a person of the most honourable vocation.

THESSE two young ladies, who from their childhood had preserved an entire friendship for each other, could not meet after an absence of many months without the utmost demonstrations of affection on both sides ; — after which Jenny gently reproached the other as having been very remiss of late in writing to her, and that whenever she did so her letters

letters had been short, reserved, and such as ordinarily pass between persons who converse together merely through complaisance.

‘ Your charge would be very just, said Sophia, had it been in my power to have acted otherwise than I did ; — but, indeed, my dear miss Jessamy, I had nothing to write except such things as were utterly improper for me to communicate by the post ; — I am now, however, continued she with a deep sigh, come to tell you all, as well as to take my everlasting leave.

These words, and the manner in which they were delivered, threw Jenny into so great an astonishment, that she had not the power of asking an explanation of them, which the other perceiving, saved her the trouble of speaking and went on :

‘ Yes, continued she, I shall very shortly be removed from all that ever yet have known me, — shall quit England as soon as the vessel that is to carry me is ready to put to sea, which I hope will be in a very few days ; — nor, when you have heard my unhappy story, will you think it strange that I should be impatient to go from a place where

‘ I have received such cruel injustice as
 ‘ perhaps no woman but myself ever met
 ‘ with.

‘ Heavens! of what nature? cried
 Jenny with some eagerness. ‘ Of a most
 ‘ monstrous, — and, I believe, unprece-
 ‘ dented one, replied she; but I will
 ‘ keep you no longer in suspense, — you
 ‘ shall at once be let into the secret of
 ‘ those wrongs I have sustain’d, and of
 ‘ the folly which expos’d me to them.

Finding Jenny made no answer, but
 was prepared to give attention to what
 she was about to say, she wiped off some
 tears, which, in spite of her endeavours to
 restrain them, fell from her eyes; and
 then began the recital she had promised
 in the following terms :

The history of SOPHIA.

“ **Y**OU may remember, my dear miss
 “ Jessamy, said she, in what a rage
 “ my brother flew out of the house after
 “ the ridiculous adventure you were wit-
 “ nefs of the last time you favoured me
 “ with a visit; — he then went no farther
 “ than to a gentleman’s seat about four
 “ miles distant; but from thence pro-
 “ ceeded to London, where he continued
 full

“ full three months : — on his return he
 “ appeared very penfive and discontented,
 “ which I at first imputed to the disap-
 “ pointment he had received from the
 “ lady you saw ; but I soon found it arose
 “ from a quite different cause ; — he
 “ had, it seems, mortgaged the best part
 “ of his estate to discharge some debts he
 “ had contracted at play, the only vice
 “ I know him guilty of, but to which he
 “ has always been too much addicted ;—
 “ he had the generosity, however, to pay
 “ my fortune which was but five and
 “ twenty hundred pounds, into the Bank ;
 “ he now gave me the bills, and told me
 “ that he must go and live in the south-
 “ ern parts of France till he had re-
 “ trieved his circumstances, and that he
 “ had spoke to a gentleman about letting
 “ his house ; but added, that I should be
 “ welcome to stay in it, and have the use
 “ of every thing till a tenant could be
 “ found, if I chose to do so.—This offer,
 “ having my own reasons for it, I gladly
 “ accepted of ; — he had before prepared
 “ every thing for his departure, and in
 “ four days left me to myself.

“ You will doubtless wonder that I
 “ should chuse to remain in a great lone
 “ house without any companion, and be
 “ at the expence of keeping two maids
 “ and

“ and a man servant, which the income
 “ of my little fortune could ill afford,
 “ rather than come to town, where I
 “ might have been boarded in a genteel
 “ family and lived much cheaper, and
 “ more agreeably in the opinion of every
 “ body but myself. — I will tell you my
 “ reason for all this, — it was love, —
 “ love, that fatal frenzy of our sex, —
 “ that sure destruction of all that is dear
 “ to womankind; — I ought to blush
 “ even at the remembrance I ever was
 “ directed by it, much more to confess
 “ the shameful folly.

‘ Hold, my dear Sophia, cry’d Jenny,
 ‘ interrupting her, — take care what you
 ‘ say;’ — mr. Dryden was certainly as
 good a judge of human nature as you
 can pretend to be, and he tells us that

Love’s an heroic passion, which can
find

No room in any base degen’rate mind;
It kindles all the soul with honour’s
fire

To make the lover worthy his desire.

‘ And I am of opinion that a virtuous
 ‘ love, such as I doubt not but yours
 ‘ was, ought never to be repented or
 ‘ ashamed of.

“ I allow the truth of what you say,
 “ answer’d Sophia; but then it must be
 “ a love conducted by prudence, and for
 “ a worthy object;—mine, alas, had
 “ neither the one nor the other of these
 “ excuses to plead in its defence, — as
 “ you will presently be convinced.

Here she stopp’d to give passage to
 some sighs which had been labouring in
 her bosom;—after which, growing a little
 more compos’d, she went on in the pro-
 secution of her narrative.

“ While my brother was at London,
 “ resumed she, I unfortunately, as it has
 “ proved, happen’d into the acquaintance
 “ of a young Officer in the army, called
 “ Willmore, — the first time I saw him
 “ was at a gentleman’s house about a
 “ mile distant from ours, where I some-
 “ times visited: — tho’ there were seve-
 “ ral other ladies in company he seem’d
 “ to take a particular notice of me, and
 “ I could not avoid doing so of him; —
 “ he has, indeed, every thing in his per-
 “ son that can attract the eye and capti-
 “ vate the heart; — he is handsome, —
 “ well-made, — genteel, — has abundance
 “ of wit and vivacity, and tho’ he talks
 “ a great deal never speaks but to the
 “ purpose.

“ When.

“ When I took my leave, he would
 “ needs see me home, tho’ I had a ser-
 “ vant with me, and but three little fields
 “ to cross; — I refused this offer, but
 “ must own I could not help being very
 “ well pleased that he persisted in it. —
 “ In fine, he came home with me, and
 “ though as we walk’d he entertain’d me
 “ only with common subjects of conver-
 “ sation, yet he treated them in such a
 “ manner as appear’d to me very agree-
 “ able.

“ Among other things, happening to
 “ tell me that he had lodgings at Wind-
 “ sor, and was almost always there when
 “ not obliged to be with the regiment,
 “ I said it was a thing seldom heard of,
 “ that a gay young gentleman like him
 “ should prefer a little country town to
 “ the pleasures of London; — to which
 “ he reply’d, that hunting and reading
 “ were his favourite pleasures;” — ‘ The
 ‘ one, said he, I frequently take with
 ‘ very good company; and the other I
 ‘ am here more at liberty to indulge my-
 ‘ self in than I could possibly be in Lon-
 ‘ don:’ — “ He then ask’d me if I took
 “ any delight in the latter of these amuse-
 “ ments, and on my answering that I
 “ did,” — ‘ Because, madam, rejoin’d
 ‘ he,

“ he, I have all the public papers and
“ new pamphlets constantly sent down to
“ me as they come out; and if you will
“ give me leave will wait on you with
“ such of them as I shall find worthy
“ your perusal.”

“ Though I plainly saw this was no
“ more than a pretence to visit me, yet
“ I thought it so handsome a one, and
“ afforded me so good an excuse for
“ granting him the permission he desir’d,
“ that I hesitated not to tell him, that I
“ should readily accept, and be thankful
“ for the favour he mention’d.

“ This was the method he took to in-
“ troduce himself;—he was almost every
“ day bringing me some new book or
“ other; and, in return for this civility,
“ I lent him such as he chose to read out
“ of my brother’s collection, which is
“ esteem’d a very good one;—at first
“ our conversation turned chiefly on the
“ subjects with which we had mutually
“ obliged each other; but after a few
“ visits he threw off that constraint he
“ had hitherto been under, and profess’d
“ himself my lover.

“ As I have already confess’d the
“ liking I had of his person, you will
“ not

“ not expect to hear that I received the
 “ declaration of his passion with any dis-
 “ dain, — on the contrary, I am afraid
 “ I listen’d to it with too visible an ap-
 “ probation; — but however that might
 “ be, — for indeed I do not well re-
 “ member how I behaved at that time,
 “ — all that I know is, that I forbid
 “ not his addresses.

“ I will not give you the trouble of
 “ hearing, nor myself the confusion of
 “ repeating, how very easily I was won
 “ to give credit to every thing he said in
 “ relation to his pretended passion, for
 “ such you will find it was, and not only
 “ pretended for the sake of gallantry and
 “ amusement, but for the carrying on a
 “ design the most low, base, and dis-
 “ honourable that ever enter’d the heart
 “ of man, much less of a gentleman, to
 “ conceive or put in practice.

“ It was in the height of his courtship
 “ that my brother came home; — the
 “ hurry of his affairs, — the discontent
 “ he was in, and the short time he staid,
 “ hinder’d me from saying any thing to
 “ him concerning my new lover; but
 “ you now may perceive the motive
 “ which induced me so readily to em-
 “ brace the offer he made me of staying
 “ in.

“ in his house after he was gone; — I
 “ knew Willmore was fond of the coun-
 “ try, and I dreaded lest I should see him
 “ less frequently in town; — fool that I
 “ was, not to consider that a man who
 “ truly loved would follow me any where.

“ As we grew more familiar in con-
 “ versation, I found he was much better
 “ acquainted with the circumstances of
 “ our family than I could have thought
 “ he was; — among other things, he
 “ one day mention'd my brother's late
 “ miscarriage, and ask'd me, with some
 “ concern, whether it had been of any
 “ prejudice to my fortune; — I told him
 “ that it had not, and related to him
 “ how tender he had been of me in that
 “ point, — at which he seem'd extreme-
 “ ly pleased, and said no more upon that
 “ subject.

“ Soon after this he went to London,
 “ where he staid upwards of a week, —
 “ a much longer time than ever he had
 “ done since my acquaintance with him;
 “ — the same day which brought him
 “ again to Windsor brought him also to
 “ visit me; but though his expressions
 “ were, I think, more endearing and
 “ more passionate than ever they had
 “ been, I perceived there was a certain

“ air

“ air of melancholy about him, which
 “ very much affected me ; — I could not
 “ forbear taking notice of it to him; and
 “ and ask’d him, with more tendernefs
 “ than perhaps became me, if any ill ac-
 “ cident had happen’d to him since he
 “ left me ; — he told me not any ; — but
 “ added, that he had been a little vex’d,
 “ and could not help thinking himself a
 “ very unlucky fellow.

“ On my farther desiring him to let
 “ me know the occasion of his chagrin,
 “ he told me — that he could not con-
 “ tent himself with the condition of a
 “ subaltern ; — that he had never enter’d
 “ into the army but with the hope of
 “ rising in it ; — nor had accepted of a
 “ lieutenantancy, which was the commis-
 “ sion he then bore, but with the expect-
 “ tation of being soon a captain,” —
 ‘ Now, said he, just at this juncture an
 ‘ old officer has got leave to sell out, —
 ‘ and I might have his commission for
 ‘ about a thousand guineas and my own
 ‘ in exchange, which I have a gentleman
 ‘ ready to purchase. — This it is, my dear
 ‘ Sophia,” added he, that has so much
 ‘ disconcerted me ; for though I have
 ‘ offer’d a very large premium, and my
 ‘ bond to pay the money quarterly, I can
 ‘ no way raise it.’

“ Bless

“ Bless me, cried I, have you no
 “ friends, — no relations who on such
 “ an occasion would not advance that
 “ sum ?” — ‘ Yes, several, answer’d he,
 “ who would do it for a word speaking ;
 “ but they are all of them either out of
 “ the kingdom, or at their country seats I
 “ know not how far off, and the thing
 “ must be done immediately or not at all ;
 “ and Heaven knows whether I shall ever
 “ meet with such an opportunity again.’

“ Indeed, my dear miss Jessamy, con-
 “ tinued she, I thought it a great pity
 “ that any man, much more the person
 “ I loved and intended to make my hus-
 “ band, should lose so considerable an
 “ advantage through the want of what
 “ was in my power to supply him with ;
 “ — I did not consider much on the
 “ matter, but stepp’d to my cabinet and
 “ took out Bank bills to the amount of
 “ a thousand pounds, which I put di-
 “ rectly into his hands,” — ‘ There, mr.
 “ Willmore, said I, is the sum you stand
 “ in need of; and I hope it will not come
 “ too late to lay out in the purchase you
 “ mention.’

“ Tho’ I believe he saw enough into
 “ my weakness to expect I would do as
 “ I did,

“ I did, yet he seem’d equally surpris’d
 “ as transported with it,” — ‘ Well, my
 ‘ dear Sophia, cry’d he, kissing my hand,
 ‘ — this is generous indeed, and truly
 ‘ like yourself, — but I hope, continued
 ‘ he, you will soon consent to reap some
 ‘ part of the benefit of the favour you
 ‘ have conferr’d; and, as promotions in
 ‘ the army must come by degrees, who
 ‘ knows but you may one day see your
 ‘ lover, — I flatter myself long before
 ‘ then your husband, at the head of a re-
 ‘ giment instead of a company!’

“ I reply’d, that I wish’d him success
 “ for his own sake, and as to what re-
 “ lated to myself we would talk of that
 “ hereafter; — he then told me that he
 “ would go to London very early the
 “ next morning, and at his return bring
 “ with him a bond in exchange for the
 “ bills I had oblig’d him with,” —
 ‘ which, added he with a gay air, if you
 ‘ should not think sufficient, I am ready
 ‘ to give you my person as a collateral
 ‘ security.’

She was in this part of her story when
 the tea equipage, that important article of
 a lady’s drawing-room, was brought in,
 on which she was oblig’d to break off
 till it should be removed.

C H A P. XV.

Is only a continuance of the same story.

THE ladies having finished their little regale, and the gentleman-usher of the ceremony withdrawn with his tea-kettle and lamp, Jenny began to testify some impatience for the knowledge of an event which as yet she could have no other room to guess at than by the exclamations of Sophia.

“ If I had not been infatuated, to a
 “ degree beyond whatever woman was,
 “ resumed that Lady, I must have seen
 “ that whatever Willmore pretended, his
 “ head was much more taken up with
 “ the thoughts of his commission than of
 “ his passion for me; for after the first
 “ retributions were over, he talk’d of little
 “ else during the whole time he staid.

“ He took his leave, however, in a
 “ manner tender enough, and I remain-
 “ ed perfectly satisfied with his beha-
 “ viour, as well as with myself for what
 “ I had done : — so high an idea had I
 “ both of his love and honour, that when,
 “ instead

“ instead of seeing him again in five or
 “ six days, as he had made me expect, I
 “ heard nothing of him in three whole
 “ weeks, I was far from entertaining
 “ the least suspicion of him, nor felt any
 “ other alarms than what proceeded from
 “ my fears that some ill accident might
 “ have befallen him.

“ But at last he removed all my ap-
 “ prehensions on that score by sending
 “ me a letter, or rather billet, contain-
 “ ing these lines :

To miss SOPHIA *****.

“ MADAM,

“ **I** Have at last accomplished my af-
 “ fairs, which took me up more time
 “ and expence than I imagin'd ; — all is
 “ now over, however, and there remains
 “ but one thing more to make me com-
 “ pletly happy : — I shall be at Wind-
 “ sor in a few days, and will then give
 “ myself the pleasure of waiting on you,
 “ till when, believe me,

“ With great respect,

“ Madam,

“ Your most humble, and

“ Obedient servant,

“ G. WILLMORE.”

“ You

“ You look astonish’d, my dear miss
 Jessamy, pursued she, perceiving Jenny
 did so, and well, indeed, you may ;
 — Did ever man write such a letter to
 a woman he courted, — who he knew
 loved him, and from whom he had re-
 ceived so great an obligation ? — yet,
 — would you think it possible ! — not
 even this open’d my blinded eyes ; —
 I doubted not but by the one thing re-
 maining to make him completely bless’d,
 he meant the consummation of our
 marriage ; and the kindness of that ex-
 pression sufficed with me to atone for
 all the cold indifference of the rest.

“ Eight days more, from the time of
 my receiving this epistle, were elapsed
 without my seeing or hearing any thing
 farther of him ; — but when, at the
 expiration of that time, he came,
 whatever doubts might have been be-
 ginning to rise in my mind, they all
 vanish’d as soon as he appear’d, and
 were succeeded by a double portion of
 satisfaction.

“ I know not whether it was owing to
 his being so long absent from me, or
 whether the success of his affairs had
 diffused a more than ordinary spright-
 VOL. III. H “ lines

“ lines through all his air, but me-
 “ thought he look’d more charming,
 “ more engaging than ever ; — the pas-
 “ sion he pretended to have for me
 “ seem’d also to be increased even to a
 “ romantic height ; and after telling me
 “ that his own lawyer being out of town,
 “ and not chusing to employ any other,
 “ he had not brought the bond he pro-
 “ mised ; — ‘ But what occasion, cry’d
 “ he, eagerly kissing my hand, is there
 “ for the formality of a bond, when you
 “ have my heart, — my soul in your
 “ possession ? — when myself and all I
 “ am, or ever shall be master of, is entire-
 “ ly at your command, — never happy
 “ till you accept the offer.’

“ In fine, he continued to press me so
 “ closely on the article of marriage all
 “ that whole evening, that before we
 “ parted I made him a kind of half pro-
 “ mise ; — and to confess the truth, for
 “ I will hide nothing from you, I was
 “ at that time so much softened by the
 “ artifices he put in practice, that if I
 “ did not say positively, — I would be
 “ his, — it was owing rather to my
 “ bashfulness than want of inclination
 “ to comply.

“ Indeed

“ Indeed when I came to reason with
 “ myself, I thought it would be a piece
 “ of silly nicety to keep him any longer
 “ in suspense ; — that his family, — his
 “ person, — his accomplishments, and
 “ the post he had now obtain’d, might
 “ intitle him to a woman of a larger for-
 “ tune than I was mistress of ; — and
 “ that, putting love entirely out of the
 “ question, no body would condemn the
 “ choice I made of him.

“ In a word, my dear, having thus
 “ fix’d my resolution, the next visit as-
 “ sured him of my consent, and I told
 “ him that I was ready to give him my
 “ hand as soon as every thing necessary
 “ for that ceremony could be prepared.

“ I had often heard him, in casual con-
 “ versation, express a great dislike of pub-
 “ lic weddings ; and he now represented,
 “ that for ours to be so must infallibly be
 “ attended with many inconveniencies ;”
 “ — For besides, said he, the ridiculous
 “ bustle of drums, — trumpets, — epithi-
 “ lamiums, that always disturb the flum-
 “ bers of people on their first going to
 “ bed together with a licence, there are
 “ so many young officers of my acquaint-
 “ tance, who would come the next morn-

ing to congratulate my happiness, as I know would be shocking to the modesty of my dear Sophia.'

“ Finding I approved of what he said,” — ‘ For the reasons I have mentioned, resumed he, Windsor would be the most improper place in the World, — we both are so well known there, that the moment we are tack’d the bells would immediately proclaim what we had been about ; — the thing can be done no where with so much privacy as in London ;—and to tell you the truth, though perhaps you will laugh at my superstition, continued he, my father and mother were married at Ely chapel, — their whole lives was a series of love and joy,—and I should like, methinks, that my happiness should be fix’d at the same altar theirs was.’

“ I could not, indeed, forbear rallying him a little on this whim, but replied, that I had not the least objection to the place he mentioned ; but, on the contrary, should chuse that the ceremony should be performed there, rather than in any parish church whatever.

“ He

“ He then told me, that having flat-
 “ ter’d himself with finding me no less
 “ just to his passion than I now had been,
 “ he had already made some prepara-
 “ tions which he hoped would not be
 “ displeasing to me : — I ask’d him of
 “ what nature, — to which he reply’d,
 “ that he had an aunt, an excellent good
 “ old lady, whom he had made the con-
 “ fidant of his courtship to me ; — that
 “ by the character he had given her of
 “ me she approved highly of the match,
 “ and that we should be welcome to an
 “ apartment in her house, ’till we could
 “ take one for ourselves, and get it fitted
 “ up for our reception.

“ To this he added, that she was a
 “ widow of a handsome jointure ; — that
 “ her eldest son had a large estate in
 “ Somersetshire, and her youngest was a
 “ captain in the Navy ; — that she had
 “ two daughters, who were both un-
 “ married and lived with her ; — that
 “ they kept the best of company ;” —
 “ So that, my dear, continued he, you
 “ will find you do not marry into a fa-
 “ mily you will have any cause to be
 “ ashamed of.’

“ He said a great deal more in praise of
 “ these relations, all which I took for
 “ gospel, and was so much charmed with
 “ the character of my aunt, — that was
 “ to be, — and two young cousins, that I
 “ almost longed to be with them; and it
 “ was presently concluded between us
 “ that I should go with him to London
 “ the next day; — that he should intro-
 “ duce me to these ladies; — that he
 “ should leave me with them for that
 “ night, and return in the morning with
 “ a ring and licence, in order to put the
 “ last hand to the business of his courtship.

“ Every thing being thus settled, as I
 “ then thought, much for my conveni-
 “ ence and satisfaction, I slept that night
 “ without the least forebodings of the mis-
 “ chief that was just ready to fall upon
 “ me; — about eleven the next morning
 “ a chariot, by Willmore’s order, came to
 “ the door; — I told my maids I was
 “ going on some business to London, but
 “ should come back in a few days, as I
 “ knew I was obliged to do, on account
 “ of delivering up the keys of the house,
 “ and all that was in it, to the person
 “ whom my brother had intrusted with
 “ the care of his affairs, so took nothing
 “ with me but some linnen and a wrap-
 “ ping gown; — I took up Willmore at
 “ the

“ the corner of a back lane, where he
 “ waited by appointment for me, and we
 “ drove directly to London.

“ We alighted at the door of a hand-
 “ some house in one of the streets near
 “ Hatton-Garden, and were immediate-
 “ ly shew'd up into the dining-room,
 “ where we found a grave old gentle-
 “ woman, whose appearance answered
 “ very well to the description Willmore
 “ had given of her; — he present-
 “ ed me to her with these words:” —
 “ This, madam, said he, is the lady I
 “ spoke of, and who has at last consent-
 “ ed to make me happy.” — “ She re-
 “ ceived me with a great shew of respect
 “ and kindness, but accompany'd with a
 “ certain stiffness, which I thought had
 “ something of affectation in it; but
 “ this I imputed merely to the time in
 “ which she had been educated, accord-
 “ ing to the silly notion, that people of
 “ the last age were less free in their con-
 “ versation than those of ours.

“ The room we were in was very
 “ genteely furnished; but what most at-
 “ tracted my eyes, were the pictures of
 “ five or six young ladies, very different
 “ in their features and complexions, but
 “ all of them extremely handsome; — I

“ I could not forbear expressing my ad-
 “ miration of these pieces to the old
 “ lady, who told me that two of them
 “ were drawn for her daughters, and the
 “ other for her nieces and cousins; and
 “ added, that she hop’d one day to have
 “ the honour of seeing mine there; — I
 “ reply’d, that I should make but an ill
 “ figure among so many beauties, on
 “ which she made me many compliments
 “ not worth repeating.

“ Chocolate and biscuits were the first
 “ things presented to us, and were soon
 “ after succeeded by a bottle of Madeira;
 “ — the old lady said, that she was dis-
 “ concerted beyond measure; that not
 “ being certain of my coming she was
 “ not provided in the manner she would
 “ have been for my reception; and par-
 “ ticularly that she had given her daugh-
 “ ters leave to go on a party of pleasure
 “ with some persons of quality; but add-
 “ ed, that they would be at home in a
 “ day or two, and hoped her family
 “ would then be more agreeable to me:
 “ — I was of her opinion, indeed, as to
 “ this last article; but could not avoid
 “ telling her, that nothing could be want-
 “ ing where she was: — this drew on so
 “ many compliments in return, that I
 “ should have been very much embar-
 “ rass’d

“ rafs’d to reply, if Willmore, the only
 “ thing I have to thank him for, had
 “ not given a turn to the conversation.

“ Soon after lighting the candles sup-
 “ per was served in, which consisted of
 “ several small dishes, all in a foreign
 “ taste; when the cloth was taken away,
 “ and bottles and glasses set upon the
 “ table, the old lady began the king’s
 “ health in a bumper, — then another to
 “ the prince of Wales, and a third to
 “ the duke of Cumberland; — these ha-
 “ ving gone round, Willmore ran to the
 “ sideboard, fetch’d a large water-glass,
 “ which filling to the brim,” — ‘ Here
 “ is the noble duke again, cried he, we
 “ cannot toast his health too often; —
 “ here is to his royal highness, and prof-
 “ perity to the army. — may they increase
 “ and multiply till every housekeeper in
 “ London and Westminster has at least
 “ half a dozen of them quarter’d at once
 “ upon him.’

“ I cannot say that I was pleased with
 “ any thing which shew’d a tendency to
 “ the manifest destruction of the consti-
 “ tution and liberties of my country; but
 “ I thought myself about to be the wife
 “ of a soldier, and that it would not be-
 “ come me to make any objection: —

“ I only repeat these circumstances to
“ you, to let you see what company I
“ was among;

“ The night growing pretty far ad-
“ vanced, Willmore began to talk of go-
“ ing home, and desired a coach might
“ be called; but his kind relation told
“ him, she could not bear he should
“ think of such a thing, — said, that as
“ the girls were abroad he might lie in
“ their bed without the least trouble to
“ any one in the family, — reminded him
“ that it was a long and very ugly way
“ from Hatton-Garden to his lodgings
“ at Whitehall, and bid him consider
“ how many desperate fellows lay in wait
“ for the purses, and even lives of gentle-
“ men who expose themselves, as he
“ would do, to their villainous attacks;
“ — he seeming to laugh at all this,
“ and insisting that a coach should be
“ called, she renewed her remonstrances,
“ and begg’d of me to second them;
“ which I readily did, having heard such
“ frightful stories of street-robberies, that
“ I was in more real terror for him than
“ she affected to be.

“ I no sooner spoke than he pull’d off
“ his sword, and said my commands
“ were not to be disputed, he would
“ stay;”

“ stay ;” — ‘ But, madam, continued
 ‘ he, turning to the old lady, I am afraid
 ‘ we have kept you up beyond your
 ‘ hour.’ — ‘ I am never weary of good
 ‘ company, answer’d she ; but for this
 ‘ sweet young lady’s sake, who may
 ‘ want repose after her journey, I think
 ‘ it may be proper for us to retire ;’ —
 ‘ in speaking these words she rung her
 ‘ bell for a servant to shew Willmore to
 ‘ his chamber ; — she would needs at-
 ‘ tend me herself into that allotted
 ‘ for me, and see me into bed ; but
 ‘ whether she did this out of complai-
 ‘ sance, or a far different motive, you
 ‘ will presently be judge..”

Here the melancholy Sophia stopp’d to
 take breath ; and as it is very possible the
 reader will be glad to do so too, I shall
 defer giving the catastrophe of this ad-
 venture till the next chapter.

There is a maxim which I have al-
 ways thought worthy of being observed
 by every writer, that an old author has
 delivered down to posterity in these lines :

Too much of one thing the vex’d mind :
 will cloy,
 It asks a relaxation e’en from joy.



C H A P. XVI.

Contains the sequel of Sophia's story.

“ **T**H O’ the old lady, resumed So-
 “ phia, pursuing the thread of her
 “ discourse, shew’d a most tender care
 “ in tucking the cloaths about me, and
 “ drawing close the curtains of the bed,
 “ I found it impossible, after she was
 “ gone, to compose myself to rest; —
 “ it was not the thoughts of what I was
 “ about to do, nor the step I had taken
 “ towards it, that kept me waking, for I
 “ accused myself not of the least impru-
 “ dence in that affair, nor once imagined
 “ that the condition I was going to enter
 “ into would not render me perfectly
 “ happy; but it was a strange mixture
 “ of ideas, which I then thought nothing
 “ to the purpose, and could not account
 “ for; but have since ascribed, and ever
 “ must ascribe, to the goodness of my
 “ guardian angel, which prevented me
 “ from falling into a state which must
 “ have deprived me of the power of re-
 “ sisting the worst mischief that could
 “ have happen’d to me.

“ Find-

“ Finding I could not sleep, the moon
 “ shining extremely bright, I got out of
 “ bed and throwing on my wrapping
 “ gown I went to the window which
 “ looked into a pretty large garden, the
 “ air was sweet and serene, and the beams
 “ of my favourite planet glittering among
 “ the trees and plants afforded a very
 “ delightful prospect, and fill’d me with
 “ solemn contemplations on the beauties
 “ of nature, and the bounties for which
 “ we are indebted to the Great Author
 “ of our being.

“ How long I should have remained
 “ in this pleasing reverie I know not, if
 “ I had not been disturbed by fancying
 “ I heard something behind me in the
 “ chamber;—on turning my head hastily
 “ about, in order to convince myself, I
 “ saw the figure of a man in a night-
 “ gown and cap, but could not distin-
 “ guish the face, he being in the dark
 “ part of the room;—I shriek’d out,
 “ ‘Hush,—hush,’ said he advancing;—I
 “ then found it was Willmore; and tho’
 “ less frightened than before, was equally
 “ ast nish’d,—‘Willmore, cried I, what
 “ brings you here?’

‘ I should rather ask, said he, what
 ‘ brings you out of bed at this unfea-
 ‘ sonable hour ?— Come, — come, my
 ‘ dear, — pursued, he going to lay hold on
 ‘ me, — let me replace these tender limbs
 ‘ where they will be exposed to less in-
 ‘ conveniencies.’ — ‘ Stand off, — rejoin’d
 ‘ I, — and tell me what you mean by this
 ‘ intrusion ?’

‘ Can a man intrude on what is his
 ‘ own ? cried he, — are you not already
 ‘ mine by love, — and will not to-morrow
 ‘ make you so by law ? — away then with
 ‘ this idle coyness ; — there should now
 ‘ be no reserve between us ; — be as wise
 ‘ as you are fair, and generously grant
 ‘ to night what to-morrow will give me
 ‘ power to seize ; — leave nothing for the
 ‘ parson but to confirm the gift your
 ‘ inclination has previously bestowed ; —
 ‘ this is the marriage of the souls, that
 ‘ of the hands is mere matter of form ;
 ‘ — this alone can assure me of your
 ‘ affection, and by consequence engage
 ‘ the continuance of mine.’

“ You will perhaps wonder, my dear
 “ miss Jessamy, pursued she, that I had
 “ patience to listen to so impudent a de-
 “ claration, and did not rather attempt:

“ to

“ to put a stop to it by expressing the
 “ just abhorrence and disdain I had of
 “ his behaviour ; but, indeed, I was so
 “ much shock’d and confounded, that I
 “ believe, had he run on in the same
 “ strain even longer than he did, I should
 “ not have had the power to make the
 “ least reply.

“ Misconstruing, I suppose, my silence
 “ as a half approbation of what he had
 “ been urging, he took me in his arms,
 “ kiss’d, and press’d me to his bosom
 “ with the utmost vehemence, though
 “ I cannot say with any indecency. — I
 “ struggled,—burst into a flood of tears,
 “ but as yet was able to bring out no
 “ more than,— ‘ Oh mr. Willmore, I
 “ never could have believed you would
 “ talk to me in this manner.’

‘ I talk to you as a man of reason as
 ‘ well as a lover, answer’d he, and I
 ‘ would have you behave like a woman:
 ‘ who has some share of both ;—I do not
 ‘ despair, however, added he with an
 ‘ affected laugh, but to find my argu-
 ‘ ments will have more efficacy with you
 ‘ when we are in bed.’

“ While he was speaking these words
 “ he made an offer of forcing me from
 “ the

“ the place where I was standing, and
 “ this action it was which first rous’d
 “ me from that stupid lethargy which
 “ amazement at his proceeding had
 “ thrown me into, — ‘ Base man, cried
 “ I, unworthy of my least regard ; — be
 “ assured I will rather plunge myself head-
 “ long from this window than be expos’d
 “ one moment longer to such audacious
 “ insults ; — therefore be gone, — leave me
 “ this instant, or I will raise the whole
 “ family with my shrieks.’

‘ Mighty well, madam, said he with
 ‘ an air of derision, — ’tis mighty well ;
 ‘ — I see the respect you have for me ;
 ‘ — and now will let you into the secret
 ‘ of my acting in the manner I have
 ‘ done ; — you must know, that being
 ‘ perfectly acquainted with the sham ten-
 ‘ derness with which your sex frequently
 ‘ impose upon us men, I made a reso-
 ‘ lution never to give up my liberty to
 ‘ any woman who would not convince
 ‘ me of her love by permitting me to
 ‘ enjoy her before marriage.’

‘ Monster, — villain, — cried I, and was
 ‘ going on, but he prevented me.’ — ‘ No
 ‘ hard names, I beseech you, madam, said
 ‘ he, we men have as much vanity as
 ‘ you women can have, — and have as
 ‘ good

' good a right too as yourselves to it ;—
 ' we are as well pleased as you with be-
 ' ing loved, and as malicious as you
 ' when we find we are not so ;—you take
 ' a pride in triumphing over us, when
 ' you fancy you have us in your power,
 ' and whenever we have you in ours we
 ' should be asses not to make use of it ;
 ' —you happen to be in mine, and tho'
 ' you do not love me, nor I care two-
 ' pence for you, I shall not take all this
 ' pains for nothing, nor come here to
 ' lie alone to night.'

“ In concluding this fine speech,—he
 “ flew upon me like a lion, and sure it
 “ was providence alone which in that
 “ dreadful moment inspired me with
 “ an unusual strength and courage ;—
 “ I broke from the hold he had taken
 “ on me, and ran screaming into the next
 “ room ; but that would have availed
 “ me little, if in pursuing me his feet
 “ had not tangled in the carpet, and he
 “ fell at full length upon the floor,—
 “ this gave me opportunity to pull down
 “ the bars of one of the windows, open
 “ the shutter, and throw up the sash ;
 “ —the villain's sword, which he had
 “ pull'd off on our persuading him to
 “ stay all night, lay just at my hand,
 “ I drew it, resolved to run it into his
 “ heart,

“ heart, if by no other means I could
 “ escape the violence he threatned ;—he
 “ soon recover’d himself from the acci-
 “ dent and was with me ;— I stood on
 “ my defence, with his own weapon
 “ pointed against his breast, calling out
 “ at the same time,—a rape, —thieves,
 “ murder,—fire, and every thing that I
 “ thought might alarm the neighbour-
 “ hood ;—he would fain have come near
 “ enough to me to have wrested the
 “ sword out of my hand, but I kept
 “ it still waving, and I could perceive
 “ he was pretty fearful of encountering
 “ the point :—the noise I made, how-
 “ ever, brought the woman of the house
 “ up stairs,— she came running into the
 “ room with a candle in her hand, and
 “ affected to be greatly surpris’d to see
 “ Willmore there, and myself in the
 “ posture I was.

“ Had I been in any other situation
 “ than such as I then was, I must have
 “ laugh’d excessively at the sight of this
 “ old beldam, just risen from her bed,
 “ her head so cas’d with napkins that
 “ it almost rivalled the size of her enor-
 “ mous belly, which, stripp’d of the pent-
 “ house of her hoop-petticoat shew’d it-
 “ self in its full magnitude,—the flannel
 “ bandages about her gouty legs, expos’d
 “ by:

“ by the shortness of a little red petti-
 “ coat, which scarce reach’d below her
 “ knees, and her bow’d out back cover’d
 “ only with a thin toylet, which I sup-
 “ pose she had snatch’d up in the hurry
 “ of hearing me call out, render’d her
 “ certainly the most grotesque figure
 “ that ever eyes beheld.

“ Though it was doubtless this wretch’s
 “ fears of being expos’d, and not any
 “ compassion for me, that brought her
 “ to my relief, yet it must be own’d
 “ her coming was very seasonable at this
 “ juncture, as my spirits as well as strength
 “ must inevitably have fail’d in a short
 “ time, and left me entirely destitute of
 “ all defence.”

‘ By what vile arts soever I have been
 ‘ decoy’d into your house, said I, as soon
 ‘ as I saw her enter,—I expect to be pro-
 ‘ tected in it, and if I am not so, nothing
 ‘ but your murdering me shall prevent
 ‘ my applying to a magistrate for justice.’

“ In spite of the confusion I was
 “ in myself, I could perceive she was
 “ most terribly alarm’d at my words,
 “ and the posture in which she found
 “ me.—‘ You shall not be murder’d,—
 ‘ you shall not be hurt, cried she, in a
 ‘ hoarse

‘ hoarse trembling voice, — no harm shall
 ‘ come to you in my house :—but pray
 ‘ what has happen’d to put you into this
 ‘ disorder?’ — ‘ Ask that villain there,
 ‘ who calls himself your nephew, re-
 ‘ turn’d I, and thank him for the ill opi-
 ‘ nion I have of every thing that is here.’

“ On this she took Willmore by the
 “ arm, and drew him to a corner of the
 “ room, where they talked together for
 “ the space of several minutes, but in
 “ such low and grumbling accents that
 “ I could hear nothing of what was said,
 “ till he, raising his voice a little cried,”
 ‘ —It is not that I care a straw for the
 ‘ girl, but I hate to be baulk’d.’ —“ she
 “ then spoke something to him very
 “ softly, on which he flung from her,
 “ and went out of the room, casting a
 “ most malicious look at me as he pass’d.
 “ by.

“ As soon as he was gone,” — ‘ Dear
 ‘ madam, said she, approaching me, I
 ‘ am afflicted to the last degree that any
 ‘ thing should happen to disconcert you
 ‘ in my house, — sure the captain was
 ‘ drunk ; but all is over now he is gone
 ‘ up to his own chamber, and I am sure,
 ‘ after what I have said to him, will not
 ‘ come down again to night ;—therefore

I beseech you give me leave to help you into bed, — you will certainly get cold in the night air.’

“ I would have thanked her, for indeed I thought it best to behave civilly till I had got out of that cursed house, but I had not the power of speaking; the late terror I had been in being now a little subsided, a flood of other mingled passions overwhelm’d my heart, I threw myself into a chair and was ready to faint; — seeing my condition she ran and fetch’d a bottle of cordial water, which I took a little of and found myself refresh’d; — all she could say, however would not persuade me to go into bed; — I told her that the greatest obligation she could confer upon me, was to leave me to myself for the remainder of the night; — on which she retired, after giving me, on my desiring it, the keys of the dining-room and bed-chamber doors.

“ When I had secured myself as much as locks could make me, I began to give a loose to emotions, which, had they not found a vent in tears, must certainly have burst my heart and left me dead upon the spot; but I will not prolong my already too tedious

“ narrative

“ narrative with any description of
 “ what I suffer’d, I shall only say, that
 “ I continued in a condition little infe-
 “ rior to madness till break of day, with-
 “ out once reflecting that I was almost
 “ naked, or of the dangers to which my
 “ health was expos’d.

“ At last, however, I recover’d my
 “ senses enough to get on my cloaths,
 “ and to think of going from a place
 “ which had been the scene of so much
 “ horror to me:—hearing the maid were
 “ up, I ventured to unsalten my door and
 “ went down into the parlour, where I
 “ desired a wench that was sweeping the
 “ entry to call a coach for me, which she
 “ promised, but I found instead of doing
 “ so she went up directly to her mistress
 “ and told her my request, for the old
 “ beldam immediately came down, and
 “ asked me, in her fawning tone, if I would
 “ not please to stay breakfast; which I
 “ refusing,—‘ I hope madam, said she,
 “ you will take nothing amiss from me,
 “ I am sorry to the very soul that you
 “ should meet with any thing in my house
 “ to disoblige you;—I do assure you I
 “ have rattled the captain soundly about
 “ it,—he confesses he was in liquor, and
 “ will beg your pardon.’

‘ I want no submissions from him,
 ‘ answer’d I, nor will I ever see him
 ‘ more ; — but you may tell him, that I
 ‘ expect he will send me a bond for the
 ‘ money he borrow’d of me.’ — ‘ I am
 ‘ quite a stranger, cried she, to all affairs
 ‘ between you ; but I will go up directly
 ‘ and let him know what you say ;’ —
 ‘ with these words she left me, I suppose
 ‘ with the intent she mentioned.

‘ The moment she was gone, a hack-
 ‘ ney coach came to the door, — two
 ‘ young women gaily dress’d, bolted
 ‘ out of it ; — I presently knew them, by
 ‘ the pictures I had seen above, for those
 ‘ she called her daughters ; though, in-
 ‘ deed, their faces had nothing of that
 ‘ innocence which the painter had be-
 ‘ stowed upon them ; — they stared at me
 ‘ as they passed by the parlour door,
 ‘ but said nothing, and ran singing up
 ‘ stairs ; — in fine, — they had all the
 ‘ marks of their profession about them ;
 ‘ and the very sight of them would have
 ‘ convinced me, if I had doubted of it
 ‘ before, into what sort of a house the
 ‘ villain Willmore had seduced me.

‘ The coach that brought them not
 ‘ being yet gone from the door, I thought
 ‘ best

“ best to take this opportunity of going
“ away, without waiting to hear what
“ answer Willmore would give to my
“ message by his pretended aunt,—I was
“ just stepping in when she came down,
“ and told me that the captain was asleep
“ at present, but that as soon as he
“ awoke she would not fail to deliver to
“ him what I had said.—I replied, that
“ it was no matter, I should find other
“ means to send to him,—and then bid
“ the coachman drive to Piccadilly.

“ The fatigue I had sustain’d the night
“ before, and the hurry of spirits I was
“ still in, render’d me very unfit to be
“ seen by any of my acquaintance, I
“ therefore resolv’d to go directly home,
“ and as I knew not but the stage might
“ be already set out, or if not so was
“ equally uncertain of getting a place in
“ it, I hired a chariot at Bullamor’s:
“ —I found myself very much indis-
“ posed during all this little journey, and
“ on my arrival grew so extremely ill
“ that I was oblig’d to be let blood;
“ but this was far from giving me any
“ relief, I fell the next morning into a
“ fever, in which I continued eleven days,
“ without hope of recovery.

“ If the extremest bitterness of heart,
 “ —if shame and remorse for having ever
 “ loved a man so unworthy of it,—if
 “ rage and disdain at the insults I had
 “ received, were capable of killing I could
 “ not have surviv’d ;— yet so it was,—
 “ my distemper left me at the expiration
 “ of the time I mentioned, and I regain’d
 “ my health, though, indeed, by very
 “ slow degrees, for it was near a month
 “ before I was able to quit my chamber.

“ In all this time I received no bond,
 “ nor even letter from Willmore ;
 “ therefore, as soon as I was fit to see
 “ company, I sent for a lawyer who was
 “ a friend of my brother’s, and when
 “ he was at home had often visited at
 “ our house ;—I told him my unhappy
 “ story, as far as relates to the money I
 “ had lent, and desired he would com-
 “ mence a prosecution against Willmore
 “ on that account ;—but when he found
 “ that I had neither bond, promissory
 “ note, nor other obligation under his
 “ own hand-writing, nor even any one
 “ witness of the loan, he assured me at
 “ once, that if the gentleman had not
 “ honour enough to pay the debt I must
 “ infallibly lose it, for law could give
 “ me no relief : — perceiving I was ex-
 VOL. III. I tremely

“ tremely shock’d at what he said, he
 “ told me that if I would make a de-
 “ mand of the money in writing he would
 “ carry it to him, and hear what answer
 “ he would make to it ;—though it was
 “ death to me to set pen to paper to such
 “ a villain, my unwillingness that he
 “ should run away with almost half of
 “ my fortune made me comply with
 “ this proposal, and I wrote to him, as
 “ near as I can remember, in these terms :”

To capt. GEORGE WILLMORE.

SIR,

“ I HAVE employ’d this gentleman
 “ to take such security as he shall
 “ think sufficient from you, for a thou-
 “ sand pounds lent you by me on the
 “ fourth day of last month ; or, on your
 “ refusing to give it, to pursue such me-
 “ thods as the law provides to compel
 “ you to do justice to

“ The ill-treated,

“ SOPHIA, ***

“ The lawyer approved of what I
 “ wrote, — said he would argue with
 “ Willmore upon it, and as soon as he
 “ had done so wait on me again with
 “ the result of their conversation.

“ As

“ As he had told me, and I myself
 “ had always believed, that the recovery
 “ of my money depended wholly on the
 “ honour of the person to whom I had
 “ lent it, you may suppose I could not
 “ flatter myself with the least hopes of
 “ success, so was not disappointed, when,
 “ at the end of ten days, my lawyer re-
 “ turn’d and gave an account, that the
 “ monster Willmore had utterly denied
 “ the whole affair, and treated both me
 “ and my demand with the greatest con-
 “ tempt.

“ I am very much surpris’d, madam,
 “ said this gentleman to me, that you
 “ should venture so large a sum of money
 “ in the hands of any one without an ac-
 “ knowledgment of the receipt in some
 “ shape or other, much more in those of
 “ a person such as captain Willmore ;—
 “ for to deal plainly with you, I have
 “ enquir’d into his character, and find
 “ he is one of those sparks who are distin-
 “ guish’d by the name of Bucks, — a
 “ species of the creation who are scarce
 “ worthy of the name of men, yet would
 “ fain be thought heroes ;— fellows that
 “ run about the streets with great clubs
 “ in their hands, and swords by their
 “ sides as long as themselves, frightening
 “ women

“ women and children, and affecting to
 “ be ridiculously terrible.”

“ I was a little picqued at this de-
 “ scription of a man who had once ap-
 “ peared but too agreeable to me ; — I
 “ said nothing, however, but that since
 “ it was so, I must be content to lose
 “ my money ; — I was willing, notwith-
 “ standing, to make some farther enquiry
 “ what could be done ; and accordingly,
 “ as soon as he was gone, came to Lon-
 “ don, where I had the advice of three
 “ several council ; but they all agreeing
 “ in what the first had told me, I was
 “ convinced that all attempts to do my-
 “ self justice would be in vain, and only
 “ serve to expose me to the ridicule of
 “ the world.

“ England now grew hateful to me,
 “ and I took a resolution to leave it,
 “ and throw myself into a new scene of
 “ life ; — a young lady of my acquaint-
 “ tance being lately gone to a convent
 “ at Brussels, I wrote to her, desiring
 “ she would make an agreement for me
 “ with the superiors, which she having
 “ done very much to my satisfaction, I
 “ discharged the servants in the coun-
 “ try, gave up the house to my brother’s
 “ friend

JEMMY *and* JENNY JESSAMY. 173

“ friend, and have now nothing to do
“ but to depart.

“ In the midst of all these embarrass-
“ ments, continued she, I did not forget
“ my dear miss Jessamy ; — I was twice
“ to wait on you, but was informed you
“ were at Bath, and not expecting your
“ return till the end of the season, I des-
“ paired of the satisfaction I have now
“ enjoyed, both in seeing you, and in
“ disburthening myself of that load of
“ afflictions with which I have been op-
“ press’d since last I had the pleasure of
“ your company.”



C H A P. XVII.

*In which the reader is not to expect
any extraordinary matters.*

SOPHIA could not put a period to
her recital without letting fall some
tears ; — Jenny, who was all good-nature,
though she did not approve of her con-
duct in some parts of it, said many
obliging things for her consolation ; — and
after expressing her detestation of the
almost unexampled baseness and ingrati-
tude of Willmore, told her, among

other things, that tho' she was extremely sorry to be deprived of her conversation, she could not but highly applaud the resolution she had taken of retiring into a monastery, as change of place, and a way of living so entirely new to her, might by degrees wear out the remembrance of whatever had been disagreeable to her in the past.

‘ Besides, said that amiable lady with a smile, you will perhaps hear of many adventures parallel to your own among the holy sifterhood; for I have been told, and am apt to think with some truth, that the convents are greatly indebted, for being crowded as they are, to the inconstancy and ingratitude of the other sex.’

The other agreeing with her in this point, they were beginning to enter into a discourse concerning the swift transition which sometimes happens from the flesh to the spirit, from an enthusiasm in love to an enthusiasm in devotion, when Sophia on a sudden recollecting herself, cried out,—‘ But my dear miss Jessamy, I have been so engross'd by my own affairs that I forgot, till now, to enquire into yours;—I flatter myself, however, that you have no
‘ reason

‘reason to complain of woes you so well
‘know how to pity in another.’

‘Indeed, replied Jenny, I have had
‘my share of anxieties too, though of a
‘nature far different from yours;’—and
then repeated to her the whole story of
that confusion which both herself and
Jemmy had been involv’d in, through
the report raised by Belpine; as also the
unhappy consequences which had attend-
ed the discovery of his baseness.

They continued talking together upon
this subject till Sophia thought it a pro-
per time to retire; but Jenny would not
suffer her to go till she had given her
promise to see her again before she left
the kingdom.

Her unhappy adventure had made a
very great impression on the mind of our
young heroine;—she sincerely loved her,
and pitied her misfortune; but could not
help thinking it both strange and blame-
able in her to entertain so violent a
passion for a man whose character she
knew so little of.—‘People make their
‘own unhappiness, and then lament it,
‘cried she somewhat peevishly; sure I
‘never could have been so indiscreet;’
but this thought no sooner came into her
I 4. head.

head than it was check'd by another ;—
 ' Yet how vain am I to flatter myself
 ' with such an imagination, or presume
 ' so far on my own strength of reason ;'
 as the poet truly says,

When things go ill, each fool presumes
 to advise,
 And if more happy, thinks himself more
 wise.

' How can I be certain, pursued she,
 ' that in the same circumstances I should
 ' not have acted in the same manner
 ' that poor Sophia has done ? — I have
 ' been defended from the misfortune
 ' that has befallen her ; — first, by my
 ' father's care in training me up to love
 ' where interest and convenience would
 ' accompany my passion, — and after-
 ' wards by the well proved fidelity of the
 ' man ordain'd for me : — had I been
 ' left to my own choice, who knows what
 ' might have happen'd ? — I remember
 ' to have read a passage somewhere which
 ' may remind the fortunate part of the
 ' world, that they ought not to think they
 ' are so through their own merits, but
 ' the prevalence of their better stars :

With prosperous gales life's vessel
smoothly glides,
And on the smiling waves triumphant
rides;
But when rough storms from adverse
quarters roar,
How difficult to gain the wish'd for
shore?

Thus did the knowledge of her friend's
mistake, instead of making her set any
value upon herself for not having been
guilty of the like error; serve only to fill
her with the warmest gratitude to Heaven:
that had not expos'd her to the like
danger.

Happy would it be, both for themselves
and others, if all those ladies who know
themselves free from the weakness inci-
dent to some others of their sex were of
Jenny's way of thinking; but I shall say
no more upon this head, — the reader
must have sufficiently observ'd, through
all her actions, the sweetness and candour
of her disposition; — therefore, according
to the words of the inspired writer,

Let her own works praise her in the
gates.

She was every day expecting her unfortunate friend to make her a second visit to take leave, when she received one from another person, on the same ceremony, which tho' she thought she had no manner of concern in at that time, proved afterwards matter of much satisfaction to her.

Sir Robert Manley had a sudden call to Paris, on account of the death of an uncle, who disliking the times had retired thither some time ago, carrying with him all his effects, which were very considerable; — it was this gentleman, tho' his business required haste, that could not think of leaving the kingdom without first waiting on Jenny, to know if she had any commands in his power to execute at the place he was going to.

She thank'd him in the most obliging terms, but told him she had no affairs in Paris, nor did not know of any acquaintance she had at present in all France, except mr. Jeffamy, who was no farther than Calais.

‘ I shall pass through Calais, madam;
 ‘ answer'd he, perhaps stay a night or
 ‘ two there; — I shall doubtless see mr.
 ‘ Jeffamy,

‘ Jessamy, — at least it will be in my
 ‘ power so to do, if you permit me to
 ‘ acquaint him that I have the honour to
 ‘ be known to you, and to carry to him
 ‘ the joyful news of your being in good
 ‘ health.’

Tho’ she had the highest esteem for this gentleman, on account of his many amiable qualities, as well as for his birth, fortune and accomplishments, yet always keeping in mind the declaration he had once made of a passion for her, she maintained a greater reserve towards him than to any other of her acquaintance, — and now only reply’d coldly, that if chance should bring them together, mr. Jessamy would certainly think himself honour’d in the company of a gentleman of his character.

As he was to take post for Dover the next morning, and had many friends to see before his departure, the visit he made here was very short; but he had not been gone an hour before Jenny found she had need of his service at Calais, and began a little to repent she had received the offer he had made her with so much indifference; — a letter was brought her from Jemmy containing these lines :

To miss JESSAMY.

“ Dearest and only dear,

“ **N**OTHING but your commands
 “ could have kept me here, after
 “ what mr. Morgan has wrote to me ; —
 “ instead of this you would now have
 “ seen me at your feet. — Oh Jenny ! —
 “ tender generous soul : — but I will
 “ not wound your delicacy either with
 “ thanks or praises ; — indeed all the
 “ tribute I could pay of both would be
 “ too mean for the occasion..

“ You desire to know in what man-
 “ ner I pass my time while banish’d from
 “ you, and I will give you an exact ac-
 “ count : — your ideas of my sea-coast
 “ promenades are just ; but for the rest I
 “ am not quite so unhappy as your fancy
 “ represents. — They say Calais is the
 “ sink of France ; — but if it is — what
 “ must be the garden ? — the streets, in-
 “ deed, are for the most part narrow and
 “ ill paved ; but there is a square, call’d
 “ La Place, spacious, airy, and very
 “ commodious for walking ; and the
 “ ramparts afford as delectable a prospect
 “ as imagination can well figure out : —
 “ then the air is so serene and pure, — the
 “ water good, — the wine excellent, and
 “ the

“ the inhabitants, even to the lowest de-
 “ gree of the people, extremely polite,
 “ an instance of which I experienced a
 “ few nights past, and must acquaint
 “ you with it.

“ Having seen all that is worthy of ob-
 “ servation in the town, curiosity led me
 “ to pass the gates, which I had no sooner
 “ done than I found myself at the en-
 “ trance of three great roads; — that
 “ before me, as I have since been in-
 “ formed, is the high way to Paris; —
 “ that on the right hand to St. Omers;
 “ — and on the left to Bologne; — the
 “ good order in which they are kept,
 “ and two triangles of beautiful fields
 “ which separate the one from the
 “ other, took my eye extremely; — the
 “ evening was very pleasant, — every
 “ thing about me indulged contempla-
 “ tion, and I wandered on to a consider-
 “ able distance, when a soldier came run-
 “ ning almost breathless after me, and
 “ being obliged to stop and turn about
 “ by his repeated calling to me, he ac-
 “ costed me with a very low bow, and
 “ told me, that perceiving I was a stran-
 “ ger, he thought it his duty to acquaint
 “ me that the gates were always shut at
 “ eight o’clock and the keys carried to
 “ the governor; that it was very near
 “ that

“ that hour, and if I did not immediate-
 “ ly return I should find it very dif-
 “ ficult, if not impossible, to re-enter
 “ the town; — on this I mended my
 “ pace according to his advice; but tho’
 “ I went as fast as I could, came but
 “ just time enough to go over the first
 “ draw-bridge, which they were prepa-
 “ ring to take up; — I now saw the
 “ danger I had escaped, — thanked the
 “ honest soldier for his intelligence, and
 “ offer’d him a piece of money, on
 “ which he drew back and surpris’d me
 “ with this answer:’ — ‘ No, sir, said
 “ he, the honour of serving you is a suf-
 “ ficient recompence, — we soldiers never
 “ take money but from the king our
 “ master.’ — “ Judge, my dear Jenny,
 “ of the courtesy of the French nation in
 “ general by the sample I have given you:
 “ of it in this soldier.

“ I will not, however, so far deceive
 “ either myself or you, as not both to
 “ think and say, that if I were to con-
 “ tinue here for any length of time, I
 “ should not be very much at a loss for
 “ company, the town consisting chiefly
 “ of trading people, who are entirely
 “ taken up with their several avocations,
 “ so that excepting the officers of the
 “ army, and some few friars, there is
 “ little

“ little conversation suitable to the taste
 “ of an Englishman.

“ I was yesterday at St. Omers, to
 “ take a view of that famous seminary
 “ of jesuits, which has given to the world
 “ so many prime-ministers, bishops, car-
 “ dinals and popes; but as I staid but a
 “ few hours there I saw scarce any thing
 “ of the place, except the College, which
 “ is indeed a very fine one; and I only
 “ tell you this to shew you that I neglect
 “ no opportunity of amusing myself.

“ I also intend to make a visit to
 “ Bologne to-morrow, as I am told
 “ there are several English gentlemen
 “ there at present, for some of whom I
 “ have a particular regard. — I may per-
 “ haps stay two or three days; but if I
 “ should transgress the time of the mail
 “ coming in, shall leave orders for let-
 “ ters with my direction to be sent after
 “ me; — I would not be deprived one
 “ moment of the pleasure of hearing from
 “ you for all the enjoyments the world
 “ can give;—for know, my dear Jenny,
 “ it is not the Park, — the Plays, — the
 “ Operas, — the Assemblies, nor the
 “ company at White’s; but it is your
 “ dear society alone I languish for, and
 “ which I trust to heaven I shall soon be
 “ blefs’d

“ blest’d with ; — till when call every
 “ soft idea of love and tendernefs to your
 “ imagination, and let them tell you how
 “ much I am,

“ Beyond what words can speak,

“ My dear, dear Jenny,

“ Your most passionate admirer,

“ And eternally devoted.

“ Lover and servant,

“ J. JESSAMY.”

“ P. S. I remember you have a little
 “ picture which was drawn for you some
 “ years ago, and came as near the life
 “ as any thing of art can do ; — it
 “ would be a very great pleasure to me
 “ if you could contrive a way to fend it
 “ to me without much trouble to your-
 “ self ; — for though ; as you may be
 “ certain, your image is indelibly fix’d
 “ upon my heart, I should be glad, me-
 “ thinks, to feast my eyes as well as
 “ mind with your dear resemblance.”

Jenny was now heartily sorry this letter
 had not arriv’d before fir Robert Manley
 took his leave, as she might have engag’d
 him.

him to be the bearer of the picture Jemmy requested of her.

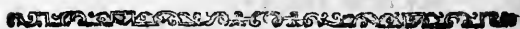
She resolved, however, rather than not comply with the desire of a person so dear to her, to take the liberty of sending to that gentleman, and intreating the favour of speaking with him, if possible, before he set out on his journey.

Sir Robert was not at home when her servant went, nor received the message that had been left for him till it was too late to wait on her that night; but would not go out of town without obeying her summons, and came pretty early the next morning.

Jenny could not repeat, without blushing, the motive which had induced her to send for him; but after having said all, and indeed much more than was necessary, to apologize for what she had done; —
 ‘ Madam, answer’d he, I know not how
 ‘ to thank, as it deserves, the confidence
 ‘ you repose in me; but you must own,
 ‘ that in doing me this favour you put
 ‘ my honour to the severest trial:—How
 ‘ are you sure that a trust such as your
 ‘ picture may not tempt me to be base?’

‘ I will

‘ I will venture that, said she gaily,
 ‘ and should be glad to be quite as sure
 ‘ you will pardon the trouble I give you
 ‘ on this occasion.’—On this sir Robert
 said many gallant things ; but concluded
 with a promise of delivering his charge
 safe into the hands of the happy person
 for whom it was intended, — and then
 took leave, as time pressed him to depart,
 and his chaise and servants had all this
 while waited for him at the door.



C H A P. XVIII.

*Contains none of those beautiful digres-
 sions, those remarks, or reflections
 which a certain would-be critic pre-
 tends are so much distinguish'd in
 the writings of his two favourite
 authors ; yet, it is to be hoped, will
 afford sufficient to please all those who
 are willing to be pleased.*

THE smallest trifle, if requested by
 a friend, is a business of importance
 to the truly tender and sincere ;— Jenny
 was as much pleased with having found an
 opportunity of sending her picture to
 Jemmy,

Jemmy, as some ladies would be with being presented themselves with one set round with diamonds.

She contented not herself, however, with having obliged him in this particular, she knew he would also expect an immediate answer to his letter; and accordingly, that same evening, wrote to him in the following terms:

TO JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

“ My dear JEMMY,

“ **I** Rejoice to hear that Calais is less
 “ irksome to you than by the descrip-
 “ tion has been given me of sea-port
 “ towns I fear’d it was; — you could
 “ not oblige me more than in telling me
 “ that you endeavour to make it as
 “ agreeable as possible, and that you
 “ support this banishment with some
 “ tolerable degree of patience.

“ Would to Heaven it were any way
 “ consistent with the affection I have for
 “ you to invite you home; but all the
 “ accounts our friends as yet have been
 “ able to get, in relation to Belpine’s
 “ condition, are so very dubious and im-
 “ perfect; that till we are more assured
 “ I dare not even indulge a wish of see-
 “ ing.

“ing you here : — Perplexing circum-
 “stance! that compels me to be thus
 “anxious for the welfare of a villain
 “who has attempted to destroy my peace,
 “and that of him whose happiness I
 “prize above my own.

“As you desire to have my picture;
 “I have intreated the favour of sir Ro-
 “bert Manley to deliver it to you as he
 “passes through Calais in his way to
 “Paris;—he has the character of a per-
 “son of great sense and honour, and I
 “believe deserves it;—he talks of staying
 “a day or two in the place where you
 “are, and if so, I am apt to think his
 “conversation, while thus destitute of
 “company, will be at least equally agree-
 “able to the little token that introduces
 “him to your acquaintance.

“I have seen so few people since you
 “went away, that I have nothing to re-
 “late worthy your attention, except
 “what you know already, that I am,

“With the most tender affection,

“Dear Jemmy,

“Your's entirely,

“And for ever,

J. JESSAMY.”

“ P. S. I will not ask your picture in
 “ return, because I know not whether
 “ the place you are in affords any artists
 “ of that kind ; and besides, — flatter
 “ myself that fate will order it so that
 “ you will not be obliged to continue
 “ there long enough to have it drawn.”

Had Jenny deferr'd this letter till the next day, it is certain she would have wrote in a quite different manner ;—pretty early in the morning Mr. Morgan came and brought her the joyful news that Belpine had been seen walking about his chamber and looking through the window.

Mr. Lovegrove also made her a visit the same day, and confirm'd what the old gentleman had said ; as did several others of her friends, who had been industrious in sifting out the truth of an affair which they knew was of so much consequence to her peace.

Two or three days put the veracity of this intelligence beyond all dispute,—the surgeon who had all this time attended Belpine, no longer denied but that his patient was out of danger from his wound, and the people of the house confess'd to
 those

those who enquired into the matter, that he had quitted his bed, and it was expected would soon go abroad for the air.

Jenny, who was fully informed of every thing that pass'd on this occasion, was beginning to entertain the most pleasing ideas of seeing her dear Jemmy within a very short space of time, and waited for a letter from him with less patience than ever she had done before, as the answer she should send him to it would be accompanied with an assurance that all the apprehensions his friends had for him were removed, and he might now return with safety.

She figured to herself the extacy with which her lover would receive this information, — the haste he would make to obey the welcome summons, and the mutual joy of their happy meeting; — thus was she amused, as Shakespear elegantly expresses it,

Lull'd in the day, dreams of a mind
in love.

But when the wish'd-for letter arrived, she found the delightful prospect she had form'd was, for the present, quite obscured; as the reader will see in these lines:

To

To miss JESSAMY.

“ My Soul’s Treasure,

“ **Y**OU have not only given me the
 “ resemblance of your angelic self,
 “ but at the same time given me a friend,
 “ for whom, next to that I ought to
 “ bless and thank you ; — you will
 “ doubtless wonder how I am become so
 “ well acquainted with the virtues of
 “ sir Robert Manley in the short time
 “ we have been together ; — I will tell
 “ you then, — he has made me the con-
 “ fidante of the passion he had for you,
 “ — your behaviour on his declaring it,
 “ and the noble conquest he gain’d over
 “ himself when you so generously avow-
 “ ed your fidelity to me, and dependance
 “ on mine to you.

“ But oh, my Jenny, — how could I
 “ curse that dog Belpine ! — how could I
 “ repeat, a thousand and a thousand times,
 “ the blow I have given him, when I
 “ look back upon that scene of wretch-
 “ edness into which I might have been
 “ inevitably plung’d by his base arts ? —
 “ your ears continually fill’d with re-
 “ ports of my perfidiousness and ingrati-
 “ tude, — a rival of such dangerous merit,
 “ encouraged by them to make his ad-
 “ dresses

“ dresses to you ; what must have be-
 “ come of me, if the most unparallel'd
 “ constancy on your side, and the strictest
 “ adherence to justice and honour on his,
 “ had not secured my hopes? — but,
 “ thanks to both, the storm is overblown,
 “ —the danger is past, and I should give
 “ up all myself to joy, and forgive the
 “ wretch whose vile attempts to ruin me
 “ have the more confirm'd my happi-
 “ nefs.

“ And now, my dearest,—I am to in-
 “ form you that to-morrow I remove
 “ myself farther from you, — my new
 “ friend tells me, that I might have seen
 “ Paris,—all the royal palaces, and every
 “ thing deserving observation, in the
 “ time I have been here; and is sur-
 “ prised that I did not take this oppor-
 “ tunity of going to a place which affords
 “ so much to excite the curiosity of a
 “ stranger;—in fine, he has seduced me
 “ to accompany him;—I would not have
 “ you think, however, that I yielded to
 “ his persuasions but in the assurance he
 “ gave me that he had often heard you
 “ lament the solitude of my condition,
 “ and wish me in a more agreeable situa-
 “ tion.

“ Though

“ Though I dare take his word, yet
 “ I should be glad of receiving a farther
 “ confirmation from yourself;— a line
 “ from your dear hand will be a joyful
 “ welcome to me on my arrival at that
 “ great city to which I am going :— I
 “ know you too well to doubt of your
 “ kind compliance with this request, as
 “ it is the only thing which can enable
 “ me to relish any amusements that may
 “ present themselves to me.

“ Our worthy friend, who is willing
 “ to contribute all he can to my satis-
 “ faction, writes this night to Mr. Waters,
 “ a banker in Paris, to desire that if any
 “ letters directed for me are left at his
 “ house, they shall be taken care of.—
 “ Farewel,—believe that wherever I am,
 “ my heart is always with you, and that
 “ I never can be other than,

“ With inviolable love and truth,
 “ My dear Jenny,
 “ Your most passionately,
 “ And most tenderly
 “ Devoted lover,
 “ And servant,
 “ J. JESSAMY.”

“ P. S. Sir Robert lays a strict injunction upon me to engage your pardon for the tales he has told me, and to make his compliments and best wishes acceptable to you.”

How would some ladies have swell'd at this disappointment? — I believe I know those who would have thrown the letter from them with the utmost disdain; — perhaps torn it, and cried out—‘ How dare the fellow use me thus?—he ought to have asked me leave before he went away; — he does not deserve that I should ever see him more,’ — and a thousand such like reproaches; — but the reader has seen too much of Jenny to expect this sort of behaviour in her; — at first, indeed, it gave a little check to her late flow of spirits, to find her lover was every day going farther from her, at a time when she had hoped he would be approaching towards her; but she soon recover'd herself, and, on well weighing the motives that induced him to leave Calais, found she had more reason to approve than to condemn him for it.

Though in his letters to her he had dissembled his chagrin, for fear she should be too much affected with it, yet she was

sensible that for a man of his gay temper to be so long pent up in such a place as Calais, could not but be very irksome to him; and as he yet was ignorant of the hopes his friends had of his returning soon to England, neither wonder'd at, nor was angry that he so readily embraced sir Robert Manley's proposal of passing the time of his absence in a manner so much more capable of improving his mind, as well as of gratifying his senses.

This was the way in which she argued with herself in defence of her lover's proceedings; and upon the whole, was not sorry to be deprived of his company for a while longer, as he was gone to view the magnificence of a place so famous throughout Europe, and so much the mode for all young persons of condition to be acquainted with.





C H A P. XIX.

Which, the author thinks it highly proper to acquaint the public, is much of a piece with the foregoing ; so that every one may be at liberty either to read or not, according to the satisfaction the other has afforded.

JENNY had lived almost as retired as a woman in the first month of her widowhood, ever since Jemmy had been obliged to fly the kingdom on the wound he had given Belpine ; but now finding he was out of all danger, either of life or liberty, on that score, by the recovery of his antagonist, and also that he was gone to regale himself in a place so abounding with all sorts of pleasures, she began to resume her former chearfulness and vivacity, appeared in all public places as she had been accusom'd, and return'd all the visits that were made to her.

Her intimacy with lady Speck and miss Wingman was very much increased since she had been at Bath with them, by the participation they had in her secrets,

secrets, and she in theirs:—as these ladies were continually entertain'd by their lovers with all manner of diversions, she was never left out in any of them, except by her own choice.

Though no one was fonder of all innocent pleasures, and was less reserv'd and unconstrain'd in conversation, yet she did not suffer the gaities of life to interfere with her more serious reflections;—the duties of love and friendship, next those of Heaven, were always her peculiar care, and she never neglected the discharge of them on any pretence whatever.

It cannot therefore be supposed that she omitted the gratification of her dear Jemmy's request;—she calculated, as well as she was able from the accounts had been given her of the route to Paris, on what day he would be there, and sent a letter to meet him on his arrival;—the contents of what she wrote to him were these:

To JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

“ My dear JEMMY,
 “ I HOPE this will find you in good
 “ health and spirits, after the fatigue
 “ of your long journey;— I am so well
 “ pleased

“ pleased with your having taken it, that
 “ I should extremely condemn myself
 “ for not having advised you to it sooner,
 “ if what I confess was owing to my
 “ want of thought, had not proved for
 “ the best, by occasioning you to go in
 “ such good company.

“ I am told that Belpine is judg’d to
 “ be out of danger; — but that is now
 “ a matter of no moment, — whatever
 “ may be wrote to you on that head; re-
 “ member, that as I may never see Paris
 “ myself I shall expect from you a very
 “ exact account of all the curiosities the
 “ place affords; — therefore, if you
 “ would oblige me, you must not think
 “ of coming home till you are well af-
 “ fured that you can have left nothing
 “ behind you unobserv’d.

“ Good night, — repose, at present,
 “ must be more beneficial to you than
 “ any thing I could say, which would all
 “ amount to no more than a repetition of
 “ my being,

“ With the most unfeigned affection,

“ My dear Jemmy,

“ As much yours at this distance

“ As when nearer,

“ J. JESSAMY.

“ P. S. Pray let sir Robert know I
 “ think of him with the most just re-
 “ spect.”

Tho' this letter was somewhat shorter than those she usually wrote to him, yet the few lines it contain'd discovered, without her designing to do so, such a well establish'd fund of tenderness in her soul, as cannot but be discernable to every understanding reader.

She was entirely eas'd of all her apprehensions for him on the score of the wound he had given Belpine, and doubtless wish'd as ardently to see him again as the most violent of her sex could have done; but there was a certain delicacy in her passion, which render'd every thing that gave him pleasure an adequate satisfaction to herself, nor could she ever have been truly happy without knowing he was so.

Besides, she consider'd that for him to leave such a place as Paris immediately, and without being able, at his return, to give any description of the royal palaces, — colleges, — convents, and other things she had heard much talk of, must infallibly expose him to the raillery of all his

acquaintance, — she knew that they would say it was for her sake he did so; — that they would call him a romantic lover; — tell him that he was so much the devotee of Cupid, that he could not support the least absence from his mistress; with such like stuff; — and would have chose he should even love her less, rather than that he should give any proofs of love which might call in question his good sense.

How easy, — how contented must be the man who has a mistress of this way of thinking! and how happy is it also for herself, as it is the almost certain means of securing the lasting esteem, as well as affection, of the man she loves?

Jemmy, at least, was a proof of the truth of this observation; — the gay and sprightly manner in which he answer'd his dear Jenny's epistle, shew'd he was highly pleased with the injunction she laid upon him in it; — these were his words:

To miss JESSAMY.

“ Dearest JENNY,

“ I Received yours two hours after my
“ arrival, — I need not tell you with
“ what pleasure ; — but because I have
“ no words to thank the kindness of it
“ as I ought, nor any thing more mate-
“ rial to fill up my letter, shall give you
“ a brief recital of our journey, in which
“ we met with something drole enough
“ to make you laugh, if I do not spoil
“ it in the description.

“ We had not been long in the first
“ inn we baited at, when the drawer told
“ us there was an English gentleman in
“ the house, who hearing we were his
“ countrymen begg'd leave to join us ;
“ — this we readily granted, flattering
“ ourselves that the evening would pass
“ more agreeably by the addition of a
“ third person in company ; — a young
“ spark was presently usher'd in, dress'd
“ fitter for the drawing-room than the
“ road ; — after the first compliments
“ were over, he cried out in a very thea-
“ tric tone,

Thro' Purgatory first we pass,
And then arrive at Heaven's high Mass.

“ We stared at him, but he immediately explained himself, and told us in plain prose, that after the purgatory of an odious sea-sickness, and the villainous jolt of a post-chaise, he had at last attain'd the heaven of being admitted into the company of persons whom he knew, by their equipage, must be men of good sense and taste.

“ We found him very communicative ; — he had not been half an hour before he gave us the history of his life ; but so larded with scraps of poetry and tags of plays, that it was not altogether intelligible ; we pick'd out enough, however, to know that he had been intended for the law ; but that not liking the business, nor indeed any business, he had left his master before he had served out half his clerkship ; and unexpectedly coming into the possession of an estate, by the death of a relation, he applied himself to the study of the Belles Lettres, meaning poetry, — in which he imagin'd himself a great proficient : — he told us that he had read every thing worth reading in English, and was now come to France to perfect himself in that language, for the better understanding of Racine, Cre-
“ billion,

“ billion, and some other authors whom
 “ he had heard much talk’d on.

“ I have known some men, who either
 “ having no genius of their own, or are
 “ too indolent to exert it, have thus set
 “ up both for wits and critics upon the
 “ shoulders of others; but I never found
 “ one so strongly possess’d with this poe-
 “ tical frenzy as the fellow I am telling
 “ of.

“ Sir Robert, in a farcaftical humour,
 “ wrote his character extempore in these
 “ lines, which I find no fault with, but
 “ that they are not half severe enough:

Sure he was born when nature was in
 chime,

Whate’er you say, he answers still in
 rhyme;

Knows all the bards, — from Shake-
 spear’s lofty flow,

Down to the jingle of time-serving
 Row,

And Fielding’s Rosamond in puppet-
 show;

Has all fam’d Laureat Colley’s Odes
 by heart,

Can point out what is dull, and what
 is smart;

Erects himself a wit, on their founda-
tion,

And proves his arguments from found
quotation ;

Memory supplies judgment and fancy's
want,

You miss not these, while that's pre-
dominant.

“ In fine, my dear Jenny, there never
“ was a more egregious coxcomb ; but
“ the poor creature was diverting, and
“ complaisant to such an excess, that it
“ was not in our power to affront him :
“ — we had him with us quite up to
“ Paris, and perhaps should not have
“ got rid of him here very easily, if it
“ had not come into sir Robert's head
“ to recommend him to a coffee-house,
“ where he told him he would find a
“ great many petit-maitres, much of his
“ own turn of mind.

“ This is the only adventure that hap-
“ pen'd to us on the road, except an
“ instance of puritanical hypocrisy, which
“ may serve to strengthen that contempt
“ I know you already have for those pre-
“ tended zealots : — happening to stop
“ at a cabaret on the road for some re-
“ freshment, another post-chaise came to
“ the door at the same time, out of
“ which

“ which alighted one of the most noted
 “ and most impudent courtezans that
 “ ever stroll’d St. James’s-Park ; — she
 “ was handed out by a person in laced
 “ cloaths, bag wig, feather in his hat,
 “ and a long sword by his side ; but the
 “ conventicle leer distinguish’d him thro’
 “ this disguise, and I presently knew him
 “ for a wealthy citizen of London, — a
 “ strong Presbyterian, — and who pass’d
 “ for a saint among his congregation ;
 “ — as I had some little acquaintance
 “ with him, having once bought some
 “ things of him, I stepp’d towards him,
 “ — call’d him by his name, and told
 “ him I was surpris’d to see him in
 “ France ; — never was poor mortal so
 “ confus’d, — so shock’d ; — at first, I
 “ believe, he would have denied he was
 “ the person ; but not having courage,
 “ he begg’d I would not expose him, by
 “ telling any body where, or in what
 “ company I had seen him ; — I pro-
 “ mised I would not, and left him ; but
 “ still so disconcerted, that I dare say it
 “ would be some time before he could
 “ recover himself to be good company
 “ with his mistress.

“ I leave you to laugh ; for whatever
 “ tender things I have to say to you
 “ must be deferr’d till another oppor-
 “ tunity,

“ tunity, my paper affording room for
 “ no more, than that I am,

“ Eternally, truly, and passionately,

“ My soul’s best joy,

“ Your most devoted

“ Friend, lover,

“ And servant,

“ J. JESSAMY.”

The satisfaction Jenny felt in reading this letter, as indeed in all others she received from the same hand, need not be told to those who have faithful and affectionate hearts; and to those of rougher natures would be but impertinent; I shall therefore say no more on this head, but pass on to matters of a very different kind.





C H A P. XX.

Makes a short pause in the history, in order to present the reader with the detail of a matrimonial contest on a pretty particular occasion.

A Very celebrated French author tells us, in his treatise on the human mind, that what we commonly call humour is no more than nature in odd circumstances: — ‘ Humour, says he, is made up of three qualities, — an ambition of appearing peculiar, — a strong attachment to some one trifle, and an obstinate perseverance in whatever it inclines to; — all these three, he still goes on, are in nature; but then it is in nature perverted, unregulated by reason, and consequently in odd circumstances.’

How far he is right in this definition I dare not take upon me to determine; but it is certain, that one daily sees a great many people whose characters and manners cannot otherwise be very easily accounted for.

When any two of these humourists meet together in company, and some subject happens to be started in which they differ in opinion, how farcical would be the dispute between them, if not liable to be attended with worse mischiefs than mutual altercations; — both of them vehemently tenacious of what he imagines is right, and equally impatient of contradiction, they foam, — they fret, — they rail, — affect to despise each other, and frequently from such beginnings the most lasting animosities arise; though perhaps the thing in question is a mere bagatelle; or, if not so, of no more consequence to either of them than what is doing in the farthest parts of Ethiopia, or the Desarts of Arabia.

But how much soever we may laugh at such idle quarrels between persons who are strangers, or only casually acquainted with each other, it must afford a very melancholy reflection when we see the same effects on those who are most near, either by blood or alliance.

Of all ties, that of marriage requires the strictest unanimity; yet how many do we find, who, merely for the gratification of some ridiculous caprice of their
OWN,

own, endeavour to render miserable the person whom, by all laws, both human and divine, they are bound to make it their study to oblige, and turn that state, which should be all love and harmony, into one of discord and confusion.

The people with whom Jenny lived were of this unhappy class; — they had little to discompose them, except the perverseness of their own humours; but this indulged was sufficient to involve them in greater inquietudes than fortune could otherwise have inflicted on them: — without the least understanding in political affairs, they took it into their heads to attach themselves to different parties, not thro' principle or interest, but merely because they had a mind to do so: — this opposition of humour, for it could not be call'd sentiment, occasioned perpetual jars between them, in which they were sometimes so loud and disturbing, that Jenny had more than once threaten'd to quit their house; and it was, perhaps, the fear of losing so beneficial a boarder that kept them within any tolerable bounds.

It is very strange, and would be incredible, if daily experience did not evince the truth, that people of a genteel education,

cation, — naturally complaisant, and of a social disposition in other things, should suffer themselves to be so much influenced by some one favourite humour as to throw off all love, — all good manners, — all decency, and act like the most rude unpolish'd creatures in the universe.

Yet thus it sometimes proves, — neither the husband nor the wife I am speaking of were ignorant how to behave themselves agreeably to the world and to each other; but unfortunately happening to be of a different way of thinking in one particular point, their passions got the better of all other considerations, and both of them seem'd divested of reason, and equally even of common civility, as will be seen in the instance I am going to relate.

The wife was now lying-in of a first child, which happen'd to prove a daughter; Jenny, who had promised to be one of the sponsors at the font, frequently stept into the room to enquire after the health of the new-made mother and her infant; — as she was going on this good-natur'd and charitable errand, she heard the husband's voice within exceeding loud, and found they were at very high words; but

but this did not hinder her entering, not doubting but her presence would allay the storm, as it had done many times before.

But this couple were at this time raised to a pitch too high to be easily quell'd ;— ‘ A man, cried he, had better be buried alive than be married to a fool,—an idiot:’— ‘ And a woman, retorted she with equal bitterness, had better be in her grave than married to a man who, without the least share of reason, fancies he has more than any body else.’

‘ Fye, said Jenny, is this a time for quarrelling, — when one should expect to see only mutual endearments? Pray what has occasion'd this dissention? some trifle, I will lay my life.’— ‘ No, madam, answer'd he, it is no trifle, I assure you, but the most serious thing that can be:— Would you believe it, miss Jessamy, continued he pointing to his wife, — that unnatural mother there would make me hate the infant she has brought into the world.’

‘ Regard not what he says, miss Jessamy, cried she, let him not lay the blame of his own venomous heart on
‘ me

‘ me ; — for he may be assured, that if
 ‘ he has his will, I would see the little
 ‘ creature, dear as it now is to me, sprawl-
 ‘ ing,—dying at my feet, rather than act
 ‘ a mother’s part.’—‘ And if your pee-
 ‘ vish obstinacy prevails, rejoin’d he, it
 ‘ never shall know me for a father,—shall
 ‘ never share my blessing or my substance.’

‘ Bless me, said Jenny, what horrid
 ‘ menaces are these to the poor helpless
 ‘ innocent?—but still I am in the dark
 ‘ as to the meaning.’—Both the husband
 and the wife had their mouths open at
 the same time to make answer to this
 demand ; but the weak condition of the
 woman having taken away some part of
 her usual volubility, he had the advan-
 tage of speaking first. — ‘ The dispute
 ‘ between us, madam, said he, is con-
 ‘ cerning the name by which the child
 ‘ shall be baptised, — I am desirous it
 ‘ should be Charlot, and she, in down-
 ‘ right opposition to me, will needs have
 ‘ it call’d Wilhelmina.’

‘ Oh Heavens !’ cried Jenny with a
 fort of a scornful smile, ‘ is all this con-
 ‘ tention about a name?’ — ‘ A name,
 ‘ madam, resumed he eagerly,— a name
 ‘ is not so trifling a thing as you seem
 ‘ to think it : — I am an Englishman,
 ‘ madam,

‘ madam,—I love my country, and will
 ‘ have no foreign names in my family.’

‘ It is a small mark of your loving
 ‘ your country,’ bawl’d she out as loud
 as she was able, ‘ when your child is to
 ‘ have a horrid, — papish, — jacobite
 ‘ name;—but she shall never be made a
 ‘ christian on such terms;—I had a thou-
 ‘ sand times rather see her an atheist,
 ‘ an infidel, or any thing, than an odious
 ‘ jacobite.’

‘ Both of you are certainly mad, said
 ‘ Jenny, and put constructions upon
 ‘ things which no people in the world,
 ‘ except yourselves, would ever think of;
 ‘ —as if the name of a person were the
 ‘ symbol of a party:—but even if it were
 ‘ so, how can Charlot be accounted
 ‘ papish?—or Wilhelmina, outlandish.—
 ‘ The one, as I take it, being the fe-
 ‘ minine of Charles and the other of
 ‘ William, which are both English, and
 ‘ also good protestant names.’

‘ Your derivation, madam, is extreme-
 ‘ ly right as to the one, replied the hus-
 ‘ band; but not as to the other;—Char-
 ‘ lot is indeed the feminine of Charles;
 ‘ but, in our language, the feminine of
 ‘ William would be Willamina or Wil-
 ‘ lamana,

‘ lamana, not Wilhelmina ;—that hel in
 ‘ the middle shews it is not of English
 ‘ extraction.’

Jenny laugh’d heartily at this definition, though she could not but allow it to be just ;—on which the wife said somewhat sullenly, — that she did not care to what country the name most properly belong’d, if it were even the Hotentots, provided it did not favour of jacobitism ; — and then beginning to inveigh afresh against her husband’s principles, provok’d him to be no less severe on those she profess’d.

While they were railing, a thought came into Jenny’s head which luckily put an end to this ridiculous controversy, and was, perhaps, the only way that could have done it :—‘ I have been considering on this matter, said she, not
 ‘ that I pretend to decide which of you
 ‘ is in the right ; for as the thing appears
 ‘ to me you are both equally in the
 ‘ wrong ; but as I am to be god-mother
 ‘ to the child, and it is the very first time
 ‘ I have ever taken that charge upon
 ‘ me, I think I might have expected the
 ‘ compliment of giving the name.’

At these words the husband and wife looked on each other with a good deal of confusion, which lasted for some minutes ;—after which,—‘ Indeed, madam, said he, turning to Jenny, our unpoliteness well deserves this reprimand ;—but it is not yet too late, I hope, to make attonement ;—the honour you do us claims at least the retaliation you mention :—be pleased, therefore, to bestow upon the child what name you shall think proper,—I shall readily acquiesce to whatsoever you make choice of, even though it should be *Wilhelmina*.’

‘ Nor will I oppose miss *Jessamy*, rejoined the wife very gravely ; but flatter myself she will not call my poor baby the cursed name of *Charlot* ;’ — she said no more, but could not utter these few words without letting fall some tears of spite, which Jenny, as good-natured as she was, did not regard with much compassion.

‘ Since then you consent to leave this important matter to my decision, answer’d she with a smile, you may depend that I shall present my little god-daughter at the font neither by the name of *Charlot* or *Wilhelmina* ; but
‘ in

‘ in compliment to a person who is much
 ‘ nearer to me than any Charles or Wil-
 ‘ liam in the world, I shall call it Jemima.’

‘ I understand your reason for that,
 ‘ madam, perfectly well, said the wife,
 ‘ I know mr. Jeffamy’s name is James ;
 ‘ and I assure you that I have so high a
 ‘ respect for that gentleman on his own
 ‘ account, as well as yours, that I shall
 ‘ be proud to have my child call’d after
 ‘ him.’

‘ I hold up both my hands in token
 ‘ of approbation,’ cried the husband ;
 and was so well pleased with the choice
 Jenny had made, that he would doubt-
 less have added something more, if he
 had not been prevented by the fears of
 rousing certain imaginations in his wife’s
 head, which he was glad to find had not
 yet enter’d there, on account of the name
 Jenny had mention’d.

Thus was this mighty controversy, at
 last, happily adjusted through the inter-
 position of Jenny, to the entire satis-
 faction of one of the parties concern’d,
 and without giving the other the least
 cause to think herself aggriev’d.

The next day having before been agreed upon for the performance of the ceremony, the infant was made a christian by that name which the fair and discreet mediator had proposed.

Nothing happening afterwards of consequence enough to trouble the reader with the repetition of, I shall now return to the thread of my history, which it is more than possible some may condemn me for having interrupted.

C H A P. XXI.

Is very proper to be read in an easy chair, either soon after dinner, or at night just going to rest.

THOSE people who are justly look'd upon as the most fortunate, cannot pass through life without having their anxieties on some score or other,—frequent rubs in the way to our desires,—disappointments and vexations of various kinds attend the whole race of man; they are inherent to our very species, and none can

be said to be always totally exempt from them: — it is a certain and establish'd maxim, that as no one was ever so completely wretched as not to have some intervals of joy, so no one was ever so happy as not to have some portion of bitter mingled with the sweets of life; — sir Robert Howard thus accounts for the fluctuating state of human affairs:

One gains by what another is bereft,
The frugal destinies have only left
A common bank of happiness below,
Maintain'd like nature, by an ebb and
flow.

The celebrated mr. Dryden also expresses himself on the same subject in this manner:

Good after evil, after pain delight,
Alternate, like the scenes of day and
night.

And another author of a more modern date, though no less worthy estimation than either of the former, tells us, and his words are true:

Eternal changes on our beings wait,
Life's certain dow'r, the chequer-work
of fate.

But though misfortunes are common to every one, yet they fall lighter or heavier according to the disposition of the person they lay hold on; — dull and sluggish minds are apt to sink beneath the weight of the most trifling ill; whereas the more active and spirituous, not only bear up with fortitude amidst the greatest, but also feel a pleasure in their deliverance from them, which they had never known had they been ignorant of affliction.

To find ourselves triumphant over difficulties, — to have escaped some threatened calamity, — to be raised from a state of mourning into one of joy and gladness, enhances our sensibility of happiness, and gives us a double relish in the possession, as old Broome in one of his comedies observes:

Past woes the present blessing more
 endear.

But I might have spared myself the trouble of quoting authors, to prove the truth which is in the experience of almost every one, in a more or less proportion; — the heroine of this history, however, must doubtless be sensible of it in a much higher degree than many others, as she

was possess'd of a greater share of vivacity and sprightliness.

The apprehensions,—the terrors, which this amiable young lady had lately labour'd under for the safety of Jemmy, being now entirely dissipated, by hearing from all hands that Belpine was perfectly recover'd; the satisfaction,—the transport, that succeeded those anxieties was such, as without having suffer'd the other she never would have experienced.

Besides, without this accident she might possibly never have been acquainted with the true tenderness of her own heart for him, nor with the sincerity of his affection for her; and it was the full conviction of both these which could alone enable her to taste the douceurs of love and friendship in that elevated manner she now did.

To this, therefore, though it seem'd the worst of mischiefs when it happen'd, did she owe the happiness she now enjoy'd; and to this also was Jemmy indebted for that soft communication of hearts which the volatileness of both their tempers had before deny'd them the blessing of partaking.

Her heart, however, was not so much taken up with love and gladness, as not to afford some room for commiseration to the misfortunes she saw others suffer; — Sophia being now ready to depart, came to take her last farewell, and the dejection which appeared in the voice and countenance of that unhappy lady, touch'd her very deeply.

‘ Then you are resolv'd to leave us, my dear Sophia? said she embracing her;’ — ‘ It was my fix'd determination when last I saw you, answer'd the other sighing; but if it had not been so I have met with enough to convince me I had no other part to take.’ — ‘ Can any new insults have been offer'd to you? demanded Jenny hastily.’ — ‘ None, replied she, that can exceed the baseness of those I had before received from that most consummate of all villains Willmore, and this last only serves to prove he is incorrigible.’

‘ Happening to have some business the other day to cross the Park, continued she, I met Willmore in the narrow passage leading from thence to Spring-Garden,—he had two persons

“ habits, were officers in the army ;—
 “ they were all three arm in arm, and
 “ took up so much of the way that it
 “ was impossible for me to pass by them
 “ without brushing ;—Willmore was next
 “ to me, and I could not, though I
 “ confess it was indiscreet, omit this op-
 “ portunity of asking him, how he had
 “ the assurance to deny the debt he owed
 “ me ?” — ‘ Child, don’t expose your-
 ‘ self ; — I wonder your friends let you
 ‘ go loose in this manner,’ — cried he ;
 “ and without staying to hear what farther
 “ I would say, went on : — just as they
 “ had pass’d by me, I heard one of those
 “ that were with him say,’ — ‘ Who is
 ‘ she ?’ — A poor distracted creature that
 ‘ follows me about,’ reply’d the monster,
 “ on which they all set up a horse-laugh.

“ I was frighted almost to death lest
 “ they should turn back, and also of
 “ being ill used by the populace, as I
 “ perceived several people, hearing what
 “ they had said, stood still to stare at
 “ me ; — I pluck’d my hood over my
 “ face, and ran as fast as I was able to
 “ take shelter in a shop at the corner of
 “ the place, where I had certainly fainted
 “ away if the master of it, seeing the
 “ condition I was in, had not brought
 “ me a glass of water.

“ Judge

“ Judge now, my dear miss Jessamy,
 “ added she, if to remain in a place
 “ where I must expect to be made the
 “ public ridicule, would not be a folly
 “ in me even greater than that which
 “ has subjected me to it?”

“ I have already testified, replied Jenny,
 “ how much I approved your resolution
 “ of retiring, at least for a time; but I
 “ would wish to see you do so without
 “ pain,—I would not have you stay, but
 “ would have you carry no sad ideas
 “ with you, and when you quit the scene
 “ of your misfortunes, quit the remem-
 “ brance of them also.”

Tears were the only answer which the
 disconsolate Sophia was able to make for
 some time to this kind advice; — but
 recovering herself as soon as possible,—
 “ Ah, my dear miss Jessamy, said she, a
 “ heart so perfectly at ease as yours, is
 “ little able to comprehend the horrors
 “ mine must feel, thus doubly oppress’d
 “ with shame and unavailing rage.”

The good-natured Jenny then remon-
 strated to her, that as she had been guilty
 of no crime, she had no cause to take
 any shame to herself;—“ you have been

‘ cruelly imposed upon, indeed, said she;
‘ but if you have believed too much, it
‘ was the sincerity of your own heart
‘ that would not suffer you to suspect
‘ another’s could be base; — and as for
‘ the loss of so considerable a part of
‘ your fortune by the injustice of Will-
‘ more, that misfortune will seem less to
‘ you when compared with what worse
‘ evils you might have sustain’d, if mar-
‘ riage had bestowed the whole of what
‘ you are mistress of, as well as your
‘ person, on a man of such abandon’d
‘ principles.’

The fair afflicted acknowledged the justice of these arguments, particularly the last; and confess’d that to a virtuous woman the lowest and most abject station in life was infinitely preferable to being the wife of a man who had neither honour nor humanity.

In discourses of this nature did these two ladies pass most of the time they were together; — on parting, Jenny oblig’d the other to accept of a small diamond ring in token of her friendship, — conjured her to write often to her, and assured her that there were very few things which could afford her more real satisfaction than

than to hear that her tranquility was perfectly restored.

The last embrace was accompanied with tears on both sides, and Jenny, after being left alone, could not restrain her eyes from letting fall a second shower ;
 ‘ — Poor Sophia, cried she, what cruel
 ‘ star presided at thy nativity, and sub-
 ‘ jected thee to such dreadful and un-
 ‘ deserv’d misfortunes !’

But afterwards, on beginning to reflect more deeply on the source of that lady’s unhappiness, — ‘ Yet how unjust and silly
 ‘ is it in us, said she, to lay the blame
 ‘ of our misdeeds on destiny ? — ’tis our
 ‘ own actions make our fate ; — else to
 ‘ what end is reason given us ? — where-
 ‘ fore are we endued with the power of
 ‘ thinking, — of judging, — of comparing,
 ‘ but to defend our hearts from any dan-
 ‘ gerous impressions ?’

‘ Fate, — fortune, continued she, the
 ‘ irresistible decrees of over-ruling powers,
 ‘ to which people impute whatever cala-
 ‘ mities they suffer, are only mention’d
 ‘ to excuse the inadvertencies they have
 ‘ been guilty of ; — so strictly true is the
 ‘ inimitable Cowley’s observation on this
 ‘ head :’

'Tis our own wisdom moulds our
 state,
 Our faults or virtues make our fate.

Thus justly did the considerative Jenny reason within herself on the condition of Sophia; though she had always preserved a very tender friendship for that lady, and sincerely commiserated her present misfortunes, yet she could not absolve from blame the conduct which had reduced her to them; — for a young woman, who wanted not understanding, to have resign'd her heart, — trusted her fortune, and afterwards her person, in the hands of a man whom she had known but a short space of time, and whose character and principles she was utterly unacquainted with, seem'd to her an indiscretion no less inexcusable than it was strange.

‘ I do not like that sort of love, said she, which comes at once upon us, and is inspired merely by exterior perfections: — beauty may attract the eye; but, in my opinion, is not sufficient to engage the heart: — the face is not always the index of the mind; — those qualifications, which alone merit our affections, are not presently to be discover'd; and

‘ and I am amazed how any woman can
 ‘ resolve to give up her liberty to a man,
 ‘ without being able to alledge something
 ‘ farther in justification of her choice
 ‘ than his having an agreeable person.’

These were the dictates of her severer
 reason; but they were soon overpower’d
 by the more prevailing softness of her na-
 ture, and swallow’d up amidst a flood of
 pity. — ‘ Yet — why do I think this
 ‘ way, cried she again, the circumstances
 ‘ of my fortune have render’d me no
 ‘ competent judge of the passion I pre-
 ‘ tend to condemn?’ — much certainly
 ‘ may be said in defence of poor So-
 ‘ phia, — her heart was tender, unpre-
 ‘ possess’d, and ready to receive the first
 ‘ impression; — she had convers’d little
 ‘ with the world, was entirely ignorant
 ‘ of the artifices which the villainous
 ‘ part of mankind are capable of putting
 ‘ in practice to deceive our sex, and had
 ‘ no friend to advise or warn her against
 ‘ the danger; — I should therefore, per-
 ‘ haps, be no less inexcusable in cen-
 ‘ suring this unhappy creature, than she
 ‘ is in having yielded to that fatal im-
 ‘ pulse, by which so many, and some too
 ‘ of the best understanding, have been
 ‘ seduced.’

She was in the depth of these meditations, when a servant from lady Wingman came to acquaint her, that her company was immediately desir'd at her house; and also that her ladyship insisted, that, putting off all other engagements, she would resolve to pass the whole evening with her.

Jenny dismiss'd the fellow with her compliments, and an assurance that she would accept the invitation her ladyship favour'd her with as soon as she could get herself ready, she being then in an entire deshabille, not having intended to go abroad that day.

Accordingly she call'd her maid that same moment to her assistance, and as she never wasted much time in dressing, was soon equipp'd for the performance of her promise; but remembering it was post-day, would not, on any consideration, omit answering her dear Jemmy's letter, therefore sat down and wrote to him in the following terms:

To

To JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

My dear JEMMY,

“ I Always receive every thing that
 “ comes from you with an inexpressible
 “ satisfaction; but your last afforded
 “ me a more than double potion, as
 “ the strain in which you write assures
 “ me that the air of Paris has already be-
 “ gun to dissipate some part of those me-
 “ lancholy ideas you carry'd with you,
 “ which I shall love it for as long as I
 “ live.

“ I flatter myself that by the time this
 “ reaches your hand you will have visited
 “ some of those fine places which are
 “ so much talk'd of here, and expect
 “ you will give me a short sketch of
 “ every thing you see, in order to pre-
 “ pare my attention for a more parti-
 “ cular description of it hereafter; — in
 “ the mean time I shall bottle up all the
 “ occurrences that shall happen to fall in
 “ my way, to entertain you with on
 “ your return.

“ I have nothing worth your notice at
 “ present to acquaint you with, except
 “ that I am happy in the frequent visits
 “ of your two very sincere friends, — mr.
 “ Ellwood and mr. Morgan; — I need
 “ not

“ not tell you, when either of them are
 “ with me, on what the conversation
 “ chiefly turns; — they easily perceive
 “ they can talk on no subject so pleasing
 “ to me as yourself; and I am perfectly
 “ well convinced, by the warmth with
 “ which they speak of you, that it is not
 “ altogether owing to their complaisance
 “ to me, but in a great measure to gra-
 “ tify their own inclinations, that your
 “ name and virtues are so often men-
 “ tioned.

“ Lady Wingman has just now sent
 “ for me in very great haste, — I know
 “ not as yet on what occasion, but would
 “ not disoblige her ladyship by being too
 “ tardy in complying with her request,
 “ — so must bid you adieu for this time :
 “ be assured I am, and ever shall be,

“ With the sincerest, tenderest affection,

“ My dear Jemmy,

“ As much as you can wish or expect,

“ Yours,

“ J. JESSAMY.

“ P. S. The accounts I have concerning
 “ Belpine are very favourable ; — but let
 “ not this intelligence hasten your return
 “ one moment sooner than you are quite
 “ weary of the place you are in.”

She had but just seal'd this up and
 order'd her servant to carry it to the post,
 when a second messenger from lady Wing-
 man arrived, and presented her with a
 little billet from lord Huntley, folded in
 the shape of a true lover's knot, and con-
 tained these lines :

To miss JESSAMY.
 “ MADAM,
 “ COME, — charmer come, — but
 “ leave your cares behind,
 “ To your friends happiness be all re-
 “ sign'd :
 “ Haste to congratulate rewarded love ;
 “ A bliss you'll one day give, — and
 “ Jemmy prove,

“ In the same manner as does

“ MADAM,

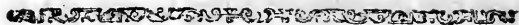
“ Your most obedient servant,

“ The transported

HUNTLEY.

Jenny

Jenny easily found by this rhapsody, that his lordship's marriage with miss Wingman was agreed upon, if not already celebrated, and as she had a very great respect both for the one and the other of them, bid her chairmen make all the haste they could to carry her to the scene of joy.



C H A P. XXII.

Contains, among sundry interesting and entertaining particulars, a certain proposal, agreement, and resolution, — sudden, — unexpected, — highly important to one of the parties concerned, and no less pleasing to the others.

JENNY, being shew'd up into lady Wingman's great drawing-room, found lady Speck, — miss Wingman, — lord Huntley, — mr. Lovegrove, and sir Thomas Welby, with her ladyship; the highest gaiety appear'd in all their countenances, except in those of miss Wingman and mr. Lovegrove, who both look'd extremely serious, tho' for very different reasons.

This had, indeed, been a pretty extraordinary day, — lady Wingman having consented to give her daughter to lord Huntley, and sir Thomas Welby highly approving of that union between them, the marriage articles were that morning signed; and it was either that the intended bride thought it became her to look grave on this occasion, or that the thoughts of being so near entering into a new scene of life made her really so, which caused an unusual sedateness in her behaviour.

As to mr. Lovegrove, — the encouragement he had lately received from lady Speck, and the knowledge that she had discarded all her lovers except himself, had given him courage that day to press her in more strong terms than ever he had done before, for the completion of his wishes; at which she had seem'd very much offended, and told him that the man who had not love and patience enough to wait till she discover'd an inclination to change her condition, should find that she never would do so in his favour.

This cruel rebuff, from a mistress he had courted for so long a time, did not
how-

however hinder him from waiting on her to lady Wingman's, having before received an invitation from her ladyship to come there; but it cast, notwithstanding, such a dejection on his spirits, as was not in his power to conceal, though he attempted it as much as possible.

But Jenny had not presently an opportunity to observe this change in him, or to make her compliments to any of the company; — she had scarce returned the first salutations of lady Wingman, before lord Huntley catching fast hold of both her hands, — ‘ Dear miss Jessamy, cried he, you were so good to take part in my distresses at Bath, and I flatter myself will no less do so in the assurance I now have of being shortly the happiest man in the world.’

‘ Shortly, my lord, reply'd she, you surprise me; — I imagin'd by the billet I just now received that the ceremony was over, and that your lordship was already a bridegroom.’

— On this sir Thomas Welby took up the word, — ‘ No, madam, said he, I have not yet given up my fair charge; but have promised to put her entirely into his lordship's possession on Tuesday day

‘day next, — according to the institution, — till death do them part; — and it was to engage you to be witness of this form, that your company was desired.’

‘That is not all, sir Thomas, cried lady Speck, we have something more than being present at the wedding to require of miss Jessamy.’ — ‘Yes, rejoined miss Wingman, — something that I fancy will be much more agreeable to herself.’

‘There is hardly a possibility, answer’d Jenny, for either of you to require any thing of me that will not be agreeable; — but I am very much at a loss to guess what can be more so than to behold an union which affords so fair a prospect of lasting happiness, to persons for whom I have the greatest honour and esteem.’

Lord Huntley was just opening his mouth in order to make some return to this compliment, but was prevented by lady Speck, who briskly cried out, — ‘You must know, miss Jessamy, that we have all taken it into our heads to go to Paris, — and are resolved to have you with us.’

‘ To Paris, madam! demanded Jenny
 ‘ strangely amazed; — Pray what does
 ‘ your ladyship mean?’ — ‘ We all mean
 ‘ alike, said miss Wingman smiling, —
 ‘ and are determined to take no denial;
 ‘ — you must needs go with us and
 ‘ fetch home mr. Jeffamy.’

All the presence of mind Jenny was usually mistress of; could not now enable her to recover herself enough from the astonishment she was in to desire an explanation of all this; nor even to ask whether what they had said to her was meant in earnest or in jest. — The ladies laugh’d heartily; but lord Huntley, pitying her confusion, took upon himself to unfold the mystery.

He told her that his dear miss Wingman, having an utter aversion to those formal visits of congratulation, always made to persons of condition on their marriage, and believing she should be no less troubled with them in the country than in town, had testified a desire of going to France; — that lady Speck, approving of the motion, had promised to accompany them; — and, in fine, that it was agreed among them to set out for Dover, in order to embark for Calais,
 imme-

immediately after the ceremony was perform'd.

Lady Wingman confirmed what lord Huntley had said; and added, that as her daughters so earnestly desir'd miss Jessamy would accompany them, she joined her entreaties they might not be refused this satisfaction.

That flutter which had seiz'd on Jenny's heart at the first mention of this tour to Paris was not quite gone off, yet she answer'd, with her accusom'd sprightliness, — that since the ladies did her the honour to invite her, she should not be so much an enemy to herself as to refuse making one in so agreeable a party.

Then turning to mr. Lovegrove, who had not spoke all this while, — ‘ I suppose, sir, said she, you are to be one of the company.’ — ‘ Yes, madam,’ reply'd he, casting at the same time a kind of reproachful look on lady Speck, — ‘ lord Huntley and miss Wingman have been so good to insist on my being so, and I should obey their commands with an infinity of pleasure, if I could flatter myself that my presence was no less acceptable to every one that goes.’

‘ I under-

‘ I understand you, sir, cried lady Speck, and so I believe do all here; — this is because I did not ask you to go: — indeed I thought — the knowledge I went was sufficient to engage you, by whomsoever the invitation was given.’ — ‘ You thought right, madam, return’d he; — yet I should have been glad to have attended you by your own permission.’

‘ Well, — well, said she, since you are so particular, and oblige me to be so too, I will give you your humour for once, and tell you, that without you I should lose half the satisfaction I propose to myself in this excursion!’

‘ This is an assurance, madam, answer’d he in a transported accent, as much beyond my expectations as my power of ever deserving it, and demands all the acknowledgments of my future life.’ — ‘ I expect no more, return’d she with a smile, than that you will not presume too far upon it.’

Had they been alone, he doubtless would have thrown himself at her feet, and said a thousand fine things to her on the occasion; but the presence of so many witnesses

witnesſes obliged him to defer his raptures till a more convenient opportunity allowed him to indulge them.

To prevent him, however, from ſaying any thing more than ſhe wiſh'd him to do at that time, ſhe went on, — ‘ I fancy, cry'd ſhe, that to ſee the behaviour of Mr. Jeſſamy on ſo unexpected a meeting with his miſtreſs will afford a good deal of pleaſantry to us all.’

‘ I had the honour, madam, ſaid lord Huntley, to have juſt the ſame thought with your ladyſhip; it muſt needs be an admirable ſcene, if we can prevail with miſs Jeſſamy not to apprize her lover of her coming.’ — Jenny, who was willing to give her friends this ſatisfaction, and beſides was herſelf extremely delighted with the conceit, laughed heartily, and proteſted ſhe would obſerve as much ſecrecy in this point as his lordſhip could deſire.

After this they fell into ſome diſcourſe concerning their intended journey; — in what manner they ſhould ſet out, — what rout they were to take, — by what number of ſervants it would be neceſſary they ſhould be attended, — and ſuch like particulars; which having ſettled, ſo as to be
moſt

most for the ease and convenience of the ladies, lord Huntley, who knew Paris perfectly well, farther added, — that it would be highly proper a large Hotel should be hired for their reception on their arrival; — and that as sir Robert Manley was luckily there, he would write to him and beg that favour of him.

This proposal seemed too commodious to be rejected, only lady Speck said, that she fear'd it would destroy their design of surprising mr. Jessamy; for as Jenny had told of the intimacy that was now grown between him and sir Robert, it could scarce be doubted, but that the latter would inform his new friend what company he might soon expect to see.

• Not if I request him to the contrary,
 • madam, reply'd lord Huntley, which I
 • shall do in the strongest terms I am able,
 • as you shall all be witness of, continued
 • he, if lady Wingman will favour me
 • with her standish, and forgive the li-
 • berty I take of writing in her presence.

He had no sooner spoke than miss Wingman ran herself into the next room, and fetched all the necessary utensils wanting for him to do as he had said, and he then

sat

JEMMY *and* JENNY JESSAMY. 241
sat down to a side-table, and wrote in the
following manner:

To sir ROBERT MANLEY.

“ Dear sir ROBERT,

“ **W**HAT so much testifies the excess
“ of any passion as the being un-
“ able to express it! — It is utterly im-
“ possible for me to describe the present
“ transport of my soul; but you will ea-
“ sily conceive it, when I tell you that
“ my so-long-adored-miss Wingman has
“ at last consented to be mine.

“ Next Tuesday is fixed upon to make-
“ me the happiest of mankind, and it is
“ also agreed upon, that, for the sake of
“ avoiding those troublesome formalities
“ usual on such occasions, we shall that
“ same day set out on our way for France,
“ where, it is no compliment to assure you,
“ my felicity will receive no inconsider-
“ able addition by your being a witness
“ of it.

“ We shall come to Paris accompa-
“ nied by lady Speck, mr. Lovegrove,
“ and a third person, whose name I am
“ not at liberty to mention; but if you
“ chance to guess at, must insist upon
“ it your not acquainting mr. Jessamy
VOL III. M “ with

“ with any part of your conjectures on
 “ that head; and, upon second thoughts,
 “ it will be still better, if, to prevent all
 “ suspicion in him, you keep him in an
 “ entire ignorance that any of us are ex-
 “ pected.

“ You will, perhaps, laugh at this in-
 “ junction, but I make it at the request
 “ of the ladies, whose desires I know
 “ you always take a pleasure in comply-
 “ ing with:—I write this in their pre-
 “ sence; — they all send their compli-
 “ ments, and, as well as mr. Lovegrove,
 “ join with me in intreating a favour of
 “ a more serious nature; — which is, —
 “ that you will be so good as to employ
 “ some person, who knows the town, to
 “ hire a handsome hotel, with all other
 “ proper accommodations for us, against
 “ our arrival, that the fair travellers
 “ may meet with no more embarrass-
 “ ments at the end of the journey, than
 “ they would do in stepping into their
 “ own country seat.

“ I shall not pretend to direct your
 “ choice in the situation of a place, —
 “ I am convinced you will fix on such
 “ a one as you shall find most agree-
 “ able; — neither will I attempt any
 “ apology for the trouble I give you, —

“ I am too well acquainted with your
“ heart to think I stand in need of any,
“ and hope you are enough so with
“ mine to assure yourself that I am,

“ With the greatest friendship
and esteem,

“ Dear sir Robert,

“ Your most obedient,

“ And most humble servant,

“ HUNTLEY.

— P. S. “ I beg leave to recommend as
“ much expedition in this affair as pos-
“ sible; for tho’ we propose travelling
“ at our ease, we shall certainly, barring
“ accidents, be with you in twelve days
“ at farthest, from the date hereof.”

After having read this to the company, and received their approbation of it, he sealed it up, in order to have it carried to the post; but Jenny, finding they should not reach Paris in less than twelve days, desired that errand might be deferred for a few minutes: — she considered, that before the expiration of the time his lordship mentioned, Jemmy would certainly, not only write to her,

but also expect an answer from her; and thinking herself under an obligation to prevent him from entertaining any uneasy apprehensions on that disappointment, begged leave to take up the pen lord Huntley had laid down, and write a few lines to him.

‘ Ah, madam, cry’d lord Huntley, how are we sure you will not undo all I have been doing, and apprize mr. Jessamy of our plot upon him.’ —
 ‘ No, upon my honour, replied she laughing;—but if you will not take my word, miss Wingman and lady Speck, if her ladyship will give herself that trouble, shall read what I write to him.’

She said no more, but sat down to the table, — whence she returned in a very small space of time, and, according to her promise, submitted to miss Wingman’s perusal, what she had been writing:—this little epistle was as follows:

TO JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

‘ Dear JEMMY,

‘ YOU will wonder at receiving two letters from me by one post, but I cannot suffer that any pains you
 ‘ take

“ take on my account should be thrown
“ away:—I have engaged myself to see
“ my charming friend, miss Wingman,
“ give her hand to lord Huntley, and
“ also to accompany the happy pair in
“ an excursion they propose to make
“ immediately after their marriage:—
“ according to the manner in which
“ they have regulated the route we are
“ to take, it will be ten or twelve days
“ before we stay at any one place scarce
“ longer than merely for necessary re-
“ freshment; so that it will be abso-
“ lutely impossible for me to give you
“ any exact directions where to send to
“ me during that time.

“ I beg, therefore, that you will not
“ think of writing till you hear from me
“ again, which, you may be certain, will
“ be as soon as I shall find myself in a
“ situation to hope an answer from you;
“ till when content yourself with the as-
“ surance, that, wherever I am, I shall
“ always be,

“ With the greatest tenderness,

“ My dear Jemmy,

“ Your most affectionate,

“ And most faithful

“ J. JESSAMY.

Miss Wingman, on reading this, declared to her sister and the whole company, that Jenny had betray'd no part of their design; but, on the contrary, had wrote in such a manner as would rather prevent, than raise any suspicion in Mr. Jessamy of the truth; — and, in fine, that she had done no more than what love, — friendship, — politeness, — and even good-nature, demanded from a person in her circumstances.

The remainder of the evening was chiefly taken up with conversation on their intended journey, which afforded an ample field for wit and pleasantry; — they separated not till it was very late, and even lady Wingman and Mr. Thomas Welby seem'd to have forgot their age and gravity, to participate, in some measure, in the good-humour and sprightliness of those who were fired with more gay and sanguine expectations.



C H A P. XXIII.

Contains, among other particulars of less moment, an incident, which, to every reader of a distinguishing capacity, must certainly appear as extraordinary as it did to our fair heroine herself, or indeed any other in the whole history.

AN excess of satisfaction is sometimes as great an enemy to repose as an excess of grief; so little is human nature able to sustain the violence of any passion: — tho' Jenny went not into bed till almost the time in which she usually arose, yet could she not submit that those pleasing ideas she was now possessed of should be lost in sleep and an inactivity of thought.

Never, indeed, had she experienced a contentment more sincere, — a joy more perfect than that she now felt; — scarce could lord Huntley himself long with greater impatience for the day which was to put him in possession of his wishes, than she did for the arrival of it, as it was the day in which she was to set out on so agreeable a journey, the end of

which promised her such an infinity of pleasure in surprizing her dear Jimmy with her unexpected presence.

It is certain that so agreeable a tour, taken in the company of persons of such high rank and fortune, and who, she was convinced, had a perfect friendship for her; — the going to a place so famous for its variety of amusements, had something in it extremely ravishing to a young heart, had love been entirely out of the question; — yet, it is no less certain, that this last was the prevailing motive; — the verb by which all desires of her soul was governed, and the rest no more than mere adjectives: — that was the grand structure her expectation formed, the others no more than exterior embellishments.

Tasso, the Italian poet, seems to have, in my opinion, a very just notion of this passion, when he makes Armida, in his celebrated piece of Godfridus, say,

Love, the great aim of all created beings!

The source and center of our hopes and fears!

From that they flow, — in that they terminate.

I know not whether, in my translation of this passage, I have done the original all the justice it deserves; but how much soever I may have wronged that great author in the expression, am pretty certain that I cannot be mistaken in his meaning.

I believe, however, that very few of my readers, especially those of the softer sex, will stand in need of any comment on the present disposition of Jenny's heart, — their own will sufficiently inform them what her's must feel in the pleasing idea of rushing unexpectedly, — undreamt of, — unthought of, upon a lover so deservedly beloved, — who she knew languished to behold her, and whom she languished to behold.

But notwithstanding all the pretty images she pictured in her mind, on account of this meeting, she suffered not herself to be so much engrossed by them as to neglect the settling her affairs in a proper manner before she went away: — she sent for Mr. Morgan and Mr. Ellwood, told them she was going out of town for some time, but without acquainting either of them to what place, and desired that they would give, during her absence, such directions to Jemmy's

steward and housekeeper as should be found necessary.

She had also some business to dispatch before her departure, in relation to remittances and accounts, with those gentlemen, who were her own trustees, and this, with some articles, concerning what habits and ornaments she should carry with her, was, as any one may suppose, sufficient employment for the short space of time between her agreeing to go on this journey and her taking it.

There were very few of her acquaintance of whom she took any leave, and none to whom she imparted the rout she was about to pursue, — telling them only that she had engaged herself to take a little ramble into the country with lady Speck and miss Wingman; though the sole motive she had for preserving such secrecy in this point, was to avoid the railleries she must have expected to be treated with, in case they had known she was going to the place which Jemmy had made choice of for his refuge.

She was returned to her apartment, after having paid the above-mentioned compliment to those, who, by their age or condition, most exacted it from her; —

every necessary preparation for her journey was already made, and it was the eve of that important day in which she was to set out, and she had nothing now to do but to indulge contemplations on the happy consequence.

The humour she was in, at present, was so serene and sweet, that one would have thought there was scarce a possibility for any thing to have discomposed her; — yet did the compass of a very few minutes serve to dissipate all the sunny cheerfulness of her mind, and convert the late calm into a sudden tempest of disdain and indignation.

Her footman came hastily into the room, and told her, that a gentleman in a chair begg'd leave to speak with her, if at home and alone, — “ Who is he, cry'd she; ” “ He did not send up his name, ” reply'd the fellow; but by the glimpse I had of him between the curtains I think it is mr. —

Before he could pronounce the name, Belpine rush'd in; — he had justly doubted of admittance, and resolute to see her, had got out of his chair and follow'd the servant directly up stairs. — Jenny was astonished, and started at the sight of him;

but he prevented her from speaking by a profound reverence, accompany'd by these words: ' I fear'd, madam, said he, the
 ' disadvantageous opinion you have been
 ' inspir'd with of my principles and be-
 ' haviour, might have excited you to
 ' deny me the privilege of saying some-
 ' thing to you of much more conse-
 ' quence than the life which has been so
 ' cruelly attack'd, and so miraculously
 ' preserved, and which not to have ut-
 ' ter'd I should have died a double death.

' If you have been attack'd,' reply'd she, looking on him with the extremest scorn, ' you justly merited it;—and if pre-
 ' serv'd, must be as vain as you are
 ' base, to imagine it any mark of heaven's
 ' favour to yourself: — but to what pre-
 ' tence, demanded she, to what new ar-
 ' tifice, to disturb my quiet, am I in-
 ' debted for this unexpected, this unwel-
 ' come visit ?'

' Ah, madam,' cry'd he, casting his eyes round the room to see if the servant was withdrawn, and finding he was so,
 ' great as my offences are, went he on,
 ' they rise not to that enormous height
 ' as a wish to persevere in them: — I ra-
 ' ther come,' continued he, putting one knee to the ground, ' like a repentant
 ' sinner,

‘ sinner, to throw myself at the throne
 ‘ of mercy, and, in this humble posture,
 ‘ confess my crimes, and implore for-
 ‘ giveness.’

‘ There is no need of confession
 ‘ where the facts are fully proved, said
 ‘ she with the same contempt as before ;
 ‘ you have already received the punish-
 ‘ ment of them from a hand best able to
 ‘ inflict it, and have nothing to fear
 ‘ from my resentment.’

‘ Yet, madam, resumed he, I have
 ‘ much to hope from your forgiveness ;
 ‘ — it is that indeed on which my soul’s
 ‘ eternal peace depends ; — it is not that
 ‘ I dread a second blow from Mr. Jessamy,
 ‘ should he be inclin’d to repeat it, even
 ‘ were I certain his better fortune would
 ‘ again give him the advantage over me,
 ‘ and his revengeful sword bathe itself
 ‘ in my heart’s best blood ; — nor is the
 ‘ remembrance of my wounds, nor all
 ‘ the painful circumstances of my tedious
 ‘ cure, that is capable of giving me the
 ‘ least alarm ; — but it is the sad remorse
 ‘ that I have been guilty of any thing to
 ‘ forfeit that portion of esteem I once was
 ‘ favour’d with by you, which, like a vul-
 ‘ ture, preys upon my vitals, and fills me
 ‘ with ideas too terrible for nature to sus-
 ‘ tain ;

' tain ; — oh, therefore, have compassion,
 ' — vouchsafe to say you hate me not ; —
 ' that you pardon all I have done, and
 ' while I live, I will live only in the study
 ' how to deserve such goodness.

His words, — the seeming contrition in
 which he utter'd them, — his pathetic ges-
 tures, — his pale and dejected counte-
 nance, — altogether gave him such a pity-
 moving air as made Jenny lose much of
 the fierceness she had assum'd : — ' Mr.
 ' Jeffamy, said she, is the person whose
 ' friendship you have so grossly abused ;
 ' whom chiefly you have wrong'd ; and
 ' if he can be brought to forgive the
 ' mischief you intended for us both, I
 ' shall easily remit that part of it which
 ' concerns myself ; — therefore pray rise,
 ' — I am neither accustomed to receive,
 ' nor desire any such submissions.'

' No, madam, reply'd this artful dis-
 ' sembler, I must not quit this humble
 ' posture till I have disclosed the whole
 ' of my transgression ; — it is not enough
 ' that you pardon the faults I have been
 ' guilty of, without you vouchsafe also
 ' the same grace to the motive which in-
 ' duced me to commit them.'

‘ Motive, cried she hastily, what motive but the most fiendlike disposition could tempt any man to behave as you have done?’ — Yes, madam, rejoined he, there is one, which if I were as certain you would absolve as I am that the whole world besides would applaud me for, I should be the most blest’d among my sex : — it was love, madam, — love of the most angelic being that Heaven ever form’d that has render’d me the criminal I seem.’

Finding she made no answer, as indeed it was impossible she should in the present confusion of her thoughts on so amazing a declaration, — ‘ Yes, — charming miss Jessamy, went he still on, if I have been base, — ungrateful, — false to the rules of honour and of friendship, it was your lovely self that made me so.’ — At these words she cried out, — ‘ Me, villain, — me!’ — she as yet was able to bring forth no more, and he had the opportunity of replying.

‘ Blame not, said he, the effects of your own beauty, but rather pity a passion which made me deaf to every other consideration : — the more I have forgot the principles to which
‘ my

‘ my youth were bred ; — the more I
 ‘ have erred, the more I have proved the
 ‘ unbounded violence of my love ; and
 ‘ even those very transgressions have some
 ‘ claim to a grateful recompence from
 ‘ you.’

‘ Monstrous unheard of impudence,
 ‘ returned she, a little recovered from
 ‘ her surprize, had you the vanity and
 ‘ folly to imagine, that if your wicked
 ‘ arts had succeeded to separate me from
 ‘ mr. Jessamy, I should ever have de-
 ‘ scended to cast my eyes on you ?’

‘ I am a gentleman, madam,’ answer’d
 he, rising from the posture he had all
 this time been in, ‘ of as good a family
 ‘ as mr. Jessamy, and heir to an estate
 ‘ not inferior to his : — I knew, indeed,
 ‘ you were designed for him in your
 ‘ childhood, but was ignorant that your
 ‘ partial fancy preferred him to all other
 ‘ men ; and therefore hoped’ — ‘ I will
 ‘ hear no more, interrupted she, nor
 ‘ suffer in my sight a wretch, whose
 ‘ unexampled baseness renders him even
 ‘ below my anger.’

In speaking this she rang her bell, and
 the footman immediately coming up —
 ‘ Shew this gentleman down, said she,
 ‘ and

‘and take care he enters here no more.’
 — On this, Belpine’s late paleness turned to a fiery red: — ‘You might have saved yourself this charge, madam, cry’d he, ‘I shall not trouble you with a second visit;’ — and then flung out of the room without the least mark either of that love, or that humility, which he had, but a few moments before, taken so much pains to counterfeit.

It may, perhaps, seem strange to some people, that a man of so much subtilty as Belpine, should venture to take a step which could reasonably promise nothing less than the mortification he received; but a very small share of observation is sufficient to inform us, that those who are most cunning in deceiving others, are frequently deceived themselves by their own vanity; — as was the case with him.

The civilities which, on Jemmy’s recommendation, he had been treated with by this lady, had made him imagine, on his first acquaintance with her, that she considered him with an extraordinary regard, and that it would not be very difficult to improve that regard into a softer passion, if a favourable opportunity should once offer for his attempting it.

The precariousness of his circumstances, as has already been observed, — the largeness of her fortune, — and, it is probable, some share of inclination to her person, made him presently envy the friend who introduced him; and to endeavour, by all possible methods, how ungenerous and wicked soever, to exclude him from a happiness he wished to be in possession of himself. — The reader has seen how all the plots for this purpose were defeated, and how at last he began to despair of ever being able to succeed.

On his recovering, however, his former views began to retake possession of his mind; — he thought things could not be worse with him than they were, and that it would be worth his while to try at least if by one bold push he could not retrieve all.

The report he had caused to be spread concerning the imminent danger he was in from his wound, he found had made Jemmy keep abroad, which was the sole end he proposed by it; — being also told that Jenny appear'd with the same gaiety as ever, he had flatter'd himself with the hopes that absence and this accident had somewhat wean'd her affection from its former

former object, and that she had vanity enough to make her pleased with what he had done, when he should tell her it was occasioned only by the violence of a passion she had inspired him with.

But the contempt with which our heroine treated this declaration, notwithstanding his disappointment and the vexation he conceived at it, forced him to confess that there are women who set no value on such effects of their beauty as they find not accompanied with honour and virtue.



C H A P. XXIV.

Gives a very succinct account of the happy accomplishment of an affair, as yet quite unthought-of by the reader; and also of another which has been long ago expected, with other particulars of less consequence.

JENNY was so much disconcerted at Belpine's visit, and the manner in which she had been entertain'd by him, that it was a considerable time before she was able to bring back her temper to its accustomed

accustomed serenity; and when the emotions of anger and disdain were a little subsided, they yet left a certain heaviness upon her spirits, which made her fall into reflexions of the most serious nature.

‘ How greatly, said she, does the name of love suffer by the unworthiness of its pretended votaries? How is that passion, which in reality refines the mind, and fills it only with sublime ideas, made the veil to cover the most foul and most detestable designs, and also an excuse for the worst of villainies when perpetrated?’

‘ That woman must certainly be very weak, continued she, who believes herself truly belov’d by a man who has recourse to dishonourable means for the accomplishment of his wishes: — if this wretch has in earnest been instigated to act as he has done by any inclination for me, they must be of such a sort as I should blush to inspire; and I am amazed that my sex should plume themselves, as I have seen some do, in addresses which either have no meaning at all, or such as are not consistent with their virtue or reputation to encourage.’

Her maid now coming in to ask some questions concerning the packing up of her things, she started from the resvery she had been in, and went into her dressing-room to give the necessary directions, where, busying herself in assisting in the execution of her own orders, the pleasing thoughts of her journey drove those of Belpine pretty much out of her head, tho' not so entirely but that the remembrance of his complicated impudence and hypocrisy would sometimes intervene.

It would be superfluous to trouble the reader with a detail of those avocations in which she pass'd the remainder of that evening, as nothing happen'd of consequence enough to afford either much delight or improvement.

Ten the next morning being the hour appointed to celebrate the nuptials of lord Huntley and miss Wingman, she arose pretty early, — dress'd herself in a rich riding habit, and went to lady Wingman's in a chair, leaving her maid, who was to attend her in this expedition, to follow with the luggage in a hackney coach.

She found all the company already there, except the reverend divine, who also came in a few minutes after; — sir Thomas Welby presented the bride, and the ceremony was instantly perform'd; but the wedded pair had scarce time to receive the benediction of lady Wingman, and the congratulations of those friends who were present, before mr. Lovegrove took lady Speck by the hand and led her towards sir Thomas, saying, — ‘ Sir, I
 ‘ must intreat the favour of you to be-
 ‘ come a father a second time this morn-
 ‘ ing, and bestow a blessing on me which
 ‘ my whole life shall thank you for.’

‘ How is this!’ cried the old baronet very much astonish’d, as was every one in the room: — ‘ Is it possible!’ added the
 ‘ new-married lady Huntley; sister, are
 ‘ you in earnest, — really going to be
 ‘ married to mr. Lovegrove?’

‘ Even so, indeed, my dear sister, re-
 ‘ ply’d lady Speck laughing, I have
 ‘ suffer’d him too long as a lover not to
 ‘ make a husband of him at last.’ — Then turning to lady Wingman, — ‘ I beg par-
 ‘ don, madam, continued she, for not
 ‘ consulting your ladyship in this affair;
 ‘ but you gave me away once, and now
 ‘ I thought

‘ I thought myself at liberty to make my
 ‘ own choice.’

‘ Indeed, daughter, said that lady, it is
 ‘ a choice which I should long ago have
 ‘ made for you myself, if, as you justly
 ‘ say, I had not lost my right of direct-
 ‘ ing your inclinations, by your having
 ‘ been married before; — however, I must
 ‘ do you the justice to acknowledge, you
 ‘ exercise not the power you now have
 ‘ over your actions but in favour of a
 ‘ gentleman, who you were very certain
 ‘ would not only receive my approba-
 ‘ tion, but that of every one who has
 ‘ any acquaintance with his merit.

It is not to be doubted but that mr. Lovegrove, who is one of the most polite men on earth, return'd this compliment from the mother of his mistress in terms full of submission and respect.

Lord Huntley, his fair bride, and Jenny, were all this while got together, expressing to each other the most glad surprise at this event; — ‘ It affords me,
 ‘ said the former, a double potion of satisfaction, to see my friends happiness
 ‘ go hand in hand with mine;’ — which mr. Lovegrove overhearing, just as he had done speaking to lady Wingman, —
 ‘ My

‘ My dear lord, cried he, though yester-
 ‘ day I thought myself as far remov’d
 ‘ from the completion of my wishes
 ‘ as I now am near, I protest to your
 ‘ lordship that I found room in my
 ‘ heart to rejoice in your good fortune
 ‘ while despairing of my own.’

‘ Aye, — aye, — we are all very well
 ‘ pleased, said sir Thomas Welby; but
 ‘ do not let us make the reverend gentle-
 ‘ man wait any longer. — Come, my
 ‘ fair daughter elect, pursued he, taking
 ‘ lady Speck by the hand, put yourself
 ‘ under my jurisdiction for a minute or
 ‘ or two, that I may consign my short-
 ‘ liv’d authority to one whose every com-
 ‘ mand, I dare answer, you will find
 ‘ a pleasure in obeying.’

Here the remembrance of some disagreeable passages in her former marriage made lady Speck shudder a little at the thoughts of venturing on a second; — but she had great experience of mr. Lovegrove’s temper; — she had promised to be his, both in private and now before all this company, — so threw off all apprehensions, and advanced with her usual sprightliness towards the clergyman, who had his book ready open’d in order to begin the ceremony.

Jenny,

Jenny, who till this morning had never happen'd to be present at these sacred rites, was fill'd with the most solemn meditations during the performance, especially on the repetition for this second couple; — she found something so binding in the contract, — so awful in the injunction laid on the married persons by the ordinance, that she was amaz'd to think there could be any one hardy enough to infringe it.

She thought, nevertheless, that the obligation would make a greater impression, and have more weight with those who enter'd into it, if celebrated in a place consecrated to divine worship, than in one which was usually the scene of feasting, — dancing, — and all kinds of pleasantries, if no worse: — ‘ Marriage, said she within herself, is the great action of our lives, — the hinge on which our happiness or misery, while we have breath, depends; — the more respect we pay to the institution, the more we shall be careful to observe its rules; and I can see no justifiable reason for avoiding to solemnize it in the temple of him who first ordain'd, and who alone has power to render it a blessing.’

These reflections frequently recurr'd to her mind, but she had no opportunity at present to proceed in them; — Mr. Lovegrove, now put in possession of the happiness he so long had sought, was already receiving the felicitations of his friends; and she, who sincerely rejoiced in his good fortune, would not be slow in testifying the sense she had of it,

Lady Wingman, who was a great lover of old customs, had prepar'd a rich cake, which Sir Thomas Welby immediately broke over the heads of the bridegrooms and their brides; — the servants were all call'd in to partake of this oblation to Ceres, — after which they went down to see if the equipage was ready for setting out.

The leave this happy company took of lady Wingman and Sir Thomas Welby was very short, as it was now past one o'clock, and they purpos'd to reach Sittingbourn that evening; — they went all together in a landeau, chusing to sit close rather than be separated; — their women attendants, which were also five in number, were cramm'd into lady Speck's old travelling coach, with such things as they knew their ladies would require for
present

present use upon the road, and the more heavy baggage placed behind and before it.

Notwithstanding the privacy with which these weddings had been conducted, a crowd of Mendicants having got a scent of what was doing, had gather'd about the house, and hung upon the doors and even wheels of the landeau; but lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove throwing out handfuls of money for them to scramble for, the machine was soon freed from this incumbrance and drove away, escorted by nine servants on horseback, valets included.



C H A P. XXV.

Contains a great deal of business in a very narrow compass.

LIFE affords but few amusements which are more agreeable than travelling, when in a party of select friends who have all of them their hearts at ease, and think of nothing but to divert themselves: — the company, which now set out from lady Wingman's, were in a situation as near to perfect happiness as can

be tasted on this side eternity ; — Jenny was the only person in a state of expectation, yet was she no less alert and gay than those who had already obtain'd the ultimate of their desires.

When they had got free from the tumultuous din, — the smoak, — the stench, and rugged stones of London, — ‘ I begin already, said this amiable lady with a smile, to taste the pleasures of this journey ; but you little suspect how much I have been tempted not to take it ; and when I make you the confidants of an adventure that happen'd to me last night, you will confess I am a woman of great resolution in keeping the promise I gave of accompanying you.

On this they all cried to her not to keep them in suspense ; — ‘ I will not, resumed she, — and hope you will not think me too vain a boaster, when I tell you at once that I have made a new conquest, — have gain'd a heart all flaming and adoration, — a lover who for my sake has done such things as I believe no man besides himself ever did or would do.’

Nobody

‘ Nobody doubts the power of your charms, my dear, said lady Speck ; but pray who is this lover ? — for he must be one of whom you are either very fond, or think not worth concealing.’ —
 ‘ I dare answer by her looks, subjoin’d lord Huntley, that he is the latter ; — but pray, madam, let us have his name.’

‘ I will not put your lordship, nor any of the company, to the trouble of guessing, reply’d Jenny ; for should you all go to work upon that task, it would certainly last till we came to Paris, and even then be as far from being accomplish’d as now : — know then, that the hero of my true romance, — the man who dies for me, is call’d — Belpine.’

‘ Belpine ! — Belpine ! — impossible, repeated they all several times over ; — He could not sure have the impudence, cried lady Huntley ; but, dear creature, let us have the whole story, — it must, however, be very entertaining.’

Jenny then related to them Belpine’s visit, his discourse, and the manner of his behaviour towards her ; and this she did with so much wit and spirit as could not but be extremely pleasing to the com-

pany ; — they laugh'd heartily at some passages in the recital ; and their mirth would have been yet more complete, had it not been somewhat check'd by their astonishment at his unparallel'd impudence and deceit.

‘ For my part, said lord Huntley, tho’
 ‘ I cannot but own that there was some-
 ‘ what very extraordinary in the decla-
 ‘ ration he made to miss Jessamy, yet it
 ‘ is certain that love was the only excuse
 ‘ he could alledge for what he had done ;
 ‘ and I am apt also to think it might be
 ‘ the real motive too, when I remember
 ‘ what mr. Dryden says upon this subject :

That love, all sense of right and wrong
 confounds,
 Strong love and proud ambition have
 no bounds.

Mr. Lovegrove reply'd, that he had the honour to agree with his lordship's sentiments in this point ; — ‘ But, cried lady Speck, would any man besides himself, after the most plain detection of his villainy, have had the folly and the arrogance to appear before a woman whom he was conscious had so much reason both to detest and scorn him ?

‘ Perhaps,

‘ Perhaps, madam, answer’d he, mr.
 ‘ Belpine had been just reading Shake-
 ‘ spear’s Richard the Third, and flatter’d
 ‘ himself with being able to say like that
 ‘ prince, after courting lady Ann,

Was ever woman in this humour woo’d?
 Was ever woman in this humour won?

‘ But, continued he, tho’ I can very
 ‘ easily believe that love might be one
 ‘ inducement, yet I can scarce think it
 ‘ was the only one; — I have been told
 ‘ that mr. Belpine’s circumstances are not
 ‘ in the most prosperous condition; —
 ‘ he might hope to mend them by miss
 ‘ Jessamy’s fortune; — and it therefore
 ‘ appears to me extremely probable, that
 ‘ the lady’s money had, at least, as great
 ‘ an influence over him as her eyes.’

From this they fell into a conversation concerning the practice of fortune-hunting, and the stratagems to which men of desperate circumstances and enterprising heads have sometimes recourse, in order to gain their point; — this was a copious subject, and afforded a great variety of diverting stories, no way to the advantage either of the deceiver or deceived; — these, with some animadver-

sions of the company upon them, lasted till they arriv'd at Sittingbourn, where, a servant having been sent before, as indeed the same care was afterwards taken at every stage, they found an elegant entertainment ready prepar'd against their coming.

The next day they dined at Canterbury, reach'd Dover the same evening, and the ensuing morning embark'd for Calais, to which port a prosperous gale safely conducted them in a few hours.

But there is no necessity to oblige my readers to accompany them through the whole course of their journey to Paris, as no material incident happen'd in it: — on the very dawning of that day which was to conclude their progress, lord Huntley sent a servant to Paris in order to apprize sir Robert Manley of their approach; and, as he doubted not but he had provided a place for their reception, to take directions from him where they should alight, and then to return with his answer to a little town within two leagues of the city, where they intended to bait and would stay for him; — this was easily perform'd, as the fellow had an excellent horse under him, and set out several hours before the company.

Sir Robert was at dinner with Jemmy and some other gentlemen, when a waiter of the house inform'd him that there was a man on horseback at the door who intreated to speak with him, and said he came from lord Huntley, on which he arose up immediately and went down.

Jemmy started at the name of lord Huntley, but not being able to assure himself that his ears had not deceiv'd him, ran to the window which commanded the court-yard, where he indeed saw sir Robert talking with a man who he knew by his livery belong'd to that nobleman, and seem'd as if but just come off a journey;—this put a sudden thought into his head, which, pleasing as it was, he durst not too much encourage, for fear of a disappointment.

‘ What, cried he to sir Robert on his
 ‘ returning into the room, is lord Hunt-
 ‘ ley in Paris?’ — ‘ No, reply'd the
 ‘ other, but very near it, — he will be
 ‘ here by night.’ — ‘ I hear he is mar-
 ‘ ried, return'd Jemmy strangely agi-
 ‘ tated; I suppose he brings his lady
 ‘ with him.’ — ‘ I shall soon see that,’
 ‘ said sir Robert with a smile; — for I

‘ must go to meet him, and shall be
‘ glad if you will accompany me.’

‘ I am always ready to attend you any
‘ where, sir Robert, answer’d he; but
‘ there is but little of a compliment in
‘ my doing so at this time; because I
‘ cannot help flattering myself with meet-
‘ ing some company to whom I am better
‘ known than either to lord Huntley or
‘ his lady.’ — Sir Robert could not keep
himself from laughing at these words,
but made no reply, and only said he must
send out to hire a chariot immediately;
on which a gentleman, who was present,
told him he had one at the door that
should be perfectly at his service, and as
he seemed in haste, and the horses were
ready put to, desired he would make use
of it.

Sir Robert, for the reasons urged by
the gentleman, readily accepted his offer,
and after taking leave of the company,
and giving some private orders to a ser-
vant, went with Jemmy into the chariot,
which, though it carried them with all
imaginable celerity, seemed yet too slow
to the impatience of one of them.

On their arrival they were presently
ushered into the room, where our travel-
lers

lers had but just got in before them : —
 Jemmy flew to Jenny, as if no other person had been present, and throwing himself upon her bosom, cried in the utmost extacy, — ‘ My dear, dear Jenny, this is
 ‘ an unhoped-for blessing.’ — My dear
 ‘ Jemmy, return’d she, I did not expect
 ‘ to see you till I came to Paris ; — but
 ‘ I am fairly caught in my own snare, I
 ‘ thought to have surpris’d you, and am
 ‘ surpris’d myself.’

On this he fell a second time upon her neck, and who knows how long, forgetful of every thing but love and joy, he might have continued in that tender situation, if sir Robert Manley, having by this time paid his compliments to lord Huntley, mr. Lovegrove, and their ladies, had not advanced to do the same to Jenny, saying, — ‘ Dear Jessamy, you
 ‘ must not think as yet of engrossing
 ‘ this lady wholly to yourself.’ These words reminding Jemmy of what was due from him to the rest of the company, which debt he discharged with an air of freedom and politeness too natural to him for his late transports to render less so.

They staid no longer here than was necessary to take some refreshment ; and on their arrival at Paris were conducted

by fir Robert to the hotel he had hired for them, which they found so handsome and commodious, that they told him he was certainly the best quarter-master in Europe.

After having led them through several apartments, he brought them into a spacious room, where a table (being already set out) was immediately covered, by directions he had before-hand given, with the most exquisite viands of the season. — This was a piece of gallantry which, as well as they knew fir Robert, they had little expected, or even thought on.

Some hours were past in a continual round of wit and pleasantry, intermixed with more serious demonstrations of love, gratitude, and friendship; but the gentlemen remembering how long a journey the ladies had come, thought it would be neither kind nor complaisant to keep them from their beds too late; though it may easily be supposed, that Jemmy took a very reluctant leave of his dear Jenny, and that she also would have willingly spared some time from her repose to have been entertained by a lover, so much and so deservedly beloved.

C H A P. XXVI.

Affords less than perhaps may be expected, yet enough to satisfy a reasonable reader.

JEMMY's impatience to entertain his fair mistress, brought him next morning to visit her in her own apartment; but as their conversation consisted only of such things as the reader is already well acquainted with, it would be needless to repeat it here, so I shall only say, that all which can be conceived of soft and tender, passed between them;—he thought that he could never sufficiently acknowledge the proofs she had given him of her affection;—nor she too much return those she had received from him:—Sweet are the charms of mutual love, when inspired by merit, and accompanied by virtue.

Neither of them, however, suffered themselves to be so far absorb'd in mutual endearments as to forget the respect owing to their friends;—Jenny had no sooner heard that the company had left their chambers than she proposed joining them;

them; and Jemmy had conceived so high an idea of lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove, on the character given of them by sir Robert Manley, that he rejoiced in this opportunity of entering into a more particular acquaintance with them.

On their going into the dining-room they found sir Robert Manley was also come to pay the salutations of the morning, and enquire how they intended to pass the day; to which the ladies reply'd, that they could not pass it more agreeably than in the situation he had provided for them, especially as their women had not yet had time to regulate their things in a proper manner to appear in public, and that if he and mr. Jessamy would give them their company, they should think it no confinement to stay at home: — This being readily agreed to, — feasting, — cards, and conversation engrossed the hours till the night was pretty far advanced; — nor were the gentlemen permitted to depart without a promise of returning the next day.

Lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove had hitherto been entire strangers to Jemmy, but they now found enough in his conversation to make them think themselves
happy

happy in his acquaintance; and he, as well as sir Robert Manley, was never left out in any party of pleasure formed by them.

In fine, though they continued in different lodgings, they seemed but as one family;—they all went together to visit the churches and convents,—to the opera,—the comedy,—the thuileries,—the gardens of Luxemburg,—made frequent tours to Marli,—Fontainbleau,—and Versailles;—not a day passed over without some new amusement, and time slid on in a perpetual round of pleasure.

Lord Huntley, who had been several times before at Paris, had a pretty large acquaintance among persons of the best fashion;—these hearing of his marriage and arrival, came to visit him, and likewise introduced their wives and daughters to the ladies, so that there was frequently a very large and brilliant assembly of both sexes at the hotel.

Lady Huntley and lady Speck had their share of admiration among the connoisseurs; but Jenny seemed, in the eyes of most of them, greatly to outshine both her fair companions;—she was toasted and distinguished by the name of
— La

—La Belle Angloise : — Jemmy was ravished at the fine things he heard said of her ; and the more so, as he found she was not the least elated by the praises she received.

This crowd of company, — this incessant hurry of accumulated diversions, however, deprived our lover of the opportunity of entertaining his dear mistress in private, as often as the pleasure he took in her conversation above all others made him wish to do ; and it is probable this restriction fill'd him with more impatience than ever he felt before for the consummation of their marriage.

One day, when he found himself alone with her, he sail'd not to press her in the most strong terms he was able on that article ; but she reply'd, — that it was then neither a fit time nor place for such a thing, — and that she wish'd he would not think of it till they should return to England.

‘ Why not a fit time and place, my
 ‘ dear Jenny, said he, can there be any
 ‘ time or place unfit to solemnize a co-
 ‘ venant made so long ago for us by our
 ‘ parents ? — a covenant which I hope
 ‘ the expectations of fulfilling has always
 ‘ been

‘ been equally agreeable to ourselves ; —
 ‘ remember, continued he, kissing her
 ‘ hand, the transporting promise you made
 ‘ in one of your kind epistles, — that if I
 ‘ could not go to you, — you would
 ‘ come to me, and the ambaffador’s chap-
 ‘ lain fhould complete my happinefs.’

‘ When I made that promise, answer’d
 ‘ ſhe, I meant nothing more than to ob-
 ‘ ſerve it religiously ; — and ſhould have
 ‘ contented myſelf to have lived in a
 ‘ continual baniſhment with you ; — but,
 ‘ my dear Jemmy, the caſe, thank Heaven,
 ‘ is now quite alter’d, — the circum-
 ‘ ſtances of our affairs have changed their
 ‘ face, — the wretch Belpine is recover’d,
 ‘ — no danger threatens your return, and
 ‘ as we have been here already near two
 ‘ months, it cannot be ſuppoſed ſhall
 ‘ ſtay much longer ; — wherefore then
 ‘ ſhould we hurry thus precipitately into
 ‘ a marriage, while in a foreign land and
 ‘ abſent from the greateſt part of our
 ‘ friends?’

She had ſcarce ended theſe words when
 lady Huntley came into the room ; but
 on ſeeing them together was about to
 retire immediately, crying, ſhe would
 not interrupt their converſation ; — Jenny
 call’d to her to ſtay, and Jemmy recol-
 lecting

lecting how much she had been his friend, in a discourse of the like nature just after her coming from Bath, told her that her layship's presence would be so far from giving any interruption, that it was highly necessary to decide a little dispute between him and miss Jeffamy.

‘ I guess the subject, answer'd she with a smile; and if I am to be arbiter, shall not fail to give it on your side the question, as I shall then be sure of obliging both parties.’ — ‘ You may be mistaken,’ cry'd Jenny, and was going on; but Jemmy, who would have the advantage of being first heard, remonstrated to the fair judge all the inquietudes of an ever hoping, — ever expecting, and never gratified passion, and all the anxieties attending impatience and suspense; — the manner in which he express'd himself had so much of the humorous in it, mix'd with the pathetic, as made both the ladies laugh heartily: — Jenny, in her turn, repeated the reasons she had for denying her lover's request, in terms no less sprightly; — after which, — ‘ Well, said lady Huntley, this is a moot point, and I must even leave it where I found it, and the room, that you may agree upon it between yourselves.’

She

She was going to do as she said, and had turn'd away for that purpose; —
 ‘ Hold, lady Huntley, cried Jenny, you
 ‘ must not depart till I have convinced
 ‘ you of my generosity to this unreason-
 ‘ able man: — here, continued she to
 ‘ Jemmy, is my hand, which I faithfully
 ‘ promise to give you before a Parson as
 ‘ soon as we arrive at London, and things
 ‘ can be got ready for the ceremony:’ —
 Jemmy receiv'd and kifs'd it with the
 greatest satisfaction.

‘ This is as it should be, said lady
 ‘ Huntley; and to heighten your con-
 ‘ tentment, mr. Jessamy, I can tell you
 ‘ that I believe you will very shortly
 ‘ have an opportunity to demand the per-
 ‘ formance of this promise; — for my
 ‘ part I begin to be weary of Paris; —
 ‘ mr. Lovegrove, I can perceive, is so
 ‘ too; and if we can persuade lady Speck
 ‘ to be of the same opinion, I know I
 ‘ can easily bring my lord into it.’

She was going on when lord Huntley
 came in with a letter in his hand; —
 ‘ Oh, my dear, cried he, I have been
 ‘ looking for you through all the rooms;
 ‘ — I have just receiv'd a letter from sir
 ‘ Thomas Welby.’ — ‘ I hope mamma
 ‘ is.

‘ is well, cried she hastily, — and no ill
 ‘ accident-has happen’d.’ — ‘ Not in the
 ‘ least, return’d he, but far on the con-
 ‘ trary; — fir Thomas only writes to let
 ‘ us know that his son is married, and
 ‘ will very shortly bring his bride to
 ‘ visit us in Paris.’

‘ I am astonish’d, cried lady Huntley;
 ‘ — mr. Welby married! — I do not
 ‘ understand how such a thing can be;
 ‘ — he took leave of mamma and I just
 ‘ after my coming from Bath, and told
 ‘ us he was to set out on his travels next
 ‘ day, and I thought that he was gone:
 ‘ — sure he must either have made a very
 ‘ short tour, or have stopp’d in his pro-
 ‘ gress and have pick’d up a wife by the
 ‘ way.’

‘ I know nothing of the particulars,
 ‘ resum’d his lordship; — but you shall
 ‘ hear what fir Thomas says on the oc-
 ‘ casion:’ — with these words he look’d
 over the letter, — and singling out that
 part of it which he thought would most
 satisfy her curiosity, read as follows:

“ I thought him too young to marry;
 “ but found his inclinations so much di-
 “ vided between love and travelling,
 “ that the latter would have afforded
 “ him

“ him neither pleasure nor improvement
 “ without the gratification of the former,
 “ so consented to both; — he was mar-
 “ ried last week, and two days ago set
 “ out on his rambles, and has taken his
 “ bride with him: — as they intend to
 “ stay some time at Paris, in their way
 “ to Italy and other parts, he will have
 “ the honour to present her to the ladies,
 “ and I flatter myself she will appear not
 “ unworthy of their countenance and
 “ friendship.”

‘ Well, this is strange, said she, per-
 ‘ ceiving he had done; but does not
 ‘ mention to whom he is married.’ —
 ‘ Not a syllable, reply’d he; but we
 ‘ shall soon know more of the matter; —
 ‘ for I find by the date of this letter,
 ‘ which I did not observe before, that it
 ‘ has been retarded, by some accident or
 ‘ another, in the post; and the young
 ‘ gentleman, by the time mention’d of
 ‘ his leaving London, must infallibly be
 ‘ already arriv’d, or very near.’

These words had but just escap’d his
 lips, when a servant came hastily into the
 room and said, that a gentleman, who
 call’d himself Welby, was in the great
 salon with lady Speck and mr Lovegrove,
 and they sent him to let his lordship know
 it.

On this lord and lady Huntley went to receive their new guest; but Jemmy and Jenny, having no acquaintance with him, thought themselves excused from paying their compliments to him at this time.



C H A P. XXVII.

Contains a very remarkable occurrence.

MR. Welby made his first visit very short; but was not suffer'd to depart without engaging himself to come again the next day and bring his lady with him, whom they were not a little impatient to see, as sir Thomas had mention'd her so handsomly in his letter.

The daughters of lady Wingman had a sincere regard for this young gentleman, not only as he was the son of sir Thomas Welby, but also on the score of his own good qualities; and, willing to testify it by all the marks in their power, gave orders to those who had the management of their household affairs, to omit nothing proper for the entertainment of the new wedded pair.

Three was the appointed hour, and had not elapsed as many minutes when their expected guest appear'd; — the bride seem'd very lovely in the eyes of lord Huntley, Jemmy, and sir Robert Manley; but there was something in her, which much more than her beauty, attracted those of mr. Lovegrove and the three ladies, — each of these was perfectly convinced that they had been acquainted with her face, though when or where none of them could recollect; — but when she spoke, in returning the salutations they severally gave her, her voice immediately eased them of the suspense they had been in, and presented her to their remembrance for the fair stranger whom accident and distress had brought into their company, at the village where they had been obliged to lie on their return from Bath.

Great was their astonishment, nor was that of mrs. Welby less; but as they had too much politeness to betray any part of theirs, or take the least notice they had ever seen her before, so she had too much generosity not to avow her remembrance of them.

‘ It was with a great deal of pleasure I
 ‘ came, said mrs. Welby, to pay my
 ‘ respects to the friends of mr. Welby ;
 ‘ but how infinitely would that pleasure
 ‘ have been enhanced, had it been pos-
 ‘ sible for me to have foreseen I should
 ‘ have met the only persons to whom I
 ‘ have been so highly obliged in the ex-
 ‘ tremest exigence in my life ;’ — then
 perceiving they made no other reply, as
 indeed they were not yet enough reco-
 ver’d from their surprize to do it : —
 ‘ You may not, perhaps, resumed she,
 ‘ be able presently to distinguish in the
 ‘ wife of mr. Welby the once forlorn,
 ‘ the distress’d fugitive ; — but this will
 ‘ be to me a perpetual memento of your
 ‘ goodness.’

In speaking these last words she took
 out of her pocket the snuff-box she had
 expos’d to sale at the Inn, and which mr.
 Lovegrove had bought and return’d to
 her with so much gallantry ; — on sight
 of it, — ‘ It will be a lasting honour to
 ‘ me, madam, said that gentleman, that
 ‘ you still retain a trifle no otherwise
 ‘ worthy your acceptance than by being
 ‘ before in your possession.’

The two sisters now first acknowledged their remembrance of her, with many compliments on the change of her condition; and Jenny, who had been impatient to do so, congratulated her good fortune with the extremest warmth: — those of the company who were not in the secret, were surpris'd at these salutations; but Mr. Welby most of all, which his fair wife perceiving, — ‘ You have
 ‘ introduced me, said she, to persons
 ‘ whom I little hoped to have met at
 ‘ Paris, but would have gone much farther to have seen; — I shall at leisure
 ‘ make you acquainted with the obligations I have to them.’

Dinner being that instant serv'd up broke off all farther speech upon this head; but the ladies were all the time in the utmost impatience to know the bottom of an affair which at present seem'd so mysterious to them, and as soon as the cloth was remov'd, left the gentlemen to their Burgundy and drew Mrs. Welby into another room, not doubting but she would readily satisfy their curiosity, which she accordingly did in the following manner:

The sequel of the fair Stranger's adventures.

“ **W**HAT you desire of me, said
 “ she, is so little worthy your at-
 “ tention, that I shall be as brief as pos-
 “ sible in the repetition ; — you already
 “ know the catastrophe of my fate in see-
 “ ing me the wife of the most generous
 “ man on earth ; — as for the accidents
 “ that made me so, they will only serve
 “ to shew that when we think ourselves
 “ farthest remov'd from happiness we are
 “ often nearest to it.

“ You may remember, ladies, that I
 “ told you my design was to cross the
 “ sea from Bristol to Cork ; — I got
 “ safe, without the least molestation, to
 “ the end of my journey ; but was for-
 “ tunately prevented from embarking on
 “ my voyage by this means :

“ I had scarce time to enquire if any
 “ vessel was bound for my intended port,
 “ when that aunt to whom I was going
 “ landed from thence ; — she came into
 “ the same inn where I was, — we were
 “ mutually astonish'd at the sight of each
 “ other ; but I soon related to her the
 “ whole of my unlucky story, and the
 “ disap-

“ disappointment it was to me to see her
 “ come to England in the very moment
 “ I was flying for refuge to her in Ire-
 “ land, at which she seem’d equally sur-
 “ prised and troubled.

“ At first she highly blam’d me for
 “ resisting so foolishly my good fortune,
 “ as she term’d it; but, perceiving I
 “ burst into tears at her reproaches, be-
 “ came more gentle: — she told me,
 “ however, that it would be quite im-
 “ proper for me to go to her house while
 “ she was out of it, as my uncle had
 “ never seen me, and I was an entire
 “ stranger to every one in the family;” —
 “ But, said she, you shall go back to
 “ London with me, — I shall see your
 “ father soon after I come there, — will
 “ talk to him concerning you, and doubt
 “ not but I shall be able to mitigate mat-
 “ ters between you, so as you may go
 “ home again without being forced to
 “ marry against your inclinations.’

“ This did not very well please me, as
 “ I knew my father’s positive temper,
 “ and fear’d the success of her negotia-
 “ tion in this point; however, as I had
 “ no other course to take, I was oblig’d
 “ to submit to her directions, and the

“ next day we fet out together in the
“ stage-coach for London.

“ On our arrival we were lodg'd at
“ the house of an eminent banker in the
“ city, who had before been appris'd of
“ my aunt's coming by letters for that
“ purpose : — she told him nothing more
“ of me than that I was her niece, nor
“ did he think it his business to ask any
“ questions, but treated me with a great
“ deal of civility and respect ; and, as I
“ was a perfect stranger in that part of
“ the town, I thought myself as secure
“ there as if I had been in Ireland.

“ The next day my aunt went to visit
“ my father ; but he happen'd to be
“ gone out of town for a few days, and
“ she found only my sister, who, on her
“ making some enquiry for me, told her
“ — that I was an impudent slut, —
“ that after having promised to marry a
“ gentleman of great worth and fortune,
“ and every thing being prepared for the
“ ceremony, I had run away in a most
“ scandalous manner on the very day it
“ was to have been perform'd ; — that
“ nobody knew what was become of me ;
“ — that I had almost broke my father's
“ heart, and was a disgrace to all that be-
“ long'd to me.

“ As

“ As I knew the bitterness of my
 “ sister’s nature, and the small portion
 “ of good-will she always had for me,
 “ I was not at all surpriz’d when my
 “ aunt return’d with this intelligence ; —
 “ I was only sorry my father was not at
 “ home, that I might-have known in
 “ what manner he resented my beha-
 “ viour ; for as I had never failed in the
 “ dutious love of a child to a parent, the
 “ thoughts of having been compell’d to
 “ incur his displeasure gave me the most
 “ severe affliction and remorse.

“ While I was in this suspense an ac-
 “ cident befel me, which, tho’ I thought
 “ little of at that time, proved after-
 “ wards to be of the greatest importance
 “ of my whole life.

“ My aunt was gone one day to her
 “ lawyer, on the business which had
 “ brought her to England, — I was sit-
 “ ting reading at a window, when a ser-
 “ vant at the banker’s shew’d a gentle-
 “ man into the room, and desir’d him
 “ to sit down, saying he expected his
 “ master home in a few minutes ; — I
 “ rose from my seat at the entrance of
 “ this stranger, but was pretty much
 “ surpriz’d when I presently recollected

“ he was the person who had follow’d
 “ me from church one Sunday to my
 “ father’s door : — you may remember,
 “ ladies, continued she, that I mention’d
 “ this incident to you on account of my
 “ sister’s reproaching me with it after-
 “ wards.”

‘ I remember it perfectly well, said
 ‘ lady Speck ; and I dare answer that no
 ‘ part of your story was lost on any of
 ‘ us : — but pray proceed ; for I already
 ‘ begin to trace the oddness of this event.’
 — Mrs. Welby smil’d and went on :

“ I would have left the room, resum’d
 “ she, but an unaccountable something
 “ rivetted my feet ; — the gentleman at
 “ first seem’d in more confusion than my-
 “ self, but he soon recover’d from it ;
 “ and seeing I had a book in my hand
 “ approach’d me, and with an air the
 “ most gay, yet respectful, — ‘ May I
 ‘ presume, madam, said he, to ask what
 ‘ author is so happy as to engage your
 ‘ contemplations ?’ — “ I reply’d, it was
 “ only a novel, entitled, Love and Duty
 “ reconciled ; — this, he has since told
 “ me, he look’d upon as a prosperous
 “ omen to his hopes ; — but he had
 “ no opportunity then to say anything
 “ farther, — the banker came that in-
 “ stant

stant in, — begg'd his pardon for
 having made him wait, and told him,
 that as they should now be too late
 for the office, if he would accept of a
 bad dinner with him they would go to-
 gether in the afternoon; — the gentle-
 very readily agreed; — while they
 were talking my aunt came in, and
 the cloth being already spread we all
 sat down to table.

My aunt was so much disconcerted
 that she could scarce eat, which the
 banker taking notice of, she burst into
 the most vehement exclamations against
 her lawyer; — the young gentleman,
 who by this time had found how nearly
 she was related to me, ask'd her many
 questions concerning the behaviour of
 the person she complain'd of, and she
 then gave him a long detail of parti-
 culars, which, as they are no way ma-
 terial to my story, I shall not trouble
 you with a repetition of; and shall
 only tell you, that she concluded with
 saying, that Mr. Dally was one of the
 most base as well as most unmannerly
 men in the world." — "Mr. Dally,
 cry'd he, I know him well, my father
 has been long his client, and I believe
 is the best friend he has; — if you will
 permit me to wait on you to him, I

‘ dare almost promise to engage him to
 ‘ do you justice.’ — “ She was quite
 “ transported at this offer and joyfully
 “ accepted it, on which he assur’d her he
 “ would come the next morning and at-
 “ tend her to mr Dally’s chambers ;
 “ there pass’d no more, soon after dinner
 “ he went out with the banker on the
 “ business they had been talking of,
 “ which I afterwards found was to the
 “ Million Bank, where he had some
 “ money left him on the death of a re-
 “ lation.

“ On the banker’s return my aunt
 “ could not forbear asking the name of
 “ the gentleman who had been so obli-
 “ ging to her, to which he reply’d, that
 “ he was the only son of sir Thomas
 “ Welby, and then ran into great enco-
 “ miums both on the father and the son,
 “ tho’ no more than what I have since
 “ experienced they justly merit : — I
 “ was, however, very much confounded ;
 “ for I must now acquaint you, ladies,
 “ that sir Thomas Welby is the per-
 “ son, the history of whose liking of me
 “ I have already told you, since it was
 “ he I took so much pains to fly.

“ Here they all cry’d out in the ut-
 “ most amazement, almost at the same
 “ time,”

“time,” — ‘What, madam, fir Thomas Welby, my guardian, said lady Huntley; was it to him you should have been married!’

“The same, indeed, reply’d she; nor is it strange you should be ignorant such a thing was in agitation; for even had it been effected it was to have been kept a secret from his own family till I had been carried home and set at the head of it; but I shall now proceed to the more agreeable part of my narrative; — mr. Welby came according to his promise, and usher’d my aunt to the lawyer’s; — she return’d about noon in very high spirits; — told me that mr. Welby’s presence, and what he said, had wrought a wonderful effect; — that the lawyer was now as civil as before he had been rude; and that her business would be dispatch’d in a very short time:” — ‘But, my dear niece, said she, I have something better than all this to inform you of; — this fine young gentleman is violently in love with you; — he has made me the confidant of his passion, and engag’d my interest. — What now, pursued she, seeing me look a little grave, surely you will not withstand your fortune a second time?’ — “I reply’d,

“ that I could see little advantage in that
 “ gentleman’s affections, since it was im-
 “ possible his father would ever give a
 “ sanction to it.” — ‘ Pish, — what then,
 ‘ resum’d she; when once you are mar-
 ‘ ried to him the father will easily be
 ‘ brought to forgive what cannot be re-
 ‘ call’d.’ — “ I urged the vanity of
 “ hoping a father would ever forgive a
 “ son for marrying the woman he had a
 “ mind to himself; but she made slight
 “ of all I said, and then told me, that as
 “ it was not proper the banker should as
 “ yet be let into the secret, she had pro-
 “ mised to give mr. Welby a meet-
 “ ing that afternoon, and to bring me
 “ with her:” — ‘ Neither your pride
 ‘ nor modesty, continued she, has any
 ‘ cause to be alarm’d, for I shall pretend
 ‘ it is all my doing, and that you knew
 ‘ nothing of seeing him.’

“ I was very averse to this meeting;
 “ but she was positive, and I was fearful
 “ of disobliging her, as I had no other
 “ friend but herself whom I could rely
 “ upon for making my peace with my
 “ father: — in fine, we went, Drapers-
 “ garden was the place of rendezvous;
 “ mr. Welby was there before us, — he
 “ affected, as had been contrived be-
 “ tween my aunt and him, to have come
 “ there

“ there by chance, which a little saved
 “ my blushes ; — after walking a turn
 “ or two, talking on ordinary matters,
 “ he proposed going to Ranelagh ; — my
 “ aunt reply’d, that she had never seen
 “ the place, and could not do it in better
 “ company ; — it did not become me to
 “ oppose what she had agreed to, — a
 “ coach waited which carried us directly
 “ thither ; — it was very early in the
 “ evening and the company were not yet
 “ come, so we had the gardens to our-
 “ selves : — my aunt was so much in his
 “ interest, or rather mine, that she gave
 “ him all the opportunities the place
 “ would admit of to declare his passion
 “ to me, which he did in the most pa-
 “ thetic terms, while she pretended to
 “ amuse herself with looking on the story
 “ of Pamela, painted on the walls : — I
 “ was far from giving any encourage-
 “ ment to what he said, yet, by an irre-
 “ sistible impulse, was prevented from
 “ treating it with that severity I wish’d
 “ to have done.

“ But why should I detain your atten-
 “ tion by particulars ? — this meeting
 “ was productive of a second, — that of
 “ a third, — and so on, for a succession
 “ of several days ; till at last, finding in
 “ myself an inclination to be too much

“ pleased with his addressees, and dread-
 “ ing the consequence, I resolv’d to put
 “ an end to them.

“ I took the first opportunity of being
 “ alone with him to tell him that I had
 “ consider’d of the honour he did me,
 “ and found it impossible for me to ac-
 “ cept the hand he offer’d, so intreated
 “ him to withdraw his affection, if in re-
 “ ality he had so much for me as he pre-
 “ tended, and talk to me no more upon
 “ that subject; — the manner in which I
 “ spoke convincing him I was in earnest,
 “ he seem’d much amaz’d, — made such
 “ replies as might be expected from a
 “ lover, accused destiny, and the influence
 “ of ill stars, — complain’d of his want
 “ of power to please me, and laid the
 “ blame of my refusal on my aversion to
 “ his person; — this struck me, and in
 “ the sincerity of my soul,” — ‘ No, sir,
 ‘ said I, wrong not your own merits, or
 ‘ my just sense of them, so far as to har-
 ‘ bour such a thought: — I blush not to
 ‘ confess, that of all mankind you have
 ‘ the preference in my heart; — but what
 ‘ avails it when there is a bar between
 ‘ us, which all the love in the world, on
 ‘ both sides, would never be able to sur-
 ‘ mount!’ — Ah, madam, cried he hasti-
 ‘ ly, what bar?’ — “ I then told him
 “ that

“ that I was determin’d never to marry
 “ without the consent of parents :” — ‘ If
 ‘ that be all, rejoin’d he briskly, I do not
 ‘ despair but to be able to make such pro-
 ‘ posals to your father as he will not dis-
 ‘ dain to listen to.’ — ‘ However that
 ‘ may be, answer’d I, you, sir, have a
 ‘ father too, — it is his consent I chiefly
 ‘ mean, and without his permission of the
 ‘ continuance of your addresses, be as-
 ‘ sur’d I will not receive them.’

“ He now seem’d much disconcerted,
 “ — sigh’d, and was silent for several
 “ minutes,” — ‘ Well, madam, said he,
 ‘ you shall be obey’d ; — my thoughts
 ‘ were lately bent on travelling, — every
 ‘ thing was ready for my design ; but
 ‘ on the sight of you love laid a sudden
 ‘ embargo on my feet, and I then made
 ‘ a thousand excuses to my father for de-
 ‘ ferring my voyage ; but I will now
 ‘ confess to him the whole truth, and im-
 ‘ plore his sanction to my vows ; — he
 ‘ is generous, — I am his only son, —
 ‘ he loves me, and I may perhaps suc-
 ‘ ceed ; — I will, at least, make trial of
 ‘ my fate, and to-morrow you will see
 ‘ me either the most happy or the most
 ‘ miserable of men.’

“ He

“ He parted from me with great emo-
“ tions, nor was I less disquieted ; but I
“ acquainted not my aunt with this con-
“ versation, knowing she would severely
“ chide me, and think, as indeed I did
“ myself, that the step I had taken would
“ entirely overthrow what she had taken
“ so much pains to promote: — I neither
“ saw nor heard any thing of my lover
“ all the next day, and this confirm’d
“ me in what before I scarce doubted ; —
“ I pass’d the night in anxieties enough ;
“ but the next morning found my con-
“ dition revers’d, in a manner which I
“ could never have imagin’d ; — soon after
“ breakfast my father’s footman came
“ in a great hurry to acquaint me that
“ my father commanded me to return
“ home immediately ; — I was in a
“ strange surprize ; — I knew not be-
“ fore he was in town, — could not
“ guess by what means he was directed
“ where to find me, and was in the ut-
“ most dilemma whether I ought to re-
“ joice or tremble at being sent for ; —
“ I would fain have staid for my aunt,
“ who was just gone out, to have taken
“ her with me ; but the fellow told me
“ that his orders were to bring me that
“ instant, so I said no more but obey’d
“ the summons.

“ On my arrival my father met me in
 “ the parlour, — I threw myself at his
 “ feet and begg’d forgiveness ;” — ‘ Rise,
 ‘ my child, said he, embracing me, — I
 ‘ do forgive you ; — the hand of Heaven
 ‘ has been in what you have done, and
 ‘ directed all your steps ; — your fears
 ‘ of a forced marriage are now over, —
 ‘ sir Thomas has resign’d his claim to one
 ‘ fitter for your years ; — they are both
 ‘ here, and wait your presence to ratify
 ‘ the contract I have already made for
 ‘ you.’

“ Judge, ladies, what I felt ; — I was
 “ no longer at a loss for the happy event ;
 “ the sudden surcharge of unexpected joy
 “ rushing in at once upon me was more
 “ than I could well support ; — I was
 “ almost fainting when my father led
 “ me into the next room, where sat sir
 “ Thomas Welby and his son ; the latter,
 “ as I have since heard, was in much the
 “ same condition as myself ; but the for-
 “ mer pitying my confusion, took me
 “ by the hand with these words, deliver’d
 “ in the most sprightly tone, — ‘ Come,
 ‘ daughter, said he, for such you now are,
 ‘ — your father has given you to me,
 ‘ and the least I can do, to atone for
 ‘ the troubles I have occasion’d you, is
 ‘ to.

‘ to give my son to you, and hope you
 ‘ will not refuse to accept the present ;’ —
 “ as he spoke this he join’d my hand
 “ with his son’s, — and added, ’ — ‘ Take
 ‘ each other, and be as happy as love and
 ‘ the mutual consent of parents can make
 ‘ you :’ — “ Neither of us could speak
 “ for some time ; but when we had re-
 “ cover’d ourselves enough to do so, the
 “ acknowledgments we made were very
 “ well receiv’d by both the old gentle-
 “ men.

“ As there wanted but little prepara-
 “ tions for a marriage so much desired
 “ on all sides, the ceremony was per-
 “ form’d in three days after ; and I have
 “ now nothing more to acquaint you
 “ with, but that mr. Welby still persist-
 “ ing in his desire of seeing foreign parts,
 “ I have gladly consented to accompany
 “ him in his travels.”



C H A P. XXVIII.

Concludes this history, and all the author thinks fit, at present, to intrude upon the public.

AFTER Mrs. Welby had finish'd the account of her adventures, and receiv'd the praises due to her conduct thro' the whole of them, they all return'd into the dining-room; where, finding Mr. Welby had entertain'd the gentlemen in much the same manner as his wife had done the ladies, the conversation on this subject became general; and when they discoursed more at large on the odd circumstances of what they had heard related, and consider'd the generosity of Sir Thomas Welby, — the disinterested passion of his son, and the extraordinary discretion of the young lady, they were at a loss to say which of the three characters had the greatest claim to admiration.

These new comers now found themselves so happy in the society of those they were among, that, till the expiration of full three weeks, they seem'd not
to

to remember they had any farther course to steer ; nor did their friends think it too great an act of complaisance either to revisit with them all the places they had been at before, or to stay in Paris so much longer than they had intended, or would have done, but for so agreeable an addition to their company.

At length, however, they were oblig'd to separate, — mr. Welby and his fair wife began their progress towards the Alps, in order to pass into Italy ; and the other gentlemen and ladies, now equally impatient to be at home as they had been to go abroad, set out in a few days after on their return to England, where they happily arriv'd without meeting any accidents to retard their journey.

This agreeable company now ceased to be of one family, — lord Huntly and mr. Lovegrove took their ladies home, and sir Robert Manley and our lovers returned to their respective habitations, to receive the visits of those friends and acquaintance from whom they had so long been absent ; — Jemmy, however, was seldom from his dear Jenny, and had now a full opportunity to remind her of the promise she had made him ; and that amiable lady, thinking they had sufficiently

ently prov'd the love and sincerity of each other, no longer sought excuses to delay what he desir'd.

But before we bring them to the altar, it may not be improper to acquaint the reader with something concerning Belpine, as he was the person who had taken so much pains to hinder their felicity from being ever compleated, and has, on that score, made too considerable a figure in this history to be wholly dropp'd.

The expences of his way of living having by much exceeded the slender income of his patrimony, he found himself obliged to mortgage, for near half the value, in order to discharge several debts, which had began to be very troublesome to him, and had expos'd him to repeated insults.

But this was a trifling misfortune, when compared with that which soon ensued: — lady Hardy had declar'd herself pregnant, which so enrag'd him, that not remembering the advice given him by the old housekeeper, he plainly accused his aunt of incontinency, and for proofs of his allegation against her, related all the good woman had reveal'd to him, and
also

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also all he knew concerning the passion
she pretended to have felt for Jemmy.

But he was presently convinced of the error he had been guilty of in this rash behaviour; — sir Thomas, either not believing, or not seeming to do so, treated all he said as a base forgery, and flew into the extremest rage, — forbade him coming any more into his presence, or even to think of him as an uncle, and at the same time bound himself by the most solemn imprecation, that whether the child his lady went with should live or die, to take such measures as should infallibly prevent the villain, who had so infamously traduced her, from ever inheriting any part of his estate.

Thus undone in all his future expectations, and reduced to an incapacity of living in a fashion equal to his birth, and much more to that of his ambition, it is not to be doubted but that he suffer'd all that despair and enervate rage could inflict upon him.

In this condition, the only method his invention could supply him with to avoid poverty, and its sure attendant, the contempt of the world, was to sell an estate, which he found by much too inconsiderable

able

able for his support, and get into the army; — he accordingly did so, paid off the mortgage upon it, and with the remainder of the money he receiv'd for the purchase bought a captain of foot's commission in a marching regiment, which, to add to his mortification, was presently after order'd to one of the plantations in the West-Indies, and he was obliged to leave England, with all its dear delights, and embark for the Creolian coast some weeks before our lovers and their friends return'd from France, — a punishment which his own pride and luxury had brought upon him, and was justly due to the complicated vices of so bad a heart.

Jemmy was little affected at this piece of intelligence; but Jenny, who thought him capable of every thing that was base and wicked, and had not been altogether free from apprehensions of some mischief which his revenge and malice might possibly be productive of, could not forbear rejoicing, in spite of all the good-nature she was endow'd with, that a man of such dangerous propensities was so far remov'd.

Among other occurrences of less importance to her peace than this of Belpine, she was also inform'd that mrs. Marlove,

Marlove, whom if the reader has forgot, he may find mention'd the beginning of this work, was now separated from her husband, having first made him, by her over delicacy and capricious temper, heartily weary of a state he had enter'd into with transport and the prospect of a lasting happiness. — She heard also that the marriage of Rodophil's mistress with the captain having been discover'd, her father oblig'd them to live together ; but that they agreed so ill that the contentions between them made much diversion for their neighbours ; — and that miss Chit had quarrel'd with her great friend lady Fisk, on the score of a young nobleman who had made his addresses to both, and equally despised both, tho' neither could suffer herself to believe so ; and that the animosity of these fair rivals was arriv'd to such a height, that they made no scruple of betraying to the world all the failings each had been guilty of, and of which they had been mutually the confidants.

But our amiable Jenny had now done enquiring into the follies and mistakes of her sex, as she had seen enough of both to know how to avoid them ; and all the preparations for giving herself to Jemmy being now ready, their marriage was solemnized,

lemnized, by her own desire, in the Abbey church of Westminster, in the presence of lord Huntly, mr. Lovegrove and their ladies, sir Robert Manley, and some other friends, among whom mr. Ellwood and mr. Morgan were not left out.

It would be needless to repeat the satisfaction which this happy catastrophe gave to every one who took any interest in the welfare of our accomplish'd lovers, or the sincere congratulations the new united pair receiv'd upon it; — I shall therefore leave them, after the hurry of feasting and visiting was over, to enjoy, in calm retirement, the more pure and lasting sweets of a well govern'd and perfect tenderness.

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