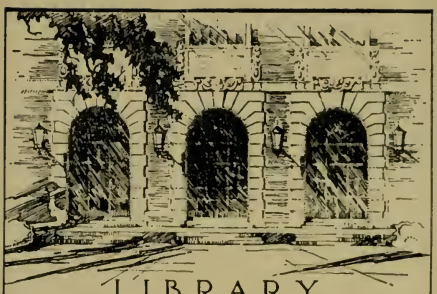


LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
823
M292
v. 2

MALCOLM DOUGLAS;

OR, THE

SIBYLLINE PROPHECY.

MALCOLM DOUGLAS;

OR, THE

SIBYLLINE PROPHECY.

A ROMANCE.

IN THREE VOLS.

" Dii quibus imperium est animarum, umbræque silentes,
Et Chaos, et Phlegethon, loca nocte silentia latè,
Sit mihi fas audita loqui." VIRGIL.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR T. HOOKHAM, JUN. & E. T. HOOKHAM,
OLD BOND STREET.

823
M292
v. 2

MALCOLM DOUGLAS.

CHAP. I.

In the mean time the travellers went forward, wondering at my protracted stay; at length my dear Eliza, restless and uneasy, declared her reluctance to proceed further without me, and her wish to return and see what had happened to prevent my following according to appointment; on which all readily agreed to accompany her back. Then the count said, it is a pity for all to return. I will

myself, alone, go in quest of Mr. Douglas, whilst you had all better proceed and wait my return, which will be very speedy, at that cabin which you see at some distance before us, for I am convinced my friend would be very much hurt and distressed by seeing all the party returned, deprived of their expected amusement; and I feel quite assured I shall very soon come up with him.

As this proposal appeared very rational, it was readily agreed to; but my wife, my adored Eliza, unfortunately impatient of suspence, said she likewise would return and see what had happened. This the count Osburgh opposed, saying he would ride fast; but she eagerly added, that she could ride as fast as he did, particularly when it was to meet her dear Archibald. So saying, without waiting for further contest or opposition, she set off at full gallop. The count, again pointing out the rendezvous, entreated them to have patience, and

that he should soon return with the deserters;—rode after her with full speed.

Sir James, lady Hamilton, and the rest of the party, though not without some apprehension, reached the appointed place, and two hours had elapsed in conversation, in making remarks, and in questions to the cottagers, before they permitted the progress of alarm; another hour to these succeeded, and their impatience became insupportable; yet still they lingered in momentary expectation of seeing us all come back together; but vain were their expectations, without purport their watching, no sound gave notice of our approach, no object met their strained and wearied eyes.

In most serious apprehension they now resolved to wait no longer, not entertaining the least doubt but what some dreadful accident had happened to me, which had detained my wife and the count, and pre-

vented their return; though at the same time they could not help blaming the neglect of not sending some one back to let them know the full extent of their misfortune.

Fully prepared for some distressing accident, they returned home, (but their worst fears fell far short of the calamity which had happened); they were not therefore much surprised on their arrival to find me stretched on my bed, exhibiting, almost, the countenance of death, languid and weak as if from a long confinement; and though in some degree recovered from the first severe attack, still suffering extremely; this they bore, as if their minds had been made up for something bad. But I rejoiced by their unexpected appearance; eagerly enquired after my Eliza. She, I continued, I hoped would have been the first in my apartment, the first to express her sympathy for my complaints. As I spoke this sentence, ill

as I was, I could not help perceiving the look of astonishment it caused: in the utmost consternation and horror, I enquired the reason—an explanation, but too soon, took place. Is she not already here! exclaimed the terrified mother;—Is not my Eliza with you?—Oh, it is many hours since she left us—to return and find out what it was detained you.—Alas! alas! some dreadful accident has befallen my beloved child. She is dead,—she is betrayed—at this moment, perhaps, she breaths her last.

I attended no longer, I heard no more the mother's lamentation,—but starting from my bed, it is that vile count, said I, who has destroyed us. I will, this instant, seek him—his life shall pay the forfeit of his villainy—my revenge shall pursue—here the words died on my lips, and I sunk down on my bed, in a state of utter insensibility.

When I recovered, I found only my father sitting by my bed; lady Hamilton having been carried to her own house in a state nearly equal to mine from her agonized maternal feelings; and the male part of the company had gone different ways in search of my Eliza, determined to rescue her or die.

Be patient, my dear Archibald, said my father, as he marked my distraction; be calm—recollect the count is a stranger, and may very naturally have lost his way in these intricate mountains; and even though Eliza is well acquainted with the road, her hurry and alarm on your account might occasion her to mistake the way, which may cause their being long delayed; but do not fear, they certainly will be met by our friends, who are now so diligently seeking for them. I shook my head incredulously at this consoling observation of my father's, which, I really believe, he had not himself the least faith in, only said

it as he wished to tranquillise my mind; for, from the first moment my heart was struck with the fatal, the too distressingly true idea of the count Osburgh's treachery. But, my dear Malcolm, let me not lengthen out this tale of sorrow, the recital of which tears open afresh the incurable wounds of my broken heart. All search proved fruitless; for from that never to be forgotten hour, to the present, by all the means our utmost invention could suggest to find out the fate of your beloved mother, (whose situation, in whatever light considered, would have rendered her an object to interest the feelings of the hardest heart;) we never have been able to find out the least trace of her course, or causes for her strange elopemont.

When I think of what she must have suffered, my soul dies within me; for that she was forced from me, is my unalterable belief. A wife so amiable, so affectionate, and so happy, a mother so tender, and who

so adored her infant; a woman on the point of becoming again a mother; and so dutiful a daughter to the most fond and indulgent parents, could never, in such a manner, have forsaken her doating husband, her parents, her child, and her home, and all the objects of her tenderest love, for a stranger whom she always appeared to dislike,—it could not be,—it is totally impossible;—and not for one moment could such a suspicion find place in my mind.

The loss of her beloved child soon caussd the death of her inconsolable mother; and sir James, though at first greatly distressed by the loss of a wife whom he had so many years lived with in the strictest bonds of friendship, yet soon married again, and became the father of a fine boy, which entirely deprived you of the large inheritance you would otherwise have possessed in right of your mother. Sir James did not long survive the birth of his child, but died suddenly, which prevented his mak-

ing any settlement in your favor: after which the widow and her son went to France. where they still reside. These afflictions, my dear Malcolm, have undermined my constitution, and are now hastening me to the grave.

This affecting story concluded, the tears of Malcolm, which flowed abundantly, and the sobs which burst from his bosom, showed the deep interest which he took in the distressing detail: at length, making a great effort to overcome the suffocating sensation which choaked his utterance, Oh, my father, said he, do not think me mean or cowardly for expressing my grief by these symptoms of it,—no, I trust I am neither one or other of these characters—for though I feel for the loss of your happiness, and of my own in the dear parent you lament as a child; and by these tears and emotions, I shew my feeling as a child. Yet the wrongs and injuries which you have sustained, continued he, starting

with energy from his seat, I am determined to resent and avenge as a man of honor ought. I will seek this base destroyer through the world. I will find him—and then, my dear father, he shall feel that I am the son of her so basely wronged, so cruelly trepanned, the shameless destroyer of my parent's peace, shall be compelled to confess his base transactions, and declare the fate of the object of, and victim to, his perfidy.

Alas! my dear child, answered Douglas, I myself have sought him, but without effect: you cannot, I am sure, remember it, but I left you long in the care of your grandfather, whilst I travelled nearly all over Europe in search after this treacherous ravisher: through every part of Germany, in kingdoms, and states, in vain I sought him; no diligence or enquiries ever obtained for me the slightest ray of hope to guide my bewildered way; and I have languished out my life in unavailing efforts to discover him. But now so many years

are passed, it is a useless waste of time to seek him further: and I trust in God, that long e'er this, his wickedness has met its full and ample recompence.

This narrative ended; Malcolm, with encreased assiduity, attended on his truly afflicted father. But forbore to make many observations on what he had communicated, fearful of keeping the afflicting circumstances longer in his mind; and whilst with the tenderness of a good heart, added to the duty of the child, he was doing all in his power to alleviate his father's sufferings, mental and bodily. Macdonald was safely pursuing his journey with his head full of plans of future operations, and hopes that all his views would terminate according to his well-arranged ideas. In the midst of these pleasing prospects, and his journey being accomplished to his almost entire satisfaction, he again found himself in the house of the marquis of Chiviot, in the beautiful city of Edinburgh.

CHAP. II.

The account which Macdonald had to give to the marquis of his embassy, was extremely distressing to him; for though he was very noble, and had endeavoured to the utmost of his power to prepare his mind to bear with fortitude whatever he had to communicate, yet the energetic praises bestowed by Macdonald on Malcolm, pierced him to the heart, and a pang of jealousy was conveyed to it, which seemed to indicate a desire in Macdonald to

consider this highly gifted youth, as superior in personal merit to lord Melrose. So ever ready is self-love to insinuate its narrow-minded principles even into the most liberal hearts; and so it now operated with lord Chiviot, for most certainly Macdonald had at this moment no idea of any comparison between them: but then only spoke his genuine sentiments, (a thing rather unusual with him) without even at the time thinking of lord Melrose.

The marquis began now to think it proper to acquaint his lady with the discovery which he had made of these new relations; but anxious to preserve her peace of mind, he resolved, let whatever would happen, never to inform her of the circumstances which led to it, the dreadful adventures of the mystic wood; for, sensible of her extreme affection for her children, and her highly raised expectation on their account, he knew that if she had but the slightest indication of his terrors

and apprehensions, it would be more than she would be able to support. He therefore prepared his intelligence, by saying that the very unexpected loss of his two brothers, in the prime of life, had acted with particular force upon his mind, and had more strongly than any other event he had ever met with, struck him with the instability of life and all human dependencies, and induced him to enquire into the state of his family connections, in a manner he never should have thought of doing, had it not been for these misfortunes, and the train of humiliating ideas they gave rise to; to find if there were any who might have a claim on his future friendship, fortune, or protection. The result of this enquiry was, that he found there was a gentleman in the north of Ireland, of the name of Archibald Douglas, the descendant of a great uncle of his, who was the next in succession should he die without an heir, and finding that this relation had a son, a lad of great promise, he had

formed the intention of taking him under his protection, and of giving him such an education as, let whatever future loss happen in his family, the ancient title might not devolve on an ignorant, illiterate clown.

The marchioness did not receive this intelligence with that degree of approbation which the marquis had expected. You are suddenly grown very provident, my lord, said she, and must certainly have some very singular reason for this new and extraordinary passion for searching different kingdoms for claimants on your bounty; but though your fortune, and the generosity of your disposition may in some degree palliate in you, what might in others be termed weakness, yet I should think a particular and guarded caution necessary concerning those whom you took under your immediate protection, or as inmates into your house.

True, replied the marquis, your lady-

ship's remarks are very just ; I shall, of course, be very cautious, and though I have expressed a wish to educate Malcolm Douglas in a proper manner, it did not imply, that I was going to receive him in every respect as my own son.

The emphasis the marquis laid on the last words, and the earnest interest he appeared to take for a person, of whom till this instant, she had never heard, together with the hesitating and unconnected manner this discourse had been introduced in, created in the mind of the marchioness some suspicion of who this new-found relation might be: and an idea as unjust, as it was unfounded, and unfavorable to the marquis's fidelity, crossed her imagination, and determined her to be very guarded against any imposition of this nature. She therefore said, I hope your lordship will well consider all the consequences which may result from the unbounded patronage you seem disposed to

give to a perfect stranger, as I suppose this young man is, who has had such a rapid growth in your esteem; recollect he may prove unworthy the regard you may wish to extend to him. He may return all your kindness with ingratitude; and that unthankful indifference whose sting wounds more deeply than the serpent.

At this very natural observation the marquis turned of a deadly paleness of countenance, his lip quivered, and he manifested every symptom of the most extream agitation. This the marchioness witnessed, with the utmost surprise, she conceived some very strong motive must cause it: and from that circumstance felt more fully confirmed in her former surmise. But the marquis, perfectly unconscious of the attention she was regarding him with, and without the most distant idea of her degrading suspicions of him, was too deeply struck by the words which she had uttered, to think of any thing

else. The dreadful word of the midnight warning, again sounded in his ears; and he shuddered whilst he conceived his fate compelled him to receive into his bosom a serpent to sting him to the heart.

After some minutes thus passed, for the marchioness did not attempt to interrupt an embarrassing silence she could not account for; at length, as though suddenly recovering himself, he said, you are right, my dear Margaret; you are certainly right; and I am the most wretched man existing; Malcolm Douglas is, without doubt, the serpent against whose sting I am warned; against whom I must guard with all imaginable care.

Your lordship is pleased to turn my conversation into ridicule, returned the marchioness haughtily, but notwithstanding that, I cannot alter my opinion, and trust, that you will never have reason to regret, not having attended to it before it

was too late; for it is much easier to run into an error than it is to rectify it; and therefore thought it a duty to point out some of the ill consequences attendant on too much confidence on the integrity of others.

You mistake me intirely, my dear Margrate, avowed the Marquis; so far from ridicule I highly approve of your observations, and shall, in a great measure, adopt them. I allow it would be highly dangerous to give too great encouragement to those whose sentiments and genuine good principles are yet unknown, however great the claim; for ingratitude has indeed a deadly sting. I will therefore well consider this affair before I come to a fixed decision; and whatever I do, in a great measure be guided by you, as on all occasions I have ever found your judgment correct.

The marquis then left the room, as he

found himself unequal for further conversation on that subject, and too much discomposed for any other. And the marchioness, from the ease with which he appeared to give up his own sentiments to adopt hers, was now staggered in the notion which she had but a few minutes before permitted to gain strength in her mind. She blamed herself for being so precipitate on such very slender grounds, and on reflection was convinced the marquis was incapable of, and entirely unused to practice deception. She therefore resolved to question Macdonald herself, whom she was well assured was the agent in this affair, and the chief negociator of whatever was to take place, and to form her judgment by what she could collect from him.

The consequence of her conference with Macdonald (which immediately took place) was exceedingly advantageous to the innocent Malcolm, of whose beauty and

goodness Macdonald spoke with great warmth; and by this enquiry his origin was unquestionably proved, and Macdonald, according to his real sentiments, represented him in so amiable a point of view, and so strongly dwelt on his filial tenderness and affection to his declining parent, whom no temptations could induce to leave; that the marchioness quite ashamed, and hurt at her former most unjust, and ungenerous suspicions, determined, as much as possible, to repair the injury by immediately introducing the subject herself again to the marquis; and warmly expressing her wish for him to act by the young Malcolm in every respect, according to his wish; and to do by him without fearing the least opposition from her; whatever, in his own good judgment he should think proper for his future advantage, except receiving him in his house.

CHAP. II.

—◇—

TWELVE months had already passed since Macdonald's return from Ireland, and every thing went on exactly in the same course as usual in the Chiviot family; and no intelligence whatever had been received from Malcolm. When one morning a poor peasant arriving at the castle, enquired for the marquis of Chiviot; but as he was absent, the person was introduced to Macdonald, who found he was a messenger from Malcolm Douglas, charged

with a letter to the marquis, informing him of the death of his father. Macdonald, who in every particular which concerned this business, was earnestly attentive, detained the messenger till he had heard the marquis's determination on this event; and likewise himself resolved to be the bearer of this important news without loss of time; and to receive his final instructions concerning his further proceedings in regard to Malcolm.

When Macdonald presented to the marquis the letter which Malcolm had sent, without any comment he broke the seal, and with much interest perused the contents; and could not help feeling a degree of tenderness and regard for him which he thought it impossible to do for a perfect stranger; and the less so from the situation he stood in with the marquis. But the truly pathetic account which he had delineated of his beloved father's death, and his affliction in consequence, the ten-

derness and the fortitude equally conspicuous, and expressed in language so forcible, yet genuine and natural, greatly affected the good heart of the marquis, whilst he felt an equal degree of astonishment to find the youth whom he thought so obscure and uninformed, could express himself in so elegant and eloquent a manner: he felt assured by it, that the cultivation of his mind had been particularly attended to, and apparently with good success. This, added to the very warm account which Macdonald had given of his amiable disposition, and corroborating with the sentiments his letter contained, determined the marquis to banish all mean suspicions from his breast, and to act by this noble orphan according to the unbiassed dictates of his generous heart: leaving all future consequences to the decision of that fate which it was impossible for him to resist or alter; and which must inevitably be submitted to. I will endeavour, said the marquis, to conduct myself

in this exigency, in such a way as to merit the approbation of my own heart; and then whatever follows, I shall ever find a satisfaction in the pleasing reflection of having acted right, and doing the severe duty I am called upon to fulfil to the best of my abilities.

In conformity to this noble resolution, the marquis wrote a letter of the most kind condolance to Malcolm, regretting that his father had not sooner been known to him, and lamenting the loss they had both sustained. He intreated that he would immediately, on the receipt of his letter, leave his present melancholy abode, and come to him, who would endeavour to supply the place of the tender parent which he had lost, and one who could render him many essential services by that means; which, in the situation he was now in, the most affectionate care could never have procured him. To these kind and liberal promises, he added every con-

solation which the nature of the case admitted, and every offer friendship could suggest. This painful duty performed, the marquis felt a great degree of relief; he had acted like a good man, and an honourable one, he had conquered the insinuations of mean suspicion, and had offered a proper protection to an orphan relative; he had done right, and he found comfort from the reflection of it.

Macdonald would most gladly have offered himself as the bearer of this invitation, but, conscious of his own deep designs, he was fearful of betraying too great a degree of officiousness on this occasion, which might expose the sentiments which governed his actions. Whilst this idea was fervent in his mind, the marquis, as though favoring his wishes, said, I think, Macdonald, this young lad is too inexperienced to travel, only with such a person as he may have about him, who most probably may know no more about

it than he himself; and as I really wish to take care of him and shew him attention, it would certainly be very improper to leave him to the care of ignorant guides. I therefore wish you, Macdonald, to undertake the management of this journey yourself, as there is no other person to whom I could commit him with so much satisfaction; and as he is a little acquainted with you, it will be pleasanter to him at this time when his spirits are so much effected, than a stranger would be. Your experience in travelling is superior to any other whom I could substitute; likewise will know better than any other, how to make proper provision for his appearing as my relation ought at his first introduction to my family, which shall take place here. I do not intend that you shall stop at Chiviot, but come directly on to Edinburgh with all expedition, that I may arrange all my plans without loss of time.

Few things could have been more gra-

tifying to Macdonald than these orders; for, as the first steps to the fabric of ambition raising in his mind's eye, were gaining the affection and confidence of Malcolm, he wished to improve every opportunity this journey offered to effect this purpose. As he was assured that he possessed a noble heart, he knew he must be grateful, and what calls more forcibly upon gratitude, than offices of kindness in the hour of distress? these attentions to Malcolm, in the present state of his mind, he felt convinced, would never be erased from his memory, but lay such foundation for friendship and esteem as must naturally be very conducive to his views. He felt, however, a little drawback in his schemes, in not being allowed first to go to Chiviot, as he had hoped and intended to introduce Janet to him previous to his introduction at the marquis's, and had built much on her attentions to him, and her personal attractions, in his first unguarded moments; but he comforted himself for this trifling

delay, by the conviction he felt that the marchioness's proud and haughty spirit, (as she was a perfect stranger to the fatal prediction, and therefore uninfluenced by her lord's motives) would never permit the long continuance of Malcolm in her house, from a variety of causes; and that if he managed with his usual address and success, it was not at all unlikely that he might be appointed sole guardian to Malcolm, and his house fixed on for the residence of that youth, whom, in his heated imagination, he hailed as future marquis of Chiviot, and the husband of his darling Janet; her, in every respect, he thought equal to him, and he felt assured he would love her the moment he saw her.

Full of these ideas, which, in the fair prospective, he saw terminating according to his hopes, and nearly on the eve of completion, and for the full attainment of which he would have thought no sacrifice too great, he commenced his journey; and,

without accident or unusual delay, reached the place where the disconsolate mourner Malcolm was awaiting the return of his messenger with impatience and anxiety. Various were his emotions when Macdonald appeared, and saluting him with great respect, presented the marquis's letter; at the same time saying, that as he was the person most honored by lord Chiviot's confidence, he had conceived no other of his establishment worthy the office of attending his cousin in the journey he wished him to take to Edinburgh; and Macdonald further assured him, that no commission in which the marquis could have employed him, would have made him so happy, as this opportunity of conducting him to his illustrious friends.

Malcolm thanking him with great sincerity, and expressing his pleasure at seeing him again in perfect health, opened the marquis's letter, which he perused with evident pleasure, whilst Macdonald could

not help observing, with pleased surprise, the encreased growth and elegance of form so conspicuous in Malcolm since he had seen him last; and that the beauty of his face was matured and (if possible) improved.

When he had finished the letter, turning to Macdonald with the most expressive look, he said, I am quite alone in the world, and had it not been for this kind friend, whom providence has raised up to me so wonderfully, had it not been for this happy event, I should not have known how to have conducted myself. Yet, I should be most ungrateful and unworthy did I not feel and acknowledge my great obligations to my kind friends here, who have done every thing in their power to console me under the greatest affliction I ever did, or ever can, experience, the death of my most dear and respected father; and for him, likewise, was all in their power exerted to ease his sufferings, which were severe;—every attention was paid. Oh!

that it were in my power to reward them all according to their merit, or my sense of it.

Perhaps, sir, returned Macdonald, that would be impossible, for your gratitude may be so extensive as to conceive no re-reward adequate to it; but I am happy in having it in my power to enable you to leave such memorials of your sense of their kindness as, in reason, may appear proper to you; for I am convinced the marquis of Chiviot would feel very dissatisfied with my conduct, should you leave any debt of gratitude unacknowledged, in a manner to be satisfactory to your own feelings.

The bright eyes of Malcolm, though they had been so much obscured by grief, shewed, at this moment, their original lustre, from the great pleasure this offer gave him; and he assured Macdonald with great earnestness, that his kind offer was the only thing, in his present state of mind, which could have given him pleasure.

Macdonald then put a much larger sum of money into his hands than he had ever before been possessed of; and the delighted Malcolm pleased himself with the idea, of how much happiness he should have in instantly distributing it amongst those whom he was convinced most wanted it, and who truly deserved the most liberal rewards.

I feel, sir, said Malcolm, my obligations to the marquis, and to you, in the most sensible manner, and with the utmost sincerity return you my thanks for the goodness you are both pleased to shew me: but there is yet another request which I have to make, which I trust the marquis will not object to, as his compliance with it will be an infinite consolation to my sorrow.

I am certain, answered Macdonald, I can answer for the marquis of Chiviot's being ready to do whatever he can towards

accomplishing so desirable an event, for as yet you are unacquainted with his character; but when you know him more, you will find he has that goodness of heart, which wishes to make all happy who are about him. Inform me, therefore, of the nature of your request, and I have little doubt but what it will be in my power, from the authority my lord has entrusted to me, to decide on it immediately.

Favor me, then, with your company in a little walk, sir, replied Malcolm, and I will explain my wishes to you on this subject.

Macdonald, who dreaded every thing which presented itself but even-as a shadow of interruption to his settled arrangements, trembled lest some prior juvenile attachment had already been formed by Malcolm, for the favored object of which he was about to make some stipulation; and he felt angry with himself for the un-

equivocal compliance he had been so ready to give; and followed him out of the house, fully determined to retract should his apprehensions be verified; but his mind was quickly relieved from his distressing embarrassment, when he saw him bend his steps to the humble burial ground which surrounded the little church belonging to the town. In silence Malcolm preceded Macdonald to the grave of his father; when kneeling down on it, with a respect, solemnity, and devotion, so fervent, that it inspired Macdonald with awe, he besought the blessed spirit of his father to hover over and protect him; and then added, with a strength and ardor which greatly astonished his wondering auditor, dear and honored shade, I here promise, and in the most sacred manner swear to seek out the author of, and to avenge to the uttermost extremity, the sufferings and the deaths of my most dear parents. For a few moments more, with clasped hands, he bent over the peaceful grave, apparently in fervent,

though silent, prayer; he then arose, and walked on, in much perturbation, from this melancholy ceremony.

Macdonald, in an amazement at what had passed, which he could no longer control, entreated Malcolm to explain to him the occasion of the strange words which he had heard, that appeared to convey a meaning so mysterious, that to him, at present, they were perfectly unaccountable; and again reminded him, now he was relieved from his fears, how ready his services should be on any occasion, where they might be necessary.

Malcolm pressed his hand, and thanked him for his ready friendship, assuring him he should take an early opportunity of informing him of what he desired to know, and what he was convinced must appear very extraordinary to him. But we will drop that subject now, as I shall soon be more equal forthe relation of circumstances

which I am sure will much affect you, and, at this time, speak only on the occasion which brought us here. Behold this lowly grave, it is the repository of all my ancestors, whose ashes rest in peace beneath this humble turf, without any other distinction to mark the spot except the constant and affectionate remembrance of those who loved them when living. My wishes now are (as lord Chiviot has permitted me to speak them) that he will let this consecrated and revered place be made sacred to their memories, by such a record as he shall think fit to point out the burial place of such near relations, and to preserve their memories amongst the worthy people who have so long respected and loved them. This, my dear sir, is my only desire, my last petition, and I trust to your goodness to have patience with me, and bear with all my inattentions and other faults and deficiencies, till time shall have soothed my grief, and strengthened my resolution to overcome, (as much as it is to

be accomplished) the severe sense I now feel of my loss.

Macdonald, who every hour grew more attached to Malcolm, and encouraged the kind sentiments he felt towards him, by looking on him as his future son, spoke to him in the most consolatory language, assured him every wish should be realized that he made known to him. He then reminded him that it was necessary to prepare for their immediate departure, as the marquis would be impatient for their return, and that his presence was particularly required at Chiviot castle, to attend the duties of his profession. Malcolm, again thanking him for his prompt acquiescence to his desires, added, that he had now nothing more to detain him, but was ready to accompany him the moment he should judge proper. Macdonald, pleased at hearing that no further impediment retarded their departure, gave the necessary

orders for leaving a spot so greatly endeared to Malcolm.

But when the hour arrived, new sorrows took possession of the affectionate heart of Malcolm—a first separation from the few friends whom he regarded, and the removal from his native place. Every place and every person appeared to be doubly endeared to him, now on the point of losing it, perhaps, for ever. And as the weeping neighbourhood flocked around him on the morning he quitted them, he alternately pressed the hands which were presented to him in tenderness and in sorrow.

I leave you, my friends, said Malcolm, I leave all which I have loved and honored, and all those to whom I am known to in the world; I go to new found friends, new found relations. Heaven grant that in them I may find the same sincerity, the affection, and the sympathy

which I have found in you, and then I shall be happy : but no new friends, however great and good, can ever make me forget your kindness, dear friends, your necessities, nor your kind attentions to my honored father and myself in this last severe trial; and if ever my fortune should equal my gratitude, I will return amongst you, and on this dearly beloved spot will I build a mansion, where the hospitality, which has ever yet made it known, shall encrease according to the scale of the building, and my improved fortunes ;— farewel now, most dear and valued friends, bear me in remembrance, as I shall ever do you.

The blessings which followed the young traveller were for a long time distinctly heard after he and Macdonald had mounted their horses ; and the ill-concealed tears of Malcolm,which, in defiance of his utmost efforts would fall, for some time interrupted conversation ; and Macdonald was

too conversant in the feelings of the human heart, as to suppose an ill-judged observation, or the common-place adages of consolation, would have any good effect on a mind of such sensibility as Malcolm's was; he therefore rode on without appearing to notice his struggles, assured that he would come much sooner to his usual composure if unattended to; his judgment in this was evident, for Malcolm very soon ashamed of his weakness and silence, began to make some remark to Macdonald on the country they were passing through, and by degrees began to attend with pleasure to the really entertaining conversation of Macdonald, and the arguments which he judiciously made use of to rouse and amuse him. As they proceeded, he found his mind attracted by a variety of new and interesting objects; and eager for information on every subject which he was unacquainted with, Macdonald did not find the time hang heavy as they pursued their journey, so much was it taken up in

giving the delineation Malcolm so frequently required: and by the time it was complete, and they had reached the marquis's habitation in Edinburgh, Malcolm had nearly regained his usual flow of spirits; for the new scenes which he had daily witnessed, with the knowledge he had acquired from them, had so compleatly occupied his ideas, that little time could be devoted to grief; though it must not be imagined, that the amusement these scenes had rendered could irradicate the deep remembrance of his loss; they only, for a while, beguiled him of the severe reflection on it.

CHAP. IV.

On the arrival of Malcolm and Macdonald at the marquis's, they were conducted into a room, whose magnificence astonished him, as he never had formed an idea of any thing equal to it. And when Macdonald apologised for leaving him alone, whilst he announced him to his lord, Malcolm felt quite happy, as it afforded him a longer opportunity of admiring it, and examining its beauties. But great as they were, and numerous as were the

articles which he had to admire, they were nearly exhausted before the return of Macdonald, so many questions had the marquis to ask—so many struggles with his own heart before he could command sufficient resolution to see so dreaded an object as Malcolm was to him ; however, the impatience of the rest of the family to see him, who had not the marquis's apprehensions to encounter, prevailed, and Macdonald returned for him, to conduct him to the family, who were all assembled to receive him.

Prepared as the marquis was by what he deemed the exaggerated encomiums Macdonald bestowed on the person and acquirements of Malcolm, yet was he overpowered by surprise, and a variety of nameles sensations, as his eyes rested on the beautiful and open countenance of Malcolm ; where the traits of a noble disposition were strongly marked in the fairest tints of nature's colouring. The mar-

chioness viewed him with rather a disdainful glance—the looks of lady Catherine expressed joy and astonishment—and lady Grace was covered with blushes.—Lord Melrose alone appeared unembarrassed, for he feeling no sentiment which he was afraid or ashamed to acknowledge, with the kind and unrestrained freedom of friendship, ran up to Malcolm, and, without ceremony, taking the hand of the timid and blushing youth, who was much disconcerted by the unexpected sight of so much company, when he had thought of seeing the marquis only, my dear cousin Malcolm, said he, how happy I am to see you. I have long wished for a companion of nearly my own age whom I could love,—and I am sure you are just the person whom I wanted, for I am certain I shall love you, I can see it in your face, for I always know exactly who I shall love, and whom I shall not, and if I do not love people at first sight, I never do at all;

for I never have patience afterwards to find out their perfections.

This little introductory speech of lord Melrose's had a very happy effect, as it operated on all parties to make them collect themselves. The marquis rose, and would have taken the hand of Malcolm, to have presented him to the marchioness, and his daughters, but his heart recoiled; the mysterious warning of the wood flashed across his imagination; its import chilled his vital blood; and he could only command himself sufficiently to say—This is Malcolm Douglas.

The marchioness coldly expressed the welcome she gave; but her deficiencies were amply made up by lady Catherine's courtesies—she overpowered him with questions respecting his country, his journey—and a variety of other topics;—for, in few instances attending to any controul, she disregarded the looks of the marchi-

oness, intended to restrain her volubility, which was alone impeded by lord Melrose's equal anxiety to testify his newly formed friendship to Malcolm. Lady Grace said but little, but that little met almost the intire attention of Malcolm, his eyes were continually rested on her; and it was with great difficulty that he turned them on any other object.

Several weeks had rapidly passed away, and the delighted Malcolm was daily increasing in favor with all but the haughty marchioness, who had painfully marked the additional lustre lady Catherine's eyes acquired whenever her interesting cousin was present, and the impatience and pettishness she manifested when he was not of the party; and was, in consequence, filled with alarm, lest a passion should form itself in her heart, so contrary to every high expectation of future alliances which she had formed for her family; and with the marquis, who had forced

himself to an unnatural caution and reserve towards Malcolm, far from the dictates of his heart, which would gladly have warmed to him, but for the insiduous inuendoes, which were ever uppermost in his remembrance, causing a behaviour and a suspicion which he detested, and which his good sense and good nature entirely disapproved.

What does your lordship intend to do with this young man ? said the marchioness, one day as they were sitting together: I think it is high time some decision should take place concerning him as you well know, that from the first proposition, I was averse to his being an inmate in your family, and that aversion has not decreased since his admission here ; neither can I ever approve the degree of familiarity with which he is received, and I could wish your lordship would think of some more eligible situation for him than your own house, and society better adapted for his accus-

tomed manners of life, than your own children.

Your ladyship forgets, I presume, answered the marquis, with a much greater degree of asperity than was usual to him, that this young man is my near relation; that his birth, and even his education, allowing for circumstances, is as good as mine: even the beauty of his person, inoffensive manners, and friendless situation, I should have supposed would have been advocates for him in any heart but mine; which, from peculiar circumstances, is, perhaps, unjustly barred against him. But I did not, I could not, suspect that you would be so severe,—you who can have no apprehensive fears on his account.

It is your lordship who appears to be without apprehensive fears, replied the marchioness sarcastically; for I expect, if his residence is much longer here, that all

those perfections which your lordship finds so much pleasure in particularizing, will unquestionably raise him an advocate in a heart where, perhaps, you would least wish to find it, and from which the pang that wounds, may recoil on your own.

Shocked and alarmed by this ominous remark, the distracted marquis started from his seat, and paced the apartment in great agitation. Gracious heaven! ejaculated he, what means this strange analogy?—how wonderful, how incomprehensible it is, that every observation made, is in perfect unison with that extraordinary circumstance which has, for such a length of time, disturbed my peace, for the marquis, totally absorbed by the anticipation of future misfortunes, had no idea of what the marchioness's speech alluded to—the probability of Malcolm's becoming but too pleasing to his daughters; for, wrapt up in dread of losing his darling son, his thought could seldom take in any other

object of contemplation. And though his affection to his daughters was extreme, as yet no thought of their future fate or establishment had interfered to drive the corroding horror, so mysteriously excited, from his mind.

What are your ruminations, my lord? said the marchioness, as with great surprise she observed his agitated motions.—I am extremely sorry if any thing which I may have said, has in any respect effected you; I did not imagine, till now I see it, that your kinsman had already so strong a power over your affections.

You totally mistake the cause of my anxiety, my dear Margaret, returned the marquis, I have many reasons for it, with which, at this time, you are unacquainted. I have likewise been much struck by what you have said, and will, as soon as possible, determine on what method to pursue in this perplexing affair—but till then, let

not the rights of hospitality to a stranger and a kinsman be neglected.

The marchioness, highly delighted that she had succeeded in alarming the marquis, though assured he had not perfectly comprehended her meaning, yet that she should prevail on him to send Malcolm from his own habitation, felt more disposed to obey him in his last orders than she had hitherto been, and said, let him be removed from under my roof, and apart from my children ; and after that, any act of friendship in my power to shew him shall not be wanting ; but till then it must be delayed.

Your ladyship shall be speedily satisfied, answered the marquis, as he opened the door of the apartment, and I trust in God, that the steps which I shall take will restore our usual tranquillity.

He then left the chamber, and sought

the apartment of Mr. Fraser, the tutor of lord Melrose, where the young gentlemen both were, to consult with him the best means to be adopted, to perfect the education of Malcolm in a situation more agreeable to the marchioness, and even to himself, than the present.

The extreme affection which lord Melrose had conceived for his cousin, and which Malcolm returned with the warmest sincerity, was what he conceived the marchioness alluded to in her late conversation; he himself had observed it in fearful doubt: and what, under other circumstances, would have been a source of infinite pleasure, now, from the irritable state of his mind, so forcibly worked on by the horrible impressions it had received, and the recent observations of the marchioness, could not bring himself to permit lord Melrose and Malcolm to walk out together in his pleasure grounds, whilst he conversed with Mr. Fraser, with-

out having two attendants with them, whom he secretly, though strongly charged, not for one moment to trust the young gentlemen out of their sight, for fear some accident should befal them.

However strange such an order might have appeared to the servants some time ago, they did not now seem surprised at it; for ever since the marquis had been so possessed with fear, all his orders, in respect to lord Melrose, had been full of caution and inconsistency, almost amounting to the dictates of insanity.

The result of a long conversation between the marquis and Mr. Fraser, was his determination to place Malcolm for two years under the tuition of a gentleman of great learning and abilities, a friend of Mr. Fraser's, for whose conduct and worth he took upon himself to answer; and at the end of that time, if no objection should arise, for him to go abroad with

lord Melrose, under the care of Mr. Fraser, as by that time lord Melrose would be sufficiently forward as to require only that finish to his education; and Mr. Fraser conceived lord Melrose would experience pleasure in his cousin's accompanying him in his travels.

This arrangement made, the marquis felt much easier in mind than ever he had since the arrival of young Douglas; and even the marchioness, when informed of the plan, could make no reasonable objection to any part of it but what concerned the tour with lord Melrose; but as she had so far gained her point, and as two years were to elapse before that period would arrive, she very prudently declined making any comment on it at this time, concluding, that what she should have to say would have its proper effect when the plan was nearer execution.

In the mean time, whilst the marquis

was labouring under the distresses of mind which have been fully described, and the marchioness was exerting all her influence to effect the banishment of the innocent and gentle Malcolm, the crafty Macdonald was working his inventions for this intruder on the marchioness's repose, to be intrusted to his sole management; and greatly disappointed and piqued was he when he found that Mr. Fraser, and not himself, was the person whom the marquis chose to consult with on this important occasion. He often wondered, whether or no Fraser was admitted to an equal share of confidence with himself, respecting the transactions in the mystic wood. He much feared this consultation would be unfavorable to his hopes and wishes; as Macdonald was perfectly aware Mr. Fraser had never cordially liked him; therefore, would rather have prevented than forwarded his wishes and designs, had he known them; but Macdonald congratulated himself on never having made a confidant, or of hav-

ing any associate; and being of too enterprising and persevering a genius to be easily detered, or intimidated in a favorite pursuit, he resolved never to lose sight of his hopes, or give up his exertions to bring them about to the last extremity; his heart and soul was fixed on the union of Janet and Malcolm.—Let that event, said he, be the crown and reward of my labours, let me but see my Janet the wife of Malcolm Douglas, the future heir of Chiviot, and I shall be completely happy; it is all I wish in this life, and what will make my death easy, for in that is every wish comprised; it will make me happy in the accomplishment of my most ardent desire, happy in the triumph of my ambition, happy in the thoughts of my revenge.

CHAP. V.

—◇—

When the young ladies heard of what was going to take place, lady Catherine, without any reserve, expressed her sorrow for the separation, in terms which amply proved its sincerity. Lady Grace, though she felt it equally with her sister, yet only shewed it in her countenance, where the intelligent observer might easily have traced it; but lord Melrose, by tears and entreaties that his dear Malcolm might not be removed from him, touched the

heart of the marquis with a vanity of the most distressing emotions, and left him almost irresolute how to act.

Why, my dear father, said lord Melrose, tenderly pressing the hand of the marquis, why do you take from me a blessing so great as the society of Malcolm Douglas? is he not the most worthy creature in the world? Mr. Fraser is so fond of him, and thinks so highly of his abilities, that he would find pleasure in perfecting him—of this he has repeatedly assured me. Why, then, not let us study together? I know I should myself improve by his example, and his society is my greatest pleasure. Your lordship will not, I am assured, deprive me of it, you are too good to give me so much trouble.

Such were the arguments of lord Melrose, which almost distracted the doating parent, who knew not how to form a denial to any request of his son's, much less to

one so anxiously pressed. But from repeated conversation, the propriety of this measure became more conspicuous to all, and, in some degree, reconciled lord Melrose to what he found was not likely to be altered; for the marchioness's eagerness to have it put into execution prevailing over every obstacle, friendship, or affection, placed in the way, it took place, and in a few days Malcolm removed to the house of the worthy Mr. Carr, the gentleman recommended to the marquis by lord Melrose's tutor; and the marchioness, relieved from the presence of a youth whom, she conceived, interfered with her happiness, and whose numerous gifts from Nature only seemed to add to the unfounded prejudice she had formed against him, soon recovered her usual good humour and spirits.

But the alteration was felt by the younger branches of the family with real regret, and lord Melrose and lady Cathe-

rine never ceased speaking of him, for Malcolm daily furnished the subject of their conversation ; and what he said, and what he did, remembered with prompt affection by them both, whilst lady Grace listened to them with attentive pleasure ; for she, though silent, experienced as much pain in the separation, as her brother and sister, who were so loquacious in their grief. Malcolm now settled to his studies, and to his entire satisfaction in every respect, pursued them with the avidity which genius and industry prompt ; and his progress was such, as must be the result of their union, greatly advantageous to himself, and highly honorable to his preceptor. Yet, though so unwearied in his application to these pursuits, a number of hours in the week he found to devote to the Chiviot family notwithstanding, to the great delight of lord Melrose and his sisters, which, though extremely disagreeable to the marchioness to prevent, the only way which occurred to her mind as likely to

break off the intimacy which she could not be induced to approve, was to remove the young people again to Chiviot, by which means all personal intercourse must cease, at least, till the education of Malcolm was compleated: and long before that period, she doubted not, that the juvenile impressions of regard and affection which lord Melrose and lady Catherine testified so openly and unequivocally, she flattered herself would be intirely removed; for, that lady Grace had any particular partiality to him, she had not the least conception, which did not at all arise from any disguise or hypocrisy in her, but from the diffidence and modesty which so peculiarly marked her character, and which prevented her having courage to speak of her cousin's perfections in the manner she thought on them.

Lady Chiviot having fixed on this alteration of abode, expressed her wish to the marquis, and was perfectly sure of his

acquiescence, when she added, she thought the health of the children required it.—This was quite sufficient with that doating and easily alarmed parent, who ordered instant preparations to be made for their return to Chiviot castle, to the very great distress of all the young branches of the family; but the more the marchioness observed the grief this parting gave, the more she congratulated herself on her discernment, and the propriety of her conduct.

One only circumstance gave pleasure to lady Catherine in this removal, and that one almost reconciled her to the thoughts of a separation from her cousin; that was the agreeable hope of soon embracing Janet, the ardency of her friendship for whom had stood the test of absence, new scenes, and new connections, and now with the impatience so natural to her disposition, she was all anxiety to see her, and to detail to her ear the adventures of Malcolm Douglas, his virtues, his filial affection,

and, in short, to indulge her own propensity to talk on this subject, at the expence of her friend's patience.

Janet, on her part, was equally desirous for the sight of her dear lady Catherine; as soon as she heard of the projected return, she watched continually, and daily rode out some miles on the road they must come, in hopes of meeting them. At length her wishes were gratified; they returned, and she had the great happiness to find lady Catherine still unchanged; and that she expressed the utmost joy in again beholding Janet, whilst Janet experienced an equal pleasure in the meeting, and the proof lady Catherine gave of her still holding the same place in her affections as ever.

The fatigue of the journey over, and all happily again settled in the castle in perfect health, the marchioness rejoiced at the steps which she had taken, she felt

assured that, in a few months, Malcolm would be nearly forgotten, and she resolved not to revive recollection, by ever speaking of him, and by her best endeavours to prevent any of the rest of the family, by turning the discourse as soon as possible whenever he was mentioned.

But all her caution could not prevent Malcolm from living in the constant remembrance of all her children, and from being the unaltered theme of lady Catherine's conversation; which always consisted of praises of the beauty of Malcolm, the graces of his deportment, his generosity, and his goodness of heart. She then would refer to the great pleasure she should experience when he visited Chiviot castle, when she would not fail to introduce her friend to him, and she herself should judge whether or no she had over-rated his beauties and accomplishments.

The constant enconiums of lady Catherine on her cousin, sank in the heart of Janet, and created a restless curiosity to see the object which caused them ; and however tedious in general those florid descriptions are of those whom fond partiality paints with the warmest coloring to the indifferent and inattentive ear of a total stranger, it was otherwise with Janet, who listened with attention and interest ; whilst vague and unconnected ideas concerning Malcolm caused an unsettled state of mind, for which she could by no means account, but which she carefully concealed from lady Catherine.

Time passed rapidly on, and the marquis had the happiness to observe, that his beloved Theodore still continued increasing in health, growth, and improvement. Sometimes he blamed himself, for the easy credulity of his mind, which could be so worked on, and so terrified, by such groundless apprehensions—at

others, he dreaded his temerity, conceiving that he only flattered himself when he relied so much on the improved appearance of his son, that perhaps his colour might be occasioned by fever, his appearing more fleshy, a dangerous symptom; his encreased height, a growth too sudden for his strength; and that, perhaps, whilst he was thus happy in his appearance of health, he might be at the point of falling into the greatest extremity, from consumption, from fever, or from every malady to which human nature is subject. He could not, by any effort or resolution, collect courage sufficient to again enter the mystic wood—he thought he never could survive another fatal prediction—he blamed the rash curiosity which had induced him, ever a second time, to visit it. Yet, notwithstanding the agonies, the prejudices it had given him, he could not help feeling a degree of satisfaction that he had taken Malcolm under his protection; both from his being a deserving young man,

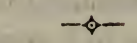
and a relation, but for whom, even in defiance of all these advantages, he could not avoid a repugnance to, however his conscience might approve the part which he had taken.

This disposition in the marquis towards Malcolm, was much encreased by the marchioness, for, as the period approached, in which it had been resolved the young gentlemen should finish their education by their tour, she thought it now high time to exert herself to prevent lord Melrose and Malcolm being together; which, though the thing which she knew her son's heart was set upon, and so much delighted in the thought of its near accomplishment, she yet was fully determined should never take place.

To accomplish her purpose, she so very strongly represented her objection to lord Chiviot, and at the same time, his own inclinations seconding her opinion, occa-

sioned him totally to relinquish the idea; though they both coincided in judging, that the best thing which they could do with Malcolm, when the two years were completed, was to send him off to France, with some introductory letters; from whence they intended to let him pursue his travel saccording to his own discretion or pleasure, the marquis intending to make such an allowance to him, as should permit him to live in a manner suitable to his birth, and to provide him with a trusty and intelligent attendant, one used to travelling, and who would be competent to every care and attention. Having come to this resolution, he felt quite relieved, and conceived he had fulfilled every duty towards him.

CHAP. VI.



About this time it was, that a sister of Janet's mother, at a distant part of the kingdom, being extremely ill, had sent for her niece Janet, to be with her till her recovery, or her death: as this was a person from whom they had great expectations of increase of property, her parents judged it necessary for Janet to comply with the request; she was therefore compelled to quit the castle: and with the utmost reluctance and dislike did Janet proceed

with the messenger of her aunt, to remain with her till the restoration of her health.

Great was the distress of lady Catherine in this second separation from the friend of her heart, and trusty confident; for her affection and friendship was of that nature which time could not shake: the pleasure she found in her society, unreserved dependence she had on her sincerity, and the gratification she found in her patient attention to her frequently repeated accounts of Malcolm's perfections, had formed so strong an interest in the heart of lady Catherine for her friend, that, at this time, it appeared unalterable.

But whatever pang she might have felt at parting with Janet, however she might have supposed nothing would compensate the loss she had sustained by it, it was totally banished from her remembrance; when, one week after the departure of Ja-

net, the arrival of Malcolm Douglas was announced.

The joy this very unexpected incident gave her is not to be expressed ; and it appeared so extraordinary, that she could scarcely credit it. She well knew that it was intended that he should come to pay a visit at Chiviot castle, when the time was expired which he was to pass under Mr. Carr's instructions: but as near six months of that period were yet to come, she was at a loss to conjecture what could have caused so agreeable an event ; but not much given to reflection, as he really was come, she cared but little for the circumstances which had given rise to it ; and ran immediately, on receiving the intelligence, into her father's library, in the joyful hope of meeting him there ; in this expectation she was not disappointed.— Lord Melrose, with an ardour equal with her own, was already with him, expressing, in the warmest terms, the very great plea-

sure he experienced in this unlooked for meeting, and, by his numerous kind attentions, making up for the studied coldness of the marchioness and lord Chiviot. And lady Catherine soon found, that the appearance of Malcolm was occasioned by the sudden death of Mr. Carr; which leaving him entirely destitute of a guide and adviser, he knew not what other course to pursue, but to come and consult lord Chiviot respecting his future destiny.

The vexation of Macdonald when he heard of Malcolm's being at the castle, could only be equalled by the joy of the young people; who, without a thought of how soon they should again be separated, passed the hours in perfect felicity; but he, full of mortification that his Janet should be absent at a time like this—a moment of such importance, and so unlooked for—cut him to the heart; and the very extraordinary disappointments and obstacles which he had found in the mea-

sures he intended to adopt, almost damped his daring and enterprising spirit. It appears, said he, as though they were destined never to meet, a fatality prevents it; for it is a most strange event, that in the disposal of this young man, the marquis has never once consulted me, who have, on all other occasions, always been his oracle; and that expectation which I had so naturally formed of having him under my immediate inspection, is for ever done away. My Janet now absent too, at a time when so much might have been expected from her presence; and even were I to send for her, before she could return he will be gone; the offence her aunt would receive would never be forgiven, and would prevent Janet's being her heir; added to the singular appearance it would have in the family, entirely prevents that measure from being pursued.

Thwarted as I am, and have been, many would despair, and give up a business so

beset with difficulties. But I have yet time before me, which, if well employed, may balance against these first unfavorable appearances. I have likewise an active brain, which will not let one opportunity slip, which can, in any way, advance my grand and favorite plan; and a time may yet come when my Janet may be more satisfactorily introduced than even now. I am not yet discouraged.

Thus argued Macdonald,—whilst the marchioness as much discomposed by the arrival of the inoffensive and unsuspecting Malcolm, as Macdonald himself was as desirous of; and as full of plans for the accomplishment of sending him far from all her family, as Macdonald would have been for schemes to prevent his going till the return of Janet had taken place.

In the mean time, the youthful party, full of vivacity, of innocence, and affection for each other, passed the hours they

were together in the greatest degree of harmony and happiness they ever had experienced, endeared daily to each other more and more.

The marchioness, whose awakened fears and apprehensions conveyed with the fullest force to her mind the fast encreasing fascination which lady Catherine found in the engaging Malcolm's company, which pointed out to her the decided necessity of his being, if her will alone was consulted, for ever banished from the presence of her family; deeply she regretted the strange caprice, for such she deemed it, which had induced the marquis to adopt the idea of sending for him, and putting him on the present footing which he was with her family, for she could by no means reconcile her mind to consider Malcolm Douglas as her equal, a poor relation she scorned; more particularly, where any intermarriage had taken place with an inferior.

Shall this obscure young man, said she, so ridiculously and so strangely brought amongst us, by the false generosity of the marquis, and introduced by his mistaken kindness into the society of his daughters, deprive me of those hopes of their establishment, which I might with so much propriety form? My daughters, who ought to command the highest alliance, shall they degrade themselves by an attachment to one whose fortunes must be carved out of our own? Oh! no; this is not to be, must not be, whilst I have the the power of stepping forward to prevent it:—this is a blow I must parry before it falls and crushes my hopes for ever. How can lord Chiviot be so blind to the threatening danger which attends the harbouring this Malcolm, this new-found, all-accomplished Malcolm, whose reign will be but short, or I must manage ill?

The marchioness thus fully resolved on Malcolm's removal, for what change she

cared not, or to where destined, so it was far from her, again besought the marquis to make a final determination respecting him.

You see, my lord, said she, the partiality of Theodore is such to Malcolm, it totally interrupts his studies, and engrosses his whole attention ; ourselves, and every thing else, appear secondary considerations where he is present. For our own peace of mind, it becomes a duty to prevent his interfering in any way whatever in our domestic happiness and arrangements ; therefore, my lord, let me intreat you, that on this subject you will attend to my advice, which, I am persuaded, will be found advantageous.

And pray, my love, returned the marquis, what is your advice ? you have raised a number of objections to Malcolm's longer residence at Chiviot, now give me your candid opinion what is the

best to do with him, and how you would wish him to be disposed of; and any proposition which you shall make, which shall in no respect be degrading to my honor, to that of my kinsman, or to the protection which I have voluntarily extended to him, I am willing to attend to; but I have reasons of the stronest nature which compels me to take care of him: give me now, therefore, your advice.

Send him abroad, quickly returned the marchioness; what so conducive to a young man's improvement as travelling? what so likely to advance his fortune? Some lady of great fortune may perhaps become enamoured of his beauty, and overlooking his other deficiences, may be induced to marry him, and raise him to that situation in life which I fear his merits here will never attain for him.

I am much hurt, my dear, answered the marquis, to hear you discuss the matter

with so much acrimony ; but you shall be satisfied, Malcolm shall go, I will send him to Paris, and will give him some introductory letters, which shall be serviceable to him. I will likewise make such a provision for him as shall enable him to appear as my relation and protagee.

As to that particular, replied the marchioness, I make no stipulation, settle on him what you please. I regard not money, let him be attended by whom you may think proper, for I have no personal animosity, only let him leave my house, send him from hence, and never let him be associated with lord Melrose in any familiarity ; for that I will oppose to the utmost extremity : and let him remain absent till I offer him one of my daughters in marriage, and then I shall be perfectly content.

Though I am not extremely partial to Malcolm Douglas, said the marquis, deeply colouring, from some little degree of re-

sentment of the marchioness's vehemence, yet, I should be sorry to do so inhospitable an act as to forbid him my house till such a truly improbable event takes place, as your ladyship alluded to; but be assured, on my honor, he shall not trouble you long.

The heart of the marchioness bounded with joy as lord Chiviot concluded his speech; and as she arose to leave the room quite enraptured with the success she had met with; he desired her to give orders for Malcolm's attendance upon him, that he might inform him of his determinations in respect of his future destination; to consult with him on what course he meant to take, after his time at Paris was expired, and to know how long it would be before he commenced his journey, which he intended to hint, he wished to be with all convenient dispatch.

The marquis continued in a deep rumi-

nation on this subject long after lady Chiviot quitted the room,—he knew not whether to blame or approve his own conduct; but what filled him with the most surprize was, the dislike which the marchioness had conceived against him, and her very great anxiety to have him removed from lord Melrose, for he had not the least idea it was on account of lady Catherine; for the marchioness plainly perceiving that she could compass her wishes by the removal of Malcolm, without mentioning her fears on that subject, resolved to keep the degrading secret of her daughter's partiality to the obscure Malcolm, safely concealed from the knowledge of all.

The marquis, therefore, persuaded himself to believe that her behaviour to him must be the effect of a prophetic presentiment which she was inspired with, to guard him against some danger which would happen to lord Melrose, should he permit Malcolm to remain his companion, and,

therefore, determined implicitly to be guided by her opinion.

The entrance of Malcolm in obedience to the orders which he had received, now broke the thread of the marquis's reflections, and after some little preface, he thus addressed him: The loss which you have sustained by the sudden death of Mr. Carr, renders it necessary, Malcolm, that some other consideration must be attended to, that you may not lose what you have already, by his care, acquired. You recollect, we intended that your education should be compleated by travelling; have you any objection to that method being now pursued, though a little premature?

Whatever your lordship proposes, answered Malcolm, for my advantage, I am convinced is so, and therefore should readily comply with; but in what is now your intention to advise, my own inclination

warmly seconds, there is nothing in the world which would be so agreeable to me.

I am glad to find my plan so greatly meets your approbation, returned the marquis; I shall, therefore, immediately make every settlement which may be necessary for your comfort on your projected tour, and provide you with a trusty and experienced servant to attend you, on whose integrity you may safely depend, and whose knowledge of the different parts which you may pass through, will protect you from those impositions so usually practised on strangers. I shall further propose Paris to you as your first destination, as I have some friends there to whom I shall give you letters, and whom I am sure will, in consequence, shew you every attention; and when you may judge it proper or agreeable to you to quit Paris, your own prudence must be your future guide, as from that time I leave you to its protection.

Malcolm turned pale at this last sentence of the marquis's. Doth your lordship then withdraw your protection from me in future? said he, with a tender eagerness, which was not without effect on the marquis. In what have I been so wretched as to give your lordship offence?

In no one instance, believe me, my dear Malcolm, replied the marquis, I did not mean what I said should convey that idea to you; I intend to make an ample provision for you; and I likewise wished to remind you, that you are now approaching an age when you ought to act for yourself, independent of any control, but what I have no doubt your own good sense, and good morals, will point out.

When is it your lordship's pleasure that I should commence my travels, answered Malcolm, with a degree of haughty coldness he hardly conceived it was possible for him to feel; for his quick penetration

easily discovered by the marquis's constrained and hesitating manner, that he was anxious for his absence. And though he could not possibly conceive what could be his motive for it, or how he had deserved any slight from him, yet the faintest indication of such a sentiment would have driven the high-spirited Malcolm to the furthest extremity of the globe, rather than let him intrude for one moment.

The sooner the more agreeable, said the marquis ; I mean, continued he, correcting himself, as he saw the colour mounting into Malcolm's face, the sooner it is, the more advantageous to you ; as here you are losing your time, which, in youth, most particularly should every moment be improved.

I can be ready to-morrow, I make no doubt, returned Malcolm, whilst his glowing cheeks spoke the constrained conflict

of his heart, which was deeply wounded by what he felt as degrading, as well as unkind, treatment, and so widely different to his expectation ; to-morrow, my lord, I will be ready to leave the castle, for I have little to prevent my immediate compliance with your lordship's wishes and commands.

No, no, said the marquis, smiling at his earnestness, that is rather too soon ; though you may have but few arrangements to make, I have a good many to attend to, which will, I hope, contribute to your happiness, which, believe me, I sincerely wish ; and I should think, that in a week from this day, all may be compleated.

Your lordship's commands I shall, in all things, obey, answered Malcolm, as with a low bow, and a heart full of wounded sensibility, he quitted the apartment ; and to give vent to the feelings which so se-

verely oppressed him, walked into the garden, where his forlorn and unprotected state filled his mind with deep reflection of what might in future befal him, as he was perfectly convinced from lord Chiviot's manner, that he was totally indifferent about him, though his pride might urge him, rather than friendship, to make a provision for his necessities.

But soon all his reveries were disturbed by the lively lady Catherine, who, running up to him, gaily asked him what he was so deeply studying; that he had like to have stepped over Mrs. Morton, lady Grace, and herself, without in the least suspecting there were any such persons in the world; and that nothing less than the fear of being crushed to death by such an accident, would have induced her to interrupt so important a meditation as his must be, by the effects it had already produced in his countenance, where the gravity of the statesman prevailed.

Unaccustomed to disguise, and too full of what filled his heart with pain for concealment, Malcolm, without any delay, acquainted the ladies with what had taken place, which must easily account for his melancholy reflections, and the orders which he had received to leave Chiviot castle in a week from that day.

At this intelligence the vivacity of lady Catherine instantly fled, and at the same time the roses from the cheeks of lady Grace, and for a few moments, all was silent amaze;—at length, more composed, he recounted all the particulars of his conversation with the marquis, and could not help remarking to them the pointed coldness of lord Chiviot's behaviour, and the evident desire he had for his absence, and deplored that he had not accounted to him for it, that if any part of his conduct had been offensive to him, he might endeavour to rectify it; but as it was now decided,

he should never know the reason of his dismission from the castle.

When the ladies heard all this, and found that it was settled that Malcolm was to leave them, they did not attempt to smother their sorrow for the approaching separation ; but expressed it in terms flattering and consoling to poor Malcolm, who never before in his life had experienced any thing but the tenderest affection from all who knew him ; and though the kind expressions which the ladies now used to him, might have raised the vanity of many young men like Malcolm, it had no such effect on him; for being himself all ingenious sincerity, he was not surprized, however he might be pleased to hear the genuine feelings of the heart expressed.

CHAP. VII.

—◇—

MACDONALD was the only person who was not in the least surprized, when the change about to take place became universally known in the family: he had studied the marchioness's character, and had always imagined and hoped her pride would pave the way for his schemes to take effect. And though he was much put out of his way by what was now taking place, and Janet's absence, yet, he was rather encouraged than disheartened by it. He,

like the marchioness, was glad to have him entirely removed from the dangerous fascinations of his cousins before it was too late ; and from Malcolm's becoming so much sooner than he expected his own master, he augured much advantage.

Quickly passed the last week of Malcolm's residence at Chiviot castle, during which the marquis had made every possible settlement for his convenience. Two servants were to be his escort and establishment. These the marquis conceived absolutely necessary, more superfluous ; and had arranged with Macdonald the mode of remittances being made to him sufficient for his demands, highly satisfactory to all parties ; and nothing now remained but the painful farewel to his dear beloved cousins and companions.

The sincere and violent grief of lord Melrose at this separation, far exceeded what his parents had imagined, though

well as they were prepared from his very great affection to Malcolm, to suppose it would be extreme. Malcolm, said the ardent boy, as he pressed him to his heart, my dearest Malcolm, remember me with the true unalterable friendship and regard which I shall ever feel for you; heaven knows how greatly I deplore the separation from you, and that I am not permitted to accompany you in your travels according to agreement, and to my ardent wishes; but when I am a man, Malcolm, and can act for myself, and according to my inclination, then we will never separate, then will we shew the world what friendship is.

Fast flowed the tears from the eyes of Malcolm, as he returned the warm embrace of Theodore, whose animated and kind expressions touched his heart with the tenderest emotion. Oh! my beloved cousin, said he, never, never, can your generous friendship be obliterated from my recollection; it will be a solace to

cheer me in whatever solitude or misfortune I may be doomed to.

Lady Catherine, who had, as well as all the rest of the party, been much affected by this scene, said, I had wished, my dear cousin Malcolm, to give you some little token of my regard, and to prevent your forgetting me, but have nothing worthy your acceptanee, this ring alone excepted, and that is of but little value ; yet, as it is composed of my hair, you may perhaps estimate as once belonging to one who highly regards you ; keep it for my sake, and sometimes when you see it, think of me, as we all here shall frequently do of you.

Dear lady Catherine, replied Malcolm, respectfully taking the ring, how highly you honor me by this distinction ; this ring will I ever keep, in testimony of your promised continued friendship to me, and of your long experienced goodness ;

and ever wear it with affection and respect.

And I, said lady Grace, with her usual timidity, have still less of value to offer than my sister—this small resemblance of myself, which I had intended for my mother, but did not conceive sufficiently well done to give her ; I scarce dare offer to your acceptance, after that acknowledgment : yet, bad as it is, it may probably serve to keep you from quite forgetting the face of a friend ;—I wish, indeed, it was of more worth.

Of more worth ! said Malcolm energetically, whilst the speaking crimson mounted into his cheek, of more worth, do you say ! what can equal in my estimation, what wears the faintest resemblance of lady Grace? I will wear it for ever next my heart, and life alone shall separate us ; nay, not even that, it shall descend to the grave with me.

The gentle lady Grace was covered with confusion, by the vehemence of Malcolm, and could not help conceiving she had done something wrong ; which lady Catherine, with eyes of flashing fire, said, I am sorry, sir, my little memorial of friendship was so little pleasing to you. Lady Grace only appears to have merited your approbation ; I wish it had been in my power to have presented a gift more acceptable .

Most dear lady Catherine, returned Malcolm, do not, I beseech you, by any misconception, at this distressing moment, add to my afflictions ; heaven is my witness how highly I esteem the favor you have shewn me ; the ring you have honored me with, will I equally guard, it shall be the lasting companion of all my adventures, of my troubles, and my pleasure, and when I look upon my treasures, the thoughts of the beloved donors shall ever inspire the most delightful ideas.—

Taking then a hand of each of the sisters, he respectfully raised them to his lips: the recollection of this hour, continued he, when honored with such flattering proofs of your condescending goodness to me, can never be erased from my memory, or from a heart like mine, which is but too susceptible of kindness, and grateful in proportion.

The marquis and his lady in silence beheld this scene, which was far from being pleasant to either; the presents they were not in the least prepared for, and knew not how to prevent, without doing more injury in the opposition probably, than is in compliance with it; and as they well knew the frankness and the innocence of all the parties, whose hearts, as yet, had never concealed a sentiment, concluded it best, as they were now on the point of parting, and might not meet again for many years, if ever, to let what so unex-

pectedly had taken place, pass over without a comment.

Malcolm having now bad all his adieus, and taken an affectionate leave of his first friend Macdonald, who, by every profession of esteem and respect, endeavoured to impress himself on the memory of Malcolm, he resolved to set out early the next morning with his attendants; and accordingly, without any other present when he quitted the castle than the anxious and attentive lord Melrose, who could not sleep for thinking on the separation, and had risen thus early to take the last parting look and embrace, and Macdonald, who really felt interested for him, and would likewise see the last of him. He commenced his journey, for the first time, his own director and master, and without any control but what the innate goodness of his heart prompted.

In deep and silent sorrow he quitted the

castle; he intended to have said much to lord Melrose, and to send fresh assurances of his unalterable regard to his sisters, but his heart was too full for utterance; and the convulsive grasp which the hand of lord Melrose received, sufficiently spoke his agitated feelings to his truly sympathising friend; and, unaided by words, was by him perfectly well understood.

In deep affliction Malcolm rode forward, leaving the whole management of his affairs to the care of the valet the providen Macdonald, at the marquis's request, had selected for him; and with his thoughts continually resting on the family whom he had quitted, but more particularly the amiable sisters, and the beloved lord Melrose, he pursued the way marked out for him by the marquis.

CHAP. VIII.

Not many weeks after Malcolm had quitted the castle, and whilst yet warmly present in all their imaginations, lady Catherine was made happy by the return of her beloved favorite Janet, who, having staid with her aunt till her recovery was compleat, could no longer bear the restrictions and confinement she had suffered with her, and to her great joy again, was welcomed to Chiviot castle.

Lady Catherine received her with the usual friendship and warmth she had ever manifested to Janet, for she loved her with great sincerity ; this, from the first moment of their meeting on the terms of intimacy, she had invariably professed ; and lady Catherine was too high, too proud, for any dissimulation, and to a fault, perhaps, disposed to speak her genuine sentiments.

She had loved her sister with an affection not often found subsisting between such near relatives ; she admired and esteemed her ; but the very great difference in their dispositions prevented that degree of confiding affection she had spontaneously felt for Janet ; which was likewise on the part of Janet, encouraged by every incitement her artful imagination could suggest, to ingratiate herself into the unsuspecting open heart of lady Catherine, and to obtain her undivided confidence and esteem.

It may easily be presumed, that Malcolm, as was usual, formed the constant theme of lady Catherine's conversation; but much more now than ever had she to communicate to the private ear of Janet: the juvenile regard she first conceived for him, was now matured by two years of constantly thinking on him, and increased by the last visit at the castle—so greatly improved in beauty, and, if it were possible, more pollished in manners.

But she had not forgot the circumstance respecting the picture; it had made a deep impression on her lively sensibility, and the natural vehemence of her temper had with great difficulty been restrained at the moment it took place, and, indeed, frequently afterwards. She felt hers the rejected offering, at least, if not rejected, most certainly the least favorably received. And the same passion which filled the breast of Cain, unquestionably had now got possession of the heart of

lady Catherine, and continually presented itself to her imagination in a light most calculated to distress her. Every minutia, therefore, of this affair, was most particularly detailed to Janet, and her decided opinion of what inference could be drawn from it earnestly requested.

Janet, as she generally did, began by deploring her ill luck, which had prevented her the happiness of seeing a person so high in lady Catherine's favor, and added, that she herself conceived it impossible that he ever could prefer lady Grace to her, however gallantly he might receive the miniature ; I never can believe, continued she, but what he would much more gladly have received your ladyship's; had that been the case, and you had had one to offer, you soon would have been sensible how greatly he would have preferred the resemblance of lady Catherine's to lady Grace.

Oh, my dear Janet, answered the delighted lady Catherine, I greatly fear you flatter me too much, for I have ever had a presentment Malcolm prefers my sister to me; but if I could for one moment be induced to believe what you advance, what infinite pleasure would it give me to have some kind friend who would, whilst he sleeps, softly steal the miniature from the situation it reposes in, and leave mine in the envied place.

If such an improbable event, answered Janet, was to take place, and your ladyship was to be so situated as to see his joyful surprize, the moment he discovered the legerdemain which had caused the metamorphose, how gratifying it would be to you, and how entirely it would remove all doubts; but my doubts are already removed; for, though every one must acknowledge lady Grace is very amiable, they must also acknowledge how greatly,

in beauty, vivacity, wit, and fascination, she is inferior to lady Catherine.

Ah! Janet, sighed lady Catherine, you say all this in the goodnatured idea of reconciling me to myself. I wish, indeed, I could think it had foundation in reality; if it had, continued she, her fervid and enthusiastic brain instantly conceiving the most romantic projects, how happy I should be if I had a friend on earth, one friend, who would execute such an expedient for me, as to exchange the picture; but I have none, again sighed she despondenly, I have not one who would undertake so very difficult, so daring an adventure.

Is it possible I should be so wretched, replied Janet, as to hear your ladyship deplore that you have no friend, not one, willing or competent to undertake a difficult task for your sake whilst I am present! What is there in the circle of human possibilities which I would refuse

to execute ? what is there I would not endure to contribute towards your happiness ? do not, therefore, dear lady Catherine, do not, I entreat you, again wound me by so cruel a remark.

My dearest Janet, answered lady Catherine, what I said could not have the most distant allusion to you ; well I am assured you would do any thing in your power to serve me, my own heart tells me you would, for I would for you ; but this is a thing so totally impossible for you to compass, so impossible for such a one as you to bring about, that when I made those exclamations I never once thought on you.

And why so utterly impossible? quickly replied Janet ; why not in my power to undertake ? what is impossible to true friendship and affection ? what out of their power by perseverance to accomplish ?

Ah! but my dear girl consider, returned lady Catherine, Malcolm is now in France, how could you go there? would your father suffer you to be absent from him on any consideration, much less on such a romantic scheme as this is? and even were that difficulty to be got over, in what manner could you, a female and total stranger, introduce yourself to Malcolm, and become sufficiently acquainted with him, to get an opportunity to execute so difficult a task?

You well know, madam, answered Janet, how much my father is devoted to your ladyship, and how much he loves me; by our united entreaties, he might be prevailed on to comply with any request we made; I think, however unreasonable it might be, he would not deny us.

But if such an extraordinary event was to take place, returned lady Catherine,

(her eyes brightening as the chimera became more formed in her brain) as your father giving consent for you to go to France for the purpose of seeking Malcolm, and for an opportunity to exchange the picture, what could be said here to account for your absence ?

My aunt has been ill once, replied the ready Janet, she might be so again, and I might return to her.

I perfectly comprehend you, my beloved friend, said lady Catherine, whilst pleasure danced in her intelligent countenance.—I now fully understand how you would contrive, and I have no doubt but, for my sake, you would be willing to undertake this, or even any thing, if it were possible, more difficult; but, alas! continued she, with a deep sigh, we are only amusing ourselves with talking nonsense.

By no means, replied Janet, I do not

view it in that light. I am in perfect earnest, and will not shrink, she added with warmth, from what I here solemnly pledge my word to undertake, if it will render you happy.

I will think more of it, answered lady Catherine, but, at present, I reluctantly drop the subject, for my sister and Mrs. Morton are approaching.——They then quicken their pace, (for this conversation had taken place in a beautiful alcove in the pleasure-ground) and soon joined the ladies. But the proposal which Janet had been making so much occupied the minds of both, that their taciturnity was remarked and good-humouredly ridiculed by lady Grace.

Janet Madonald was entirely unacquainted with her father's sentiments respecting Malcolm, and his future prospects; a strange and insatiable curiosity had taken possession of her, to see this accomplished

and beautiful Malcolm, of whom report, from all, has spoke such wonders; and the idea suggested by lady Catherine she had eagerly caught at, in the hope it would lead to some means of gratifying it: but on second and more deliberate investigation of its inconsistency, she could not for a moment suppose her father, by any means, could be induced to listen to so extravagant a plan. Yet, notwithstanding, she determined not to give it up without sounding him, by mentioning the circumstance in a laughing manner, as a trifling and romantic conversation which had passed between them.

Yet, the more she reflected, the more she was convinced of the utter impossibility of success, or of obtaining her father's consent to so mad, so strangely inconsistent and imprudent a scheme; but still prompted by the anxious desire to see Malcolm, which she could not subdue, and knew the little chance there would be

of his return to Chiviot, she resolved to speak in the manner she had settled, and steadfastly to mark her father's countenance, to observe what impression it made upon him, that she might judge how far she could introduce the subject of her own desire to see Malcolm; to turn the scale compleatly, if at all inclined to preponderate in favor.

With much judgment, Janet chose an opportunity of speaking to Macdonald, in a very indirect manner, of the nature of the conversation which had taken place between lady Catherine and herself; and finding, very contrary to her expectations, that he listened with much patience to the detail, she very fully stated it much more so than she had at first intended, or supposed she had courage to do.

But what was the astonishment of Janet, when she saw him jump up in an extacy, exclaiming, this will do;—by heaven she

meets my wishes! this must be the inspiration of her good genius, to bring about those ends which I have vainly been endeavouring to accomplish.

The amazed Janet fixed her eyes on her father in utter astonishment; she could, by no means, comprehend the nature of his exclamation; and sat in silent expectation of an elucidation of what, at this moment, appeared so perfectly unaccountable as the import of the words which he had uttered; but not long was the time he allowed for her wonder, before taking her hand in much agitation, he thus addressed her:

You must well know, my beloved Janet, that you are the only comfort I have in this life; and that for your sake, and for your happiness, there is not any thing which I would not do; and happy am I in finding that you have a genius and capacity above your years, and from which I

feel assured that I may safely confide to your knowledge some circumstances which I should have concealed longer, had not your matured understanding convinced me, I may, with the utmost propriety, associate you in the plans which I have formed for your future consequence and grandeur, convinced your ready conception will assist me, and your person and attractions forward every view.

What I have to communicate, it is unnecessary for me to say must be sacred; your own good sense will more forcibly point that out, than any thing I can say would; and did not I conceive it was adequate to the confidence I am about to repose in you, I certainly should not risk it; for if betrayed, remember well what I say, your future flattering prospects vanish.

The awakened ambition of Janet, her eager desire for information respecting her father's intentions concerning her, and

her naturally designing mind, quickly prompted the ready asseveration of assured faith; and indeed no one could more firmly keep a trust than Janet, none more deeply or politically frame or execute a plan, where much address, circumspection, and art were necessary. And when the additional inducements of rank and fortune were added as the reward of her prudence, what could they not achieve? what restraint would she have conceived too great? all this she repeated to her father: and though her mind could form no idea of what he was alluding to, yet she sat in silent expectation, unwilling to prevent the communication, by adding one word more than was necessary.

Macdonald, who had strictly observed her, found in her all which he would wish in a confederate, notwithstanding her youth; therefore communicated to her the whole of his designs in regard to Malcolm and herself, the prophecies of the

mysterious wood, and his full belief that he would be the future lord of Chiviot. He then gave so warm and animated an account of Malcolm's beauty and merit, that Janet's brain felt bewildered from the variety of intelligence which had come to her knowledge, and the bright and flattering hopes which had been raised; whilst Macdonald, continuing his discourse, said, Yes, my child, you shall follow him to France, you shall present yourself before him, he cannot be insensible to your charms; and I know I can trust to the good management of my darling Janet, to conduct herself with that propriety and circumspection, as must soon cause her to be the wife of Malcolm Douglas.

I shall send you under the care of proper people, who will be both attentive to you, and faithful to your interest. It shall be my care to send you in a suitable and proper manner; it must be yours, when once there, to manage so as that I may

soon congratulate you on your success, in your being the wife of Malcolm: but be careful of yourself, most beloved child; guard your actions with care, and do not let me, instead of hailing you marchioness of Chiviot, have to mourn your downfal.

Trust to my pride, my dear father, answered Janet, haughtily; which will ever prevent me distressing you, and injuring my own high hopes, by any degrading sacrifices. If I do not soon become the wife of Malcolm, feel no apprehension that my conduct shall ever merit reproach, sooner would I die, than that the finger of scorn should be pointed at me, or that I should become the subject of ridicule.

I see, replied Macdonald, exultingly, that you are every thing I could wish for, and that we may securely look forward for the reward of our labours. We must now come to a decision in what manner to conduct the affair with caution and effect.

My pretence to lady Catherine can still remain the same, said Janet; to others, I think, my dear father, you may adopt the plan of my aunt's illness again.

Doubtless, returned Macdonald, no one can answer our purpose better.

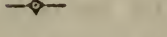
Make a merit with lady Catherine of my being rather disposed to comply with her request; but that the inconsistency of it, and my apprehension of its consequences, make me fearful of complying.

Swear her to eternal secrecy, should I consent; for, if we do not succeed, she will feel that you will ever have a tie on her friendship which she cannot shake off; so whatever may be the event, we shall not fall to the ground.

In the mean time, all shall be speedily prepared for your departure, under the guardianship of those whom I can trust

with you: and then so manage, that I may once see you the wife of Malcolm, the future marquis of Chiviot, and then my joys will be complete,—then will all my wishes be fulfilled.

CHAP. IX.



THE disconsolate Malcolm pursued his solitary journey from Chiviot for some time under great dejection of mind, without a companion, without a friend; that he should feel lonely and destitute was a natural consequence, but it was the separation from the loved society at the castle, that most deeply touched his heart, as he could not help conceiving himself, in a manner, banished; and as no period was fixed, or even mentioned for his return,

his quick sensibility felt it, intended as a prohibition to his future visits. But why, continued he mentally, should I so ungratefully interpret the marquis's kindness to me? for he sought me out when I knew not that there was such a being in the world; he has had the goodness to add so much to my improvement, and so to finish my education, as to fit me for any society I may mix with; and has made a provision for me equal to the light he wishes me to appear in, as his relation, and under his protection: for, though he tells me he has withdrawn it, and left me to my own guidance, he does not seem to wish it so to appear to the world. But surely I am ungrateful both to Providence and to the marquis, to feel one repining thought, one moment of regret in pursuing what he judges best for me; and that it is for my advantage, there can remain no doubt; a few months longer residence at Chiviot, would have made the separation, perhaps, more painful than the present; it might

still have been more difficult. At this reflection he took the miniature of lady Grace from his bosom, where it hung suspended by a ribbon, he gazed on it with delight, he pressed it to his lips, and after a few minutes of silent contemplation on it, he returned it to its place, and with renovated spirits rode on ; and soon had the pleasure to find, that a proper exertion of the faculties of the mind, with the variety of scenes with which a traveller is presented, will cheer its depression, and banish unpleasant reflections.

As Malcolm was naturally of a very social disposition, and as the valet the marquis had selected for him seemed far above the common run of persons in that sphere, he could not resist his desire of entering into a conversation with him ; and found him so extremely intelligent and agreeable, that it was quite a happiness to him, to be informed of so many particulars, which, otherwise, he might

much longer have been a stranger to, respecting the manners of the people, and the customs of the country he was about to visit, the valet having resided several years in Paris, and being quite equal to give every information Malcolm thought proper to ask.

Without meeting with any adventure out of the common course of things, he arrived safely at Paris; where being lodged very much to his convenience and comfort, by the good management of his valet, he took the first opportunity of delivering the marquis's introductory letters, and had the pleasure of finding every polite attention paid him in consequence, which he could possibly desire; and he was a constant party in all the varied amusements which took place in the gay and splendid court of the fascinating Henry the Fourth.

But the mind of Malcolm was of a calm and reflective nature, more calculated for

the refinement of pure friendship and domestic pleasures, than scenes of unmeaning and fatiguing amusements, where his heart was totally unengaged; for no scenes of gaiety were sufficiently attractive to him, to drive from his recollection the loss which he had sustained by the separation from his beloved cousins. Continually was he deploring the alteration of the plan which had taken place, which deprived him at this moment of the society of lord Melrose, whom he loved with the affection of the most tender brother; and he daily more and more experienced that those he had left at Chiviot had occasioned a void in his heart which he vainly endeavoured to fill up; but ever finding the effect ineffectual, he could not conceal from himself, though he anxiously strove to do it, that lady Grace was the whole world to him; that her idea shut his eyes to beauty, his ears to conversation and amusement, his heart to friendship; that she mingled with all his hopes, all his wishes, and that, on

all occasions, she was ever present to his imagination.

One evening, more than usually impressed with these thoughts, he had declined a party of pleasure proposed, begging to be excused till the supper-hour, when he promised to join them; and pensive and solitary he had taken a seat in a box at the theatre, but without paying attention to the scene, he pulled out his favorite miniature, his regular and daily study, and sat for some moments with his eyes so intently fixed on the beloved portrait, that he was covered with shame and confusion when, on looking up, he perceived a lady sitting near him, whose entrance he had never heard; her appearance was very elegant, but from the thickness of the veil she was inveloped in, he could, by no means, though he was solicitous for it, distinguish her features.

In much agitation, he hastily concealed

the picture; and bowing low to the lady, offered her his seat, as more commodious; this she politely declined, as she seemed to do conversation; though Malcolm could not help observing, even through her thick veil, that her eyes were always directed on him, whenever he turned towards her.—This he attributed to the awkward situation she found him in, and her surprise in consequence: she must, thought he, suppose me a very strange fellow, to be so absorbed in thought, as not to observe her entrance, or notice her; however, I hope she did not see the face of the portrait,—but if she did, it is immaterial to an entire stranger, whom, most probably, I shall never see again, and who cannot possibly know any thing of any of the parties.

Before the conclusion of the performance the lady quitted the box, rejecting every offer of Malcolm's to assist or accompany her.

After her departure he could not help reflecting on the singularity of the circumstance, that a lady of her appearance should be in public, totally unattended, for the whole evening, and alone leave the theatre; but reproving himself for making observations on what certainly was no business or concern of his, he turned his attentention to what remained of the piece; and when it was concluded, joined the company with whom he was engaged to sup; and in the animated conversation which then took place, forgot the appearance of the veiled lady.

As Malcolm was an early riser, it was his custom to walk in the gardens of the Thuilleries, which, though greatly superior in beauty from the great advantage of climate and other circumstances, never failed to recal to his memory the happy hours he had passed at Chiviot; where the lively vivacity of lady Catherine, the modesty, gentleness, and good sense of lady Grace,

and the genuine friendship of lord Melrose, furnished food for daily mental reflections; and a sigh of heart-felt sorrow ever escaped his bosom, when the thought crossed him of how great a length of time would elapse before he should behold those dear relations again.

As usual, the following morning, Malcolm, whilst taking his morning's exercise, and engaged in his usual ruminations, beheld, to his infinite surprize, just in the walk before him, the lady whom he had seen the night before at the theatre, again wrapped up in the veil, and apparently as full of thought as himself; as she proceeded along the walk, without raising her eyes from the ground, or seeming to regard in the slightest degree the observations of the passers-by, but what is there so extraordinary in my again meeting this lady, said Malcolm inwardly, she may think it equally strange to meet me, if she should recollect me: it is extremely natural and

common for people in health to walk about, and of course to meet in their walks. But the eyes of Malcolm were unconsciously fixed on the lady whilst he made these mental remarks: there was something in her figure which greatly attracted his attention, and though he resolved carelessly to pass her without appearing to notice her, yet a certain air and grace in her manner, insensibly and forcibly attracted his whole attention, and in spite of himself, an irresistible emotion caused him to follow her, and to observe her with the strictest scrutiny.

The lady herself did not appear insensible to this distinction; and though he could not get the slightest glimpse of her face, yet he was perfectly well assured, that she had viewed him with an attention equal to what his had been to her.

What impropriety can there be in my addressing her? Malcolm continued to

think ; she appears in want of a protector, by always being thus alone ; besides, our meeting at the theatre has given a degree of acquaintance, which must make it appear rude to pass her unnoticed. I must not be so ungallant to a female, to whom, perhaps, I may be able to render service, for some strange and particular circumstances most probably occasion her being thus unattended.

He thus encouraged himself, for it was not confidently that he walked up to her, and accosting her in French, with great politeness expressed his hopes, that she had not experienced any interruption in her health, from the last night's entertainment, but from the pleasure of seeing her so early abroad, he had great reason to expect she had not.

This little introductory speech finished, Malcolm waited impatiently for a reply, but what was his joy and surprize when

she answered in English, and with that pronunciation which evidently proved her native place was Scotland! A degree of pleasure this discovery communicated to the heart of Malcolm not to be defined, for, to that country, (which he always considered his own) he had a genuine affection; and now that he felt himself as banished from it without power to visit it when he chose, that affection was encreased to enthusiasm, and he immediately conceived it was a strange sympathetic presentiment which caused him so attentively to observe this lady.

In the warmest terms, therefore, he expressed the very great satisfaction the meeting a country-woman gave him; adding, that it was cruel to keep him still a stranger to her face, a face which he assured her, whatever its beauty, would have with him an additional charm from being of his beloved country, where no disguise was

made use of, and which he hoped she would now discontinue.

Though the lady did not seem inclined to pay any attention to this request, or his repeated earnest hints of how much he wished to see her face, she yet did not appear so averse to conversation as the night before.

As she now freely talked to him on a variety of subjects, with great ease, and in elegant language, and before they separated, she gave him to understand that she should renew her walk the following morning; but when she took her leave, strictly prohibited his following her one step; having made him promise to obey her, and not make any attempts to discover who she was, which she assured him would be unavailing, she took leave: and when Malcolm said he should hope, then, for the happiness of seeing her the

next morning, she bowed assent, and was out of sight in a few minutes.

As she departed from him, Malcolm stood motionless, gazing after her:—there is something very peculiar in this adventure, said he,—this lady always alone, so shrouded in her veil, and so strangely thrown in my way, and a still increasing acquaintance likely to take place from the appointment of this day; her conversation and her figure are very interesting, and I cannot be so ungallant as not to attend her to-morrow morning, when I hope I shall succeed better in discovering in what situation of life she is.

The day Malcolm passed as usual, and at night he alone visited the theatre, in hopes he should again see the incognita; but in this expectation he was disappointed, and his promise restrained him from making any enquiries after her.

The next morning, an hour sooner than ever Malcolm had before quitted his apartments, was he parading the walks of the Thuilleris, in the utmost impatience to meet his country-woman, whose conversation he knew he must prefer to all others, if she never let him see her face, whilst she indulged him in discoursing on his favorite topic, his beloved country, rendered now doubly dear, from containing those he held so dear; and added to that, he had fixed a determination not to part from her, if possible, without finding out who she was, and what particular affair had brought her to Paris: but anxious as he was, he was compelled to combat a disappointment; the lady appeared not, and he returned, after walking till he was really fatigued, without the gratification he had so fully expected.

But not discouraged by being thus frustrated, the next morning he again took his station in his accustomed walk; and

with far better success, for long he had not waited, when he had the satisfaction to distinguish the white veil floating in the wind, but was not sufficiently blown off, as it was very abundant, to discover the features which the owner appeared determined entirely to conceal.

With the familiarity of an old acquaintance, but with great politeness and respect, Malcolm immediately addressed her, and accused her of her breach of punctuality the day before, when he had so long and vainly expected her; he added, that presuming on the rights of a country-man, who had been so lucky as to meet her in a foreign kingdom, he again entreated to see her face, and begged, if it was in his power to render her any service, that she would command him, as he conceived it an indispensible duty to shew her every attention, whilst so far distant from her native home.

Delicacy, sir, answered the lady, most certainly forbids the communication of family affairs to an entire stranger, of which, on every account, I should be guardedly aware; but in the present case, I cannot accuse myself of such imprudence, for Malcolm Douglas is not entirely unknown to me.

Malcolm started back with astonishment at these words; but quickly recollecting himself, conceived how easily his name might be known to any person who would take the trouble of enquiring it;—and likewise, as the lady was a Scotchwoman, how highly probable that she might be acquainted with his family and connection; easily, therefore, reconciling what, at the moment, appeared so extraordinary, he interrupted not the lady, who thus proceeded:

It is from that knowledge that you are indebted for the share you have had of my

company, and for the information, that I have a communication to make to you of the utmost importance, in which your future happiness is so deeply concerned, that on it it must depend; believe me, what I have to advance, is of a nature too serious to be trifled with one moment; and much have I wished for this opportunity of obtaining your attention; but this is not a time or situation for further explanation, but fully depending on your honour, if you will make any appointment, where I may speak to you, without danger of observation, I shall be happy; but remember, I charge you, that it is a female of unblemished honour you are to converse with, on business of the most serious consequence; and therefore let no misconception take place on the nature of the request which I have made.

If Malcolm's surprise was great at the beginning of this discourse, amazingly it was increased as she proceeded, and still

more at its conclusion; for some moments he hesitated for a reply, so strange a turn had the conversation taken, and so widely different from his expectation;—but ashamed of a silence which he feared she would construe to his disadvantage, said his own apartments were, most certainly, the best calculated to receive her, if she would honor him with her presence, where she might depend on the most respectful reception, and where the rights of hospitality would not be violated, or infringed by any want of that decorum her appearance, her sex, and her confidence on his honor demanded.

He was then proceeding to acquaint her where he lived, but she interrupted him by saying, it was needless, as she knew perfectly well where it was, and that at eight o'clock, fully relying on his faithful promise, she would certainly attend him.

She then, without speaking one word more, except her renewed injunctions not to follow her on any account, instantly left him, overpowered with astonishment at the singularity of this event.

CHAP. X.

—◇—

HEAVILY did the tedious night appear to pass to the impatient Malcolm: an hundred vague and unsubstantial ideas took possession of his imagination, and conjecture vainly attempted to decypher the enigma implied by the veiled lady's words; in what way his happiness was at all connected with what she could have to communicate, was far beyond his comprehension; sometimes he was induced to believe it some trick played, to see how far his

credulity was to be worked on at others, and he trembled as the thought occurred; he remembered the story of his mother's misfortune, and conceived this visitor might have something to communicate respecting her fate. Whatever it might be, he determined to bear it with fortitude; and, if he was so happy as to be called on to avenge her cause, to do it to the utmost of his ability. The wished for, though in some degree, dreaded hour of eight, at last struck, and in a few minutes afterwards the expected lady, habited exactly the same, and with every caution before used to conceal her face, was introduced.

Some minutes elapsed before either spoke; Malcolm was a stranger to art or intrigue, and the lady's visible emotion, gave every promise of the same on her part; Malcolm saw and felt for the struggle she appeared to labour under, and would gladly have encouraged her, but his own situation was nearly as embarrassing;

madam, he, at length, faulteringly said, with the utmost impatience have I been expecting you, have pity on my anxiety, and speedily let me know what it is which you have promised to communicate.

First, returned the lady, you must answer without delay, and with truth and sincerity, the questions which I shall ask you, for much of your future happiness will depend on the confessions which I shall now require:—were you ever in love?

At this abrupt and unexpected question, the blood mounted to the cheeks of Malcolm; I have not fully examined as yet, answered he, the nature of my sensations, but that one female is preferred by me to all the world besides, can admit of no doubt; and if that her beauty, her merit, her figure, and her innocent simplicity, being ever present to my imagination, are the symptoms of being in love, then most

surely I am so, and so very much so, that any alteration in my sentiments never can take place.

Your answer is extremely satisfactory and clear, sir, replied the lady. Permit me one question more; if that is answered equally agreeable to me, I shall not trouble you with any other: was the miniature I once saw in your hand, the resemblance of the lady who has such intire possession of your heart?

It was, returned Malcolm; that is the only solace I have for the deprivation of all hope; for never, never can the object of my passion return it, of that I could not entertain the least expectation, and now I am so circumstanced, that I hold it very probable, I never more shall see her, or if I do, most likely in the arms of some more happy lover.

Why should you speak in this despond-

ing manner ? said the lady—What proof have you ever had of her indifference to you, that you should think she never could return your passion ? by what divination have you discovered that her passion does not equal, nay, even exceed your own ; that the pang of separation has not to her been more insupportable than to youself ; and that, for your sake, she thought no sacrifice too great ? what would you say, if you heard, that for you she had risked the world's opinion of her fair fame, and to seek you in your banishment had fled her father's house ?

I should say it was impossible, instantly returned Malcolm, with great warmth and animation, it could not be ; and I here declare my decided opinion, that my beloved could not act with impropriety ; if our love, unfortunately for her, was reciprocal, she would die e'er her gentle modesty could reveal it ; and even were it so, and she forgetful of her situation and her rank,

would, for my sake, forgo them, I, I myself, would step forth and save her; and conquering every selfish feeling, would be her guardian genius, to warn her of her danger, and restore her to herself; for me she never should degrade herself, never should have cause of reproach.

Your kind advice might come too late, with a deep sigh answered the lady; you would not, sure, reject her for her affection to you, if on yours depending, she resigned herself to your honorable protection?

Oh no, answered Malcolm; if, indeed, she was induced to make for me the sacrifices you allude to, surely gratitude would be added to the ardent affection which I feel; and what, on my part, should I think too much to do to prove it, what toil reject, if repaid with her society?

Behold her here then, said the lady,—(at that instant throwing up her veil) be-

hold her here, the dependent on your honor, on your love, and on your gratitude.

The petrified Malcolm, with fixed eyes, gazed on the figure before him, in speechless wonder; he heard the object of his most ardent affection, owning a mutual tenderness, a thing so marvellous to his ideas, that he could, by no means, collect them into any regular order; his eyes presented to him the blooming beauties of lady Grace, he saw her eyes, her hair, her complexion, and the shape of her face; the exterior was herself, but the winning softness, the retiring delicacy, the sweet tones of her voice which used to sink into his heart, and the thousand nameless graces which adorned her, all seemed fled; is it fastidiousness, is it ingratitude? said he, mentally; what is it which makes me not see this beloved creature in the light my warm imagination assured me that I should!—Time cannot have wrought so great a change in her already; no, it is from the

dictates of my own unworthy heart, unworthy of what she has done, and the great preference she has shewn me.

These thoughts flew with the rapidity of lightening through his brain ; but as his tongue could find utterance, tenderly taking her by the hand, he said, Oh ! most adored, and most respected of women, why have you had the cruelty to expose me to a trial like this ! what must I do ? what must be the consequence to yourself ?—I cannot, I dare not, avail myself of the partiality you have made me so happy in expressing ; unworthy, indeed, should I then be of it ; but first tell me, how is it all ? how came you here ? I am bewildered in a labyrinth of perplexities ; for heaven's sake, dear lady Grace, explain to me all those wonderous mysteries.

The mystery must be explained, Malcolm, answered she, without delay ; it will, indeed, now admit of none : for you

I have left my father's house, for you I have braved every danger, every reflection on my conduct, the loss of my parents' affections, an impulse which reason, in vain, strove to restrain, forced me to seek you thus, depending on an affection which, though never revealed, I was afraid you felt for me, and which concurring circumstances has now indisputably proved. I have, for some time, resided here with two confidential servants whom I prevailed on to accompany me; here I have been watching your actions continually, the romantic passion which I have so long struggled with, could not be overpowered, and has urged the rash steps, which now taken, cannot be remedied. Oh! Malcolm, speak comfort to my bursting heart, for on you my every hope of happiness depends.

That you are dearer to my heart than life, returned Malcolm, I trust the proof I am going to give you will be convincing; you well know I am indebted to your father

for every comfort I am in possession of, and can I return his generous goodness by so base a robbery, as to deprive him of his child ?

Oh ! most dear lady Grace, conceive, but for one moment, his distraction, when he finds me so base, as to take so mean, so unfeeling an advantage of his confidence, of his unlimited kindness and liberality to me; and of your much valued and highly-prized affection, as for my own gratification to keep you from him. Oh ! my beloved, feel for what I am ready to inflict on myself, when I entreat you, to let me return you spotless to him; time and this action, this effort of virtuous resolution, may, perhaps, soften him in our favour, and he may, voluntarily, give me that treasure I cannot bring myself to plunder him of, great as is the temptation.

Is this your boasted love, Malcolm ?

replied she, bursting into tears, is this the result of all you just now said you would for me endure ? or is it a return for my unrestrained affection ? rejected by you, and sent away, is this your proposition ? Oh ! never, never can my breaking heart submit to such a degradation !

Who would believe, from the time I have been absent from the castle, that I should return any other than a scorned and deserted female, unworthy of society ? where, then, should I find friendship ? where countenance or consolation ?

No, Malcolm, that must never be ; if you refuse me the protection of a husband, death must then afford it me : that, then, must be the only alternative left for the wretched, the slighted, the despised Grace.

You have conquered, too irresistible Syren, sighed Malcolm ; rather will I

appear despicable, rather will I be branded with that worst of crimes, ingratitude, rather will I submit to any degradation than that the object of my most tender affection shall suffer the world's slightest censure; no step her high opinion of my honor has induced her to take, shall ever erase a pang in my power to remove.

Yes, adored Grace, behold your triumph. Love for you induces me to act in a manner my heart and my integrity condemn, but the breath of reproach must never rest on you; your fame must ever be pure, and unsullied:—convulsive sobs of mingled pleasure and anxiety now burst from the breast of her he was addressing, whilst Malcolm thus proceeded.

Mine you must now be without one moment's loss of time; for this one night only, can I trust you from my sight; tomorrow must give you that right to my protection which no power can alter.

In the most tender conversation another hour passed away, when every particular of their marriage was settled to take place the next day: Malcolm then conveying her safe to her habitation, took a most affectionate leave of her, with a promise to wait on her to fulfill his sacred engagements with her at an early hour, the next morning.

CHAP. XI.

As the door closed her from the sight of Malcolm, his heart reproached him with the imprudence of the measures he was pursuing, and the coldness which he felt, so widely different to what he conceived he should have experienced in such circumstances, forcibly convinced him, how very necessary the approbation of conscience is, on all occasions; he would not allow himself to think lady Grace, in any respect, altered; it is only, said he, the

peculiar situation in which I see her, a situation that, instead of making her appear less estimable in my eyes, ought to inspire increased tenderness, gratitude, and affection : for me she has resigned every flattering intention, every advantage which rank and beauty gave her ; honor and love are both called on for a return, and in my protection, in my devotion to her, and in undivided love and friendship, may all her hopes of happiness be realized ; let our marriage once tranquilize her mind, now torn with contending emotions, and then all the graces which used so profusely to adorn her, will bloom with fresh charms.

But little repose visited that night the couch of Malcolm ; with the first dawn of light he arose, and seeking out a priest with whom he was well acquainted, appointed him to perform the ceremony ; the impatient bridegroom had not long to wait the presence of his lovely bride ; she

soon was ready to attend him, and her beauty, on this occasion, appeared to the utmost advantage, from the elegance and propriety of her dress; and, shortly after, the indissoluble ceremony was completed, which united them for ever.

CHAP. XII.

THE happiness Malcolm experienced from a union with the woman whom he adored, for some time caused him to be inattentive to the means by which it was acquired; the endearing blandishments of his wife, causing him to forget every thing but her seducing attractions; but when, in some degree, awoke from the delirium, he began to think of the apologies necessary to be made to the marquis of Chiviot, for the great impropriety of conduct which had

taken place. For Malcolm, whose every sentiment was dictated by the purest honor, and strictest morality, could ill reconcile to his mind an action which could not bear the nicest scrutiny, and the situation which his wife had placed herself in, with respect to him, was the only excuse he could make to himself for the steps which he had taken, which, he felt assured, must so greatly distress the marquis; but as he did not intend, in extenuation of himself, to say how greatly her affection for him, her inexperience, and her youth had occasioned her to act, he resolved to attribute her conduct to the influence of a mutual passion, which neither reason, or the dread of future consequences, could set bounds to: and unitedly imploring pardon for what now was impossible to be recalled, depend on the generosity of the marquis for mercy.

To this effect a most penetential letter was composed between them; where hav-

ing stated these reasons with all the energy which love and anxiety dictated, they then added every thing tending to prove their fixed intentions of future obedience, their earnestly desired forgiveness, with a most pressing request for permission to return, to fling themselves at the feet of the marquis and marchioness, to implore their blessing, and future protection.

Long and eagerly did Malcolm look for an answer to this letter, which he had committed to the care of his beloved, to forward by her own confidential servant.

But weeks and months passed on after the expected time of his return, without the satisfaction of any account of how their petition was received. With genuine grief of mind Malcolm endured this state of suspence, and was often surprised to find, with how much more tranquillity and composure his dear lady Grace bore the disappointment, than he did ; though

he could not help observing, that there were times when her brow appeared shaded by deep melancholy reflection, which he naturally attributed to the cause which affected his own heart ; but which, when any symptoms of, appeared in her, he exerted every effort to conquer and remove, by flattering her with hopes, which he himself despaired of.

In this situation, when he felt an almost certain conviction, that the marquis and and his lady, offended beyond the hope of forgiveness, had abandoned them for ever, Malcolm, on calling upon his banker, had the superlative satisfaction to find that his remittances were doubled.

This he hailed as the prognostic of future felicity ; the mitigation of resentment, and the means of enabling him to support his wife more according to her rank ; but hitherto, she had declined all introduction to any, even of his most intimate

friends, and had so pressingly, and so ardently begged of him to conceal from all who she was, till her parents' approbation and forgiveness gave a proper sanction to it, that he had reluctantly complied with her request; and though he himself always pronounced himself married, the obscurity and retirement his wife chose to remain in, left it a matter of doubt to many, whether this account was according to truth. However, though not entirely unconscious of this opinion, Malcolm bore it with great resolution and patience, not without hope (from the late flattering circumstance) that the marquis's permission would soon be obtained for his wife to come out in the world in all her native original splendor.

Whilst these things were passing in France, and Malcolm was indulging in his fairy dreams of bliss, the confidential servant of his wife's had arrived safely at Chiviot castle, and into the hands of the

anxiously expecting lady Catherine delivered the following letter :—

" MOST DEAR LADY,

Sorry am I, and distressed beyond measure, to say, that the commission which I undertook with so much alacrity, for the purpose of being serviceable to your ladyship, should have been attended with circumstances, which, when I relate, will, I have too much reason to apprehend, give pain to the breast of her for whom I would freely sacrifice my life. Dear lady, prepare your mind for disagreeable intelligence, which, to my sorrow, I am obliged to relate, and call in that noble spirit, which you possess, to enable you to treat, with the contempt it deserves, what I have to communicate, of the ungrateful object of your valuable affections.

On my arrival in Paris, I had no difficulty in discovering Malcolm Douglas, as he was as much celebrated for his beauty,

as for his gallantries; but being unwilling to put too much faith in public report, determined myself to watch him, and from my own judgment, which must be unprejudiced, as a total stranger, to decide on his conduct; and without creating the least suspicion of my motives, I have completely accomplished this end.

I have closely followed him in all places where the public observation might be allowed, so concealed by a thick veil, that even had he been inclined to notice me, he never could have discovered my features through it; and with great and most sincere grief I add, that from what I myself remarked of his libertine behaviour, little doubt can be entertained of the depravity of his heart; but to put it past refutation, I can confidently assure your ladyship that, allured, most likely, by his promises and attractions, a young, beautiful, and innocent female has been induced to leave her father's house, and at present he is so firmly attached

to her, that he devotes his whole time to her, leaving his late riotous companions, and his irregular and improper pursuits for her society.

I will not take upon me to say that they are married, or that this very great affection may last; but whilst it does, it intirely precludes the measures which I with so much pleasure would have adopted for the satisfaction, or to have promoted the happiness of my most beloved friend; if I might take the liberty of suggesting any thing on this trying occasion, it would be my wish that your ladyship would exert your fortitude to drive the unworthy Malcolm entirely from your remembrance, and bestow your amiable heart on one more deserving so great a blessing. I shall wait here your ladyship's further orders, and remain

Your ever devoted

JANET MACDONALD."

CHAP. XIII.

—◇—

Lady Catherine, whose passions were always vehement, on reading this letter was, at first, overpowered by rage and disappointment;—she execrated Malcolm, and represented him to her imagination as the most ungrateful of men; and had he been her professed and declared lover, and had deserted her, after the most solemn engagements, she could not have more severely and decidedly condemned him. But the violence of her anger subsiding by degrees

and love prevailing over every obstacle which Janet's letter had raised, she began to palliate his conduct, and to find excuses for his erroneous behaviour: he is very young, said she, and without control; it is not, I have been informed, unusual for young men, so circumstanced, even of the very best inclinations, to be led into errors by improper company; and as he is so extremely handsome, and so agreeable in manners, it is equally likely that he excites admiration, and how can I blame him; perhaps others, placed as he is, would act as he does; and, as he knows not yet how highly I regard him, I must not, sure, accuse him of any want of kind attention to myself. If ever he should chance, by Janet's persevering efforts, to find the love I bear him, a change of sentiment may soon take place in him; despising, then, the present pleasures which have so long engaged him, his thoughts may turn to me, and happiness, the greatest, may be mine, in being beloved by Malcolm.

My faithful Janet, that most tender friend, must still, unknown and unobserved, mark his proceedings with a watchful eye, must endeavour to see and know the witch who shares his present light affections; and let me know, from time to time, what hope she forms for me, what chance that ever I shall fix the wavering, the fickle love of Malcolm.

To this effect she therefore wrote to Janet, deeply deploring the levity, and inconsistent conduct of Malcolm, but, by no means, despairing of such a reform as should justify her continued partiality; and earnestly entreating her to persevere in the method she had so judiciously adopted, for the purpose of forming an accurate judgment of his heart, which, she yet flattered herself, was not so criminal as the account Janet gave, might at first view induce her to imagine: and having enforced these wishes by every thing she could think of, which might give them

weight and consequence with Janet, she concluded with every possible assurance of her unalterable friendship and regard.

It was not many days after lady Catherine had received the letter from Janet, which had occasioned her such heart-felt distress, that the marquis, likewise, had an anonimous letter conveyed to him, which accused Malcolm of a most abandoned way of living, in which the dreadful circumstance of the seduction of an amiable and innocent young female was enlarged on, in the most pathetic language, and by frequent appeals to the heart of a parent, to judge of the feelings of one placed in the unhappy situation; of having one only and beloved daughter, deluded from his protecting arms ; the sufferings of such a parent, and the miseries attendant on the daughter, were painted in the highest colours, so base an action admits of: and though the author of this recital chose, for several satisfactory reasons, to conceal his name, he gave so

many references by what manner the truth of his assertions might be proved, that little doubt remained on the mind of the marquis of the depravity of Malcolm,—whom he had long conceived to be the serpent of whom he had been warned.

The effect of these incendiary letters may easily be supposed, to have been of the most injurious effect to the poor innocent victim, Malcolm, whose heart was incapable of conceiving one dishonorable sentiment, and therefore could form no idea of a treachery of this diabolical nature; yet suffering under the pangs of conscious reproach for the distress of the Chiviot family, for his ingratitude towards them, which all the fascinations of his lovely and beloved wife could not entirely banish from his thoughts, it, in a great measure, prepared him for a letter, which he, some months after his marriage, received from the marquis, full of the bitterest and most pointed invectives; where the perfidy and

ingratitude of his behaviour was placid in the most glaring point of view ; and the cruelty of his conduct in alluring from her doating parents, the unhappy victim of his seductive arts, described in terms which made the wretched Malcolm shudder. He then added, that for the sake of the family from which he sprung, he should continue the provision which he had made for him ; but that when he duly reflected on his most shameful conduct, he could not wonder that he withdrew all further protection from him.

In the most severe sorrow Malcolm perused the heart-breaking letter of the marquis's ; and though to appear to him in the disgraceful character of the seducer of his daughter was worse to him than death, yet the impossibility of his exonerating himself from so detestable a charge, without stating the circumstances which led to it, for ever tied his tongue ; no self defence could influence him to throw

the least shadow of blame on the loved partner of his cares: therefore, cut off from all mitigation of his offence, nothing remained but to endeavour, himself, to supply to her all the affectionate friends which, for him, she had sacrificed, and in his tender friendship, his love, and his attentions, her regrets might be forgotten.

For some time he deliberated whether it were best to shew the letter which so greatly had affected him to her or not; but at length determining, from his own feelings, how much every certainty is preferable to a state of suspence, he put into her hands the marquis's letter, saying every thing by way of preparing her for the dreadful information of having entirely withdrawn his future protection from them, fearful that her quick and active sensibility would too acutely suffer for his undeserved reproaches.

But, to his great delight and surprize,

he observed she perused it with a degree of composure which was far beyond his expectation; and when concluded, she earnestly entreated him to bear this denunciation with fortitude, assuring him, she well knew her father's temper, which, however vehement in the first moments of anger, would soon subside into that gentleness which would insure forgiveness; and that she was assured a very short space of time would render them all compleatly happy; but she added, whether that desirable event takes place or no, whilst I am blessed in the certain love of you, my dearest Malcolm, without complaint, or repining will I endure every calamity which fate may inflict; but the time may come, she continued, with a deep agonizing sigh, and perhaps is not far distant, when you will despise me for that love which has caused me to break through every rule of propriety, and made me to obtain you, act a part which you, even you, never can forgive.

With the warmest and tenderest assurance of an affection which no circumstances could alter, Malcolm endeavoured to sooth her mind, which he now found was greatly agitated, however firmly she strove to conquer it; and she likewise resolutely exerting herself for the same purpose. Malcolm had shortly the satisfaction to find her spirits restored to their usual flow; and after making him promise not to write any more to the marquis, but to wait till his affection for her should operate against his present resentment, they mutually agreed to drop further discussion on a subject which could not fail giving them mutual uneasiness.

CHAP. XIV.

WHILST Malcolm and his wife were thus situated, with the warmest affection endeavouring to contribute all in their power to each other's happiness, and to lighten the trouble the aleniation from the rest of the family inevitably occasioned, the unhappy marquis of Chiviot was experiencing the greatest apprehensions and alarm on account of lord Melrose having, for several days, complained of violent pains in his head, and exhibiting evident symptoms

of fever. The marquis, whom the slightest complaint of his Theodore's distressed beyond description, instantly dispatched messengers for the very best advice which could be procured; and, till the physicians arrived, was in an agony of terror, the illness of lord Melrose by no means warranted.

On the arrival of the anxiously expected medical professors, with the most scrutinizing solicitude he watched their countenances as they examined the patient, and in breathless expectation waited that opinion he had not courage to ask.

Lord Melrose will do extremely well, be assured, my lord, said the principal physician to the marquis; I am greatly concerned to see your lordship so much alarmed at the common and usual symptoms attendant on the complaint of lord Melrose, which I conceive to be the measles: at present he, certainly, is very

much affected, but there is every probable reason to believe that the disorder will be favorable, and in a very few days, I have not the least doubt that his lordship will be restored to perfect health.

Heaven grant it, ejaculated the marquis, with a fervency, which greatly surprised the physician. May heaven pity me, and preserve my darling Theodore.

Indeed, my lord, replied the physician, I am much hurt to see you so agitated, for, believe me, at present, the most distant idea of danger does not present itself, a little care is all our patient now requires; and as that will not be wanting, you will soon have the pleasure of seeing him recover from a disorder which never can again attack him.

According to the prognostic of the doctors, the recovery of lord Melrose from the eruption of the measles was very rapid, but

a languor hung on his spirits, which was attributed to weakness occasioned by the fever, which would soon go off; he likewise laboured under a very disagreeable cough, which exceedingly tormented him, and his accustomed appetite did not return.

The young ladies had likewise been infected with the same complaint, which lady Catherine had had in a very severe manner. Lord Melrose, during their illness, had sympathized in their suffering, with the utmost tenderness; and it was observed that a peculiar degree of affectionate confidence had taken place between him and lady Catherine since the commencement of their illness; she, likewise, as lord Melrose, appeared to droop, after every symptom of the original disease was vanished, and neither strength, or vivacity, was discoverable in either.

To relieve and restore them, a change of air was recommended, and as soon as it

was possible the invalids (for lady Grace, though in far better health than her brother and sister, was not perfectly recovered) were removed, accompanied by their anxious parents, to a place supposed more congenial to their recovery, than the keen mountain blasts of Chiviot.

CHAP. XV.

A FAVORABLE alteration was apparent in the young ladies ; soon after the change in their residence, the bloom again visited their cheeks, and returning health beamed in their eyes ; but the marquis hardly allowed himself the pleasure of hearing congratulations on this account, whilst no symptom gave hope of an alteration for the better, in the object dearest to his heart on earth, the amiable lord Melrose, who still languished under the malady

which afflicted him, and who became even more than ever oppressed with the tormenting cough, which deprived him of rest or comfort, and distressed all his attendants from the vehemence of its baleful effects.

In vain was every regular medical aid resorted to ; in vain the marquis had recourse to nostrums precariously prescribed, and in which he sometimes placed as much confidence from the ignorance and simplicity of the advisers, as at others, from their knowledge and experience.

Still, in defiance of every recipe, lord Melrose's complaints remained unrelieved and undiminised, whilst the horror-struck, and distracted parents daily saw the noble-minded youth, as it were, melting from their feeble hold ; and with the utmost patience and cheerfulness, bearing his sufferings, and encouraging them in hopes of his recovery ; but his flesh wasted, his

voice became weak, his breath short, the lively animation of his eyes, alone, betokening the playful vivacity which once adorned his countenance.

No longer could the physicians conceal the fears, which had been long entertained; that lord Melrose's lungs were dangerously affected; but the sufferings of the marquis on the slightest intimation of this nature, was such, that they were still induced, when they spoke of any alarming symptom, to flatter him with hopes that he was not too far gone for recovery; and to assure him, that every mortal aid lord Melrose should experience. But the inconsolable marquis, from whose thoughts the dreadful prediction was never a moment banished since the period of lord Melrose's illness, was totally incapable of receiving comfort: he felt the aweful hour of separation fast approaching;—he knew it was inevitable, yet, at the same time, knew not in what manner best to

fortify his mind, to enable him to sustain it.

One day as the marquis sat by the couch of lord Melrose, whose encreasing languor now scarcely permitted him strength to walk across his apartment without fatigue, he tenderly took the hand of his father, (whose anxious looks were never for a moment directed to any other object, than that fading flower, his son) he raised it to his lips, and said, how much it grieves me, my dear father, to see your grief on my account, and what you suffer from my long illness, which, I most sincerely hope for both our sakes, will not be of much longer continuance ; for I pray to heaven, and I trust in it, for either soon to be restored to health, or relieved from my present severe afflictions, by the great deliverer death : but lord Melrose observing the distress and agitation of his father during this speech, thus continued : do not despair, my father, or suppose me yet en-

tirely lost, neither build with too much hope on my recovery, which, at this period, is, certainly, very unlikely ; and, if it is the will of heaven that I must go, bear it with fortitude ; but as this is not a time for reserves, the affection which you have ever borne me, makes me think that you will not deny an earnest request which I am going to make to you, and which may, perhaps, be the last which I ever shall ; will you then promise to comply with it ?

Speak, most dear Theodore, said the convulsed marquis, what can you ask which I shall deny, what is there, which I am capable of doing, that I should one moment delay ?

It is proper, my mother should hear my desire, continued lord Melrose, go, and request her to come, whilst I endeavour to recover myself, and collect my strength for what I have more to say.

The marchioness, whose tears and anxieties were only inferior to her lord's, from being ignorant of the additional cause for apprehension, which disturbed his mind, and which he had preserved resolution sufficient to keep from her knowledge, soon attended on her son. When she appeared, lord Melrose addressing her, in nearly the same words which he had previously done his father, thus proceeded:

You are not unacquainted, my dear parents, with what a warm affection my heart is devoted to Malcolm Douglas; or that from the first moment of our meeting, a more than fraternal friendship and regard has subsisted between us.

I know it, but too well, answered the marquis, and grieved am I to say, the conduct of that young man is such, as renders him unworthy of your further notice. I have received a letter from Paris which accuses him of misdemeanors, which must

for ever separate him from your society; if what you have to say concerns him, I greatly fear, I must recall the promise I so unlimitedly gave; for never will I, nor shall my family (if I can prevent it) countenance a bad and despicable man.

For that I can engage, replied lord Melrose, but talk not so, my dear sir, I entreat you; when you speak of Malcolm Douglas, class him not with any thing mean and despicable, continued he, warmly, whilst the languid hectic mounted to his before, wan cheeks; believe not, my lord, the forgeries created by envy, to blacken the fair fame of one of the noblest of heaven's creatures; well do I know the great soul of Malcolm disdains a mean, or dishonorable action. I would vindicate his character with my life; do not, therefore, my dear father, listen to a tale so cruelly malicious.

My dear Theodore, returned the mar-

quis, let me entreat you not to exert yourself thus for one so undeserving your attention ; believe me, I did not give heed to the intelligence which I received, till I had sent to my correspondents in Paris, and found the particulars strictly correct ; the letters I have preserved, and beg that you will now perúse them, by which you will be convinced it was not lightly, or without sufficient reason, that I abandoned him.

Saying this, the marquis gave the anonimous letter, and the other in confirmation of it, into the hands of lord Melrose, who read it over with evident marks of contempt: returning them, he said, I did not think you, my lord, whose mind is so liberal, would ever have been swayed by an anonimous letter ; it is but too plain to me that the author could not make good his assertions, or dreaded the consequences which might result from making himself known.

You forget, my love, replied the marquis, that it is not on the proof of that letter merely, which I condemn Malcolm, but from such confirmation from my friend in Paris, as will put his guilt beyond dispute, my banker, for instance, who personally knows the female, and is convinced the affair is as the first letter states.

That Malcolm has enemies, returned lord Melrose, does not surprise me, where can such merit as his exist without ? but I have not strength to waste in unavailing argument ; waving, therefore, both accusation and defence, I must come to the points which I have so much at heart : all that in this world rests upon my mind, and what, if I am to die, can alone make my last moments happy ; promise me, both of you, my dear parents, that you will grant me my request, and on this occasion, let me have my will.

However repugnant it may be to my

own, answered the marquis, (for I am assured it is in favor of Malcolm) yet as it is your request I promise to fulfill it, and so will I also, my most beloved child, added the marchioness ; for to contribute to your happiness I would make many sacrifices.

It is not my own happiness alone, which I am now seeking, by what I am going to advance, replied lord Melrose, though it is greatly connected with it ; it is principally for my sister's, my dear sister Catherine, who, amidst all her excentricities, has a thousand good qualities, for her I wish to interest you ; her life, perhaps, depends on your present determinations. She loves Malcolm Douglas.

The marchioness, at this last sentence, started from her seat with horror and astonishment, as great as though the most degrading proposition had been made.— She was eagerly about to interrupt him,

but lord Melrose, entreating her further patience, and gently seating her again, thus proceeded : she loves him with an unalterable affection ; to me, and me alone, she has confided the secret of her heart ; and nothing could have induced me to betray her confidence, but the hope of making her happy ; do not, my most dear parents, do not hesitate, Malcolm is worof her, be assured ; if I should die, Malcolm would be your heir ; his rank would then demand her ; but if you shut your ears to this most just and reasonable request, I shall not be the only child which you will have to mourn ; soon will you lament another, for she will not survive the loss of Malcolm.

The artful, worthless youth, replied the marchioness, greatly agitated, has won on her credulous innocence ; taking an ungrateful advantage of our hospitable kindness, he has seduced the affections of our child, as cruelly as he has the person of

the unfortunate female who now resides with him.

In this suspicion he is as greatly wronged, returned lord Melrose, as I am convinced he is in the other charge against him ; he is as yet entirely ignorant of my sister's partiality to him; and, to my certain knowledge, never, by any particular attention to her, endeavoured to obtain it ; the mutual regard lady Catherine and myself have entertained for him, has caused him to be the frequent subject of our discourse, as it was the one, most acceptable to both ; this led to a disclosure of those tender sentiments which she felt for Malcolm, which otherwise, her delicacy would have concealed, even from me. But if you are resolved to deny yourselves the inestimable blessing of such a son as Malcolm, do not, I solemnly conjure you, refuse me the consolation of once more folding my most valued friend to my faithful breast. I cannot die in peace without this happiness ;

I long once more to see him, and to converse with him—send for him,—Oh send for him without delay; delays for me, indeed, are dangerous, and now, before it is too late reflect, my sister's precious life depends on your resolves; comply, dear parents, with the earnest wishes of your children, and in their happiness, your own will be secured.

As it is your wish, said the marquis, once more to see Malcolm, I must accede to it, what you so earnestly desire, cannot be refused.

But as to what regards your sister, hastily interrupted the marchioness, who appeared fearful the marquis was about to give his consent, time must be allowed for consideration of the subject and for further investigation, to conquer the reluctance we, at present, feel at the proposition.

I cannot accept your favors partially, said

the ardent and persevering youth, for I have been reflecting how selfish my request has been; the sight of Malcolm, if for me alone he comes, will add fresh anguish to my sister's heart, without the smallest gleam of hope; therefore, my lord, permit me all, or none; I will not, cannot for my own gratification, so cruelly distress another; but would you, in pity, condescend to think of her, all yet might be happy.

That Malcolm Douglas should become the husband of my daughter, is the last thing in the world which I should have expected to be proposed to me, said the marchioness, disdainfully. I cannot bring myself so hastily to such a resolution, even though you, my dear Theodore, so warmly plead for it.

And for what reason, my dear mother, answered the animated Theodore, do you object to my friend? if worth, honor, gra-

titude and integrity, are desirable in your son-in-law, who possesses those qualities so abundantly as Malcolm ? If personal beauty is the attraction, where can you find so rare an assemblage as in the person of Malcolm ? If rank, family, and title, are the acquisitions most desirable, where would you look higher ? Malcolm will be the heir of Chiviot.

As these last words issued from the lips of lord Melrose, the marquis totally overcome by the keen sensibility of his feelings, and the previous discourse which he had had with his son, and the last emphatic and dreadful sentence coming so unexpectedly from him, that sense and motion were, for some minutes, suspended. The alarmed youth sprang from his couch, to fly to the assistance of his father, and to comfort and support his mother, who was not very far from a similar situation, greatly distressed by observing the agitation which he had caused to both ; he warmly en-

treated pardon of each, repeatedly declaring, that since he was so unhappy as to find his petition so disagreeable, and so entirely opposite to their inclinations; but whatever might be his own disappointment, or however great his sorrow for his sister, he most certainly should never more introduce the subject; renewing again his request for their pardon, and that they would endeavour to recover their usual composure, he ceased speaking, and sat, in some little expectation of being applauded for this proof of filial duty.

But what was his surprize, when the marquis, with some degree of firmness, said to him, my child, you shall make no sacrifice of your inclination on my account, every wish you form, which is in my power to grant, shall instantly be complied with. I plainly perceive an over-ruling power which cannot be resisted, influences us all; and it would be the height of folly, further to contend against it. Sub-

mission to an inevitable fate, is all that is left to me; I will not then embitter a too late reflection by any omission of what I can now perform, whilst you are yet granted to me, which may give you pleasure.—Malcolm shall immediately return, and if he can vindicate his conduct in a satisfactory manner, I shall be happy to allow it.

That he is irreproachable, I am convinced, replied lord Melrose; and be assured, my dear parents, you will insure your own future felicity and approbation of mind, by thus kindly promoting mine.

Lord Melrose was too much exhausted to add more, and his parents too much distressed in witnessing his langour and fatigue, to think much more on the subject of their discourse, till they left him to take some repose after his great exertions.

The marquis, justly conceiving that human opposition to the will of heaven, was vain presumption, prayed for strength to fortify his mind for the fast approaching calamity, and to dispose of his daughter in the way pointed out to him by lord Melrose, which, he had no doubt, was a kind of prophetic inspiration in him, to keep the family honors in a right line; and that though his first and dearest hopes would be blasted, the females might yet be inheritors.

END OF VOL. II.

Knevett, Arliss, and Baker, Printers, 87, Bartholomew Close.

NEW WORKS

PUBLISHED BY

T. HOOKHAM, JUNR. AND E. T. HOOKHAM,

15, OLD BOND STREET.

The EMPIRE of the NAIRS, or, the Rights of Women, a Utopian Romance; by JAMES LAWRENCE, KNIGHT of MALTA.—4 vols. foolscap, 1l. 2s.

The *Nairs* are the nobility of Malabar. It is the privilege of the Nair lady to choose and change her lover. The mother only has the charge of the children, and even the Samorin, or Emperor, and the other princes have no other heirs than the children of their sisters. Thus, having no family, they are always ready to march against an enemy. When the nephews are of an age to bear arms, they follow their uncles. The name of Father is unknown to a Nair child: he speaks of his *uncles* and the *lovers of his mother*, but never of his *father*.

FAULCONSTEIN FOREST; a Romantic Tale.—Post 8vo. 6s. 6d.

"Faulconstein Forest is superior to the generality of the works with which it may be classed: many of the situations are new and striking; the language is poetical; the chivalrous and romantic character of the story is well supported; and the author appears to possess considerable taste and genius." *Monthly Rev.*

"This is a very pleasing romance. The story is well put together, and related without improbability or irksomeness." *Critical Rev.*

ROMANCE READERS and WRITERS, a Satirical Novel. 3 vols. 12mo. 15s.

" The work before us we can unhesitatingly affirm to have much merit, some novelty, and a really good lesson for young people. The construction of the tale is simple and natural, and the incidents are interesting. We take our leave of these volumes, with acknowledging that a great deal of good sense, shrewd remark, knowledge of the world, and love of virtue, are displayed in the performance."—*Critical Review.*

The First Lines of A NEW SYSTEM of EDUCATION, according to Philosophical Principles.—*Non quis, sed quid?*—1 vol. 8vo. 8s.

The above treatise is digested on a plan altogether original. This will be admitted by those readers who have considered the study of Education of the first importance, and who are acquainted with the productions of every writer who has treated of Public and Private Systems, from *Locke* and *Edgeworth* to *Bell* and *Lancaster*.

To the heads of seminaries, and to Parents, this work will be found *peculiarly* acceptable, as it endeavours, under the head of " *the Physical Education*," to detect and check a vice as universal as it is *secret* and *dangerous*.

LETTERS from an ELDER to a YOUNGER BROTHER, on the Conduct to be pursued in LIFE.—By WILLIAM HUSSEY, Esq.—Part II. 5s.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
3 0112 049779678