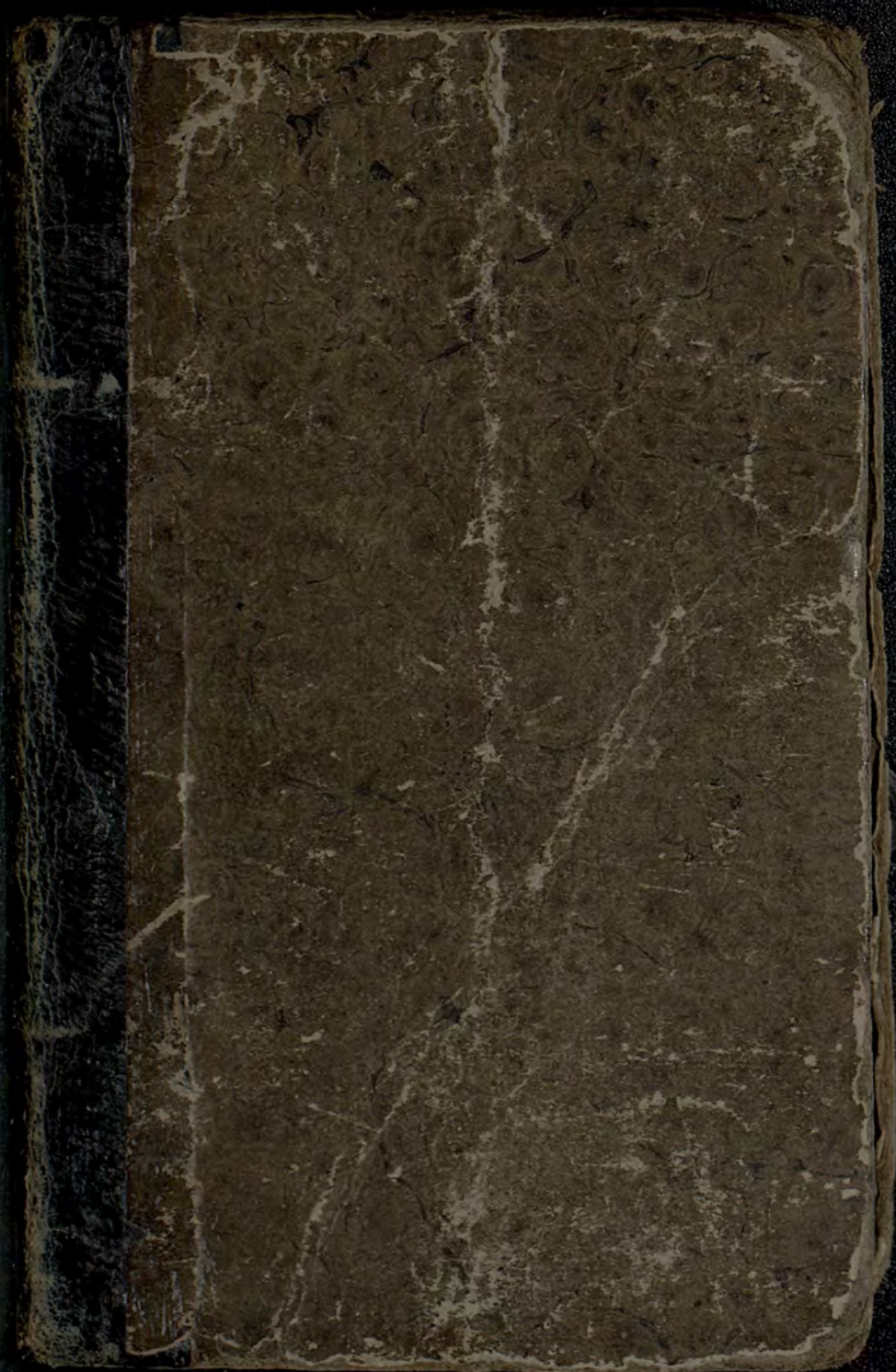
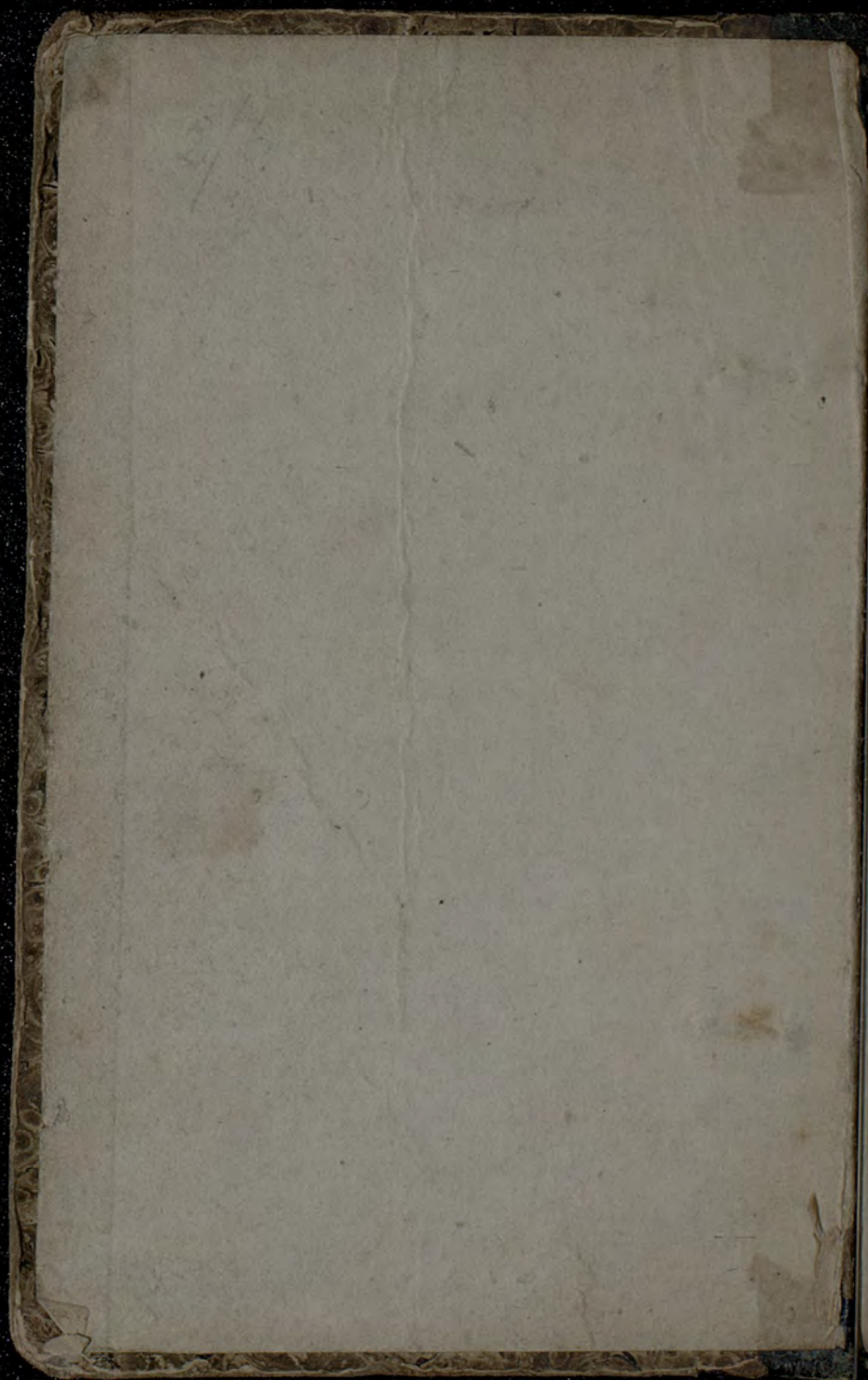
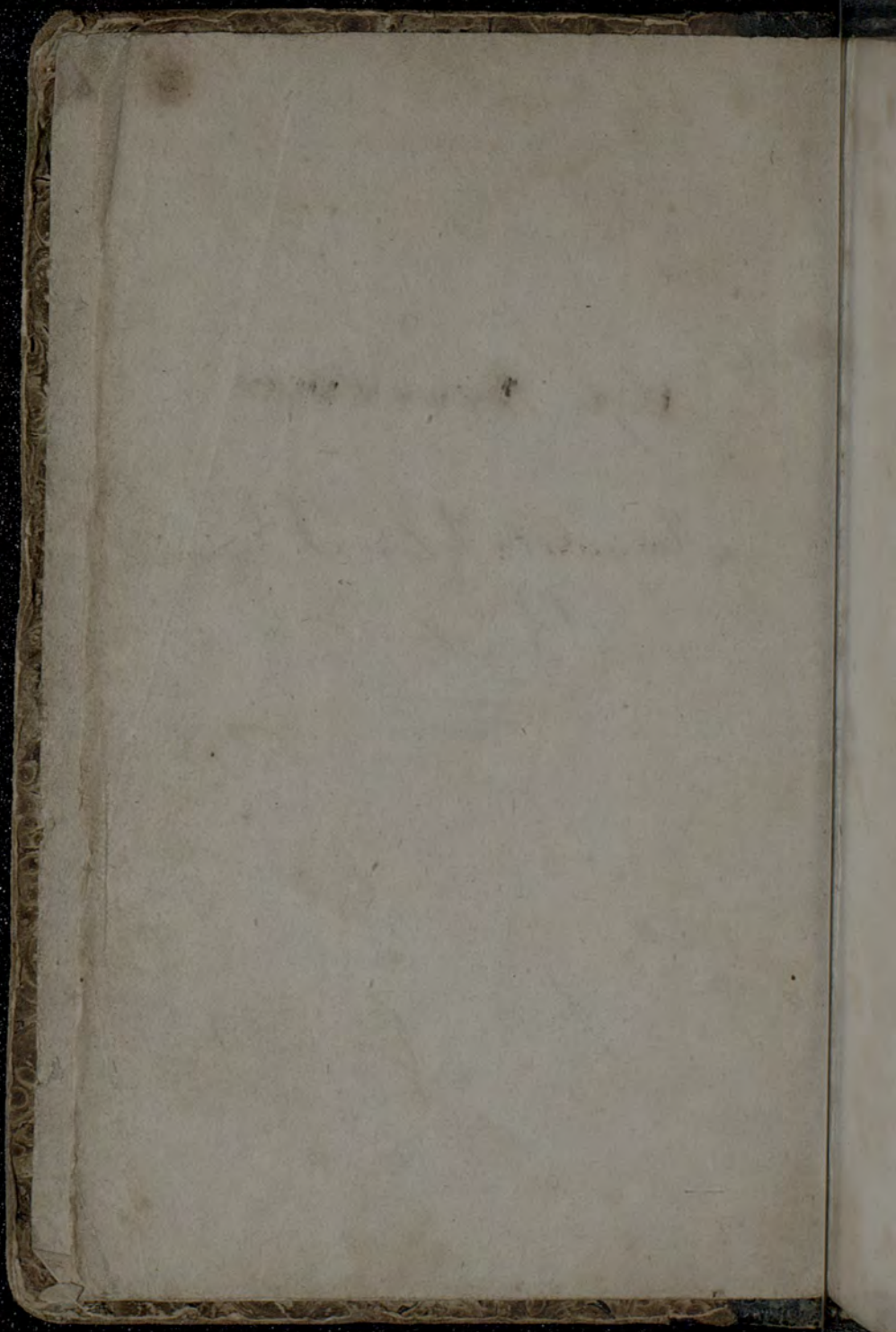


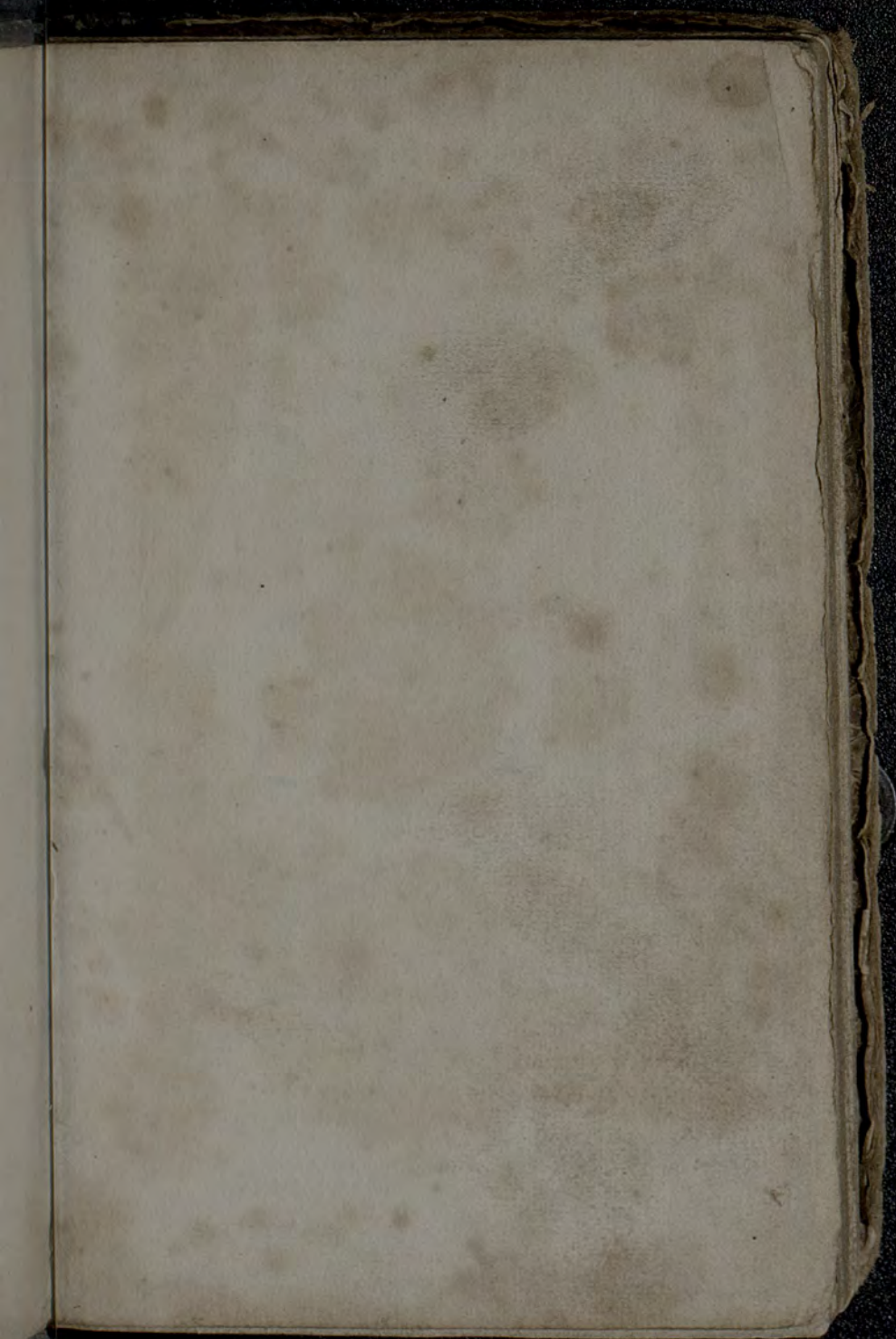




~~My Journal~~

Margaret Selon Broadben
Book





THE ALCHEMIST.



'As Louisa stooped to embrace her.'

vide Alchemist page 95.

Published Jan. 8. 1819. by W^m Darton Jun^r 58 Colborne Hill.

THE
ALCHEMIST.

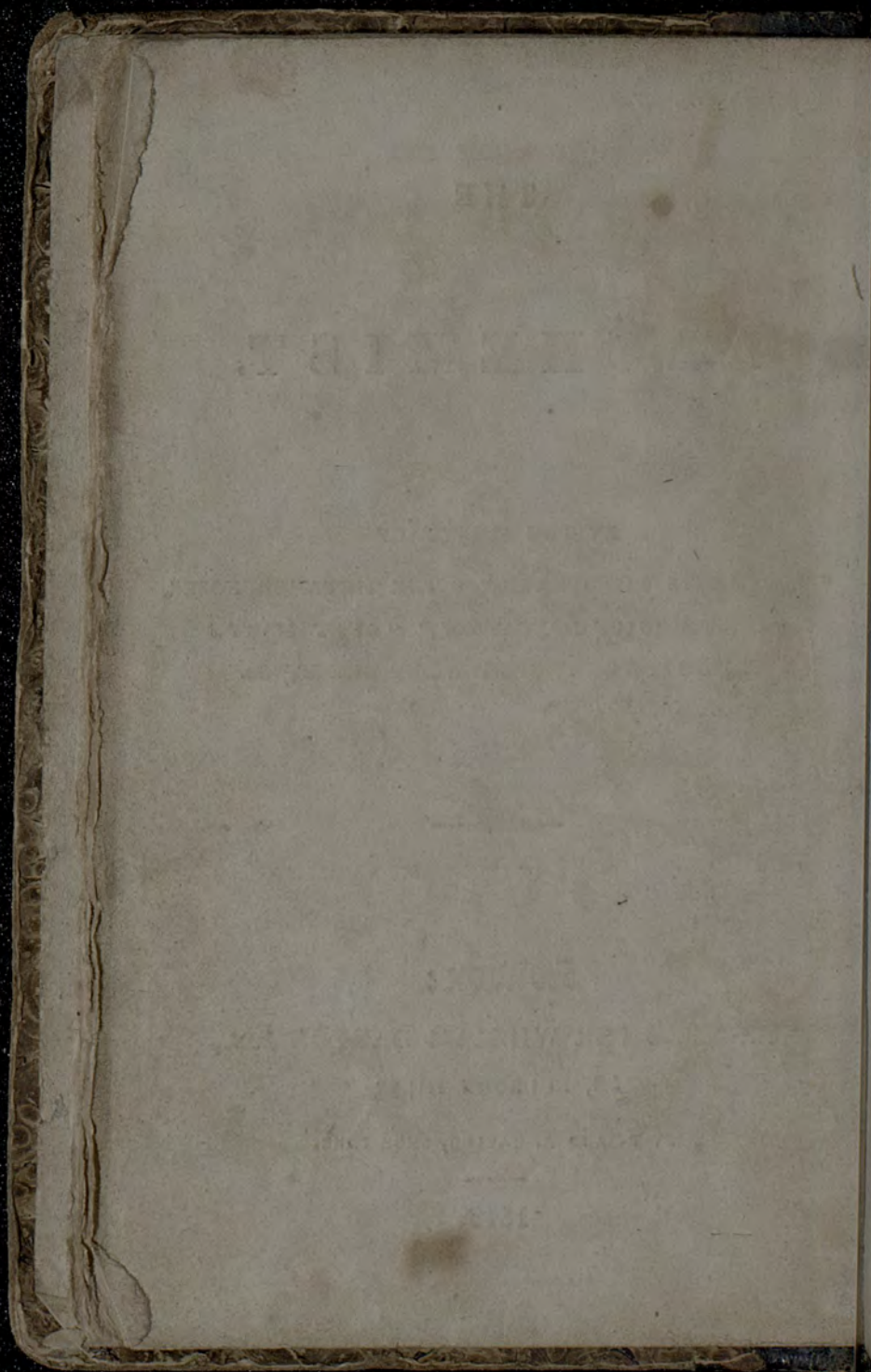
BY THE AUTHOR OF
"ORNAMENTS DISCOVERED;" "THE METAMORPHOSES,
OR EFFECTS OF EDUCATION;" "AUNT MARY'S
TALES FOR HER NEPHEWS AND NIECES," &c.

London:

PRINTED FOR WILLIAM DARTON JUN.,
58, HOLBORN HILL;

BY R. AND A. TAYLOR, SHOE LANE.

1818.



MAM
standin
mother
meant
An
tends to
And
No,
phers, v
been so
wasted
that whi
you thin
Becau
my aunt
you succ
ful wom
And v
know no
careless
prudent
worth ve
very goo
I belie
doubt her

THE ALCHEMIST.

PART I.

MAMMA, said little Louisa Granville, after standing for some time in deep thought near her mother's work-table; will you tell me what is meant by an Alchemist?

An Alchemist, my dear, is a person who pretends to change the common metals into gold.

And can any person do that, mamma?

No, my dear; I believe not. But some philosophers, who had more learning than wisdom, have been so foolish as to fancy it practicable; and have wasted a great deal of real gold in searching for that which was only imaginary. But what made you think of an Alchemist, Louisa?

Because, mamma, I was trying to find out what my aunt Cleveland could mean when she said, if you succeeded in making me a prudent and careful woman, you would be a perfect Alchemist.

And what do you think she meant? Oh! I know now very well! She meant that I was so careless and giddy, that if you ever made me prudent and careful, you would change what is worth very little at present to what would be very good and valuable.

I believe you are very right, for that was no doubt her meaning.

And do you think you will ever be able to make me a good and amiable woman, mamma?

Yes, my dear; I have no doubt of it. At least if you wish yourself to become one.

Oh! I am sure I wish it; but I am afraid I never can.

You have nothing to fear, if you really wish and are determined to be good.

Do you think, mamma, I could ever be as good as my sister Caroline?

Certainly I do.

But you know, mamma, you have often said that Caroline, even when she was as young as I am, never gave you any trouble, for she had always so good and amiable a disposition, that it seemed only natural to her to do what was right.

I have so; and on that account I do not despair of seeing you some time possess even greater merit than Caroline herself.

How can that be, mamma?

Because, if you, who are now of a very giddy careless disposition, take pains with yourself, and become as prudent and amiable as Caroline is, you will certainly have greater merit than she, who never had any such difficulties to overcome.

But, I am afraid I never shall be able to cure myself of my faults; for I keep constantly resolving to be more attentive and careful in future, but I always forget again before the time comes for me to be tried.

I do not expect you to succeed with the first or second effort, or perhaps with the hundredth; but

if you keep trying, and remember how much pleasure it would give your papa and me to see you cured of your faults, and how pleasant it would be to yourself, I have no doubt but by the time you are as old as Caroline is now, you will be as great a source of pleasure to us as she has ever been.

Oh! that would be delightful! To hear papa say of me, as he does now so often of her, "I am never afraid of Louisa"—"I am sure Louisa will do what is right." How happy I should be! Let me see! Caroline is fourteen, and I am only nine. Well, come, I have five years to learn in; that is a long time.

But length of time will do little for you, Louisa, except strengthening all your bad habits, unless you are most watchful over yourself.

Ah! that is the thing; that is what I am afraid will be my misfortune.

But when you are so sensible of your faults, and know so well how happy it would make you, to be a good, attentive little girl, I hope there is no fear but you will take pains to become one.

I hope not, said Louisa in a tone that expressed more of desire than hope. Then after a pause, But, mamma, added she, I should not like to be too careful; not so very careful as my cousin Anna.

I do not apprehend much danger, my dear, replied Mrs. Granville smiling, of your falling into the contrary extreme.

But do you not think my cousin Anna is too careful? Do you not think she is quite stingy?

Perhaps she may be a little; but she is upon the whole a very pleasant good-tempered girl.

Yes, she is indeed, and I like her very much. It is very nice for me to have her staying with us, for you know, mamma, I had not any one exactly of my own age to play with, or learn my lessons with till she came: for Charles is quite a little boy, he is only seven years old. Besides, you know a girl is far better than a boy to play with. I hope my aunt Cleveland will stay a long time here, mamma.

I hope so too, my dear.

Then there is Albert. Oh! I love Albert! He is so pleasant and kind and obliging. Do you not think he is, mamma?

Yes, he is indeed a remarkably fine boy.

And he is very generous too. He is not at all mean, like his sister Anna. Do you think he is?

No. I am afraid, if any thing, he rather too nearly resembles his cousin Louisa.

Oh! no! mamma, indeed he is not at all extravagant. His mamma calls him so, because she would like to see him as careful and prudent (as she calls it) as Anna. For Anna is like herself.

Take care, Louisa! It does not become a little girl like you to sit in judgement upon one so much older.

Well then, I will talk about Albert, for you know he is only four years older than I am. He is not at all like me; for every body loves him, and says he will be a very clever man.

I hope he will, said Mrs. Granville with a deep sigh.

I know what makes you sigh, mamma, said Louisa, looking at her mother with an expression of sympathy. It is because you think him so like my poor brother Henry.

He is indeed very like him, my dear; and I hope he will resemble him as much in his virtues as he does in his features.

I dare say he will, mamma; for he likes so much to talk of Henry, and to ask Caroline what he used to do, and about the things he learnt, and often wishes he could be as clever, and learn as much. And he often talks of Henry having lost his life from his humanity in running to help a poor boy who had fallen into the water when he was skating; and says if he had been there when the ice broke a second time, and let poor Henry too into the water along with the boy, he would have gone to help them, and would rather have died than not have endeavoured to save them. But I distress you, mamma, said the little girl tenderly, on seeing the tears ready to drop from her mother's eyes.

No, my dear, you do not distress me. It is a pleasure to talk of those we delighted in; and your brother Henry was never any thing but a source of delight to his family.

You are very good to let me talk to you. But do you know, mamma, I am not so very sorry at not being allowed to walk out with my aunt and cousins and Caroline this morning, since you have been so kind as to let me stay by you and talk to you.

I should certainly have punished you more for having been so careless about your lessons this morning, if I had not seen you so good-tempered in helping your cousin Anna to get forward with hers, after you found it was out of the question for you to enjoy the same pleasure yourself. These acts of good-nature, my dear Louisa, show a sweetness of disposition which will always secure you the love of those around you. There is a still higher point of ambition, however, which I hope it will ever be your object to attain.

You mean the approbation of my heavenly Father, mamma?

I do, my dear: and what is the invariable accompaniment and reward of that—the approbation of your own heart; which will make you happier than any thing else in the world could do.

Then I hope, mamma, I shall behave so as to enjoy them both.

I hope so too, my dear little girl, said Mrs. Granville, kissing her affectionately. The conversation here ceased for a few minutes.—At length Louisa said:

May I ask you a question, mamma?

Certainly, my dear; what is it?

Do you intend me to go to Woodlands with Caroline and my cousins at Easter?

That must depend upon yourself, Louisa. You are invited with the rest by Lady Susan, and I am sure she will be much disappointed if you are not of the party. But I can only permit you to go, provided you are industrious and careful till that

time; for you know that otherwise your aunt herself would not be glad to see you.

I know she would not; for she is as anxious as you are to have me good: and next to papa and you, I would rather she were pleased with me than any body besides in the whole world. She is so good and kind herself that every one who knows, loves her. Albert and Anna do not know her yet, or they would not talk about her being so old a woman, that they are sure it must be very dull to be at Woodlands.

They will alter their opinion when they have once seen her, no doubt. And I hope, Louisa, you will show your respect for her in the meantime by the care you take not to forfeit your right to the visit.

I wish, mamma, I had something always to keep it in my mind. I dare say, if I could constantly remember that if I am not attentive I shall not go to Woodlands, I should be sure to take care.

Then supposing I make a bargain with you. You are now rewarded for your work with tickets, for which you have a prize whenever you get a hundred. But instead of that I will, till Easter, which is now a month distant, give you threepence for every dozen. By this means you will very easily be able to make a shilling a week. Out of this you shall pay for all the pencils, thimbles, shoe or hat-strings that you lose, as well as any thing that you may borrow of your companions and lose as you are so apt to do. You must also be subject as usual to the penalty of paying a

ticket for any of your working materials which you may leave behind you when you have done using them. Provided you be free from debt at the end of the time prescribed, you shall be one of the party to Woodlands. But if not, you must submit to be left behind.

Oh! thank you, mamma, cried Louisa, clapping her hands for joy; then I do think I shall go. I have a thimble at present, and you gave me both new bonnet and shoe-strings yesterday morning, and Caroline promised to give me one of her pencils instead of that which I lost yesterday; so I shall have so little occasion for money that there will be no fear of my being able to keep out of debt.

The conversation was here interrupted by the entrance of Mrs. Cleveland and her young companions.

Look, Louisa, said Albert, hastening to his cousin with a glow of animation on his countenance; look at these pretty flowers which I have brought for you. I knew you would like to have some snowdrops, as you said the other day you admired them so much; I was determined to find one if possible to reward you.

To reward me, Albert? said Louisa with great simplicity; for what?

For being so good-tempered and kind to every body, and for making me always so happy when I am with you. I had a great deal of searching before I could find them; but I was determined to have some if possible: and so you see I have succeeded, and beautiful they are,

They are, indeed! Oh how I admire these beautiful streaks of green and these pretty pale yellow anthers, said Louisa, looking at the flowers as she took them out of Albert's hand. But they have not any smell, I think.

No; it is too cold weather for flowers to have a smell yet, said Caroline. We must wait for those which have the benefit of a hotter sun to have the addition of a sweet scent to their other charms. But do you remember what Mrs. Barbauld says of the snowdrop, Louisa?

No, I do not remember her words; but I know she speaks of the snowdrop in those lines which you read the other day, for it was that which made me like them so much.

I see by Anna's countenance that she knows the lines, said Mrs. Granville. Will you repeat them to your cousin, Anna?

Anna immediately repeated the following lines:

"Already does the snowdrop dare to appear,
The first pale blossom of the unripen'd year:
As Flora's breath by some transforming power,
Had chang'd an icicle into a flower;
Its name, and hue, the scentless bud retains,
And winter lingers in its icy veins. d
To it succeeds the violet's dusky blue, s.
And each inferior plant of richer hue; d
Till riper months the perfect year disclose,
And Flora cries exulting, 'See my rose.'"

Very well remembered indeed, Anna, said Mrs. Granville. I wish you could teach Louisa to heed things with as much attention, and recall them at readily to her memory. ng.

But Louisa does often remember what she reads, aunt, said Albert, eager to vindicate his little thoughtless but good-tempered favourite: for the other day when she saw a daisy peeping out from under some melting snow, she repeated two of the verses of that pretty poem of Montgomery's on a field flower; and that was the reason that I brought her this daisy along with the snow-drops, because I thought her remembering those verses would make her always like to look at a daisy in future.

You are very right in that idea, my dear Albert, returned Mrs. Granville. A remembrance of such beautiful allusions to the objects of nature is sure to make them be viewed with greater interest; and I am very glad to find that Louisa's memory supplied her so readily.

Yes, mamma, and I remember them still, and will repeat them to you:

" 'Tis Flora's page—In every place,
In every season fresh and fair;
It opens with perennial grace,
And blossoms every where.
On waste and woodland, rock and plain,
Its humble buds unheeded rise;
The rose has but a summer reign,
The daisy never dies."

And now, Louisa, can you tell me to what class of flowers the daisy belongs?

Yes, mamma, it is a compound flower. But I do not exactly understand what a compound flower means.

It is one which has a great number of small

flowers, each of them as perfectly formed as the largest one that grows, which are all inclosed by one calyx or set of green leaves, as you see these are. The yellow ones in the centre are called florets, because they are full-formed flowers: and the white ones round the edge are semi-florets, or only half flowers, which you easily find to be the case if you examine the flower in your hand.

Oh! I wish I had brought a daisy home with me, said Anna, that I might have examined it with my glass.

You shall have plenty to look at immediately, cried Louisa, tearing the daisy she held in her hand in two, and giving one half to her cousin; and if you will be so good when you have done as to lend me your glass a minute or two, then I will examine mine.

But, said Anna, I had rather not lend my glass, for I am afraid of its being lost.

I only want to use it whilst you are by, and will give it to you again directly, said Louisa, in a good-tempered, entreating tone and a look of great sweetness.

But I had rather not lend it, returned Anna. I will tell you all about the flower after I have looked at it myself, but I do not like to part with my glass. And by way of securing her property she hastened out of the room.

That is always the way with Anna, whenever she is asked to part with any thing, exclaimed Albert with great indignation: she will take whatever she can get, but she will part with nothing.

But I dare say Caroline will lend you her glass, Louisa, for she is not so very very careful.

I will lend my glass with pleasure, answered Caroline, returning from the door which she was about to open for the purpose of leaving the room. But you must allow me to stay by till she has done with it, that I may get it again; for you know neither Louisa nor you have learnt to be so careful as to be trusted.

Now that is exactly the right way to do, cried Albert. Caroline is as obliging as Louisa, and as careful as Anna. Caroline is just right.

Oh, yes, said Louisa, whose little heart beat with delight whenever she heard her sister praised; Caroline is always right. Shall you not love me very much, Albert, if I ever learn to be as good as Caroline? And mamma says she does not despair of it.

I love you so well already, replied Albert, putting his arms round her neck and kissing her with great warmth, that I scarcely think I can ever like you better. I only wish Anna would let me love her as much: but I never can love her for a long time after she shows herself so mean and selfish.

If you were as partial to your sister as you are to your cousin, Albert, said Mrs. Cleveland, (who had hitherto been a silent observer of what was passing,) you would call what you now term selfishness only proper care in your sister. Young as she is, she knows that I am not so rich as your aunt Granville, and that it is very necessary for

her to be careful of all her things, as I cannot afford to buy her new ones frequently.

But you see, mamma, how Caroline has done. She has taken care to stay by, and has already got her glass back again; so that she has obliged Louisa without suffering any thing from it herself.

But I cannot tell how your aunt Granville would like that plan often to be pursued. I am inclined to think Caroline might soon waste a good deal more time in this manner than Louisa's investigations were worth.

I am so exceedingly fond of my children's showing attention and kindness to one another, said Mrs. Granville, that I believe I should admit even of the sacrifice of a considerable portion of time for that purpose. But in this instance I do not look upon the time as lost, since Caroline has had an opportunity of giving her sister some useful information. You see, whilst examining this flower with her, she has made her acquainted with some of the leading principles of botanical classification.

I am sure, said Mrs. Cleveland, no child can be more ready to oblige her friends than Anna is. She never cares what trouble she takes, if she can do an act of kindness; and do what you will to her, you will never see her out of humour.

We have all great pleasure in doing justice to the sweetness of Anna's temper, and the many amiable qualities she possesses, said Mrs. Granville; and where there is so much to admire, we have only to regret that there should be a single drawback.

I have no apprehension about what you consider the drawback, replied Mrs. Cleveland; for I have no doubt, as Anna grows older and becomes better acquainted with the world, she will learn to be careful without appearing mean.

But, mamma, said Albert, coming towards his mother with a look of great earnestness, if she only learns to appear better without being so in reality, you know she will still not be an amiable woman.

If she only learns to manage her carefulness with more judgement, Albert, I have no wish that she should have any less of the reality than she has at present. But I am only afraid she will too soon learn to despise œconomy, like the rest of her companions.

If the heart be not liberal in childhood, increasing years seldom have the effect of opening it, said Mrs. Granville. Care naturally grows upon people as they grow older. I should be glad therefore to see pains taken to expand Anna's ideas on that one point on which nature seems to have done so much to contract them, and I cannot but regret that you do not equally see the necessity.

Such is a mother's partiality, said Mrs. Cleveland, laughing, that I am much more disposed to pity you the arduous task before you, of correcting Louisa's faults, than to apprehend the same labour being in store for myself.

Louisa has certainly many serious faults at present, but they are all of such a nature that I have

no doubt improving sense and parental watchfulness will in time be able to correct them.

On that point your ideas and mine differ so widely, said Mrs. Cleveland, that it seems a hopeless subject for us to argue upon.—And here the conversation ended.

We must now endeavour to account for the difference which must have been observed between these two sisters.

Mrs. Granville and Mrs. Cleveland were the daughters of one father, but not the same mother. Mrs. Granville, who was the eldest, lost her mother when she was scarcely a year old, and her father (Mr. Harford) appeared for a time an inconsolable widower. As the care of so young an infant was too delicate a charge to be intrusted to servants, Mr. Harford endeavoured to prevail upon an unmarried sister, who had resided for some years with their aunt, Lady Susan Melville, to assume the care of his house and child. Circumstances conspired to make this plan unpleasant to Miss Harford and Lady Susan; but they offered with great pleasure to receive the little Louisa under their own roof. Few women could be better adapted for such a charge; and Mr. Harford very gladly accepted the proposal. Lady Susan, though she had never been married, had always been particularly attached to children, and had paid more attention to the subject of education than most of those to whom that duty has been intrusted by nature. With a strong and active mind, a dis-

position particularly ingenuous and honourable, and a heart alive to all the tenderest emotions of the human breast, she was qualified to implant the seeds of virtue in the young and susceptible mind of her niece, by that most powerful of all instructors—example. A keen contempt for every thing mean or disingenuous made her sometimes perhaps too severe in her dislikes. They generally bore a fair proportion to her partialities, and they were always strong and warm as the mind which felt them. Miss Harford, who was not deficient in any one of the excellencies which adorned her aunt's character, possessed them in that softened form which an uncommonly gentle temper and delicate constitution naturally produced. They appeared in her like the reflection of a bold and brilliant landscape on the surface of a smooth lake, when every object is distinct and clear, but the harsher lines are softened by the mingling rays which reflect them.

A severe disappointment which she had met with in early life had made her resolve never again to enter into a similar engagement; and for the last fifteen years she had been deaf to the applications which admiration of her beauty, esteem for her virtues, or a desire for her fortune, had severally prompted. She devoted herself to the service of her friends, and to her fellow-creatures in general; and though many threatening consumptive symptoms bespoke an early close to her existence, she performed her duties with alacrity and cheerfulness, and looked forward to her death

with the tranquillity of a well prepared mind, unmingled with despondence or apprehension. For Lady Susan only was that apprehension reserved; and she watched every symptom which threatened a life so infinitely dear to her, with a sickening and trembling anxiety. To have two such women to assume the charge of his child, might have satisfied the mind of a much more anxious father than Mr. Harford had ever shown himself; and he willingly consigned her entirely to their management. It is true, that after his second marriage, which took place before the year was expired from the death of his first wife, he offered to take his little girl home again: but as neither of her aunts could think of parting with her, he very willingly consented that their house should be considered her future home, and that they should take both the expense and direction of her education upon themselves. The new Mrs. Harford, who was a very selfish woman, did not enter with entire satisfaction into this arrangement. She had discrimination enough to discover that Lady Susan and Miss Harford neither liked Mr. Harford's hasty marriage, nor approved of the object of his choice. She was afraid therefore that they would attach themselves to the little Louisa to the detriment of her own child, which was also a daughter, and who was equally allied to them, and much nearer to her. As a compensation for this dreaded evil, she prevailed upon her husband to make his will entirely in favour of his youngest daughter and herself.

The will once made, she was sure of having influence sufficient to prevent its being altered, even though Miss Harford's death, which was not likely to be far distant, should prove that lady to have been equally just to both her nieces. By this means she hoped she might possibly have secured to her daughter a double portion, which would serve in some degree to make amends for her being excluded, as she was sure she would be, from any share of Lady Susan's wealth. The sudden death of her husband, however, in some degree disappointed her expectations. Miss Harford, who had not before had any other intention than to divide her property equally between her nieces, no sooner found how unjust her brother had been to his eldest daughter, than she immediately altered her will entirely in her favour. The death of this amiable young woman, which took place but a very short time after her brother's, discovered to Mrs. Harford that she had fallen into the error which such selfishness often occasions, and made her daughter considerably a loser by her unjust mode of proceeding. An uncle of Miss Harford's had some years before left her a very considerable estate, to which, in case of her dying without an heir, Lady Susan was to succeed. Her ladyship had, however, unknown to any of their relations, resigned her right of succession; so that it with the rest of her aunt's property all devolved to Louisa. Thus did she at the age of twelve come into possession, under the guardianship of Lady Susan, of a

fortune of twenty thousand pounds. But the loss she had sustained in the death of her beloved relative absorbed every other feeling, and she mourned as one who had been taught from the first dawn of intellect how to appreciate both what she had lost and that which she had acquired. Mrs. Harford, though deeply and severely mortified at so unlooked for an event, yet had too much policy not to endeavour to put a favourable appearance on her own conduct, and to hide the severe mortification she felt, under a pretence of satisfaction at Louisa's good fortune. From this motive she hastened to Lady Susan's as soon as the contents of Miss Harford's will were made known. Though it might be thought, she said, sooner than was proper for her to come out after the death of her dear Mr. Harford, she had determined to lay aside every selfish feeling, and hasten to sympathize with her ladyship. Lady Susan's grief was of too deep and sacred a nature to be exposed to such an observer, and she thanked her with a composed and unaltered countenance for her attentions. Embarrassed by this cool and dignified self-possession, which she had never doubted must give way to real and acute sorrow, Mrs. Harford was for a few moments at a loss how to proceed: at length, she added, But though I feel as every one must do, who knew the value of the object we have lost, I find it impossible to check some intruding feelings of a pleasanter nature at the recollection of our dear Louisa's good fortune.

That must indeed be a subject of high satisfaction to you, replied her ladyship in the same tone of cold civility.

It could not but be pleasant to hear it confirmed, said Mrs. Harford, struggling violently to overcome the embarrassment which Lady Susan's manner excited; though Mr. Harford and I were both well assured that it would be so. Indeed, it was this conviction which induced Mr. Harford to leave his own property as he did, which every one I think must approve of his having done.

Things seem to have been arranged according to the wishes of all parties, returned Lady Susan.

My Susan will have a very inferior fortune to her sister, continued Mrs. Harford; but that is of little consequence. She has sufficient to satisfy any moderate desire; and as the niece of Lady Susan Melville, added she with a most gracious smile, she can scarcely fail of being an object even of envy.

I am afraid she is not likely to derive much advantage from her relationship to me, returned her ladyship, as I am about to remove immediately to a considerable distance.

To remove! exclaimed Mrs. Harford, now speaking in a tone of sincerity, and expressing unfeigned surprise and consternation.

I am going to live on my estate of Woodlands, in Westmoreland, said Lady Susan.

Then my poor Susan will soon be forgotten by a relation whom she has always been taught to

look up to with reverence, and who her father hoped would be a parent to her, as well as to Louisa.

Louisa is an orphan, replied her ladyship; but happily for Susan, she has a mother whose care makes that of every other person unnecessary.

She is your relation, however, equally with Louisa, returned Mrs. Harford, and named after you.

I have no partiality for my name, returned Lady Susan.

It must be my study to make her worthy of the name she bears, and then I am sure she will gain, because she will deserve, Lady Susan's affection.

To deserve affection is generally a sure way of obtaining it, was her ladyship's reply.—And here the conversation was interrupted by the entrance of the two sisters; and Mrs. Harford soon after relieved herself from the uncomfortable feelings which Lady Susan's manner excited, by taking leave.

A few days afterwards Louisa was sent to bid adieu to her mother and sister; but no Lady Susan appeared, nor was any message from her received.

Did your aunt not desire you to ask your sister to come and see you, Louisa? asked Mrs. Harford.

No, replied Louisa; but I am sure I shall be very glad to see Susan, and I hope she will come to Woodlands very soon.

It will be impossible for either her or me to come without being invited by her ladyship.

Oh! but she will invite you! I will put her in mind to do so very soon, and you must come and stay with us a long time.

Mrs. Harford declared how happy this would make her, and charged Louisa to tell her aunt that she had said so, though she felt an inward persuasion that she at least would not be included in the invitation. Nor was she mistaken. Louisa, mindful of her promise as well as anxious to see her sister, for whom she had always been taught to encourage a cordial affection, no sooner found her aunt comfortably settled at Woodlands, than she expressed a wish that her mother and sister might be invited to their beautiful residence.

You may write as soon as you please, my dear, replied her ladyship, to Mrs. Harford, and ask her to allow Susan to spend the summer months with us; but it will not be convenient to me to see her mother.

As Susan was the person whom Louisa wished for, and was perfectly unconscious of the real cause of Mrs. Harford's being excluded, she wrote with readiness and pleasure to make the request. Mrs. Harford though deeply mortified at the affront offered to herself, had too much policy to refuse the invitation to her daughter, and sent her under the care of a servant with many particular directions for her conduct. She gave her strict injunctions never to give Lady Susan reason to suspect that she was less romantically generous than Louisa herself. For, said she, it will be worth while to throw away a few pounds at present, however foolishly it be spent, for the sake of securing a few

of her ladyship's thousands hereafter. The kindness which Susan's letters regularly acknowledged from the time of her arrival at Woodlands, often made Mrs. Harford wonder her ladyship should show such undisguised dislike to the mother, and yet treat the daughter so like a relation. But her surprise arose only from her inability to appreciate Lady Susan's character. She considered her as a woman of violent dislikes and partialities, without reflecting on what those feelings were founded. She satisfied herself with concluding that she had been so unfortunate as to be an object of antipathy to Lady Susan from the time of her entering the family, without recollecting that it was the indelicately early time of her becoming a member of that family after the death of the first Mrs. Harford, which first of all displeased her, and the mean and artful disposition which had appeared in all her intercourse with it, which turned that displeasure into a confirmed and settled disgust. It was inconsistent, however, with the liberality and benevolence of Lady Susan's mind, to make the daughter a sufferer for the faults of the mother; and she received the little girl with the greatest kindness, and with the benevolent hope that the example of Louisa's pure and amiable manners might have a favourable influence on her mind, and lead her to the love of virtue. But this hope she was only a very short time allowed to indulge.

Though scarcely ten years old, Susan had been too constant a companion of her mother, and had too long listened to her instructions, not to have

had her mind poisoned and misled; and it was soon evident to her ladyship that the advantage of a few months example could have little effect in eradicating from even her youthful mind the seeds which had been sown with so diligent a hand.

As the most probable means of securing her aunt's good opinion, Mrs. Harford had charged her daughter not to appear unwilling to part with her money when applied to for any charitable purpose; and this advice the little girl had observed to an extravagant degree, and was satisfied that Lady Susan must of course think her exceedingly generous. She had no idea that the more minute traits of character were the objects of Lady Susan's observation. She would therefore choose the best fruit out of the basket before she offered it to her sister, would take a cake of paint which she found lying on the table and put into her own box, without inquiring to whom it belonged; or on losing a needle would generally contrive to replace it from her sister's thread-case rather than her own, without once imagining that these trifling circumstances, which never escaped Lady Susan's observation, served fully to develop the disposition she was labouring to conceal. In the annual visits which she afterwards regularly paid at Woodlands, the same defects continued to be conspicuous, though increasing years gave her more and more the power of hiding them. At length she came to pay a farewell visit previous to her marriage with Mr. Cleveland, which had been put off on account of the death of Mrs. Harford;

and though she had succeeded to the whole of the property which had been left in her mother's power, she was not received by her sister with the smallest degree of coolness. Louisa, satisfied with the abundance which she herself possessed, though also on the point of marriage, felt not the least wish that her mother had divided her property. Susan, however, was conscious that Louisa had a right to complain, particularly as Mrs. Harford's good management had made the younger sister's fortune considerably the larger; and she expressed herself upon the subject of her mother's partiality in such terms as almost deceived Lady Susan herself. Louisa was completely misled by it; and, wishing to satisfy her sister's mind, she said in the kindest manner: "As Mr. Granville is satisfied with what he will get with me, though his fortune is so much larger than mine, I have not the smallest reason to wish for more. You are perfectly welcome therefore to all, excepting one ring, which I believe you will find amongst your mother's trinkets. It was given to my father by my own mother a short time before her death, and whilst in full contemplation of that event. It has a sentence on it worked with her own hair and surrounded with uncommonly large pearls, the words are *Le bijou poli que je vous laisse*, which is more interesting to me than it can be to any one else, as a proof of her tender anxiety about me. Susan promised to look for the ring as soon as she returned home, and Louisa had no doubt of receiving it. A letter arrived, however,

in its stead, to say that she had been unable to find it, and was persuaded that her mother, unconscious of its peculiar value, must have parted with it amongst some other old-fashioned trinkets which she knew her to have disposed of some years before; a circumstance which she seemed to regret as much as Louisa herself could do.

Louisa was indeed much disappointed at finding the ring was lost, and Lady Susan was highly indignant at the meanness of Mrs. Harford in having parted with it. It happened however a few weeks afterwards, when in London on business, that her ladyship went to a jeweller's to select a set of ornaments as a present for each of her nieces on their marriage; and being shown into an inner apartment to examine the trinkets at her leisure, she found the master of the shop engaged in looking over a number of old rings, bracelets and brooches, which he said he had just received from a lady in the country to be taken as part of the payment for a very elegant set of ornaments which she had ordered. Lady Susan's eye glancing over them accidentally as he spoke, she caught a sight of the wished-for ring, which she immediately recognised. She made several inquiries respecting them, without letting it appear that she knew any thing of the person to whom they had belonged; and found from the man's account that he had been called upon some time ago to value them by the lady's mother who was since dead, and that they had been sent to him that day by the daughter at the valuation which he had then set upon them.

Lady Susan asked if that ring had been amongst them when he first saw them; adding, by way of concealing her motive for the inquiry, that it was so old-fashioned that she should have thought he would hardly have taken it if he had seen it before. The man assured her, however, that both mother and daughter were better acquainted with its value than she seemed to be, which was much greater than might be imagined, on account of the remarkably large pearls which were set in it. Lady Susan requested the man not to part with the ring till he either saw or heard from her again, and then took her leave. Susan lived but a few miles in the country, and it had been her ladyship's intention previous to this discovery to have paid her a visit. She now, however, only wrote to inform her how she had met with the ring in question, and begged to know what value was set upon it, as it was her intention immediately to purchase it for Louisa, as the most acceptable wedding present which she could make her. The ring was very soon sent with a large sheet of paper full of explanations how it happened to be amongst the trinkets without her knowledge, all of which were contradictory in themselves and altogether disgusting to Lady Susan, who had not more abhorrence of open vice than of the low mean cunning which stoops to falsehood to conceal it. From that time her ladyship refused every overture of kindness from her niece—soon afterwards Mrs. Cleveland: and even Louisa's gentle mind was for some time roused to resentment. This, however, gradually wore off, and

a sort of civil correspondence was carried on between them for some years, till Mrs. Cleveland lost her husband. After his death it was found that, quite unknown to any of his friends, he had been in the habit of private gambling, and had squandered away every farthing that he could command, and had left his wife with nothing but her jointure for herself and children. On finding the situation in which she was left, Mrs. Cleveland saw the necessity of endeavouring to reconcile herself to her friends, who had it so much in their power to assist her. She therefore wrote a long letter to Mrs. Granville, stating her circumstances; and as she very wisely considered that a frank avowal of her motive, being that of the good of her children, would be most effectual, she solicited a renewal of her kindness on that ground, and an exertion of interest in her behalf with Lady Susan. The frankness of the letter as well as the time of its arrival was greatly in Mrs. Cleveland's favour with all her relations, for it happened to arrive just when their minds were softened with sorrow for the death of Mrs. Granville's eldest son. Even Lady Susan was induced to express a wish to see Albert Cleveland, who she understood strongly resembled the lost Henry, on whom she had almost doted. An invitation was therefore given to Mrs. Cleveland to come with her son and daughter to spend some months with her sister: and Mrs. Granville's kind intercessions in her favour so far succeeded with Lady Susan, that Albert and Anna were engaged to accompany their cousins to spend the Easter

week with her. This projected visit was now the object of little Louisa Granville's attainment, and the cause, as we have related, of the agreement formed between her mother and herself.

Louisa, said Caroline to her sister as she was coming into the breakfast-room the morning after her mother had entered into the engagement with her; do you know that you have only one shoe-string on?

Oh! thank you, Caroline, replied the little lively good-tempered girl, you are very kind to remind me of it. I thought before I came down stairs I would put it on before breakfast, but I had forgotten it again—I will go for it as soon as ever I have seen what Albert is doing here, added she, hastening towards a table at which her cousin was busy.

Had you not better go directly whilst you remember where you left it? added Caroline; you know mamma will not allow me now to take care of your things for you.

Oh! it is quite safe. I know exactly where it is. I was going to put it into my shoe when I saw a little hare skip along the lawn; and as I wanted to watch where it went, I laid my shoe-string upon the table, and then I forgot it.

And I am afraid you will forget it again, said Caroline in a gentle tone of remonstrance, unless you go for it now.

I will go directly! returned Louisa, leaning as she spoke over the table at which Albert was employed fitting a round piece of glass into a wooden frame. I will go in a minute, only let me see first what Albert is doing.

You see I am fixing a glass into this piece of wood, said Albert, holding up the things as he spoke.

Yes, I see that; but then I do not understand what it is for. I want to know what use you are going to make of it when it is done.

Oh! that you will not be able to find out, returned Albert; and I do not mean to tell you till it is done. So you may as well go at once and get your shoe-string.

Do you know what it is, Anna? inquired Louisa, whose curiosity quite overcame her prudent resolutions.

No, answered Anna; but he says we shall see the use of it in two or three hours.

Two or three hours! What a long time to wait! I shall be quite tired of thinking about it before that time.

Then suppose you do not think any thing more about it till Albert is ready to tell you, said Caroline, but go for your shoe-string.

But I want to watch him, and then I may perhaps find it out. And if I go up stairs he may perhaps get it finished before I come back.

Oh no! said Albert, it will not be finished for a long time, so you may venture to go.

May I? well then, I will run and get my shoe-string and come back again directly.—Away flew the little volatile girl and was back in a minute or two. You have not tied your string, Louisa, said Anna, and you know if it be not tied when you have to go out a-walking you will lose a ticket.

I will tie it before that time, answered Louisa:

and again she took her station at Albert's elbow. But the job was completed and the breakfast on the table without her being able to make any further discovery. That meal finished, however, the business of her lessons commenced, and her mind was soon drawn by them altogether from the subject.

Dear me! exclaimed Anna as she and Louisa sat drawing, look, Louisa, at my pencil; when I hold it in this cup of water it looks as if it were bent, and as soon as I take it out it is straight again.

Yes, it is indeed! How curious that is! I wonder what can be the reason of it.

Do you not know the reason, Louisa? said Mr. Granville, laying down a book which he was reading, and coming to the table.

I suppose, papa, it is owing to something that you were telling Charles and me the other day about light, and rays, and some hard words that I cannot remember.

I wish I had heard about them, said Anna, and I would have remembered.

I do believe you would, Anna, replied Mr. Granville, and on that account I shall have great pleasure in explaining it to you. But I should like first to try how much Louisa knows about it. Can you recollect, Louisa, how we see the different objects around us?

I think, papa, you said it was that rays of light came constantly from them.

But, said Anna, rays of light cannot come from every thing that we see. Some things are black, you know, so that no light can come from them.

If no rays of light came from them, you would not see them at all, replied Mr. Granville. The power of seeing objects is caused by the rays of light which flow continually from the sun falling on the different objects around us, and then coming from them to our eyes.

But, uncle, said Anna, I do not see how that can be! I can see the light come from this palette because it is white and glazed; but I do not see it from your coat, and yet I see your coat as plainly as I see the palette.

That is owing to the division of the rays of light, which you cannot at present understand. My coat, both on account of its being black and of a thinner texture, which enables many of the rays to pass through it instead of being reflected back again, is seen much less brightly than your palette which is white and opaque.

And what, papa? asked Louisa.

Opaque, or not transparent, my dear, answered her father: that means, too thick for light to pass through. But unless some rays came from, or were reflected by, my coat, you would not be able to see it at all.

I begin to understand it now, replied Anna: for now I recollect that at night, when no light comes from the sun, even light-coloured things appear almost black.

True, answered Mr. Granville; for objects are only visible then in proportion to their power of reflecting the few rays which are remaining.—But we havenot yet got to the reason of the pencil appearing bent in the water.

No, said Anna; I cannot imagine what can be the reason of that.

Can you not find it out, Louisa? asked Mr. Granville.

I am afraid not, papa. But I know you told us the other day that the rays of light always went in a straight line till they met with something to stop them. And—and then—But I do not know what more, papa, for I have forgotten the words you made use of.

And then, said Mr. Granville, if the body be opaque—

That, said Anna in an under voice, as if to refresh her memory,—that means dark, and what light cannot pass through.

—They are reflected back in a straight line to the next object they meet with, continued Mr. Granville. Nothing however, you know, is so thin and clear as the air we breathe, and therefore they pass more readily through it than through any thing else. Water is next in thinness to air, but still it is much more dense.

What does *dense* mean, papa? asked Louisa, who had always been encouraged to inquire the meaning of whatever she did not understand.

It means the parts of which a thing is composed being more closely united and more nearly approaching to a solid. Water therefore is more dense than air.

But water is not at all like a solid, papa.

No, my dear, it certainly is not; but yet air is still less so.

Yes, to be sure, said Louisa, or else we could not breathe it. We should soon die if we had nothing to breathe but water.—But finding from the sigh which at that moment escaped from her father that what she had said had recalled the melancholy death of her brother to his remembrance, Louisa, who in spite of her giddiness of disposition was never inattentive to the feelings of others, hastened to turn his thoughts, and added, Then I suppose the rays of light do not pass so easily through water as through air?

They do not, replied her father; and are therefore driven out of the straight line.

I see it now, said Anna, holding her pencil again in the water. The rays which come from that part of the pencil which is under the water, meet with more to hinder them, so that they cannot pass quite straight through; but as soon as they get to the edge of the water they come in a straight line, just like the rays which come from that part of the pencil which has never been in the water; and that is the reason why it looks bent. Now, uncle, will you tell me, continued Anna—but turning round as she spoke to look at her uncle, she found he was gone out of the room to speak to a person whom he at that moment observed passing by the window. Oh! your papa is gone, said she to Louisa, I am very sorry; for I like to hear about such things as he has been telling us this morning.

So do I: and if he had not gone away I would have asked him to show you what he showed

Charles and me a short time ago, the way to make a shilling look like half-a-crown.

How to make a shilling look like half-a-crown! exclaimed Anna; I should like very much indeed to know how he did that.

I believe I could do it myself, replied Louisa; only I could not tell you about the rays, and what it was that made it appear so.

Oh! no matter for the rays! returned Anna, only let me see how it is done.

That I will do in a minute, said Louisa: and away she ran into the kitchen for a goblet full of water and a small plate, which she soon brought. But the shilling was still wanting. Louisa had not such a thing in the world, and Anna's were carefully laid by in a drawer; and much as she liked a philosophical experiment, she was little inclined to trust a piece of the money she so dearly loved in Louisa's hands, even though she was herself standing by to take care of it.

I do not know what we must do for a shilling, said Louisa, disappointed at not being able to go forward with her experiment. I cannot tell where to get one, for mamma said I was not to interrupt her for an hour, and Caroline is not in, and I do not know where Albert is gone.

It does not signify where he is gone, said Anna, for I dare say he has not any money; he always spends his as fast as ever he gets it.

Oh! there is Charles going across the lawn, exclaimed Louisa, and he has a silver medal that will do just as well: I will go and ask him to lend it me.

With many charges to take care of it Charles lent his medal, and Louisa returned in great glee. Putting the medal into the goblet, she put the plate on the top of the glass, and holding it tight on, she turned the glass quickly upside down, so as to rest on the plate without allowing the water to escape.

Oh! exclaimed Anna immediately, I see a very large piece of money, as large as a crown piece.

Because, said Louisa, you know the medal was much larger than a shilling. Look! there is the medal of its real size at the top as large as half-a-crown: it is only at the sides that it looks so very large. I wish I could remember the reason that papa told me.

Oh! how I wish I had a piece of money as large as that! Do not you, Louisa? It would be as much as five shillings.

Yes, I should like it very well, replied Louisa, who recollected at that moment that money was of great consequence to her at present.

What would you do with it, Louisa, if you had it for your own?

I would keep it to pay for every thing I lost before Easter, and then I would divide what I had left amongst us all before we went to Woodlands.

But if it were mine, said Anna, I would lay it by in my drawer, and keep it till I got more to put to it; and then by degrees I should get a great deal of money.

But what good would it do you, if you kept it always in your drawer?

Oh! a great deal of good; for mamma says every body is well off that has plenty of money.

I should not care for money if it were to lie in my drawer always, returned Louisa. But look, Anna, now that the water is quite still you may read the motto that is engraved on the medal.

Yes, I see it: "*Generosity with Prudence is a Virtue; without it, a Vice.*" That is the same that mamma always says: she often tells me to remember that prudence is a virtue.

But I do not think, said Louisa, that the prudence which is meant here is the same thing that your mamma means. That prudence is, not to throw things away or waste them; and your mamma's is, not to give any thing away.

It is a very pretty medal, said Anna, without attending to Louisa's remark; I wish it were mine: I dare say I could sell it for three shillings.

I know it cost more than that, returned Louisa, for I was with mamma when she paid for it. But you surely would not sell it?

I should like the money better than it; for you know it is not of any use.

But if it had been given to you as a reward for good behaviour, as it was to Charles, you surely would keep it then?

Yes, perhaps I might, replied Anna, in a tone however of no great confidence.

Do you know how it was that Charles pleased mamma so much that she gave him this medal?

No: I never heard any thing more than that he had behaved very kindly to you when you were in disgrace once for being careless.

I will tell you all about it then, said Louisa, sitting down as if she was going to tell a long story. But before she began, her attention was attracted by the sound of Albert's voice calling in great haste, Louisa! Anna! come here directly! What can Albert want, I wonder? exclaimed both the little girls at once: and at the same moment Albert entered the room in great haste.

Louisa! Anna! come with me in an instant, cried he, taking hold of their hands to pull them away with them: I have something so pretty to show you! But if you are not very quick you will lose the best of it.

What is it? inquired the little girls, resisting his efforts to draw them away. Tell us what it is first.

Why then, if you will know, it is a camera obscura, that I was busy with this morning. I have fixed it in the pigeon-house at the north lodge, and I want you to come directly to see it. There is a huntsman coming along the road with a pack of hounds, and a butcher driving a flock of sheep; and they will look so beautiful in the camera obscura, that I want you to see them. But if you are not very quick they will be all gone before you get there.

Oh! how delightful! exclaimed Louisa. Let us go directly. But, added she, recollecting her-

self, and taking the medal out of the water ; let me go first and take this to Charles.

Nay, you must not stop to take it now, said Albert : it will do just as well afterwards, you know ; and if you go to seek him now, the sheep and hounds will all have passed.

Well then, I will keep it in my hand till I come back, replied Louisa, clasping the medal very closely in one hand, whilst she gave the other to Albert, who ran with Anna and her full speed across the lawn, and along the avenue that led to the north lodge. But scarcely had they gone many paces when Louisa's foot slipped, and she measured her length on the gravel walk.

Dear Louisa ! are you hurt ? cried Albert, raising her up and looking at her with affectionate concern.

What was it that tripped up your foot, Louisa ? asked Anna, as she shook the dust and gravel off her cousin's black frock.

I believe, answered the little girl, blushing, I must have set my foot upon my untied shoe-string.

Aye ! you would not fasten it, you know, when you were advised to do so, said Anna in a tone of rebuke. If you had—

You are not hurt however, I hope, interrupted Albert, who could not bear to hear the sentence finished that reflected on his favourite.

Oh ! no, I am not hurt, replied Louisa, except that I have scratched my hand a little ; so let us be off again. But oh ! cried she, recollecting herself, where is the medal ? I have dropped it out

of my hand. They all immediately looked about for it, but without being able to find it.

Never mind it just now, said Albert, you know wherever it is it will lie still enough till we come back; so there is no need of our staying now to look for it. I hear the sheep bleating, and if we are not very quick we shall lose the sight of them.

To be sure we shall, replied the thoughtless Louisa. We know very well the medal cannot walk away from us, though the sheep can:—and off they went again. They got to the pigeon-house just in time to see one of the sheep leap over a hedge, and the whole of its companions (as is so common with those animals) follow its example: and they had great amusement in watching the race the butcher's boy had after them in the adjoining field to bring them back again. After them came the huntsman and his hounds; and much to their gratification he stopped just as he came within the field of their view, and whistled to bring up the stragglers which had remained behind. This lengthened their amusement considerably: and Louisa was delighted beyond measure at watching the different couples as they obeyed the summons of their keeper. After this the mail-coach appeared at a distance, and then a gentleman's carriage; and in short such a succession of objects followed one another, that Louisa forgot the medal and every thing but the present amusement. Anna at length declared her eyes were tired, and left them; for Louisa was far from being satisfied with what she had seen; nor

was she any more so, half an hour after, when a summons to attend her music-master obliged her to return to the house. Scarcely had she finished her music lesson, when Caroline came to give her notice it was time to prepare for walking, which she ran with great glee to do.

Are you all ready? asked Mrs. Granville, as she went towards the hall door. Louisa, you are generally the last, are you quite ready, my dear?

Yes, mamma, answered the little girl, running down stairs, and tying her bonnet strings as she went.

But what makes your shoe slip off your foot as you walk? asked her mother.

Louisa looked down. The string was not in its place.

I cannot possibly go out with you in that figure, and I must besides have a ticket from you for coming in this state at the time of walking. The ticket was given, and she was desired to go and get her shoe-string. Louisa stood with a considering and anxious look, without offering to go. Why do you not go, Louisa? asked her mother; you must not keep us all waiting so long.

I am afraid I have lost my string, mamma, replied she, looking down and blushing; for she was ashamed to meet the eye of her sister, who had taken so much pains to save her from this mortification.

Oh! I dare say I know where it is, said Albert. You most likely pulled it out of your shoe when you trod upon it and fell down. Will you

be so good as wait a few minutes, aunt? and I will go with her to look along the north walk, and I dare say we shall soon find it.

It is an indulgence which Louisa scarcely deserves, said Mrs. Granville; she ought rather to be left to seek for it whilst we go and take our walk.

I dare say we shall very soon find it, said Albert, running off. Anna too offered her assistance to look for it; and they were all three soon out of sight.

Now this is the very place where you tumbled, said Albert; for here is the mark of your foot on the gravel as it scraped along when you were falling. But I do not see the string. Oh! dear Louisa, I am afraid it is blown away, continued he.

Then I shall lose my walk, and have to pay for my shoe-string into the bargain. However, it will not be very much; I have only to pay a penny for each string, and that is a very little out of four shillings which I expect to be able to make.

But then we shall have to walk without you to-day again, and I never like walking half so well when you are not with us.

Nor I, said Anna. But let me see—which way does the wind blow? It is westerly, and a very high wind too. I should not wonder if the string is blown amongst some of these shrubs, added she, running into the plantation which skirted the east side of the avenue. Here it is! exclaimed she the next moment; it was wrapped round the stem of this holly, just as if it had been tied there to keep it safe.

Oh! thank you, Anna, cried the delighted Louisa. How lucky it was that you thought about the direction of the wind: you are very clever at remembering things just at the right time.

It was well done indeed, said Albert with warmth. Anna, I do love you dearly when you do such good-natured things as these.

I am sure, Anna is always good-natured, returned Louisa, who had now got her shoe tied, and was therefore able to walk with much greater ease back to the house:—she is always very good in taking trouble to help me. Now, mamma, added the little girl with glee and animation in her countenance, I have got my shoe-string and am ready to walk.

Will you give me my medal before you go, Louisa? said Charles, who began to be rather uneasy at his sister's not returning it.

Louisa's countenance instantly changed, and she stood with a look of extreme distress.

Oh! I hope you have not lost it, Louisa? said the little boy, in a tone of great alarm. I wish we had remembered to look for it when we were searching for the shoe-string. However, I dare say we shall soon find it, said Albert, whose sanguine spirit never admitted of fear.

I dare say it only bowled along somewhere to the edge of the grass, said Louisa, her buoyant spirits rising as she saw that Albert had no doubt of its being found. Charles, however, was not equally sanguine, and his anxious countenance attracted his mother's attention as she came from

another walk where she had been speaking to one of the gardeners. The circumstance of the medal was then explained, and Louisa acknowledged with deep blushes that she had forgotten to search for it when she returned from looking at the camera obscura.

I am very sorry indeed, Louisa, to find that your unconquerable heedlessness is likely to make even the friends who have the greatest pleasure in obliging you afraid of doing so. Louisa stood conscience-struck and silent, whilst the tears began to roll down her cheeks.

We will all seek for it, mamma, when we return from our walk, said Charles, who began to feel more pain for his sister's distress than his own loss.

Louisa's walking, however, is out of the question, said Mrs. Granville, even supposing the medal were found immediately; for I cannot overlook such inexcusable carelessness as she has shown. She may therefore employ herself in looking for it whilst we are walking.

But may not I stay and help her to look for it, aunt? asked Albert. And I? said Caroline. And I? added Charles: for Louisa was so universal a favourite, that all were anxious to relieve her when she was in disgrace, even though they themselves had suffered from the fault for which she was punished. No! replied Mrs. Granville; Louisa must remain alone. The words of comfort which you would any of you be induced to offer to her would soon make her forget that she had done wrong, and displeased me exceedingly. The grave tone

in which this was spoken went to the little girl's heart. Oh! no! mamma, cried she, as plainly as her sobs would allow her; I never can forget that I have displeased you.

Mrs. Granville now summoned the party to proceed on their walk: but she was obeyed in a manner very different from their usual alacrity. They had left Louisa behind them the morning before, as well as on several other occasions when her lessons were imperfect. But then the mere privation of a walk was her only punishment; and she generally, as in the case of the preceding morning, had behaved in such a manner as to make her mother consider her being kept at home a sufficient punishment, particularly as the addition of Albert and Anna to their party had made her more fond than ever of that exercise. But now she was left alone with the painful reflection of lying under her mother's displeasure, which was to her more distressing than any other idea; and they felt unable to enjoy the beautiful morning and delightful country, from the reflection that Louisa was at home and unhappy. I wish I had never made the camera obscura, said Albert, as he walked along by the side of his sister; it has been the cause of all these misfortunes: for, if I had not hurried Louisa away to look at it, she would never have fallen down when she trod upon her shoe-string, and then the medal would not have been lost.

Perhaps it is not lost, said Anna.

No, perhaps not, replied Albert; and yet I do

not know how it is, but I feel afraid when I think how many people go along that north walk. Every body, you know, who comes to the kitchen walks along the north avenue, and I am afraid there are many of them such knaves as to like a bit of silver better even than Louisa.

But perhaps they might not think it would bring Louisa into any disgrace.

I see, however, by the colour that has come into your cheek at speaking of them, that you would be very angry at them, for all that. For my part, added the generous-spirited boy, I should despise them for keeping what is not their own; and I should hate them for making Louisa unhappy.

Albert was rather disappointed to find that his sister did not enter into his expressions of resentment towards any body who could think of keeping the medal if they should chance to find it; and was almost out of temper with her, when she turned from him, and put a stop to the conversation by going in search of snowdrops.

At length they returned home, after a walk of little pleasure; and the first glance at Louisa's expressive countenance, who met them from the north as they came up the south avenue, told them that her search had been fruitless. She had besides made inquiries of all the servants, but in vain: none of them had seen any thing of it.

Now we may go and help to seek for it, cried Caroline, Albert, and Charles, almost in the same instant. We may go now and try if we can find it: may we not? Mrs. Granville consented, and away they

ran. Come, Anna, cried Albert, stopping and looking back at his sister. You must come too; for you know if it had not been for you we should not have found the shoe-string.

But the wind could not blow the medal away, answered Anna as she followed her brother; so there will be no chance of finding it beside the holly-bush.

Never mind! you may perhaps find it in some other place quite as snug.—But Anna's abilities as a seeker, united to those of her cousins, were altogether unsuccessful; and after a long and fruitless search, they were obliged to give up the pursuit, and obey the summons of the dinner bell.

I am sure I do not wish for any dinner to-day, said Albert as he returned disappointed and dispirited to the house.

I wish I had never asked for my medal again, rejoined the amiable and affectionate Charles;—Louisa's being punished is far worse than the loss of my medal.

It is very right that I should be punished, said Louisa in a tone of sadness very unusual to her gay and volatile temper: only it is very bad to bear, when mamma speaks unkindly to me, added she, her tears flowing afresh at the recollection of her mother's displeasure.

We will all petition for you, said Caroline; and perhaps, if you will promise to be very careful and attentive for the future, mamma will not think any more of it.

I dare not promise, said Louisa, who knew how

little confidence she could place on herself, and was too conscientious to enter into an engagement she could not be sure of keeping.

But if you promise to do your very utmost, said Caroline.

Oh, yes! I will promise that, returned Louisa with great readiness.

And I will be bound for you, cried Albert with eagerness.

Oh, no! do not promise for me, said the little generous girl. Do not let me draw you into a scrape. That would be worse than any thing. Besides, added she, looking at Charles, if any thing will make me attentive, I am sure it will be my wish to return Charles's kindness.

And so Mrs. Granville thought; and upon that presumption she rested her confidence in the observance of the promise which Caroline offered in the name of her sister. It was agreed, therefore, that Mrs. Granville was to show no further marks of the displeasure which her daughter had that morning excited, unless Louisa should fail of replacing her brother's medal before the time of their going to Woodlands. But as you would be able, Louisa, said Mrs. Granville, with a proper degree of attention not only to do that, but have a shilling remaining, I shall consider your being in debt at the end of the time prescribed as a proof that you have little gratitude to Charles for his kindness, or affection for your aunt Lady Susan; and that consequently you are much less worthy of my esteem than I have hitherto believed you to be.

Oh! indeed, aunt, said Albert warmly, that would be unjust; for every body knows Louisa's affectionate disposition, and that whatever other faults she may have, she has at least a very kind heart.

Affection, my dear Albert, which is not regulated by a conscientious and well-principled mind, is but little to be valued. I should feel small satisfaction at being an object of affection to one who did not strive to deserve mine in return. But it is an honour indeed to be beloved by those who we know could take pleasure in nothing but virtue.

And Louisa will both deserve our affection and make us value hers, said Albert in a firm tone of confidence.

That I most sincerely hope, replied Mrs. Granville: at any rate, I am sure she will prove herself most ungrateful if she does not do her best to prove that your kind opinion is not misplaced.

Louisa, however thoughtless and giddy, possessed a mind of great sensibility, and gratitude and affection never failed to operate strongly upon it. A whole week, therefore, passed without her ever forgetting the engagement she was under. Her lessons were every day prepared with perfect correctness; her shoes and bonnet regularly tied, and her pencil and thimble always to be found when wanted.

What a change there is in Louisa! said Mrs. Cleveland one day; she is quite like another being. She is always neat and tidy; and I do not think I

have ever once for this week past heard the words
 "Caroline, have you seen my thimble?"—or
 "Dear me! where can my pencil be?"

Louisa is now striving to prove herself sensible
 of her brother's kindness, said Mrs. Granville.

And of Albert's, said Louisa; I hope I shall
 be able to show how much I wish to deserve Al-
 bert's good opinion.

Albert seems to have known you better than I
 did, returned Mrs. Cleveland; for I did not ima-
 gine any impression was ever deep enough to last
 so long.

These observations came in very good time to
 renew all Louisa's resolutions, and for two or
 three days her vigilance continued undiminished:
 her habits of attention, however, were not suffi-
 ciently confirmed to stand a much longer test.
 After getting half the time over which was neces-
 sary for securing the requisite number of tickets,
 her watchfulness began to relax.—In three weeks
 time I shall earn three shillings, she would say;
 and there is rather more than half the time gone
 without my having lost a single ticket. Well,
 there is no fear now but I shall be able both to
 pay for the medal and have some money left into
 the bargain: so that if I should not happen to
 be so very perfect in some of my lessons some-
 times, it will not much signify. I shall only have
 to pay a ticket; and I can afford to lose one now
 and then, and still have money enough to pay for
 the medal, and that is all I care for.

But having to pay a ticket is like losing two,

said Anna one day in reply, for she was accustomed to much more accurate calculation than her volatile cousin. For you know, if your lesson were to be perfect, you would have one more than you have at present; but if not, you will have to give one, and then you will have one less.

Oh, no matter, returned Louisa, I can afford to lose two, or three, or four; and I am sure this Vocabulary is so very hard, added she, turning over the leaves of the book she held in her hand, and desirous of finding an excuse for the idle humour she found herself in,—that it will be no wonder if I do not get it quite perfect sometimes.

Then suppose you do not learn it till the evening, and do your sums now? said Anna. I can always remember my lessons best when I get them off just before I go to bed, and repeat them over to myself before I fall asleep.

Then I will not learn it till the evening, returned Louisa, well pleased with a plan which accorded so exactly with her own inclinations; and taking up her slate, she began her sums. But here she did not find herself at all more industriously disposed; and a considerable time passed without any thing appearing on her slate, but houses which were drawn and rubbed out again in constant succession, and her own, and sister's, and cousin's names printed and written in various forms and devices. At length Albert came into the room. Did either of you ever see a number of rays from the sun drawn together by a glass, so as to pro-

duce so much heat as to burn a piece of paper? asked he.

Never! was the reply made by both his sister and cousin at once.

Then if you will come into the garden, I will show it you now.

Will you? said Louisa, laying aside her slate and running for her bonnet. Oh! come then, Anna; let us go directly.

But I have not finished my lessons yet, said Anna; so I cannot go at present.

Oh! never mind your lessons; you can do them after, you know.

I can see the sun's rays after just as well, answered Anna, and I shall have more pleasure in looking at them when my lessons are all safe.

But you can get them in the evening, you know, remonstrated Louisa, and you cannot see the sun in the evening.

Then I can wait till the morning, said Anna.

Well then, Louisa, do you come by yourself, said Albert, whose disposition but too nearly resembled the carelessness of his cousin. Louisa's hand was immediately placed in his, and away they went. Albert burnt hole after hole in a piece of brown paper, to Louisa's astonishment and amusement. Dear me, how curious it is! How did you find it out, Albert?

I read an account of different kinds of lenses, or round glasses, to my uncle this morning, and he showed me the effect of one which he called

a convex lens, because it was raised in the middle. And as I found that all kinds of convex lenses had the same effect, though some less than others, and that Caroline's botanical glass was of this kind, I borrowed it of her for the sake of letting you see it.

You are very good, said Louisa, always to recollect that Anna and I are only little girls, and have seen very few things yet. But look, Albert, added she, it scarcely will burn this white paper at all.

No, that is because white things reflect the rays back again.

Oh, yes! I remember papa told us that one morning.

But it would burn any thing black much sooner than it burns this brown paper, said Albert. I wish we had something black to try.

Suppose you try it on my bonnet-string, said Louisa, who had little idea of giving up the immediate gratification of her wishes. You know you need not hold it so long as to burn it.

No, to be sure, said Albert; I must take care not to burn it, or else your mamma will say you have wilfully destroyed it, and will make you pay for it.

And then, away would go three-pence all at once, said Louisa. But look, added she, it is smoking already. Move it to another place directly. Albert moved it to another and another place, till Louisa was quite satisfied that black substances burn much the soonest, and at length

they returned to the house well pleased with their philosophical experiments.—The rest of the day was spent in a manner consistent with the humour in which Louisa had commenced its business. Eager to turn her attention to any thing which promised amusement for the moment, and finding ready assistance in Albert's fertile genius, the day passed over without her once recollecting that she had left her lessons to be prepared in the evening. Not one serious reflection entered her mind, till summoned by her mother the following morning to commence the business of the day. She entered the room with a look of consciousness and shame; but her distress was considerably increased when her mother, taking books, slate, pencil, and thimble out of a closet, demanded a ticket for each article, as she had left them all lying about when she went into the garden.

Oh! thought she, this is for not staying to finish my business before I went to play. I ought always to finish my work first; for, if I leave it, I can never remember to come back to it again.

Her lessons were gone through as might have been expected, and the demand of a ticket was the regular consequence of each of her attempts. It was now that she found the justice of Anna's calculations; for, on reckoning the difference between the number of tickets she then possessed with what she would have been mistress of had she continued her habit, or order and attention, she found it amounted to twenty-four. Here then was sixpence out of her extra shilling gone on account of the

idleness of one single day. Another such would leave her without any resource should she only accidentally lose any of the things she had to pay for; and this she well knew might easily happen to a much more careful person than herself.

The smallness of her means was favourable however to Louisa. Her sanguine careless temper did best with having little room to turn itself in; for as long as she was able to say, "Well, if I do lose this I shall still have plenty to make it up with," she was apt to indulge the natural bent of her disposition and give way to the impulse of the moment. But now, alarmed at the idea of only having sixpence left within her power to answer the exigencies of nearly a fortnight, she felt the necessity of the utmost caution, and her best resolutions were all renewed. The time however was too long not to subject her to many slips; and in the course of the following fortnight the last-remaining sixpence had been condemned for shoe-strings lost and things left behind her. Not one act of carelessness or one slip of attention could now therefore be allowed. But when she considered that it was then Tuesday, and that Friday night would relieve her from all danger, she felt little apprehension but that she should come off with success.—After to-day is gone you will only have three days more, and then you will be quite safe, said Albert. Then we shall be quite sure of having you with us at Woodlands, and unless you go I had much rather stay at home.

I must be very careful, however, returned Louisa, putting her working materials away as she spoke,

for the smallest thing left behind me will destroy all. You must be sure not to tempt me, Albert, said the little girl, conscious of her own want of resolution to withstand allurements. You must be sure not to ask me to go any where with you till I am quite safe. But now I think I am perfectly at liberty, and ready for any thing that you like.

No! here is your thread-case left out, said Anna.

Oh dear! so it is. Now that is because I was talking to you, Albert. I wish you were not here for me to talk to so often when I am putting by my things; I wish you did not finish your lessons so soon with papa, and then you would not come here to turn my poor head.

Then I will tell you what I will do, said Albert: I will never come into this room till Anna gives me notice that you are quite ready; and then you will have nothing to think of but your business.

This arrangement suited Louisa exceedingly well; for Albert's gaiety, with the amusement which he continually contrived for her, was of all others the most dangerous temptation with which she could be assailed. It being removed, therefore, with the advantage of a few cautions from Anna and Caroline she saw the Friday evening crowned with the declaration that she was out of debt. A general shout of exultation resounded through the house at the happy intelligence; for Louisa was so great a favourite that every one entered with interest into her anxieties. Albert was almost frantic: he caught her up in his arms and swung her round till both she and himself were quite dizzy. Then he ran

about the house proclaiming the news to every body he met, and jumping over every obstacle that came in his way. The next morning they were to set off on their journey, and they now began to talk of it with pleasure. Whilst it remained doubtful whether Louisa would be of the party, they had all as if by one consent refrained from making it a subject of conversation. But now that doubt was removed, and they gave loose to the reins of imagination, and dwelt with animation on the pleasure which they had in prospect. Caroline, who was best acquainted with Lady Susan's mode of entertaining her young friends, was called upon to enumerate the different sources of amusement which Woodlands possessed. She talked of the beautiful gardens, the swing, the sway-board, the magic lantern, and a variety of other similar kinds of diversion; but dwelt principally upon the boundless store of books and pictures, and the almost equally inexhaustible fund of amusement which her ladyship contained in her own mind. — Louisa declared as she listened to her, that much as she had wished to go to Woodlands, she had not before been aware how much she would have lost had she been condemned to stay at home, and that she scarcely knew how sufficiently to rejoice that such was not her fate. The carriage was ordered for the young travellers at ten o'clock, but their heads were so full of the journey that they were all up much earlier than usual. There were many little things to be arranged, which were to them of great importance, and almost every one of the servants

received a commission to attend to some particular object of care. Oh! I have forgotten to tell William the gardener not to leave my auriculas uncovered if it should be very wet, said Louisa, as she and Anna stood considering what next was to be done, I will go directly and speak to him. You see, added she, as she put on her bonnet, I have learned to do things at the time I first think of them. As she spoke she drew the strings of her bonnet one through another; but to her great surprise, as she did so, one of them came into two or three pieces in her hand. What a lucky thing that this did not happen yesterday! said she, looking at the shattered string.

Oh! you could not answer for things wearing away, replied Anna. When they are old, you know, they will break, however careful you may be.

But this string is not old, said Louisa; for mamma gave me the ribbon quite new the day that she made the bargain with me; so that it must be something else that has made it break. You see this other string is quite strong and good.—Louisa took the fragments of the torn ribbon to examine into the cause of its coming so completely to pieces, when on looking at it, something seemed to flash across her mind, and giving a sudden start she stood with a look of distress and agitation. What is the matter? asked Anna, alarmed at her cousin's look. What has distressed you so much, Louisa?

I shall not be allowed to go to Woodlands after all! said she, endeavouring to speak calmly. But she failed in the attempt, and burst into tears.

Not go to Woodlands! What for? asked Anna, quite at a loss to understand the cause of her grief. Why not? What will prevent you? That is not the bonnet you are to go in, you know. And though you have broken the string, you have not to pay for what you destroy now!

But I destroyed this string a long time ago, and whilst I was engaged to pay for every thing that I wasted carelessly, said Louisa. She then related to her cousin the circumstance of her allowing Albert to try, on her bonnet-string, how much sooner black things would be burnt than white. So you see, added she, I ought to pay for this string as much to-day as if it had been broken the very day that it was burnt. For look, all the broken places are quite scorched brown.

But your mamma does not know of it, said Anna, and I will never tell her. So if you dry your eyes you may go to Woodlands as if it had never happened.

But that would be deceiving, replied Louisa.

Well, never mind, nobody will know any thing about it. I promise you faithfully that I will never tell any body in the world, said Anna in a tone that seemed to say she had removed the only objection.

But I should know it myself, said Louisa, her tears ceasing to flow from a proud consciousness of integrity. And my heavenly Father would know; for he sees every thing, and punishes every thing that is wicked.

I am sure I do not think it would be wicked,

remonstrated Anna: it would not be doing any harm to any body; and besides, if you have to pay for this bonnet-string it will make Charles so much longer in getting his medal; for it may be a long time before you get any more money. And it will be such a disappointment, you know, to Albert and all of us if you do not go with us to Woodlands!

I cannot help it, said Louisa, her tears flowing afresh at the idea of Albert's disappointment, as well as at her own loss of all the anticipated pleasure: I have deserved the punishment, and so I must submit to it.

I will tell you what, Louisa, said Anna, after standing some time in an attitude of deep meditation—I will tell you what I have thought of: I have a piece of ribbon just exactly like your bonnet-strings, that I will give you, and you may pay me for it the first time you get any money.

No! replied Louisa steadily, that would still be deceiving, and I should not have any pleasure at Woodlands if I had that always upon my mind. It is very hard to be disappointed of going, and still worse to have mamma displeased with me, and hear her say that if I loved my friends as I ought I should never have been so careless. But I cannot help it, so I must bear it as well as I am able.

As she spoke she took up the pieces of torn ribbon and hastened in search of her mother. She found her with Caroline, Albert, and Charles, busy arranging some drawings. We are choosing some of each of our drawings to take to Lady Susan, said

Albert, as Louisa entered the room; and my aunt says you have improved the most of any of us, Louisa, during this last month.

You see the benefit of attention, Louisa, said Mrs. Granville, and what it has done for you in so short a time. But, my dear child, added she, on observing Louisa's red face and tearful eyes, what is amiss with you? Why are you crying?

Because, mamma, said the little girl, struggling with the tears which would force themselves down her cheeks in increased floods on observing the look of anxious surprise which was exhibited by each of her young companions when drawn by her mother's remark to notice her distress—Because, mamma, I am come to tell you what I know will displease you very much.

I am sorry for that, Louisa, for I have just been rejoicing at the benefit I thought you had derived from this month's discipline, and shall be grieved indeed to hear that it has been of so short a standing.

But it is not any thing I have done just now, mamma, said Louisa, a little comforted at being able so far to mitigate her fault: it is above a fortnight since I burnt this bonnet-string just out of carelessness, though it never came in pieces till this morning. She then told her mother how it was done, without trying to palliate the thoughtless extravagance of her conduct.

I cannot tell you how much I am disappointed, Louisa, said Mrs. Granville as she ceased speaking: for it is impossible you can know how much

pleasure I felt at your having been so successful in restraining your prevailing faults.

Oh! I knew you would be distressed, mamma, said the little sobbing girl.

But it was I who burnt the ribbon, said Albert eagerly: so that it is I who ought to be punished for it.

No, Albert, said Louisa, forgetting her own grief in her anxiety to acquit her cousin; you only did as I asked you. It was my own fault, and nobody must suffer but myself.

The engagement related to none but Louisa, said Mrs. Granville, and therefore can affect no other person.

But you will not keep her from Woodlands for this one fault, will you, aunt? asked Albert, in a tone between remonstrance and entreaty.

It is not for this one fault that Louisa will be punished, my dear Albert, replied Mrs. Granville: had she committed no other act of carelessness, she would not only have had money to pay for this piece of ribbon, but a good deal to spare. But as it is, you see she has not only wasted all her own, but part of what in right belonged to her brother.

Never mind my part, dear mamma, interrupted Charles eagerly: I liked my medal very well, because you gave it me for being good; but I do not like it half a quarter so well as I do Louisa:—and the affectionate little boy clasped his arms round his sister as he spoke. Albert ran and kissed Charles with enthusiasm at this proof of kindness to his

sister; as if to love Louisa was the way of all others to gain his affection.

Will you not allow Louisa to go, mamma? asked Caroline in a gently supplicating voice.

No, my dear Caroline, answered her mother, with a look of great concern; though none of you I am sure feel more pain than I do at being obliged to punish Louisa, I must be firm; for it is of the utmost consequence to her future character that her mind should be convinced of the danger of those faults to which she is so particularly liable. You know her volatile disposition, and how difficult it is to make a lasting impression.

But then she ought to be rewarded for coming to tell you about her bonnet-string, said Albert.

I hope Louisa will never imagine that she deserves a reward for being honest, replied Mrs. Granville.—Albert blushed when he considered that his eagerness to acquit Louisa had led him to offer an argument which must have exposed his own principles of integrity to suspicion, a thing which he shrunk from with the strongest feelings of abhorrence. Louisa's grief, however, and the loss of her company at Woodlands, were the predominant ideas in his mind at present, and soon took place of every other. I really do not think it should be said that she wantonly destroyed her ribbon, said he, shifting his ground of argument; for you know, aunt, she was trying a philosophical experiment.

I think very little of philosophy, my dear Albert, returned Mrs. Granville, when it is not accompanied by common sense and prudence: for in that

case it is only calculated to do mischief, as in the present instance.

Albert stood for some minutes silent, as if considering what he could next advance; but not being able to recollect any other argument, he at length said, Well! if Louisa must not go, may I at least stay at home with her?

If I could even agree to that, my dear boy, said Mrs. Granville, much pleased with the kind and generous disposition that he evinced, your mother, I am sure, would not, for you know she is anxious that Lady Susan should see both your sister and you. But independent of that consideration, on Louisa's account I should be obliged to object to it, for I believe it would be but a slight punishment to her to stay at home with you for her companion.

Oh yes! indeed, mamma, it would be a very great punishment to me to deprive Albert of pleasure, said Louisa.

But may not I stay at home with Louisa? asked Caroline: you know, mamma, Lady Susan knows me, so that there is no necessity for me to go.

No, I will stay, said Charles; for I was at Woodlands last, and do not mind so very much going again.

No! you must none of you stay, said Louisa, weeping now from gratitude for all these proofs of affection: I should be much more unhappy at keeping any of you at home, than at staying by myself.

Louisa will have a satisfaction that can scarcely

be too highly estimated, said Mrs. Granville, in the reflection that she holds so distinguished a place in your affection; and I most earnestly hope she will meet you all on your return, with renewed resolutions to prove how much she values your love, by the pains she takes to deserve it. The carriage now drove up to the door; but the noise of its wheels sounded to the young travellers more like a knell, than a summons to pleasure. Louisa had shown so amiable and conscientious a mind in the transactions of the morning, that her mother could not but wish to soften her punishment as much as could be done with prudence; and knowing it was always a pleasure to Louisa to be of service to her friends, she said in a voice of renewed kindness, Louisa, my dear, you may go up stairs with me, perhaps you can be of use to Anna in bringing some of her packages down, whilst the others get theirs and themselves placed in the carriage.—Louisa followed, and found Anna and Mrs. Cleveland in the midst of boxes. Anna, my dear, said Mrs. Cleveland as they entered, why do you carry that little box about with you to every corner of the room? I have desired you to put it down several times, and get your coat and bonnet on; but you seem as if you durst not let it out of your hand. I desire you will do as I bid you. Do you not hear the carriage at the door?—Anna obeyed, though with a look of reluctance; and placing the box on a table, began to get ready. I wonder what I did with the cord

that was to tie this box? said Mrs. Cleveland, looking about the room.

It is here, aunt, said Louisa, who in spite of her tearful eyes saw a piece of cord hanging over the back of a chair, which she pulled off hastily to give to Mrs. Cleveland. But a part of the cord being under the box which Anna had placed on the table, the hasty pull which she gave drew the box along with it. The fall burst open the lid, and the contents fell on the floor. Thread-case, scissars, thimble, and a variety of things were scattered over the carpet; and money rolled to different corners of the room. Anna gave a scream of great alarm as she ran to gather up her scattered treasure. Oh dear! I beg your pardon, Anna, said Louisa, who sought with great eagerness to repair the mischief she had done, by going to pick up the money which had rolled about the room. How much money had you, Anna? added she: I wonder if I have got it all.

I had six shillings, answered Anna, continuing to look about the room with great anxiety; and I have got three of them.

Then you must have had more than six shillings, returned Louisa; for here are two, and a three-shillings piece. But as she spoke she glanced her eyes again on the larger piece of silver; when with inexpressible surprise and consternation she perceived that she held in her hand the momentous and unfortunate medal. She stood motionless, holding the medal in her hand, whilst her

blanched cheek exhibited a striking contrast to the deep carmine of her cousin's face and neck. What is the matter? asked Mrs. Granville and Mrs. Cleveland both at once: but casting their eyes as they spoke on the medal, which Louisa still held out to Anna, who seemed as incapable of taking it from her as she was of speaking, the mystery was at once unravelled. This then is the thing that made you so afraid of parting with the box out of your hands, said Mrs. Cleveland. I am shocked, Anna, to think you had such a cause for your anxiety. But Mrs. Granville was much more shocked at the composed tone in which her sister spoke of this proof of her daughter's avarice and dishonesty. Louisa little imagined, added Mrs. Cleveland, at the time she was so anxious about this medal, that you had it in your possession all the time. Louisa, struck with the idea of the cruelty to herself, as well as the want of principle which her cousin had shown, burst into a fresh flood of tears, and putting the medal down upon the table near her, ran out of the room.

Oh! my dear sister, cried Mrs. Cleveland, who now began to exhibit stronger signs of agitation than she had yet shown, follow her, I entreat you, immediately, lest she should go and tell this unlucky circumstance to Albert, and to her sister and brother.

No, said Mrs. Granville, Louisa's distress is too sincere, and she is too much shocked at this terrible discovery, to think of mentioning it to any body.

But you know, remonstrated Mrs. Cleveland, Louisa is so thoughtless and inconsiderate that there is no dependence to be placed upon her.

Louisa's inconsideration often leads her to injure herself; but it never makes her inattentive to the feelings of others, replied Mrs. Granville. I wish Anna may never suffer more from her own misconduct than she will from Louisa's exposing it.

But you know of what essential importance it is that this affair should not come to Lady Susan's ears: if she were to be informed of it, she would never look upon Anna more; she has no idea, you know, of making allowance for a childish fault.

I am afraid this cannot be called a mere childish fault, said Mrs. Granville with more severity in her look than was usual to her.

I can imagine very well how it has happened, returned Mrs. Cleveland. Anna found the medal, no doubt, as she returned alone from the pigeon-house, and was tempted by the opportunity to keep it; without considering the consequences in which its loss would involve Louisa; and having once kept it back, she could not afterwards produce it without exposing herself.

The difficulties which Louisa has experienced are the least part of the business, answered Mrs. Granville. However unkind she has been to her cousin, Anna has been much more so to herself.

That is undoubtedly true, replied Mrs. Cleveland. But as she certainly took great pains to make all the amends to Louisa in her power, we

must not be too severe. I am sure she is thoroughly ashamed, and I hope Louisa will be prevailed upon to forgive her.

There is no fear of Louisa's forgiveness—she is incapable of harbouring resentment.

But I am miserable lest she should have already told the circumstance to those who cannot so easily forgive it, returned Mrs. Cleveland. Should Albert become acquainted with it, he will be so indignant that it will not be in his power to keep it to himself. Let me entreat of you therefore, my dear sister, to go and endeavour to prevail upon Louisa to consent that this sad affair may be hushed up: for you know it is of the most essential importance to both myself and children that it should not come to Lady Susan's knowledge.

Mrs. Granville immediately left the room to go in search of her daughter, whom she found in her bed-chamber. The whole transaction of the morning had conspired to agitate Louisa's usually happy flow of spirits; and this last discovery had completed her distress. She really loved her cousin, and was shocked beyond measure at this proof of her selfish and unprincipled disposition. Besides, the grief it would be to the generous-minded Albert, to find his sister capable of such conduct, added double poignancy to Louisa's reflections; and she was as sorry for the noble boy as for his sister. I am sent, my dear Louisa, said her mother as she entered the room, by your aunt Cleveland to endeavour to prevail upon you to consent that the

knowledge of this terrible business should not go any further than it has already done.

Endeavour to prevail upon me, mamma? cried the little girl looking up with surprise. Surely my aunt Cleveland does not think I should like to tell it to any body.

I have assured her of that; but something more is necessary. You know it cannot now be said that the medal is found, without producing an explanation that your aunt is particularly anxious should not come to Albert's ears; for she knows the indignation it would excite in his mind.

I understand what you mean, mamma, said Louisa, her cheek glowing with the flush of conscious virtue. I will remain at home, and still be thought to be in Charles's debt.

My dear generous child, exclaimed Mrs. Granville, clasping her fondly in her arms; your whole conduct this morning makes me proud of my daughter: Caroline herself never gave me more pure delight than you have now done.

Oh! mamma, said Louisa, how happy you make me by comparing me to Caroline!

You deserve to be happy, answered her mother, kissing her affectionately; and it shall be my study to make up to you in every way in my power for the sacrifice you make.

I shall have saved Albert too from pain, thought Louisa, as her mother left the room. As every thing was now ready, it was only necessary for Mrs. Granville to announce the success of her mission for the party to set off. So much had

the loss of Louisa's company abated the eagerness of her young friends for the jaunt, (to which they had before looked forward with impatience,) that they sat in the carriage without the slightest degree of anxiety for Anna's arrival, or once inquiring the reason of her being so long in appearing.

Will Louisa not come and wish us good morning? asked Albert, as his sister at length ascended the carriage steps. But perhaps it is as well: I should only be grieved to see her sweet smiling face bathed in tears. Well! one comfort is, that a week will soon be over, added he, throwing himself back in spiritless silence as the carriage drove off from the door.

THE ALCHEMIST.

PART II.

EIGHT years passed, and brought Louisa and Anna to the age of seventeen; a time of life when the effect of the different educations which they had received might be expected to appear in permanent colours on their characters. Mrs. Cleveland had left her sister's house with her son and daughter soon after the return of the children from their week's visit to Woodlands; but not till she had enjoyed the satisfaction of hearing that Lady Susan had been much pleased with the two young strangers. From the time of their departure Louisa and Anna kept up a regular correspondence; and the recollection of the unpleasant circumstance which had been the cause of so much uneasiness to her, soon wore away from Louisa's lively mind, and she only remembered her cousin Anna as a very pretty, good-tempered little girl, with whom she had been very fond of playing. As Albert's sister, too, she had an additional claim; and she had always double pleasure in a letter from Anna when Albert was the principal

subject. It often happened, however, that for several months together Anna could say very little about her brother, for he had from the time he was fifteen been in the navy; at first a midshipman, and afterwards a lieutenant. Had Albert been at full liberty to indulge the bent of his inclination, the navy perhaps might not have been his choice; but his mother had always impressed upon his mind the necessity of his fixing upon some profession which would enable him as early as possible to provide for himself. This, therefore, appeared the most to accord with her wishes; and in some respects it was particularly agreeable to himself. It put him in the way of seeing foreign countries, from which he would otherwise have been shut out, as well as enabled him to mix with the first society of his own.

In Mr. Granville's family few alterations had taken place, excepting the birth of another boy and two girls; and the marriage of Caroline to a Mr. Sinclair, which happened about three years previous to our resuming our history. Lady Susan was still living; and having a few years before had a severe paralytic attack, she had been induced to reside in Edinburgh for the sake of being near Dr. G—, who was at once a most favourite friend and a skilful physician. The circumstance of Caroline's marriage having fixed her in that metropolis was likewise a strong inducement. For, besides the particularly warm attachment which she had always felt for that niece, who she often

said had sprung up to supply the place of the one she had lost many years before; she also considered it an essential advantage to be near one whose active benevolence was so well calculated to assist her in the judicious disposal of her wealth. Her ladyship, it is true, had a companion of the name of Wilson, who had resided with her many years, and who had always been a faithful and prudent almoner. But there was an unwearied activity in Caroline's benevolence, which rendered her peculiarly fitted to supply to her aunt the loss of her own decayed powers, and on this account she was particularly anxious to have her constantly at hand. Though infirm in body, however, her ladyship's strong mind retained all its original energy; and though willing to try any reasonable means of prolonging her life, it was not from a weak fear of death, but from a wish to increase her usefulness, and to improve to the utmost of her power the talents with which Providence had intrusted her. She considered her large fortune as a sacred deposit, of which she would be expected to give a strict account, and she was chiefly anxious to leave it at her death in such hands as would make a good and proper use of it. For this purpose she observed with great strictness the characters of those around her. And though she had nothing of severity in her disposition, she was very careful not to be led by the appearance of a few pleasing qualities into a too hasty judgement. She knew it was difficult in her

situation to judge of her nearest friends with accuracy, as her wealth naturally made everybody desirous of appearing to advantage before her; and she sought therefore as much as possible to judge of them from a close and minute examination.

On this account she was particularly anxious to become acquainted with the younger branches of her family, as she considered it was on them chiefly that the proper or improper appropriation of the wealth which at present centred in her, must depend. Caroline's resemblance both in person and disposition to her mother's aunt, Miss Harford, had secured her from her earliest infancy a warm place in her ladyship's affections. In addition to this, the steady and uniform temper which this amiable girl had ever discovered, had rendered her an object of much less anxious solicitude to her mother, and consequently enabled her to part with her on visits of many weeks together to her ladyship, who, by this means, had an opportunity of becoming well acquainted with her many excellencies.

With Louisa it was very different. Her volatile disposition rendered her an object of continual solicitude to her anxious parent, and required that constant watchfulness which none but a mother could be expected to exercise. Convinced that Louisa's faults were only such as might be overcome by a few years' attention, Mrs. Granville held herself accountable for her daughter's future character; and with the pleasing hope that all her cares

would be rewarded, by seeing the object of them become an honour to her family, she scrupulously avoided parting with her out of her sight for more than a day or two together. On this account Louisa had remained almost a stranger to her aunt Lady Susan, who continued to look upon her in the light of a merely thoughtless inconsiderate child, the most striking circumstance of whose character, with which she was acquainted, was her having deprived herself of a visit to Woodlands by an inability to restrain the insufferable carelessness of her disposition. To remove this impression had always been an object of anxiety with Mrs. Sinclair, who loved her sister too sincerely not to be desirous of seeing her character placed in a more favourable light before her venerable relation. For this purpose she frequently made her sister a subject of conversation, and always made a point of reading her letters, which were too faithful a transcript of her pure and elegant mind not to be calculated to show her character to advantage.

I know less of Louisa than of any of the family, said she one day to Mrs. Sinclair, who had just been reading a letter from her sister. Your mother's distrust of her induces her to keep her so constantly under her own eye, that I have had few opportunities of forming a judgement of her. That letter, however, proves that she possesses the same vivacity of disposition which marked her as a child. I only hope that there is now more steadiness united with it.

Oh, yes! said Caroline: Louisa is lively now without being giddy, and happy without being thoughtless. She possesses all that buoyancy of spirit which in childhood made her so delightful, united to those solid substantial qualities which reconcile the judgement to the captivation of the senses.

I have no doubt, replied her ladyship, that she is a very engaging girl: sprightliness, good temper, and a quickness of parts cannot fail of making her very generally pleasing, particularly when united, as they are in her, to a very agreeable person.

But Louisa's good qualities are not merely of the pleasing kind, added Mrs. Sinclair, not satisfied with the portion of praise which her aunt seemed inclined to bestow upon her sister. They are not merely like a few grains of gold dust, which sparkle on the surface of some baser metal. Her character consists of the pure intrinsic gold itself, which needs only to be tried, to show how free it is from alloy of every kind.

You are partial, Caroline.

I am partial, I acknowledge, my dear Lady Susan, but it is a partiality founded upon judgement and experience; and I only wish that you did but know Louisa as well, that you might esteem and love her as much as I do.

I must at least esteem and love her sister for her disinterested warmth in her favour, returned Lady Susan, looking at her niece with a smile of approbation.

I am afraid I have no right to be called disinterested, when it is the cause of a favourite sister that I am pleading.

I have seldom, however, said her ladyship, found any very anxious to bring even a sister forward as a rival between themselves and me. But, by way of removing the impression which I at present have of the lightness and unsteadiness of Louisa's mind, I acknowledge I should be very glad if your mother would allow her to spend a few months with me. She would then be left to herself, and I should have a better opportunity of judging of her real disposition. Particularly, added her ladyship smiling, as you are on the point of leaving Edinburgh for some time, and will not be here to prompt her. What think you? Dare your mother trust her to depend upon herself?

I have no doubt of it. I am sure I durst trust Louisa now without the slightest anxiety on my mind respecting her. Will you allow me then, my dear aunt, to carry the request with me to my mother?

I will think a little more about it first, my dear, answered Lady Susan, and will then write to Louisa, to make it myself. It would not be wise to talk to her about quitting home at the very moment of your arrival. To think of leaving you, and that sweet little fellow, added she, (looking at Mrs. Sinclair's little boy, who was at that moment trotting back and forwards between his mamma and aunt,) for some weeks at least, would

show a greater degree of insensibility than even I ever suspected to form any part of Louisa's character.

Give us a fortnight to be together, and then I will engage for Louisa's willingness to obey your summons with alacrity and pleasure.

Her company will be a great acquisition to me in your absence, said Lady Susan; for though unable to move from this arm-chair, you know I enjoy a cheerful companion as much as ever I did; and I certainly have every thing but that in my faithful Wilson. I will therefore write as soon as I think it reasonable to propose a separation, and in the meantime I must beg that you will not say any thing of my intention.

This arrangement formed, Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair and their little boy set off for Westmoreland, with the intention, after paying a visit there, of proceeding to Ireland, where Mr. Sinclair had relations, to whom he was desirous of introducing his wife and child.

Caroline had felt some hesitation about a journey which was likely to keep them from Edinburgh so many months. She was unwilling to leave Lady Susan so long with no other companion than Mrs. Wilson, who, though as amiable a woman and as kind and attentive a nurse as it was possible to have, was too dull a companion for an invalid to depend upon for amusement. In Louisa, however, she was satisfied she would have all that was deficient in Mrs. Wilson; nor could she wish any thing better for Lady Susan, than Louisa to

amuse her mind, and Mrs. Wilson to nurse her infirmities.

The travelling party was received with all the pleasure that may be imagined at Woodlands, whither Mr. Granville's family had removed, at Lady Susan's request, on her leaving it for Edinburgh. Mr. and Mrs. Granville embraced the little Henry with rapture, delighted to view even in his infant face a strong resemblance to the uncle after whom he had been named. Thus surrounded by their children, who were each of them calculated to gratify the fondest wishes of a parent, the time glided on with cheerfulness and pleasure. Charles, who had for some time been a student at Edinburgh, was the only one who was wanting to complete the family party. But they knew him to be well, and enjoying himself in the midst of literature and science, and therefore their regret at his absence was comparatively small. A month had elapsed from the time of Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair's arrival, when Mr. Granville, coming out of the library one morning to go into the breakfast-room, saw his three youngest children, Edward, Emma, and Eliza, standing at the foot of the stairs, as if waiting in expectation of something. What are you looking for, my loves? asked he, as he passed them.

We are waiting for Louisa, papa, said Edward. This is her birth-day, and we are staying till she comes down stairs, that we may offer her our birth-day presents.

Oh! here she comes, exclaimed Emma; I

know the sound of her foot. It is quicker and lighter than any other person's.

We are waiting for you, Louisa (cried all three in a breath, as the gay Louisa turned the last landing of the stairs, and tripped down to meet them). Will you accept these little thread-winders? said Edward; they are my own making, and I have been in a great hurry to get them ready by today.

And this work-bag? said Emma, in return for the trouble you took to teach me to net.

And I made this pincushion on purpose for you, and nobody helped me with it at all, said the little Eliza: and we wish you may have many many happy birth-days.

I am sure I shall, as long as I have such dear kind brothers and sisters, said Louisa, kissing each affectionately as they put their little presents into her hands.

At that moment the breakfast-room door opened, and little Henry Sinclair came forward, guarded on each side by the out-stretched arms of his mother, who at the same time guided his tottering steps with a soft whisper of "Go to aunt Louisa!" "Carry it to her!" "He brings his mamma's little birth-day present," added she in a louder voice, as he reached his destined object, and held out in his little hand a beautiful silver net purse to his smiling aunt. Louisa snatched the little cherub in her arms, and smothered him with kisses.

He is not satisfied; he knows he has not yet executed his commission, said Caroline, as the little

boy struggled to release himself from his aunt's embraces. Louisa took the purse. It is pure and elegant as the giver, said she, looking at it with admiration. And this spring, added she, as she opened and clasped it, is emblematical of the disposition with which I ought to use it, closely locked when prudence requires it to be shut, but with a spring ready to open at the slightest demand of usefulness.

The happy group now hastened into the breakfast-room, where Louisa received an affectionate salutation from her father, mother, and Mr. Sinclair, who were already in the room.

We must make the most of the privileges of this day, said the latter, smiling, whilst he gave her the kiss of brotherly kindness; for I suppose it is the last time we shall be allowed to offer congratulations on such an occasion. Young ladies, after they are seventeen, seldom like to be reminded of the return of a birth-day.

I do not mean to acknowledge another for twenty years to come, replied Louisa, laughing; I will keep stationary at seventeen, and then by the time I am seven-and-thirty I hope I shall be thought tolerably wise and prudent for my age.

You must in future, however, said Mr. Granville, take the responsibility of your own actions, wise and prudent as they are, upon your own shoulders; for it is now time that we introduce our second Miss Granville into the world.

Miss Granville! cried Louisa. Oh! how I wish it were any other name I had to appear in!

What! are you so soon beginning to quarrel with your name, Louisa? said Mr. Sinclair.

It is a most formidable thing, answered she, to appear as Miss Granville whilst the last Miss Granville is so fresh in every body's remembrance: they will so naturally be led to draw comparisons.

Which you have no need to shrink from, returned Caroline. And I can tell you, Louisa, that few people appear in the world under a more advantageous title than Miss Granville of Granville. I used to be introduced to strangers without receiving much notice, till it was clearly understood to whom I belonged, and then I was sure of some particular mark of attention. It is a dear title, added she with warmth, and one that any person may be proud of.

Caroline seems almost to envy you its possession, Louisa, said Mr. Sinclair.

Oh, no! returned Caroline, dear and honourable as the title is, I would not be Miss Granville again for the world: and as she spoke she pressed her little boy more closely to her bosom, and cast a look of affection on her husband, who saw and felt all that her look meant to convey.

The party was now placed round the breakfast-table, and exhibited a group of smiling and happy faces. Even the little Henry was allowed to remain in honour of the day, and, placed upon a high chair, sat and ate his crust by the side of his mamma.

I wonder if Charles has remembered that this is your birth-day, Louisa? said Mrs. Granville. If he has, I dare say you will have a letter of congratulation this morning.

If he can spare the time for it, said Mr. Sinclair; but he is so bent upon bringing some of the prizes home, that he is quite a niggard of his time.

He will indeed have become a miser, said Mr. Granville, if he has not a few moments to spare for Louisa. He has ever allowed her to make more frequent encroachments upon his leisure than any other person; and it is fortunate, I believe, that she is at such a distance from him, or else he would often be in danger of relaxing, to laugh and joke with her.

I believe even Louisa herself would fail of having that effect at present, replied Mr. Sinclair. He is steadily fixed upon his object, and will not be drawn from it by any temptation.

Oh! but if I were near him, said Louisa, it would be strange if I did not lead him astray sometimes.

You would not, I hope, attempt to entice him from so good a cause? rejoined her father.

No, papa, certainly not. But Charles is too diffident of his own abilities, or else he would not imagine such close application necessary. I have no doubt he can do with ease what would be hard labour to most of the students he meets with.

Supposing that to be the case with the generality, replied Mr. Granville, it is still reasonable to

calculate that amongst two or three hundred, there may be one at least who unites Charles's abilities with equal industry; and in that case were he to relax, where would be his prize?

Oh! I should scarcely think it necessary to provide against so great an improbability.

That is your fault, Louisa, rejoined Mrs. Granville:—the greatest, I had almost said the only fault remaining for you to overcome. You take in only those circumstances which are immediately within view, and are not sufficiently cautious to guard against what possibly may occur.

I know it is my fault, replied Louisa ingenuously: but it shall be my constant endeavour to acquire a more prudent foresight. But I believe, added she smiling, I must suffer some inconvenience from my want of caution, before I shall learn to be sufficiently careful. I had once a lesson when a child, which was of great service to me; but I am afraid I shall need another before the cure is completed.

At this moment a servant entered the room with letters, which he handed to Mr. Granville. "Archibald Sinclair, Esq.," said that gentleman, placing two letters before his son-in-law. "Charles Granville," continued he, laying down two or three by himself: and "Miss Granville, of Granville," added he smiling and throwing forward another to Louisa, whose hand was ready stretched to receive it.

From Lady Susan! exclaimed she, as she read the address. How kind to remember my birth-day! for

I dare say that is her reason for writing just now. How beautifully that direction is written for a woman of eighty-four! Who, to look at that letter, would either imagine the writer was of such an age, or that she has been so long liable to such a disorder?

But let us know something of its contents, my love, said her mother. I had rather examine the inside than admire the outside of the letter.

Louisa opened it, and immediately read aloud the following:

Edinburgh, April 29th, 1813.

My dear Louisa,

THE day on which you receive this letter will be that on which you will complete your seventeenth year, the time which your father and mother have always fixed for your becoming mistress of your own actions. Now, as the moment of entering upon any new honour is generally the one of all others in which we are most disposed to grant favours, I seize it as the most likely period for soliciting one. You and I, my dear girl, have had but few opportunities of forming an intimate acquaintance with each other. My infirmities and your mother's unwillingness to part with you from home have prevented those long intercourses which Caroline and I have enjoyed. I begin now, however, to be exceedingly anxious to improve the acquaintance while time is allowed me; for it is not possible in the common course of nature that it will much longer be in my power. May I then venture to hope that you will come and spend the summer

months with me? I am well aware, surrounded as you are with such relatives, that I am requiring of you no small sacrifice, when I ask you to devote your time to an old woman who is unable to move from the chair on which she sits. In order, however, to make it as easy to you as possible, I determined upon endeavouring to procure you a companion of your own age. Anna Cleveland I considered had been a favourite playfellow of yours when a child, and I was persuaded it would be a pleasant circumstance to you both to meet; besides giving me an opportunity of judging how far Anna, in her more mature years, has preserved the amiable manners and disposition which she displayed in childhood. I wrote to her as soon as the idea occurred, and yesterday I received a glad and ready compliance with my request. I expect she will be here in the course of a few days. She and her mother are at present in Dublin, and she intends to come by sea with Admiral Macbride, who is bringing his daughter to Scotland for the purpose of placing her under the care of Mrs. G——, who undertakes the charge of introducing such young ladies into company as have no near relations to do that office for them. Come then, my dear Louisa, as soon as you can resolve to part with the sweet little Henry, (who, his mamma tells me, has learned to call his aunt by her name,) as we shall all be impatient for your arrival. Charles charges me with kind congratulations, and desires me to say it was his intention to have written to you himself this

evening: but I cheated him of the only half-hour he could call his own, by sending for him, to know whether I was right in thinking your birth-day was on the first of May; so that a message through me was all that was left in his power—a poor substitute for a young lady, to receive a letter from an old woman instead of one from a handsome young man; for so I assure you he is; though at present he seems altogether unconscious of it. Give my kindest love, my dear girl, to the beloved group around you, and believe me

Your very affectionate aunt,
SUSAN MELVILLE.

And must I leave you all? said Louisa, casting her eyes round the table as she finished reading her letter—must I go away from Woodlands at the very moment that it is so delightful!

You must determine for yourself, my dear, said her mother, for you know you are now your own mistress.

Oh! I do not hesitate about whether I should go or not: it would be inexcusable to refuse so kind an invitation; but it will be very difficult to accept it with the cheerfulness it deserves, when there are so many strong ties to bind me to home.

You must consider, however, returned Mrs. Granville, that you are going also to some very dear friends; and I am sure you will have great pleasure in seeing Anna again.

I shall indeed. But still it is paying a very great price for the pleasure, to leave Caroline so soon.

I should, however, be obliged to leave you in the course of another fortnight, said Mrs. Sinclair, and I hope I shall return to Edinburgh long before you leave it.

There is one object, I think, that you may be able to accomplish by this visit, said her mother, which will reconcile you to every thing that is unpleasant. It strikes me, that with Anna's assistance you may have it in your power to remove Lady Susan's displeasure towards Albert, who, you know, incurred it by some means or other last year when in Edinburgh: I never could learn the nature of the affair so as to be able to clear it up; but Anna, perhaps, may be better acquainted with it; and I have no doubt that, when explained, Albert will at least be so far exonerated as to induce her ladyship to take him again into favour.

Oh! if I could do that, cried Louisa with animation, I would sacrifice every pleasure of my own: I would even go and live several months with as disagreeable an old woman as Lady Susan is the contrary. It would be so delightful to make a return to Albert for his uniform kindness to me. I shall never forget how good he was to me when I was a little girl and he was staying with us.

And how often he led you into scrapes, said Mr. Granville, smiling.

But it was always from the wish to give me pleasure, replied Louisa. And if even I were in fault, he was always warm in my vindication.

Then go, my dear, and vindicate him in return:

not, however, as his partiality used to lead him to do, in your favour, by endeavouring to transform his faults into virtues, for that would have little effect with Lady Susan. Her judgement is not to be deceived by false reasoning. If you find him to blame, acknowledge him to be so; but at the same time set his many amiable qualities in such a point of view that they shall counterbalance, as I am persuaded they will do, any errors that he may have committed.

I will write directly to Lady Susan and tell her that I am ready to accept her invitation, said Louisa, all her reluctance to the journey being entirely overcome by the hope of serving Albert.

On examining his letters, Mr. Sinclair found it would be necessary for him to return to Edinburgh for a few days. It was therefore fixed that Louisa should travel under his protection. Once reconciled to the idea of leaving home, she was anxious to pay Lady Susan the respect of a ready compliance with her wishes. For this reason she only allowed herself three days for preparation, and fixed her departure for the following Monday. This journey, which was the first she had ever taken of more than twenty miles length, was a matter of considerable importance to her, and kept her mind occupied till the time of her setting out.

I begin to feel afraid, said she to her mother, as she sat by her the last evening, that I am still too giddy to do without your kind directing hand.

I doubt that often when I appeared to myself to act from the dictates of my own judgement, I was in reality influenced by you; and that when I have no longer my ruling planet to guide me, I may soon be driven out of my right orbit.

That very apprehension will, I hope, guard you from the danger, my love, replied Mrs. Granville. Your judgement is generally correct; and this distrust of yourself will, I have no doubt, prevent your acting from mere impulse, which is all that is to be apprehended in you.

How happy are those whose every impulse is good! said Louisa, for they have nothing to contend with.

Few people, I believe, have less to contend with unamiable dispositions than you have, my dear girl, returned her mother affectionately: your impulses are always in favour of virtue, but only they are sometimes in danger of leading you beyond the bounds of prudence. I can now, however, part with you with perfect confidence, convinced that you will acquit yourself so as to do credit both to yourself and to all who belong to you.

It shall be the first object of my ambition to fulfill your highest expectations, my dearest mother, said Louisa, her eyes glistening with the tear of affection and gratitude; and to prove you really to be the alchemist that my aunt Cleveland once talked of your becoming.

The travellers set off early in the morning; and after a pleasant journey arrived at Edinburgh in

the afternoon of the second day. Louisa had been much pleased with the scenery almost all the way as they passed along; but when they came into the neighbourhood of Edinburgh she was quite delighted. The spring was too early to show the country to the best advantage, yet it was still so far clothed in its emerald robe as to give liveliness to the beautifully diversified landscape. Nor was her pleasure less on entering the city itself; and she was kept in constant surprise and admiration at the succession of beautiful streets which they passed, till the carriage stopped at the door of one of the large and elegant mansions in St. Andrew's Square. Mrs. Wilson, who had been Lady Susan's companion ever since Louisa could remember, appeared at the door as soon as the carriage stopped, and gave her an affectionate welcome. As Louisa entered the house a beautiful girl appeared upon the stairs, whom in an instant she recognised to be Anna Cleveland, and the next moment they were locked in each other's arms.

My dear Louisa, said Anna, how glad I am to see you! How little I imagined, when I last wrote to you, that I should so soon have this pleasure!

It is a pleasure equally great and unexpected to me, returned Louisa, embracing her cousin warmly. But where is Lady Susan? Let me hasten to thank her for it.

Louisa was then conducted into the room where the venerable old lady sat. She had not seen her ladyship for some years: and though her bodily

infirmities had greatly increased during that period, Louisa was exceedingly struck with the dignity of her appearance as she sat in her large arm-chair. Her ladyship had been very handsome when young, and still retained, even at the age of eighty-four, a fineness of complexion and brilliancy of eye which are seldom to be met with at so advanced a period of life: whilst her upright figure, and countenance full of wisdom and benignity, made her look like one of those grand and magnificent fabrics of antiquity which the hand of time may destroy, but which are beautiful even amidst their ruins.

I thought, my love, said she, as Louisa entered the room, that you had forgotten that I could not come, like the rest, and meet you with my welcome. But I can scarcely imagine, continued she, as Louisa stooped down to embrace her, that this is the same little Louisa I parted with three years ago at Woodlands. I was surprised when I saw Anna, and now I am equally so at you. I did not consider that you were both as busy going up the hill as I have been coming down.

And much more so, ma'am, I think, replied Louisa; for I am conscious of a much greater change in myself, than I see in you.

At your age, said Lady Susan, a few years make a great difference: the ripening fruit is much improved by a very short space of time; but when it has begun to decay, double the period causes little alteration in its appearance.

Mr. Sinclair, who had been detained down stairs making some arrangements with his servants, now entered the room and was presented to Anna.— Why, Lady Susan, said he, turning to her ladyship, after having paid his respects to his young relation, you will need double bolts and bars to your house, whilst you have two such inmates, or I doubt whether even the excellent police of Edinburgh will be sufficient to keep it safe.

I think I must lock them up for this month at least, till the college is closed and the town has lost a few thousands of its students, said Lady Susan laughing.

There is one of them, however, that I hope I shall see before long, said Louisa. Indeed I feel as if he were short of his usual kindness in not being here ready to meet me.

You must grant Charles a general pardon for the present, replied Lady Susan, for he has not time at his own command: but I will answer for him, the moment he is released from business his first pleasure will be to see you.

Her ladyship had scarcely ceased speaking when the door opened and Charles appeared. The pleasure which his countenance expressed, showed at once that it had not been any want of affection which kept him absent; and Louisa was delighted on further observation to see how much he was improved; for he had acquired manliness of manner, without any tincture either of foppishness or pedantry. Nor was she less pleased with Anna, whom she had

now more leisure to examine. She was exceedingly handsome, but appeared perfectly unconscious of her beauty. Her manners were easy and unaffected, and her conversation intelligent and pleasing. Lady Susan sat with an expression of the greatest delight listening to them, and adding every now and then some lively sally or acute observation of her own. She was particularly fond of encouraging the harmless gaiety of youth, and enjoyed Mr. Sinclair's frequent joke with as much pleasure as the youngest of the party. Before the evening was half over, Louisa felt that to gain Lady Susan's esteem would be the object of her most anxious endeavour. My mamma might well say, thought she as she listened to her ladyship's elegant and enlightened conversation, that to gain Lady Susan's good opinion was to obtain the approbation of wisdom and virtue.

The next morning Mr. Sinclair undertook to show the town to the young strangers; for, as Anna had only arrived the night before Louisa, it was alike new to them both; and they were equally delighted with the display of grandeur and magnificence which it exhibited. Anna, who had just left Dublin, was less surprised at the elegance of the buildings than Louisa, though in many respects she gave the preference to those of the Scotch metropolis, particularly for the taste displayed in some of their newly-erected places of worship. The many interesting circumstances connected with this ancient town which were mingled with her earliest

recollections, made it a place of peculiar interest to Louisa. As she viewed the stately majesty of the castle, frowning upon the rock which nature seemed to have designed to render inaccessible, her mind passed over in review the many warlike achievements and deeds of valour which had been accomplished by its early possessors. She fancied she saw in the bold features of the country, the cause of those strong lines of character which mark the Scottish nation; and ceased to wonder, when even their polished city displayed so much strength and majesty, that the rude hills of the more northern districts should have produced such characters as were so often to be met with in the pages of history. Her interest in the unfortunate Mary would have led her immediately to Holy-Rood House; but Mr. Sinclair advised her to reserve it for a distinct morning's work; that they might have more leisure to examine the many objects which were rendered so interesting from their connexion with that ill-fated queen and her almost equally unfortunate descendant, whose image and adventures had lately been revived in her mind by the animated pictures in "Waverly."

After they had seen the principal objects of the New Town and walked round Calton Hill, (with which the young strangers were particularly delighted,) Mr. Sinclair proposed their proceeding towards the College. It happened to be the time of some of the classes being dismissed; and the girls were much amused as they walked along

South Bridge Street, to observe the variety of figures which issued out of that theatre of learning. Some, with countenances which bespoke the mind within locked up in some subject of abstruse speculation, proceeded along the street with their books under their arm, as if altogether unconscious of the multitude with which they mingled. Others, like school-boys impatient of restraint, hastened out of the college-yard with the eagerness of "playful children just let loose from school:" whilst others, with faces which bespoke a complete vacancy of mind, lounged along as if totally at a loss for an object on which to throw away their time. Charles soon made his appearance amongst the literary group, and immediately perceived and joined his friends. A walk round the Links completed their morning's ramble; and at length fatigued, though delighted with their long walk, they returned home and amused Lady Susan with an account of all they had seen.

The following morning Miss Macbride called upon them: and as Louisa had often heard from Anna of that young lady's beauty, as well as how much Albert admired her, she was prepared to be exceedingly pleased. As she entered the room, her sylph-like form and extreme beauty of features struck Louisa, though prepared to admire her, with complete astonishment. Every feature was perfectly formed, and every limb turned with polished elegance. A stranger to rivalry or envy, Louisa, though conscious that her own pretensions

to beauty must sink entirely into the back-ground before such superior charms, sat and gazed at her with delight and admiration. By degrees, however, as the first surprise wore off, Louisa began to feel a want. There was a deficiency in the expression of her countenance, and a failure of animation which in time almost began to weary; and she was surprised on turning to Anna, who was speaking at the moment with great liveliness, to find that she was disposed to give a preference to the beauty of her cousin.—Anna had no pretensions to the perfect grace of her friend; but there was an unconsciousness of beauty, and an intelligent expression of face, which gradually won upon the beholder, excepting only an occasional contraction of countenance, which, however, no sooner appeared than it vanished; so that the first half-hour, which was the only one in which Miss Macbride was admired, was the time of Anna's being the least thought of.

Well, Louisa, what do you think of Miss Macbride? Is she not perfectly beautiful? eagerly inquired Anna as soon as her friend was gone.

She is indeed, replied Louisa, most perfectly formed in feature and figure: but yet she is not altogether what I should have expected Albert to be so much charmed with.

Do you not know enough of Albert to be aware how great an admirer he is of beauty? inquired Anna.

I have no doubt he is, replied Louisa; but yet I

should have expected him to require a different style of beauty from Miss Macbride's—more of the beauty of countenance than that of mere feature.

But there is another great charm in Miss Macbride, returned Anna smiling, which few young men are insensible to;—she is an only child, and the admiral is a man of very large fortune.

I do not believe that would make the slightest difference in Albert's independent mind, said Louisa, unable to repress a feeling of indignation at the idea of Anna's attributing such a motive to her brother.

It is a very common consequence of extravagance, however, said Lady Susan, (who had hitherto listened to the conversation in silence,) that its votaries are generally led into the opposite extreme of meanness.

My dear Lady Susan, remonstrated Louisa with great earnestness, you do not surely attribute either of those failings to the noble-minded Albert?

Louisa, replied her ladyship seriously, you are very young; it is not therefore to be wondered at that you should be too much dazzled with the bright parts of Albert's character to be able to observe the darker shades which accompany them. I speak with openness, even though Anna is present, because I know her to be as well acquainted with her brother's faults as myself.—Louisa turned towards her cousin to sympathize with her in the pain which she must feel at thus hearing her brother condemned, even though she might be conscious

it was deserved; but felt exceedingly shocked to observe that her countenance did not discover any of those emotions which she had given her credit for feeling. Her words, however, in some degree restored Louisa's good humour with her.—I am afraid Albert has too surely been guilty of great imprudence, said she; but he has many most amiable qualities, and I hope he has already seen the full extent of his errors.

Had he made a frank and open avowal of the whole, replied her ladyship, I should have had better hope of his amendment: but he so obstinately withheld all acknowledgment of error, that I have little confidence in his avoiding a repetition of it; particularly as the unfortunate habits of your father may make the vice of gambling appear almost hereditary.

Of gambling! exclaimed Louisa with a look of horror. But the next moment recollecting herself, her countenance resumed its serenity; and she said in a calm but earnest voice, I am sure your ladyship must have strong reasons for the suspicions you entertain: but that there is a mistake somewhere or other I am equally convinced; and I should be most happy to discover where the error lies.

I admire your warmth, my dear, in so generous a cause, replied Lady Susan, and am sorry to give you the pain of a contrary conviction. Yet for the vindication of all by whom Albert is condemned, I think it right to make you acquainted with the

evidence on which we rest our judgement. You know that after he left Woodlands he spent the principal part of the winter before last in Edinburgh: and I confess to you, my dear girl, that I felt much inclined to bestow as large a portion of my esteem and admiration upon him as he had already gained from you during his visit in Westmoreland. I was delighted with the manly independence of his mind, the extent of his knowledge, and the acuteness of his discrimination, which far exceeded those of the generality of young men of twenty. I was a good deal surprised, however, one day, on receiving an anonymous letter, informing me that he had drawn three hundred pounds (which was all the money he had in his own power) out of the Bank in London, where it was lodged; adding that it would be desirable for me to inquire into the purpose to which it was appropriated. I have a great dislike to anonymous communications in general; but as this was a circumstance which it was so easy to investigate, I determined not to let the slightest doubt to Albert's disadvantage rest upon my mind. The next time, therefore, that he was alone with me I spoke of it to him, and asked him if my information was correct. He acknowledged it to be true. I then told him that as that sum was so much more than he appeared to have any need for at present,—for I had myself previously given him what I believed would be sufficient to defray his expenses in Edinburgh,—it was necessary, to save his character from suspicion, that he should ex-

plain the purpose for which the money had been drawn out of the Bank. This he begged I would excuse him from doing; assuring me at the same time that it was for no unworthy purpose, with such a look of ingenuousness that I felt it impossible not to believe him, and the subject was dropped. About a fortnight afterwards Mr. Mackenzie, my solicitor, the respectability of whose character no one ever called in question, came to me, and informed me that he had with extreme concern a few evenings before observed Mr. Albert Cleveland come out of a noted gaming-house; and that happening that morning early to be going along the same road, he had again seen him come out of the same house with a look of great disorder and agitation, which had determined him to come and mention the circumstance to me, as a word of caution in time might perhaps check the dangerous vice in its bud. In a moment the use he had made of the money was explained. I sent for him, however, determined to give him an opportunity of clearing himself.—Albert, said I, as he entered the room, I am afraid I have discovered the purpose to which the three hundred pounds was appropriated. Was it not for the payment of debts of honour? As I spoke I fixed my eyes upon him, determined to read his countenance, which is so expressive that I could not but imagine I should be able to see the truth pictured in it. I observed it exceedingly agitated; but yet, as I could not discover the expression of conscious guilt, I still hoped he would be able

to clear himself. In this expectation, I again asked him if that were the case: when to my infinite disappointment and concern, he answered, it was; entreating me at the same time, however, not to withdraw my esteem so hastily, as he could solemnly assure me he was not unworthy of it.

And on that assurance I could rely at the risk of my life, said Louisa with energy. Albert is incapable of solemnly asserting a falsehood.

How then, my dear, do you account for the gaming debts which even by his own acknowledgment he had to discharge? asked Lady Susan.

I am unable to account for it, ma'am, said Louisa ingenuously, but should imagine he must have been drawn in by some experienced sharper; for you know, Lady Susan, that sometimes might happen to a young man of the most unexceptionable character.

That I grant, returned her ladyship, and could readily have overlooked such a circumstance, had he acknowledged it frankly. I should have felt satisfied with thinking that, though he had paid rather dearly for his lesson, it might perhaps be worth the price in future life. But if this had been the case, why refuse to explain the truth, in spite of all the encouragement I gave him to be ingenuous? I am afraid, my dear girl, it can only be accounted for in the way that I have already done. Even Anna, pained as she is at the unhappy business, cannot deny the justness of my apprehensions.

Anna is Albert's sister, said Louisa, and may

perhaps be afraid of being suspected of undue partiality if she were to be very urgent in his behalf: but as I am not subject to the same suspicion, allow me to entreat of you, my dear Lady Susan, to suspend your judgement of Albert's character a little longer. O that he were but near you, added she, that you might watch every action and weigh every sentiment he utters, and I am convinced you would find him a stranger to vice. And this is not my own opinion merely, continued she, (encouraged by the expression she saw in Lady Susan's face to proceed,) for my father and mother, who are much superior judges, entertain the same.

But they are not acquainted with the circumstances which I have related to you, replied her ladyship. The fear that I have always felt that an exposure of his character might drive him to greater imprudence, has prevented my ever speaking on the subject to any one excepting his sister, to whom I wrote at the time, in hopes of getting further information. Not even to Caroline or Mr. Sinclair have I ever mentioned it: nor should I have done it to you, had I not considered it of importance to you as a young woman, to be convinced how much caution is necessary in judging of the characters of young men. You must consider therefore, my dear, that your father and mother judge of Albert only from the same favourable appearances which so long deceived myself, and are altogether unacquainted with the darker side of the picture.

My father heard, however, said Louisa, that something or other had occurred to lessen Albert in your esteem, and wrote to him immediately to know if there was any thing that he could do to remove the impression. Albert expressed great obligations to my papa in his answer, but said he was so circumstanced that he could do nothing but submit with patience to your ladyship's opinion, and endeavour to make his future actions contradict the suspicions thrown upon the past. We were all satisfied from what he said, that imprudence was the worst of which he had been guilty; and hope to see the day when you, my dear Lady Susan, will admit that Albert's many virtues may atone for much greater acts of indiscretion than any of which he will be found guilty.

You are a most eloquent pleader, Louisa, replied Lady Susan, smiling as she looked at the animated girl whose cheeks glowed with the earnestness she felt on the subject: and to prove that you have not pleaded in vain, I feel disposed to give Albert another trial. At my age it behoves me to be particularly careful to avoid the slightest act of injustice, for the time must be very short for me to make reparation: I had rather err on the side of charity than the contrary. Anna, therefore, shall write and beg her brother to pay another visit to Edinburgh: and most happy shall I be, Louisa, if his future conduct confirm the good opinion you have so generously expressed.

Oh how kind, how good you are! cried the ani-

mated Louisa, running to Lady Susan and embracing her with as much warmth as though she had been a girl of her own age: how much must we all love you, for such consideration! The venerable lady's eyes glistened at the warmth of the generous girl.—Albert must know how much he is obliged to Louisa's earnest vindication, Anna, said she. It would not be justice not to tell him how zealous a friend he possesses in the little girl whose cause he so earnestly espoused when you came to visit me at Woodlands, and had been obliged to leave her at home in disgrace. It was difficult to tell whether Anna's or Louisa's face glowed most at these words; for they recalled circumstances which both were equally desirous should be forgotten. I will go directly and write to Albert, said Anna, anxious to escape from Louisa's observation, and immediately left the room.

ANNA'S LETTER TO ALBERT.

Edinburgh, May 8th,

My dear Albert,

YOU will be surprised to see another letter from me so soon, as I wrote to you only two days ago to inform you of our safe arrival in Edinburgh. You will however, I am sure, be equally pleased to hear that I now write at Lady Susan's request, to invite you to pay her another visit as soon as you can possibly make it convenient. I think I hear you exclaim, How in the name of wonder has this been brought about! I will tell you:—Louisa,

who I cannot but suspect to have a great deal of the ostentation of generosity about her, (though in this instance I must bless her for it, since it is likely to be of such service to my dear brother,) pleaded your cause with so much earnestness this morning, that she prevailed upon her ladyship to drop the recollection of the past, and give you an opportunity of retrieving your character: for which purpose she wishes to have you near her. And I hope, therefore, you will lose no time, but come as soon as you can. I have had no opportunity yet to delight my dear Miss Macbride's heart with the joyful intelligence of your being expected; and make her lovely face glow, as I am sure it will do, at the idea of seeing you. But she shall not long be kept in ignorance of what I know would give her so much pleasure, though her pure mind would start at the idea of acknowledging it even to herself. You will of course expect me to say what I think of Louisa: but I am unwilling to give an opinion of a character I have as yet had so little opportunity of becoming acquainted with. In her beauty I felt myself disappointed; for your warm encomiums had led me to expect to find it much superior to what it is;—it seems entirely to depend upon the sprightliness of her countenance. But for my part, I could dispense with a little of her vivacity, pleasing as it is, for the sake of a little more heart. But I may be wrong in thus suspecting her feelings to be the mere impulse of the moment, without retaining any lasting impression: I will wait, therefore, till I see whether she receive you

with the kindness that her behaviour to Lady Susan would lead one to expect. I know you will be at a loss for money for your journey, as Lady Susan particularly requests you may not come by sea : but I hope you will be able to muster enough to bring you here, and I am sure her ladyship will take care to pay all your expenses afterwards. I wish I had any money to send you ; but my purse was low when I came, and I have not yet seen any of the contents of our old lady's.

Yours, my dear Albert, affectionately,

ANNA CLEVELAND.

ANNA had just finished her letter when she was summoned to Lady Susan's apartment, where Mr. Sinclair waited to take leave before his return to Westmoreland. The more than usual animation of Louisa's countenance excited her brother-in-law's attention, and led him to inquire into the cause. She readily informed him of the success of her endeavours to remove Lady Susan's prejudice against Albert, and commissioned him to be the bearer of the news to Woodlands, of her having succeeded in one of the principal objects of her visit to Edinburgh. Mr. Sinclair congratulated Anna with great kindness on the prospect of seeing her brother so soon, and under such favourable circumstances : and after taking an affectionate leave of them all he set out on his journey. After his departure, Anna and Louisa went to prepare for Admiral and Miss Macbride, who had fixed to call that morning to take them a walk to

Diddiston, and met again in Lady Susan's room before their visitors arrived. As Anna re-entered Lady Susan's apartment, Louisa was struck with the beauty of an uncommonly rich and elegant French scarf which she wore; and was just about to express her admiration of it, when Anna said, Did you notice the scarf which Miss Macbride wore yesterday, Louisa?

Yes, answered Louisa; I thought it the most elegant one I had ever seen;—and you, I see, have got one exactly like it.

They were presents from Albert, returned Anna. As soon as he found we were coming together to Edinburgh, he sent them to me, with a request that I would present one of them to Miss Macbride in my own name—which I did; and it was accepted with great pleasure, though I believe she knew as well as Albert wished her, that the gift was from him.

Louisa felt an emotion run through her frame, as Anna spoke, which she could not define. She was very sure she did not envy either Anna or Miss Macbride the possession of the scarfs, elegant as they were; yet she could not but think it extraordinary, that when Albert knew she was to be of the party at Edinburgh, he should not have placed her on a footing with the others. She had hitherto been in the habit of receiving the most distinguishing marks of Albert's affection; and though he might of late have become devoted to the charms of Miss Macbride, she felt that she ought not to have been entirely forgotten.

I cannot wonder at his admiring her, thought she; for certainly she is a most perfect picture of female beauty: but yet surely the Louisa that he has loved from childhood deserved some little token of remembrance! The tear had just sprung to her eye, and she was struggling with its endeavour to make its way over her eyelid, when the current of her thoughts was stopped and her victory secured by the sound of Lady Susan's voice.

Your talking of these scarfs, said she, reminds me of what I had before meant to tell you. It is, that I do not think you are either of you dressed in the style that I should like to see you, for the ladies in Edinburgh are very gay.

They are indeed, said Anna: I was quite alarmed at the dress of the Dublin ladies; but I think those of Edinburgh are fully equal.

Then I certainly should not wish that Lady Susan Melville's nieces should be remarked for the plainness of their appearance.

I suppose, ma'am, said Louisa smiling, and struggling with the feelings which had cast a damp over her spirits, you would rather that we appeared like your *great nieces* in every sense of the word.

You are right, my love, said her ladyship; and for that purpose I wish you to go to a fashionable milliner's and order yourselves some new dresses. Here is money to pay for them, added she (opening a little box which stood on her table), that I have kept by me for the purpose of giving you ever since yesterday morning. As her ladyship

spoke she put a paper into the hand of each of her niecés, which they found to be bank notes of thirty pounds value.—And here, continued her ladyship, is a paper which is literally like found money. Upwards of twenty years ago I lent a sum of money to a person who was at that time in difficulties, which was the means of putting him in the way of redeeming his fortune. He went soon after to the East Indies, and came back a short time ago a rich nabob. One of the first things he did after his return was to send me this draft upon his banker for the principal and compound interest of the sum with which I had supplied him. It shall be laid by for the present: but if my faculties be spared to me till you and I, my dear girls, are called upon to part, it shall be divided between you, in such proportions as my future observation of your characters, and my opinion of your discretion and judgement may dispose me to think most advisable. In the mean time, Louisa, my dear, go if you please and lock it in my escrutoire in the next room. Put it, added her ladyship as Louisa was leaving the room, into a little go'd clasped pocket book which you will find lying in the front of the escrutoire, and then it will be distinct from every other paper of the same kind.

Louisa had just time to execute the commission befo e Admiral and Miss Macbride were announced; and they soon after set out on their walk. The fear lest the circumstance of the scarf should make her unjust to Miss Macbride,

led Louisa to pay her particular attention during the whole of their walk. She talked to her of the beauty of the scenery around them, and endeavoured to draw out her sentiments in return. But a dull cold acknowledgement of the beauties as they were pointed out was all that Louisa could obtain. Not even when, turning the point round the foot of Arthur's Seat, the beautiful view of the lake and village of Diddiston met their eyes, could Louisa observe one animated expression of pleasure kindle in the face of her insipid companion. How wonderful is the power of beauty! thought she (as she remarked the inanimate countenance before her), when the mere form of its features could captivate such a mind as Albert's! Or rather, continued she as she went musing along, how different are people's opinions in what beauty consists! For my part, I have seen many faces which would be called exceedingly plain, that I should infinitely prefer to this polished piece of statuary. But again the fear of being unjust seized her mind, and she turned with redoubled attention to her lifeless companion. She felt quite thankful, however, when their return home released her from the fatigue of keeping up any further conversation; and she bade her good morning without the slightest wish that they should meet again.

Well, Louisa, said Lady Susan when she and Louisa happened to be left together after dinner, do you not feel rather disposed to waver in the opinion you expressed with so much confidence this morning of Albert?

On what account, ma'am? asked Louisa, looking at her ladyship with surprise.

On account of the attention which it seems he is paying to Miss Macbride.

Certainly not, Lady Susan, replied Louisa; for I always knew Albert to be a warm admirer of beauty.

But can you, my dear girl, have so little knowledge of Albert, as to suppose it possible that so inanimate a beauty as Miss Macbride could excite any thing more than a mere momentary admiration in his mind, independent of her fortune?

I acknowledge, answered Louisa, whilst a soft blush passed over her countenance, that hers is not exactly the style of beauty that I should have fixed upon as Albert's choice. But since he has himself selected it, I own myself mistaken in my idea of his taste, but am persuaded I am not so in my opinion of his disinterestedness.

I wish, said her ladyship, he may prove himself worthy of your good opinion. His visit to Edinburgh will, I hope, undeceive either you or me; for one of us must be exceedingly mistaken in his character.

I hope your ladyship does not expect, said Louisa smiling, that I should be so polite as to say I wish the mistake may prove to be mine!

No! replied Lady Susan; I never wish for politeness at the expense of sincerity. And here the conversation was interrupted by the entrance of

Anna. As her ladyship was so exceedingly infirm, she did not profess to keep any company. A number of those intelligent and enlightened people, however, with which the Scotch metropolis abounds, were continually calling to pay her a friendly visit. Possessed of a degree of judgement and liveliness of feeling which is not often to be met with in much more youthful minds, her society was courted by the principal literary characters of the town; and it was particularly delightful to her young visitors to have an opportunity of conversing with those who had so often charmed them with their writings. They soon found too that, were they inclined to visit, the hospitality of the inhabitants would not leave them a day at home. But as their object was to amuse Lady Susan, they determined from the first to decline all evening engagements, as that was the time when company seemed of the most importance to her ladyship: and in return for this sacrifice there was no pains spared on Lady Susan's part to make the time pleasant to her young friends. If they happened to be without company, some new publication was generally produced for the evening's amusement: when the pleasure with which she entered into them, and the entertaining and instructive remarks which so frequently flowed from her lips, made the hours pass over with her young companions with almost inconceivable swiftness.

Dear me! exclaimed Louisa one night as the

clock struck eleven, I have been here several days, and every night I have lost at least an hour.

It will make a sad gap in the term of your existence, said Lady Susan smiling, if you continue to lose an hour every evening.

If they continue to be lost as pleasantly as these have been, I believe I shall never regret them, returned Louisa.

It is rather extraordinary to hear a girl of seventeen talk of forgetting the progress of time when with an old woman of eighty-four, said her ladyship. I must not, however, allow you to forget it so far as to keep late hours, for of those I am too old a woman to approve. I think therefore we must fix upon eleven for our regular time of withdrawing; and then I hope by keeping to that I shall return you blooming as I received you, to your homes again.

We can only object to that arrangement, said Anna, (as she and Louisa rose and took their candles to retire,) as it takes us so much sooner from your ladyship. One comfort however is, there is a tomorrow coming.

It would be presumption in me, replied Lady Susan with a look of benignity, to calculate much upon a tomorrow. It is enough for me to enjoy the present and be thankful for the past. For you, however, my dear girls, added she, shaking hands with them affectionately. I hope there are many tomorrows in store. Louisa retired ruminating on the beauty and sublimity of old age

when accompanied with such angelic sweetness and pious resignation. Every day the cord of affection towards her venerable relation seemed more closely wound round her heart; and she rejoiced that she had enjoyed the opportunity of witnessing how nearly, even in this world, the human may be succeeded by the celestial nature. When she got to the door of her apartment, she turned round to bid Anna good night; but instead of answering the adieu, Anna motioned to her to proceed into the room, whither she accompanied her. After closing the door with great caution—Louisa, said she eagerly, what was the amount of the draft that Lady Susan gave you to put by this morning?

I cannot tell, answered Louisa, looking as if she were endeavouring to recollect; I do not remember that the sum was mentioned.

No, said Anna, it was not; but I thought you would have looked at it when you went into the bed-room to put it by?

Is it possible, returned Louisa with a look of extreme astonishment, that you could suspect me of any thing so mean and dishonourable.

I should not have thought it dishonourable, said Anna blushing, as Lady Susan had told us, she meant it to be ours. And you know your looking at the sum would not have made any alteration in the paper.

But it would have made great alteration in the state of my own mind, replied Louisa with a look

of dignity: I consider every written paper as sacred, unless I have permission from the owner to look at it; and should have esteemed myself guilty of a breach of honour in inspecting that with which I was entrusted, as much as though I had robbed Lady Susan of it.

My dear Louisa, said Anna whilst a deep crimson suffused her cheeks, how excellent a lesson have you given me! How much have you made me ashamed of myself! I hope I have learned tonight what will be of service to me all the remainder of my life.

When people are so ready to learn, replied Louisa, her countenance resuming its usual sweetness of expression, even I may turn teacher.

Anna made many acknowledgements of her error, and then quitted the room. Louisa endeavoured when left alone to banish the circumstance from her mind, but she found herself unable to do so. It recalled to her recollection the almost forgotten medal, and excited a suspicion, which she felt most unwilling to encourage, that the same dispositions were still latent in Anna's mind, and perhaps only required temptation and opportunity to excite them. Yet the frankness with which the fault was acknowledged, again gave rise to the hope that she judged of her with too much severity, and that the want of a proper education had prevented her feeling that nice sense of honour which scarcely any thing but early habit could produce. She was neglected when young, said

Louisa to herself; it will therefore be long before even her excellent understanding can be expected to overcome all her early bad habits. But with abilities so superior and such amiable frankness, they will all, I have no doubt, at length be conquered; and then how sweet, how charming a girl she will be! How worthy of being the sister of Albert Cleveland! With these reflections Louisa fell asleep, and met Anna in the morning with a mind completely released from all unpleasant suspicions.

It was Lady Susan's custom to keep her room till one o'clock, which time Mrs. Wilson remained with her, and assisted her in the devotions in which the principal part of the time was employed. This time therefore Anna and Louisa had entirely at their own disposal, and they mutually agreed to appropriate it to the purposes of improvement. They portioned it out so as for one to read whilst the other drew alternately for the first two hours. They were then to join together in singing and playing, in which they both had acquired considerable proficiency, though Anna was much the superior in both. Indeed, Louisa was exceedingly surprised and very highly gratified (as she became in the course of time acquainted with the acquirements of her companion) to find what good use she had made of the few opportunities she had enjoyed. She well knew it had not been in her aunt Cleveland's power, any more than she believed it would have been her inclination, to be at any great

expense in the education of her daughter: she was sure, therefore, that the most indefatigable industry alone could have made Anna mistress of so many accomplishments. Nor was it in the more showy acquirements alone that Louisa found her to excel. She had stored her mind with a variety of useful and elegant information, and displayed a taste and judgement in literary composition with which Louisa was at once surprised and delighted. Indeed in every respect, excepting in a few slight instances, had Anna appeared in a most amiable and pleasing character; and Louisa was highly gratified to discover in her so much superiority to the generality of girls of her age. She often thought of the pleasure it would give Albert to find his sister so worthy of his affection, and wished almost hourly that he were already with them, that she might witness his delight on becoming acquainted with the talents and accomplishments of his sister. The early age at which he left home, and the few short visits which he had since that time paid to his mother, had, she knew, allowed him but little opportunity of becoming acquainted with Anna's character, excepting through the medium of her letters; so that she was persuaded her many pleasing qualities would unfold themselves to Albert's mind as agreeably and with almost as much novelty as to her own.

How I wish Albert was come said she! one morning as she took up a book whilst Anna opened her portfolio; for then he might read to us

whilst we both drew. How soon do you think we may expect him?

I cannot say, answered Anna, that I have any hope of his coming at all.

Louisa's book dropped upon her knee, whilst a paleness overspread her face. You believe him guilty then, said she in a faint voice, and think he dare not stand the test of close observation?

I dare not pronounce upon either his guilt or innocence, replied Anna, for I am totally at a loss to form an opinion on the subject; though I must acknowledge my fears are rather stronger than my hopes. But it is not on that account that I despair of his coming.

What then can prevent him? asked Louisa anxiously. He is now upon half-pay, and must have his time at his own disposal; and how could he spend it better than by coming to Edinburgh? Particularly, added she, (the colour returning to her face with rather more than its natural bloom,) as Miss Macbride is here to add to his other inducements?

There is no doubt of his inducements being sufficiently great; said Anna, but to confess the truth to you, Louisa, I believe he has not money enough to bring him. His being reduced last year to half-pay was a very serious thing to him. He had at that time some tradesmen's bills to pay, and he depended upon the hundred pounds, that Lady Susan had been in the habit for several years of sending him, for discharging them. But when his

pay was reduced, it was not in his power to appropriate it so entirely to that purpose as he wished, so that it has been very difficult to him to pay all. When he sent me the scarfs, however, he told me he felt at liberty to indulge himself in the pleasure of making a present, as he was at length free from debt, though he confessed to me at the same time that these little offerings amounted to the full extent of his abilities.

He must not, however, be allowed to decline Lady Susan's invitation on that account, said Louisa; for his doing so would, I am persuaded, convince her that he was afraid to trust himself to her investigation, and might be of the most serious consequence to him.

But what can be done? asked Anna. I agree with you that it is a most unfortunate business; but I am at a loss to know how to remedy it.

Lady Susan made you a handsome present yesterday morning, replied Louisa; and then paused, as if unwilling to offend the feelings of her cousin by appearing to think any thing more than a mere hint of her meaning could be necessary.

I understand you, Louisa, said Anna, and should be most happy to appropriate it to the purpose you wish, were it in my power so to dispose of it. But unfortunately I left debts in Dublin which it will take pretty nearly the whole of Lady Susan's present to discharge. It made me very unhappy to leave them unpaid when I came away; but it was impossible to avoid it. The ladies in Dublin were

so exceedingly gay that it drew me into immense expenses in any degree to equal them; for there is no end you know to milliners' charges.

Again a painful suspicion of Anna shot across Louisa's mind, which made her many shining qualities sink instantaneously in her imagination. The daughter of her aunt Cleveland, instead of the sister of Albert, rose to her view; and she shrunk from the idea of finding the likeness real, though she could not help weighing the circumstances which seemed to confirm it. She could not but think it very unlike Anna's character, and the œconomy with which she had been brought up, to incur debts to such an amount: nor could she think there was any thing in her dress which bespoke her having done so. Her clothes, though fashionably made, seemed to owe their smartness more to her own good management than to the aid of milliners. Whether true or false, however, she was convinced from Anna's excuses that she would render her brother no assistance; and though she had herself only the morning before received a severe pang from a striking instance of his unkindness, she was resolved that Albert, if it were in her power to prevent it, should not lie any longer under lady Susan's suspicions. Producing the note, therefore, which she had herself received from her aunt.—Take this then, said she, for I have no debts, nor any immediate occasion for it; and let me beg that you will inclose it immediately to Albert, as

a loan from yourself, for I would not on any account he should know that I have any thing to do in the business.

But my dear Louisa, said Anna, refusing to take the offered note out of her cousin's hand, you know Lady Susan expects that a considerable part at least of this money should be laid out immediately on some smart new dress, and she will not I am sure be pleased if her request be not attended to.

I have fifteen pounds remaining, replied Louisa, which will be more than sufficient for any thing that I shall at present need: and I have not the smallest doubt that before Albert has been long here, Lady Susan will enable him to repay it. Let me entreat you, therefore, to lose no time, but send it off immediately: it will only be two days later than the last, if you write directly; for the post does not leave town till four, and it is not now quite one.

I must not, however, assume the merit of this act myself, returned Anna, (taking the note, which Louisa again held out to her,) Albert must know to whom he is so much obliged.

Not for the world would I have him to know it, answered Louisa. From me it might prove a painful obligation; but from you, it will only appear an act of sisterly affection that must be highly gratifying to his feelings.

Anna immediately set about writing the letter, which was dispatched before Lady Susan entered

the apartment. About two o'clock, the usual time for setting out on a morning walk, Anna and Louisa, accompanied by a lady of whom their aunt had requested the favour of attending them, proceeded to a fashionable milliner's, where they ordered such dresses as they thought would be most suited to her ladyship's taste. They were each desirous, though from different motives, to please her to the utmost of their power.

Though these things are much more expensive than any thing I would choose for my own gratification, thought Louisa as she selected a variety of articles, yet if it will please Lady Susan to see me smart, she certainly has a right to be gratified, after the liberality with which she has put it in my power to be so. Besides, she is so good and kind; that it is a happiness to give her pleasure.

Anna reasoned on a different principle. I had better throw away several pounds at present, argued she, than run the slightest risk of displeasing her ladyship. I am persuaded that I stand high in her favour at present; but I know she would immediately take alarm at any appearance of extraordinary oeconomy. She considers my mamma very mean, and would therefore soon be led to think me so too; and I believe, of the two extremes, she could more easily forgive Albert's extravagance. I have heard her say, that of the one fault a young person may be cured; but the other, excepting when taken in very early infancy, is scarcely ever eradicated.

When their accounts were made out, which, contrary to the custom of the Edinburgh tradespeople, they desired might be done immediately, that they might discharge them before they left the shop,—they found them to amount to about twelve pounds each.

Three pounds, therefore, was all that Louisa had left. She felt little concern, however, at the circumstance, as she had not the slightest doubt of receiving the money back from Albert in a very short time after his arrival in Edinburgh; and that he would be there in a few days, she was equally confident. Satisfied, therefore, with herself, and at peace with all the world,—for Albert's one single act of unkindness was soon forgotten in the recollection of his many proofs of affection,—her spirits resumed all their wonted elasticity, and she looked the very picture of gaiety and happiness. Quick and lively in every feeling, she entered with spirit into whatever was going forward; and added such a charm to every conversation by her intelligent sprightliness, that it seemed impossible not to partake of the gaiety and good humour that she spread around her.

A watchful observer might have noticed that the contraction of Anna's brow, which had always occasionally appeared, might now be seen more frequently than usual. But Louisa or Charles (who joined their party as often as he could possibly spare time) were either of them little disposed to remark what was unpleasant; and though Lady

Susan saw it, she considered it as an expression of countenance which Anna unfortunately inherited from her mother, in whom she perfectly remembered it, and as frequently rejoiced that it was the only resemblance to that parent which she could discover. The quiet, the silent, but observing and judicious Mrs. Wilson, was the only person who made any serious remarks upon it; but these observations passed across her mind without being communicated to any one, or its being suspected they had ever entered there.

Ten days passed over without any thing particular having occurred, when one morning Charles appeared at an hour earlier than his usual time; and on being asked by Louisa the reason of his doing so, he answered that he had come for the purpose of prevailing upon them to go with him to see a poor family that was greatly in need of assistance. I went, continued he, yesterday evening with a gentleman who was in want of a writer to transcribe some lectures for him, and who had been recommended to one at the end of Leith Walk. After considerable difficulty we found out the house; but never before did I witness so wretched a scene as that which presented itself on our entering it. Scarcely an article of furniture remained; every thing had been parted with that could possibly be spared, to purchase food. The woman lay upon a bare bedstead with some wretched covering over her, and ill of what my

friend, who is a medical student, believes to be a consumption—with six little naked sickly children around her. The husband was not at home, but we left word for him to wait upon my friend this morning; and after putting a trifle into the hand of the youngest of the children, to supply the immediate necessities of nature—for they seemed literally starving—we left them, determined to inquire of the bookseller the cause of such extreme misery. From him we learned that Mr. Atkin (for that is his name) had been a minister in one of the seceding churches in Scotland, and at the same time acted as an assistant in a school, where he taught the Greek and Latin languages. His church, however, lying at a considerable distance, and requiring a greater portion of his time than he could spare without neglecting the school (which was the more lucrative situation), he gave up his pulpit, and devoted himself entirely to teaching. It was not many months, however, after he had made this arrangement, that the master of the school died; and though he afterwards endeavoured to keep on the school in his own name, the scholars are now become so few in number that they scarcely produced him sufficient to supply the most immediate necessities of nature, independent of the additional support that his wife's illness requires.—I have now told my story, continued Charles,—endeavouring to smile, in order to conceal the workings of his countenance from the emotions of pity

which he felt,—and hope to prevail upon you to render them further assistance.

We will go with you immediately, replied Louisa, rising with alacrity from her chair, and beginning to put by her working materials.

But I am afraid, said Anna, Lady Susan will not like our going out so soon; for you know there is not a creature to be seen so early in the forenoon.

I will answer for her ladyship, when she knows your errand, answered Charles; and am willing to take the whole responsibility upon myself.

I think, however, said Anna, as one of us will be sufficient for the purposes of the poor people, Louisa shall, if she pleases, go with you; and I will remain at home to receive Lady Susan when she comes out of her room. Whatever you think it right to give for yourself, continued she, turning to Louisa, you will be so good as advance the same for me, and I will repay you afterwards. To this arrangement Charles and Louisa had no objection to make; and as soon as the latter was ready, they set off on their errand of charity.

Anna had calculated; and finding that there had been sufficient time even the day before for a letter to have arrived from Albert in answer to her last, she felt persuaded that her brother was hastening to be the bearer of his answer himself. She thought it highly probable, therefore, that he might be with them that very day, and had caught at the opportunity of being alone to receive him.

Albert's partiality, even from a mere boy, to Louisa, had been well known to both her mother and herself; but many feelings combined to make the Granville family in general the objects of little kindness in the minds of either mother or daughter. They each felt that they had injured them; and to minds of an illiberal cast the circumstance of having injured is sufficient to create feelings of dislike. Besides this, a considerable degree of envy had hitherto pervaded their minds on account of Lady Susan's warm preference to that family; and though Anna now saw herself placed on pretty nearly an equal footing with them, she still felt—what is ever the case with avarice or ambition,—that to have gained much excites only a keener anxiety to obtain more. To weaken her brother's prepossession in Louisa's favour, therefore, was her first object: her next was to take advantage of any opportunity that might offer itself to lessen Louisa in Lady Susan's esteem. She well knew that her ladyship had, previous to her cousin's arrival, entertained a strong persuasion of her light and frivolous disposition; and Anna had not felt a doubt herself, before she saw her, that she would still retain so large a portion of her childish imprudence and thoughtlessness as to give her frequent opportunities of turning it to her own advantage. With extreme surprise, however, she found Louisa possessed of all her early frankness and generosity; but so strictly regulated by prudence and judgement, that she al-

most began to despair of finding one slip of which she could take advantage.

With mortification she reflected, that should Lady Susan's opinion of each remain as it now was, the draft (which had been present to her imagination as an object of extreme anxiety almost ever since the morning it had first been spoken of) would at most be then only equally divided; and this was far from being agreeable to her wishes. She had often endeavoured to conjecture what the amount of this draft might be; but had ever found it impossible to come to any determinate opinion on the subject, as Lady Susan had not given the slightest hint of the sum which she had originally advanced. Often had she wished that her ladyship had given her the commission of placing the draft in the escrutoire, when she was very sure no romantic ideas of honour would have prevented her from satisfying her curiosity. Indeed, so natural had it appeared to her to do so, that she had made the inquiry of Louisa without any doubt of her being acquainted with the contents of the paper.

Nothing short of the omnipotent power of truth, which showed itself in every expression of Louisa's countenance, could have convinced her that she was as much in ignorance as herself; but no sooner had she become sensible that this was really the case, than she endeavoured by a frank acknowledgment of her fault, to remove the displeasure which she found her mistake had ex-

cited. This, as she expected, had the desired effect on the mind of Louisa ; and Anna was soon convinced that the affair was entirely forgotten by her cousin.

Though she had learned, however, to keep her thoughts to herself, her anxiety on the subject was the same ; and many hours were passed in fruitless conjecture and minute calculations. That the amount of the draft must be considerable she felt fully persuaded, as the compound interest of even a small sum must become something very handsome in the course of twenty years. Supposing it only to have been a hundred pounds which was advanced (and she could not imagine it to be less), it would in that time have accumulated to a sum which she should be very glad to receive by way of pocket money, though it certainly was too small to be divided.

Thus engaged in calculations and conjectures, Anna had sat a considerable time absorbed in her own reflections, when a sudden ring at the door-bell roused her from her reverie ; and she had scarcely time to ask herself who it was, before Albert made his appearance.

What an excellent guesser I am, exclaimed she, as she ran to meet the embraces of her brother : I have been looking for you all the morning.

You might indeed imagine that I should lose no time in accepting so desirable an invitation, said Albert ; particularly when you had so kindly removed the only obstacle. How much I am in

your debt for your last letter, my dear Anna! added he, again embracing his sister with affectionate warmth.

Thirty pounds will clear it all away, returned Anna, smiling.

No, not twice thirty can repay my obligation, replied Albert: for had not your seasonable supply arrived before I had written an answer to Lady Susan, there would have been nothing for me but to labour under the additional displeasure that my declining her invitation must have excited.—But where is my other dear lovely advocate? continued he.—Where is Louisa?

She went out to take a walk with Charles, who had a little leisure this morning, answered Anna.

And did she too expect me? asked Albert with a look of anxiety.

She heard me calculate upon your being here today, but had most likely forgotten it again.

I should not have expected it to have made so slight an impression on her mind, said Albert, a cloud coming over his animated countenance: I should have thought that the friend she had pleaded for with such generous warmth would have been remembered afterwards with a little more interest.

My dear Albert, said Anna with a look of surprise, do you expect any thing to make a lasting impression on Louisa's mind? Believe me, she pleaded for you because it furnished her amusement for the moment to do so; but I am per-

suaded she scarcely recollected an hour afterwards that she had been a successful advocate.

She did not use to be so indifferent, returned Albert, sighing. But perhaps she has met with some more interesting object since she came to Edinburgh?

Not so, I assure you. She feels just as much interest for you as for any other person, and for any other person as for you. She is always good-tempered, always kind, and always thoughtless: so that if because "she smiled upon all, you fancied she smiled upon you," believe me, my good brother, your vanity deceived you.

But it is scarcely possible, remonstrated Albert, (clinging to an idea it was so painful to him to resign,) to be deceived in Louisa's looks; they are so pure a reflection of the equally pure mind within, that he who runs may read!

Provided his eyes be open, replied Anna, smiling: but with eyes blinded by partiality, who can decipher the most legible characters? It is this which has prevented your discovering that the openness of Louisa's mind is no proof of the durability of her feelings. You know, though a stream be so pure that you may see a pebble pass through it, yet the agitation it occasions in the water during its progress is over almost before it arrive at the bottom.

A servant here entered the room; and delivering a note, informed Anna that the footman who brought it waited for an answer. Anna glanced over the

contents; and then telling the servant to say that she would send an answer to Miss Macbride in the course of half an hour, she turned as soon as they were again alone to her brother, and putting the note into his hand, said with a significant smile, Here, too, are characters that may be read without much difficulty: try if you can make them out. Albert took the offered card, and read the following:

My dear Miss Cleveland,

My papa has some business which makes him rather in haste to leave Edinburgh: he is unwilling, however, to hasten his departure, if by staying a few days longer he is likely to have the pleasure of seeing your brother. Be so good as send word by the bearer whether you have yet heard when he may be expected, and believe me at all times

Affectionately yours,

MARIA MACBRIDE.

Dumbreck's Hotel,
Thursday Morning, Eleven o'Clock.

The Admiral is extremely polite, said Albert, laying down the note with a look of great indifference; and compliments me very highly by making me of sufficient importance to influence his arrangements.

For which you must go and thank him in person, and be the bearer of my answer to the lovely Maria.

Impossible! returned her brother; I cannot think of leaving this house till I have paid my respects to Lady Susan.

Her ladyship never leaves her room till one, replied Anna, and it is now scarcely twelve: you will have abundance of time, therefore, to walk to Dumbreck's and be back again before she makes herself visible. Besides, it would be inexcusable rudeness in you not to go, as the servant has no doubt already announced your arrival.

But suppose Louisa should return in the mean time? said Albert; I should not like to be a moment later in seeing her for all the Miss Macbrides in the kingdom.

There is a trifling circumstance which I think it right to apprise you of, said Anna, without appearing to have heard what her brother said. Should you see Miss Macbride equipped for walking, you may perhaps be surprised, for you can scarcely fail to recognise one of the scarfs you sent to Dublin.

And how has it happened to come into her possession? asked Albert.

She admired them exceedingly; so Louisa, whose heart you know is open as melting charity, very kindly turned hers over to her.

Did she know the gift was mine when she was so ready to part with it? inquired Albert with a look of great anxiety.

Louisa did, answered his sister: but Miss Macbride was supposed at least to be unconscious of

it, or else I dare say nothing could have prevailed upon her to wear it. But she now imagines that as Louisa's gift she may wear it without her secret being suspected, which she does most constantly.

I will go and pay my respects to the Admiral, said Albert, starting as if anxious to conceal the strong emotions of his mind, and will take care to be back in time to meet Lady Susan as soon as she leaves her room.

Every thing now appeared in as fair a train as Anna could possibly wish. She had given her brother, she was sure, a strong impression of Louisa's heartless volatility; and she hoped by degrees to draw him on to pay attention to Miss Macbride. I shall do him the greatest possible kindness by it, argued she to herself, though he may not at present be willing to acknowledge it. He is sure to have the Admiral's consent, who has it in his power to put him forward whenever he pleases: so that should he never be able entirely to make his peace with Lady Susan, he will fortunately be independent of her. By this means I shall make him amends for injuries he is at present unconscious of having received from me, and put him on a footing with the most fortunate of his relations.

Albert had not been long gone when Charles and Louisa returned from their walk.—It was very fortunate I did not go with you, said Anna, as Louisa entered the room (for Charles had parted

with her at the door): if I had done so, poor Albert would have had no one to receive him.

Albert! is Albert come? cried Louisa with delight;—when did he come? and where is he?

He came about an hour after you went away, answered Anna, and is now gone to pay his respects to Miss Macbride; but promised to be back by the time Lady Susan leaves her room.—Louisa walked to the window, for she was unwilling that Anna by seeing her countenance should read the feelings which passed within. Albert at this moment turned into the square, and coming towards the house soon recognised her and waved his hand. The conscious girl, feeling as though her thoughts must be open to him should he at that instant get a distinct view of her face, turned immediately from the window and walked to the further end of the room.

Why should I be hurt at his going to see Miss Macbride instead of waiting for my return? reasoned she within herself, as she struggled to resume her usual composure before Albert entered the room. It is true, I have hitherto been accustomed to be one of his first objects of consideration, but then he never before had a particular object of partiality:—ought I then to consider it an affront to myself that he gives Miss Macbride the preference?

Though Louisa thus reasoned with herself, the impression of his unkindness was not removed from her mind when Albert entered, which with feelings little more at ease than he

had seen that she had recognised him as she stood at the window, and was exceedingly hurt to observe that she turned from it immediately afterwards. How different from her usual manner, thought he, watching the window as he hastened through the square, in hopes of seeing her return to it. On my last visit to Woodlands she ran half way along the avenue to meet me, when she saw me approaching. But that must have been mere whim; for had it been kindness which impelled her to it, she would not so soon have given away my little present.

With minds thus prepossessed it is not surprising that they met with an appearance of constrained kindness on each side. Albert thanked her for her kind interference in his favour with Lady Susan, but it was not done with his usual frankness; and the alteration in his look and manner gave such a chill to Louisa's feelings that she received his acknowledgements with answering coldness, and convinced Albert at once that she felt little pleasure in the success of her endeavours in his favour. Lady Susan, therefore, who at this time was wheeled into the room, was a very welcome visitor, as she relieved them both from the restraint which they felt themselves under. Every thing conspired to flatter Anna with a full accomplishment of her wishes. She saw that Louisa's behaviour had confirmed the impression which her own conversation had made upon her brother's mind, and she observed with pleasure that he

avoided any of those particular marks of attention which she knew him to have been in the habit hitherto of paying her. The greeting between Lady Susan and Albert gave Louisa time to recover her spirits and to resume her usual cheerfulness: but Albert remained silent and thoughtful the whole of the day; or if he was sometimes won by the cheerfulness of his companions into an occasional effort of gaiety, it only lasted whilst the cause which produced it existed, when he again resumed his former gravity. In the course of the evening Lady Susan inquired of Louisa the particulars of the family she had visited in the morning; and was informed by her that Dr. H. had visited Mrs. Atkin, and had given it as his opinion that her complaint was not consumptive, but merely a low nervous disorder, produced by a want of proper nourishment. It was desirable therefore that she should be supplied with every thing generous and strengthening; and her ladyship commissioned Louisa to take care that she was supplied from her kitchen with every thing of that nature which was required.

Anna then inquired how much money Louisa had given for her, and was informed by her cousin that she had given a guinea, which she intended they should divide between them.

Have you not been rather too economical in your donation? said Anna, as she put the money into Louisa's hand.

I thought it as much as it was prudent to give at one time, answered Louisa, till we know a little

more of the people; for though there is every reason to think highly of them, they are as yet almost perfect strangers to us.

That is a degree of caution which I am afraid I should have failed in, replied Anna; though I cannot but approve of it now you have suggested it.

Louisa has good reason, said Albert, smiling, to remember that "generosity with prudence is a virtue; without it, a vice." The deepest tinge of red immediately suffused his sister's cheeks, nor were Louisa's less highly coloured. The circumstance, however, appeared much in Anna's favour, for the change in her complexion was considered by Lady Susan and Albert to have arisen from the pain she felt at having any thing recalled to recollection which told to Louisa's disadvantage; and they both of them admired her delicacy, whilst Albert blamed himself for having referred to a circumstance which his sister's tenderness for Louisa had made her blush to hear named. Louisa saw all this, and was conscious of the impression that it had made; but she felt little envy at the credit which Anna had gained, nor the slightest wish to deprive her of it. Satisfied in her own mind, however, that Anna's feelings in reality must be any thing but pleasant, she sought to turn the conversation; for though she could have wished to make Lady Susan more fully acquainted with the miserable situation of the Atkins, that she might render them further assistance than it was at present in her power to do, she had but little concern

upon the subject, for she felt it would be a pleasure as soon as she was able to administer to their necessities herself. That she should soon have it in her power to do so she had not the slightest doubt, as she was persuaded that Lady Susan would lose no time in putting it into Albert's power to repay the money she had lent. Nor was she mistaken. During the course of the evening Anna took an opportunity of telling her that the moment Albert had been left alone with her ladyship, she had presented him with a draft on her banker for a hundred pounds, telling him at the same time that it was her intention to double the sum for the future which she had hitherto allowed him. He will get cash therefore, he tells me, tomorrow morning, and repay me the money, for which he considers himself so much obliged. But how much more so would he be, did he know to whom he really owes it!

That I hope he will never know, returned Louisa earnestly; and you could not disoblige me more than by telling him.

The restraint is a painful one, said Anna; but I would bear that and twice as much rather than displease you.

Thus sure of receiving her money the following day, Louisa commissioned Charles, who came to see them in the evening, to go the next morning and desire Mr. Atkin to get a bed for his wife, and clothes to cover the nakedness of his children, and order the account to be sent to her the morn-

ing after, when she would settle it. Charles undertook the business with great pleasure, and promised to attend to it with punctuality. The consciousness of doing good threw a brilliancy into Louisa's eyes, and spread a fascination over every thing she did and said, that roused Albert, spite of himself, from the gloomy train of thought in which he had been involved. Can it be possible, thought he, as he watched her beautifully varying countenance, that the eye which thus beams with intelligence can be lighted by a soul less celestially pure! Oh no! spotless I am sure it is; and if its lightness approach to volatility, it is because it is unburdened by one of those grosser feelings which pertain to minds of a coarser mould. It is impossible that she should not be capable of warm and steady affections; and that they have not yet been excited, can only arise from her not yet having met with a being worthy of such a blessing. Once, continued he with a deep sigh, I had hoped that it was my happiness to have gained at least a considerable place in her affections, but I am not good enough to be admitted into so pure a region. Yet oh! could I ever hope to obtain a place there, how gladly would I devote every moment of my future existence to acquire it!

Albert, said Lady Susan, rousing him from his reverie, one would imagine you had left your heart behind you when you came to Edinburgh.

Oh no! said Anna with an arch smile, it was here before him, and he is come to find it.

Albert blushed, and Louisa stooped down to stroke Lady Susan's lap-dog.

Then I am afraid, replied Albert, recollecting himself and endeavouring to speak with gaiety, I shall lose my labour, for I see no prospect of recovering it.

In the course of the evening a card came from Miss Macbride, saying that Albert had promised her father to dine with him the following day and accompany them in the evening to the theatre; and as Mrs. G. would chaperone them, she hoped Anna and Louisa would join the party.

And so I should wish you to do, my loves, said Lady Susan. You have never been out one evening since you came, and I cannot think of your confining yourselves so constantly with me.

Louisa, though scarcely able to account to herself for it, felt that she had much rather stay at home. Lady Susan, however, would not admit of an objection, and it was therefore fixed that they should accept Miss Macbride's invitation.

The next morning Louisa felt a good deal surprised to find that Anna took no notice of the money; yet, persuaded it would be ready for her before she needed it on the following day, she forebore to give herself any serious concern about it. That Albert would fail in punctuality in repaying his sister, she could not once imagine. Though no cordial interchange of feeling now subsisted between them, she never once entertained the slightest suspicion of the propriety of his actions or the ex-

cellence of his heart. With her esteem thus unshaken she called herself to account for the uneasiness she felt. She could not blame him for his partiality to Miss Macbride, yet in spite of her utmost efforts, she could not help feeling an invincible repugnance to witness it. The time of their going to the theatre, however, arrived, and she had no alternative; but she determined to leave him quite at liberty, and therefore attached herself entirely to Mrs. G., in whose conversation she found a fund of amusement: and though she sometimes recollected that Albert was near her, with whom she had ever been in the habit of exchanging her thoughts with the familiarity of a sister, yet convinced that his time was more agreeably occupied, she forbore to intrude her sentiments upon him, or once by a single look to appear to lay claim to his notice. It was not long before the performance fixed her attention entirely upon the stage, and she followed the interesting Mrs. Henry Siddons, through the course of her performance in the Broken Sword, with the most delighted interest. Charmed with the beautiful and interesting little piece which was exhibiting before her, she had not observed Albert leave the box, nor was she aware of his absence till she was attracted by Anna's inquiring of Miss Macbride, near whom he had been sitting, what had become of her brother. That young lady explained that a note had been handed to him by one of the door-keepers, when he had immediately left the box, saying that he hoped to

be back in a few minutes. The circumstance surprised Louisa, and disturbed her more than she was willing to admit even to herself. An unaccountable dread of its being some of his former dangerous companions who had seen him and sought to entice him again amongst them, took possession of her mind, and she sickened when she recollected that he was that day in possession of more money than he had for some time been master of, or perhaps than he had prudence to take care of. From this moment nothing that went forward had any interest for her: Mrs. Siddons ceased to charm, or Julio's grief for the murder of his father to excite the slightest sympathy: even at the last grand discovery of the murderer, when the sudden revulsion of feeling unbound the organs of speech, Louisa's head was turned with anxious inquiry to the door to see if it opened to admit the much wished-for Albert;—but no Albert arrived.

At length the curtain dropped and the bustle of preparing to leave the house commenced. Though determined not to utter a whisper of her suspicions, she looked at Anna to discover whether she laboured under the same anxiety; but she could read no expression in her face in unison with her own feelings, and she began to blame herself for the uneasiness she felt. Anna has more reliance on him than I have, thought she, and yet how inconsistent is it of me to admit a doubt after the firm confidence I have hitherto possessed? Lady Susan Melville's carriage, cried Admiral Macbride,

and roused Louisa from her reverie; for she had followed her companions without being conscious that they had got to the door of the theatre. We will set you down first, said the admiral, as he handed Louisa and Anna in, and will then take the use of the carriage to convey Mrs. G. home. This was readily agreed to, and the ride home was occupied with conjectures about what could have detained Albert, and regrets at his absence. Louisa alone was silent, for she could not bear to express anxiety, and to speak without it, to her who was incapable of guile, was impossible. Oh! how I wish Lady Susan may be gone to bed, thought she, as the carriage stopped; and scarcely knowing what she did, she bid her companions good night, and then hastened up stairs, sometimes almost hoping as she went that Albert might perhaps be there before them.

You see I have waited for you, said Lady Susan, smiling as they entered, that I might have the account of your night's amusement warm and glowing as it must now be in your minds. But where is Albert? continued her ladyship: could he not prevail upon himself to leave Miss Macbride till he had seen her quite to her own door?

Oh! yes, ma'am, answered Anna, with a voice quite free from concern; he left her very early in the evening; we have not seen any thing of him since the middle of the second act.

Louisa cast a glance at Lady Susan, who remained silent after Anna had spoken, and read in her

countenance the same apprehensions which had taken possession of her own mind.

You seem much fatigued, Miss Granville, said Mrs. Wilson: will you give me leave to recommend bed to you?

Louisa's eyes thanked her for the advice, and taking a candle, whilst Anna followed her example, she wished Lady Susan and her companion a good night, and hastened to her own room. But though Louisa retired to bed, it was long before she could compose her mind to rest: yet angry at herself for the anxiety she felt, as proving a want of confidence in Albert's virtue, she struggled to subdue it; and after lifting her pure heart to that great Being, who alone could preserve him from harm, she at length succeeded and sunk into a gentle sleep. The same painful and sickening conjectures, however, revived with the morning's dawn, and she lay restless and uneasy till the usual time of rising, when she hastened into the breakfast room, sometimes hoping as she went she might find him already there before her: —but the hope was vain. And though Anna in speaking of his absence expressed nothing but curiosity to know what had detained him, every hour increased the anxiety of Louisa's mind. The longer she considered, the more she was persuaded that impropriety of conduct could alone have prevented his either appearing himself or sending a note to account for his absence. His behaviour therefore seemed a confirmation of all that had before been

alleged against him, and consequently a proof of his having been guilty of the most shocking falsehoods. Her distress of mind increased every hour as these reflections continued to gain ground, and she wandered about, unable to settle to any of her accustomed occupations, and incapable of turning her mind to any subject but one, and on that one she felt an invincible repugnance to expressing her sentiments. In this manner time passed on till the hour of Lady Susan's appearing, when she saw in the anxious expression of her face, as well as in her delicate silence, the similarity of their feelings.

There have been no tidings of the runaway yet, said Anna in a tone of gaiety, as soon as Lady Susan's chair was placed in its accustomed corner; I believe we shall be obliged to advertise him as lost, stolen, or strayed. Louisa seems to be seized with the apprehension that some evil has befallen him; but I cannot say (though I am dying with curiosity to know what he is about) that I have the slightest doubt of his making his appearance in due time, safe and sound.

Before any reply could be made, a servant entered the room and put a paper into Louisa's hand, saying a person waited below for an answer. As all Louisa's thoughts were engrossed by one subject only, she immediately concluded it was something from Albert, and her countenance expressed the cheering hopes which were immediately excited. Lady Susan fixed her eye on her face as if

sure of reading there, even sooner than it could be communicated by words, the expected tidings; and the next moment, a sudden start which Louisa gave confirmed, though it changed the nature of her expectations.

Something very terrible has happened to Albert! said Lady Susan in a voice scarcely articulate from agitation.

This paper does not bring any intelligence of him, ma'am, replied Louisa, in a tone scarcely more composed than her ladyship's.

What then is amiss? my love, asked Lady Susan, recovering herself a little at this assurance.

Louisa was silent; but her agitation became extreme.

You must not keep me in suspense, Louisa, continued she, for I feel that I have not strength to bear it this morning.

As she spoke, her ladyship held out her hand to Louisa for the paper, which the agitated girl gave her without seeming to know what she did.

I see nothing here to cause uneasiness, said Lady Susan, after she had got on her spectacles and perused the paper. Here is clothing for six poor children, 4*l.* 10*s.* and a feather-bed, 3*l.* I am only afraid the bed is too cheap to be as soft as the poor invalid requires. I should have been very glad to have bought these things for them myself; but as you are beforehand with me, I will not attempt to deprive you of the pleasure. I am much pleased too that you have shown your anxiety to

pay for what you purchase immediately, by ordering the note to be sent to you with a receipt to it. Go then, my love, and give the person who waits the money directly.

As she spoke, Lady Susan turned towards Louisa and held out the paper to return to her; but on so doing she was again struck with the agitation of Louisa's countenance.

What is the matter, my dear Louisa? cried her ladyship in renewed alarm: there is something in this business that I cannot comprehend. You do not I am sure, repent your liberality to these poor people?

Oh no! cried Louisa with emotion.

How then am I to account for this extraordinary agitation? You have money enough I know. Louisa was silent.—Is it possible that this can be the cause of your distress? said Lady Susan with a look of extreme surprise. Have you spent the thirty pounds I gave you a few days ago. Louisa's look of distress was all the answer that her ladyship could obtain.—The sum is so much more than you seem to have had any occasion for in the time, continued her ladyship in a mild but anxious voice, that I should not think I was doing my duty if I did not require to know in what way it has been spent. Tell me then, my dear, how this money has been disposed of. Louisa pale with agony stood silent and motionless. To say how it happened that she was thus without money was impossible, as it would add additional guilt to the crimes of which Albert was

already suspected: yet to incur suspicion of such unprincipled extravagance was unspeakable distress to her strictly conscientious mind. Oh! thought she, I have often said I believed I should need another lesson to teach me prudence, and here is a severe one indeed! Why did I not wait till the money was actually in my possession before I attempted to dispose of it? I do not require an account of every pound, continued Lady Susan with kind encouragement, I only wish to know in what the principal part was spent; for such a sum cannot have escaped your memory so soon. I shall be obliged, added she after a pause,—her countenance assuming an expression of greater severity though mingled with extreme distress on finding Louisa still remained silent,—if you will not give me the required information, to conclude that it has been disposed of for some unworthy purpose. And oh! Louisa, said she in a tone which pierced the almost sinking girl to the heart, to be again disappointed in the fond hopes I had entertained! Anna who had hitherto been silent now came forward, and telling Louisa she wished she had sooner been acquainted with her want of money, begged now to be allowed to supply her. No! replied Lady Susan, I will myself pay what is wanted, for that is a trifling part of the business. It is not because the money is gone that I am grieved, but that it has been spent in a way that Louisa is ashamed to explain.—Take the bill, Mrs. Wilson, continued her ladyship in a tremulous voice, and discharge it immediately.

Mrs. Wilson left the room to execute the commission, but scarcely had closed the door when a scream from Anna as she ran towards Lady Susan, drew Louisa's eyes to the same spot, and with unspeakable anguish she beheld her ladyship stretched back on her chair apparently lifeless.

Oh! I have killed her! exclaimed Louisa, running to the bell and ringing it violently; I have killed one of the best of human beings. Mrs. Wilson was soon summoned, and in her quiet methodical manner gave orders for Dr. G. to be sent for, as well as for her ladyship to be conveyed to bed; for she immediately discovered that it was a fit of a much more alarming nature than a mere fainting, with which she had been seized. It was not long before Dr. G. arrived, who ordered the proper applications, but gave little hope at the same time of their being of any essential service. He said it was a fit of which her ladyship had long had symptoms; and though she might for a time be restored, it was not at all probable she would survive it many days, and therefore advised that a summons should be immediately sent off for Mr. and Mrs. Granville.

Louisa with as steady a hand as she could command wrote a few hasty lines to her mother (with which a servant was immediately dispatched), and then returned to the sick-chamber. A slight working of the muscles had now taken place, and her ladyship had about half opened one of her eyes. She had besides shown signs of consciousness, though she had not yet been able to speak. But what was the affectionate Louisa's distress when

told by Dr. G. that as he understood she had by some means been the cause of the agitation which had brought the disorder to a crisis, he thought it adviseable that she should not place herself near the bed, lest the sight of her on the first return of recollection should in any degree recall the emotions which had before proved too much for her. Louisa sunk down on a chair near the door in an agony of distress at the idea that she must not be allowed to administer the tender offices of affection to a relation whom she so sincerely loved and so highly venerated. I am so fallen in her esteem that they are afraid the sight of me may be too painful for her to bear, thought she as the starting tear made its way down her cheek; and she is likely to quit the world under the distressing impression. Oh! Albert, what misery have you brought both upon yourself and me!

After about an hour's application of the means recommended by Dr. G. her ladyship so far recovered as to open both her eyes, and to answer "Better" to the inquiries made of how she felt herself. When Louisa heard the faint trembling sound of her voice pronouncing the much wished-for reply, she was almost overpowered with her feelings of joy and gratitude, and sinking down upon her knees she uttered a silent though fervent prayer of thankfulness for this dawn of hope. Anna, who had stood rather too much behind one of the curtains to be observed by her ladyship, now put herself forward and received a faint smile of acknow-

ledgement from the pallid features which almost refused to give a sign of that intelligence they once so strongly expressed. After looking at Anna, Mrs. Wilson thought Lady Susan seemed to turn her eye as if in anxious search of something else; and kindly anxious to relieve Louisa from her cruel restraint, she said, Does your ladyship wish to see Miss Granville? We have kept her back for fear the sight of so many should be too much for you: but I will bring her if you wish it. "Bring her," was Lady Susan's faint reply; and Mrs. Wilson immediately left the bedside, and requesting Louisa to compose her countenance and not give way to any emotion that might excite agitation in the invalid, she led her forward. Gladly would Louisa have knelt down before her venerable relation, and entreated to be restored to the esteem she so highly valued and still deserved; but aware of the danger of calling forth any painful recollections, she checked every selfish impulse, and bent over the bed with an anxious but tranquil countenance. The same faint smile was cast upon her that Anna had received; and Mrs. Wilson thought her ladyship fixed her eye particularly on the traces of tears which were so visible on Louisa's face; but as the sight did not seem to call forth any painful emotion, she rejoiced that they had been observed.

In a few minutes Lady Susan sunk into a sleep in which she remained for a considerable time, and when she awoke again she spoke both more distinctly and with a stronger voice; and Dr. G. re-

turning about the same time, he ordered her some proper nourishment, which she took, and for about half an hour appeared considerably better. It was not long however before she sunk into another deep sleep, or rather a sort of stupor, from which her physician would gladly have had her roused, but every effort was ineffectual. An apprehension that she would go off in that way, which Dr. G. seemed to think probable, kept them in a state of the utmost anxiety the whole of the evening and succeeding night. At length however she again opened her eyes, and in a few minutes after seemed to recover her recollection. This close attention will be too much for you all, said she in a much more distinct voice than she had yet spoken, and looking alternately at Louisa and Anna, who stood at each side of her bed chafing the palms of her hands, and at Mrs. Wilson who was stationed at the foot performing the same office to the soles of her feet.

Nothing will be too much if we can remove your disorder, said Louisa.

My disorder, said her ladyship shaking her head, is old age, and cannot be cured.

You are better however, returned Louisa with tenderness, for you speak almost like yourself again. But this gleam of animation was not of long continuance, for she had already done all her strength would allow, and in a short time she sunk again to sleep. In these alternations of life and death she continued till about the middle of the second night,

when she at length appeared to be sunk in a more natural sleep; and Dr. G. gave it as his opinion that she was in a more favourable way than she had yet been; and her watchful attendants began to feel some faint hope of being repaid for their care by seeing her restored to health: but from Dr. G. they could obtain very little encouragement for such expectations. Anna, who had observed Louisa change colour several times in the course of a very short period, now proposed that she should retire for a few hours and endeavour to get a little sleep, and Mrs. Wilson strongly seconded the proposal, urging to her the impossibility of her bearing up much longer under such continued agitation of mind, and without refreshment of any kind: for Mrs. Wilson had observed that whilst Anna kept up her strength by taking her usual quantity of food, Louisa had scarcely been able to taste any thing. After being reminded that in Lady Susan's present state she could render her no service, and being assured that she should be called the moment any change took place either for the better or worse, she at length consented to retire.

Had you not better follow Miss Granville's example, Miss Cleveland? said Mrs. Wilson as soon as Louisa was gone: for Johnson you know can sit up and be within call if I should stand in need of assistance.

No, indeed, replied Anna, I am sure I am the strongest of the whole set, and only waited for Louisa's being out of hearing before I made the

proposal for you to go likewise. I am not in the least fatigued, and will sit up till Lady Susan awakes, at all events ; so that you, who I see are exceedingly unwell, had much better take the advice you have just given.

Mrs. Wilson made some resistance, but Anna becoming extremely urgent she consented to go and lie down on a couch which stood in a small dressing-room adjoining, and said she should leave the door between the two apartments a little open, that she might hear the moment she was wanted. Anna was now left sole attendant on her dying relative, the person to whose death she had so long looked as the most important circumstance which could befall herself: for by it must be determined in a great degree, how far her inordinate love of money was likely to be gratified. During the time that she had been engaged in attending upon her aunt her mind had been occupied with conjectures as to the probable result of the impending event; for now when it appeared to be so nearly approaching, Anna began to feel exceedingly uncertain how far Lady Susan's favourable intentions towards her had been fulfilled. That she should receive a legacy, and even a handsome one, she had not the slightest doubt; yet she flattered herself that had Lady Susan the power at present of disposing of her property, it would be likely to be many thousands in her favour. Now, however, that was not likely ever to be the case. The spark of life was nearly extinguished, and Dr. G. had

given it as his opinion that it would never be revived. This unlooked-for illness had also destroyed all her hopes about the draft which had so long occupied her mind and excited such high expectations. Should Lady Susan die without having had her faculties sufficiently restored to dispose of this money as she had intended, which was now more than merely probable, all advantage from it to her must be lost for ever: it would go with the rest of her property to the residuary legatee, who she had not the slightest doubt would be Mrs. Granville. This was a painful and bitter thought, and added double poignancy to her own individual loss. The extent of that loss she felt an almost insupportable anxiety to know. A thousand times had her eyes in the course of the day wandered to the escrutoire which contained the important paper, and pondered on the possibility of obtaining a sight of it. She saw that the little basket in which Lady Susan kept her keys was placed on a table near her bedside, and she felt persuaded that if she could prevail upon Louisa and Mrs. Wilson to leave her to keep watch by herself, she should have no difficulty in gratifying her curiosity. The lock she knew was one of the easiest possible, and turned without the slightest noise, so that were Lady Susan even awake she was sure she might venture to open it, as the thick damask curtain would prevent her ladyship from seeing, and it was equally impossible that she could hear. Her plans had now succeeded to a degree beyond her highest

expectations; Louisa had retired, and Mrs. Wilson had come into her proposal of endeavouring to obtain a little repose with much greater readiness than she dared to hope. As to Lady Susan herself, she lay wrapped in a profound sleep, so that the road seemed perfectly smooth and easy. Nothing more was necessary but to give Mrs. Wilson time to get soundly asleep; and by way of amusement, whilst obliged to wait, she took out of her pocket a letter from her mother, which she had received the day Lady Susan was taken ill, to read over again. This letter, however, seemed only to increase her anxiety for the projected undertaking; and scarcely waiting till she had read to the end, she laid it down, and taking up the candle went first of all into the dressing-room, both to see whether the door which led to the staircase was quite fast, that no one might be able to come upon her before she was aware, and to be able to judge how near Mrs. Wilson was to that state of forgetfulness in which she wished to see her. The door was securely hasped; and to her infinite surprise and delight Mrs. Wilson appeared as sound asleep as Lady Susan herself. Without a moment's loss of time, therefore, she hastened into the other room for the key. She had always been in the habit of looking at this little instrument of security with too much interest not to be able immediately to select it. With a light, and as steady a step as the perturbation of her spirits would permit, she proceeded to the escrutoire, and unlocking it disco-

vered in an instant the gold clasped pocket-book, in which she knew the paper she sought was deposited. On opening the book the object of her search was immediately before her; but what was her wonder and astonishment to find the amount of it to be no less a sum than 10,000*l.*, which she read both in figures and letters before she could be sure she was not mistaken. Here then was a sum which in itself would have made her independent, and set her above all future anxiety. And this was to be resigned—resigned too, to a Granville! Was there no possible way in which this evil could be avoided. One alternative there certainly was, though it was a bold expedient; yet upon a second glance the danger seemed to diminish. Lady Susan's recovery even so far as to recollect her former intention respecting this paper was highly improbable; and in that case no one knew of it excepting Mrs. Wilson and Louisa, for she was certain there was no mention made of it in any of Lady Susan's accounts. Should it ever occur to Mrs. Wilson to speak of it to Mr. Granville there was not likely to be much inquiry made about it, as Louisa had been the person employed to deposit it in the *escrutoire*; she, therefore, was the accountable person, if it were not found there. If on the other hand Lady Susan should come to her recollection and determine upon disposing of it; should it not be found when sought for, on whom must the suspicion fall? With much greater speed than they can be recounted, these ideas shot across

her mind, and her determination was taken. With a trembling hand and palpitating heart she folded the paper, deposited it in her bosom; and replacing the pocket-book in exactly the same spot where she had found it, she had just turned the lock of the escrutoire, and taken the key out, when she heard the further door of the dressing-room open, and some person enter. What was to be done? It was impossible she could get back to the table to replace the key in the basket before the person, whoever it was, would be in the room. With a presence of mind which the urgency of the case demanded, she blew out the candle; and fortunately for her present situation, the manner in which her mind had been engrossed had caused her to neglect stirring the fire, so that it scarcely emitted a ray of light. She then in as composed a voice as she could assume, inquired who was there.

It is I, replied Louisa. But how does it happen you are in the dark?

I have chanced to snuff out the candle, answered Anna, and was making my way out to get it lighted again, for I did not like to ring the bell lest it should give you alarm.

I will go and bring you a light, said Louisa, for I left one in my own room: and away she went.

This was the most fortunate arrangement that could have been made, as it gave Anna time to feel her way to the basket and replace the key, and get again into the middle of the floor, waiting with

the candle in her hand for Louisa's appearance with the light, who soon returned.

Why did you get up again so soon? asked Anna; you can be no better for so short a sleep!

I awoke with a distressing dream, replied Louisa, and preferred getting up to running the risk of another of the same kind. And I am glad I have done so; continued she, as she looked in Anna's face, whose cheeks were blanched with agitation, for she was quite sick with the recollection of the narrow escape she had had. You are completely overpowered, my dear Anna, and must really take your turn to get a little repose.

I shall not attempt to sleep, answered Anna, for I am sure it would be ineffectual; but I will go and wash myself, and change my dress, which will refresh me a little. I shall be back again in a few minutes, added she, as she left the room; for it would be folly for me to attempt to sleep whilst my mind is in such a state of anxiety. To the truth of this assertion, Louisa's own feelings but too readily assented, for such had she found to be the case with herself. For a few moments tired nature had sunk into forgetfulness; but no sooner had reason given the reins to imagination, than the image of Albert presented itself, surrounded by dark designing swindlers, who seemed to be leading him on even against his inclination. She called to him, and he looked round and seemed desirous of coming back to her, but the fiends by whom he was surrounded, dragged him on with

a grin of malicious exultation. Distracted at their success, she turned away, and beheld on the other side of her Lady Susan's lifeless form, over which her mother was weeping and accusing her daughter of being her murderer. She started up in insupportable agony, and hastened down stairs, afraid to trust herself again to sleep, lest the same frightful images should recur to her. And is it not likely to be the same in reality! thought she, as she paced the floor after Anna had quitted the room. Will my mother not look upon me as the cause of her death, when she hears the circumstances of the attack;—and must I not either bear the suspicion or expose the unhappy deluded Albert? By way of stopping the painful current of her thoughts, she went again to the bed-side, where she had already often been to watch the sleep of the beloved invalid. Just as she approached, Lady Susan opened her eyes. Louisa, my love, said she in a clear distinct voice, are you still watching me?

I am only just come, answered Louisa, her heart throbbing with pleasure to hear her aunt speak so much like herself; I have been in bed, and had some sleep. And I hope you are better for yours, added she, taking hold of Lady Susan's hand in the most affectionate manner.

I feel my powers of articulation much improved, returned her ladyship; but I am like an expiring taper, which revives every now and then for a short time, but will soon be totally extinguished. My term of life, however, has been a

very full one; and I have much, very much, to be grateful for. There is one blessing more, added she after a considerable pause,—if it were not presumption, after having received such countless mercies, to ask for another,—it is to see your dear mother, my own Louisa.

Louisa eagerly informed her of the dispatch which had been sent off for her father and mother a very few hours after she was taken ill, and that she was in hopes they might be with them by the evening of the following day; and only regretted that Caroline and Mr. Sinclair had left Woodlands, which rendered it impossible that they could come also, as she was sure it would have been their wish to do.

Then perhaps my life may be spared to see them, replied her ladyship, a benignant smile illuminating her venerable countenance.

Louisa now offered some nourishment, which was taken with great apparent satisfaction; and she appeared much strengthened by it. She afterwards began to make inquiries about Mrs. Wilson and Anna, and expressed great pleasure at hearing that the former was lying down on the couch. She must not be disturbed, said she, even to know that I am better; and I hope when Anna comes I shall be able to persuade her to go and get a little sleep likewise.—What is that paper, my love? continued she, looking at Mrs. Cleveland's letter, which Anna in her agitation had forgotten,

and which lay unfolded on a table opposite to the bed.

Louisa went to the table, and took up the paper. It is a letter, ma'am. From my aunt Cleveland to Anna, added she, as she turned the back and looked at the superscription. I suppose Anna has been reading it whilst she sat alone, and afterward forgotten it.

I have often been struck, said Lady Susan, with the secrecy which Anna has always maintained about her mother's letters. I should like to know what is in it. Come and sit down on my bed side, and read it to me.

Forgive me, ma'am, said Louisa, embarrassed: it is not my own letter, so that I have no authority to read it.

But surely I can give you authority: I certainly may take the liberty of reading a letter that is thus carelessly left about.

I pretend not to question your right, Lady Susan, said Louisa in a firm though modest tone; but that right can certainly not extend to me.

Louisa, remonstrated her ladyship in a serious voice, not unmingled with displeasure,—it is no idle curiosity which induces me to wish to know the contents of this letter. You know it is not likely that many more hours will be allowed me in this world; and I feel it my duty, as long as life remains, to do all in my power to become acquainted with the characters of those amongst whom I leave the wealth with which

Providence has intrusted me. I feel persuaded, from what I have observed of Anna's conduct, that she is either uncommonly amiable or most shockingly the contrary: which of the two it is, I believe that letter would determine; and on that account alone I wish you to read it.

Impossible, my dear aunt: I cannot do it.

Do you wish again to displease me, Louisa? asked her ladyship, fixing her eyes upon Louisa's face.

Oh no! cried the agitated but conscientious girl, whilst the tears streamed down her face. Not for the world would I displease you, if I could avoid it by what I did not think wrong; for it is impossible to tell what I have already suffered from having incurred your disapprobation.

Yet, if my suspicions be well founded, this letter may be the means of exonerating you. Will you not let me enjoy the happiness, therefore, before it is too late, of having you restored to my confidence? or, must I think that you shrink from examination?

Dearly as I value your good opinion, and wretched as I have been at the loss of it, cried Louisa,—sinking on her knees at the side of the bed,—I cannot, I dare not, avoid it by doing what would be a reproach to me for the rest of my life. But, added she,—recollecting herself and rising as she spoke,—I will go and seek Anna, that she may either read it to you herself, or give me authority to do so.

Were Anna to read the letter herself, replied Lady Susan, I should not be any more satisfied than I am at present. If she be capable of duplicity at all, she may easily deceive me in the reading of the letter. I have no doubt she would appear very ready to read it; but I could not be sure that she did it faithfully.

As your ladyship is already suspicious, said Louisa, you will easily be able to determine whether she reads it or only pretends to do so. Allow me, therefore, to go and bring her.

As Louisa spoke she hastened out of the room, still holding the half-opened letter in her hand. Whilst she entered the dressing-room by one door, Anna appeared coming in at the other. Here, Anna, said she, holding out the letter as she spoke, —here is a letter which Lady Susan wishes to have read to her; I was just coming in search of you, that you might read it.

Not for the world would I have her to hear it, cried Anna, taking the letter and immediately tearing it to pieces. Here, Mrs. Wilson, added she, turning to that lady, who had just risen from the couch,—be so good as put it into the first fire you come to. As she spoke she placed the letter, which she had torn into narrow shreds, in Mrs. Wilson's hand. The best mode of withstanding temptation is to keep out of the way of it, continued she; so I may now, I think, venture to appear before her ladyship.

Anna had scarcely time to collect her thoughts

so as to determine what to say to Lady Susan, before she found herself at her bed-side.—I wish you to do me the favour to read your mother's letter to me, said her ladyship as soon as she saw Anna, I have taken a strange fancy to hear it.

The fear, replied Anna, that a wish to oblige you, my dear Lady Susan, might tempt me to do what I should afterwards repent, has induced me to put it out of my own power altogether. I destroyed the letter as soon as ever Louisa gave it to me.

And were you not afraid of incurring a displeasure which might be of serious importance to you? asked Lady Susan.

I was indeed, replied Anna with a look of great concern: but I could not think of doing what was wrong, for the sake of avoiding even Lady Susan's displeasure.

This is very strange, cried her ladyship. How am I to come at the truth? Where each performs her part so well, How am I to discover the mere actor?

Anna's having courage to destroy the letter when she knew she wished to hear its contents, had been entirely unlooked for by Lady Susan. She had imagined that Anna might endeavour to deceive her in the reading of it, and even carry on the deception so well that there would be no possibility of her discovering it: but that she should have courage both to destroy the letter and so openly avow that she had done so, completely bewildered all her ladyship's preconceived opi-

nions ; and she lay quite at a loss what judgement to form. Conjectures and uncertainties, however, were too much for her weak state ; and soon overpowered her so much, that she again fell into one of those sleeps which seemed more like the extinction of being than the wholesome repose of nature.

Louisa, as soon as she found Lady Susan and Anna had ceased speaking, returned to her station by her bed-side, to watch with anxious solicitude lest the vital spark should be altogether extinguished whilst they imagined that she only slept. The certainty that she had acted with honourable and conscientious firmness was a sweet and soothing idea to the amiable girl, which supported her under every painful reflection. And though she saw a relation whom she loved and venerated on the point of expiring with all her former suspicions on her mind, she felt a sweet satisfaction from the recollection of her own behaviour. There is a time, thought she, when the truth will be made known, and my whole heart will be seen as it is. Till then, dear venerable Lady Susan, I must wait to be reinstated in your highly valued opinion.—Mournful and sad, but with a more placid and tranquil mind than she had felt since the time of Albert's absenting himself, she sat watching the feeble signs of life which appeared in the extended form before her.

But how different was the situation of Anna's mind ! Conscious she had that within which she

would not for the world should be discovered, she was continually on the alarm lest any one should have come to the knowledge of more than she intended them to know. She shrunk, she could not tell why, from Mrs. Wilson's observation; for she found something particularly painful in her earnest and penetrating gaze. Yet when that lady had been some time out of the room, she became still more uneasy to know the reason of her being so unusually long absent. Why she was thus uneasy she could scarcely explain to herself: for it was not at all probable that Mrs. Wilson entertained the slightest suspicion of what had that morning occurred; or if she did, it was equally unlikely that she would be able to ascertain the fact. There had always, however, been a dread upon Anna's mind with respect to her; for there was a keen though silent sort of observation about that lady, which she felt well aware was likely to be much more dangerous than that of those who obtruded themselves more upon the attention. She recollected many instances when Mrs. Wilson had been in the room without her having been conscious of it, and consequently not upon her guard against observation. Still, however, she endeavoured to satisfy herself with the reflection, that should Mrs. Wilson even entertain suspicions, unless she could prove them also,—which she believed would be impossible,—she could do her little injury.

Hour after hour passed on in this way, and

Lady Susan remained in nearly the same state,—though Louisa had begun to hope that there was more the appearance of natural sleep in her present state,—when about ten o'clock a servant entered the room to inform Louisa she was wanted; and on her going into the dressing-room she added that it was Mr. Cleveland who wished to speak with her.

With a palpitating heart Louisa proceeded into the breakfast-room. But how different was the Louisa which now appeared before Albert, to the one whom he had been accustomed to see! The gay, light, elastic trip, was exchanged for a step which, though urged on by anxiety, was weak and trembling from extreme agitation. Her cheek was robbed of its colour by want of sleep and constant watching; and her eyes, which had been wont to throw around their bright flashes of radiance like the dancing reflection of a mirror which is moved about in the sun, were now languid and spiritless, and fixed themselves upon Albert's face with a look of the most intense anxiety.

With eager solicitude Albert inquired after Lady Susan, and heard with unfeigned concern the doubtful state in which she lay; then fixing his eyes upon his cousin, he cried with a look of the most affectionate sympathy, How ill you look! How much you must have suffered since I left you!

Oh, Albert! said Louisa, her voice trembling

with emotion; what must we not have suffered, both on your account and lady Susan's?

On mine! Were you under any anxiety about me? Did Anna not receive a note on your return from the theatre, to say that I was called to attend the death-bed of a friend?

Never! replied Louisa. If it had been delivered, how much distress might it have saved!

Albert then explained that he had given it to a servant at the inn where it was written, to send by a porter; but the commission it seemed had been neglected. I am now come, however, to clear up all mysteries, and restore myself, I hope, to your good opinion, said Albert with a smile which Louisa recognized as more like the natural expression of his countenance than any she had ever observed since his arrival in Edinburgh. I have brought a letter for Lady Susan, continued he, which will I trust reinstate me in her esteem: but if you have patience to hear rather a long story, I will give you a fuller explanation than it will be necessary to trouble her ladyship with.—Albert then proceeded to give in a brief manner what is here more fully related.

Soon after his arrival in Edinburgh, Lady Susan introduced him to a young man of the name of Clavering, a distant relation of her ladyship's, and an orphan, whom she had just fitted out for a voyage to India, whither he was going with the intention of practising as a surgeon.—The young men soon became very sociable; for they mutu-

ally admired each other's talents, and had great pleasure in each other's society. But it was not long before Albert was struck with the idea of there being something about his new companion that he was anxious to conceal, and was almost inclined to suspect him of some impropriety of conduct; but as he could never satisfy himself that he had sufficient grounds for these suspicions, he always endeavoured to banish them as soon as possible.

One evening, whilst Albert sat with Lady Susan, Clavering came in and informed her ladyship, that as he found it would be necessary for him to join his ship very soon, he had determined to go in a smack which was to sail from Leith the following day, and had therefore come to take his leave. Albert observed on Lady Susan's bidding him good bye, that she made him a present, and rejoiced at the circumstance: for he had come to the decision, as the most favourable mode of accounting for the peculiarity of Clavering's manner, that he must labour under pecuniary embarrassment, which he hoped this money would serve to remove.

They left Lady Susan's house together; Albert declaring, as soon as they got out, that he would accompany Clavering to his lodgings, and spend the rest of the evening with him. It was not long, however, before he discovered in his companion an evident anxiety to get rid of him; whilst a something, he scarcely knew what, in-

duced Albert to determine not to leave him : and they wandered along several streets without seeming to know whither they were going.—At length Clavering made a full stop. Cleveland, said he, Did you ever try your fortune at billiards ?

I have often played to try my skill, but never my fortune.

Suppose, then, you make the first attempt now. Here is a billiard table at hand.

Not for the world, answered Albert. Nor shall you, Clavering, if I can prevent it. You are not sufficiently master of yourself tonight for any thing of the kind.

Not master of myself ! cried Clavering, colouring with anger. Why should I not be master of myself, pray ?

The reason I cannot pretend to tell, answered Albert calmly : I only answer to the fact. But I should suppose, your being on the eve of departure for so long a time might sufficiently account for your agitation.

Oh ! I see how it is, answered his companion contemptuously ; you want to worm my secret out of me, to serve your own noble ends. I know the virtues of the Cleveland family. I have already enjoyed the advantage of your mother and sister's services ; and now, I suppose, I am to have the benefit of yours.

However my mother and sister may have erred, answered Albert,—who felt but too conscious that they had indeed used means to check Lady

Susan's growing partiality to this young man,—you must not suspect me without a trial; for I never have nor ever will injure you.

The air of sincerity and kindness with which Albert spoke, made its way to Clavering's heart. —I am a lost man, unless some unlooked-for good fortune come to me, replied he; and if I must fall, it signifies little whether I fall by your hand or another's. I will trust you, therefore, if you will promise never to betray me.

That I do most solemnly, returned Albert. If I can serve you, I will do it most gladly; but never, never will I injure you.

I will trust you, said Clavering, seeming to make a severe effort. Walk along this street, and I will tell you all. Know then, continued he, as they went forward,—for they had been too earnest in conversation to move before from the spot where they first stopped,—Know then, that I am a ruined man, unless I can this night gain enough to extricate me from my difficulties. A run of ill luck has plunged me over head and ears in debt. Besides debts of honour, a thousand others press upon me; for, I am ashamed to say, all the money that I have had from Lady Susan has gone towards discharging those of the former kind. I had hoped that perhaps her parting present might be sufficient to clear all away; but she only gave me two hundred pounds, and I owe five.—Unless this night should bring me better luck, therefore,

the whole business must be exposed to Lady Susan, and I dished for life.

You surely would not attempt, said Albert, to seek in the same dangerous course which has produced the evil, to find a cure.

There is nothing else for me, replied the other: It is now kill or cure!

We must make the cure certain, and never think of killing, returned Albert. Let us go to your lodgings, and talk the matter over quietly.

It needs no talking over, said Clavering; the billiard-table must settle it one way or other.

I will say nothing more on the subject, returned Albert, dragging him along, till we are in your own room.

When they got there, Albert addressed him in a serious and impressive manner, anxious to make him sensible of the dangerous and destructive vice to which he was yielding; and then told him that, provided he could put his creditors off for a few days to give him time to get money from London, he had three hundred pounds which should be at his service.

Eagerly was the proposal embraced; Clavering declaring that he had only proposed going the following day by way of procuring Lady Susan's parting gift, which he had hoped would have been sufficient to clear all off:—Though in truth it was an unreasonable expectation, added he; for she has already done a thousand times more than I

deserve. He then added, that he should, with the two hundred pounds he had, pay off the most urgent of his creditors; and making some excuse to his patroness for his protracted stay, would wait with great satisfaction till the arrival of Albert's money. But what security can I offer you, my dear Cleveland? said he.

Your promise never to gamble any more, replied Albert earnestly. That security I shall deem amply sufficient.

You are a noble fellow; and I only wish I may be able to prove myself worthy of your generous efforts to save me. But I dare not give my promise. I can rely on yours; yet I am afraid to trust my own.

In due time Albert received his money from London, and immediately transferred it to Clavering; inwardly rejoicing at thus having it in his power to make amends for the injury which his mother and sister had sought to do him, and which was as repugnant to his nature as it was congenial with theirs.

Albert was a good deal surprised, however, to find that from this time Clavering never talked of going away. He told Lady Susan that he had found his presence in London was not necessary so soon as he had imagined; and a strong suspicion haunted Albert's mind that the infatuated young man was not yet cured of his dangerous propensity. He endeavoured to keep a watch over him as much as possible; but at this Clav-

vering pretended to be very indignant, saying he supposed his being his debtor appeared to Albert to give him a right to assume a control over his actions; but he hoped he should soon have the satisfaction of being released from such thralldom. Albert, however, was too confident of the purity of his own intentions to be diverted from his purpose by such reflections; and he still continued to watch over him, though he endeavoured to do it in a manner as little offensive to Clavering's irritable temper as was possible.

One evening they met together in a large party at Mr. Sinclair's; and Albert remarked that Clavering seemed to take little interest in the amusements that were going forward. Being himself, however, engaged in dancing, a considerable time elapsed before he noticed that Clavering had made his escape. Confident of the purpose of his going, Albert immediately determined to follow him; and therefore hastened without loss of time to the house at which he had stopped the night when he had laid his secret open to him. Contrary to his expectations, Clavering was not there, though Albert could not help strongly suspecting that he had been aware of his approach, and had concealed himself for the purpose of escaping detection. He sought for him in several other houses of the same description, but to no purpose; till at length, weary of the search, and finding it now too late to join the party again at Mr. Sinclair's, he returned home, though still ex-

tremely uneasy about the fate of his imprudent friend.

The following morning Clavering appeared at an early hour; and the moment he came in, placing a note for a hundred pounds before Albert,—Here sir, said he, is one-third of the debt with which I am encumbered; and I hope it will not be long before I have the happiness to return the remainder.

Clavering, replied Albert, a slight flush of indignation passing over his cheek, I shall take no notice of this behaviour, though conscious it is so different from what I deserve. You must excuse me, however, taking this money; for I would not, by receiving what has been acquired in the way that I know this has been, be the means of inducing you to take the same mode of discharging the whole of your debt.

What! cried Clavering; will you not allow me to release myself whilst I am able? Are you determined to keep me under you, that you may retain the power of tormenting? Am I still to be subject to a keeper, and that too of a boy not yet of age?

As he said this, he looked at Albert with an expression of the most ineffable contempt. But the generous young man was alike unmoved by his scorn or his anger, and steadily refused to take the money, declaring that he never would be paid till he was sure the money he received had been gained in an honourable manner.

Enraged at his obstinacy, Clavering rushed from him ; and it was several days before he saw any thing of him again. Observing in the newspaper, however, one day, that the ship in which Clavering's passage had been engaged and paid for was expected to sail in the course of a few days, Albert hastened to his lodgings to inform him of the circumstance, lest he himself should not have noticed it. He was not at home ; nor could he obtain any information where to find him. He inquired of the people of the house, whether they had heard him express any intention of leaving Edinburgh in the course of a day or two. They had not ; and Albert was therefore more anxious than ever to see him. It was then about nine o'clock ; he called again at twelve, but Clavering was not returned. He went to the old suspected spot, but was told he was not there. He therefore returned home, with the determination of being with him in the morning before he should get out.

At six o'clock he proceeded to his lodgings, not doubting but he then should be sure to find him. Still, however, he had not appeared ; and, convinced that nothing but the gaming-table could have detained him, he again hastened thither, determined to make his way to the spot where he expected to find him with greater caution than he had hitherto done.—But the same danger of being observed no longer existed. Clavering, his passions inflamed with the business of the night, in

which he had experienced a run of ill luck, was incapable of seeing or hearing any thing but the one single object which engrossed his whole soul; nor was it till Albert placed his hand on his shoulder that he was conscious of his presence.

Aware of his state of mind, Albert informed him of his errand in the gentlest and most soothing tone. But what are the gentlest words in the ears of a mad-man? Firing at the idea of Albert's wish to govern him, he fell into the most violent rage. Albert endeavoured to remonstrate; but remonstrance was vain. At length, provoked beyond further endurance at his insolent conduct, and hopeless of being of service, he was obliged to leave him; though he could not do so without feeling extreme concern at the certain ruin which was impending over him.

But Albert could not rest long without going again to look after this unfortunate being; and, to his infinite surprise, he found him not only returned to his lodgings, but perfectly restored to his senses.

Is it possible, cried he as Albert entered the room, that you can think of coming near me again? Has even my scandalous ingratitude not been sufficient to subdue the benevolence of your nature? Oh, Cleveland! I am unworthy of this generous care.

Not if I could save you by it, should I think a thousand times more too much, replied the generous Albert, delighted to see the improved state

of Clavering's mind. And now I begin to hope my efforts will not prove ineffectual.

No, they shall not be lost! You shall not go unrewarded for such exemplary goodness! I thought I had worn you out when you left me this morning; and though I had been so ungrateful for the blessing whilst it remained in my possession, no sooner did I believe that it was lost to me for ever, than all the horrors of remorse assailed me at the enormities of my conduct. I left the ensnaring spot immediately after; and I have just taken a vow, Cleveland, which in your presence I now repeat, that I will never more enter its dangerous precincts.

And you will set off immediately for the ship? said Albert, his countenance beaming with pleasure.

If the power of going still be within my reach. But of that I am doubtful; for my debts are much greater than my means of paying.

They now entered into an examination of his affairs; when it appeared, that (setting aside the gambling debts, which Albert declared his determination to disregard till Clavering had other means of discharging them,) sixty pounds would set him clear, and enable him to proceed to London immediately. This the liberality of Lady Susan put it in Albert's power to advance.

Promising, therefore, to pay all the demands upon him, though conscious that by so doing he should subject himself to great embarrassment for

some time, he urged Clavering to prepare for setting off that afternoon by the mail, as no time was to be lost. With the most cheerful alacrity he assisted him in packing up; taking upon himself the arrangement of every thing that required any forethought or consideration, for which the agitation of Clavering's mind completely incapacitated him. All was ready for his departure time enough to allow him to go and bid Lady Susan adieu, whither Albert accompanied him, and then proceeded with him to the coach.—I can scarcely expect you to depend on my resolution, said Clavering as they approached the coach-office; I must trust therefore to time, to convince you that I am sincere.

Had you promised for yourself in the first instance, returned Albert, I might now have doubted you: but this is the first promise I have ever received; and on it I fully depend.—The coach was ready for setting off; and shaking Albert cordially by the hand, Clavering mounted on the top, and was soon out of sight.

From that time Clavering was no more heard of. The papers of the day mentioned the sailing of the Indiaman; but no letter from Clavering announced his departure. Lady Susan often wondered that he had not written; but, concluding that in the haste of sailing he had left his letter in charge with some one who had forgotten to forward it, the matter was dropt, and she gave up all idea of hearing from him before that time

twelvemonth, which was as soon as a letter could arrive from India.

Albert, too, wondered much at never hearing from him; but having no better way of accounting for his silence than that which Lady Susan had adopted, he was obliged, like her, to be satisfied with it. Nothing but the noble integrity of his own heart could have made amends to Albert for the painful suspicions in which his conduct towards Clavering soon afterwards involved him: but he trusted to the omnipotent power of innocence and virtue to restore him to her ladyship's good opinion; and in the mean time felt the most delightful satisfaction in having rescued the name of Clavering from the stigma which Clavering had with but too much justice attached to it.

The evening on which they were at the theatre, a note, as Miss Macbride had said, was delivered to him. It was merely a few hasty lines written in pencil, to say that a person wished to speak with him at the Royal Hotel.—He immediately obeyed the summons, curious to know the occasion of it; yet not doubting that he should soon be at liberty to return to his party.

On arriving there, however, he found a gentleman who informed him that he came from Mr. Edward Clavering, who was lying at that time in an inn one stage from Glasgow, on the point of death, if not already dead. His agony of mind seemed so great, said the gentleman, at the idea of not being able to reach Edinburgh, where he

understood you were, that I offered to post forward as fast as possible, and send you in the same manner back. I inquired at Lady Susan Melville's for you, as directed; and finding you were at the theatre, I took the liberty of sending thither for you, as there is no time to be lost, if you are to see him alive; for the surgeon was of opinion when I left, that twelve hours were almost the utmost that he could be expected to live.

It is unnecessary to say that Albert lost no time: but finding the gentleman had ordered a post chaise to be ready for him, he merely staid to write a few hasty lines to Anna, to account for his absence; which he left in charge with a waiter (but which as we have seen was never delivered), and immediately set off. A few hours brought him to the bedside of the expiring Clavering, who seemed to have struggled against death itself in his anxiety to see him; and as Albert approached, his eyes, which had become glazed with death, once more brightened with animation. He stretched forth his hand with a feeble effort:—I knew you would come, said he, speaking with great difficulty; and I am not disappointed.

The laboured manner in which he spoke made it difficult for Albert to understand him. He made out, however, that finding on his arrival in London that the vessel had sailed a few hours before, he had been so struck with remorse and despair that a violent illness had ensued, which had confined him for many weeks: that on his reco-

very, being anxious to keep the circumstance from Lady Susan's knowledge, and being ashamed to make his situation known to Albert, lest it should appear a further claim upon his services, he determined not to write to either, but endeavour as soon as possible to get a situation in which he could provide for himself. It was not long before he got into a merchantman, and was in hopes that the change of climate and sea voyage would re-establish his health. But the hope was vain: he lingered on between life and death; and at length was obliged to leave the vessel at the Cape, and take his passage in another, bound for Liverpool. By the time of his arrival at that place, his complaint (which was on his liver, and had been increased by the agitation and anxiety of his mind,) had got to such a height that he was scarcely able to be moved. He determined to remain at the house of a relation whom he had in Liverpool, till he could learn where Albert Cleveland was to be found, to see whom was the most anxious wish of his heart. On inquiring for this relation, however, he found he had been dead some months, and had left the whole of his property, which was very considerable, to him.—Clavering's impatience to see Albert was only increased by this circumstance; but how to find him was a serious difficulty. By a fortunate accident, however, he discovered that Mrs. Cleveland had just come over from Dublin to Liverpool. Gratitude and affection for the son overcame his reluctance to see the

mother ; and he sent a respectful note, describing his situation, and requesting the favour of her to call upon him. His request was immediately complied with : and in the course of conversation Clavering discovered, with extreme surprise and consternation, that Albert had laboured for some time under Lady Susan's displeasure, on account of being suspected of having squandered his money at the gaming-table ; as he had expended a larger sum than was likely in any other way to have been disposed of. Clavering made few remarks to Mrs. Cleveland on the subject ; for the feelings which could lead her to expose the supposed vices of her son, renewed all his former contempt for her character : but his anxiety to make amends to his injured and generous friend, by explaining to her ladyship the real state of the case, seemed for a time to give him renewed strength. He took shipping for Greenock, as the easiest mode of travelling ; but first took care to leave in the hands of a respectable attorney such papers as were best calculated to fulfil his wishes, provided he should never arrive at his journey's end. On landing at Greenock he proceeded towards Edinburgh ; and had got one stage beyond Glasgow, when he became so alarmingly ill that it was impossible for him to proceed : and his distressing situation, and extreme anxiety of mind, so excited the compassion of a gentleman at the inn where he stopped, that he undertook, as has been related, to be his messenger to Albert.

And now, said Clavering, after having in disjointed sentences given Albert the substance of what has just been explained—and now I have accomplished my end: I have seen you! I have the happiness to tell you, that I have preserved my oath inviolate; and that I release you, gratefully release you, from yours. Here is a letter for you; and another for Lady Susan, added he after a long pause, in which he struggled violently for breath. Deliver her ladyship's with your own hands: and may God reward you, and forgive me! As he uttered the last word, his eyes closed; and giving Albert's hand a feeble pressure, he expired without a groan.

Events had succeeded each other so rapidly, that Albert could scarcely believe himself awake, as he stood contemplating the lifeless corpse before him. Poor Clavering! said he; few are possessed of so many amiable and brilliant talents as adorned thy mind. The want of early education, which would have taught thee to curb and regulate thy strong passions, has alone destroyed thee!

On opening his letter, Albert found to his infinite surprise that Clavering had left to him the whole of the property which had devolved to him by the death of his relation; only requesting him to pay out of it the debts of honour which he owed. To whom, said he in his letter, could I give it, where I am so much obliged? In what hands could I deposit it, where it will be so nobly used?—The circumstance of its being at an inn induced Albert to hasten the interment of the body,

after which he immediately returned to Edinburgh.

I have now, I hope, said he, as he finished his little narrative, cleared myself from all doubt and suspicion. And Louisa I trust will no longer look on me with coldness.

That I have never done; answered Louisa; nor did I ever, till after you disappeared from the theatre, know what it was to suspect or doubt.

What then was the cause of your being so unkind?

Was I ever unkind? asked Louisa with surprise.

I have thought you so, ever since I came to Edinburgh. More particularly so that night at the theatre.

Could it be unkind to leave you to Miss Macbride?

Dear Louisa! What is Miss Macbride to me in comparison with you?

I thought, said Louisa ingenuously and with great simplicity, that Miss Macbride was more to you than all the world together.

And was this idea, asked Albert eagerly, the cause of your giving her the scarf?

What scarf? I do not understand what you mean.—Albert was silent with surprise; for the truth in an instant flashed across his mind. Oh, it is only nonsense, said he, at length recovering himself; and is not worth talking about.

Louisa was equally ready to drop the subject, for the truth had been brought to her mind also

by Albert's manner; and therefore she eagerly said, I will go and see how Lady Susan is. Oh! I hope it is not too late for her to hear the joyful intelligence!—With a different step from that with which she had left it, did Louisa now return to Lady Susan's apartment. Her ladyship had just revived a short time before she entered; and though still weaker seemed perfectly collected, and spoke with her usual ease. Your countenance bespeaks some joyful intelligence, Louisa, said she. Are your father and mother arrived?

No, ma'am, but I hope it will not be long before we see them. And in the mean time I have to announce another stranger.—Albert is returned.

And returned with honour I am sure, by your countenance.

He is indeed, replied Louisa almost breathless with delight; and only waits for your permission to come and give an account of himself.

Let him come directly, returned her ladyship, for it may be soon too late.

Mrs. Wilson here interposed, and insisted that the invalid should have some nourishment; and whilst she was receiving it, Louisa prepared the way, by informing her of the death of Edward Clavering, whose last moments Albert had been called away to attend; and explained to her as briefly as possible the reason of that young man's being in England when she thought he was in India. This done, her ladyship begged that Albert might be called; and he and Anna (who had gone to

welcome him as soon as Louisa had announced his arrival) soon after entered the room.

Albert, said Lady Susan as he had approached her bed-side, weak and fading as my mind is, it anticipates all that I am to hear; Edward Clavering was the——She paused from weakness, and Albert held out the letter which he had to deliver to her. Who will read it to me? Who can I ask to read it to me? added she, looking at each of the young people by turns.

I believe I shall be best able, said Mrs. Wilson, coming forward.

Take it then, replied Lady Susan, and read so that all may hear.

Mrs. Wilson took the letter; and opening the seal, read as follows, in a distinct voice:

Dear Madam,

I thank Heaven that I have, before I die, the opportunity of correcting a mistake, of which I have been unknowingly the cause. The money which it seems you believed to have been wasted in a manner so exceptionable by Albert, my generous and noble friend, was indeed so wasted—but not by him. His soul is too pure for the society of gamblers, his views too just for the gains they pursue. They were my debts which were discharged; and in generously securing me, it appears he has injured himself. Farewell, madam: restore him to your esteem; you must be

R

doubly convinced of his worth.—My prayer for your welfare and his, is nearly the last effort of,

Dear madam,

Your penitent and grateful servant,

EDWARD CLAVERING.

Poor Edward! said Lady Susan as Mrs. Wilson finished reading the letter: What a pity that such talents should have been so destroyed! But what amends can I make to you, my dear boy? added she, looking at Albert with the most affectionate expression of countenance.

I need nothing, said Albert, but that look, to compensate for all.

You have already enjoyed a reward far beyond any that I can bestow, returned her ladyship, in the applause of your own heart. Yet it is my duty to add my testimony likewise. There is a paper in that desk: I once had a different purpose for it; but I am unable to determine on the propriety of my former intention. It shall therefore be yours; and then I can have no doubt of its being well bestowed. Mrs. Wilson, will you bring it here? But Mrs. Wilson had left the room just as her ladyship had begun to speak of the paper. Then, Louisa, my love, you deposited it; will you bring it to me again?

With a ready step Louisa went to the basket for the key, and, opening the escrutoire, took out the pocket-book; but was much surprised, on un-

clasping it, to find the paper no longer there. Supposing, however, that it had been removed without Lady Susan's recollecting the circumstance, she went to the bed to inform her that the paper was not to be found.

That is extraordinary! replied her ladyship. Are you certain you put it carefully by, as I directed you?

Perfectly certain, ma'am, said Louisa with a firm steady voice. I put it into this case, added she, holding up the pocket-book as she spoke.

Perhaps Mrs. Wilson may have removed it unknown to your ladyship, said Anna, endeavouring to speak with composure: but her voice trembled in spite of her utmost efforts.

Mrs. Wilson is never in the habit of interfering with my papers without my knowledge. Call her, however, and let her help to look for it.—Albert hastened to bring Mrs. Wilson, and immediately returned with her. Mrs. Wilson, continued Lady Susan as her friend approached the bed, the draft which Louisa put into that pocket-book about a fortnight ago is no longer there—Can you account for its disappearance?

I will assist you in seeking for it by and by, replied Mrs. Wilson in a tone of indifference which astonished Louisa; but at present I have other business on my mind. Mr. Cleveland's character is not yet quite cleared: there is still another suspicion resting upon him.—Albert turned to Mrs. Wilson as she spoke, with a look of calm steady

inquiry: Louisa started; and Anna, trembling within, endeavoured to look composed.

Your ladyship, continued Mrs. Wilson with great composure and without appearing to take notice of any of their looks, was very desirous this morning of hearing a letter read; and much displeased with Miss Granville for refusing to read it to you. Miss Cleveland, too, was equally unwilling to oblige you, and tearing the paper in pieces, gave it to me to put into the fire as she went to obey your ladyship's summons. I, however, was more anxious to gratify your curiosity. I therefore determined to examine the tattered fragments. It is not much of the writing that I have been able to preserve; for pasting it on another paper has destroyed it on one side. Enough, however, remains to account for Miss Granville's being so soon without money, after your ladyship's liberality to her.

Louisa seemed almost fainting. Oh! Mrs. Wilson, said she; why would you revive that painful subject? Let it drop, I entreat you!

I am very sorry to distress you, my dear Miss Granville, said Mrs. Wilson gently yet steadily: but justice must be done. Will your ladyship give me leave to read what I have preserved of Mrs. Cleveland's letter?

Certainly, replied Lady Susan in a faint voice; and I hope the importance of the occasion will excuse the liberty we take.—Mrs. Wilson then read the following words:

"I am delighted with your plan of keeping back the thirty pounds which Louisa advanced to bring

Albert to Edinburgh. It will have the double effect of throwing Louisa into difficulties for want of money (for it is vain to hope her own imprudence would do it), and it will, by shaking her confidence in Albert, make her less kind to him; which I hope will wean his affections, and induce him to turn with more attention to Miss Macbride. There is no doubt it would be the best thing for him that could happen; and he will, I am sure, thank us for it after the romantic enthusiasm of one-and-twenty is over. If you accomplish this end, my dear Anna, you will have made ample amends to him for the anonymous letter you wrote to Lady Susan, when he drew the money out of the Bank. It is very painful to have these unpleasant things to do, but they are sometimes unavoidable; and when such important objects are to be obtained, they must be submitted to. There is not the slightest danger of Louisa's making a disclosure. She, who when a mere child could preserve so inviolably the secret of your having taken the medal which she was punished for losing, will never as a woman attempt to clear herself by exposing the sister of Albert. I need not say how much I wish you may succeed in getting the draft entirely to yourself; for you know the interest your welfare must ever excite in the bosom of

Your affectionate mother,

SUSANNA CLEVELAND."

A profound silence continued for some minutes after Mrs. Wilson had ceased speaking: each was absorbed in feelings too acute to be expressed. Mrs. Wilson, conscious of their situations, and deeming it best, now that she had entered upon the work, to go forward with it, and get it over as quickly as possible, made a violent effort with herself; and then turning to Lady Susan, said,

I promised to assist your ladyship in recovering the draft; I will now fulfill my promise. I was advised last night to go whilst you slept, and endeavour to get a little sleep myself. Circumstances which it is unnecessary to mention, made me readily comply with the advice, and I lay down on the couch in your ladyship's dressing-room. I had not been long there before a light glanced upon my eyes; and on looking up I found it to be reflected upon my face from a mirror which happens to be placed in the direct angle between the couch and your escrutoire. It was unnecessary for me, therefore, to move; for I had nothing to do but to lie and observe all that went forward in that part. I saw the desk opened by a female hand; the pocket-book taken out, and the paper examined. And here let me do the justice to say, that the first intention appeared to be merely to gratify curiosity. What thoughts, however, passed whilst the paper was held as if in hesitation, I cannot pretend to say. All I know is, that it was not replaced: the pocket-book was closed, and the desk locked. This is all I know, for at that moment the light was extin-

guished. For further information, therefore, about this paper, your ladyship must apply to Miss Cleveland.

A faint scream from Anna made them all start; and before Albert could reach her she had fallen senseless on the floor. As well as the agitation of his mind and frame would allow, he raised his fainting sister, and carried her into her own room; the weeping Louisa following to render the necessary assistance to recover her. As soon as Albert had deposited his burthen on a couch, Louisa desired him to send Johnson (Lady Susan's maid) to her, from the kind consideration that it would be less embarrassing to Anna on her recovery to have a third person present. It was a considerable time before she came to her recollection: when she did, however, she begged to be left alone; and saying she did not wish any one to come near her for a few hours, as she felt at present quite overpowered, she dismissed both her attendants.

Louisa hastened immediately to Lady Susan's room, and found that her ladyship had sent for Mr. Mackenzie in great haste; but before he arrived she had again sunk asleep. That gentleman, however, at Mrs. Wilson's request, had determined to remain in the house till she either awoke or was past all hope of ever doing so more. Louisa took her accustomed station at the side of the bed, to watch the fluctuations of a life which now seemed to be so nearly at its last ebb. The late disclosures, though they had distressed, had not

much surprised Louisa. Her mind, though pure itself, and unsuspecting of evil, possessed too keen a sense of right and wrong not to be frequently alarmed by the questionable appearance of Anna's conduct. With Albert she sincerely sympathized; for she well knew how repugnant to his mind must be such mean artifices, such base and dishonourable conduct. How strange to think that they are so nearly allied! thought she; the offspring of the same parents! But I remember my father and mother saying many years ago, that the time which Albert spent between the age of six and twelve, with his paternal grandfather, who was a most respectable man, had given a stamp to his future character. And the noble integrity of his heart has since proved the justness of the remark. In the midst of these reflections the room door gently opened, and Louisa beheld her mother enter. How different were her feelings on beholding that beloved parent, from what they would have been a few hours before! The conscious innocence of her heart would indeed have been the same, and she was well assured that her mother would not have condemned her upon mere supposition; but she must at the best have appeared under that veil of concealment which is ever painful to an ingenuous mind. Since she had last seen her mother, how much, in her short and eventful life, seemed to have occurred! To her, who had scarcely ever before known a pain, how much appeared to have been borne! yet as she threw herself into her

mother's arms, and felt herself fondly pressed to her breast in a manner which plainly told to Louisa that Mrs. Wilson had taken care to let her know all that had passed, she felt fully rewarded for what she had endured, and every thing unpleasant was at once erased from her mind. Mrs. Granville drew near the bed, and contemplated the face of her more than mother. The hand of death seemed already to have stamped the seal upon her venerable and still beautiful features; and as Mrs. Granville gazed on them, tears as warm as ever daughter shed dropped upon the cold hand she pressed. It seemed as though the tears of affection, which had always had such power over her heart, were still capable of warming it; for she soon after opened her eyes, and immediately recognised Mrs. Granville.

My dear Louisa, said she, in a faint but cheerful voice, you are come just in time. I was afraid you would not have arrived before the lamp was extinguished: but, continued she, seeming to recollect herself, I still have business to do, and my time is too short to allow a moment for pleasure whilst there is yet a duty unfinished. Go, my loves, into another room for a few minutes, and send Mr. Mackenzie and Mrs. Wilson to me.

In about a quarter of an hour they were again summoned to her ladyship, who was now so weak as scarcely to be able to speak. She asked, however, for Mrs. Granville and Albert.

There is another, who has been an almost hour-

ly inquirer after you, said Louisa; and who petitions to be allowed to see you: It is Charles, whose success at college has failed to give him pleasure, whilst so anxious on your account. May he accompany my father and Albert?

Certainly, my love: I only forbore to ask for him from an unwillingness to draw him from more important pursuits.

I hope, said Mrs. Granville, my children will never consider any thing more important than the duties of affection and gratitude.

I believe they will not, said Lady Susan, looking at her niece with the most tender affection:—with such a father and mother how can they fail of being all that the heart could wish?

Mrs. Granville now entered the room, accompanied by the two young men. As Charles approached, an affectionate though faint smile overspread her ladyship's countenance.

My dear boy, said she as Charles took her hand with a look of the deepest concern, I rejoice to hear of your success; may you be equally zealous and equally happy in every laudable pursuit, till you close a life as long as mine!—Let Anna also be sent for, continued her ladyship. Perhaps a word of admonition from the dying lips of affection may make an impression on her heart.

A servant was sent to inform her of her ladyship's wish to see her; and Albert was struggling with the repugnance he felt to the interview, when the servant came back and said Miss Cleveland

had gone out above two hours ago, and was not yet returned; but that she had desired that when she was asked for, the letter which the servant then presented should be given to Miss Granville. — Louisa took the letter, and opening it, the first thing she saw was the draft on the London Bank, which she offered to Lady Susan.

Give it to your father, my dear, said her ladyship; I have now done with all such concerns.

Louisa put the paper into her father's hand, and then perused the letter, which was as follows:

My dear Louisa,

Though you are too pure to have communion with vice, you are too nearly allied to virtue to treat it with severity. To you, therefore, though the person of all others whom I have most injured, I appeal; and intreat you to endeavour to make my peace with my justly-offended brother and the venerable Lady Susan. I am very sure that nobody either can have greater interest, or will be more ready to exert it. To meet at present would be equally painful to all: I have determined, therefore, to set off for London this afternoon by the mail, for my mother is the only person at present whom I can approach. I have no excuse to offer for myself, and therefore will not attempt any. I can only say that I feel a contrition which I hope will be lasting as life; and that I shall ever remain

Your affectionate and penitent cousin,

A. C.

Lady Susan directed her eyes to Louisa, as it anxious to know the purport of her letter. Louisa went forward with all the endearing grace of virtue in her most amiable form, towards her ladyship.

Will Lady Susan allow me to beg a favour? said she.

Yes, my love; and I will venture to promise it before it is asked.

May I then tell Anna that you forgive her? that you send her your blessing?

Forgive her! yes, Louisa! You set too high an example for me not to follow it. I am sorry Anna is gone: this scene might have been an useful lesson: she would have learnt the value of a life spent in the discharge of its duties, in making a death-bed happy. Tell her, added her ladyship, speaking with great difficulty, that I hope she will in future live so that she may not be afraid to die. Those tears, continued she, after a pause of several minutes, and looking round at her weeping friends, are grateful to my feelings: but too many of them must not be shed. My sun has not sunk till it has reached the utmost verge of the horizon; and it will rise again to a purer and brighter day, when we shall all meet again. Till then—"God bless you," she would have said, but her voice died away like the last cadence of soft and distant music; her eyes closed, and her features became still: yet so gently had the last breath been drawn, that those who had before seen her in so nearly similar a state, could scarcely believe that she did more

than sleep; till the motionless heart and stiffened limb, proved that the spark of life was really become extinct.

Violent grief for such a death was impossible: yet those who now withdrew weeping from the bed of death, felt that the memory of the virtuous Lady Susan would be loved and venerated as long as life continued.

After her ladyship's remains were committed to the tomb, and her will opened, it was found that the principal part of her property devolved to Mr. Granville. Many valuable legacies, however, were left; amongst which were ten thousand pounds each to Albert and Anna Cleveland; but in a codicil was added, that the whole of those sums were to be Albert's: whilst five thousand pounds were to be given to Anna at the end of three years, if the executors, who were Mr. Granville, Mr. Sinclair, and Albert, were then of opinion that she had become properly sensible of her errors. After this, were the following words—"I further will and decree that the said Charles Granville do in the presence of all those who are assembled to hear this my last will and testament, present to his daughter, Louisa Granville, the draft on Messrs. ———, bankers, London, for the sum of 10,000/., as a token of my high admiration of her scrupulous honour and disinterested generosity."

This, cried Albert, in a transport of delight, this literally is transmuting the baser metals into gold!

That must be proved by experience, said Mr. Granville, as he obeyed Lady Susan's commands, and presented the draft to his daughter. Louisa is very young to be intrusted with full power over so large a sum; and it must depend upon the manner in which she uses it, to determine whether this sterling gold be not reduced to the basest of metals.

I will pledge my life for her, cried Albert with enthusiasm.

Louisa raised her eyes to thank her ready bondsman; but the warm expression of admiration which she read in his animated countenance, obliged her to withdraw and veil them beneath their long silken lashes. The deep tinge of her cheek, however, proved how much she felt his generous confidence; and she inwardly breathed the vow that he should not be disappointed.

THE END.

Books for Youth,

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

By WILLIAM DARTON JUN.,

58, Holborn Hill, London.

1.

THE METAMORPHOSES; or, Effects of Education; a Tale. By the Author of "Aunt Mary's Tales," "The Ornaments Discovered," &c. &c. Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

2.

FOOD FOR THE YOUNG, adapted to the Mental Capacities of Children of tender Years. By a Mother. Price 2s. half-bound.

3.

PROFITABLE AMUSEMENT FOR CHILDREN; or Familiar Tales, combining useful Instruction with pleasing Entertainments. By the Author of "Learning better than House and Land." Price 2s. half-bound.

4.

THE ADVENTURES OF A DONKEY. By Arabella Argus, Author of "The Juvenile Spectator." Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

5.

THE ORNAMENTS DISCOVERED; a Story; Two Parts in One. By the Author of "Aunt Mary's Tales," "The Metamorphoses," &c. &c. Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

6.

A NEW HISTORY OF ENGLAND, from the Invasion of Julius Cæsar to the present Time; in Two Parts. Price 1s. each Part.

7.

THE ADVENTURES OF MY GRAND-MOTHER'S CAT; or, Puss in Boots. With numerous Copper-plates. Price 1s.

8.

THE HISTORY OF Mr. RIGHTWAY AND HIS PUPILS; an Entertaining and Instructive Lesson for Young Gentlemen. Written by William Francis Sullivan, A.M. Price 1s. 6d. half-bound.

9.

THE BOOK OF BIRDS; beautifully coloured: with a Description of each, adapted to the Capacities of Infant Minds, in Words of Two and Three Syllables. Price 1s. 6d.

10.

THE BOOK OF BEASTS; beautifully coloured; with a Description of each, adapted to the Capacities of Infant Minds, in Words of Two and Three Syllables. Price 1s. 6d.

11.

GRATEFUL TRIBUTES; or, Recollections of Infancy. By Mary Belson, Author of "Industry and Idleness," &c. Price with coloured Plates, 1s. 6d. And the same in 18mo with six plain Plates, (a New Edition). Price 6d.

12.

ROBIN HOOD; being a Complete History of all the Notable and Merry Exploits performed by

Him and his Men, on many occasions : with six fine engraved Plates. Price 6d.

13.

THE ADVENTURES OF THOMAS TWO SHOES: Being a Sequel to that of "The modern Goody Two Shoes." Price 1s. By Mary Belson, Author of "Industry and Idleness," "Simple Truths," &c. &c. &c.

14.

THIRTY-TWO REMARKABLE PLACES IN OLD ENGLAND; for the Instruction and Entertainment of Youth: with 9 Copper-plate Views. Price 6d. and with 18 Views. Price 1s.

15.

THE LITTLE VOCABULARY, intended as an Introduction to any of the larger Spelling Books, and particularly designed to assist Mothers in the Instruction of their young Children. By Mrs. Lovechild. Price 6d.

16.

EASY READING; adapted to the Capacities of Children from Five to Seven Years old; designed to advance them by natural and easy Gradations to the perusal of larger Works; being a Companion to, and intended to follow the "Little Vocabulary." Divided into a number of short Lessons, and embellished with many Wood Cuts. By Mrs. Lovechild. Price 1s.

17.

THE YELLOW SHOE-STRINGS; or, The Good Effects of Obedience to Parents. Price 1s.

18.

THE MODERN GOODY TWO-SHOES; exemplifying the Good Consequences of early At-

tention to Learning and Virtue. By Mary Belson, Author of "The Orphan Boy," "Industry and Idleness," &c. &c. Price 1s.

19.

HENRY : a Story for Little Boys and Girls from Five to Seven Years old. By Frances Boyer Vaux. In Two Parts. Price 1s. each Part.

20.

LECTURES AT MY SCHOOL; or, Play-Ground Conversations. By a Friend to Youth. Illustrated with upwards of Sixty elegant Engravings. Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

21.

LEARNING BETTER THAN HOUSE AND LAND, as exemplified in the History of Harry Johnson and Dick Hobson. By J. Carey, LL.D. 2s. 6d. half-bound.

22.

THE SCRIPTURE ALPHABET, by a Parent, for his Children; illustrated with Twenty-seven Engravings from Scripture. Price 1s.

23.

THE ADVENTURES of the Celebrated Little THOMAS DELLOW, who was Stolen from his Parents on the 18th of November, 1811, and restored to them on the 3d of January, 1812. Illustrated by eight characteristic Engravings. Price 1s.

24.

LONDON : a Descriptive Poem. Second Edition, corrected, and illustrated with elegant Views on Copper-plates. Price 1s.

25.

THE FIRST, or MOTHER'S CATECHISM;

containing Common Things necessary to be known at an early Age. By the Rev. David Blair. Price 9d.

26.

THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH PRIMER, or An Easy Vocabulary of Twelve Hundred common Words for the Use of Children. By the Abbé Boscut. Price 9d.

27.

A VISIT TO LONDON, containing a Description of the principal Curiosities in the British Metropolis. With Six Copper-plates. Price 2s. 6d.

28.

A VISIT TO A FARM HOUSE, or An Introduction to various Subjects connected with Rural Economy. Embellished with beautiful Plates. Price 2s. 6d.

29.

JUVENILE PLUTARCH; containing Accounts of the Lives of celebrated Children, and of the Infancy of Persons who have been illustrious for their Virtues or Talents. With Plates, Two Vols. Price 5s.

30.

THE WONDERS OF THE MICROSCOPE, or An Explanation of the Wisdom of the Creator in Objects comparatively minute, adapted to the Understanding of Young Persons. Illustrated with five large Copper-plates. Price 4s. 6d.

31.

THE WONDERS OF THE TELESCOPE, or A Display of the Starry Heavens and of the System of the Universe: calculated to promote and simplify the Study of Astronomy. With Fourteen Plates. Price 6s.

32.

THE JUVENILE SPECTATOR; being Observations on the Tempers, Manners, and Foibles of various Young Persons; interspersed with such lively Matter, as, it is presumed, will Amuse as well as Instruct. By Arabella Argus. Two Vols. in One. Price 8s. half-bound.

33.

THE WONDERS OF THE HORSE; recorded in Anecdotes, and interspersed with Poetry. By JOSEPH TAYLOR, Author of "Tales of the Robin." Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

34.

THE MICE AND THEIR PIC NIC; an Allegorical Tale, representing the Manners and Customs of the present Age; in Contentment—a Fashionable Visitor—High Breeding—the Effects of Fashion—the Epicure—an Invitation—a Consultation and Journey—a Season in London—Etiquette, &c. Price 1s. coloured Plates, or 6d. plain.

35.

ANIMAL CREATION; or, The Power of the Supreme Being attempted to be unfolded to the Minds of the Rising Generation. By a Parent. Containing many Engravings of Animals in Wood. Price 6d.

36.

ON THE EDUCATION OF DAUGHTERS; translated from the French of the ABBE FENELON, afterwards Archbishop of Cambray. 12mo. half-bound. Price 2s. 6d. with a beautiful Frontispiece.

37.

THE SPHINX, or Allegorical Lozenges. By a

Descendant of Cleobulina, an ancient Composer of Enigmas, &c. Price 6d.

38.

A DESCRIPTION of the most remarkable TREES, PLANTS, and SHRUBS, in all Parts of the World; illustrated with several curious Anecdotes of their wonderful Properties, and, at the same time, manifesting infinite Wisdom in the Formation of those valuable Productions, so beneficial to all Mankind. By JOSEPH TAYLOR, Author of "Tales of the Robin." 12mo. price 4s. half-bound.

39.

THE ORPHAN BOY, or A Journey to Bath. Founded on Fact. By MARY BELSON. A new Edition. Price 2s. half-bound.

40.

THE TRUE HISTORY OF A LITTLE BOY, who cheated himself. Founded on Fact. With appropriate Cuts. Price 1s. 6d. coloured, or 1s. plain.

41.

STUDIES IN PENMANSHIP, for the Use of Schools; being Specimens of the various Hands now in Use. Written by JOSEPH DONBAVAND, Writing Master of Ackworth School. Price 1s.

42.

THE WONDERS OF ANIMATED NATURE; consisting of Descriptions at large and engraved Representations of the principal Animals and Birds in the Royal Menageries of London and Paris. Translated from LA CEPEDE, with considerable Additions by the English Editor. 8vo. half-bound, price 8s.

43.

THE GOOD BOY'S SOLILOQUY; containing his Parent's Instructions relative to his Disposition and Manners. Illustrated with Sixteen Copperplate Cuts. Price 1s.

44.

PORTRAITS OF CURIOUS CHARACTERS IN LONDON, &c. &c. with Descriptive and Entertaining Anecdotes. Price One Shilling. Containing Likenesses of the following singular Characters:—Nathaniel Bentley, Esq.—Ann Siggs—Martin Van Butchell—John Statham—Anne Longman—John and Robert Green—Tom and his Pigeons—Roger Smith—George Romondo—Toby or Sham Abraham—Sir John Dinely—"Brother John and I"—Ann Johnson—Samuel Horsey—Miss Theodora de Verdion, who dressed as a Man—Daniel Lambert—Mary Jones—A well-known Carver in Fleet Market—John Elwes, Esq. the Miser—The Flying Pie-man—Thomas Laughler, aged 109 Years—Daniel Dancer, Esq. The above Portraits are accompanied with a Biographical Sketch of each Character, which will be found highly interesting.

45.

THE WHIM WHAM; or, Evening Amusements, for all Ages and Sizes; being an entire NEW SET of Riddles, Charades, Questions, and Transpositions. By a Friend to Innocent Mirth. Price 6d.

46.

SCRIPTURE CHARACTERS, by a Parent for his Children; illustrated with several beautiful Plates. Price 1s. 6d.

47.

TALES OF THE ROBIN, and other small Birds. By JOSEPH TAYLOR. Price 2s. 6d.

48.

THE BOOK OF GAMES ; or, A History of Juvenile Sports practised at a considerable Academy near London. Illustrated by Twenty-four Copper-plates. Price 3s. 6d. half-bound.

49.

THE ADVENTURES AND CONVERSATIONS OF A SUMMER'S MORNING ; intended to Entertain and Instruct the Minds of Youth ; a New Edition, improved. By WM. WISEACRE, Esq. Price 1s. 6d. half-bound.

50.

LONDON MELODIES ; or, Cries of the Seasons, Two Parts, price 1s. each, with several Engravings.

51.

THE BABY'S HOLIDAY, to which is added The WHITE LILY. By MARY BELSON, Author of several popular Works. 1s. coloured Plates.

52.

THE FIRST STEP TO KNOWLEDGE ; being an easy Introduction to the various English Spelling Books. By the Rev. J. GOLDSMITH, 28th Edition. Price 6d.

53.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL PRIMER, designed for the Younger Classes of Learners, and calculated to advance them, by natural and easy Gradations, to a perfect Acquaintance with the Elements of the Science : with an Appendix, containing Fourteen Hundred Questions on the principal Maps. By J. H. WIFFEN. 18mo. Price 3s. bound.

54.

THE INVITED ALPHABET, or, Address

of A to B ; containing his friendly Proposal for the Amusement and Instruction of good Children. With Twenty-five Engravings on Copper-plates. Price 1s. 6d.

55.

THE ASSEMBLED ALPHABET; or, Acceptance of A's Invitation ; concluding with a Glee for Three Voices. Being a Sequel to the "Invited Alphabet," with elegant Copper-plate Engravings. Price 1s. 6d.

56.

INFANTILE ERUDITION, concluding with a Glee for Three Voices : to which are added, The Figure Dancers. The whole intended as a Supplement to the "Invited" and "Assembled" Alphabets : illustrated with beautiful Copper-plates. Price 1s. 6d.

57.

FRANKLIN'S WAY TO WEALTH ; or, Poor Richard Improved ; to which is added, "How to make *Much of a Little*," earnestly recommended to the Industrious Poor ; also "Alphabetical Maxims," worthy the remembrance and regard of all. An entire New Edition, with several Copper-plates. By Bob Short, price 6d.

58.

A NEW AND ENTERTAINING ALPHABET, for Young Children, where some Instruction may be gained, and much Amusement, embellished with Twenty-Six Engravings. Price 6d.

59.

DIVINE AND MORAL SONGS for the Use of Children. By ISAAC WATTS, D. D. With many Plates. Price 6d.

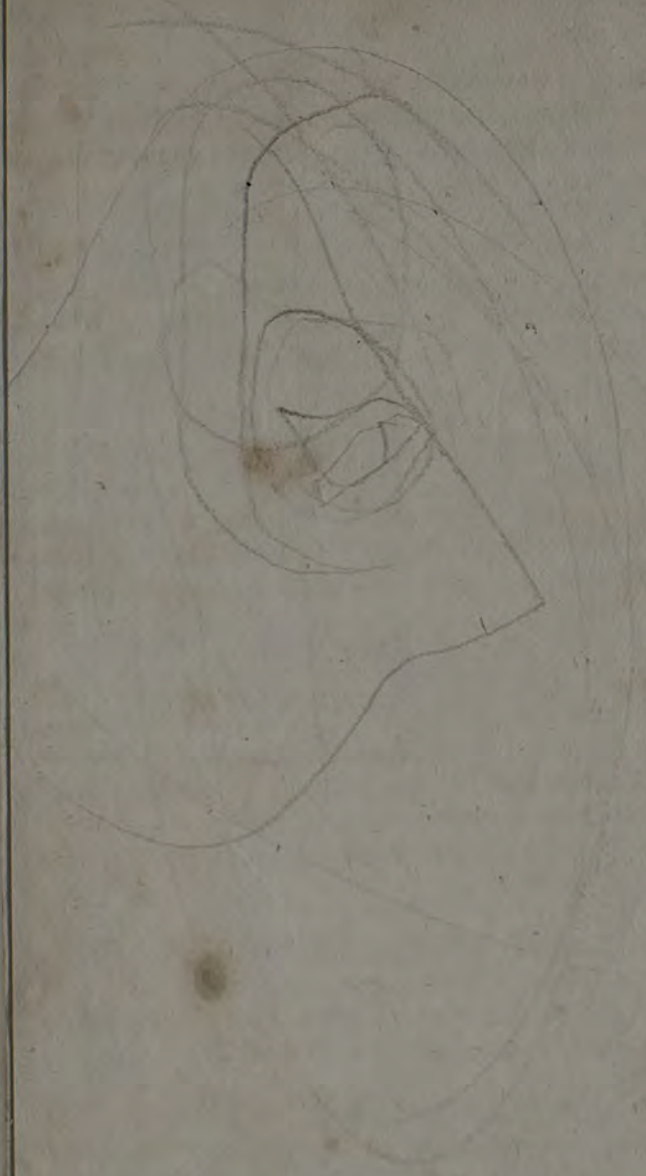
the
Win
rice
Ac-
Glee
iced
ngs.

with
The
apple-
pha-
ates.

or,
How
ed to
ms,"
n en-
By

HA-
ction
shed

Use
many





This bookplate, designed by Eric Beddows, was commissioned by
The Friends of the Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Collections
in honour of Beth Budd Bentley.

37131 048 625 719

