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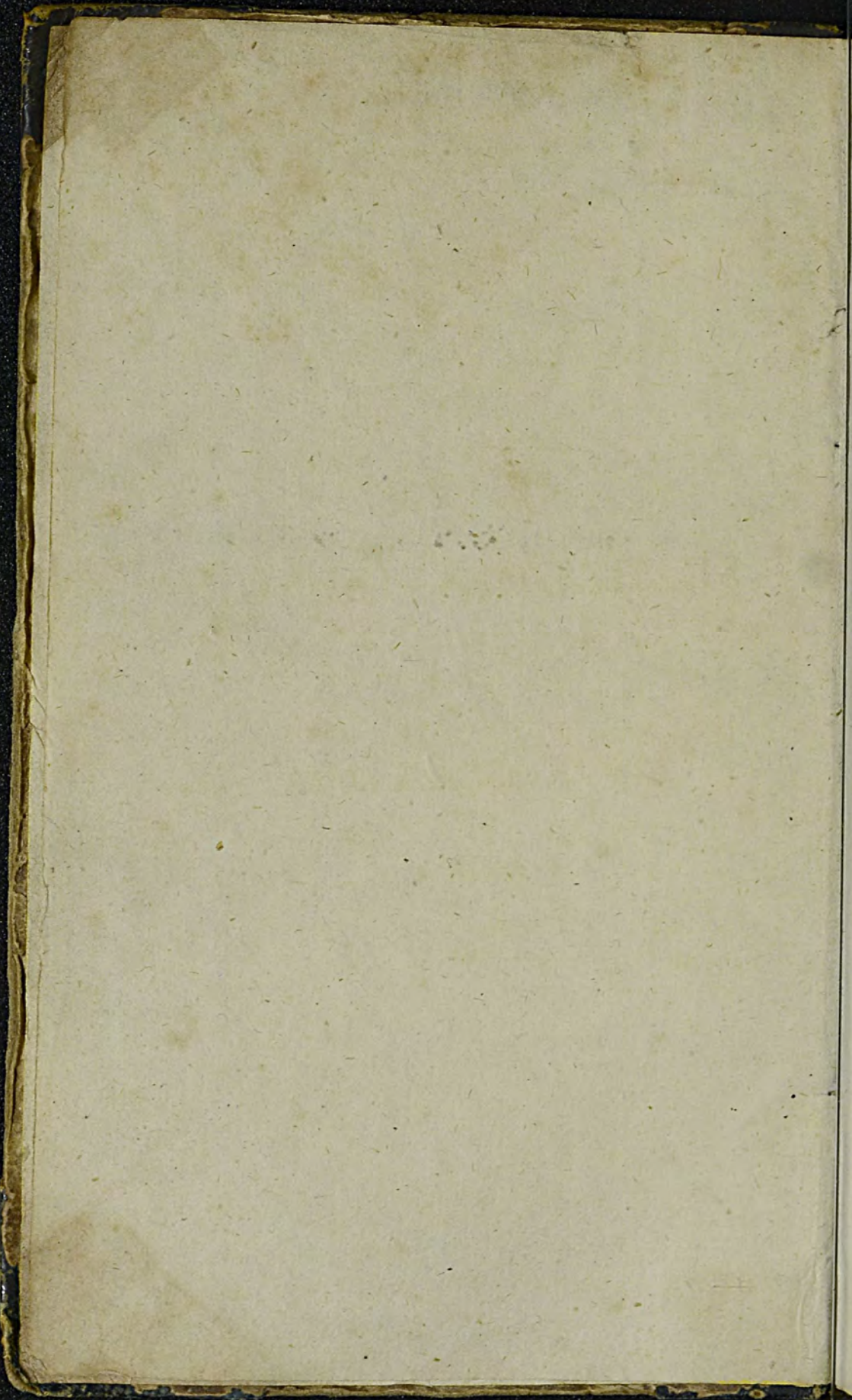
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1871



SEABROOK VILLAGE,

AND

ITS INHABITANTS.

&c. &c.

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SEABROOK VILLAGE

AND

ITS INHABITANTS.

OR

THE HISTORY OF
MRS. WORTHY AND HER FAMILY;

FOUNDED ON FACTS.

WRITTEN FOR
THE INSTRUCTION AND AMUSEMENT
OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

LONDON:

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1811.

SEABROOK VILLAGE

Mrs. WORTHY was the widow of an officer, who fell with many of his brave comrades in the disastrous war between the Mother Country and her Colonies; regretted by his fellow officers as a brother, by his men, as a father, and by his country as a national loss. To his widow, and five infant children, it was irreparable. When, by the kind attentions of her friends, the first shock had a little subsided; Mrs. Worthy took refuge in the bosom of that power, who never fails the afflicted when they appeal to him for consolation; and with a fortitude only to be obtained from the pure sources of religion, she recovered her serenity, and exerted her-

self for the sake of her children. One son, and four daughters, now constituted all that was valuable to her in life. Caroline, the eldest, was but eleven years old at the period of her father's death; Frederic nine, and the youngest girl only three years old. Previous to his departure for America, Colonel Worthy had settled all his worldly concerns, sensible of the uncertainty attendant on all of his profession. The family estate entailed upon the male heir, would at his decease, descend to his son, out of which his lady's jointure was to be paid: his personal property left ample fortunes for each of his daughters, payable at the age of twenty one, the interest to be applied to the requisite expenses of education, and maintenance; their mother he appointed their sole guardian. Young, handsome, and accomplished, it is not surprising that numbers aspired to the honour of her second choice, but all were most decidedly refused; the just sense she entertained of the maternal character prevailing over every apparent advantage to herself. In the third year of her widowhood, Mrs. Worthy's fortitude was again severely tried by the unfortunate death of her son, who was

drowned while bathing in the river near the school. Again her children and her friends trembled for a life so valuable; and it was many months before she recovered this second heavy calamity. In consequence of her son's death, the estate devolved to a distant branch of the family, taxed with her jointure of two thousand a year.

As Mrs. Worthy had now no country house of her own, and a town life was incompatible with the plan she had laid down for the education of her children, she determined to engage one for a term of years at a considerable distance from the metropolis; and upon communicating her intentions to her sister-in-law, was delighted to hear that her house in D——shire was untenanted. The situation exactly accorded with her wishes, for it was near the Sea-Coast, and above a hundred miles from London. Every preliminary was soon settled between the two ladies, and servants were sent down to prepare the new residence. Mr. Seabrook, the brother of Mrs. Worthy, had at this time been dead about seven years, and as the Seabrook estate was a purchase, he could dispose of it at will, and had therefore be-

queathed it to the eldest daughter of his only sister, after the decease of Mrs. Seabrook, to whom he left it for life. Though a delightful situation in itself, circumstances had rendered it unpleasant to Mrs. Seabrook, and she had never honoured it with her presence since the death of her husband. The land was divided into several farms, occupied by the tenants on the estate; the house, with the gardens and pleasure ground, were let to a gentleman who had quitted it above a twelvemonth prior to Mrs. Worthy engaging it for her residence. This must account for the desolate appearance which it presented on her arrival. The fine sloping lawn was converted into a bean field, and the once well laid out flower garden was filled with cabbages and potatoes. The gardener had been allowed to appropriate all that was not wanted for the tenant to his profit, and had for this last year shamefully abused his lady's indulgence: however, as the evil was not irremediable, he easily obtained his pardon, and labourers were instantly hired to clear it of all incumbrances. The lawn and shrubbery re-assumed their rights as well as the flower garden, the walls were well stored with

the finest fruit, which afforded particular delight to the children.

Seabrook house was about half a mile from the sea-shore, and commanded a full view of the English channel, the back of the house was sheltered by a range of high hills, from the summit of which, the eye was gratified with the view of nature in all its glory. Valleys feeding innumerable flocks of sheep, fruitful fields that amply repaid the toil of the husbandman, neat farm houses, and noble mansions filled a space of many miles.

As soon as the domestic economy of her household was completed, Mrs. Worthy arranged the apartment designed for the use of the young people. A large commodious room on the attic story was fitted up for a school room and furnished with every requisite for their improvement. Mrs. Worthy was fully competent to the task she had undertaken. Italian, music, drawing, and the use of the globes, she taught them herself. Masters for dancing, writing, and arithmetic, were procured from the county town; French, English, and the remaining branches of education, were performed by a young lady who had accompanied Mrs. Worthy from

London. We will now introduce the young people to our reader's acquaintance. Miss Worthy was at this time in her fifteenth year, tall and elegantly formed, and though without any absolute pretensions to beauty, was uncommonly interesting, her countenance was expressive, of a well informed mind, and her gentle unassuming manners, engaged the love and esteem of all who knew her: her sister Catharine was one year younger, and resembled the eldest in person, and manners; indeed their inclinations were the same on every point and one soul seemed to animate these amiable girls. Louisa and Constantia, were several years younger, the one eight, the other only six years old. The two eldest had been accustomed from the time they could write legibly to enter in a book a brief extract of the subject they were reading with their comments upon it; and questions upon that which they did not understand, this book they produced every Sunday evening, after the duties of the day were over, which were not confined to merely going to church, and after the two younger children were retired, each read the other's book. Mrs. Worthy then gave her opinion, corrected any

mistaken idea, and replied to their questions. By this method, their taste and judgment were properly formed, they read with attention, and remembered what they read, and if at a loss, could refer to their notes for information. They spoke French with the facility and correctness of natives, no other language being used by any one till the evening.

Miss Emily Molesworth, the young lady already mentioned as making a part of the family, was only seventeen, her education had been completed at an excellent boarding-school, but her mind had been formed under the eye of an exemplary mother, who looked beyond the outward form for her children's happiness.

Mr. and Mrs. Molesworth, by an accumulation of misfortunes, were reduced from affluence, to comparative indigence, and to save the wreck which remained, were obliged to go to America where it lay. Mrs. Worthy had the highest esteem for them both, and entreated to be their banker till their affairs took a more favourable turn. Her kindness was most gratefully acknowledged but not accepted, but they joyfully acquiesced in her

proposal of taking their eldest daughter under her protection, and knowing that her abilities would be useful to Mrs. Worthy in her proposed plan, felt happy in the knowledge she could thus make a grateful return for her kindness towards herself.

The most perfect harmony subsisted throughout this little circle; the children loved each other with the sincerest affection; no idle disputes, or mean jealousies, ruffled their innocent bosoms, but the slightest punishment inflicted upon one was acutely felt by the whole party, and if a sigh occasionally heaved the breast of their excellent mother, it was that of regret that her beloved and lamented husband had not lived to enjoy the spectacle.

The hour of rising was six in Summer, and seven in Winter; the two eldest practised each an hour, the one on the piano-forte, the other on the harp, the two younger learnt and repeated their lessons to Miss Molesworth; at eight o'clock she conducted her pupils to their mamma's dressing room, where that lady read a selection from the morning service: this duty performed, they adjourned to the breakfast room. The repast over, a walk

succeeded unless bad weather prevented it; then they used some in-door exercise, after which they repaired to the school-room, where we will leave them to pursue their studies, and take a view of Seabrook village and its inhabitants.

When Mrs. Seabrook quitted their mansion, her only regret was that of leaving her poor villagers, and to prevent them as much as possible, from feeling any disadvantage from her absence, she desired farmer Willis, who was her principal tenant, and lived close to the village to put into his wife's hands every Michaelmas, the sum of ten pounds out of his yearly rent, due to herself to be employed for the relief of the poor at the most inclement season. A book containing the name of each labourer, and the number of their children was given by her to Mrs. Willis, wherein she was to keep an exact account of the distribution of the above sum. Though Mrs. Willis acquitted herself of her task with the utmost integrity, it had greatly failed of the benefit intended by the donor; it had been bestowed where distress appeared the greatest, in many instances it was bestowed on the least deserving as their distress

was oftener the effect of idleness than of real calamity.

Indeed the ten pounds itself was inadequate to supply the continual assistance they had heretofore experienced from the benevolent Mrs. Seabrook; besides Mrs. Willis's large family and domestic concerns, precluded the possibility of her being able to bestow sufficient time in investigating the truth of their complaints.

Wherever Mrs. Worthy resided, she always considered the poor as her children and as having an equal claim to her care and support, not by encouraging them in idleness, but in rendering them honest useful members of society. As soon then as she had established her household, she turned her thoughts to her poor neighbours, and accompanied by Miss Worthy and Catharine, sat out on her tour of investigation, calling in her way upon Mrs. Willis to ask an account of their present situation, and also for the book containing their names and habitations.

Prepared as Mrs. Worthy was, for a scene of poverty, the first dwelling she entered, surpassed in wretchedness every idea she had

formed upon the subject. The walls alone remained of a large house that had once been a mansion of some consequence, but now only a miserable hovel, the floor broken, and uneven, the chimney nearly demolished, the casements stripped of the glass, paper and rags supplying the place, the roof so decayed, that it did not preserve its wretched inhabitants from the inclemency of the weather, and all that remained of an upper room was obtained by placing a ladder to a hole in the floor, the staircase having long since disappeared. The door was occasionally placed against the outward opening, the hinges being broken and useless. However deplorable and shocking this picture may appear, it is from the life, and without the smallest exaggeration.

Here sat clothed in filthy rags, over the embers of an expiring fire, a woman about forty years of age, where, in spite of her wretched appearance, might be seen the traces of former beauty, though nearly obliterated by dirt and famine, a short tobacco pipe in her mouth, and four squalid looking children crying for bread by the side of her. Extremely shocked at the scene before her,

Mrs. Worthy remained silent for some minutes, at length recovering herself, she addressed the deplorable object, demanding why she sat in that idle posture, whilst her children stood so much in need of her care. The oldest seemed not more than five or six years old. Mary Brown was incapable of replying to the question, but the attempt gave ample testimony to the cause of their miserable appearance, for she was nearly senseless from the effects of liquor, to the purchase of which she had long appropriated every penny she could obtain: her husband was sober and industrious, and lamented the evil beyond his power to remedy, and the allowance they received of Mrs. Seabrook's charity, was often wasted in that most destructive vice, and which is too often the foundation of every other.

Mrs. Worthy asked the eldest child if she could eat some bread and cheese.

"Yes, that me can, but mammy got no
"money."

"Here then is some money, go and buy a
"loaf and some cheese, and bring it to me."
Away the little ragged girl flew, and soon returned with her purchase, and Mrs. Worthy

gave to each a part, and bade their mother take some; but she only looked with a vacant stare, almost unconscious of all that was passing. When the poor children had eagerly devoured their welcome meal, Mrs. Worthy bade them drink some water, and then quitted the hovel, telling them she would see them again when their father was at home from work.

Caroline and her sister, to whom such a scene was before unknown, could scarcely recover the shock, and as soon as they were in the street, exclaimed; surely, dear mamma, it is not common for people to put themselves in such a disgraceful condition as this woman has done. I fear, my dear children, replied Mrs. Worthy, it is but too common, nor is it confined to the lower order alone, inebriety, like most other vices, strengthens by habit; they begin by a little which they fancy necessary to their health: this small quantity not having the expected effect, they increase the dose till it overpowers their senses, poisons and undermines their constitution, breaks up every domestic comfort, brings on disease and want, and often introduces theft, and even murder.

It is a shocking picture mamma, but I hope you will relieve the children, and I hope in time amend their mother. I will endeavour to do both, said Mrs. Worthy, to the utmost of my power; it is a duty incumbent on me, and every one who is blest with the means to ameliorate the bodily infirmities of our poorer brethren: and there is a far greater, a religious duty also incumbent on us, and those who neglect it, are like the steward, who wrapped his talent in a napkin, instead of improving it against the time when his Lord should require of him the account of it.

They next came to the cottage of Giles Jenkins. Here amidst the extremest poverty, appeared an air of neatness, and industry that powerfully contrasted the misery of the last. Giles was also a labourer to farmer Willis; he was that moment sat down to his frugal meal, a large bowl stood in the middle of the table; seven healthy looking clean-faced children, with each a brown bason, and wooden spoon before it, stood round the table; and their mother serving to every one their portion. The picture was truly interesting, particularly so, as the poor woman appeared oppressed by sickness.

Mrs. Worthy's entrance occasioned some little confusion; but she bade them not to mind her, as she would walk through the village and return the same way, on purpose to look in upon them again.

As they approached the next cottage, their ears were assailed by sounds, that did not give them any favourable opinion of the inhabitants; and our benevolent visitors intended to pass by, but hearing the voice of a woman, crying and saying, "Shame on you Bob, to use me as you does! You'll kill me, that'll be the end on't." Mrs. Worthy hastily lifted up the latch, and saw a poor woman supporting herself upon a crutch, and endeavouring, with the other hand, to screen herself from the blows of her churlish husband.

A sudden change of countenance took place in each upon her entrance; joy in that of the woman, at the fortunate interposition; in the man's overwhelming confusion, and which increased by his stammering attempts to excuse himself.

"My good woman," said Mrs. Worthy, "what can have occasioned this ungovernable passion in your husband?"

“ Indeed, indeed, my Lady, I do’sn’t de-
“ serve it so much ; he bid me get him some
“ peas-porrige for his dinner, and somehow
“ or other I forgot it till it was too late, and
“ I thought as how I’d better get un’ som’at
“ ready against he comed hoam hungry than
“ make ’un wait for his dinner.”

“ And could this be the cause of your
“ treating your wife with so much brutality !
“ For shame, man ! scarcely any fault she
“ could commit would justify such inhumana-
“ nity ; but you prove yourself unworthy to
“ associate with any human being, to put
“ yourself in a passion for so trifling a fault.
“ I have a sincere wish to assist every inhabi-
“ tant of the village, who is industrious,
“ sober, and honest ; but no one shall benefit
“ by my intentions, who continues such a
“ course of life as I have been witness to this
“ morning. The only excuse I can at pre-
“ sent find you, is the absence of Mrs. Sea-
“ brook ; I mean to supply her place, and as
“ I shall myself investigate the conduct of
“ every one, your advantages will entirely de-
“ pend upon yourselves.”

Mrs. Worthy then proceeded to the next
cottage, at the door of which sat an elderly

woman extremely clean and tidy, busily employed at her spinning-wheel.

“ I feel quite relieved,” said this amiable Lady, “ by the sight of this industrious creature, whose countenance bespeaks content ; “ this I believe is Sarah Joice. Do you get “ a tolerable living by your wheel, my good “ dame ?”

“ Blessed be God, Madam, I does as well “ as my neighbours, aye, and better too then “ some an ’nm : Will your Ladyships be “ pleased to set ye down ?” and she took the corner of her blue apron to dust a wicker chair and two stools, that, as well as the rest of the room, looked so clean and neat, as to render her attention needless. Mrs. Worthy being rather fatigued, gladly accepted the offer.

“ Are you alone, Sarah ?”

“ No, Madam, I has my three grand-children to live with me ; poor things, they ha’ “ nobody else to look to.”

“ Where is their Father ?”

“ Alas !” said poor Sarah, with a sigh, and a tear trickled down her cheek, “ my poor “ boy was lost at sea ; and poor Liddy died “ of a broken heart. It is now six years

“ agone, and their poor babes be my whole
“ comfort. The oldest boy works at Far-
“ mer Collet’s, and has a main good master
“ and mistress; his sister, Molly, goes there
“ a’mornings to help milk and work in the
“ dairy; and the youngest girl picks up a
“ little by weeding, and so forth. I have
“ three shillings a month from good Madam
“ Seabrook; and so, all together, I makes
“ very good shift, as times go; to be sure we
“ were better off when good Madam lived at
“ the great house; for if we were sick, she
“ was so good to us, that it was better a deal
“ than the money.”

The honest garulity of poor Sarah interested Mrs. Worthy’s feelings much; and she told her, that she hoped now they would no longer feel the absence of their good mistress, as she intended residing at the great house; and that it was her intention not only to encrease Mrs. Seabrook’s allowance, but to supply their other wants to the utmost of her power, particularly to the industrious and contented.

“ God reward you, Madam!”

Mrs. Worthy saw the grateful creature’s heart was full, and hastily quitted the cottage.

Her next visit proved almost as disagreeable as the first. The room was dirty and littered; four sickly, dirty children were alternately crying and quarrelling; a kitten, which appeared the object of all their contention, endeavoured, by scratching and mewing, to free itself from the gripe of a spiteful-looking little boy. The mother was trying, with a broken pair of bellows, to raise a blaze under a black kettle that hung over the hearth.

Mrs. Worthy had been an unperceived witness of this discordant assembly some minutes. The woman was the first who discovered that a stranger was in room; and she then let fall the bellows, crying, "Laws, Madam, I ax pardon; children, doant make such a clatter, doant ye see the laady."

Mrs. Worthy was here more at a loss what to say to them, than at any of the other uncomfortable places she had been in, but at this moment an ill-looking man threw the door open, with an oath which was most probably the preface to worse, but started back at seeing the ladies, and began to find fault with his wife for keeping such a dirty room, and asked if the ladies would please to set down? "No," said Mrs. Worthy, "I see

“ you are going to dinner, and I shall look
“ in upon you another time.”

Glad to escape from so much noise and dirt, she returned to Sarah Joice's cottage to ask her a few questions concerning her neighbour. Sarah told her he was a drunken, surly fellow, and that his wife, naturally indolent, was, by his brutality, totally incapacitated for any exertion. Though she had softened her relation all she could, Mrs. Worthy gathered from it, that there were faults on both sides.

They passed some other cottages whose appearance were not much more prepossessing; but as it was the usual dinner hour for the labourers, there was allowance to be made for their not being so tidy.

Mrs. Worthy had now reached the extremity of the village; on one side of the way was a small neat brick house with a garden before it, and on the opposite a nicely white-washed cottage. In the windows were various articles disposed in nice order for sale. “ What a pleasing contrast to many of the
“ miserable hovels we have seen to-day,
“ mamma; I hope the inhabitants are pen-
“ sioners.” Mrs. Worthy looked in the book and found the name of Richard Wynyard,

a blind old man, with seven children, last house in the village, right hand side of the street.—“This, then, must be the one,” said she, lifting the latch of the door, and entering: she advanced towards one that stood open, but hearing a child’s voice, who was reading, they all stopped to listen, and at the same time were highly gratified by the scene that presented itself to their view. The reader was a boy apparently about eight years old, he was standing at a small table with a large well-worn bible open before him; the subject was the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah; on the opposite side of the table, in a high-backed wicker chair, sat an old man, whose noble countenance (though blind) might have furnished Sir Joshua Reynolds with one of the finest subjects his pencil ever delineated; a roman nose, fine open forehead, and the top of his head entirely bald, but from the ears fell a few silver locks, which added to his truly venerable appearance: there seemed to be many more auditors, but they were out of sight.

As soon as the boy ceased reading, Mrs. Worthy entered the room; they all rose upon her entrance, except a young woman who

held an infant asleep on her lap, while teaching a little girl to knit. The old man had laid up the bible upon a shelf near him, first putting it into a clean check bag, after which he pursued his employment, knitting a cabbage net: a boy about seven years old was knitting a stocking, and a girl about fourteen years old was at the spinning wheel. Mrs. Worthy desired they would continue their different occupations, whilst she rested herself after her walk. When the ladies were seated, the old man asked his daughter if it was the good lady who lived at Seabrook House that did them so much honour; and upon being answered in the affirmative, " Ah! Madam, how glad we all be that we are likely to have a lady as good as Madam Seabrook was; it was a woeful day when she left us."

" I hope to make up that loss," said Mrs. Worthy; " but pray tell me how long you have been blind?"

" Alack, Madam, it is nine years sin I lost the sight of one eye by a fever, and I had hardly *larn'd* to do without 'un, when in lopping a branch off a tree, a splinter struck into the other eye, and so I became stone blind. At first I murmured at my mis-

“ fortune, and awhile forgot that God Al-
“ mighty in his anger might afflict me still
“ further. However, our worthy Rector,
“ who knowed me in former times, conde-
“ scended to come to me, and talked so kindly
“ that I repented truly, and prayed to God to
“ give to me patience ; and when I recovered
“ from the fever that the pain had brought
“ on me, I endeavoured to find out something
“ I could do, to help get my bread, that I
“ might be a less burden to my children.”

“ I am sure, father, we none of us think
“ about that ; but you have always been em-
“ ployed for us, when we could do nothing
“ for ourselves, so that we're but paying the
“ debt we owe you.”

This was said by the young woman who held the infant on her lap, and the tears stood in her eyes while she spoke.

Mrs. Worthy was delighted to see so much duty and affection among this interesting family.

“ I will answer for it you speak the truth,
“ my good young woman ; but while your
“ father can find any employment, it not
“ only assists your dutiful exertion to his
“ wants, but renders time less irksome to

“ him, and I am convinced by all I see, that
“ he has brought up his children to know
“ their duty both to God and their parents.”

“ I and my wife, Madam, did our best to
“ larn them to read their bible and to say
“ their prayers at home, as well as to go to
“ church.”

“ Is your wife living ?” asked Mrs. Worthy.

“ Alack, no Madam ; I lost her four years
“ agone ; a good wife and a good mother she
“ was, and I ben't afraid to say she was a
“ good christian too, and I hope she is gone
“ to heaven ; but I humbly ax pardon, Ma-
“ dam, for saying so much, and tiring you
“ with my concerns.”

“ Indeed you do not tire me, it gives me
“ great pleasure to hear you, and I beg you
“ will tell me what your employment is ?”

“ Why, Madam, though our Alice, there,
“ was but sixteen when her mother died, she
“ was so steady and so managing, that we
“ none of us felt the loss of my poor wife, but
“ for the love we bore her ; so, as I was
“ saying, she *larned* me to net cabbage nets,
“ and make laces and the little things to knit
“ stockings and garters. Betty, there, earns
“ more than her own living by spinning ; and

“ Alice, what with minding our little shop,
“ and making and mending for us all, has
“ has *enow* to do, and yet she knits stockings
“ and gloves too: so with one thing and
“ t’other, I thought if one of the little ones
“ could lead me to the next market town, I
“ could sell our labours, and so I went. It is
“ but three miles to walk, and my eldest
“ boy went to shew the little one the way,
“ and to bargain for me for the first time: so
“ we took the nets and laces, and a pair of
“ stockings; and the good gentleman who
“ keeps a large shop at W——m, and sells
“ every thing, agreed to take all we could
“ bring him. I then bought a few things
“ such as our neighbours want every day, for
“ I thought it would be handy for them and
“ make a little profit for us; and so with good
“ Madam Seabrook’s four shillings a month
“ and our little helps, we contrive, by the
“ blessing of God, to go on tolerably well.”

Whilst the old man was talking, Mrs. Worthy had time to survey the interior of this little dwelling, and found it more than correspond with the outside. The pewter on the shelves, the nice white dresser, with several copper saucepans underneath, some very

good china on the mantle shelf, a very good oak table, so bright it might have served for a looking glass, and many other articles equally good, persuaded her they had been in better circumstances than their present condition bespoke.

“ Whose child is that ? ” asked Mrs. Worthy.

“ It is my eldest brother’s, Madam, ” replied Alice.

“ Yes, ” said the old man, “ and though my son, as industrious a lad as ever lived, Madam; and so is his wife too.”

“ What is his occupation ? ”

“ He is a fisherman, but as there be times when the sea is too rough to let him venture out, he works upon the cliff, heaving out coals.”

“ Are there then coal-pits in this country ? ”

“ No, Madam, it is kind of slate, and it burns so blazing, that it serves us poor folk for both fire and candle o’ winter nights.”

“ Is it cheap ? ”

“ I don’t know ; but he sells it for five shillings a load, and that serves a good time enough ; but gentlefolk don’t like it for the smell. His wife goes out a washing at our

“ good Master Collet’s, and does all she can
“ beside to help earn a living; and then she
“ leaves her babe here for us to look after.”

Mrs. Worthy now rose to depart.

“ I am happy to find a few industrious and
“ contented people among my poor neigh-
“ bours; those who are not so I hope to
“ amend. I shall give all a fair trial, when,
“ if they prove incorrigible, I shall most
“ assuredly give them up.”

“ I hope that won’t be the case,” said
Richard, “ for sure your Ladyship’s good-
“ ness will make them good.”

“ I hope it may be so,” replied Mrs. Wor-
thy; then, turning to Alice, “ If you like to
“ send a pitcher three times a week, my cook
“ will give you some good broth, which I have
“ ordered to be made and given to all who
“ choose to accept it. Monday, Wednesday,
“ Friday, are the days.”

“ Thank you, Madam,” said the old man,
“ that will do us all good.”

The young Ladies had been attentive ob-
servers of all that had passed; and, as soon as
they were out of hearing of the cottagers,
made the following remarks:—

Miss Worthy.—“ I know not which to ad-

“ mire most, mamma, in Richard Wynard,
“ his placid countenance, or contented dis-
“ position.”

Mrs. Worthy.—“ Both, my love, are
“ worthy of admiration, and spring equally
“ from the same source, a pious resignation
“ to the divine will; let calamity visit us in
“ whatever shape it may, though in its first
“ attack it may call forth a murmur, if we
“ quickly correct ourselves, and humbly and
“ sincerely pray for fortitude to support
“ the chastisement, which the Almighty,
“ for his own wise purposes, thinks fit to
“ pour upon us; we shall materially lighten
“ the weight of it; you know, that in the
“ first moment of anguish, Richard said
“ he could not help murmuring, but by
“ calling in the aid of religion, he was enabled
“ to bear with patience the greatest per-
“ sonal affliction that could befall a human
“ being; and instead of vain lamentation,
“ and useless ill-humour, turned his thoughts
“ towards a method to lessen the irksomness
“ of his situation, and at the same time,
“ contribute towards his own maintenance.
“ To suffer is the common lot of humanity,
“ but the extent of suffering, greatly de-

“ pends on our own exertions. You may
“ also remark the good effects of true piety
“ over worldly wisdom. Richard, by bring-
“ ing up his children in a proper observance
“ of their religious duties, has ensured their
“ affection and obedience to himself.”

Catharine.—“ I observed several religious
“ books upon the shelf, where he laid up
“ the bible.”

Mrs. Worthy.—“ Yes, my love, and
“ they all appeared to be in constant use,
“ which must benefit the whole family,
“ equally as one or other must read them to
“ their father.”

Catharine.—“ I should like very much to
“ know the history of Richard Wynyard,
“ mamma. It is not likely, my dear, that you
“ would find much entertainment from it:
“ there are, in all probability, some interest-
“ ing passages in the life of every man, but
“ it is unlikely that there should be any
“ thing above the ordinary occurrences of a
“ life of industry and labour.”

In the evening, when all were assembled
in the drawing room, Mrs. Worthy said,
she should request them to give up their
usual amusement of reading, and assist her

in arranging plans for cloathing, &c. of her numerous family.

“ Pray mamma,” cried out both the little girls, “ may we help too.”

“ I hope so,” replied their mamma, “ I should be very sorry if you had not a share in providing for the comfort of these poor people; therefore, if neither Miss Molesworth or I, have reason to be displeas’d with you, you shall both assist in making their clothes as soon as I have bought the materials, and have cut them out.”

“ And may we give them any thing ourselves, mamma.”

“ I am afraid you are neither of you rich enough.”

“ O yes!” cried Constantia, “ I have five shillings;” “ and I have thirteen,” replied Louisa, “ and you know we don’t want a new doll and a cradle so much as these poor people want clothes.”

Well then, if you are quite sure you will like to buy and make clothes for Sarah Joice’s, grand-daughter, as well as dressing a new doll, you shall go with us to-morrow, and I will tell you what you must buy for the purpose.

O! thank you, dear mamma, that will be delightful indeed.

Mrs. Worthy rejoiced to see the happy disposition of her children, and kissing the little prattlers, bade them go to bed and be very diligent next morning.

Mrs. Worthy had accustomed her children from their infancy to accompany her in her visits to her poor cottagers, and allowed them to spend their pocket money in any thing which they observed wanting either for use or wear; by this means, they early learnt the use of money, and the duty incumbent on the affluent, to assist their poorer neighbour.

We will now return to the drawing room, where all were busily employed, in making out an inventory of the different articles requisite for each family: some required entire new clothing, being absolutely in rags, and those who were more tidy, deserved all new for that reason. “As I cannot judge fairly of the faults or merits of each individual; I mean, at present,” said Mrs. Worthy, “to be guided alone by compassion: hereafter, I shall consider their deserts, and shall treat them accordingly.”

At an early hour next morning, the sisters were all assembled in the school room. Every lesson that depended on themselves, was accomplished before the hour of prayer. The two little girls were anxiously waiting for the hour of ten, at which the carriage was to be at the gate, as it was the first excursion they had made since their arrival, each put her whole stock of money into her pocket, after having counted it over to be sure of the amount; amusing themselves with choosing the colour of the child's frock.

At length they received the joyful summons to attend their mamma. Though it was but three miles to W—— by the footpath, it was full seven by the high road, through a delightful part of the county, diversified with the finest scenery that the most luxurious vegetation can bestow, and at the same time all the majestic grandeur of a rocky Sea-Coast. The whole party were particularly pleased, and thought the drive much too short.

The principal shop in the town sold every thing Mrs. Worthy required; several pieces of dowlas, three pieces of striped linsey, woolsey for petticoats, some pieces of Cam-

blet of different colours, for gowns; and some dark printed cotton, for frocks for the little children; several dozens of stout worsted stockings for men, women, and children. The shopkeeper was ordered to send a taylor and a shoemaker, the next day to measure for clothes, and shoes. Louisa and Constantia, laid out their eighteen shillings for their little protégée, a neat printed cotton frock, and green camblet petticoat with every other requisite article was bought, and yet left them two shillings.

“ Dear mamma, I never could have thought, sixteen shillings were so valuable before.”

“ I do not quite understand your meaning, Louisa,” said her mamma. “ Why, mamma, I mean that it gives me more pleasure than I ever felt in laying out any of my money before; because, if Betty Joice is as ragged as Mary Brown’s little girl, that you sent to buy the loaf, she will feel so happy in having so nice a dress, that I am sure she will love me dearly for having given it to her.”

“ And me, too,” said Constantia, “ for you know, sister, though I did not pay

“ so much as you, it was all I had, so she
“ ought to love me as well.”

“ There is no doubt of her being grateful
“ for any kindness shewn her, and as each
“ has subscribed her whole stock, there can
“ be no difference in the purchase, but which
“ ever of you works best and quickest,
“ will be entitled to the largest portion of
“ obligation.”

As soon as dinner was over, the house-keeper was summoned to assist in cutting out the various articles, and to prepare work for every individual of the family.

The next morning, a bricklayer was sent to look at these cottages that wanted repairs, and ordered by Mrs. Worthy to do all that was requisite to make them comfortable for the inhabitants. One of her own servants, who understood that business was to superintend the workmen, in order to prevent them from imposing upon her, as her fortune was very inadequate to the capacious wishes of her benevolent heart. She therefore, always calculated her expenses as near as possible, before she entered upon any affair of magnitude, and when the business was completed, the bills were called in, and im-

mediately discharged. The present undertaking could not well be calculated, but she had, at the commencement of the present year, set aside one hundred pounds for charitable purposes, and had not had occasion to break into it as yet. In one fortnight, complete clothing for thirty seven people, men, women, and children, was ready to be distributed; and was sent to each, according to the number of their family, with an order to appear in them at Seabrook House, at eight o'clock on Sunday morning, where a plentiful breakfast would be provided for them.

Mrs. Worthy herself, received them, each family separately, and in the order they were placed in Mrs. Willis's book; John brown's was the first. Mary appeared very penitent, and now that she was sober, clean, and decently dressed, could scarcely be recognized for the deplorable being Mrs. Worthy had seen, on her first visit to the village. This good lady seriously admonished her to a change of conduct, assuring her, that upon the first intimation of her having renewed her late disgraceful practises, she would send her to the county poor-house, where she would

be obliged to work hard, and live sober; and that till she had proved herself capable of providing for her husband and children, with the money he earned by his labour, she would advise him to lay it out himself. The two surly husbands received a severe reprimand for their inhuman treatment of their wives, and a serious admonition to amendment, under penalty of forfeiting every assistance from her in future. The whole party gave the most solemn promise to conform strictly to her injunctions, and expressed their gratitude for her condescension and goodness, in honest rustic language, more gratifying to her benevolent heart, than all the studied phrases of polished life.

After they had eaten their breakfast, they all repaired to the parish church, and were ordered to return to dinner. Mrs. Worthy, and her amiable family had the satisfaction of seeing these poor villagers very attentive to the whole service.

The rector introduced himself to her, by saying, that he was so anxious to become acquainted with her, that he was resolved to eat his beef and pudding with her that day, in order to satisfy himself by ocular demon-

stration, whether she was really an inhabitant of this nether world, or one of the primitive christians returned to earth for the express purpose of amending the times. Mrs. Worthy smiled at the rector's flight, and invited him to take his seat in the carriage, where he might immediately satisfy himself, that she was but a simple individual in the vast chain of human beings; willing to contribute to the wants of others, as far as her means and abilities will permit her. "Well, well, you may disclaim the merit of what you do, as much as you please, but your sphere of action has little to do with what is generally termed the world."

A large piece of roast beef, some pearl-barley broth, and two large plumb puddings smoaked upon the table at the return of the villagers from church, and the whole party appeared perfectly at ease. Before they quitted the table, Mrs. Worthy came in and told them, that a dinner would be provided every Sunday, for those who went to church, and that if they were not regular in their religious duties, they would forfeit all claim to her protection, unless sickness prevented them, and in that case she should be acquainted with it, as

they must apply to her for assistance and medicine.

Dr. Barton, who had accompanied Mrs. Worthy into the room, said, as soon as her guests were departed; "I am glad, Madam, to discover, that you are little akin to your neighbours, since you condescend to make use of bribery."

"Bribery, Dr."

"Yes, Madam, absolute bribery, do you not persuade these poor people to go to church, by making a good dinner the consequence of it."

"I think," replied Mrs. Worthy, "allowing it to be as you say, the means are laudable, if the ends are answered?"

"But, I consider it in another way. Sunday is the only day in the week when these poor people can sit down at their ease, to their humble meal, which, on that account, is perhaps, better than that of all the week beside.

"When their ordinary occupation allows them no more time than to hastily satisfy the cravings of nature, with that which is the quickest provided, then, if they have a hot a dinner on Sunday, one of the

“ family must stay at home to dress it against
“ the rest returns; now, by having one
“ ready for them at my house, the whole
“ family may go; and, if before they had any
“ one to urge them to their duty, they were in-
“ clined to neglect it; they will be ashamed
“ to do so now, when they know they must
“ satisfactorily account for their absence.”

“ I dare say you are right,” replied Dr.
“ Barton, “ and if you will admit a solitary
“ old bachelor into your society, he will en-
“ deavour so far to profit by your example;
“ that at least, he may employ his time in
“ future, to a better purpose than he has
“ hitherto done.”

“ I shall be happy to comply with your
“ request,” replied Mrs. Worthy; “ with a
“ view to my own interest, as I shall hope
“ myself to profit by your instructions;
“ and then, when you are better acquainted
“ with me, you will think it quite unne-
“ cessary to praise me, who merely does her
“ duty, to the best of her power.”

Dr. Barton rose to depart, telling her, he
should very soon avail himself of her con-
descension.

The rector, with many singularities, was

nevertheless, a worthy character within his own neighbourhood, the poor were tidy and industrious, and when distressed by sickness and misfortune, he was ready to relieve them, but his charity extended no farther, and as he only performed the duty at S— Church at most three times a year, he knew little of the inhabitants of our village, but the fame of Mrs. Worthy's benevolence had reached the rectory and brought him there sooner than usual.

Mrs. Seabrook's last tenant was unacquainted with that last sensation of the human heart. "Warm charity the general friend." No benighted traveller here, found repose, he suffered no beggar to be relieved at his door, disliked, and disliking, he shunned and was shunned by all society, and his departure was unregretted. These circumstances considered, it is the less surprising Mrs. Worthy should find the villagers so distressed, and so much room for her active benevolence.

The time she had been at Seabrook, was insufficient to allow her to judge adequately of all the causes of their distress, but her eye

saw it, and her heart prompted her to relieve it.

The Sunday service was divided between two churches, each only once a day, and one of these was four miles off, so that, when it was in the morning at the one, it was at the other in the afternoon. If the weather was too bad to allow the family to go to the furthest church, Mrs. Worthy read the prayers and a sermon at home, her whole family attending. Every evening throughout the week, she assembled them all at eight o'clock; when a selection of family prayers with the psalms and lessons were read by her or Miss Molesworth. By this rule, her children were early accustomed to habits of piety, and her servants were sober and regular.

The Autumn being too far advanced to allow the children to go out in the evening, they played at some lively game till their mamma came into the drawing room, then one of the elder party read some entertaining book while the rest worked. On Monday evening the following dialogue took place.

Miss Worthy.—"How gratifying it was
" to contemplate so many happy countenances
" as were assembled round our table yes-

“terday, mamma, and how comfortable they
“must all feel in their new clothes, I hope
“they will no more be reduced to such a
“state as that, from which you have relieved
“them.”

Mrs. Worthy.—“I hope not, my love, for
“I do not intend to end my cares with
“merely cloathing them. Had your aunt
“Seabrook continued to reside here, they
“would not be in so deplorable a state, but
“the ten pounds allowed for their use, was
“very inadequate to their many wants,
“which her presence had before supplied.
“Judging of others by herself, she supposed
“that her tenant would act towards them,
“as she had done; on the contrary, he half
“starved his own servants; insomuch, that
“when he left England to return to Bar-
“badoes, he could not prevail on any one
“of them to go with him to a place where
“they could not so readily have redress as
“in England, where every individual can
“obtain justice, however lowly the condi-
“tion of the injured, or lofty that of the in-
“jurer. Happy land, may no internal or
“external enemies deprive us of that glorious
“privilege.

Catharine.—"Dear mamma, how mortified he must have felt, when he discovered how much he was hated, and to be sensible that he had deservedly incurred their hatred, must have doubled the mortification."

Miss Molesworth.—"I am afraid, he escaped the punishment of being mortified by their hatred. Characters, such as his, are strangers to every finer feeling of the soul, and as they are insensible to the pleasure of conferring benefits, they also are dead to those wounding sensations, hatred and contempt."

Louisa.—"How pretty Betty Joice looked in her new cotton gown, mamma, dont you think so, and the cap, Constantia, that you made look so pretty."

Catharine.—"You were both very happy at having made them, I dare say, and so nicely too; but, mamma, I think the women and great girls would have looked better, and more like your family, if their gowns had been all of a colour."

Mrs. Worthy.—"My dear Catharine, I fear there is a little vanity in your remark, you think that they do not sufficiently

“ expose their obligation. My dear child,
“ beware of ostentation in every thing you
“ do, but most when you perform a deed of
“ charity. The great art in conferring a
“ benefit consists, first, in avoiding all ap-
“ pearance of ostentation, and secondly, in
“ carefully avoiding both in words and looks,
“ every thing that may wound the feelings
“ of the party obliged. There are in this
“ kingdom many glorious institutions for
“ the support of the aged, the decayed, the
“ maimed, and the blind; these are called
“ Alms-houses. They owe their founda-
“ tion to the worthy sons and daughters of
“ fortune, and are supported by the voluntary
“ contributions of succeeding worthies. The
“ objects of these charities are distinguished by
“ a particular garment; this publishes their
“ situation to the world, and many there are
“ who would prefer suffering the greatest hard-
“ ships to receiving relief by going into an
“ alms-house.”

As soon as the remainder of the cloaths was ready, and the cottages were repaired and rendered comfortable, Mrs. Worthy went to each, and gave them an inventory of their new wardrobe, which consisted of the follow-

ing articles: three shifts for each woman and girl, two pair of worsted stockings, two pair of shoes, two changes of petticoats, three caps, neckerchiefs, and two frocks for each child. The like number of shirts, stockings and shoes, and a good strong suit of cloaths for Sundays for each man and boy. The women had each a stuff gown.

When Mrs. Worthy had seen them all looked over and put away, she said, "I shall expect all that I have given you to be kept in good order and neatly mended when necessary, particularly for your husbands and boys, who labour for your subsistence, and on these conditions, after having at the year's end examined every thing myself, I will renew my present, your dwellings too, are now made more comfortable, I shall therefore expect to see them at all times clean and tidy."

The poor villagers were thoroughly sensible of her goodness for the best of all possible reasons, that of having suffered innumerable evils for want of such a benefactress; but Mrs. Worthy was well aware that their gratitude would cease with the occasion, unless they were taught to be grateful to their boun-

tiful Creator for the blessings they enjoyed in common ; few of these poor people knew how to read, or even to teach their children the catechism, so that even when they did attend divine service, they could only hear repeated what perhaps they scarcely understood.

Could they then be expected to conform to moral duties, when totally uninstructed in those of religion ?

Mrs. Worthy was of opinion that *Ignorance is the Parent of Vice*, and she therefore determined to establish a school, but under such restrictions, that it should be to answer the most essential point, that of making them good christians ; the difficulty was, where to find a proper person for the purpose of instructing the children.

One day as she was walking towards the village, it occurred to her that Sarah Joice might be capable of the undertaking, and resolved to call upon her and sound her abilities ; she found her busy at her wheel.

“ You are very industrious Dame Joice ;
“ how are your grand-children ? ” — “ They
“ be pure and hearty, Madam, blessed be God,
“ I expects Betty home presently. ” — “ She
“ is the youngest. ” — “ Yes Madam. ” — “ I

“suppose you do not spin by candlelight.”—
“Why, yes, Madam, the days be too short
“for Molly to do much work at home, till
“candlelight, so we work till nine o’clock
“or else you know, Madam, we could not
“keep ourselves tidy, for as I spins, she mends
“for us all, and then little Betty reads the
“psalms and a chapter in the bible to us, and
“then you know, we work so pleasantly ;
“and o’ Sundays I has my poor boy at home
“and then I makes he read.”—“And who
“taught them to read?”—“I did, Madam
“for want of a better mistress.”

Here then was exactly what Mrs. Worthy wanted, the manners and conversation of this good woman, had pleased her the first time she had seen her, and a further knowledge of her had increased her good opinion.

“I have an intention to establish a little
“school, and I think you would be very fit
“to be the mistress of it ; my plan is a very
“simple one. I wish the children, both girls
“and boys, to be taught to read, to spell, and
“to say their catechism. If you are willing
“to undertake it, I will immediately arrange
“my plan ; that is to say, how I would have
“it conducted ; and when I have adjusted

“ every thing, I will consult with you when
“ the school shall be opened.”—“ Law’s,
“ Madam, I be’ent much of a scholar, but if
“ larning them, poor things, the same as I ha’
“ done my children will content your Lady-
“ ship, I be ready to do any thing you would
“ have me; mine can read their bible, and
“ can find all the church service, and as for
“ the *catechize*, why they all three say it to
“ me o’ Sundays.”

“ That is all I require,” said Mrs. Worthy,
(glad to find Dame Joice pleased with her
proposal)—“ and in a few days I shall be
“ ready, and I think you will be no loser by
“ giving up some of your time to that pur-
“ pose.”

There were fifteen children, boys and girls,
from the age of six to ten, that were to be-
come members of the school. The girls were
to go for three hours every morning, five at a
time, to be taught reading, spelling, and their
catechism; also to mark, and to knit stock-
ings. Molly Joice was to teach them to mark
and as her mornings were taken up at Farmer
Collet’s, she was to have only two girls at a
time, three evenings in the week, in turns,
till all in the school had received the same

benefit. The boys were to come to the school at one o'clock, to stay till three; for, as their instruction consisted only of reading and learning a portion of spelling, and repeating the catechism, two hours were quite sufficient; and of these boys, as most of them could earn a trifle daily, of course the two hours taken out would be a loss to their parents, to prevent which Mrs. Worthy herself paid for that portion of their time, in order that the poor little fellows (as she observed) might not by losing their play-time go to school with an ill will.

All the children were to repair on the Sunday morning to Dame Joice's to be instructed how to find the church service, and on their return from church were to come with her to Seabrook house to dinner; Sarah's three grandchildren were included in this indulgence.

Previous to the commencement of their lessons, Sarah was to teach the children some short prayers, and to make it a rule for all to say them with the Lord's Prayer every morning; the girls as soon as they came to school, and the boys when they left it.

When the children were able to answer the

questions tolerably correct, Mrs. Worthy told Sarah she might hear them in classes, four at a time, that is to say, four a day, which would save her both time and trouble. If the Sunday proved so wet that Sarah and her children could not go to church, they were to assemble at her cottage in order to hear her read a portion of the morning prayers with the psalms and lessons, and as for the same reason, they could not come to the house, a dinner was to be sent there for the whole party.

All these particulars were put down in a book with the children's names, and given to Sarah, that she might not be at a loss in case she had forgotten her first instructions.

Every thing was settled with Sarah concerning her new occupation; and another excursion to W——n took place, in order to procure books. All that were suitable to the condition of those to be instructed by them, were purchased; and a bible and prayer-book in large print for Sarah. At the same time Mr. Yarnley received an order for sheets, blankets, and warm rugs; for though Mrs. Worthy had not yet inquired into their wants of this sort, she had no doubt of their being

equally destitute of these necessaries of life, as she had found them in that of cloathing.

The next day, as soon as the lessons were over, the young ladies accompanied their mamma in a general visit to all the cottages. Their first call was at Sarah Joice's, to give her the books which a servant brought with them. Miss Worthy and Catherine had requested their mamma to let them pay for the bible and prayer-book, that they might have the pleasure of giving something to Sarah. "Dear, dear me!" said the delighted creature, "how good you all be, these will be so pure for my bad eyes; but deary me, what a power of books; be they all to learn in?"

Mrs. Worthy, smiling, bid her not be frightened, for though there were so many, there were only three different sorts. A spelling book; a first Catechism, and a New Testament for each child, and added, "as I mean you to begin school next Monday, I will come and assist you in giving the first day's lessons; here are also a few short prayers, which I have transcribed from a book, which I make use of myself, these I would have you make each child repeat till

“ they can say them by heart, and that they
“ will soon do, as they are very short, but
“ with the Lord’s prayer, quite sufficient.”

Sarah said, she was afraid she should not do quite so well at first, but she should soon be used to it, and would always do her best.

They next went to see the wife of Giles Jenkins, who had lately lain in, and were pleased to see a very pretty baby, dressed in a complete suit of the clothes they had been making: the little girl was six weeks old, and and was a very fine child, but the poor mother was still very weak.

“ You do not seem stronger,” said Mrs. Worthy, “ than when I was here last, have
“ you taken the cordial I sent you, regularly every night.”

“ Yes, Madam, and some of the nice broth
“ I had to-day.”

“ You must eat the whole of it to-day,
“ and you shall have some nourishing food
“ every day till you have regained your
“ strength, so don’t forget to send Sally for it.”

They looked in at all the cottages, and had the satisfaction of observing already a visible alteration for the better, even Mary Brown was seated by a clean hearth, mending her husband’s stockings.

“ I am glad to see you look so tidy, and
“ so industrious, Mary ; I hope you will
“ never be otherwise, as I think you must
“ feel more comfortable to yourself.”

“ Indeed, Madam, I will try and leave off
drinking ; that is, leave off wanting it, for,
indeed, I have had none for this long while
now ; and as I has better victuals now, I doesn't
want it as I used to do.”

“ Can you read, Mary ?”

“ No, Madam.”

“ I am sorry for it,” said Mrs. Worthy.
“ But two of your children are old enough to
go the school, and when they are able to read
to you, you will, I hope, receive much com-
fort from hearing the Bible read constantly ;
but your husband reads to you on a Sunday.”

Poor Mary looked down as if ashamed to
answer, and Mrs. Worthy continued, “ he
can read, I suppose.”

“ Yes, Madam, and does read his Bible on
a Sunday night.”

“ Well, then, I hope *now*” (and she laid
an emphasis upon *now*) “ he will, if you de-
sire him, read to you on a Sunday, and you
may tell him what I have been saying to you
on the subject.”

The winter was fast approaching, and evening walks quite at an end. The mornings were therefore allotted for exercise, and two hours taken from the evening in order to finish the lessons. At seven, the young ladies took their supper; after which, Louisa and Constantia joined their sisters in some amusement, and at eight retired to rest: the two eldest were allowed till half past nine.

When the tea equipage was removed, Mrs. Worthy took a book from her work-table drawer, and turning to Catharine, said, "You expressed a desire of knowing the history of Richard Wynyard, and as I am very ready to gratify the reasonable wishes of my children when it is in my power, I have, with Miss Moleworth's assistance, collected not only his, but that of such of his neighbours as I thought might conduce both to your amusement and instruction, and though Caroline was silent on the subject, I dare say she was equally desirous with yourself of the gratification. There is no station of life whatever which, upon being strictly scrutinized, will not be found to exhibit much to blame and much to commend; and, in many, much room for pity. If, therefore, we have the judgment to

profit by the good example set before us, or to take warning from their failings, we shall most assuredly be great gainers in the end."

"Now, Caroline, you may begin the manuscript."

VILLAGE MEMOIRS.

NARRATIVE THE FIRST.

Riches not always conducive to happiness.

IN a delightful village near the sea-coast lived a farmer named Marlow; his family consisted of one son nearly twenty years of age, and two daughters. Whilst the farmer and his son performed the daily labours of the field, his eldest daughter managed the dairy and the economy of the house. She rose at four o'clock in the morning, helped to milk twelve cows, and make the butter and cheese. Peggy was at this time only fifteen, and three years younger than her sister Sally; their mother had been dead about six years, and both girls had, though so young, the satis-

faction of seeing their father tolerably reconciled to the loss of a wife he had loved with the sincerest affection, through their attention to his comfort in every thing which depended upon them to do for him. At twelve o'clock, Marlow found his dinner ready for him, which, though homely, was wholesome and cleanly ; in the evening, his oaken elbow chair was placed upon the clean hearth, upon which blazed a cheerful fire ; his pipe and his jug of ale placed upon the table near him ; then while his girls plied their needles, he would tell them some cheerful story, that passed the time away, till it was time to part to their needful rest ; never omitting, before they parted, to join in thanks to the Almighty for the blessings of the day past, and a humble request for a continuance of his bounties towards them. A young man, the son of a farmer, who lived about twenty miles beyond Marlow's village, had long courted Sarah, and his father had promised, when he should have attained his twenty-fifth year, that he would set him up in a small farm. He was then to be united to Sarah, and Marlow promised to furnish their house. Only six months remained of the allotted period, and

the young people were preparing for their approaching settlement, when an uncle of Marlow's, who had never taken the smallest notice of either his nephew or his nephew's family, died, and left each of his children one thousand pounds, and himself the like sum, with the addition of an annuity of one hundred for his life. This sudden acquisition of wealth operated differently on the parties concerned; Marlow, hitherto happy in the possession of his small farm, now thought the addition of some land; that lay contiguous to his own and happened now to be offered for sale, would allow him to graze some sheep, and to increase his stock of cows; because, said he, I shall then have sufficient pasture to change them properly. Young Marlow, or, as he was more generally called, Richard, rubbing his hands and putting on a consequential air, said, "As I can now afford it, I shall immediately buy a good horse, that I may go to the fairs as well mounted as neighbour Graspall's son: what say you, Sarah, shall I, at the same time, buy a poney for you; I think you would look as well as Miss Celia Graspall."

Sarah had no vain wishes. She was pleas-

ed at his good fortune, because it would enable her to stock her William's farm better than could have been expected from his father: she therefore answered her brother's offer by saying, "I shall have very little use for a poney when I leave Father's house, as I shall have sufficient employment in looking after my house and dairy business, and you know, I am able to walk as far as any of my friends' homes, when I have time to go abroad."

Sarah intended to bestow a small sum upon herself, previous to her marriage, to pay for some instructions in writing, and arithmetic, at a school a few miles off, kept by a relation, having been too much occupied in the management of her father's house, since the death of mother, to bestow a thought upon herself; but as her father could now afford to keep another servant under the direction of their poor old Hannah, and her sister would look to the house, she was very desirous of acquiring what she knew would be of great use to her.

Peggy, though a very good girl, was of a more lively turn than her sister, and was more gratified at the idea of equalling Miss

Graspall in point of fortune, than for laying plans for the spending of it: and as they seem to be concerned in farmer Marlow's story, some account of them is necessary.

Mr. Graspall, was by profession, an Attorney, but of little note, except that of ruining his clients, and then discovering their cause to be a bad one. His wife, was the daughter of an Exciseman, and having brought her husband a fortune of twelve hundred pounds, assumed no small consequence, not only in her own family, but over her less qualified neighbours. Her son was the buck of the village, and was a clerk in the county banking-house. Her daughter had just quitted the boarding school of D——r, the county town, where she had spent five years. There she had learnt to gabble bad French, dance reels, *thrum* the piano-forte, spoil muslin, dress smart, and look down with contempt upon all those who had not been favoured with the same polite accomplishments, among which, Sarah and Peggy Marlow, obtained the chief place. To these girls, her haughty glances gave no concern, and no intimacy could subsist between dispositions so opposite. George Graspall,

laughed at *Clownish Dick*, the appellation he was known by, among his conceited set.

So were the two families situated, when the aforesaid legacies set farmer Marlow upon a par with lawyer Graspall. The news quickly spread, and in its progress reached the ears of their high flown neighbours. Graspall entered the parlour out of breath, with his wig half off, and his pocket handkerchief in one hand, and his hat in the other, to the great astonishment of his stately lady, who angrily demanded what crotchet had seized him now.

“ Odso, wife, don't hurry me, and I'll tell you news.—Why, do you know”——

“ I know; how should I know any news, in a place where there is not a creature to converse with.”

“ Well, well! wife, you need not be so cross: the news is, that neighbour Marlow has got a fortune left him.”

“ A fortune!” cried Mrs. Graspall. “ How came that about; I never heard he had any rich relations.”

“ No, nor I before; I wonder they never spoke of this uncle: I little thought old Bob Barry was related to him: however, their

acquaintance is now worth seeking, and it will be but doing the civil thing to go and give them joy of their good fortune."

"Indeed I don't know that I shall give myself that trouble : which of them am I to visit, pray?"

"La, *paa* !" cried Miss Celestina Graspall, "would you have *maa* and *me* go and see such dowdy figures?"

"Pugh, pugh, hold your nonsense ; If you were the young man's wife I fancy you would not be badly off."

This last speech was not without its effect : and occasioned a pause of some minutes ; when, at last, interest overcoming her high-flown scruples, yet unwilling to comply with any proposal coming from her husband, it having been an invariable rule with her to contradict him upon all occasions, she, at last, replied, that she should be in no hurry ; but when she had nothing better to do, she might, perhaps give them a call, by way of paying the butter-bill she owed Sally.

Whilst this unamiable family were disputing upon the subject, a circumstance occurred which brought about this important event. The land which Marlow was so desirous to

purchase, was at the disposal of Graspall, as agent for the proprietor; and the very next day he was required to settle the purchase-money.

As Graspall hoped one day to form a connexion with the family, he dealt more fairly with Marlow than was in general his custom; the bargain was made, and a draft for the payment given.

The next morning Mrs. Graspall condescended to make a visit to Sarah; but, to her no small surprize, found her exactly in the same dress and the same employ, in her household business, as before she had any idea of possessing a fortune.

“ Dear me! Miss Marlow,” an appellation not all familiar or pleasing to her, to whom it was addressed, “ you don’t intend to drudge on in the same sort way now you used to do.”

“ If I were as you, I wouldn’t indeed; I see no reason why my uncle’s legacy should make any change in my conduct,” replied Sarah.

“ Dear me! no, you surprise me; but surely, if you don’t like to make any

“ change in your father’s house, you won’t
“ do so in your own.”

To this last question Sarah was as inflexi-
“ ble as to first, and replied: “ That so far
“ from diminishing her occupations, her
“ legacy would increase them, as it would be
“ in her power now to add to the stock of
“ Collet’s farm, and, of course, to make more
“ labour necessary.”

These grovelling notions were quite beyond
Mrs. Graspall’s conception, who thought the
whole use of money was to procure the ease,
or rather idleness of the possessor. Miss
Graspall employed herself in like manner with
Peggy, and with no better success. She had
always looked up to her sister as the perfect
model for her imitation, and felt more grieved
at the approaching separation than pleased at
being considered Miss Peggy Marlow with a
fortune.

The ladies rose to depart, previously en-
gaging the sisters to take their tea with them
the following afternoon, and to engage their
brother to escort them, adding, “ We expect
“ George to-morrow, who will be happy to
“ form an acquaintance with Richard Mar-
“ low.”

Sarah was blunt in her manners and upright in her heart, and possessed a good, though uncultivated understanding. She was not a dupe to the overstrained civilities of the Graspalls; and though she did not penetrate all her designs, she had, nevertheless, a great dislike to an intimacy with any of them. She feared for her sister, who was young, and might be drawn into an imitation of the manners of Miss Graspall, and lose all that modest, unassuming character, so much more becoming her station, and wished she had declined their invitation; but Sarah was too little versed in the fashion of the times to be able to *cut* those she disliked.

However, the Graspall family played their cards so skilfully, that it was very soon settled as they had predetermined. Richard Marlow demanded the hand of Miss Graspall; and the day of his sister's union with young Collet was to make him happy also.

Here Miss Worthy laid down the manuscript in great surprise, and asked if their favourite, Mrs. Collet, was that Sally Marlow of whom they had just been reading.

“The very same,” replied Mrs. Worthy, “and the Mrs. Marlow you have seen with

“ her, and whose tawdry manner of dressing
“ so much amuses you, is the identical Miss
“ Graspall of whom you have been reading.”

“ Dear mamma,” said Catharine Worthy,
“ how interesting your stories will be; and
“ how good you and Miss Molesworth are to
“ take so much trouble for our amusement.
“ I shall like our evening readings better than
“ ever.”

“ Then, I am afraid,” replied Mrs. Worthy,
“ you will be extremely sorry, when I
“ tell you, that they will be suspended some
“ days, as I expect Mrs. and Miss Mordaunt
“ to-morrow to pass at least a week with me.”

“ Indeed, mamma,” said Catherine, “ I
“ am very sorry they are coming, as their
“ society will be a poor compensation for the
“ entertainment they will deprive us of.”

“ My dear child,” said Mrs. Worthy,
“ you have expressed yourself with more
“ peevishness than the occasion requires. In
“ our choice of friends it is natural to select
“ those whose dispositions and tastes assimilate
“ with our own; but the duties of society
“ require us sometimes to give up choice to
“ necessity, which is the case in the present
“ instance; as your aunt Seabrook’s friends,

“ they are entitled to our respectful attentions.
“ Mrs. Mordaunt’s father was your aunt’s
“ guardian, and as she became an orphan in
“ infancy, she was brought up entirely with
“ Miss Carteret, they received their educa-
“ tion at the same boarding-school, and were
“ never separated till each married, which
“ event also took place on the same day. It
“ would be, then, surprising if they did not
“ still continue friends.

“ Mrs. Mordaunt’s greatest weakness is a
“ faulty indulgence to her daughter’s caprices,
“ who is her only child, and is naturally so
“ bad a temper, that she is a tyrant to all
“ who are in her power. Unfortunately, she
“ has had but too much opportunity to in-
“ dulse her tyrannical will, having, till lately,
“ lived in Jamaica, where, being attended by
“ those unfortunate beings whose wayward
“ fate has doomed them to a life of slavery,
“ she has had full scope for the indulgence of
“ every capricious, not to say cruel whim,
“ and she expects the same passive obedience
“ here in England, forgetting, or not rightly
“ understanding, that every Briton is born
“ free, and is protected by the laws of his

“ country whilst he acts uprightly and performs the duties of his station.

“ Miss Mordaunt is to be pitied, as in consequence of the indulgence of her mother, she is deprived of one of the greatest pleasures attached to humanity, the affectionate regard of her dependants, who now look upon her with dread, and of course with abhorrence.

“ You, my children, have been taught to think and act very differently, and must therefore view her failings with compassion: and now good night, it is nearly an hour past your usual time of retiring.”

Mr. Carteret, the father of Mrs. Mordaunt, was the owner of a considerable plantation in the Island of Jamaica, and in one of his visits to his estate, was requested by his friend Mr. Mordaunt, to take his only son, then about twenty years of age, with him to England, by way of completing his education. An attachment took place between this youth and Miss Carteret, and in less than three years she became his wife, and accompanied him to Jamaica, where she had continued to reside till her husband's death, and as soon as she could

dispose of her estate there, she returned to England with her daughter, who was now seventeen years old. So many years spent in Jamaica, it is not at all surprising she should almost forget the manners and customs of her native home—that happy land, which even gives freedom to the poor African the moment he feels her soil beneath his feet.

Mrs. Mordaunt had been in England about two years, and though she thought it requisite to have a governess for her daughter, it was only to spare herself the fatigue of attending the various masters that were engaged to give lessons to one whose indolence and perverseness tried their patience beyond their bearing, nor was Mademoiselle Courvoisie permitted to correct her peevish pupil. It may easily be imagined Miss Mordaunt made little progress towards improvement, and at last she prevailed upon her mamma to discharge the whole assembly of instructors and La Courvoisie also.

The young ladies had been often in each others company at Mrs. Seabrook's; and though but a partial judgment could be formed in these visits, the Worthy's were sufficiently disgusted with their manners; and when they saw her and her mamma alight at

the gate of their happy mansion, every pleasure seemed to vanish, and discord take her place. Lamentations at the horrid roads they had been obliged to traverse the last twenty miles; the negligence of the servants, in omitting to place in the chaise-pockets those things they knew were not to be taken with them; Mrs. Mordaunt complained of the head-ach, and her daughter of fatigue; and both retired to their chambers, requesting to have their dinner sent up to their dressing-room, an unexpected reprieve to Miss Worthy and her sisters.

The next morning, after taking their breakfast at a late hour in Mrs. Mordaunt's dressing room, they descended to the library, where Mrs. Worthy was quietly attending Catherine's lesson of music. The first compliments passed, Mrs. Mordaunt, in some surprise, inquired of Mrs. Worthy if she took the trouble herself to sit with the masters instead of having a governess for her daughters; but her wonder much increased when that lady exposed the whole plan of her education. Miss Mordaunt shrugged up her already high shoulders, and whispered her mamma that she pitied the unfortunate girls

thus condemned to study, declaring she wondered they could look so healthy and happy.

The week of their stay was spent in affected admiration in public, and in satirical condemnation in their chambers upon the conduct of their truly amiable hostess. It did not pass unobserved by Mrs. Worthy, but she pitied that littleness of mind, that could find no better employment. However, her patience was nearly exhausted by the perpetual repetition of dislikes, abhorrences, and horrors; poor Fidelle, the pretty little spaniel, was banished the drawing room, to save their ears from the incessant screams of Miss Mor-daunt, and the whole house was thrown into disorder, because a poor harmless caterpillar was seen crawling upon her cloak. It is a peculiar blessing that such characters are seldom met with, and we will now dismiss them from our pages.

The visitors quitted Seabrook at an early hour and the usual avocations were resumed: as soon as the morning lessons were completed, Mrs. Worthy, Miss Molesworth, and the young people, set out upon a walk of three miles in extent, on a charitable visit to

a poor family labouring under the most abject poverty. Miss Molesworth, who had first discovered them, had prepared the humane Mrs. Worthy for a scene of misery; but the reality exceeded all description. An immensely high craggy rock rose perpendicular about a hundred yards from the sea-shore in a dreary barren waste; neither tree nor shrub met the eye: within a hollow of this rock was formed (and only the addition of a few planks which barely kept out the rain) a hovel, where lived, or rather existed, a man, his wife, and seven children, the youngest at the breast. Their cloathing merely a covering, and insufficient to guard them from the cold; but though their little jackets appeared to be made of old sail-cloth, they were neither ragged nor dirty, and the infant's covering was made of blue linsey-woolsey, but so clean, and healthy looking, that it might be caressed by the most delicate lady in the land; and when Mrs. Worthy approached the mother, turned its smiling countenance towards her, holding out its little hands as if sensible of the blessings she dispensed to all who were fortunate enough to fall in her way.

Mrs. Worthy.—“ My good woman, how
“ are you able, in this miserable dwelling, to
“ keep so many children so clean and tidy ?”

Mrs. Wilson.—“ You are very kind,
“ Madam, to say so, but we have no means
“ of procuring clothing, and I am therefore
“ glad to cover the poor things out of what-
“ ever chance throws in my way, as it is as
“ much as Joe can do to get us bread ; so
“ we make shift as well as we can, and the
“ children sometimes get some old things
“ given them when they carry fish to town.”

Mrs. Worthy—“ Is your husband a fisher-
“ man ?—but stay, before you answer me any
“ more questions we will empty our baskets.”

Each now produced the contents of her own ; one was filled with cold meat, another with pieces of bread, a third some cheese, knives and forks, and a cup of salt ; Miss Worthy, a bottle of beer. It would be a difficult question to decide which of the human beings who filled the hovel were the most content, those who brought wherewith to feed the hungry and cloath the naked, or the hungry children who saw food, such as perhaps they had never before tasted, as fish was their usual fare. The poor woman could only

utter, in broken sentences, blessings on her benefactress.

“Come,” said Mrs. Worthy, “we will walk a little nearer the beach, where I see a fragment of a rock, upon which we may rest ourselves and eat our sandwiches, while that poor family take their meal.” She had the satisfaction to observe the poor woman set apart the largest portion for her husband against he returned, and then divide out the remainder.

When a sufficient time had elapsed, Mrs. Worthy and her young party returned to the hovel, and produced some necessary articles of clothing, shirts and shifts of good homespun dowlas, stockings, petticoats, a stuff gown, and two changes for the infant.—“I knew that as you were in want of every thing, these could not be amiss; and as I have heard that you and your husband are sober and industrious, I intend, now that I have seen your family, to send you two changes of every kind of necessary clothing for you all, and also shirts and stockings for your husband; and if he does not go out with the boat to-morrow, he may come to me for the things, and I shall then have

“ seen all the family.”—“ God will reward
“ you, Madam,” said the poor woman,
“ I can only pray for you.”

“ Are those all the children you ever had ?”

“ O! no, Madam,” and a flood of tears
stopped further utterance; and Mrs. Worthy,
concerned that she had occasioned her grief,
begged she would not distress herself by
answering a question which seemed so af-
fecting to her, “ O no! Madam, if you will
“ be pleased to hear it, I will not be such a
“ fool again;” and she proceeded to relate
as follows.*—“ I had two boys older than
“ any here; one fatal evening they went
“ out with their father a fishing, and the boat
“ drove out to sea a good way from the
“ shore; they had been gone six hours, and
“ the wind blew a hurricane, the sea rolled
“ mountains high, and I gave up all for lost;
“ but while I was standing on the beach,
“ wringing my hands, and despairing of ever
“ seeing them again, the storm abated a
“ little, and I saw our boat coming in; but
“ oh, agony! when almost within sound of
“ my voice it upset; for an hour I saw all three

* This is a real fact, which took place on New Year's
Day 1779, on the Coast of Dorsetshire.

“ struggling to reach the shore, one of my
“ boys sank, never to rise again in this world;
“ the other seemed within my grasp, and I
“ waded in up to my breast to drag him out;
“ my strength failed, the sea drove me back
“ again, and left me senseless on the shore.
“ When I came to myself, my poor Joe was
“ standing by me, but my boys were both
“ gone; he carried me home, and that poor
“ little girl, now three years old, was born
“ next morning; it is now three years since,
“ but never can I forget the agonizing sight.
“ Their death has deprived us of two dutiful
“ children, and my husband of two useful
“ assistants; he is now obliged to go halves
“ with another in the gain with him, as he
“ cannot go out alone.”

“ I am very sorry to have recalled so me-
“ lancholy a subject to your remembrance,
“ but one thing surprises me much, which
“ is, that your manner and language ill ac-
“ cord with the poverty of your appearance;
“ and I suppose that misfortunes of some
“ kind must have reduced you to a situation
“ I cannot believe to be suitable to your
“ early expectations.”

The poor woman blushed deeply and replied.—“Your goodness to me, Madam, claims my confidence; and if you will condescend to listen to my sad story, I will obey your commands whenever you think proper to lay them upon me.”—“I shall very soon call upon you then,” said Mrs. Worthy, “but I must now return home, as it grows late.”

Whilst Mrs. Mordaunt was at Seabrook House, Miss Molesworth had strolled out one morning alone, and, as was her custom, took a book for her companion, more intent upon that than the path she had taken, which led her beyond her knowledge, nor could she guess in what direction to turn, till, having ascended the hill, she found herself upon the Cliff, and soon arrived at this wretched hovel, and there learned she was three miles from Seabrook House; but her fatigue, her alarm, all was forgotten in the compassion she felt for the poor objects before her, particularly as the children were cleanly in the midst of misery, and she resolved to interest Mrs. Worthy in their behalf. After leaving with the poor woman the trifle she had in her pocket, she asked one of the little

boys if he could shew her the right path towards home?—"Go quite home with the
" Lady, Billy; you know your way back
" again." Miss Molesworth objected to taking him all the way, lest it should be too much for his strength, but his mother assured her he was quite equal to it.—"Well
" then," said Miss Molesworth, "I will make
" him rest himself, and give him his dinner." Miss Molesworth found them in great alarm at her long stay, knowing she went out alone. After she had satisfied their inquiries, she took care of her little guide, who eat a hearty meal, and was sent back with a basket of cold meat and a loaf of bread. Before she slept, she acquainted Mrs. Worthy with her adventure; and, fortunately for her impatience, Mrs. Mordaunt left Seabrook two days after.

We will now accompany Mrs. Worthy and her party from the wretched hovel.—
" Indeed, my dear Miss Molesworth, your
" picture was drawn to the life, and I feel
" myself much indebted to you for giving
" me the opportunity for relieving so much
" real distress, and which will make your so-
" litary ramble a fortunate circumstance for

“ them.”—“ Indeed, Madam, she seems an
“ object worthy of your bounty ; and, if I
“ have any skill in my favourite science, dare
“ venture to pronounce, that her story will
“ not give you reason to regret my having
“ discovered them.”—“ You will certainly
“ make me a convert to your Lavaterian sys-
“ tem at last,” replied Mrs. Worthy.—“ I
“ wish, Mamma,” said Caroline, “ they had
“ a better dwelling.”—“ I wish so too, my
“ love, but perhaps they could not quit it
“ while the man follows his present occupa-
“ tion ; it shall be made more comfortable if
“ in my power ; but I must first examine my
“ expense book, and see if I can, after
“ paying all my bills, take these poor people
“ in as pensioners. We must always be
“ just as well as charitable, for the tradesman,
“ if he is honest, cannot afford long credit,
“ and many a one is half-ruined while an in-
“ dependent fortune remains unpaid in his
“ books.”

While Mrs. Worthy and Miss Molesworth prepared the frocks and petticoats for the next morning, Miss Worthy resumed the story of Farmer Marlow.

CONTINUATION
OF THE
HISTORY
OF
THE MARLOW FAMILY.

AS soon as Sarah discovered that Miss Graspall was to become her sister-in-law, she resolved to withdraw Peggy from the contagion of her example. The school kept by her mother's relation was quite dissimilar to the generality of boarding-schools. Here were no *would-be-fine ladies*; the girls were taught to be good christians, good housewives, good wives, and good mothers. Music, drawing, and dancing, were not set down among the requisite accomplishments of Mrs. Goodwill's pupils, and whose condition in life rendered these quite useless. With Mrs. Goodwill, she knew Peggy would be perfectly safe, and would be taught how to conduct herself properly in her station of life. With her sister-in-law, she would at one time be a household drudge, and at

another a dissipated idler; and as Peggy had a very high spirit, it was more than probable they might disagree, and in that case; her father would be made unhappy. Sarah lost no time in communicating her plan to her father, though without giving him all her reasons for it, as that might have made him more dissatisfied with her brother's choice, create unhappiness among them, and all without remedying the evil. Marlow seldom disapproved of any proposal of Sarah's, well knowing they were formed with judgment, and he readily agreed to this, provided Peggy consented willingly to it. Accordingly their plan was made known to her, and joyfully agreed to, and every thing being arranged for her reception at Mrs. Goodwill's, the week after that of her brother and sister's marriage saw Peggy quietly fixed. Mr. Marlow was perfectly happy and good-humoured while the ceremony of receiving and returning bridal-visits continued, but that was no sooner over, than the reformation in her father-in-law's house, planned in her mind before her marriage with his son gave her any licence for it, now took place. The dinner hour was

the first alteration poor Marlow endured; he must either dine alone, or wait till three o'clock; and he submitted to the alternative, when told how utterly impossible it was for any one accustomed to genteel life to comply with his antideluvian hour of twelve. The management of the dairy was left entirely to the dairy-maid; at present, however, it was taken care of by old Hannah, who would not see her masters wronged. Mrs. Marlow detested her, because she regarded her as a too rigid censurer of her actions, and tried every effort to make her tired of her place. Hannah had promised her young mistress, as she had always called Sarah, never to quit her father's bouse; but she was upwards of seventy, and too feeble to do more than just look on; and death deprived Marlow of his trusty friend six months after Sarah's marriage.

Richard loved and respected his father, and saw with concern that he was far from being comfortable, but his wife had not yet, with all her rhetoric, been able to prevail on him to give up his usual occupations; therefore, the out-of-door business of the farm was as well conducted as ever, and he overlooked,

as much as possible, the want of economy in the house, as long as it did no injury to his circumstances. Though he often drew a comparison between the good management of his sister Sally and the negligence of his wife, he never dared let her discover his sentiments. They have been married now some years, and never had any children, therefore the thoughtless conduct of his wife affects him less than it would do if he had a family to bring up, so that for the sake of quietness he gives up his own opinion almost in every thing; his father being dead it can no longer hurt *him*. Mrs. Collet often wishes their uncle had neglected them as much in his will as he had ever done in his life-time, so that they might have esaped any connection with the Graspalls: a connexion which had been productive of so much mischief to her father and brother.

“ Poor Marlow,” said Miss Worthy, as she closed the book, “ what a pity that he did not meet with a woman more congenial to his disposition; I am really very sorry for him, Mamma.”

“ So should I too,” replied Mrs. Worthy, “ if he had not drawn his trouble on himself, by neglecting the advice of his father and

“ sister, particularly of the latter, who pointed out to him from the first, the impropriety of connecting himself with people, whose habits of life were so entirely different to his own.” Richard laughed at his sister’s scruples, because George Graspall was a hearty fellow.

“ Pray, Mamma, what is become of Peggy?”

“ I was afraid you had quite forgotten her, my dear, though you have seen her very lately, and at the time expressed your admiration of her.”

“ Now, Mamma, you have puzzled me, for I have never been at B——; then how can I have seen her?”

“ My dear Caroline, you forget that seven years have elapsed since Peggy first went to school, and how unlikely it is that a woman of two-and-twenty should be so improvident of her time as to have remained there so long.”—“ Indeed, Mamma, I was very silly to think so, but I have not the least guess where I can have seen her.”

“ You have been to so few places, Caroline, that I am surprised you should be at a loss to discover that Peggy is Mrs. Yarnley.”

“ Indeed, Mamma, I could never have
“ guessed it, she is so unlike her sister.”

“ That is very true, Mrs. Collet’s plain
“ dress, and sun-burnt complexion, gives her
“ a much older look than she really is; then
“ her manners are blunt and her phrases pro-
“ vincial; her sister, on the contrary, is gen-
“ tle, polite, and remarkably (for her rank in
“ life) polished in her conversation; to ac-
“ count for this, you must recollect she had
“ the advantages of education, and that she
“ associated with people while at Mrs. Good-
“ will’s, whose manners were better formed
“ than the society of her sister; then again,
“ since her marriage, she has been in the
“ constant habit of attending in her shop,
“ which has given her an easy freedom; and
“ to conclude, she is very pretty. All these
“ qualifications are very trifling when put in
“ comparison with her disposition; those may
“ give her a passport to the world in general,
“ but it is the temper of her mind which has
“ gained her the love and esteem of all who
“ are acquainted or connected with her.—
“ After all I have said,” continued Mrs. Wor-
“ thy, “ I dare say you will like to hear how
“ Peggy became the wife of Mr. Yarnley.—

“The elder Mr. Yarnley acquired a very
“handsome fortune in that shop where his
“son now lives; his wife and Mrs. Goodwill
“were intimate friends, and visited each
“other as often as their several avocations
“would permit. Peggy was a frequent
“theme with the latter, who loved her both
“for her mother’s sake and her own amiable
“qualities, which seemed to supply to her the
“loss of the friend she had sincerely loved.
“Young Mr. Yarnley admired her person,
“but, from these conversations, he became
“the admirer of her virtues, and his father
“gladly consented to a union he foresaw
“could not fail of being happy. As soon as
“they were married, Mr. Yarnley resigned
“the active part of the business to his son,
“with a sufficient portion of the profit to en-
“able him to support his wife respectably,
“but not sufficient to preclude a proper at-
“tention to industry and economy. Peggy
“amply justifies the choice of her husband
“and the partiality of her friends.”

The next morning the four sisters rose at sun-rise, in order to complete those lessons which depended on themselves; by the breakfast hour, Catharine and Louisa had

written their French and Italian exercises; Constantia had learnt all her lessons ready to repeat them to Miss Molesworth; and by the time their Mamma was ready to attend to their music lessons, every other was completed. By the fourth morning, they produced the frocks and petticoats very well made. Miss Worthy had bought some brown cloth, and made a long comfortable cloak for Mrs. Wilson, which, with a good black beaver bonnet, would be a very useful present to the poor woman. The whole party were impatient to distribute their gifts; and it being a fine frosty morning, Mrs. Worthy consented to accompany them with Miss Molesworth, in a walk to the fisherman's hut. The way thither would not admit a carriage, though almost too long a walk; but as they had no remedy, they took two servants with them to carry the bundles and provisions. Joe had been to Seabrook the day before, and received some clothes for himself, and his wife and the elder children; and, with that which this benevolent party now carried to them, would put the whole family in a comfortable state. When they arrived at the Rock, the young people were struck with astonishment at the

agreeable change they beheld. The late wretched hovel was transformed into a comfortable cottage, which was now finishing by the carpenter and glazier, ready to be thatched; the light was now no longer admitted through "chinks that time had made;" two small casements now served that purpose, and guarded the inhabitants from the inclemency of the weather. It was still supported at the back by the rock, as the surest protection against the storms which frequently attacked it; the inside was divided into two apartments, which permitted Mrs. Wilson to separate her children at night, and to keep them tidy by day.

"Dear Mamma," said Catharine, when they had contented themselves with examining the improvements, "you are certainly the Fairy Benigna, for you not only do as much good, but do it as expeditiously as that good fairy."

"My dear children, it is very easy to be
"a Fairy Benigna, when we resolve to do all
"the good in our power; and, believe me,
"that power is much more extensive than
"many of us imagine; true charity consists
"in adapting our relief to the real wants of

“ the object, and not in any unnecessary la-
“ vishment, given more as a parade of our
“ own fancied goodness than for any real
“ benefit to the object; but come, let us
“ enter; for if you are not tired, I am.”

Mrs. Wilson's gratitude quite overpowered her; and, unable to express her feelings, she burst into tears.

Mrs. Worthy's benevolent heart was greatly affected; and she ordered the servants to return home, that she might not have so many witnesses of her distress.—“ I have
“ brought you some good broth, which I
“ think will do for all your family for to-day's
“ dinner, and the joint of meat you can dress
“ to-morrow as you like.”

“ Surely the Almighty has pardoned all my faults!” said the grateful Mrs. Wilson, “ or
“ he would not have blessed me and mine
“ with such a benefactress!”

“ Whatever may have been your faults,” replied Mrs. Worthy, “ you seem to be so
“ truly sensible of them, that I can never
“ suppose you capable of a repetition. Our
“ merciful Creator is very ready to pardon
“ the truly penitent, if we fervently pray to
“ him for grace to enable us to withstand

“ temptation ; and did we attend more to
“ the admonitions of conscience, we should
“ less frequently fall into error, as she is our
“ true friend when we give ear to her warn-
“ ing voice. When you are quite settled in
“ your new habitation, I will come here, and
“ you shall relate to me as much of your
“ story as you think proper ; I shall then be
“ able to judge for myself, and to know how
“ far I ought to indulge the partiality I must
“ own I feel for you ; for I am very unwil-
“ ling to afford my protection to the unde-
“ serving.”

“ I hope Madam, I shall not lose the
“ favourable opinion you are so good as to
“ own you have for me ; I know your hu-
“ manity will make all possible allowances,
“ and I will not deceive you by a partial re-
“ lation, but lay before you every part of my
“ conduct with sacred truth, be the event
“ what it may.”

Mrs. Worthy prepared to return home, telling Mrs. Wilson, that her good intentions towards her and her family should not be changed by a knowledge of past misconduct, if the future was such as she could approve.

Mrs. Worthy and her young party went to their favourite seat on the rock, and refreshed themselves with the sea-breeze while they eat the sandwiches they had brought with them; after which, they returned to Seabrook, more and more interested in the fate of the fisherman's wife.

Little more than two years had elapsed since Mrs. Worthy's arrival at Seabrook, yet she had the satisfaction of seeing a universal improvement in the conduct as well as the situation of her poor neighbours. Neither idleness nor drunkenness now took place among them; even Mary Brown had abandoned her pernicious habit, and kept herself and all belonging to her perfectly tidy.— Dame Joice went on with her school extremely well, her eldest grand-daughter assisting in it, for she no longer went to Mrs. Collet's, as Mrs. Worthy thought the school business too much for poor old Sarah to be able to go through it alone. Most of the children could now read tolerably well, and there were so many good knitters among them, that a sufficient number of stockings were ready to supply all the children in the village this Christmas, without buying, and they

were to be rewarded with a new Bible and book of Common Prayer on the next New-year's day.

“ How happy it makes me,” said Mrs. Worthy, as she walked home, “ to see the
“ change a little care and attention has pro-
“ duced in the manner of these poor peo-
“ ple, in so short a period. Many of them
“ were only two years ago, the most wretch-
“ of human beings, and now all bid fair to
“ become useful members of society through
“ their own industry.”

It had been Mrs. Worthy's practice, from the commencement of the second year, to go to the school twice in each month, to examine the children concerning their progress in religious knowledge, and to hear them repeat their Catechism; in this pious labour she was assisted by her two e'dest daughters, convinced of the advantage of practice over precept; for as every action of this really good lady was designed as a lesson for the future conduct of her children, she preferred making them agents in all her plans, to giving them as lessons which might hereafter be forgotten, but, when imbibed in their natural habits of infancy, could never fail being

practised by them when left to their own guidance.

Mrs. Worthy was so little of a *woman of the world*, according to the general acceptance of the term, that even when obliged to comply with some of its customs, she was sufficiently independent to all that were inimical to her own just sense of right. The whole pleasure of her life was centered in her children, and the only gratification she allowed herself, independent of them, was a regular correspondence with those select friends who most sincerely regretted the loss of her society.

Upon her arrival at Seabrook, Mrs. Worthy had been uniformly denied to all morning visitors without a single exception, as all within a drive were equally strangers. The thinking part respected her motive for this conduct; those whose whole enjoyment is to murder time, and torment all who wish to employ the precious moments of existence to the purposes for which they were created, called her a *precise quiz*, an *unsocial being*, an affected Lady Bountiful, and a multiplicity of such like epithets, all equally disregarded by her upon whom they were so liberally be-

stowed, and who enjoyed that first of human blessings, "an approving conscience." We will now return to the family of this worthy Lady.

"Pray, Mamma," said Miss Worthy, "have you made any addition to your manuscript?"—"Yes, my love," replied Mrs. Worthy; "and when Louisa and Constantia are retired to rest, you may, if you please, entertain us workers with the story of Richard Wynyard's family."

THE
HISTORY
OF
SAMUEL WYNYARD
AND HIS SON RICHARD.

SAMUEL WYNYARD was the proprietor of a corn-mill, which had descended from father to son for many successive generations; simple manners and strict integrity were equally their inheritance.

Samuel married the daughter of a respectable farmer, by whom he had several children, the youngest of whom was Richard, born in that year made memorable by the ruin of so many families through the fatal South-Sea Scheme. A sister of Samuel's was married to one of these too common characters, who are ever more ready to embrace the folly of scheming for a livelihood, than willing, through honest industry to enjoy the fruits of their labour. He frequented a club in his neighbourhood, and the present opportunity of acquiring riches at an easy rate was a constant theme of conversation among this tippling society. A

schemer is rarely beforehand in the world, and Robert Sims was for putting his children in what he called *Fortune's way* by every means except that one most certain of success, "the plain path of industry." Distracted with the desire of embarking in the present undertaking, and yet totally unprovided with the means to accomplish his wish, he resolved to borrow the money, rather than lose, according to his notion, this certain method of insuring his children's independence. His character was too well known among his acquaintance to suffer any of them to endanger their property in his hands. His brother-in-law was very good-natured, but whether he was good-natured enough to lend him a sum of money sufficient for his purpose was matter of great doubt; his wife said, she knew it had been their father's maxim, never to borrow and never to lend, except to save a fellow-creature from ruin, and she was sure her brother strictly maintained the same principles.

Robert was taggered, but not turned from his purpose. Though it was a season when his presence was particularly necessary in his farming business; he was resolved to

take a journey of fifty miles, in order, if possible, to prevail upon his brother Sam to engage in his project. He accordingly mounted his horse, and, with a change of linen put up in a small bag and fastened to his saddle, set out and left his wife to fret at his folly. Though Samuel was surprised to see his brother at this season of the year, he nevertheless gave him a hearty welcome and the best cheer his house afforded.—

Robert was impatient to make known his errand; but, well acquainted with his sister-in-law's prudence, which equalled that of his own wife (though prudence was not the term he used), he judged it most favourable to his plan to take his brother alone. The opportunity was not long wanting, and he thus began his attack.—“ You have no doubt heard, brother Sam, of the rare opportunity there is now a-foot to make oneself rich by a trifling venture?”

Samuel.—“ No, indeed, I have little opportunity, and less inclination, of hearing any thing beyond my own paling; but tell me what this wonderful lucky chance is.”

Robert.—“ Why, have you not heard of the plan for an exclusive trade to the South Sea?”

Samuel.—“ No, indeed; and if I had, I don't see what either you or I, have to do with South Seas or any other Sea, or how they are to enrich us; I know I won't make the voyage.”

Robert.—“ No, no, neither will I; others are to do that for us; we are only to advance money for it, for which we shall gain *Cent. per Cent.* in the long run; nay, more for ought I know.”

Samuel.—“ Indeed, brother, I am no friend to scheming; my father and my father's father brought up their family in the old fashioned way of getting money, that is to say, by doing their duty in the station of life they were born to. I have hitherto trod in their steps, and I will, if it please God, remain the same to my dying day. My children have always taken my advice, which was, to pursue the beaten track of honest labour, and never to be led away by any false hopes of making a fortune independent of industry.”

Robert.—“ Well, brother, I don't wish
“ to persuade you against your will, but
“ I hope you will not refuse me your assist-
“ ance to the making my fortune ?

Samuel now guessing where all this pream-
ble tended, and dreading a full explanation,
replied, “ I have no right to prevent you,
“ brother, from using any honest means to
“ enrich yourself; but as I do not under-
“ stand the scheme you are speaking of, I
“ can't decide on its utility, but I strongly
“ suspect so large a bribe indicates some
“ fraudulent design.”

Robert.—“ Fraudulent! no, no, there is
“ nothing like fraud in it; and I hope,
“ though you won't engage in it yourself,
“ you will be so good as to lend me a few
“ hundreds, which I will repay with full
“ interest in a very short time.”

Here then was the explanation so dreaded
by him : Samuel had a large family ; each
year, after having discharged every demand
that could be made upon him, he laid by
the remainder as a provision for the future
settlement of his children. He well knew
the foible of his brother-in-law, therefore
could not readily consent to risk his chil-

dren's rights, in order to furnish him with the means of pursuing his ruinous plans; for as such, Samuel very justly considered those which deviated from the plain path of honest industry.

After some little pause, he thus replied,
“ I am sorry, brother, to deny your request ;
“ you know I have a large family ; the Mill,
“ when I am gone, becomes the inheritance
“ of my eldest son ; it is therefore my duty
“ (having the means) to put his brothers
“ and sisters also in a way to maintain them-
“ selves and families, this can only be done
“ by laying by all I can spare at each year's
“ end, for that purpose. In that case, I
“ cannot look upon that money as my
“ own ; and if any unforeseen necessity
“ forces me to make use of it, I consider
“ myself as a borrower, and use my best en-
“ deavours to replace it as soon as possible.
“ I therefore cannot lend what is not my
“ own, and I hope you will not be offended
“ with me, but lay aside all thoughts of
“ this *chance-medley* way of making a for-
“ tune, and stick to the sure one, your
“ farming business.”

Robert.—“ Then you would not lend me
“ the money, brother Sam, though it were
“ to save one from ruin ?”

Samuel.—“ I did not say so; but you
“ can't be ruined by that you have no con-
“ cern in as I can see.”

Robert.—“ But it would save both me
“ and mine from ruin, for not a rood of land
“ or a sheep that grazes on it, is my own
“ property; for my landlord threatens to
“ seize it all, and throw me into jail into
“ the bargain for three years rent which I
“ owe him. Therefore, I look upon the South
“ Sea scheme now in agitation as a provi-
“ dential interposition, whereby I may keep
“ myself out of the paw of the Lion at pre-
“ sent, and ensure our future subsistence.”

“ Alas!” said Samuel, “ I wish it may not
“ drive you the sooner into it; I see no good
“ end any of your schemes have hitherto an-
“ swered. Such an estate as your's was
“ when you became master of it, would
“ have satisfied the wants and wishes of
“ any reasonable man, and as your children
“ are few in number, and young in years,
“ you have sufficient time to lay by some
“ part of your profits for future contingen-

“cies, and with good management might
“enjoy every comfort you could desire;
“but by continually pursuing some foolish
“shadow or other, you have not only de-
“stroyed the substance, but now, by your
“own confession, have thrown yourself so be-
“hind hand, that I am incapable of devising
“any proper means to extricate you from
“your present troubles.”

Robert.—“What signifies argufying so
“long about it, brother Sam; will you lend
“me the money or no, that I may be off,
“that is, the five hundred pounds I asked
“you for?”

“I cannot give you an immediate an-
“swer,” replied Samuel; “it is too late to
“set out for home now, therefore I will
“defer my determination till after dinner.”

Unfortunately for him, they were now in-
terrupted by a neighbour, who called upon
Samuel to consult with him upon the very
subject in question; and being of a disposi-
tion and conduct totally the reverse of Robert,
he had not only the power of obviating every
scruple of the prudent Samuel, but of un-
happily engaging him as a party in it. Six
hundred pounds, which had been accumu-

lated through the strict economy of this ill-fated couple, was now put into the hands of Robert Sims, who was to conduct the whole business. A very few months fatally convinced poor Samuel that he had thrown away the hard-earned profits of seven years labour.

Miss Fortune very rarely contents herself with one visit; he had hardly overcome the loss which his weak concession to his brother-in-law's importunity had occasioned, than a new misfortune fell upon him. The mill, the dwelling-house, and a large stock of corn, the property of his employers, were all destroyed by fire.

It was now that his former calamity fell most heavily upon him; he bitterly lamented his folly in giving way to the persuasions of others, against his own reason and judgment; had he resisted the importunity of Robert, or even lent him but a part of the sum, he could now have extricated himself with little difficulty; but, alas! he was now without resource. Their nearest neighbour kindly received poor Samuel and his family, affording them all the consolation in their power, by assuring them of a hearty welcome in their house till the mill and dwelling were rebuilt.

“ O God!” cried the unfortunate Samuel,
“ how impossible is it for me ever to regain
“ my former comforts!”—“ Do not say so,”
replied his friendly neighbour, “ you will
“ not be long in rebuilding your mill; and,
“ though you make use of what you call
“ your children’s money, you will be able
“ I hope to make that up again.”

“ Oh! my kind friend, how surprized
“ you will be, when I tell you I have foolish-
“ ly thrown away that money, which would
“ now save me and mine from ruin; he
“ then gave him an account of his brother-
“ in-law’s visit, and his own folly, adding,
“ if you had been at home I should have
“ had one friend at least to have supported
“ my own opinion, for my poor wife was
“ infatuated by his and neighbour Fuller’s
“ arguments.”

“ Well, well!” replied his compassion-
ating friend, “ what is done cannot be un-
“ done; you must now use the more exer-
“ tion; a mortgage on your land will raise
“ a sum sufficient for the present exigence,
“ and instead of laying by the profits, you
“ must apply them to paying off the mort-
“ gage. Your children are old enough to

“ be sensible how good a father they have,
“ and, I will be bound for them, will never
“ reflect upon you for any act of your life;
“ if they do, let them look to their own
“ conduct say I. Come, come, neighbour,
“ cheer up, there are many happy days in
“ store for you ; you are not the only one
“ who has been cheated into this *Castle-*
“ *building* scheme ”

Poor Samuel gratefully acknowledged the kindness of his friend, and adopted his plan, as there was no better remedy for the evil, but it was nearly a twelvemonth before he could resume his occupation. Once thrown backward, it is with the utmost difficulty, if ever, we recover our former prosperity ; with poor Samuel it was irrecoverable ; sickness, bad crops, and many other misfortunes, deprived him of the power to redeem more than a third of his land ; and though his eldest son was as industrious as himself, it never returned to the original possessors. The younger children went out to service, and Richard, at the age of fifteen, was taken into that of a farmer in this county.

“ My dear Caroline,” said Mrs. Worthy,
“ it is very late, but before you retire I must

“ inform you there will be an interruption
“ to our narrative, by the arrival of some
“ friend you will be happy to see ; so that
“ you will the less regret it.

“ Pray, mamma, who are they ? ” — “ Mrs.
“ and Miss Berkeley ; I believe, Miss Moles-
“ worth, they are not unknown to you ? ” —
“ No, Madam, ” replied Emily, “ Mrs. Berk-
“ ley was much esteemed by my mother,
“ but I have not seen her for some years. ” —
“ Indeed, mamma, I shall be very happy to
“ see Miss Berkeley, her conversation will
“ amply repay me for the delay of poor
“ Richard’s story ” — “ You will be very
“ much concerned to see your favourite so
“ much an invalid ; poor Mrs. Berkeley suf-
“ fers the utmost anxiety on her account ;
“ and I really think, if this journey to Wey-
“ mouth should not answer her hopes,
“ that she will sink under this second afflic-
“ tion. ” — “ You alarm me ! ” said Miss
Molesworth ; “ sure, she is not in so much
“ danger ; is Miss Sophia to come with
“ them ? ” — “ My dear Emily, are you to
“ learn that she lost that sweet girl above
“ two years since ; her death was occa-
“ sioned by imprudently drinking a glass

“ of cold water when in a violent heat from
“ riding in a hot sultry day, which threw
“ her into a surfeit ; from this she seemed
“ to recover only to confirm the fatal
“ truth, that her disorder had settled on her
“ lungs, and in six months terminated her
“ existence ; Miss Berkeley has never reco-
“ vered the loss of her beloved sister, and
“ the affectionate mother lives in hourly
“ dread of losing this, her only consolation.”

“ Dear Madam, how much your intelli-
“ gence afflicts me,” said Miss Molesworth ;
“ I most truly sympathize with the amiable
“ Mrs. Berkeley ; it is not at all surprising
“ she should give way to her fears, but I hope
“ they are unnecessary.”—“ I too hope so,”
replied Mrs. Worthy, “ for, as her Physician
“ recommends the air of Weymouth and
“ sea-bathing, I console myself in the idea
“ that he believes her lungs unaffected ; had
“ he sent her to Bristol, I should have judg-
“ ed less favourably.”

They were here interrupted by the grief
of Miss Worthy, whose sorrow for the loss
of her beloved Sophia was renewed by the
melancholy account her mamma gave of her
surviving sister. “ My dear Caroline, I am

“ extremely sorry to have occasioned this re-
“ vival of trouble ; but, indeed, I think you
“ may flatter yourself with having the satis-
“ faction of seeing Harriet better than her
“ anxious mother is willing to think her ; I
“ received a letter from her to-day, dated
“ ninety miles from London, saying that her
“ beloved Harriet had borne the fatigue of
“ travelling beyond her imagination, and
“ that she expected to be with me to-morrow.
“ Now, if the dear invalid could travel so far
“ in two days, and be still able to continue
“ her journey, I cannot think that she is
“ reduced to that state of weakness, the fears
“ of those about her have believed ; for my-
“ self, I have the highest opinion of the effi-
“ cacy of change of air and scenery, and I
“ hope the dear girl will be restored to the
“ prayers of her affectionate mother, and
“ that my dear Caroline will long enjoy a
“ friendship which promises mutual advan-
“ tages from the striking contrast of your
“ dispositions. Harriet’s extreme vivacity
“ (that is, when in health) will assist your
“ timidity, which, though highly preferable
“ to too much confidence, may degenerate
“ into weakness, while that her vivacity,

“ which exposes her to many inconveniences,
“ may receive a check through your very
“ error; thus, each may correct the fault
“ of her friend, as each possesses sufficient
“ good sense to be grateful for that cor-
“ rection which springs from the pure source
“ of a sincere friendship. Good night, my
“ love, I hope that to-morrow will convince
“ you that your friend will very soon be able
“ to again try your patience by her lively
“ sallies.”

After Miss Worthy and her sister retired, Mrs. Worthy and Miss Molesworth dwelt upon the melancholy topic till a late hour; and when they parted for their needful repose, Mrs. Berkeley's sorrows weighed heavy at their heart.

Mr. Berkeley was a completely fashionable husband; his wife enjoyed only her family circle; when at a loss for any other subject, he would condemn her want of taste, in not joining in the fashionable follies of the day; she would excuse herself upon the want of inclination, till, tired with a contest that he felt little interest either in the compliance or the refusal, he would take his hat, laugh at his wife's unaccountable taste, and quit the house

till the next morning. Mrs. Berkeley's whole study was to form the minds of her children to virtue, and every endowment that could render them capable of shining in the company of the worthy. Sophia was in her seventeenth year when death nipped the promising flower in the bud. Harriet was at this period in her seventeenth year. Though the Physicians gave the most flattering hopes of her recovery, her anxious mother placed little confidence in their assurances, and suspected that they only sent her to Weymouth because *they* could do no more for her. By two o'clock, Mrs. and Miss Berkeley arrived at Seabrook; the pleasure these amiable women experienced at meeting again, after a long separation, caused a momentary oblivion of the occasion. In order to recover the young invalid from the fatigue of her long journey, they had slept at B—— the preceding night, so that the remainder was but twenty miles, and she appeared in better spirits this morning than she had been for some time past. The attention of the young people to their languid guest was unremitting; and their kindness was amply repaid by the effect it had on Miss Berkeley, who seemed to

forget her indisposition in the animated society of her young friends. Mrs. Berkeley resisted all the persuasions of her amiable hostess to pass more than one night with her ; Weymouth was only two-and-twenty miles from Seabrook, and she was resolved to set out as early as possible the next morning. When Mrs. Worthy urged a longer stay, upon the plea that Harriet would be amused with her companions.—“ My dear friend, I am made
“ to believe that the air of Weymouth is the
“ only chance there is for her recovery ; and
“ shall I, for present gratification, (which it
“ certainly would be the highest I could re-
“ ceive to pass some time with you) delay
“ a moment to benefit by that which is held
“ out to me as my last resource?— Ah! no,
“ you would be the first whose esteem I
“ should lose.” The reason for her refusal was unanswerable, and the friends parted with mutual prayers for the happiness of each other.
“ What a striking contrast,” said Miss Mōlesworth, “ there is in the friends we have parted with to-day and those who left us last week : I found it difficult to treat them with common politeness ; but Mrs. and Miss Berkeley commands esteem from every

“one.”—“Indeed,” replied Mrs. Worthy,
“I am obliged to own, that my regret at the
“departure of my friend to-day was little
“more than the pleasure I experienced when
“Mrs. Mordaunt’s carriage drove from the
“door. Mrs. Berkeley is a most affectionate
“mother; but it is not by a faulty indulgence
“of her children she convinces us of it; but
“by a strict observance of her maternal
“duties. She well weighs every circum-
“stance that concerns their mental or bodily
“welfare, and by a requisite firmness to-
“wards those whose inexperience and vola-
“tility need a guide, she prevents the
“necessity of correction.”

“Her sons, who are all advancing towards
“that period when young men, think they
“are qualified to conduct themselves, yet
“look up to her as their friend and confidant,
“well assured no one is more able or more
“anxious to advise them for their real good.
“If she has at any time occasion for re-
“proof, it is to convince their reason and
“reform their errors. Miss Berkeley’s love
“for her mother is absolute veneration;
“her will is her spring of action, and her
“eye her only guide. I never saw a parent

“ more truly happy in her children ; and I
“ can with the greatest truth assert, that I
“ look upon myself as equal to her in every
“ blessing which dutiful children can im-
“ part.”

“ Dearest mamma,” cried both the girls
in a breath : “ may we ever be blessed
“ with your love and approbation, no mo-
“ ther whatever can exceed you in affec-
“ tion, and we will endeavour to deserve
“ it.”—“ I am convinced you will, my
“ dearest children, replied their mother,
while the tear of maternal tenderness glis-
tened in her eye.

In the evening, after the two youngest
girls were retired to rest, Miss Worthy re-
sumed the village narratives.

THE STORY
OF
RICHARD WYNYARD.

“ I had been little more than a year at
“ Farmer Morice’s, when I heard of the
“ death of my dear father; my eldest bro-
“ ther, by right of seniority, succeeded to
“ the little property that remained, and had
“ three brothers, still very young, to support,
“ besides his wife and increasing family. My
“ only sister, two years older than myself,
“ earned her maintenance by her services;
“ his wife being so unhealthy, that she was
“ rendered incapable of assisting her hus-
“ band to maintain his family, and both
“ gratefully acknowledged their obligations
“ to our sister. I was fortunately under
“ the roof of a truly worthy man, who made
“ it his study to enlarge the comforts of all
“ around him. He was a widower, and
“ had one son and one daughter; as he had
“ always treated me as one of his family,
“ we appeared as children of the same fa-
“ ther. A mutual affection took place be-

“ tween Alice Morice and myself, which
“ was no sooner discovered by Daniel, than
“ he did all in his power to influence his
“ father against us, and to prevail on him to
“ divide us. His interposition had a quite
“ contrary effect; for my master had
“ suspected our mutual regard, and was
“ pleased to have his suspicion confirmed, and
“ not only gave his free consent to our union,
“ but bought a house very near his own,
“ which he furnished completely with
“ every thing that could contribute to our
“ comfort, gave us three cows and two pigs,
“ and a good paddock for pasture; so that
“ my wife’s fortune was more than I had
“ any right to expect. We were to be
“ married as soon as I had completed my
“ twenty-first year, which would be in three
“ months. One week only was wanting of
“ that period in which I was to become the
“ son of this worthy man, when an apople-
“ tic fit deprived my poor Alice of her fa-
“ ther, and me of a true friend.

“ It was now that my poor Alice trembled
“ for her happiness, but it was not in her
“ brother’s power to separate us, or to de-
“ prive us of that which his father had al-

“ ready bestowed, and we were well assured
“ no further favours could now be expected.
“ Six months after the death of our lament-
“ ed father, my Alice joined her fate to
“ mine. I had been for some time engaged
“ as Bailiff to a Gentleman in the neigh-
“ bourhood, where I remained fifteen years,
“ when his death threw the estate into the
“ hands of a stranger, and I was obliged to
“ seek another service. I was very soon en-
“ gaged by a farmer in this neighbourhood
“ as a kind of Overseer ; my wife was in-
“ dustrious, my children were dutiful, and
“ we were as happy as it was possible for
“ mortals to be ; but the Almighty, for his
“ own wise purposes, thought fit to afflict
“ me ; I was seized with a fever, which
“ confined me long, and not only reduced
“ me to even childish weakness, but deprived
“ me of the sight of one eye. My master
“ had been obliged to engage another in
“ my place, as he could not wait for my re-
“ covery ; this was not my greatest mis-
“ fortune ; my poor wife suffered so much
“ through fatigue and fretting while I was ill,
“ that it threw her into a lingering disorder
“ which she never recovered ; but left me

“ to bewail a loss that could not be made
“ up to me on this side the grave. My
“ cup of affliction was not yet filled; the
“ accident which I told you of, Madam,
“ left me stone blind: my patience was
“ now quite exhausted, and I dared to mur-
“ mur at the decrees of Providence; but
“ God in his mercy, pitied my infirmities,
“ and pardoned my weakness, or he would
“ not have blest me with such dear dutiful
“ children, who scarcely let me feel the
“ want of sight, and study to make me for-
“ get all my troubles; and now we have
“ such a dear blessed Lady come amongst us
“ we cannot fail of being truly happy.”

“ Richard’s story is very affecting Mam-
“ ma,” said Catharine, as her sister had laid
down the manuscript; “ it was entirely
“ owing to his scheming uncle, that his fa-
“ ther was ruined, and therefore it made his
“ son worse off as he might have left him
“ something when he died.”—“ My dear
“ Catharine,” replied her mother, “ you al-
“ ways pass a wrong judgment for want of a
“ little reflection, and in this you particu-
“ larly err in throwing all the blame upon
“ Robert Sims. Samuel Wynyard was per-

“ fectly well acquainted with his brother-in-
“ law’s character ; he knew that he had al-
“ ways followed the shadow and neglected
“ the substance, that is, he was more ready
“ to waste his time in fruitless endeavours
“ to raise a fortune, than willing to labour,
“ in order to procure a honest sufficiency.
“ I therefore think him most to blame for not
“ firmly maintaining his own opinion against
“ the persuasions of any one, as he so pro-
“ perly at first saw into the folly of his
“ brother’s new scheme. He would have
“ been very excusable and much to be pitied,
“ if he could not have withstood his en-
“ treaties to lend him the money, which he
“ would as certainly have lost, but it would
“ not have been his all, and he would have
“ had the self-satisfaction of not having
“ hurt himself through his own folly, for
“ the small sum that would have remained
“ might have saved him the necessity of
“ mortgaging his land, or at least the whole
“ of it, and he then would have been able
“ to retrieve his unfortunate loss by the fire
“ in the course of time.

“ As to his children, though he had
“ saved with the intention of assisting the
“ younger ones, they were better able to

“ sustain the loss than their father; for
“ when a man has brought up a large family
“ in a virtuous and industrious manner, and
“ has put them in the way to earn their
“ own living, they have little right to expect
“ any more from him, and should be happy
“ to see him enjoy the fruits of that indus-
“ try he practised in the prime of his life.”

“ Richard began the world tolerably well,
“ and was grateful for the blessings he en-
“ joyed, and when afflictions poured in upon
“ him, he submitted with christian piety to
“ the Almighty Hand that chastised him.
“ Health is the first of human blessings, and
“ cannot be too highly prized; it is a gift of
“ such inestimable worth, that he who de-
“ stroy's it wantonly is guilty of a crying sin,
“ unworthy of so great a good. And now,
“ my dear children, and you, Miss Moles-
“ worth, let me seriously admonish you to
“ avoid too great flexibility or a too obsti-
“ nate adherence to your own opinion;
“ every extreme is an error; and either of
“ those I have named is dangerous; always
“ avoid argument if possible; but if drawn
“ into one, be not over tenacious, though you
“ may think yourself right, nor yet entirely

“ give it up, till you have had time to weigh
“ circumstance for and against it; then, if
“ convinced you have right on your side,
“ give your opinion with firmness, but at
“ the same time with gentleness of manner.
“ If you have been wrong, be not deterred
“ by false pride to acknowledge candidly
“ your error. A contrary conduct has too
“ frequently lost the parties the friendship
“ and esteem of those with whom they have
“ differed.

“ In a case where honour or interest is
“ concerned, you must be doubly cautious
“ how you decide; if the proposal made to
“ you militates against either of these, be firm
“ in your rejection. Those who are baulked
“ in their designs by your refusal, may per-
“ haps call you obstinate, but the sensible
“ part of the world will commend your
“ strength of mind. To return to Richard
“ Wynyard—You see in him an example
“ of patient acquiescence in the decrees of
“ Providence, and that a strict observance
“ of our religious duties will support us
“ in the midst of dangers, difficulties, and
“ adversities; if Richard had neglected to
“ give his children a pious education, he

“ would in his turn have been neglected
“ by them, and in all probability would now
“ have been lost to his family.”

“ Thank, you, my dear Mamma, for cor-
“ recting my mistaken judgment, I will, indeed
“ I will endeavour to be all you wish me.”

“ I know you will, my dearest child, when
“ time shall have matured an understanding,
“ which I am pleased to say is above medio-
“ crity. I think you had better finish the
“ work-bag you are netting, and defer Mrs.
“ Wilson's story to another evening.”

An interruption of a few days took place by the arrival of Mr. Keith, a relation of Mr. Worthy's, who came there to repose his sorrows in her feeling bosom; he had very lately lost a beloved, an amiable wife in the early blossom of life, leaving three cherub boys and a girl, all too young to be sensible of the irreparable loss they had sustained. The whole time and attention of this amiable family were devoted to the amusement of their guest, and the lessons were all laid aside during his stay. Several excursions were made to view the numerous beautiful seats which adorned that part of the county. The time flew rapidly with the younger members

of the party, and their shrewd remarks and lively sallies beguiled Mr. Keith of his sorrows.

The village had its share in his attention, particularly the school: the cheerful countenance of the School-Mistress, and the tidy healthy appearance of the children, and their attentive application to their different employments, were objects of real pleasure to his philanthropic heart; and the whole arrangement appeared to him so judicious, and of so much benefit to society, that he resolved upon adopting a similar plan for the advantage of his own poor neighbours; his greatest difficulty would be to find a person so well suited to the management of it as Sarah; indeed, her method was so good, and she appeared so perfectly at her ease in the business, that Mrs. Worthy suspected the employment was not new to her; and upon questioning her on the subject, Sarah informed her that she was the daughter of a school-master, who had also been parish-clerk in the county town, and that this school was conducted with credit to himself and advantage to others.

Sarah was so well respected in Seabrook,

that she had been requested by some of the neighbouring farmers to take their children upon her own terms; but as she did not think herself at liberty to undertake more than her patroness had appointed her to do, she had repeatedly refused them. Mrs. Worthy at length made the discovery, and desired she would admit them, if agreeable to herself—"But, Sarah, you must keep Betty at home now to wait upon you, for you and Molly have enough to do to mind the school, and she is quite able to do all you want; she may also assist in teaching the children to mark; your washing shall be done at Mary Brown's, and then you will be able to go on very well."

"God will bless you and yours, Madam, I'm sure, for your goodness to poor folks, for you thinks of every thing; I wonders in my heart how you find out all our wants."

"That is easily done," replied Mrs. Worthy; "by feeling all my own wants, I can nearly guess yours."

At the expiration of a week, Mr. Keith left Seabrook, and the usual occupations were resumed. The first interruption was the

birth-day of Miss Worthy, who completed her seventeenth year. It was usual for the children to keep their birth-days, by way of giving a holiday to the servants, and also a useful present to each. All the servants had the liberty each to invite two friends to a dance and supper; in the first the young ladies joined, and were permitted to stay till the clock struck eleven.

When Miss Worthy arose that morning, she perceived a red morocco case and a letter lying on her dressing table; without examining the case, she eagerly opened the letter, as the superscription was in her Mamma's hand-writing, and with various emotions read as follows:—

“ My ever beloved Caroline,

“ This day, my dearly beloved child, you
“ complete your seventeenth year; may you
“ ever retain that innocence and integrity
“ of character which has hitherto marked
“ every action of your life; and may every
“ succeeding year increase your virtues and
“ your happiness. I am not afraid to tell you,
“ that your understanding has surpassed my
“ most sanguine expectations, and that

“ with your years you have increased in
“ judgment and nice discrimination. Your
“ dutiful and affectionate behaviour to me
“ have been the chief solace of my life; and
“ I raise my heart in thankfulness to my
“ Creator, for giving me health and power
“ to form the mind of my children to the
“ strict observance of their religious and mo-
“ ral duties, and I trust their principles are
“ too indelibly fixed ever to be eradicated
“ by the insidious arts of Sophists, or the
“ more open dangers of example. If I am
“ too vain of the blessings thou, O Hea-
“ venly Father, hath bestowed upon me,
“ correct me, but not in thine anger, lest
“ thou punish me in the objects of my vanity;
“ yet, not my will but thine be done; and
“ if I have ever forgotten, that it is thine
“ hand that hath fashioned them, and that I
“ am only the humble instrument of thy
“ will, give me fortitude to submit to thy
“ chastisement be it what it may. Forgive
“ me, my love, if I call forth any painful
“ ideas; believe your mother, it is her ex-
“ treme affection which makes her look up
“ with fearful thankfulness to her God for
“ the many blessings his bounty has bestow-

“ ed. With this letter you will receive as
“ usual a proof of my approbation; and as
“ your age qualifies you for the care of a
“ watch, accept of one as my gift on this
“ day. It is a trinket that gives ample scope
“ to a reflective mind. The beautiful ena-
“ melled case is its smallest recommenda-
“ tion. The watch itself is by the best
“ maker, and works upon a diamond.—
“ These particulars have led my mind to
“ draw a comparison betwixt the human
“ figure and intellect and the watch. The
“ beautiful enamel of the case, a trifling
“ accident may rub off, by which it will lose
“ much of its outward perfection, but if the
“ mechanism is perfect, and it performs its
“ diurnal task correctly, you will soon lose
“ all regret at the diminution of its outward
“ beauty. In like manner, a face and form
“ that have excited the highest admiration
“ may be disfigured through disease or
“ accident, and cease entirely to charm
“ the passing eye; but if the mind be well
“ stored with useful knowledge, and the heart
“ perfectly correct in all its movements to-
“ wards God, and towards man, then, be the
“ face and form ever so disfigured, they will

“ be entirely disregarded by the good and
“ virtuous portion of mankind, who ever look
“ beyond the outward form for perfect abili-
“ ty. As the diamond is the most precious
“ of all gems in the world, I think, I
“ may, without presumption, compare it to
“ the soul of man. When the body shall be
“ turned to dust, and even scattered before
“ the winds, the soul, if virtuous, will be
“ raised to immortality and will see its Al-
“ mig' ty Creator, face to face, in the realms
“ of everlasting happiness.

“ Let all your thoughts, words, and ac-
“ tions, my beloved child, be uniformly di-
“ rected towards the great end for which
“ you were created, by the strict observance
“ of the precepts and example of your
“ Blessed Redeemer; then may you look
“ up with hope and confidence to the
“ inheritance of eternal life, in those re-
“ gions where neither moth nor rust can
“ corrupt.

“ And may the blessing of your

“ affectionate Mother

“ be your safeguard through this

“ and many succeeding years,

“ CAROLINE AMELIA WORTHY.”

When her emotion had a little subsided, Miss Worthy opened the case, and found in it an elegant enamelled watch and gold chain, a white cornelian seal with the initials of her name cut in it; a cluster of seals for the seven days of the week, a small amber pail, bound with gold, containing otto of roses, and a small gold pencil case.

Caroline hastened to her Mamma's dressing room, where a scene of love and duty took place, which I hope all my young readers know so well from experience, that it would be needless to describe, and which must lose by the attempt. At breakfast, Miss Worthy's three sisters presented their annual tributes of affection; Catharine's was a work-box of paper fillagree; Louisa's, an elegant bead-purse, and Constantia's, a work-bag, net with rose coloured silk, and lined with brown sarsenet; Miss Molesworth presented her with Mrs. Chapone's Letters on the Improvement of the Mind, bound in blue morocco.

“ My dear Miss Molesworth, my dear
“ sisters, I know not how to thank you for
“ so many proofs of love; nor can I love

“ you all more than I already do ; I can then
“ only say, that I will be ever grateful for
“ your kindness.”—“ And now,” said Mrs.
Worthy, “ a truce with thanks, and so
“ forth, and let us eat our breakfast as ex-
“ peditiously as possible, as I have ordered
“ the carriage to take us to W——,
“ where, I think, Caroline, you may sup-
“ ply yourself with a few articles to distri-
“ bute among the servants this evening.”—
It was a complete holiday to the family, and
the young ladies danced till twelve o'clock,
when the servants and their friends sat down
to a good supper.

The family did not meet at breakfast the
next morning till eleven o'clock. Mrs.
Worthy very justly considered, that not only
her children, but her servants, must feel fati-
gued from being unaccustomed to such late
hours ; and forbid the children to be awaken-
ed before ten o'clock. The lessons were also
omitted, and a walk to the school to exa-
mine the children was substituted for them.
In the evening, when the younger children
were retired, Mrs. Worthy desired Caroline
to read the story of Mrs. Wilson, observing
that it was so well written, that it was quite
unnecessary to transcribe it.

THE LIFE
OF
JOE WILSON
AND MARY HIS WIFE.

“ AS you, my most honoured Madam,
“ have condescended to interest yourself in
“ the fortunes of two poor beings, whose
“ grateful hearts must ever acknowledge
“ your goodness and their own unworthi-
“ ness, I have endeavoured to give a faith-
“ ful relation of my own life, and the means
“ by which I became the wife of Joe
“ Wilson.

“ As I have not attempted to gloss over
“ my many faults, I throw myself upon
“ your mercy, trusting in that goodness which
“ we have so amply experienced, to make all
“ the allowance that superior excellence is
“ ever ready to bestow on those who acknow-
“ ledge their errors, and with repentance,
“ sincerely strive to amend.

“ My father was the master of a trading
“ vessel of Whitby, and had acquired a very
“ comfortable fortune by the time he had

“ attained his fifty-sixth year; about that
“ period he became acquainted with a gen-
“ tleman who resided in the Isle of Wight,
“ and soon after married his only daughter.
“ My father was easily persuaded to dispose
“ of the Whitby-trader, and to lay out the
“ money in the purchase of a farm in that
“ island; there I was born, and as they
“ never had any other child, their fondness
“ for me was unbounded; whether my dis-
“ position was naturally bad, or that over-
“ indulgence annihilated every good qua-
“ lity in me, I will not pretend to say;
“ but I was capricious, tyrannical, mis-
“ chievous, and overbearing; and, if at any
“ time my parents denied any request I
“ chose to make, however unreasonable, im-
“ proper, or even unattainable, my rage was
“ uncontrollable, I flew to the kitchen
“ to make my complaint, where I was sure
“ to be pitied, and my parents harshly
“ condemned for denying their only child
“ any thing she chose to ask for. Those
“ beings who dared arraign their master and
“ mistress, whose bread they eat, and whose
“ pay they received, and who encourage
“ their child in her disobedience, I had

“ dearly bought to my interest, by gratify-
“ ing them at my parent’s expense in their
“ unreasonable desires. I will not tire
“ your patience, honoured Madam, by
“ relating the progress of my sinful career
“ while in childhood.

“ My father and mother, at length, saw
“ the necessity of sending me from home
“ for education; for though my mother
“ would rather have performed that task
“ herself, I was too indocile to all her in-
“ structions to make it even a tolerable
“ labour to her. I was, therefore, sent to
“ school in the neighbouring town; but as I
“ came home every Saturday, and did not
“ return till Monday evening, I did not gain
“ all the advantages I might have done from
“ so good a school. I remained there till I
“ was sixteen, when I was taken home to
“ attend my mother, who was labouring
“ under a malady, that, unhappily for me,
“ carried her to the grave three months
“ after my return home. Thus deprived of
“ the only guide to my inexperienced youth,
“ at a period when I might have been cor-
“ rected of the faults of childhood, I was
“ left entirely mistress of my time and ac-

“ tions ; for my father was occupied in his
“ farming business too much to know how
“ I employed myself, and if I was ready to
“ receive him when he came home, and pre-
“ sided at his table, he was perfectly happy
“ and contented. I had no female relation
“ whatever to direct me ; all of my father’s
“ side were settled in the North of England,
“ and my mother was the last of her family.
“ I have stated these particulars, Madam,
“ in order to extenuate, if possible, my fu-
“ ture conduct. Among the few servants
“ that my father thought proper to keep,
“ was one that had been taken, when I was
“ a child, to look after me, and was now re-
“ tained to assist me in the management of
“ the house. I was fond of her for this
“ reason, that she had always indulged me
“ in all my desires, even when my parents
“ refused to gratify me. This alone will
“ convince you, Madam, how improper it
“ was for such a woman to be placed, as it
“ were, for my guide ; but, my poor father
“ saw I was fond of her, which was quite
“ sufficient to make her appear worthy of
“ his confidence. Most of the lower order of
“ people in the Isle of Wight gained a live-

“ lihood by fishing ; the father and brothers
“ of this woman followed that occupation ;
“ one of her brothers came very frequently
“ to our house, and, as I was too often in the
“ kitchen, we met, and his sister once said
“ before me how much she should like an
“ excursion in his boat, and at length pre-
“ vailed on me to accompany her.

“ Thus having broken the bounds of pro-
“ priety, I grew deaf to the admonition that
“ prudence suggested, and gave myself up
“ entirely to the society of this brother and
“ sister. It would be imposing upon your
“ time and patience, Madam, were I to par-
“ ticularize the various arts by which Sally
“ Wilson entangled me into a marriage with
“ her brother, though my own imprudence
“ gave her the power over me. Alas ! the
“ reflection that it drew upon me a father’s
“ malediction would be sufficient without
“ the bitter addition, that it also shortened
“ his days, and a never-ceasing remorse will
“ haunt me to the latest period of my exist-
“ ence.”

“ When I discovered to him my marriage
“ with Joe Wilson, his emotions prevented
“ utterance. I had hitherto been a stranger

“ stranger to any sort of feeling or senti-
“ ment but self-gratification ; and as I had,
“ ever since my birth, attained all my
“ wishes as soon as they were made
“ known, they had never given it a
“ thought that my father would be seriously
“ displeased with me, though I had mar-
“ ried a man in one of the lowest stations
“ of life ; for as I knew my father was able
“ to give me a good fortune, I thought he
“ might raise my husband to an equality
“ with himself.

“ This, madam, is to me the most hu-
“ miliating circumstance in my story, as
“ it exposes to you the weakness of my un-
“ derstanding, in being led away by an il-
“ literate artful woman, who thought to
“ secure to her family and herself an easy
“ competency, by bringing about my union
“ with her brother.

“ When my father had recovered from
“ the horror of first surprise, he bitterly re-
“ proached me for my undutiful conduct,
“ in thus throwing off his authority, and re-
“ warding his unbounded tenderness to-
“ wards me by bringing upon his old age
“ disgrace and misery. I, who ought to

“ have been his support and consolation,
“ now that I was the only tie left him on
“ earth. These deserved reproaches sunk
“ into my heart, and I would have given
“ worlds to have trod back the last twelve-
“ months of my life, or to have been able
“ to recal the act that had severely torn
“ the breast of my father. I fell at his
“ feet, implored his forgiveness, and be-
“ sought him to receive me once more to
“ his heart; he appeared to soften; I con-
“ tinued my supplications, and endeavoured
“ to represent my poor Joe as not undeserv-
“ ing his notice. My father pushed me from
“ him, and bad me go to the farthest corner
“ of the room, while I answered the ques-
“ tions he should put to me. After having
“ satisfied himself that my marriage was,
“ according to the laws, strictly binding,
“ he bade me quit his house, and never more
“ appear in his sight. Terrified, I again
“ knelt, and entreated him not to abandon
“ me, but he was deaf to my prayers, and
“ ordered me to take with me every thing
“ that had ever belonged to me, that he
“ might never be tortured with the sight

“ of any thing that could remind him of
“ the serpent that had wounded, that had
“ stung him to death.

“ Stupified with terror, for the words,
“ severe as they were, accompanied by the
“ most violent expressions that could be ut-
“ tered, with the self-conviction that I had
“ so deservedly incurred them, seemed to an-
“ nihilate me, and he had twice demanded
“ what money I had in my possession before
“ I had power to reply. I had nearly
“ thirty pounds left from the sum my father
“ had given me for the expenses of the
“ house. He went to his *escrutoire*, and
“ taking out as much as made up that sum
“ fifty, gave it to me, and bade me depart
“ instantly, at the same time binding him-
“ self by a solemn oath, that with exception
“ to another fifty pound, neither I or any
“ one that bore the name of Wilson should
“ ever receive another shilling from him.—
“ He then ordered my husband to be sent
“ to him;—as soon as he entered the room
“ he shewed him a fifty pound bank-note,
“ telling him that should be his on con-
“ dition that he quitted the Isle of Wight
“ for ever, and if he delayed his departure

“ above one week from that hour, he would
“ take measures for sending him where the
“ laws should condemn him for stealing an
“ heiress. He then left us, telling Wilson
“ he allowed me one hour to pack up my
“ own property, he was then to take me
“ where he could never more see me, who
“ had by my disobedience forfeited fur-
“ ther claim upon him for ever.

“ When my husband and I were alone,
“ I awoke from my stupor as from a terrific
“ dream, and I seemed to feel, for the first
“ time in my life, that I was an intelligent
“ being. The whole horror of my fate ap-
“ peared to my view in the most dismal
“ colours; I had thrown myself upon the
“ mercy of a man of neither creditable birth
“ or connexions, and of whose disposition
“ I was entirely ignorant; but I could not
“ plead deception, as his circumstances
“ were sufficiently known by the means
“ wherewith he earned his living. With
“ an aching heart, I quitted the paternal
“ roof that had protected me from every
“ evil, till my own folly drew upon me
“ the very worst that can ever befall a hu-
“ man being—the malediction of a parent.

“ I will not trouble you, honoured Ma-
“ dam, with the relation of the many cala-
“ mities that have assailed us in various
“ shapes for seventeen years. My father
“ remained inexorable to every effort that I
“ made from time to time to soften him, or
“ only to admit me to his presence; he liv-
“ ed but two years after my unfortunate
“ marriage, and bequeathed his whole for-
“ tune, except a few friendly legacies, to
“ erect a free-school for the education of a
“ hundred boys; that number to be kept
“ up for ever. The only consolation re-
“ maining to me in my distress is the af-
“ fectionate tenderness of my husband. The
“ hope of gain to themselves was the motive
“ which actuated his family to draw me in,
“ and his love for me led him to join them
“ in all their contrivances; and though the
“ disappointment he experienced in my
“ being disinherited, and himself in a man-
“ ner banished from his native place, might
“ have excused him in the eye of the world,
“ had he made me feel unkindness from him,
“ he yet has never in the slightest manner
“ reproached me, but on the contrary has
“ often lamented the hardships I have ex-

“ perience, and his own inability to lessen
“ them. Night and morn does he fervently
“ pray for blessings upon your head, most
“ honoured Madam, for having changed
“ our dreary prospect for content and hap-
“ piness. May the Almighty continue to
“ bless you and yours, and may he give us
“ grateful hearts for the many blessings we
“ now enjoy; were it not for the hazard my
“ poor Joe runs in earning our bread, I
“ should be completely happy. And now,
“ Madam, let me once more entreat you to
“ view my faults with pity, and not suffer
“ them to prevail against me in your eyes,
“ and make you repent of the generous
“ kindness you have bestowed on us ”

“ Poor Mary,” said Miss Worthy as she
folded the manuscript, “ how miserably did
“ she mar her future prospects by throwing
“ herself away in such a manner, though I
“ think her father was greatly to blame
“ too.”—“ In what, my dear,” asked her
Mamma, “ do you think him to blame ?”

“ By having no respectable female as a
“ companion for his daughter, after the
“ death of her mother ; surely, Mamma, she

“ was too young to be left entirely uncontrolled.”

“ Your remark is very just, my dear ;
“ that is not the only blame I attach to her
“ parents. I should be highly culpable in
“ exculpating Mary’s conduct, were I not
“ almost certain, from my own observation
“ of her disposition that her errors are of
“ the head, not of the heart. From her
“ birth she was left uncontrolled mistress
“ of her actions, and it appears to me that
“ all her childish follies, and her subsequent
“ misconduct, may be attributed to their mis-
“ management of her in her early years. Had
“ her mother lived, she might have escaped a
“ union so every way unsuitable for her, as
“ the artful Sally could not have had such
“ power over her, and as her want of edu-
“ cation (for though she had the means be-
“ stowed upon her she did not profit by it)
“ has left no resources within herself, she
“ fled to the kitchen by way of spending
“ the time she knew not how to employ with
“ advantage. The faults of each of the
“ parties brought on their own punishment.
“ I blame her mother most of all, as it is her
“ particular duty to form the mind of her

“ children of either sex ; during infancy, fe-
“ males require her fostering care much
“ longer ; and if she has impressed their
“ minds with a just sense of their religious
“ and moral duties, it rarely happens that
“ they do not make virtuous members of
“ society. I must own I feel so much com-
“ passion for Mary, that I am resolved, if
“ Joe has any other means in his power
“ more creditable and less hazardous to
“ maintain his family, I shall endeavour to
“ fix him in it : and I flatter myself I shall
“ have no reason to repent my favour to-
“ wards them. I did at first intend Mary’s
“ story for your perusal ; but I recollected
“ it must be unnecessary to warn you
“ against running into any of her errors, as
“ you are secured against every improper ac-
“ tion, by having experienced from your
“ earliest years every attention that a mo-
“ ther’s utmost abilities could bestow, and
“ whose only wish on earth is to see her
“ children conduct themselves through life
“ so as to ensure the esteem of the worthy
“ portion of mankind, and to fit them for
“ that bliss hereafter, the sure reward of
“ those who, in this life, strictly adhere to their

“ duty towards their Creator and toward
“ their fellow-beings ; and now, good night,
“ my dear children ; to-morrow I expect
“ an old friend whom I have not seen for
“ some time, and as that will interrupt our
“ evening readings, I wished Mary’s story
“ to be finished.”

As Mrs. Worthy had not, as usual, named who this friend was whom she expected, it very much excited the curiosity of the young people, and her arrival was anxiously looked for ; but when the carriage drove up, and the servant announced Mrs. Seabrook, they were greatly surprised indeed, as she had never before entered the house since the decease of Mr. Seabrook. This circumstance, and the affectionate greeting of her amiable hostess, quite overpowered her feelings. Mrs. Worthy appeared not to notice it ; and in order to turn her thoughts into another channel, introduced her two youngest girls, whom she had not seen for upwards of six years ; they amused her till dinner was announced, and by the time that was over, she had recovered her spirits entirely, and she expressed a wish to walk to the village.

Prepared as Mrs. Seabrook was for the improvement the well-known philanthropy her friend occasioned wherever she resided, she was nevertheless surprised at the change which had taken place even from that in which she had left them; for though her heart was equally good as that of Mrs. Worthy, she had not that Lady's skill in distributing her bounty with that economy necessary with a limited power, and her's had been very much so during her residence at Seabrook. The healthy, cleanly, and happy countenances of the villagers delighted her; every one expressed a grateful sense of honour done them by the condescension of their former patroness, but when they spoke of their present benefactress, it was absolute enthusiasm. The tears trickled down the furrowed cheeks of poor Sarah Joice when she described the goodness of her honoured mistress and her children. "O! Madam," said the honest creature, "what a place "our hamlet was when her Ladyship came "amongst us!" Entirely unconscious, she had praised the one and censured the other, Mrs. Seabrook told Sarah, that she was very

“ much concerned when she received Mrs.
“ Worthy’s account of their very deplorable
“ situation, but that if they continued to
“ deserve it, they should not only be enabled
“ to obtain the same comforts for ever, but
“ should also have any addition to those
“ they at present enjoyed, that was in her
“ power to bestow.”

In the evening when the children were retired to rest, Mrs. Seabrook produced a sheet of parchment, and presenting it to Miss Worthy, said, “ I believe, my dear child, I
“ may without the smallest impropriety
“ make you mistress of the estate, which in
“ the course of a few years, will be yours
“ by right of Mr. Seabrook’s will, in your
“ favour. I am well convinced, that in
“ making you independent, I am not weak-
“ ening the authority of your inestimable
“ mother, as you will, I am sure, never in
“ any important event of your life, act
“ without her advice and approbation, and
“ as she has made such an effectual change
“ in the situation of the poor villagers, it is
“ but common justice to leave them entirely
“ in her hands; I say hers, for in making
“ you their mistress I do but make you so

“ in name, while you remain under your
“ mother’s protection.”

Surprise had effectually seized the mind of her auditors, and sealed their tongues; that Mrs. Seabrook in the meridian of life, should give up an estate of two thousand pounds a year, and leave herself but half her rightful fortune, was an act of most uncommon generosity.

Mrs. Worthy in vain expostulated with her, she desired her to suspend her opinion upon her present conduct till the next day, when she would convince her the act was less meritorious than the present appearances indicated.

Miss Worthy expressed her grateful sense of the confidence her aunt had placed in her, adding that if she was not permitted to make over her generous gift entirely to her mother. She would most certainly put it into her hands, to make use of it as she thought best. “ My dear Miss Worthy,
“ you have disposed of your estate exactly
“ as I expected, but the time will come
“ that your mamma will readily give an ac-
“ count of her stewardship, and I sincerely
“ hope it will be for your happiness.”

The next morning, while the young people pursued their studies, the ladies retired to a pavilion in the pleasure ground in order to pass a few hours in uninterrupted conversation and Mrs. Seabrook thus addressed her friend.

“ You are no stranger, my dear Caroline,
“ to the reluctance with which I obeyed my
“ father’s commands to give my hand to
“ your brother. The dissimilarity of our
“ dispositions, was not the only reason for
“ that reluctance, my father knew my fondest
“ affections were for another. It was in
“ vain I pleaded the indelicacy of becoming
“ the wife of Mr. Seabrook when I had not
“ a heart to bestow. My father’s reply
“ was, I am too well acquainted with your
“ disposition, Charlotte, to apprehend any
“ danger in your compliance, Captain Ho-
“ ward never can be yours; Mr. Seabrook is
“ a worthy man, and I know you have too
“ strong a sense of honour not to make him
“ a prudent wife.”

“ My father’s disapprobation rested solely on his profession ; he had most solemnly declared, no daughter of his should be the wife of a military man; who, instead of being the protector of his wife, would, in consequence

of his duty to his king and his country, be obliged to leave her exposed to the dangers which too often assail a young and independent woman. Eccentric as was my father's objection, the motive was laudable, and it was my duty to obey, for even would my father have promised me to Captain Howard if he would give up his commission, the soul of Frederick Howard was too brave and too honourable to throw up his commission, when his country was engaged in a war, that required his services and which, to all appearance would be of long duration.

“ My ideas of friendship, were too exalted to admit of more than one to share my confidence; you were that one, and I could no longer unbosom myself to the sister of the man, my father had chosen for my husband. I have often seen the tear of pity glisten in your eye, when I have silently submitted to the most capricious treatment, and have trembled lest your affectionate regard for me should occasion any misunderstanding between you.

“ As this estate was his by purchase, and he
“ could bequeath it to whom he pleased, it
“ very much raised my respect for his me-

“ mory; when I found he had left it to me for
“ my life, as my jointure was very unequal to
“ the style I had been accustomed to live in.”

Here Mrs. Worthy interrupted her, by saying, “ indeed, my dear sister, that was
“ a poor compensation for the many years
“ of patient endurance on your part, nor
“ would that justice, perhaps, have been
“ done you, but for the long and painful
“ illness he laboured under, which gave him
“ time to reflect upon your virtues and his
“ own failings; and I,” said Mrs. Seabrook,
“ strongly suspect, that I am mostly indebted
“ to the influence you had over your brother
“ for this late mark of his favour. But I
“ am now coming to the motive which in-
“ fluenced what you termed my generosity
“ of last evening. Three and twenty years
“ have elapsed, since, by uniting my destiny
“ to Mr. Seabrook, I disappointed the hopes
“ of Captain Howard. Time has not
“ shaken his affection for me, and upon his
“ arrival in England from India, his first
“ inquiries were after me, and finding, by
“ Mr. Seabrook’s decease, I was at liberty
“ to make a second choice, he resolved to
“ renew his visits; his fortune was ample,

“ and therefore fearing that I should adhere
“ to the scruples of my late father, and again
“ reject him, he resigned his commission,
“ and then came to Bath, where he soon
“ prevailed upon me to unite my fate with
“ his. You, my Charlotte,” said he, “ were
“ my first and only love. I have wealth suffi-
“ cient for sordid avarice itself; my services
“ are no longer absolutely necessary, either
“ to my country or my own support. I can,
“ therefore, with honour retire, and though
“ we are too old to be a very gay couple, we
“ shall, I hope, be a happy one.”

“ His generous spirit is equal to his
“ love, he insists upon my retaining my own
“ fortune entirely at my own disposal, and
“ yet obliges me to accept a very handsome
“ jointure from his, and it is by his desire
“ I have now resigned this estate, which, in
“ your hands, will be productive of so much
“ good.”

Mrs. Worthy congratulated her friend on the prospect of happiness which awaited her in a union with a man every way so qualified to ensure it to her. And as General Howard had retired from the service, she

would not now act contrary to her father's will, were he alive enforce it.

The school hours being over, Mrs. Worthy proposed going to the fisherman's cottage; the young people walked, while Mrs. Worthy and her friend went some part of the way in a chair, which she had lately purchased, with a mule to draw it, as she could with this little carriage, keep the same path, the rest walked in. In the time of going, Mrs. Worthy related their story, and by this means gained them another friend. Mrs. Seabrook was delighted with the comfortable, healthy appearance of the whole family; Joe was mending shoes for the children, which Mrs. Worthy remarking with surprise, he told her, that he had been apprenticed to the trade but preferring his father's occupation, he had entirely given it up, till being unable to purchase shoes for his children, he had continued to collect the materials by degrees to make them himself, and sometimes mended for the farmers' boys.

“Should you like better to work at your trade than to continue as you are,” said Mrs. Worthy.

“O yes, Madam, but it is not in my

“ power to buy all that I want for other
“ people’s work, or else my poor Mary
“ would have persuaded me to it long ago,
“ and though I could get some money for
“ my share in the boat, yet if I did not
“ succeed in my trade, I should be worse
“ off than ever.”

“ I commend your prudence,” replied his
benefactress, “ but if I give you a small stock
“ of all that you can want for a beginning,
“ and let you measure all the children at
“ Sarah Joice’s school, I hope you will then
“ be able to go on, and as I can then be a
“ judge of your work, by the children’s shoes,
“ I shall know if you are capable of better
“ work.”

Poor Mary’s joy overflowed at her eyes,
and prevented her from expressing her gra-
titude; nor did the ladies give her the op-
portunity. Mrs. Worthy desired her hus-
band to send her an exact inventory of every
thing he stood in need of, early the next
day, and then returned home.

Mrs. Seabrook told her friend, that she
felt herself as much obliged to her as her
poor neighbours could be, “ for though I
“ have ever been ready to relieve distress

“ wherever I have met with it, yet I have
“ not done it so well to answer the purpose
“ of true charity, as I find I might have
“ done; but I shall, I hope, mend by your
“ example.”

“ You greatly undervalue yourself, my
“ dear friend,” replied Mrs. Worthy, “ you
“ ever had a sympathising heart, and a hand
“ ready to serve every one who stood in
“ need of your assistance; and where such
“ a one resides, distress can never attain the
“ pitch in which I found these poor villa-
“ gers.” Without any extraordinary ex-
pense, the late tenant of Seabrook might
have greatly assisted his poor neighbours
without injury to his purse, for it must be
close housekeeping indeed, that leaves no frag-
ments from the day’s provision to afford to
the poor.

After three week’s residence with Mrs.
Worthy, Mrs. Seabrook took her leave; the
third cloathing of the villagers was now
about to take place. Mrs. Worthy saw,
with sincere pleasure, the good effects of her
admonitions. Every one produced this old
apparel tydily mended, and gratefully acknow-
ledged the blessings they enjoyed: the school

had completed a sufficient quantity of stockings to supply all that was wanted, and Joe Wilson had made shoes for all the children, but the men and women were to be supplied from W——m, as he was not able to make them soon enough for this time. The amiable family were occupied several days in cutting out the new cloathing, as they intended giving each her own to make; they not being in such immediate want now, as they were at first, but they were limited to a certain time to get them done, for Mrs. Worthy having some business which required her presence in London, she was desirous of giving them to be made while she was absent. Miss Worthy and Catherine were to accompany her, indeed it was to make the necessary settlement with regard to the Seabrook estate, that the elder went, and she entreated that her sister might go too. The two youngest, with Miss Molesworth, remained at Seabrook.

This being the first separation these affectionate sisters ever experienced, the day of departure was dreaded on all sides. Three days were all that intervned when the parting was suspended, by the expected

visit of a gentleman and lady, with three of their children, from the South of France. Though this delay was very inconvenient to Mrs. Worthy, she yet looked forward with impatience to the pleasure of seeing friends she highly esteemed. The sisters rejoiced in the reprieve, and seemed to feel an increase of affection for each other. Their time was chiefly occupied in arranging new plans of amusement upon their reunion.

“ I am so glad, sisters,” said Constantia, “ that I can write so as to be understood; “ but I wish, mamma would let me write little “ letters, because I could then tell Caroline, “ and Catherine a great deal more.”

“ That is very paradoxical, as you have “ expressed yourself, Constantia, I suppose “ you wish you could write a small running “ hand?”

“ Well, Catherine, you should not laugh “ at me; when I am as old as you, I shall “ know how to speak properly.”

“ My dear Constantia,” said Miss Worthy, “ you should have been thankful to Catharine “ for putting you right; little girls will never “ speak or act properly, if those who are

“ older and wiser than they, do not correct
“ their mistakes.”

Constantia, from being an universal fondling, was seldom contradicted, but always felt a reproof from her mamma, or eldest sister, more keenly than from any one else, and burst into tears; when, presently recollecting herself, she ran to Catherine, and throwing her arms round her neck, said,
“ my dear sister, I beg your pardon, for
“ answering you so pertly, but, indeed I
“ will not do so again.”

“ My dear love, I am not angry with you,
“ nor did I laugh at you, but we will drop
“ the subject, and now tell me what we are
“ to bring you and Louisa, from town.

“ Some books, dear sister, to fill our pretty
“ book-case, that you and Caroline have put
“ together for us, and let one be the history
“ of Robinson Crusoe?”

Constantia asked for the Fairy Tales, saying,
“ they had both wished for those two books
“ ever since Miss Mordaunt left Seabrook,
“ for she had them both, but they were so
“ torn, they could not make out half the
“ stories.”

“ Pray, sister Caroline, will you ask dear
“ mamma to give me some canvass, some
“ worsted, and a needle.”

“ What are you going to do with them,
“ Constantia?”

“ I want to work a foot stool for mamma,
“ and Miss Molesworth says, she is sure I
“ can do it well.”

“ What work are you going to do,
“ Louisa?”

“ I shall net a work bag for you, Caroline,
“ and I should like to spangle a pair of shoes
“ for mamma, but I shall be so sorry if I
“ can't get two bags done, that sister Catha-
“ rine may have one too.”

“ Thank you, my dear Louisa, but I hope
“ we shall not be away from you long enough
“ to allow you to do half what you propose.”

“ O but I intend to work very hard, and
“ then, I dare say I shall. I wonder, if Miss
“ Melmoth is like Miss Mordaunt: pray how
“ old is she sister Catherine?”

“ I believe she is about Caroline's age.”

“ O dear, then she will not play with us.”

“ Perhaps not, but her two sisters are as
“ young as you and Constantia, so you
“ will at least have their company.”

At this moment they heard the carriages drive up to the gate, and Miss Worthy was sent for to receive the young ladies. She soon returned, and introduced them to her sisters, both parties were equally well bred, therefore all restraint quickly subsided, and in a short time, they were perfectly well acquainted, and Louisa, and Constantia, contrived to tell their sister Catherine, that Lucy, and Georgiana were quite unlike Miss Mordaunt in every thing.

Harriet Melmoth, the eldest daughter of Sir Everard, possessed an uncommon vivacity and good nature, to which was added a fine understanding and polished manners, improved by the elegant society of a large circle of friends, that constantly frequented their castle, and which, being nearly five hundred miles from the capital, they seldom quitted. Their late excursion was in consequence of the ill health of Lady Horatia Melmoth, and as Sir Everard was apprehensive that the sudden transition from the temperate climate of Montpelier, to the keen air of Glenmorres Castle might be injurious to her, he had proposed that after visiting some of their friends in England, they should spend the

winter in South Wales, where they had a delightful cottage.

Lady Horatia, and Mrs. Worthy, were educated at the same boarding-school; a similarity of disposition united them in the closest bands of friendship, and which had uninterruptedly continued to the present moment, of a joyful meeting after a separation of four years; each loved affectionately the other's children, and beheld, with maternal delight, the improvement such a long period had made in the youthful parties. By their long residence in France, the young people, particularly the eldest, had acquired the language in its greatest purity, and spoke it with the facility of natives.

At the particular request of Mrs. Worthy, the young ladies conversed in no other language during their stay, and Miss Melmoth taught them many ingenious works she had learnt in France. The evenings were generally spent in music and singing, as the delicate health of Lady Horatia, prevented her from walking after sun set. Sir Everard played the violoncello, his lady the harp, and Mrs. Worthy the piano-forte. Three weeks passed rapidly away, and the moment of their

her call upon Richard Wynyard, who was a living proof that virtue and piety are confined to no particular station in life, but are equally the property of high and low, rich and poor, and that "God careth for them all."

"I am afraid poor Richard will not hold out long," said Mrs. Worthy, "though I hope his dissolution will not take place in my absence, for the sake of his children."

"Do you think he cannot recover, mamma?" said Miss Worthy.

"No, my love, his is a gradual decay; and he is, you know, upwards of seventy."

"I feel for his children, they will break their hearts for the loss of so good a father."

"You have, my dear Caroline, spoken without reflection. I have not the smallest doubt but that, if any one of them could save his life, even at the imminent risk of their own, that they would gladly make the sacrifice, as I never beheld more dutiful or more affectionate children, and I dare say will mourn his death with the sincerest sorrow; but Richard has, as far as his abilities extended, given them a religious education, which must have taught them resignation to the Divine Will; they have,

“ in return, been dutiful children to a good
“ father, and have rendered his old age as
“ comfortable as lay in their power; but as
“ they can have little expectation of his re-
“ covery, I hope they will meet the stroke
“ with submission.”

“ But, mamma,” said Louisa, “ what will
“ poor Alice do with the youngest children?
“ they are not old enough to take care of
“ themselves.”

“ My dear children, I am pleased to see
“ you interest yourselves in the future welfare
“ of this industrious family; but while the old
“ man lives, they will all remain as they are
“ at present. By the good management of
“ Alice, no one is idle; and as their grand-
“ father may live some time longer, there is
“ no occasion to make any change. My stay
“ in London will be very short, and, when I
“ return, I will endeavour to settle those who
“ are able to go to service, and the two boys
“ shall not be neglected.”

“ Will you take any of them into your
“ family, mamma?”

“ No, Catherine, that is not in my power,
“ as I hope none of my servants intend leav-

“ing me; nor do I think any place in my
“house would exactly suit them.”

The two youngest were disappointed, as they had persuaded themselves that their favorite Alice would be taken to wait upon their eldest sister, as they heard their mamma say she was to have a servant to herself.

The morning of the dreaded separation at length arrived; many tears were shed on all sides; and when the carriage was no longer perceptible, Miss Molesworth could, with difficulty pacify them; but recollecting they had long promised a visit to farmer Collet's, she thought this a good time to fulfil it, as it would sooner dissipate their sorrow than any amusement she could procure them at home, where every thing would remind them of their absent friends. Accordingly, she told them that, instead of taking their lessons, they should go with her to the gardener, and ask him to fill a small basket with some wall-fruit; they would then walk over to the farm, and, if convenient to Mrs. Collet, spend the day there. This proposal was so agreeable, that it forced a smile through their tears; each endeavoured to drive away the traces of sor-

row, and, thanking Miss Molesworth for the indulgence, tripped away to fetch the basket, and prepare for the walk. The day was spent as happy as mirth and innocence could make it, and, on their way home, in the evening, they could talk of the travellers with dry eyes.

The usual lessons were resumed the next morning. The works they proposed as presents were put in order, and thus, properly employed, they soon recovered their usual flow of spirits. In the afternoon, they walked to the village, and had the satisfaction of seeing Richard Wynyard able to set up in his chair and converse with his children with chearfulness.

The third day after the departure of Mrs. Worthy, a large packet was brought from the Post Office, and the girls flew to receive news from their mamma, when, to their great disappointment, the servant informed them it was left at the Post Office by the Mail; that it came from America, and was addressed to Miss Molesworth.

Though disappointed for themselves, these amiable girls rejoiced at the happiness this packet would convey to their beloved Miss Molesworth, and instantly flew with it to her.

They watched her countenance, while perusing it, with the utmost anxiety, as they perceived it alternately agitated by grief and joy; and she had no sooner concluded one of the letters, than a hundred questions were put to her.

“ Dear Miss Molesworth, you looked distressed; no bad news, I hope?”

“ No, dear Louisa, it contains very joyful intelligence; and yet I flatter myself some part of it will give you concern, for my father and mother request me to come to them: and I must confess I am divided between the joy of again seeing my dear parents, and the regret I shall experience at parting with you all.”

“ And will you? but I know you must go: I shall be very sorry, indeed, my dear Emily.”

“ It will give me great concern to part with those whom I so sincerely love, and from whom I have received so many proofs of affection; but I should be unworthy of a continuance of it, could I only in appearance hesitate to go where both duty and affection call me.”

Constantia.—“ But you will not leave us

“ before mamma returns, will you, Miss
“ Molesworth ? ”

Emily.—“ Most assuredly no, my love, nor
“ then, for I cannot set out till the ensuing
“ spring.”

Louisa.—“ That is some consolation, how-
“ ever ; but I wish Mr. and Mrs. Moles-
“ worth would return to England : do they
“ intend always to stay in America ? ”

Emily.—“ I cannot answer positively, as
“ to always ; but they inform me, that it is
“ their intention to remain there for some
“ years ; therefore they wish me to join
“ them. I shall write to your dear mamma
“ to-morrow, that she may, if she thinks
“ proper, take the opportunity while in town
“ to engage some one to supply my place.”

Both exclaimed at once : “ O dear, how
“ shocking that will be, we never shall be
“ able to like a stranger, and trust mamma
“ will not have one.”

Miss Molesworth replied, “ that however
“ flattering these proofs of their affection
“ were to her feelings, yet if their mamma
“ chose to engage another governess, it
“ would be their interest to obtain her
“ esteem and affection by a cheerful attention

“ to her instructions, and an endeavour to
“ oblige her and to make her forget that she
“ was entirely among strangers, while that
“ you, my dear little girls, are happily si-
“ tuated among your best and sincerest
“ friends. Such behaviour, my dear Louisa
“ and Constantia, will produce a mutual love;
“ and nevertheless, I hope your hearts will
“ ever find room to place me among your
“ earliest friends, and I hope ever to merit
“ your esteem and love as strongly as at the
“ present moment.”

The next post brought a letter from their mamma, to inform them of their safe arrival in town, and a promise from their sisters of a long letter very soon; desiring to hear from them by the return of the post.

Accordingly, Louisa sent the following letter:—

“ My dearest dear Mamma,

“ Though you have been absent only
“ five days, it seems an age to us, and we
“ are already reckoning the time when we
“ may expect to see you and dear sisters;
“ but I forget how needless it is to tell you
“ all this; because you are sure that we love
“ you so dearly, we never can be quite happy

“ when you are from us. Constantia has
“ worked a large piece of the stool, and I
“ have begun making a work-box in paper
“ fillagree, instead of the shoes, for Miss
“ Molesworth says, you would not like to
“ wear them if not very well done. We
“ spent a delightful day at Mrs. Collet’s ;
“ we went there soon after you left us, and
“ took with us a basket of very nice peaches
“ and nectarines ; we dined with her and had
“ some nice currant wine of Mrs. Collet’s
“ own making, with our dessert, and at five
“ o’clock we went to the cow-house, saw the
“ cows milked, and came back with a nice
“ sillabub to eat with some biscuits for our
“ supper, while Miss Molesworth and Mrs.
“ Collet took their tea. I forgot to say we
“ had it in the pretty arbour you know
“ Farmer Collet made himself upon the little
“ hill at the back of their house. We went
“ next day to the village, and I am sure,
“ my dear mamma, you will be pleased to
“ hear poor old Wynyard is much better,
“ and I really think he will be quite well
“ soon.

“ But now comes a very disagreeable part
“ of my letter :—Miss Molesworth is going

“ to America, but as she herself writes by the
“ same post, I need not tell you any more,
“ except that we are very sorry, and I am
“ sure you will be so too, mamma, and so
“ will sisters. I have now told you all our
“ adventures since you left us, and so with
“ best love to sisters, we remain,

“ Dear mamma,

“ Your ever dutiful and affectionate
“ children,

“ CONSTANTIA and LOUISA WORTHY.”

“ TO MRS. WORTHY.

“ Dear Madam,

“ The truly maternal tenderness I have so
“ long experienced at your hands, assures me
“ you will rejoice at the intelligence this
“ letter conveys. I had yesterday the hap-
“ piness of receiving a letter from my dear
“ mother, wherein she informs me of a most
“ unexpected piece of good fortune which
“ has befallen them. A planter, whose pro-
“ perty joined that of my father, had for
“ some years previous to that dreadful hur-

“ rricane that destroyed so much of our sugar
“ plantation, perpetually tormented our agent
“ by his litigious disputes, and at last obliged
“ my father to commence a suit against him,
“ which wasted an immense sum of money,
“ and finally ended in favour of his adversary.
“ My father went immediately to Barba-
“ does to investigate this iniquitous business,
“ but the sudden death of his agent just at
“ this time, left him so much in the dark,
“ that notwithstanding his firm conviction of
“ having been most cruelly wronged, he was
“ compelled to submit to the decision already
“ made against him. The hurricane two
“ years after, which overwhelmed his,
“ and so many others property, completed
“ his misfortunes, and though he had the
“ satisfaction of finding his losses much less
“ than he had at first feared, he was never-
“ theless much involved. His litigious neigh-
“ bour was an equal sufferer with himself in
“ that Island; but this plantation was the
“ least of his possessions, having a very con-
“ siderable one in the Island of Jamaica.
“ About three months since he was seized
“ with a disorder that baffled all medical aid,
“ and when made acquainted with his dan-

“ ger, he immediately requested that my fa-
“ ther might be sent for. When he arrived,
“ he was conducted to the chamber of Mr.
“ Watson, who directly ordered every one,
“ except his Attorney, to quit the room,
“ when he addressed my father as follows :—
“ Mr. Molesworth, from the long enmity
“ which has subsisted betwixt us, you alone
“ have been the sufferer ; it remains for me
“ to acquaint you with the cause, and then
“ to make you all the reparation now in my
“ power.

“ Your first offence towards me was,
“ the assisting Juba with his wife and
“ children, to escape from my unjust and
“ cruel vengeance. Secret as you were in
“ the whole of that transaction, and which
“ those on whom you conferred so signal a
“ kindness, were themselves ignorant of from
“ whom they received the benefit, I disco-
“ vered the agent and vowed revenge.

“ Not long after, you increased my rancour
“ by out-bidding me in the purchase of two
“ slaves. I knew your motive; they were of
“ the family of him you had before saved
“ from my tyranny. These, and these only,
“ were the injuries I received from you, but

“ which I could never forgive. For these I
“ harrassed you by every vexation in my
“ power, and as I knew the suit you had
“ commenced against me would compel me
“ to the restitution of the ground I had so
“ unjustly claimed, and thereby discover the
“ baseness of my procedure, I had recourse
“ to bribery, and thus maintained my unjust
“ action against you, and obtained a verdict.
“ If this were the whole of my baseness to-
“ wards one, who, in fact, never injured me,
“ it would be sufficient to stamp my name
“ with infamy; but a worse crime still re-
“ mains to be related. The hurricane had
“ left you a small retreat farther up the
“ Island, it was destroyed by fire, but it was
“ I who caused the conflagration. I have
“ now finished my humiliating confession :
“ a severe and lingering illness has awakened
“ me to a sense of my past sad course of life ;
“ which, from my earliest remembrance, was
“ such as I now blush to reflect upon. De-
“ prived in early youth of my father, and
“ left by him master of myself and immense
“ possessions, I gave the reins to my vicious
“ inclinations, and spurning the advice of
“ those who felt interested in my welfare, I

“ was at length relieved from an importunity
“ they found unavailable.

“ My treatment of those unfortunate hu-
“ man beings, condemned by the avarice of
“ man to a state of wretchedness and labour,
“ far below the condition of the brute crea-
“ tion, is that which lays heaviest at my
“ heart ; because, to those who have suffered
“ under it, I can make no reparation. I
“ once thought of setting all the slaves I now
“ have at liberty, and to have left a sufficient
“ maintenance to each ; but, accustomed as
“ they have been to slavery, I tremble for
“ the consequence of letting them loose upon
“ society, and have therefore resolved upon
“ a different plan, which I trust will be more
“ beneficial in the end. This gentleman
“ (pointing to the Attorney) has by my di-
“ rection made my will, and has also drawn
“ up a plan for the relief of my poor negroes.
“ To you, Mr. Molesworth, I have be-
“ queathed all my estates, and have appointed
“ you sole executor ; but you will find them
“ heavily taxed with legacies of various kinds,
“ and your executorship a troublesome office.
“ I have now done with affairs of this world.
“ If a sincere repentance of the errors of

“ youth, and the crimes of mature age, can
“ avail me at the throne of my heavenly Fa-
“ ther, I may humbly hope forgiveness; his
“ infinite mercy has been graciously shewn
“ me, in thus calling me to himself, by a
“ lingering illness, that has given me time to
“ look into myself; and, with the assistance
“ your worthy friend, Dr. Smith, who is a
“ true disciple of his Divine Master, I have
“ endeavoured to prepare for that awful mo-
“ ment, which, if the righteous look to with
“ fear and trembling, how much more terri-
“ ble must it be to a wretched sinner, whose
“ whole life has been a blank to every
“ praiseworthy action; and even the repara-
“ tion that a death-bed repentance has caused
“ me to make, may, by those who have
“ hitherto viewed my worldly character, be
“ deemed but an equivocal proof; but, “ *He*
“ *to whom all hearts are open, and from whom*
“ *no secrets are hid,*” knows my sincerity and
“ contrition, and will be merciful to my
“ sins.

“ He was now so exhausted, that he could
“ scarcely be kept from fainting; and, when
“ a little recovered, he pressed my father’s
“ hand, and desired to be left to himself.

“ The next morning, my father was
“ summoned to the bedside of Mr. Watson,
“ with Dr. Smith and his attorney, he then
“ requested them to join in prayer with him,
“ which were the last words he uttered dis-
“ tinctly, and in less than two hours he ex-
“ pired. Upon opening the will, my father
“ found himself master of all his estates in
“ the islands and elsewhere. There were
“ bequests to different friends (for he had
“ no relations, at least that he had ever
“ heard of), to the amount of fifteen thou-
“ sand pounds. In his own hand writing
“ is added, that Mr. Molesworth may never
“ be disturbed by any future claimant, I
“ have taken care to secure his title to my
“ bequest beyond the power of controversy,
“ He then requests Mr. Molesworth to es-
“ tablish a school for the instruction of all
“ the children belonging to his poor Negroes,
“ that they may be taught the principles of
“ the Christian religion, and appoints Dr.
“ Smith to superintend the establishment,
“ and to appoint proper instructors who can
“ be depended upon to fulfil the intentions
“ of the founder.

“ For this trust he desires him to accept

“ five hundred pounds per annum. He
“ then adds, that if it meets with my father’s
“ approbation, these children should be
“ made free as soon as they attain their
“ fourteenth year, whether male or female,
“ upon condition of being bound apprentice
“ for seven years to any trade or calling they
“ may be inclined to. The produce of his
“ plantation in Barbadoes, is to appropriated
“ to the establishment of the school, the
“ putting them out apprentice, and the ne-
“ cessary wants of the children; the surplus
“ is to make a provision for those of his
“ Negroes who are disabled by age or infir-
“ mities to labour in their usual occupation.

“ Thus you see my dear Madam, my
“ father and mother are at once restored to
“ that affluence, from which a series of mis-
“ fortunes had hurled them, beyond all hope
“ of ever again attaining more than the com-
“ mon necessaries of life.

“ As it is quite impossible for my father
“ to revisit England for some time, he wishes
“ me to join them next Spring. Happy as
“ the prospect makes me of again embracing
“ my beloved parents, and again seeing them

“ in the enjoyment of that wealth they will
“ do so much good with; I cannot but feel
“ an unfeigned sorrow at quitting the rever'd
“ friend and beloved children, that have
“ kindly prevented my feeling the reverse
“ of fortune that doomed me to a state of de-
“ pendance. That you will easily find one
“ every way my superior in point of requisite
“ qualifications, for the trust reposed in
“ them, I have not the smallest doubt, but
“ no one can exceed in sincere attachment,
“ and I shall go to the arms of my beloved
“ family, nearly heart broken at the parting
“ with the one, I leave behind me.

“ When I sat down, I intended merely to
“ inform you of the event, and to defer the
“ particulars till your return, but my pen
“ has carried me to so great a length, that
“ I fear your patience will be wearied in
“ the perusal. One week is nearly gone,
“ and I am sufficiently selfish to hope that
“ neither business nor amusements, will de-
“ tain you from us longer than the time
“ you proposed at your departure from
“ Seabrook. Our usual occupations and
“ amusements, pass but heavily without the

“ dear society that rendered them interest-
“ ing, and though Louisa and Constantia,
“ are very anxious to have their presents
“ ready for mamma and sisters, yet neither
“ would be sorry if a premature return pre-
“ vented that intention. With my best
“ love to Miss Worthy, and Miss Catharine.

“ I remain,

“ Dear Madam,

“ Your ever obliged, and most affectionate,

“ EMILIA MOLESWORTH.”

Mrs. Worthy read her young friends letter with equal surprise and pleasure, and the only regret she felt was, at the thoughts of parting with an amiable young woman whom she loved with almost parental fondness, and she would have been much happier on her account to have received Mrs. Molesworth in England. The two young ladies were so distressed at the contents of the letter, that they for awhile forgot every benefit the event procured their friend in the grief of losing their loved companion and preceptress, and

drew down a severe reproof from their Mother, it however soon recalled them to recollection and shame at their own-selfishness.

“ That I shall,” said Mrs. Worthy, “ most truly regret the absence of Miss Molesworth, I will not deny I should be unworthy the affection, I know she feels for me were it otherwise, I shall not only feel the loss of her society, but that of her assistance in the education of your young sisters, for she has been so indefatigable in her wish to spare me in every point within her power, that she has made me more indulgent to myself than I ever intended to be. I must now before I return to Seabrook, enquire among my friends for some one who will undertake the education of Louisa and Constantia, for Miss Molesworth has totally spoilt me for the drudgery of teaching.”

Mrs. Worthy wrote to Miss Molesworth to congratulate her on the happy change in her prospects, and fixed their return to Seabrook for the latter end of the ensuing week, telling her that Caroline would write in a day or two to Louisa, and then fix the day of their return.

“ TO MISS LOUISA WORTHY,

“ I am sure this letter will give my dear
“ Louisa particular pleasure, because it will
“ inform her, that mamma intends being at
“ Seabrook next Friday. I have spent a
“ most delightful three weeks, and yet feel
“ more happy in the prospect of so soon
“ being with you, than in all the pleasure I
“ have partaken of without you. Tell dear
“ Miss Molesworth, I should rejoice more
“ in her well-merited good fortune, if it did
“ not deprive us of her invaluable society, and
“ that the thoughts of soon parting with
“ her, is an additional motive for my
“ wishing to be at home, that I may make
“ the most of the short time left me. I will
“ now tell you a piece of news, which I
“ think will a little surprise you. Aunt
“ Seabrook is married to General Howard,
“ the ceremony was performed at the Bishop
“ of Winchester’s house, by the General’s
“ brother, and they immediately set off for
“ their seat in Buckinghamshire, Mrs.

“ Howard has entrusted me with some
“ wedding favours for you, Constantia, and
“ Miss Molesworth.

“ Catharine and I have each, a beautiful
“ amethyst necklace and cross; but I dare
“ say you would rather I should tell you
“ what your presents are, and if I thought
“ it would not lessen the pleasure of receiv-
“ ing them, I would tell you.

“ Well then, my dear Louisa, your's is a
“ gold chain, to which is suspended a ch'ystal
“ heart set in gold, containing a lock of aunt's
“ hair tied with pearls. Constantia's is a
“ pearl cross, likewise suspended to a gold
“ chain. Miss Molesworth's you must ex-
“ cuse, as it would be very uncivil to tell you
“ what it is, till she herself sees it. I was
“ last night at Vauxhall. I never shall for-
“ get the surprise I felt at my entrance; all
“ that we have read in the Fairy Tales is
“ realized there, and I think the highest
“ gratification that can ever be received
“ from pleasure, will be obtained when you
“ enter Vauxhall for the first time. Beau-
“ tiful walks, illuminated with festoons of
“ coloured lamps, forming an artificial day,

“ the music, the groups of merry faces that
“ fill every part of these delightful gardens,
“ gives it more the appearance of fairy land
“ than any thing one can imagine of a reality,
“ but I will give you a particular description
“ when we meet. London itself, is very
“ disagreeable, from heat and dust, which
“ blows in clouds, through the carriages as
“ we pass through the streets, or park, and
“ we pray fervently for a little rain to water
“ the roads the night before we set out.

“ I think, my dear Louisa, you will not
“ complain that I have sent you a short
“ letter, and lest it should occasion one at
“ its too great length, I will conclude, with
“ assuring you and my dear Constantia, that

“ I am,

“ Your truly affectionate sister,

“ CAROLINE WORTHY,”

“ Catherine desires her affectionate love
“ to you both.”

“ MISS CATHERINE WORTHY, to MISS
MOLESWORTH.

“ Though we shall so soon meet, my dear
“ Miss Molesworth, I cannot resist the im-
“ patient desire I have to congratulate you
“ on your change of prospect; at the same
“ time, I must with shame confess, both
“ Caroline and I, were at first so very selfish,
“ that we forgot your benefit entirely, and
“ and only remembered our own loss. Be-
“ side the shame of our ungrateful return
“ for all your kindness towards us, we drew
“ upon ourselves the severest reproof I ever
“ remember, either of us to have received
“ from dear mamma. Believe, dearest
“ Emily, that it did not proceed from an
“ illiberal motive, but really and truly from
“ the horror the idea of losing you, perhaps
“ for ever, occasioned us: for I can with
“ truth, assure you, no new friends you may
“ (and I know you will have friends in all
“ who know you) have in that abominable
“ America, can love you better, or indeed
“ so truly, as Caroline and I do. I beg

“ America’s pardon, it is only abominable
“ in depriving us of you. O! dear, what
“ a sad thought darts across my mind at this
“ instant, for was it not in America we lost
“ our dear dear, papa. I well remember
“ poor mamma’s grief, did you know my
“ papa? But I must not dwell upon this sub-
“ ject or mamma will see I have been weep-
“ ing, and I could not tell her for why.
“ Caroline gives me leave to tell you what
“ aunt Seabrook’s keepsake is, that she has
“ in charge for you. It is a very pretty
“ Geneva watch, the case is gold, with a
“ dove in enamel upon it, and a gold chain
“ and seals. We told her, when she said
“ she was at a loss what to give you, that
“ you had a very old fashioned watch and
“ that you said when you were rich enough
“ you would have another, upon which she
“ bought this one for you, and I am sure
“ you will like so useful a present. With
“ Caroline’s and my best love,

“ I remain,

“ Dear Miss Molesworth’s

“ ever affectionate,

“ CATHERINE WORTHY.”

At the appointed time this affectionate family were again united at Seabrook, after a separation of three weeks for the first time in their lives. The evening of their arrival was wholly occupied in asking and answering a multitude of questions and in distributing the numerous gifts. The next morning a great number of books were unpacked; but this book case was too small to contain so great an addition to their present collection, and their mamma gave them leave to order some more shelves of the carpenter, and their sisters promised to fit them up.

While the sisters were thus employed, Mrs. Worthy and Miss Molesworth visited the villagers. She found old Wynyard considerably better. "Oh! Madam," said the grateful old man, "we have all reason to bless God for his goodness in sending us such a mistress, for you have brought me back from the grave, as I may say, with your good broth and good wine; but Madam, is it true that Madam Seabrook has given us a new mistress; I hope you ben't going to leave us."

"No, indeed," replied Mrs. Worthy, "I am not going to leave you, but pray who told you you was going to have a new mistress?"

“ Dr. Barton, Madam, he said when you came home, you would tell us who it was.”

Mrs. Worthy could have wished the good rector to have been less communicative, as she was very much averse to her daughter being made of too much consequence in her own eyes till she had acquired more experience, for though a very good girl, she was very young, and it was natural she should feel a little vain, when addressed as the owner of an estate of two thousand pounds a year. Mrs. Worthy, after a short pause, replied, “ that as they would know no difference from the change it was immaterial to whom the estate exactly belonged. She had already desired Miss Worthy to be silent on the subject; therefore she had only to express her wish of secrecy to Dr. Barton and her reasons for so doing when next she saw him.

Though this benevolent lady wished to keep it a secret, she nevertheless intended, now she could act unrestrainedly to make some improvements that would be very beneficial to her poor tenants. Very few of the cottages had any garden ground belonging to them, which she considered a very

great hardship. She therefore proposed thoroughly repairing three of them that were least habitable, and of building three others that she wanted for new tenants, and of allotting to them and every other a sufficient portion of land to supply them with vegetables and roots of every kind, except potatoes, which required a great deal of room; therefore, they were supplied from a piece of ground she had appropriated to that purpose and for their use, bricklayers and carpenters are sent, and a piece of ground was marked out, sufficient for the purpose; three small convenient houses were to be built, one of which was to be completed, as soon as possible, for Joe Wilson.

The following Sunday Mrs. Worthy asked the Rector to dine with her, and then gave him her reasons for wishing it to remain unknown that the Seabrook estate was already the property of her daughter.

“ Well, well,” replied Dr. Barton, “ I know you are a strange woman, and you may command me in any thing as you please; and pray may I ask you what good end you propose in sending all the poor children to school?”

“ My answer is simply this—the amend-

“ ment of their morals. Very few, indeed, of
“ the poor people here can read ; and it is
“ impossible, however good inclined they
“ may be, that the can be so attentive, or
“ profit by what they can hear at church, as
“ they might be, if they could make use of
“ the Prayer Book ; and, again, how are they
“ to convince themselves of the truth of what
“ you tell them, if they are unable to read
“ the Bible ; and accustomed, as they are, to
“ work hard all the week, they necessarily
“ want some employment for the Sunday,
“ and I should hope that many of them would,
“ if they could, employ it properly, instead
“ of doing far otherwise, and thereby wasting
“ their health, and the small pittance they
“ might be able to lay by.”

“ And do you really suppose, madam, that
“ if they could read their Bible, they would
“ spend their Sabbath in so doing ?”

“ I really do believe it, there is Richard
“ Wynyard, for instance ; I know that he
“ and his children spend great part of the
“ Sunday in that manner, and they are both
“ honest and industrious ; and Sarah Joice
“ is another, who also both reads herself, and
“ has brought up her grand children to do so

“ too ; and why should not the others, if they
“ had been so taught in infancy. If those
“ who have the means would take the trou-
“ ble to follow the example set them by a
“ few worthy characters, I have no doubt but
“ that shortly we should have a school for
“ the poorer class established in every town,
“ and perhaps also in every village.”

“ But do you think, that being able to
“ read will make them go more frequently to
“ church, and when there, less frequently go
“ to sleep, for I am sure I often see many of
“ them behave as if they came there to re-
“ pose themselves, instead of wishing to
“ profit by what they hear.”

“ My dear Sir, may I not ask you if these
“ poor ignorant people are not less guilty in
“ that particular than are often their superiors.
“ Let these last set them a good example,
“ be more regular in their attendance upon
“ public worship, pay stricter attention when
“ there, and then it would, I have no doubt,
“ influence their poorer brethren to follow
“ their good example. I am not an advocate
“ for superfluous education ; but total igno-
“ rance have many attendant evils. The
“ rankest weeds overrun neglected ground,

“ when a very little culture might make it
“ yield wholesome food; and should we,
“ even if it required extraordinary labour,
“ neglect to reap the benefit our trouble
“ might procure us, and let it overrun and
“ corrupt all the lands which surround it; both
“ religion and self love forbid it: but I have
“ still another argument in favour of my
“ school. This year, when I had cut out
“ the new cloathing, I thought it more
“ politic to let them each make her own par-
“ ticularly,; as none were so distressed for it,
“ as not to be able to make it before they
“ could want it; when to my great astonish-
“ ment, I found three of the mothers inca-
“ pable of putting together what I had cut
“ out for them, and that their children had
“ mended their clothes for them, against the
“ time that I was to look them over, well
“ might might they and their families be in
“ the miserable condition in which I found
“ them. I have now a fresh incitement to
“ support the school; and instead of suffer-
“ ing these girls to go home, in order to assist
“ in the household labours, I desired Sarah
“ to keep them two hours extraordinary every
“ day, till they had made all that I had cut

“ out for their father and mother, besides
“ their own.”

“ I see very well,” replied Dr. Barton,
“ that what you dare do ; you dare justify ;
“ one more question, and I have done. I
“ I wish to know if you think it will prove
“ beneficial to the rising generation.”

“ Most undoubtedly I do. I do not, in-
“ deed, expect to make an universal reform ;
“ but as I know there are some distinguished
“ females who contribute largely toward the
“ reformation of the lower class of people,
“ particularly the children, I have the firmest
“ hope that the present race will be amended,
“ and that the succeeding generation will
“ prove, that if the higher order of people
“ would take the trouble, they might greatly
“ amend the lower class ; and now, Doctor,
“ have you any other questions to propose ?”

“ If you can pardon my impertinence, I
“ will ask another.—As you do not, I pre-
“ sume, intend to spend all the days of your
“ life in this place, do you believe they will
“ always follow your precepts when they
“ have no longer your example before their
“ eyes ?”

“ Indeed, Dr. Barton, I have little doubt

“ of it. Though you know as this is my
“ daughter’s house, I shall not provide myself
“ with any other summer residence, at least
“ while it is her’s alone; and as I intend to
“ allow them the same privileges in my ab-
“ sence they at present enjoy, I think they
“ will not forfeit that indulgence; besides,
“ my housekeeper has consented to give up
“ her place entirely in town, which, in fact,
“ is too fatiguing for her, and will remain
“ here constantly, and she has lived with me
“ ever since I have kept house; her fidelity
“ is incorruptible in any way whatever, and
“ she will allow of no collusion to be prac-
“ tised, and as I am not going to town this
“ year, I think by the time I do, they will
“ have practised a regular good be-
“ haviour till it will have become a natural
“ habit, and that they will pursue from
“ choice that which they do now by com-
“ pulsion.”

Dr. Barton now rose, and taking Mrs.
Worthy by the hand, said, “ Forgive, Ma-
“ dam, the freedom with which I have pre-
“ sumed to question you; I wished to hear
“ in what manner you would justify the noble
“ principle upon which you act; may your

“ meritorious and truly pious intentions be
“ rewarded with the effect they merit; and
“ may your example be followed by every
“ female possessed of the means to put it in
“ practice; even if ostentation be the princi-
“ ple which actuates them.”

“ I hope not only to influence my own
“ sex,” replied Mrs. Worthy, “ but some of
“ yours also, in favour of other plans, as well
“ as schools; and I intend to begin with
“ you.”

“ I am very ready to enlist under your
“ banners, Madam, in the prosecution of any
“ plan, within my power or abilities. You
“ know I pass for a strange old fellow; but I
“ assure you I am more willing to do good,
“ than wise enough to know how to set about
“ it.”

“ Then you must have the patience to
“ listen to a long story. While I was in
“ London, a friend of mine entreated me to
“ contribute to a purse he was endeavouring
“ to make up, in order to release a poor man
“ who had been confined nearly six years for
“ a debt he despaired of ever being able to
“ discharge. Certain, from my friend’s cha-
“ racter, that the object of his solicitation

“ was worthy of his notice, I gladly gave
“ my mite, and begged to know some parti-
“ culars of the case. He informed me, that
“ the name of this unfortunate man was
“ Lacy, that he had been apprenticed to an
“ apothecary, who, when his time was ex-
“ pired, retained him as his shopman; and as
“ he occasionally attended some of his mas-
“ ter’s patients with success, he was treated
“ with more consideration than is common-
“ ly paid to people in his station. His mas-
“ ter died suddenly, and his property became
“ that of his nephew, a very dissipated young
“ man. Lacy was persuaded to take the
“ business upon himself; and having very
“ little money, and no friends to assist him,
“ the heir agreed to let him have the house,
“ furniture, and shop-stock, upon credit; the
“ money to be paid by instalments.”

Dr. Barton impatiently exclaimed—“ The
“ worst plan in the world, the worst that
“ ever can be put in practice. One hears of
“ this person and the other dying possessed
“ of large fortunes, who began the world with
“ nothing. It may be true, though I am doubt-
“ ful, if it is not oftener by some untold-of

“ means rather than industry ; but to begin
“ the world by contracting a debt you have
“ no means to discharge but out of the
“ scanty earnings, barely sufficient to main-
“ tain yourself and family, what but ruin
“ can ensue !”

“ I, in part, am of your opinion, Dr. Bar-
“ ton ; but you must allow that there are
“ exceptions. Industry is not always crown-
“ ed with success ; how often may we see
“ an honest industrious family labour with
“ indefatigable perseverance up the hill of
“ life, and when they have ascended so much
“ of it as to flatter themselves that the re-
“ mainder will be attained by the same lau-
“ dable means, shall have the cup of hope
“ dashed from their lips by some unforeseen
“ disaster, and all their painful course to
“ begin again ungilded by the sanguine ar-
“ dour of youthful hope, while, perhaps,
“ one of their cotemporaries, who sat out
“ with them, and with no better means or
“ views, shall, by a concurrence of success-
“ ful circumstances, rise into affluence, and
“ end their days in the peaceful enjoyment
“ of their honest well-earned gains.

“ Poor Lacy is of the former class ; he
“ had been acquainted for some time with
“ an amiable young woman, she was an
“ orphan, and her chief dowry, an inde-
“ fatigable industry ; they married, and
“ the trifling fortune she brought paid off
“ half the debt owing to their landlord.
“ Two years they went on very well, and
“ paid off some more of the debt ; one hun-
“ dred pounds still remained, when a ma-
“ lignant fever which raged in the town, and
“ carried off several of the inhabitants, seiz-
“ ed poor Lacy, and not only confined him
“ for a considerable time to his bed, but
“ incapacitated him for all business for many
“ months. Disabled thus from attending
“ his patients, he was obliged to give them
“ up to another apothecary, who at that time
“ had a shop in a village four miles off ;
“ however, finding the business here bet-
“ ter than in his own village, he gave that
“ up, and opened a shop on his own account
“ but injured both, as the town was too
“ small to maintain two of the same pro-
“ fession.

“ Unfortunately, Lacy was persuaded to
“ unite the two interests, and for the pre-

“ sent he had no reason to repent it ; but
“ when Misfortune has once past the thres-
“ hold, you do not easily prevail upon her to
“ leave the house ; fatigue and anxiety, du-
“ ring the long illness of her husband, had
“ undermined the constitution of Mrs.
“ Lacy ; a Physician was consulted upon her
“ case, and he pronounced it almost despe-
“ rate : the only chance left for her recovery
“ was the air and waters of Bristol. Dis-
“ tracted between the dread of losing his
“ beloved wife, and his inability to sup-
“ ply the means requisite for the expenses
“ of the remedy, he had recourse to Mr.
“ Morrice, his landlord ; he told him how he
“ was situated, and Morrice generously as-
“ sured him that he should not only use his
“ own time to repay him the hundred
“ pound he owed him, but that he would
“ lend him fifty pound more to answer his
“ present exigency. The offer was grate-
“ fully accepted, and Lacy returned home
“ in an extacy of joy at being able to send
“ his beloved Harriet to Bristol. In three
“ months she returned in perfect health, and
“ his happiness was complete ; they redou-
“ bled their industry and economy ; and as

“ Morrice was content to receive the pay-
“ ment in small sums, they had paid off all
“ but fifty pounds when a fresh misfortune
“ entirely ruined them ; his partner ran
“ away, and left Lacy to answer for debts
“ he had never contracted.” Here again
Dr. Barton could not help interrupting the
narration, by exclaiming—“ I never knew
“ any good come of partnerships in my
life !” Mrs. Worthy smiled at the good man’s
eagerness, and proceeded:—“ Morrice, by
“ his unaccountable extravagance, had run
“ through all his fortune, and was, besides,
“ so involved in debt, that he was obliged
“ to put his affairs into the hands of wiser
“ folk than himself ; and poor Lacy, unable
“ to answer their demand, was thrown into
“ prison, where he languished six years. His
“ wife and eldest daughter supported him,
“ three children, and themselves, all that
“ time, by their needle, till by the exertions
“ of my friend he was set at liberty. I will
“ no longer intrude upon your time, Dr.
“ Barton, than tell you, I wish to put these
“ poor people in a way to begin the world
“ once more, and I hope to prevail upon
“ you to join in my scheme.”

“ Most willingly, dear Madam, do but
“ point out the path, and I will pursue it.”
Mrs. Worthy then continued,—“ I find Lacy
“ was much liked, both for his skill and at-
“ tentive tenderness, where he first settled ;
“ but his place is now supplied there. Now,
“ as there is no apothecary nearer to Sea-
“ brook than B——, I think one might esta-
“ blish him here. I will make him a com-
“ fortable habitation, and in my daughter’s
“ name settle upon him an annual stipend,
“ to indemnify him for his attendance upon
“ the poor villagers ; now, if you will en-
“ deavour to collect among your rich neigh-
“ bours a subscription towards purchasing
“ drugs to stock their shop, and furnishing
“ their house, it will at least enable them to
“ set out once more in life clear of all debts,
“ and I trust they will succeed.” Dr. Barton
assured her his endeavours should not be
wanting in the cause, and he did not doubt of
being able to aid her benevolent purpose.

Richard Wynyard did not long survive
the return of his benefactress, who rendered
his last moments peaceful and resigned, by as-
suring him of her protection to his children.
After the funeral, Mrs. Worthy went alone

to the cottage of the Wynyards, to examine into the situation of the younger part of the family. The young man and his wife were as industrious as their father had been; he had sufficient employment in his two callings to require an assistant, and therefore proposed taking his second brother, who was nearly thirteen; one older than him was in the service of Farmer Willis, therefore only the youngest remained to be provided for. John Wynyard told Mrs. Worthy, that a young man, who drove Farmer Willis's waggon, had long loved his sister Alice, but that she would never consent to have him while her father lived; but that now he supposed she would not refuse him any longer than the expiration of her mourning; and if Madam would give them leave to remain in their cottage, they should all live comfortably together, as they had hitherto done. Mrs. Worthy replied, that they could not give her a greater pleasure than in continuing the same affectionate family they had ever been in their father's life-time; she then asked how she should dispose of their two younger sisters: if Madam would please to recommend them, they would be glad to go to

service. "Most willingly," replied their benefactress; "and I believe I can find a place for one very soon; where are the two girls?"
"—They are gone with Alice to W——, Madam, to sell some of the last cabbage-nets our poor father net."

Mrs. Worthy having made all the enquiries she wished, quitted the cottage and returned home, where she found Dr. Barton waiting for her; he asked if he might give an account of his commission before so many witnesses, whose curiosity he had been at no small pains to raise to the highest pitch in his power. "If that is the case," replied Mrs. Worthy, "it would be barbarous to leave them in the dark; so if you have no objection to gratify them, I can have none."—"Well then, here," taking out his pocket-book, "are bank-notes to the amount of fifty pounds; this is my first collection, and I have little doubt but I shall obtain an equal sum, at least, very soon."

"I am greatly obliged, Dr. Barton, by your exertions in their favour, and if you will take your dinner with us, we will walk to the village in the evening, as

“ I shall be glad to shew you the improve-
“ ments I have made. I hope soon to see
“ poor Lacy and his family settled to their
“ satisfaction, and I think by the little I know
“ of your taste, you will be prejudiced in their
“ favour at first sight, and that a further
“ knowledge will not lessen the prepos-
“ session.”

“ I should be very much wanting, in regard
“ to my own judgment,” replied Dr. Bar-
ton, “ if I should differ from one who has
“ given so many proofs of nice discernment
“ and just discrimination ; but, as I am but
“ a dunce at compliment, I must desire you
“ to believe I cannot but approve of all you
“ do.”—“ A truce, a truce, if you please,
“ and let us adjourn to the eating-parlour,
“ where the dinner waits us.”

The village was sheltered on one side by a sloping hill, that Mrs. Worthy found would admit of cultivation; she therefore caused a portion of it to be enclosed, and divided into several gardens, so that each cottage might have one to itself of sufficient extent to supply them with what was needful for their family. Those houses that were on the opposite side of the street could have none conti-

guous to their dwellings, as the land behind was all in the occupation of Farmer Willis. To provide them with an equal advantage as their opposite neighbours would possess, she had a piece adjoining to the others enclosed, and properly surrounded by a wall and a gate, of which each tenant was to have a key; this they were to enjoy in common, or to divide it as they should agree upon among themselves. Three small brick houses were built, and fitted up with sash windows and slated roofs; one of these was for the Lacys. The door of entrance divided the two front rooms, one of which was designed for a shop, the other for a parlour; behind which was a kitchen and wash-house; above, two good rooms, one was fitted up as a sitting-room, the other as a bed-chamber; above these were four small bed-rooms; the front of the house was enclosed with a small flower-garden; and behind, a piece of ground for a kitchen-garden. These houses were each at about five feet distance from each other; Mr. Lacy's was the first, Joe Wilson's the next, which consisted of a parlour and a shop in front, with the same conveniencies behind them, and one floor above, divided into four bed-rooms; this

too had a kitchen-garden behind, but none in front, though in other respects it was fitted up as well as the others. The third was not as yet appropriated to any particular person; they were all nearly finished, and were to be comfortably furnished, for their respective proprietors, as soon as they were properly dry, which she hoped would be early in the ensuing spring.

Dr. Barton was delighted with the neat and comfortable appearance of the houses:—
“They are,” said he, “exactly calculated
“for the tenants that are to occupy them;
“they have each known adversity, and are
“thereby more capable of appreciating the
“blessings they may, with industry and eco-
“nomy, enjoy; but, may I ask if you mean
“to let them live here rent free?”

“By no means,” replied Mrs. Worthy,
“I think that would be wrong; I have no
“doubt but they both may, when properly
“established, be able to maintain their fa-
“milies while young, but when old enough
“to get their own living, I would have them
“put into some way to enable them to pro-
“vide for themselves independent of their
“parents; but, as neither of my new tenants

“ have as yet a property of their own, I mean
“ to fix the rent I intend they should pay ;
“ and at the first year’s end return it, and
“ give them an acquittal, and be myself an-
“ swerable to *my Ward*; then I shall desire
“ them from that time to pay their rent quar-
“ terly; it will by that means come easier to
“ them, and at the same time keep them
“ from spending beyond what they can well
“ spare, as they will know exactly then what
“ they are worth every quarter.”

“ How much real charity might be prac-
“ tised in the world, (or rather, how much
“ more) if all who have the means in their
“ power were to act as judiciously as you do,
“ Madam.”

“ No doubt, Dr. Barton, there are a great
“ many; but you know, those who do not
“ act from ostentation are more reserved than
“ those who do; and we oftener hear of sin-
“ gle acts of extraordinary generosity, than
“ we do of those who, by reason of a con-
“ fined income, are obliged to act more sys-
“ tematically, and relieve their necessitous
“ fellow-beings moderately and regularly.”

“ Your observation is perfectly just, and
“ true also; for I question if your name will

“ ever find its way into the morning or evening chronicles of the times, though you have made a whole village happy and comfortable by your bounty,” replied Dr. Barton.

“ If any thing could make me repent of what I have done,” said Mrs. Worthy, “ it would be that publicity you have just pointed out; which would deprive me of the little merit I may arrogate to myself, of not having one ostentatious sentiment to urge me to the duty becoming a true Christian.”

Dr. Barton now took leave, telling his young friends that he should expect they would serve him in his own coin the next time he saw them, by exciting his curiosity as he had done theirs.

The ensuing summer would complete the five years Mrs. Worthy had proposed remaining at Seabrook, which made her the more anxious to establish all her new tenants. Early in March, Joe Wilson and his family took possession of their new house, which Mrs. Worthy had furnished suitable to their present condition in life; avoiding every thing that might raise in his wife an idea above the

humble station to which she had long been reduced.

One of the boys was old enough to work with his father; the eldest girl, Mrs. Worthy had bound apprentice to a mantua-maker at W——; the second was able to assist her mother in her household labours, and the son's young ones were sent daily to Sarah Joice's school. Mr. Lacy's house was very neatly furnished with every thing that could conduce to their comfort and convenience. Betty Wynyard, the youngest of the two girls, had been taken into Mrs. Worthy's house from the time of her father's death, in order to be instructed under her own servants; she was now a very tidy handy girl, and was engaged by Mrs. Worthy as a servant for Mrs. Lacy, that she might have every thing ready for her reception.

As soon as Mrs. Worthy had determined upon effectually providing for the future welfare of the Lacys, she wrote to a particular friend, who was an eminent Physician, praying him to examine Lacy as to his knowledge in medicine and other necessary qualifications, as she felt herself responsible to her tenants and dependants, with regard to the abilities

of the man unto whose care she confided their health. She also requested him to give the order for the proper drugs that would be necessary to send down, in order to furnish his shop with every thing requisite.

Louisa and Constantia viewed all the preparations with the most curious attention, and impatiently waited their arrival, making new enquiries every day, among which, if the children were boys or girls, and if they were of their own age, and if Mamma would let them come to Seabrook-house to play with them? to all these questions Mrs. Worthy returned vague replies.

At length the long wished-for day arrived; beds were prepared for them at Seabrook-house, that they might perfectly recover the fatigue of their journey before they entered their own house. Mrs. Worthy sent her own carriage to W——, to receive them from the stage, which came no nearer to Seabrook; and received them herself alone in the drawing-room, welcoming them in the kindest manner to her house, telling Mrs. Lacy, that though her own was quite ready to receive her, she should insist upon her taking up her abode for a few days with her,

in order to recover the fatigue of her journey, and arrange every thing to her own mind at her leisure.

It was early in the day when they arrived. As soon as they had taken some refreshment, the young ladies were introduced to them; the two eldest, though in town, with their Mamma, had only seen Mr. Lacy; they were all agreeably surprised to see an elegant looking woman, and three very pretty girls; the eldest appeared about fifteen, the youngest seven, and a boy just turned of fourteen.— Mrs. Lacy's countenance and manner were uncommonly prepossessing, and though she expressed her sense of the uncommon kindness and beneficence of Mrs. Worthy, in the strongest terms of heart-felt gratitude, there was not the smallest degree of severity or meanness in her manner; tears of sensibility sprang to her eyes, when she entered upon the subject of her first introduction to Mrs. Worthy. “ I was then, Madam, almost
“ hopeless of ever seeing my husband at liber-
“ ty; and though the Lady who first made
“ you acquainted with our unfortunate situ-
“ ation had very kindly assisted me in my dis-
“ tress, it was to your active benevolence

“ that I owed his restoration to liberty and
“ his family; and the subsequent benefits
“ we have already enjoyed, and are still pour-
“ ing in upon us, they are so great, that we
“ must ever remain you debtor, being far
“ beyond the power of gratitude to repay.”

“ My dear Mrs. Lacy, if you would not
“ wound me far beyond your power to heal,
“ you will never renew this subject. I have
“ been little more than an agent in the busi-
“ ness; my real share in it has been very
“ trifling, and you know I expect Mr. Lacy
“ to repay me with interest, by keeping us all
“ in health, and he will find a large family to
“ look after.”

The next morning, Mrs. Worthy left the young people together, and walked with Mr. and Mrs. Lacy to their new habitation.— Though they had every reason to expect, from the benevolent disposition of their amiable friend, a comfortable and decent residence, they were not prepared for any thing equal to that which they now found themselves the owners of. When they first married, they had a fair prospect of obtaining as comfortable a maintenance as moderate desires and determined industry could wish for; but, reduced

by a series of misfortunes to the lowest ebb of misery, they had submissively yielded to the hand that chastised them; they had been married sixteen years, and in all their troubles, their mutual affection enabled them to support their wayward fate with tolerable fortitude.

Mrs. Lacy had been educated with the tenderest care by her mother in every useful branch of female education, and she had also acquired some of the genteel accomplishments from the best masters; her father held a lucrative situation in one of the public offices; but addicted to company, and all the gaieties of life, his wife saw with grief that there would be no provision for her child, and was therefore the more anxious to give her an education that might enable her, when old enough, to maintain herself genteelly by her talents.

The sudden death of Mr. Williams left his wife and child unprovided for, and the delicate constitution of Mrs. Williams soon left Sophia an orphan dependent upon a maiden sister of her father, who lived in Hampshire upon a very small annuity. - Sophia Williams was then in her fourteenth year, therefore too young to yet put in practice her lament-

ed mother's plan; and when she made it known to her aunt, the old lady declared she would never suffer her to pursue so wild a scheme; it was in vain, Miss Williams urged her fondness for children, and the pleasure she should take in teaching: her aunt told her she was resolved to withdraw her protection unless she gave it up. Sophia was too timid to oppose her, and she remained with her till her death, which took place about six months prior to her marriage with Lacy, which she had also opposed as vehemently as she had that of her engaging herself as a governess. The truth was, she felt happy in having an amiable girl to live with her, who would patiently bear all her caprices, and be ready to amuse her when she was good-humoured enough to be amused. She had saved a trifle annually, and this sum, about one hundred and fifty pounds, and a little plate, was the fortune Lacy received with his wife.

Amplly qualified for the office, Mrs. Lacy had pursued her mother's plans with regard to her own girls; and though the eldest was but fifteen, she was very well qualified to undertake a situation as a teacher in a school, or

a first governess, and Mrs. Worthy promised to make the necessary enquiries for her.

It was at the moment when Mrs. Worthy received Miss Molesworth's letter that this conversation took place; upon which she directly formed the design of taking Miss Lacy into her family, if, upon a more minute scrutiny, she should be found capable of the undertaking.

The spring was now advancing fast, and Miss Molesworth became impatient for letters from America, as she had made every preparation for her departure. She had always expressed a particular partiality towards Mary Wynyard; and, as it was requisite she should have an attendant upon the voyage, Mrs. Worthy thought Mary would be very happy to go with her, and would feel naturally more attachment to her mistress, from having known her so long; each were happy in the proposal, and Mary was accordingly taken into the house directly, that she might be instructed in her new employment by Mrs. Worthy's own maid, and be well fitted out with clothes suitable to her then situation.— Thus all Richard's children were provided for, except the youngest boy.

At length the long-wished-for letters arrived, and one at the same time from the Captain of the ship, who was a particular friend of Mrs. Molesworth's, to inform Miss Molesworth that she must repair with all convenient speed to Bristol, where his ship lay, as she was taking in her lading, and should sail with the first fair wind. Though this parting had been so long expected, the young people were not better reconciled to it; nor was Mrs. Worthy less affected; her affection for Miss Molesworth was truly maternal, nor would the departure of one of her own children have given her more present concern. She thought it a most uncomfortable thing for a young person like her to go so long a voyage without a proper female protection, though Miss Molesworth knew Captain Miller, and indeed highly respected both him and his wife.

There was only one day now remaining, the next was to deprive them of their loved companion; and as she sat at breakfast, Miss Worthy said, she should not feel the parting so severely if she was on the spot to see her friend set sail. The weather was uncommonly fine for the season, and it suddenly

struck Mrs. Worthy that an excursion to Bristol would give the girls pleasure, as there were many things worth seeing there, and she herself should have the satisfaction of particularly recommending her young friend to the care of Captain Miller.

“ Suppose I was to order the carriage to-morrow, and let you all accompany Miss Molesworth to Bristol; the place itself is worth the journey; and then Caroline will obtain her wish, and if Emily should be detained there longer than she expects, we shall make the time appear less tedious to her.”

This proposal was so agreeable and so unexpected, that it quickly banished all traces of sorrow. Every one was busied in packing and preparing for the journey. The two female attendants were sent off in a post-chaise that night, they were to go three stages before they put up for the night, and to go off as early as possible the next morning, in order that they might arrive some hours before Mrs. Worthy; they were to provide a lodging for the whole party upon Clifton Hill.

At five the next morning, Mrs. Worthy, Miss Molesworth, and the four young ladies,

set off in the coach, with four post-horses and two out-riders, one to precede the carriage all the way, to procure horses, that they might not be delayed upon the road.

The numerous beautiful seats scattered in their route made them often wish to take a nearer view, but as Miss Molesworth was uneasy at any delay, they would not attempt to gratify this curiosity. When they reached Bristol, they found Captain Miller at the Inn, waiting to receive and conduct them to the house of a merchant, a particular friend of his, where he wished them to take up their residence, and had prevented the servants from providing a lodging for them.— Mrs. Worthy was obliged to accept this well-meant offer, though she would rather have slept out of the city. Captain Miller had taken in all his lading, and only waited for the wind, and Miss Molesworth was most agreeably surprised to find a very pleasant party of ladies going the voyage, among whom was the Captain's wife; expressing her surprise that her father had not mentioned Mrs. Miller's going in his letter, the Captain told her, that when he left Jamaica the event was quite uncertain, as he did not know if

in the precarious state of health his wife had been in for more than a twelvemonth, it would permit her to take so long a voyage; but as soon as she had determined to go with him, he had written to Mrs. Molesworth, in order to relieve her mind from the anxiety she had been in on account of her daughter, making such a voyage without a proper female companion; though they were well assured of her safety under Captain Miller's protection, who was as fond of her as if she had been his own child.

The second day after their arrival, the dreaded parting took place; many tears flowed on all sides; Miss Molesworth was obliged to exert all her fortitude when she bade farewell to the beloved children and their respected mother.—“ Never can I forget, dearest Madam, and you my beloved pupils, the kindness and attention I have experienced in so many instances; nothing but the extatic joy of again embracing my adored parents and my sisters supports me under this separation; and the idea, perhaps, of never re-visiting such inestimable friends nearly breaks my heart.”

Mrs. Worthy was unable to speak, but tenderly embracing her, tore herself away;

she then endeavoured to compose her feelings, that she might have the power to console the children and urge them into a fortitude, she was herself incapable of feeling. The many inestimable qualities, and most of all her gentle manners, had rendered her as dear to her friend as her own children, and when they raised their tearful eyes to those of their Mamma, felt consoled when they saw she felt the separation equally painful with themselves.

“ My dear Mamma,” said Caroline, “ I almost wish I had never known Miss Molesworth, since the grief of parting with her absorbs all the pleasure I ever felt in her society.”

“ My dear Caroline, the present moment offers me so proper an occasion of giving you, and my other dear children, some wholesome advice, that I should think myself negligent in a most important duty were I not to avail myself of it. And first let me remind you that I have known the severest sorrow which parting can inflict; and that too for ever, with the dearest and worthiest object that ever created affection in the human breast. I lost your father at an age when I had reason to look

“ forward to many years of reciprocal hap-
“ piness. None that ever knew him will
“ accuse me of partiality or high colouring,
“ when I say he was all that a human being
“ could be. Strictly observant of his duty
“ towards his Maker, his King, and his
“ country; the neighbour of all his fellow-
“ beings, a most tender husband, an affec-
“ tionate father, and a sincere friend. What-
“ ever he engaged in, he was indefatigable
“ in the execution, and was in every sense
“ of the word an honest man. When death
“ parted us, I was for a long time deaf to the
“ consolation of friendship; I found every
“ argument weaker than my grief; but that
“ which the tenderness of friendship could
“ not attain was at last bestowed upon me
“ by a stranger. I was at the house of a
“ friend in Sussex, and of course went to
“ church with her on Sunday. The clergy-
“ man had lately lost a dear friend, and his
“ sermon was upon the subject of a patient
“ resignation to the Divine will; and as he
“ spoke feelingly, and argued sensibly, it
“ seemed suitable to every one in affliction;
“ it recalled me to that proper submission I
“ owed to the Divine Disposer of all human
“ events, and I became sufficiently resigned

“ to be able to speak of my husband with a
“ serene countenance at least ; and though
“ my heart regretted him with equal force
“ it had ever done, I brought myself to
“ think of him, as of one gone a long jour-
“ ney, and whom I was to follow, and that
“ when we again met, we never more should
“ part.

“ The untimely death of your dear bro-
“ ther renewed my sorrows, and I nearly
“ forgot, for a time, that I had any other
“ blessings left ; but reason and religion
“ again recalled me to my duty. And now,
“ my dear children, you are old enough to
“ reason with yourselves. You have parted
“ for a time with one whom it would be
“ disgraceful to your feelings not deeply to
“ regret ; but as there is every reason to
“ expect, that, however distant the time may
“ be, you will certainly meet again ; it
“ would be an unpardonable weakness to
“ continue to lament the loss of her society
“ particularly as it is occasioned by so great
“ an advantage to herself ; and had she
“ testified the smallest reluctance to under-
“ take the voyage, I am certain you would
“ have felt much less esteem for her than

“ you now do ; but when you renew your
“ acquaintance some few years hence, when
“ the judgment of each is ripened by ex-
“ perience, you will then feel much greater
“ pleasure in each other’s society than ever
“ you did in your early years. Friendships
“ formed in early youth are ever most per-
“ manent ; for as we advance in life we be-
“ come fastidious, and are apt to scrutinize
“ so deeply into human imperfections, that
“ we often lose the opportunity of forming
“ a valuable connexion, from wishing
“ to find that perfections we had pictured
“ to ourselves must belong to the object we
“ would call friend.”

“ I know, Mamma,” replied Miss Wor-
thy, “ that I ought not to be silly, I, who
“ have every thing else to make me happy ;
“ but the distance is so great, that even our
“ correspondence will be very unsatisfac-
“ tory ; however, I will try to reconcile my-
“ self to it, and look forward to the time that
“ Mr. and Mrs. Molesworth may perhaps
“ return and settle in England ; when I hope
“ our acquaintance will be renewed never
“ to be again broken.”

“ I hope so too,” said her Mamma, “ for

“ as your mutual esteem is formed upon the
“ tried virtues of each, it has a fair pros-
“ pect of ending only with your lives.”

“ Pray, Mamma,” asked Catherine Wor-
thy, “ what is your opinion of Sophia Lacy ?”
“ From so short an acquaintance, Catherine,
“ I am incompetent to decide upon your
“ question with precision, but from that
“ little, I may venture to tell you it is high-
“ ly favourable ; I intend requesting her
“ mother to let her spend the remainder of
“ this year with me, by way of assisting me
“ in the instruction of Louisa and Con-
“ stantia ; I shall then have sufficient time
“ for observation.”

Mrs. Worthy spent four days in seeing
all that was worthy of their notice in Bristol
and its environs, and then took leave of the
worthy merchant and his wife, promising to
renew their acquaintance the following win-
ter in London. They slept one night at
Bath, which was in its full meridian of
gaiety ; and as many of Mrs. Worthy’s
friends were there, she had infinite difficulty
to resist the many entreaties made her to join
their party.

As they had no occasion to hurry home,
Mrs. Worthy gratified the young people’s

curiosity by stopping at several magnificent seats in their route, and did not arrive at Seabrook till the tenth day from their departure.

Mrs. Worthy was happy to find the Lacy's quite established, and comfortable in their new abode. Dr. Barton called upon them, and made Mr. Lacy a present of a good saddle horse; he also invited him to take a ride to his house, in order that he might have an opportunity of introducing him to some of his friends. Lacy's countenance and address were much in his favour, that he gained several friends; and he looked forward with the hope that the decline of life would prove as reasonably happy as the early part had been stormy and perplexing.

As the time for leaving the country was fixed for the first week in January, Mrs. Worthy had not much time to spare, as she wished to leave all her numerous family perfectly comfortable. The school was her greatest concern; and poor Sarah, though very unwilling, was forced to acknowledge that she much feared she should not be able to hold out the winter; this, as she was going to leave them, distressed Mrs. Worthy very much, Sarah's grand-daughters

being too young, if they had been capable, and none of the villagers who were, would like to leave their own occupations to embrace one so troublesome to those who do not prefer that mode of gaining their living.

In the midst of her perplexity, Dr. Barton, arrived; to him she made known her distress. "That is very singular," cried the Rector, "my business here this morning was to hold a privy council upon a subject not very dissimilar to yours, and perhaps, by a coalition, all parties may be satisfied."—"Then, the sooner you communicate it," said Mrs. Worthy, "the better."

"Well, then, thus it is.—My clerk has been dead about three weeks; his widow has very little to live on, and I came here to consult with you about establishing a school in my village, and making her the mistress; but now, with less trouble to me, and more convenience to you, we may perhaps fix her in Sarah Joice's place."—"Indeed, Dr. Barton, if you think she will like the situation, I shall think myself very fortunate. I suppose she is at least as well qualified as Sarah, and I would not, if she desired it, wish

“ any thing farther.”—“ Well, then, shall I send her to you to-morrow ? ”—“ If you please, as it will prevent unnecessary suspense on all sides.”

Accordingly, the next day, the Rector's servant brought Mrs. Parker on a pillion behind him; Mrs. Worthy explained to her all her plan, and at the same time told her, that, although Sarah, from infirmity, was obliged to give it up, she was, nevertheless, still able to assist her in it, till she was entirely accustomed to every thing; that Mary Joice was to remain the same as when her grandmother kept the school.

To all these particulars, Mrs. Parker appeared perfectly agreeable, and the first of the following month was fixed for her instalment in her new office. Mrs. Worthy, besides building the three new houses, had in a manner almost rebuilt several of the cottages; one of these was at present untenanted, and was next door to Sarah; this Mrs. Worthy now designed for Mrs. Parker, as poor old Sarah was not to be put out of her's, for the sake of the school, but it wanted some alteration for the purpose, and workmen were instantly employed.

Poor Sarah was very thankful when she

found that the stranger was not to be with her, and was quite happy to think that her dear, her blessed Mistress would be in no trouble now for the poor children, and she would, aye that she would, if their new mistress would let her, she would shew her all Madam Worthy's rules. This business being so happily settled, removed much anxiety from the mind of Mrs. Worthy. At length Mrs. Parker arrived, and took upon her the charge of the school, and Mrs. Worthy very soon saw that she was quite capable of the trust reposed in her.

Sophia Lacy had been some weeks an inmate of Mrs. Worthy's family, and soon convinced her she was quite capable of supplying Miss Molesworth's place. She was uncommonly serious for ^{her} age; but her disposition was, nevertheless, cheerful, and her manners were gentle and unassuming. She was, when in town, to receive lessons from all the masters who attended the young ladies, by which means she would be made still more useful when in the country. The villagers saw with heart-felt sorrow the time fast approaching that was to deprive them for several months of their beloved benefactress; they were, however, left in the

care of one who was every way worthy of the confidence her lady reposed in her.

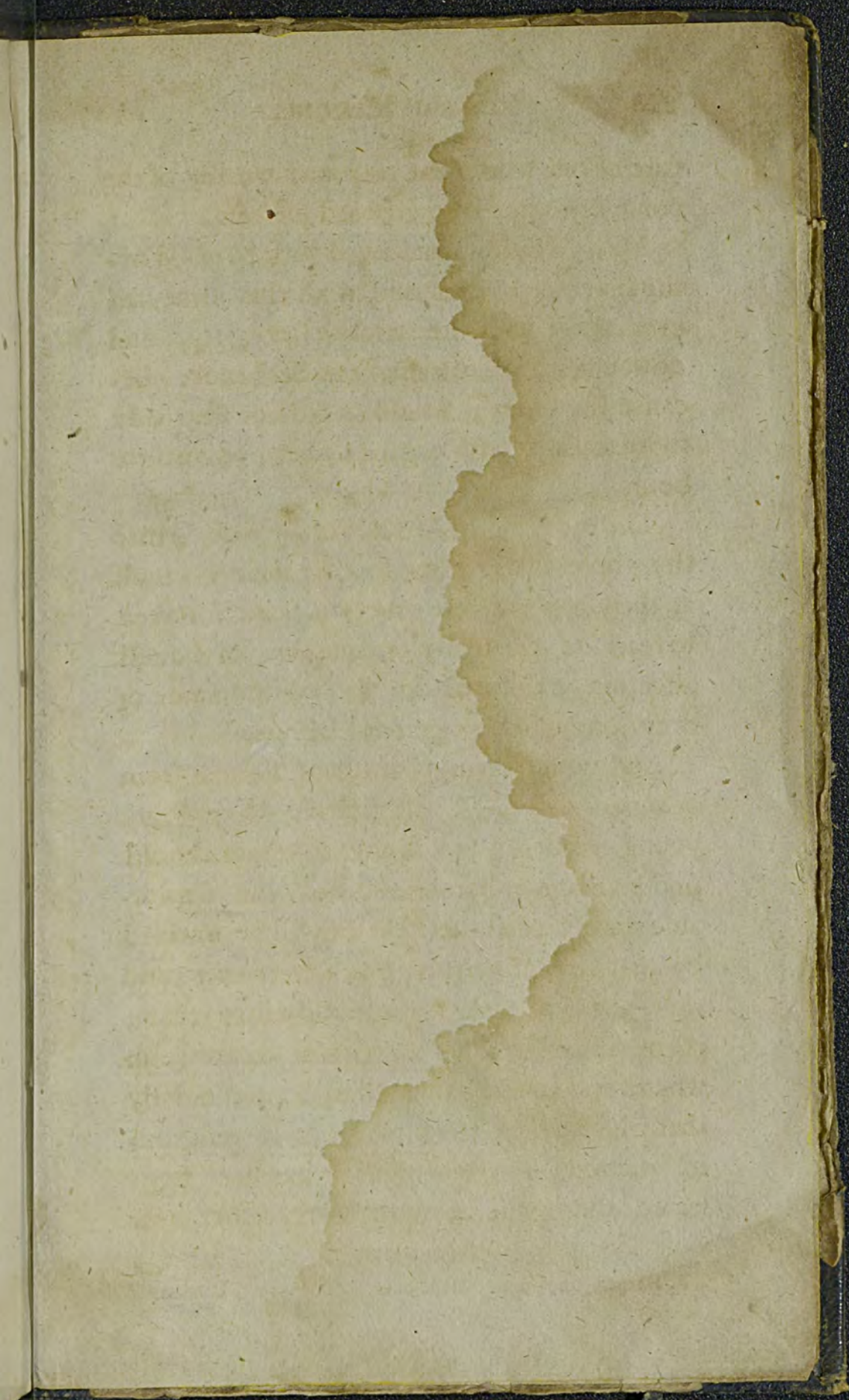
Mrs. Meadows had lived with Mrs. Worthy seventeen years, and in all that time had ever acted with the strictest integrity, and now consented to remain at Seabrook; because she knew it would make her dear lady more at ease, with regard to her poor neighbours.

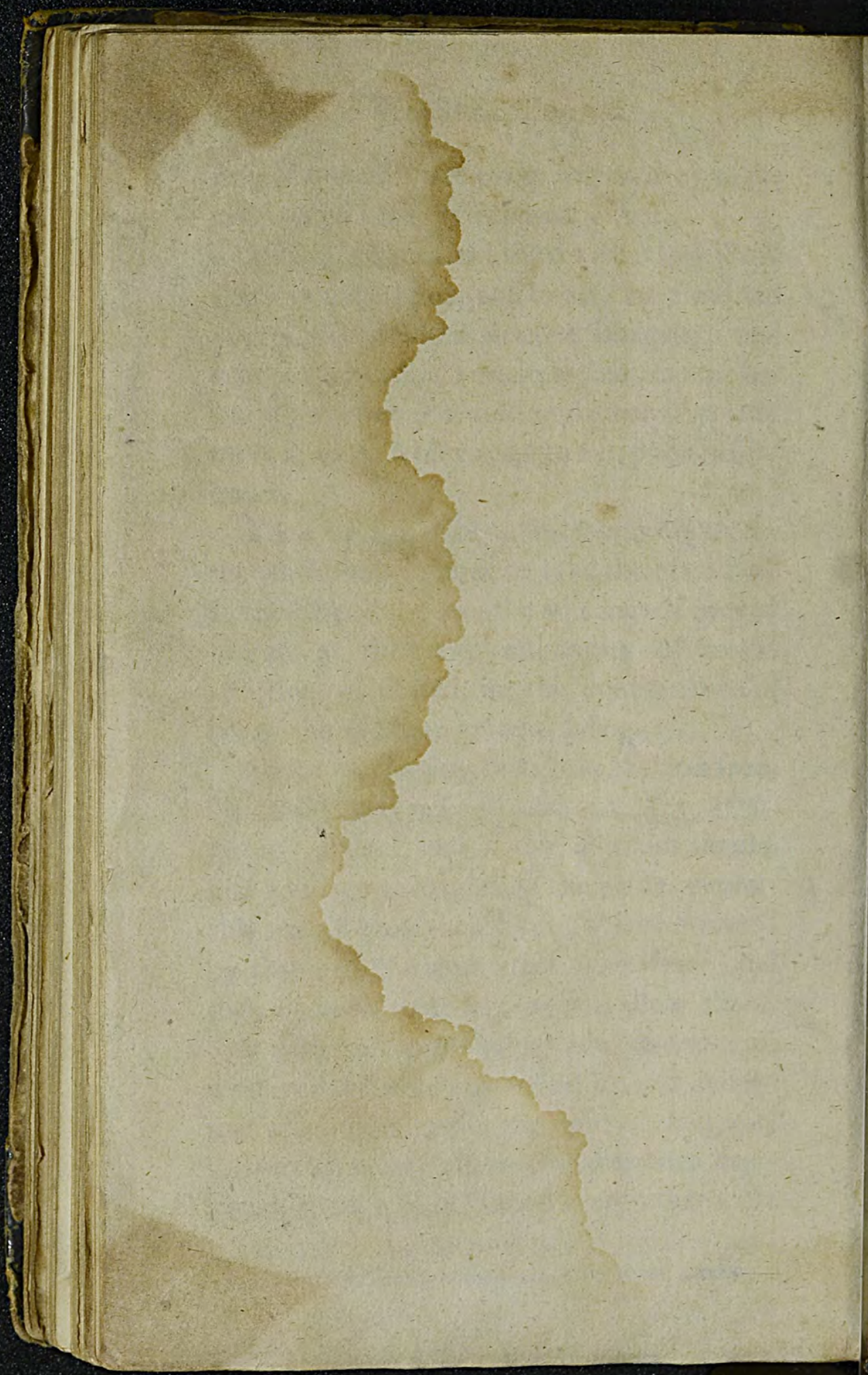
The morning of Mrs. Worthy's departure the whole village came to take their last look at their benefactress; she was herself moved to tears at the many testimonies of honest affection exhibited in the countenance of every one of these grateful beings.

And now, having banished distress from *Seabrook Village*, I will take my leave of my young readers; and if any of them should find a village or hamlet in the same deplorable state, I trust their hearts will be warmed by that first of virtues, *true benevolence*; and that, as far as their fortune will allow them, they will endeavour to relieve distress, in whatever shape they may find it; and chiefly that which arises from the want of religious instruction; for where that has been neglected, there will be found every other evil.

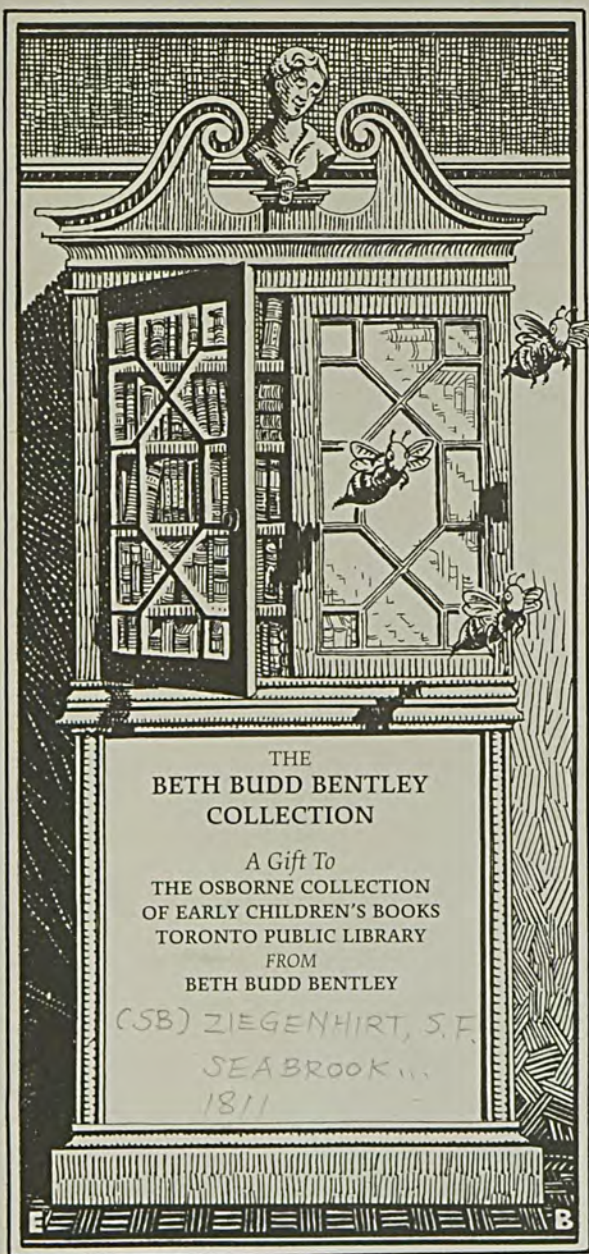
THE END.

T. Harper, jun. Printer, Crane-court, Fleet-street, London.





This book
The first



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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.

