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THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK
FROM THE FOUNDATION
BY
JONATHAN BURNETT

EMMELINE,
THE
ORPHAN of the CASTLE.

F M M E L L I N E

THE

ORPHAN of the CASTLE

F M M E L L I N E

BY CHARLOTTE SMITH

THE

IN FOUR VOLUMES

ORPHAN of the CASTLE

V O L III

L O N D O N

PRINTED FOR T. CADELL, IN THE STRAND

1788

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T H E

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F. M. M. E. L. I. N. E.
ORPHAN OF THE CASTLE.
BY CHARLOTTE SMITH.
IN FOUR VOLUMES.
CHAPTER I.
W
L O V
THE END OF THE WORLD

E M M E L I N E,

T H E

OR PHAN of the CASTLE.

C H A P T E R I.

WHENEVER Mrs. Stafford and Emmeline were afterwards alone, they could think and speak of nothing but Lady Adelina. The misfortunes in which an unhappy marriage had involved her, her friendless youth, her lovely figure, the settled sorrow and deep regret that she seemed to feel for the error into which her too great sensibility of heart had betrayed her, engaged

VOL. III. B gaged

Wmson 14 Aug 1840 (H. 221)

gaged their tenderest pity, and made them both anxious to give her all the consolation and assistance she was now capable of receiving.

When they considered the uncertainty of her remaining long concealed where she was, and the probability that Fitz-Edward himself might discover her, they saw the necessity of her removal from Woodbury Forest. But it was a proposal they could not yet make—nor had they yet recollected any place where she might be more secure.

Emmeline, who felt herself particularly interested by her misfortunes, and who was more pleased with her conversation the oftener she conversed with her, seldom failed of seeing her every day: But Mrs. Stafford, more apprehensive of observation, could not so frequently visit her; and the precaution of both redoubled, when Mrs. Ashwood, Miss Galton, and the two Miss Ashwood's, arrived at Woodfield, where they declared an intention of staying the months of June and July.

Thither

Thither also, soon after, came the younger Mr. Crofts, who had made an acquaintance with Mr. Stafford in London with the hope of obtaining an invitation, which he eagerly accepted.

Sir Richard Crofts, in the ambition of making a family, had determined to give every advantage to his eldest son, which might authorise him to look up to those alliances that would, he hoped, make his own obscurity forgotten. From the first dawn of his fortune, he had considered Mr. Crofts as it's general heir; and had very plainly told his younger son, that a place under government, which he had procured for him, of about three hundred a year, must be his only dependance; till he should possess two thousand pounds, all the provision he intended making for him at his death—as he meant not to diminish, by a more equal division, the patrimony of his brother. He recommended to him therefore to remedy this deficiency of fortune by looking out for an affluent wife.

Nature had not eminently qualified him for success in such a project; for his per-

son was short, thick, and ill made, and his face composed of large broad features, two dim grey eyes, and a complexion of a dull fallow white. A vain attempt to look like a gentleman, served only to render the meanness of his figure more remarkable; and the qualities of his heart and understanding were but little calculated to make his personal imperfections forgotten. His heart was selfish, narrow, unfeeling, and at once mean and proud; his understanding beneath mediocrity; and his conversation consisted of quaint scraps of something that he supposed was wit, or at least very like it. And even such attempts to be entertaining, poor as they were, he retained from the office where he passed the greatest part of his time, and for a subaltern employment in which his education had been barely such as fitted him. But ignorant as he was, and devoid of every estimable accomplishment, he had an infinite deal of that inferior kind of policy called cunning; and being accustomed to consider his establishment as depending wholly on himself, he had acquired a habit of sacrificing every senti-

sentiment and every passion to that one purpose; and would adopt the opinions, and submit to the caprices of others, whenever he thought they could promote it. He had learned the obsequious attention, the indefatigable industry, the humble adulation which is necessary for the under departments of political business. And while such acquisitions gave him hopes of rising in that line, they failed not to contribute to his success in another. He would walk from the extremity of Westminster to Wapping, to smuggle a set of china or of quadrille boxes for the mother or aunt of an heiress; and would, with great temper, suffer the old ladies to take advantage of him at cards, while he ogled the young ones. Which, together with his being always ready to perform for them petty services, and to flatter them without scruple, had obtained for him the character of "one of the best creatures breathing." But whatever favour these various recommendations obtained for him for a time, from the elderly ladies, he lost his ground when his

views were discovered; and tho' he had received what he fancied encouragement from two or three young women of fortune on their first emerging from the nursery, yet they had no sooner acquired an handsomer or richer lover, than "the best creature breathing" was discarded.

He was not however discouraged; and meeting with Mrs. Ashwood at a rout at Lady Montreville's, he was told by Miss Delamere, who was extremely diverted with her airs of elegance, that she was a rich widow who wanted a husband. He enquired into the circumstances of her fortune; and being assured she possessed such an income as would make him easy, he thought some little advantage she had over him in point of age no diminution of her attractions, and found it convenient to fall immediately in love. She listened to him with complaisance; and soon discovered "that he was not so plain as at first he appeared to be"—soon afterwards, that "he was rather handsome, and vastly sensible and agreeable." After which, he
made

made a rapid progress in her heart; and it was concerted between them that he should follow her to Woodfield.

Emmeline and Mrs. Stafford were wearied to death with the party. But the former forbore to complain, and the latter was forced to submit, and to smile while anguish was frequently at her heart.

Mrs. Ashwood talked of nothing but fashionable parties and fashionable people, to whom her acquaintance with Lord Montreville's family had introduced her; and she now seldom deigned to name an untitled acquaintance—while Crofts hung on her long narratives with affected admiration; and the two elder of her three daughters, who were all in training to be beauties, aped their mother in vanity and impertinence.

The eldest Miss Ashwood, now about fourteen, was an insupportable torment to Emmeline, as she had taken it into her head to form, with her, a sentimental friendship. She had learned all the cant of sentiment from novels; and her mama's lovers

had extremely edified her in teaching her to express it. She talked perpetually of delicate embarrassments and exquisite sensibilities, and had probably a lover, as she extremely wanted a confidant; a post which Emmeline with some difficulty declined.—Of “the sweet novels” she had read, she just understood as much as made her long to become the heroine of such an history herself, and she wanted somebody to listen to her hopes of being so. But Emmeline shrunk from her advances, and repaid her fondness with general and cool civility; tho’ Mrs. Ashwood, who loved rather to listen to Crofts than to attend to her daughters, continually promoted the intimacy, in hopes that she would take them off her hands, and allow them to be the companions of her walks.

This, Emmeline was obliged studiously to evade, as such companions would entirely have prevented her seeing Lady Adeline; and by repeated excuses she not only irritated the curiosity of Mrs. Ashwood and Miss Galton, but gave the former an additional

ditional cause of dislike to that which she had already conceived; inasmuch as she was younger, handsomer, and more admired than herself.

Emmeline received frequent letters from Delamere, as warm and passionate as his personal professions. He told her, that as his mother's health was greatly amended, he intended soon to visit those parts of France with which he was yet unacquainted; and should pass some time in the Northern Provinces, from whence he entreated her to allow him to come only for a few days to England to see her—an indulgence which he said would enable him to bear with more tranquillity the remaining months of his exile.

Tho' now accustomed to consider him as her husband, Emmeline resolutely refused to consent to this breach of his engagement to his father. She had lately seen in her friends, Mrs. Stafford and Lady Adelina, two melancholy instances of the frequent unhappiness of very early marriages; and she had no inclination to hazard her own

happinefs in hopes of proving an exception. She wished, therefore, rather to delay her union with Delamere two or three years; but to him ſhe never dared hint at ſuch a delay. A clandestine interview it was, however, in her power to decline; and ſhe answered his request by entreating him not to think of ſuch a journey; and repreſented to him that he could not expect Lord Montreville would finally adhere to *his* promiſes, if he himſelf was careleſs of fulfilling the conditions on which his Lordſhip had inſiſted. Having thus, as ſhe ſuppoſed, prevented Delamere from offending his father, and without any immediate uneaſineſs on her own account, ſhe gave up her mind to the ſolicitude ſhe could not help feeling for Lady Adelina. This occupied almoſt all her time when ſhe was alone; and gave her, when in company, an air of abſence and reſerve.

Tho' Mrs. Aſhwood ſo much encouraged the attention of James Crofts, ſhe had not forgotten Fitz-Edward, whom ſhe had vainly fought at Lady Montreville's, in
hopes

hopes of renewing an acquaintance which had in it's commencement offered her so much satisfaction. Fitz-Edward had been amused with her absurdity at the moment, but had never thought of her afterwards; nor would he then have bestowed so much time on a woman to him entirely indifferent, had not he been thrown in her way by his desire to befriend Delamere with Emmeline, on one of those days when Lady Adelina insisted on his leaving her, to avoid the appearance of his passing with her all his time. Happy in successful love, his gaiety then knew no bounds; and his agreeable flattery, his lively conversation, his fashionable manners, and his handsome person, had not since been absent from the memory of Mrs. Ashwood. His being sometimes at the house he had borrowed of Delamere, near Woodfield, was one of the principal inducements to her to go thither. She indulged sanguine hopes of securing such a conquest; and evaded giving to Crofts a positive answer, till she had

made another essay on the heart of the Colonel.

He came, however, so seldom to Woodfield, that Mrs. Stafford had seen him there only once since her meeting Lady Adelina; and then he appeared to be under encreased dejection, for which she knew now how to account.

Emmeline had given Mrs. Stafford so indifferent an account of Lady Adelina one evening, that she determined the next morning to see her. She therefore went immediately after breakfast, on pretence of visiting a poor family who had applied to her for assistance; when as Mrs. Ashwood, Miss Galton and Emmeline, were sitting together, Colonel Fitz-Edward was announced.

He came down to Tylehurst only the evening before; and not knowing there was company at Woodfield, rode over to pass an hour with the two friends, to whom he had frequently been tempted to communicate the source of his melancholy.

Whether it was owing to the consciousness

ness of Lady Adelina's mournful story that arose in the mind of Emmeline, or whether seeing Fitz-Edward again in company with Mrs. Ashwood renewed the memory of what had befallen her when they last met, she blushed deeply the moment she beheld him, and arose from her chair in confusion; then sat down and took out her work, which she had hastily put up; and trying to recover herself, grew still more confused, and trembled and blushed again.

Mrs. Ashwood was in the mean time overwhelming Fitz-Edward with compliments and kind looks, which he answered with the distant civility of a slight acquaintance; and taking a chair close to Emmeline, enquired if she was not well?

She answered that she was perfectly well; and attempted to introduce general conversation. But Fitz-Edward was attentive only to her; and Mrs. Ashwood, extremely piqued at his distant manner, meditated an excuse to get Emmeline out of the room, in hopes of obtaining more notice.

Fitz-Edward, however, having talked
apart

apart with Miss Mowbray a short time, arose and took leave, having by his manner convinced Mrs. Ashwood of what she reluctantly believed, that some later attachment had obliterated the impression she had made at their first interview.

“ I never saw such a figure in my life,” cried she, “ as Mr. Fitz-Edward. Mercy on me!—he is grown *so* thin, and *so* fallow!

“ And *so* stupid,” interrupted Miss Galton. “ He is in love I fancy.”

Emmeline blushed again; and Mrs. Ashwood casting a malicious look at her, said—
“ Oh yes—he doubtless is in love. To men of his gay turn you know it makes no difference, whether a person be actually married or *engaged*.”

Emmeline, uncertain of the meaning of this sarcasm, and unwilling to be provoked to make a tart reply, which she felt herself ready to do, put up her work and left the room.

While she went in search of Mrs. Stafford, to enquire after Lady Adelina, and

to

to relate the conversation that had passed between her and Fitz-Edward, Mrs. Ashwood and Miss Galton were indulging their natural malignity. Tho' well apprized of Emmeline's engagement to Delamere, yet they hesitated not to impute her confusion, and Fitz-Edward's behaviour, to a passion between them. They believed, that while her elopement with Delamere had beyond retreat entangled her with him, and while his fortune and future title tempted her to marry him, her heart was in possession of Fitz-Edward; and that Delamere was the dupe of his mistress and his friend.

This idea, which could not have occurred to a woman who was not herself capable of all the perfidy it implied, grew immediately familiar with the imagination of Mrs. Ashwood, and embittered the sense of her own disappointment.

Miss Galton, who hated Emmeline more if possible than Mrs. Ashwood, irritated her suspicions by remarks of her own. She observed " that it was very extraor-
 " dinary

“ dinary Miss Mowbray should walk out
“ so early in a morning, and so studiously
“ avoid taking any body with her—and
“ that unless she had appointments to
“ which she desired no witness, it was
“ very singular she should chuse to ramble
“ about by herself.”

From these observations, and her evident confusion on seeing him, they concluded that she had daily assignations with Fitz-Edward. They agreed, that it would be no more than common justice to inform Mr. Delamere of their discovery ; and this they determined to do as soon as they had certain proofs to produce, with which they concluded a very little trouble and attention would furnish them.

James Crofts, whose success was now indisputable, since of the handsome Colonel there were no hopes, was let into the secret of their suspicions ; and readily undertook to assist in detecting the intrigue, for which he assured them he had particular talents. While, therefore, Mrs. Ashwood, Miss Galton, and James Crofts, were preparing
to

to undermine the peace and character of the innocent, ingenuous Emmeline, she and Mrs. Stafford were meditating how to be useful to the unhappy Lady Adelina. They became every day more interested and more apprehensive for the fate of that devoted young woman, whose health seemed to be such as made it very improbable she should survive the birth of her child. Her spirits, too, were so depressed, that they could not prevail on her to think of her own safety, or to allow them to make any overtures to her family; but, in calm and hopeless languor, she seemed resigned to the horrors of her destiny, and determined to die unlamented and unknown.

Her elder brother, Lord Westhaven, had returned from abroad almost immediately after her concealment. His enquiries on his first arrival in England had only informed him of the embarrassment of Trelawny's affairs, and the inconvenience to which his sister had consequently been exposed; and that after staying some time in England, to settle things as well as she could, she

she had disappeared, and every body believed was gone to her husband. His Lordship's acquaintance and marriage with Augusta Delamere, almost immediately succeeded; but while it was depending, he was astonished to hear from Lord and Lady Clancarryl that Lady Adelina had never written to them before her departure. He went in search of Fitz-Edward; but could never meet him at home or obtain from his servants any direction where to find him. Fitz-Edward, indeed, purposely avoided him, and had left no address at his lodgings in town or at Tylehurst.

Lord Westhaven then wrote to Trelawny, but obtained no answer; and growing daily more alarmed at the uncertainty he was in about Lady Adelina, he determined to go, as soon as he was married, to Switzerland; being persuaded that tho' some accident had prevented his receiving her letters, she had found an asylum there, among his mother's relations.

Fitz-Edward, with anxiety even more poignant, had sought her with as little success.

cess. After the morning when she discharged her lodgings, and left them in an hackney coach with her maid, he could never, with all his unwearied researches, discover any traces of her.

He knew she was not gone to Trelawny; and dreading every thing from her determined sorrow, he passed his whole time between painful and fruitless conjectures, and the tormenting apprehension of hearing of some fatal event. Incessantly reproaching himself for being the betrayer of his trust, and the ruin of a lovely and amiable woman, he gave himself up to regret and despondence. The gay Fitz-Edward, so lately the envy and admiration of the fashionable world, was lost to society, his friends, and himself.

He passed much of his time at Tylehurst; because he could there indulge, without interruption, his melancholy reflections, and saw only Mrs. Stafford and Emmeline, in whose soft and sensible conversation he found a transient alleviation of his sorrow—sorrow which now grew too severe to be longer concealed,

concealed, and which he resolved to take the earliest opportunity of acknowledging, in hopes of engaging the pity of his fair friends—perhaps their assistance in discovering the unhappy fugitive who caused it.

From Lady Adelina, they had most carefully concealed that his residence was so near the obscure abode she had chosen. Fatal as he had been to her peace, and conscientiously as she had abstained from naming him after their first conversation, they knew that she still fondly loved him, and that her fears for his safety had assisted her sense of rectitude when she determined to tear herself from him. But were she again to meet him, they feared she would either relapse into her former fatal affection, or conquer it by an effort which in her precarious state of health might prove immediately fatal.

The request which Fitz-Edward had made to Emmeline, that he might be allowed to see her and Mrs. Stafford together, without any other person being present, they both wished to evade; dreading least they

they should by their countenances betray the knowledge they had of his unhappy story, and the interest they took in it's catastrophe.

They hoped, therefore, to escape hearing his confession till Lady Adelina should be removed—and to remove her became indispenfibly necessary, as Emmeline was convinced she was watched in her visits to the cottage.

Twice she had met James Crofts within half a quarter of a mile of the cottage; and at another time discovered, just as she was about to enter it, that the Miss Ashwoods had followed her almost to the door, which she therefore forbore to enter. These circumstances made both her and Mrs. Stafford solicitous to have Lady Adelina placed in greater security; and, added to Emmeline's uneasiness for her, was the unpleasant situation in which she found herself.

Observed with malicious vigilance by Mrs. Ashwood, James Crofts, Miss Galton, and the two Misses, she felt as awkward as
if

if she really had some secret of her own to hide; and with all the purity and even heroism of virtue, learned the uneasy sensation which ever attends mystery and concealment. The hours which used to pass tranquilly and rationally with Mrs. Stafford, were now dedicated to people whose conversation made her no amends; and if she retired to her own room, it failed not to excite sneers and suspicions. She saw Mrs. Stafford struggling with dejection which she had no power to dissipate or relieve, and obliged to enter into frequent parties of what is called pleasure, tho' to her it gave only fatigue and disgust, to gratify Mrs. Ashwood, who hated all society but a croud. James Crofts, indeed, helped to keep her in good humour by his excessive adulation; and chiefly by assuring her, that by any man of the least taste the baby face of Emmeline could be considered only as a foil to her more mature charms, and that her fine dark eyes eclipsed all the eyes in the world. He protested too against Emmeline for affecting knowledge—"It is," said

said he, “ a maxim of my father’s—and
 “ my father is no bad judge—that for a
 “ woman to affect literature is the most
 “ horrid of all absurdities ; and for a woman
 “ to know any thing of business, is de-
 “ testable !”

Mrs. Ashwood laid by her dictionary,
 determined for the future to spell her own
 way without it.

Besides the powerful intervention of flat-
 tery, James Crofts had another not less suc-
 cessful method of winning the lady’s fa-
 vour. He told her that his brother, who
 had long cherished a passion in which he
 was at length likely to be disappointed, was
 in that case determined never to marry ;
 that he was in an ill state of health ; and if
 he died without posterity, the estate and
 title of his father would descend to him-
 self.

The elder Crofts, very desirous of seeing
 a brother established who might otherwise
 be burthensome or inconvenient to him,
 suggested this finesse ; and secured it’s be-
 lief by writing frequent and melancholy
 accounts

accounts of his own ill health—an artifice by which he promoted at once his brother's views and his own. He affected the valetudinarian so happily, and complained so much of the ill effect that constant application to business had on his constitution, that nobody doubted of the reality of his sickness. He took care that Miss Delamere should receive an account of it, which he knew she would consider as the consequence of his despairing love; and when he had interested her vanity and of course her compassion, he contrived to obtain leave of absence for three months from the duties of his office in order to go abroad for the recovery of his health. He hastened to Barege; and soon found means to re-establish himself in the favour of Miss Delamere, from which absence, and large draughts of flattery dispensed with French adroitness, had a little displaced him; and this stratagem put his brother James on so fair a footing with the widow, that he thought her fortune would be secured before she could discover it to be only a stratagem,

stratagem, and that her lover was still likely to continue a younger brother.

James Crofts seeing the necessity of dispatch, became so importunate, that Mrs. Ashwood, despairing of Fitz-Edward, and believing she might not again meet with a man so near a title, for which she had a violent inclination, was prevailed on to promise she would make him happy as soon as she returned to her own house.

It was now the end of June; and Lady Adelina, whose situation grew very critical, had at length yielded to the entreaties of her two friends, and agreed to go wherever they thought she could obtain assistance and concealment in the approaching hour.

Mrs. Stafford and Emmeline, after long and frequent reflections and consultations on the subject, concluded that no situation would be so proper as Bath. In a place resorted to by all sorts of people, less enquiry is excited than in a provincial town, where strangers are objects of curiosity to its idle inhabitants. To Bath, therefore, it was de-

terminated Lady Adelina should go. But when the time of her journey, and her arrangements there, came to be discussed, she expressed so much terror lest she should be known, so much anguish at leaving those to whose tender pity she was so greatly indebted, and such melancholy conviction that she should not survive, that the sensible heart of Emmeline could not behold without sharing her agonies; nor was Mrs. Stafford less affected. When they returned home after this interview, Emmeline was pursued by the image of the poor unhappy Adelina. But to give, to the wretched, only barren sympathy, was not in her nature, where more effectual relief was in her power. She thought, that if by her presence she could alleviate the anguish, and sooth the sorrows of the fair mourner, perhaps save her character and her life and be the means of restoring her to her family, she should perform an action gratifying to her own heart, and acceptable to heaven. The more she reflected on it, the more
anxious

anxious she became to execute it—and she at length named it to Mrs. Stafford.

Mrs. Stafford, tho' aware of the numberless objections which might have been made to such a plan, could not resolve strenuously to oppose it. She felt infinite compassion for Lady Adelina; but could herself do little to assist her, as her time was not her own and her absence must have been accounted for—but Emmeline was liable to no restraint; and would not only be meritoriously employed in befriending the unhappy, but would escape from the society at Woodfield, which became every day more disagreeable to her: these considerations, particularly the benevolent one of saving an unhappy young woman, over-balanced, in the mind of Mrs. Stafford, the objection that might be made to her accompanying a person under the unfortunate and discreditable circumstances of Lady Adelina; and her heart, too expansive to be closed by the cold hand of prudery against the sighs of weakness or misfortune, assured her that she was right. She knew that Emmeline

line was of a character to pity but not to imitate the erroneous conduct of her friend—and she believed that the reputation of Lady Adelina Trelawny might be rescued from reproach, without communicating any part of it's blemish to the spotless purity of Emmeline Mowbray.

CHAP-

CHAPTER II.

AS soon as Emmeline had persuaded herself of the propriety of this plan and obtained Mrs. Stafford's concurrence, she hinted her intentions to Lady Adelina; who received the intimation with such transports of gratitude and delight, that Emmeline, confirmed in her resolution, no longer suffered a doubt of it's propriety to arise; and, with the participation of Mrs. Stafford only, prepared for her journey, which was to take place in ten days.

Mrs. Stafford also employed a person on whom she could rely, to receive the money due to Lady Adelina from her husband's estate. But of this her Ladyship demanded only half, leaving the rest for Trelawny. The attorney in whose hands Trelawny's affairs were placed by Lord Westhaven, was extremely anxious to discover, from the person employed by Mrs. Stafford, from

C 3

whence

whence he obtained the order signed by Lady Adelina; and obliged him to attend several days before he would pay it, in hopes, by persuasions or artful questions, to draw the secret from him. He met, at the attorney's chambers, an officer who had made of him the same enquiry, and had followed him home, and since frequently importuned him—intelligence, which convinced Mrs. Stafford that Lady Adelina must soon be discovered, as they concluded the officer was Fitz-Edward; and made both her and Emmeline hasten the day of her departure.

About a quarter of a mile from Woodfield, and at the extremity of the lawn which surrounded it, was a copse in which the accumulated waters of a trout stream formed a beautiful tho' not extensive piece of water, shaded on every side by a natural wood. Mrs. Stafford, who had particular pleasure in the place, had planted flowering shrubs and caused walks to be cut through it; and on the edge of the water built a seat of reeds and thatch, which was furnished

nished with a table and a few garden chairs. Thither Emmeline repaired whenever she could disengage herself from company. Solitude was to her always a luxury; and particularly desirable now, when her anxiety for Lady Adelina, and preparations for their approaching departure, made her wish to avoid the malicious observations of Mrs. Ashwood, the forward intrusion of her daughters, and the inquisitive civilities of James Crofts. She had now only one day to remain at Woodfield, before that fixed for their setting out; and being altogether unwilling to encounter the fatigue of such an engagement so immediately previous to her journey, she declined being of the party to dine at the house of a neighbouring gentleman, who on the occasion of his son's coming of age, was to give a ball and *fete champêtre* to a very large company.

Mrs. Ashwood, seeing Emmeline averse, took it into her head to press her extremely to go with them; and finding she still refused, said—"it was monstrous rude, and
 " that she was sure no young person would

C 4

" decline

“ decline partaking such an entertainment
“ if she had not some *very particular* rea-
“ son.”

Emmeline, teized and provoked out of her usual calmness, answered—“ That what-
“ ever might be her reasons, she was for-
“ tunately accountable to nobody for
“ them.”

Mrs. Ashwood, provoked in her turn, made some very rude replies, which Emmeline, not to irritate her farther, left the room without answering; and as soon as the carriages drove from the door, she dined alone, and then desiring one of the servants to carry her harp into the summer-house in the copse, she walked thither with her music books, and soon lost the little chagrin which Mrs. Ashwood's ill-breeding had given her.

Fitz-Edward, who arrived in the country the preceding evening, after another fruitless search for Lady Adelina, walked over to Woodfield, in hopes, as it was early in the afternoon, that he might obtain, in the course of it, some conversation with Mrs.

Stafford

Stafford and Emmeline. On arriving, he met the servant who had attended Emmeline to the copse, and was by him directed thither. As he approached the seat, he heard her singing a plaintive air, which seemed in unison with his heart. She started at the sight of him—Mrs. Ashwood's suspicions immediately occurred to her, and at the same moment the real motive which had made him seek this interview. She blushed, and looked uneasy; but the innocence and integrity of her heart presently restored her composure, and when Fitz-Edward asked if she would allow him half an hour of her time, she answered—"certainly."

He sat down by her, dejectedly and in silence. She was about to put aside her harp, but he desired her to repeat the air she was singing.

"It is sweetly soothing," said he, "and reminds me of happier days when I first heard it; while you sing it, I may perhaps acquire resolution to tell you what may oblige you to discard me from your acquaintance."

“acquaintance. It does indeed require
“resolution to hazard such a misfor-
“tune.”

Emmeline, not knowing how to answer, immediately began the air. The thoughts which agitated her bosom while she sung, made her voice yet more tender and pathetic. She saw the eyes of Fitz-Edward fill with tears; and as soon as she ceased he said—

“Tell me, Miss Mowbray—what does
“the man deserve, who being entrusted
“with the confidence of a young and beau-
“tiful woman—beautiful, even as Emme-
“line herself, and as highly accomplished
“—has betrayed the sacred trust; and has
“been the occasion—oh God!—of what
“misery may I not have been the occa-
“sion!

“Pardon me,” continued he—“I am
“afraid my despair frightens you—I will
“endeavour to command myself.”

Emmeline found she could not escape hearing the story, and endeavoured not to betray

betray by her countenance that she already knew it.

Fitz-Edward went on—

“ When first I knew you, I was a de-
 “ cided libertine. Yourself and Mrs. Staf-
 “ ford, lovely as I thought you both, would
 “ have been equally the object of my de-
 “ signs, if Delamere’s passion for you, and
 “ the reserved conduct of Mrs. Stafford,
 “ had not made me doubt succeeding
 “ with either. But for your charming
 “ friend my heart long retained it’s par-
 “ tiality ; nor would it ever have felt for
 “ her that pure and disinterested friendship,
 “ which is now in regard to her it’s only
 “ sentiment, had not the object of my pre-
 “ sent regret and anguish been thrown in
 “ my way.

“ To you, Miss Mowbray, I scruple
 “ not to speak of this beloved and lamented
 “ woman; tho’ her name is sacred with
 “ me, and has never yet been mentioned
 “ united with dishonour.

“ The connection between our families
 “ first introduced me to her acquaintance.

“ In her person she was exquisitely lovely,
“ and her manners were as enchanting as
“ her form. The sprightly gaiety of un-
“ suspecting inexperience, was, I thought,
“ sometimes checked by an involuntary
“ sentiment of regret at the sacrifice she
“ had made by marrying a man every way
“ unworthy of her except by that fortune
“ to which she was indifferent, and of
“ which he was hastening to divest him-
“ self.

“ I had never seen Mr. Trelawny; and
“ knew him for some time only from re-
“ port. But when he came to Lough
“ Carryl, my pity for her encreased in
“ proportion to the envy and indignation
“ with which I beheld the insensible
“ and intemperate husband—incapable of
“ feeling for her, any other sentiment, than
“ what she might equally have inspired in
“ the lowest of mankind.

“ Her unaffected simplicity; her gentle
“ confidence in my protection during a
“ voyage in which her ill-assorted mate
“ left her entirely to my care; made me
“ rather

“ rather consider her as my sister than as
 “ an object of seduction. I resolved to be
 “ the guardian rather than the betrayer of
 “ her honour—and I long kept my resolu-
 “ tion.”

Fitz-Edward then proceeded to relate the circumstances that attended the ruin of Trelawny's fortune ; and that Lady Adelina was left to struggle with innumerable difficulties, unassisted but by himself, to whom Lord Clancarryl had delegated the task of treating with Trelawny's sister and creditors.

“ Her gratitude,” continued he, “ for
 “ the little assistance I was able to give her,
 “ was boundless ; and as pity had already
 “ taught me to love her with more ardour
 “ than her beauty only, captivating as it
 “ is, would have inspired, gratitude led
 “ her too easily into tender sentiments for
 “ me. I am not a presuming coxcomb ;
 “ but she was infinitely too artless to con-
 “ ceal her partiality ; and neither her mis-
 “ fortunes, or her being the sister of my
 “ friend

“ friend Godolphin, protected her against
 “ the libertinism of my principles.”

He went on to relate the deep melancholy that seized Lady Adelina, and his own terror and remorse when he found her one morning gone from her lodgings, where she had left no direction ; and from her proceeding it was evident she designed to conceal herself from his enquiries.

“ God knows,” pursued he, “ what is
 “ now become of her !—perhaps, when
 “ most in need of tenderness and attention,
 “ she is thrown destitute and friendless
 “ among strangers, and will perish in indigence and obscurity. Unused to encounter the slightest hardship, her delicate frame, and still more sensible mind, will sink under those to which her situation will expose her—perhaps I shall be doubly a murderer !”

He stopped, from inability to proceed—
 Emmeline, in tears, continued silent.

Struggling to conquer his emotion and recover his voice, Fitz-Edward at length continued—

“ While

“ While I was suffering all the misery
 “ which my apprehension for her fate in-
 “ flicted, her younger brother, William
 “ Godolphin, returned from the West In-
 “ dies, where he has been three years
 “ stationed. I was the first person he vi-
 “ sited in town; but I was not at my lodg-
 “ ings there. Before I returned from
 “ Tylehurst, he had informed himself of
 “ all the circumstances of Trelawny’s em-
 “ barrassments, and his sister’s absence.
 “ He found letters from Lord Westhaven,
 “ and from my brother, Lord Clancarryl;
 “ who knowing he would about that time
 “ return to England, conjured him to assist
 “ in the attempt of discovering Lady Ade-
 “ lina; of whose motives for concealing
 “ herself from her family they were entirely
 “ ignorant, while it filled them with un-
 “ easiness and astonishment. As soon as I
 “ went back to London, Godolphin, of
 “ whose arrival I was ignorant, came to
 “ me. He embraced me, and thanked
 “ me for my friendship and attention to
 “ his unfortunate Adeline—I think if he
 “ had

“ had held his sword to my heart it would
 “ have hurt me less !

“ He implored me to help his search
 “ after his lost sister, and again said how
 “ greatly he was obliged to me—while I,
 “ conscious how little I deserved his grati-
 “ tude, felt like a coward and an assassin,
 “ and shrunk from the manly confidence
 “ of my friend.

“ Since our first meeting, I have seen
 “ him several times, and ever with new
 “ anguish. I have loved Godolphin from
 “ my earliest remembrance; and have
 “ known him from a boy to have the best
 “ heart and the noblest spirit under hea-
 “ ven. Equally incapable of deserving
 “ or bearing dishonour, Godolphin will
 “ behold me with contempt; which tho’
 “ I deserve I cannot endure. He must
 “ call me to an account; and the hope
 “ of perishing by his hand is the only
 “ one I now cherish. Yet unable to shock
 “ him by divulging the fatal secret, I have
 “ hitherto concealed it, and my conceal-
 “ ment he must impute to motives base,
 “ infamous

“ infamous, and pusillanimous. I can
 “ bear such reflections no longer—I will
 “ go to town to-morrow, explain his sister’s
 “ situation to him, and let him take the
 “ only reparation I can now make him.”

Emmeline, shuddering at this resolution,
 could not conceal how greatly it affected
 her.

“ Generous and lovely Miss Mowbray !
 “ pardon me for having thus moved your
 “ gentle nature ; and allow me, since I see
 “ you pity me, to request of you and Mrs.
 “ Stafford a favour which will probably be
 “ the last trouble the unhappy Fitz-Ed-
 “ ward will give you.

“ It may happen that Lady Adelina
 “ may hereafter be discovered—tho’ I
 “ know not how to hope it. But if your
 “ generous pity should interest you in the
 “ fate of that unhappy, forlorn young wo-
 “ man, your’s and Mrs. Stafford’s pro-
 “ tection might yet perhaps save her ; and
 “ such interposition would be worthy of
 “ hearts like yours. As the event of a
 “ meeting between me and Godolphin is
 “ uncertain,

“ uncertain, shall I intreat you, my lovely
 “ friend, to take charge of this paper.
 “ It contains a will, by which the child
 “ of Lady Adelina will be entitled to all
 “ I die possessed of. It is enough, if the
 “ unfortunate infant survives, to place it
 “ above indigence. Lord Clancarryl will
 “ not dispute the disposition of my for-
 “ tune; and to your care, and that of
 “ Mrs. Stafford, I have left it in trust, and
 “ I have intreated you to befriend the poor
 “ little one, who will probably be an or-
 “ phan—but desolate and abandoned it
 “ will not be, if it’s innocence and unhap-
 “ piness interest you to grant my request.
 “ Delamere will not object to your good-
 “ ness being so exerted; and you will not
 “ teach it, generous, gentle as you are!
 “ to hold in abhorrence the memory of
 “ it’s father. This is all I can now do.
 “ Farewell! dearest Miss Mowbray!—
 “ Heaven give you happiness, *ma douce*
 “ *amie!* Farewell!”

These last words, in which Fitz-Edward
 repeated the name by which he was accus-
 tomed

tomed to address Emmeline, quite overcame her. He was hastening away, while, hardly able to speak, she yet made an effort to stop him. The interview he was about to seek was what Lady Adelina so greatly dreaded. Yet Emmeline dared not urge to him how fatal it would be to her; she knew not what to say, lest she should discover the secret with which she was entrusted; but in breathless agitation caught his hand as he turned to leave her, crying—

“Hear me, Fitz-Edward! One moment hear me! Do not go to meet Captain Godolphin. I conjure, I implore you do not!”

She found it impossible to proceed. Her eyes were still eagerly fixed on his face; she still held his hand; while he, supposing her extreme emotion arose from the compassionate tenderness of her nature, found the steadiness of his despair softened by the soothing voice of pity, and throwing himself on his knees, he laid his head on

on one of the chairs, and wept like a woman.

Emmeline, who now hoped to persuade him not to execute the resolution he had formed, said—"I will take the paper you have given me, Fitz-Edward, and will most religiously fulfil all your request in it to the utmost extent of my power. But in return for my giving you this promise, I must insist"—

At this moment James Crofts stood before them.

Emmeline, shocked and amazed at his appearance, roused Fitz-Edward by a sudden exclamation.

He started up, and said fiercely to Crofts—"Well, Sir!—have you any commands here?"

"Commands, Sir," answered Crofts, somewhat alarmed by the tone in which this question was put—"I have no commands to be sure Sir—but, but, I came Sir, just to enquire after Miss Mowbray. I did not mean to intrude."

"Then,

“ Then, Sir,” returned the Colonel,
 “ I beg you will leave us.”

“ Oh! certainly, Sir,” cried Crofts,
 trying to regain his courage and assume an
 air of raillery—“ certainly—I would not
 “ for the world interrupt you. My busi-
 “ nefs indeed is not at all material—only a
 “ compliment to Miss Mowbray—your’s,”
 added he sneeringly, “ is, I see, of more
 “ consequence.”

“ Look ye, Mr. Crofts,” sharply an-
 swered Fitz-Edward—“ You are to make
 “ no impertinent comments. Miss Mow-
 “ bray is mistress of her actions. She is
 “ in my particular protection on behalf
 “ of my friend Delamere, and I shall con-
 “ sider the slightest failure of respect to
 “ her as an insult to me. Sir, if you
 “ have nothing more to say you will be
 “ so good as to leave us.”

There was something so hostile in the
 manner in which Fitz-Edward delivered
 this speech, that James Crofts, more at
 home in the cabinet than the field, thought
 he might as well avoid another injunction
 to

to depart; and quietly submit to the present, rather than provoke farther resentment from the formidable foldier. He therefore, looking most cadaverously, made one of his jerking bows, and said, with something he intended for a smile—

“ Well, well, good folks, I’ll leave you
 “ to your *tête à tête*, and hasten back to
 “ my engagement. Every body regrets
 “ Miss Mowbray’s absence from the ball;
 “ and the partner that was provided for
 “ her is ready to hang himself.”

An impatient look, darted from Fitz-Edward, stopped farther effusion of impertinence, and he only added—“ Servant!
 “ servant!” and walked away.

Fitz-Edward, then turning towards Emmeline, saw her pale and faint.

“ Why, my dear Miss Mowbray, do
 “ you suffer this man’s folly to affect you?
 “ Your looks really terrify me!”

“ Oh! he was sent on purpose,” cried Emmeline.—“ Mrs. Ashwood has lately
 “ often hinted to me, that whatever are
 “ my engagements to Delamere I was
 “ much more partial to you. She has
 “ watched

“ watched me for some time; and now,
 “ on my refusing to accompany them to
 “ the ball, concluded I had an appoint-
 “ ment, and sent Crofts back to see.”

“ If I thought so,” sternly answered
 Fitz-Edward, “ I would instantly overtake
 “ him, and I believe I could oblige him
 “ to secrecy.”

“ No, for heaven’s sake don’t!” said
 Emmeline—“ for heaven’s sake do not
 “ think of it! I care not what they think—
 “ leave them to their conjectures—Crofts
 “ is not worth your anger. But Fitz-Ed-
 “ ward, let us return to what we were
 “ talking of. Will you promise me to
 “ delay going to London—to delay seeing
 “ Mr. Godolphin until—in short, will you
 “ give me your honour to remain at Tyle-
 “ hurst a week, without taking any mea-
 “ sures to inform Godolphin of what you
 “ have told me. I will, at the end of
 “ that time, either release you from your
 “ promise, or give you unanswerable rea-
 “ sons why you should relinquish the de-
 “ sign of meeting him at all.”

Fitz-

Fitz-Edward, however amazed at the earnestness she expressed to obtain this promise, gave it. He had no suspicion of Emmeline's having any knowledge of Lady Adelina; and accounted for the deep interest she seemed to take in preventing an interview, by recollecting the universal tenderness and humanity of her character. He assured her he would not leave Tylehurst 'till the expiration of the time she had named. He conjured her not to suffer any impertinence from Crofts on the subject of their being seen together, but to awe him into silence by resentment. Emmeline now desired him to leave her. But she still seemed under such an hurry of spirits, that he insisted on being allowed to attend her to the door of the house, where; renewing his thanks for the compassionate attention she had afforded him, and entreating her to compose herself, he left her.

Emmeline intending to go to her own room, went first into the drawing room to deposit her music book. She had hardly done so, when she heard a man's step, and
turning,

turning, beheld Crofts open the door, which he immediately shut after him.

“ I thought, Sir,” said Emmeline, “ you had been gone back to your party.”

“ No, not yet, my fair Emmeline. I wanted first to beg your pardon for having disturbed so snug a party. Ah! my little prude—who would think that you, who always seem so cold and so cruel, made an excuse only to stay at home to meet Fitz-Edward? But it is not fair, little dear, that all your kindness should be for him, while you will scarce give any other body a civil look. Now I have [met with you I swear I’ll have a kiss too.”

Emmeline, terrified to death at his approaching her with this speech, flew to the bell, which she rang with so much violence that the rope broke from the crank.

“ Now,” cried Crofts, “ if nobody hears, you are more than ever in my power.”

“ Heaven forbid!” shrieked Emmeline,
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line, in an agony of fear. "Let me go,
" Mr. Crofts, this moment."

She would have rushed towards the door
but he stood with his arms extended before
it.

"You did not run thus—you did not
" scream thus, when Fitz-Edward, the
" fortunate Fitz-Edward, was on his
" knees before you. Then, you could
" weep and sigh too, and look so sweetly
" on him. But come—you see I know
" so much that it will be your interest,
" little dear, to make me your friend."

"Rather let me apply to fiends and
" furies for friendship! hateful, detesta-
" ble wretch! by what right do you in-
" sult and detain me?"

"Oh! these theatricals are really very
" sublime!" cried he, seizing both her
hands, which he violently grasped.

She shrieked aloud, and fruitlessly strug-
gled to break from him, when the foot-
steps of somebody near the door obliged
him to let her go. She darted instantly
away, and in the hall met one of the maids.

"Lord,

“ Lord, Miss,” cried the servant, “ did you ring? I’ve been all over the house to see what bell it was.”

Emmeline, without answering, flew to her own room. The maid followed her. But desirous of being left alone, she assured the girl that nothing was the matter, that she was merely tired by a long walk, and desiring a glass of water, tried to compose and recollect herself; while Crofts unobserved returned to the house where the *fete* was given time enough to dress and dance with Mrs. Ashwood.

It was at her desire, that immediately after dinner Crofts had left the company under pretence of executing a commission with which she easily furnished him; but his real orders were to discover the motives of Emmeline’s refusal to be of the party. This he executed beyond his expectation. It was no longer to be doubted that very good intelligence subsisted between Emmeline and Fitz-Edward, since he had been found on his knees before her; while she, earnestly yet kindly speaking, hung over him

him with tears in her eyes. Knowing that Emmeline was absolutely engaged to Delamere, he was persuaded that Fitz-Edward was master of her heart; and that the tears and emotion to which he had been witness, were occasioned by the impossibility of her giving him her hand. He knew Fitz-Edward's character too well to suppose he could be insensible of the lady's kindness; and possessing himself a mind gross and depraved, he did not hesitate to believe all the ill his own base and illiberal spirit suggested.

Tho', interested hypocrite as he was, he made every other passion subservient to the gratification of his avarice, Crofts had not coldly beheld the youth and beauty of Emmeline; he had, however, carefully forbore to shew that he admired her, and would probably never have betrayed what must ruin him for ever with Mrs. Ashwood, had not the conviction of her partiality to Fitz-Edward inspired him with the infamous hope of frightening her into some kindness for himself, by threatening to betray

tray her stolen interview with her supposed lover.

The scorn and horror with which Emmeline repulsed him served only to mortify his self love, and provoke his hatred towards her and the man whom he believed she favoured; and with the inveterate and cowardly malignity of which his heart was particularly susceptible, he determined to do all in his power to ruin them both.

CHAPTER III.

SUCH was the horror and detestation which Emmeline felt for Crofts, that she could not bear the thoughts of seeing him again. But as she feared Mrs. Stafford might resent his behaviour, and by that means embroil herself with the vain and insolent Mrs. Ashwood, with whom she knew Stafford was obliged to keep on a fair footing, she determined to say as little as she could of his impertinence to Mrs. Stafford, but to withdraw from the house without again exposing herself to meet him. As soon as she saw her the next morning, she related all that had passed between Fitz-Edward and herself; and after a long consultation they agreed that to prevent his seeing Godolphin was absolutely necessary; and that no other means of doing so offered, but Mrs. Stafford's relating to him the real circumstances and situation of Lady Adeline,

lina, as soon as she should be removed from her present abode and precautions were taken to prevent his discovering her. This, Mrs. Stafford undertook to do immediately after their departure. It was to take place on the next day; and Emmeline, with the concurrence of her friend, determined that she would take no leave of the party at Woodfield: for tho' the appearance of mystery was extremely disagreeable and distressing to Emmeline, she knew that notice of her intentions would excite enquiries and awaken curiosity very difficult to satisfy; and that it was extremely probable James Crofts might be employed to watch her, and by that means render abortive all her endeavours to preserve the unhappy Lady Adelina.

Relying therefore on the generosity and innocence of her intentions, she chose rather to leave her own actions open to censure which they did not deserve, than to risk an investigation which might be fatal to the interest of her poor friend. She took nothing with her, Mrs. Stafford under-

taking every necessary arrangement about her cloaths—and having at night taken a tender leave of this beloved and valuable woman, and promised to write to her constantly and to return as soon as the destiny of Lady Adelina should be decided, they parted.

And Emmeline, arising before the dawn of the following morning, set out alone to Woodbury Forest—a precaution absolutely necessary, to evade the inquisitive watchfulness of James Crofts. She stole softly down stairs, before even the servants were stirring, and opening the door cautiously, felt some degree of terror at being obliged to undertake so long a walk alone at such an hour. But innocence gave her courage, and friendly zeal lent her strength. As she walked on, her fears subsided. She saw the sun rise above the horizon, and her apprehensions were at an end.

As no carriage could approach within three quarters of a mile of the house where Lady Adelina was concealed, they were obliged to walk to the road where Mrs.

Stafford

Stafford had directed a post chaise to wait for them, which she had hired at a distant town, where it was unlikely any enquiry would be made.

Long difuse, as she had hardly ever left the cottage from the moment of her entering it, and the extreme weakness to which she was reduced, made Emmeline greatly fear that Lady Adelina would never be able to reach the place. With her assistance, and that of her Ladyship's woman, slowly and faintly she walked thither; and Emmeline saw her happily placed in the chaise. Every thing had been before settled as to the conveyance of the servant and baggage, and to engage the secrecy of the woman with whom she had dwelt, by making her silence sufficiently advantageous; and as they hoped that no traces were left by which they might be followed, the spirits of the fair travellers seemed somewhat to improve as they proceeded on their journey.—Emmeline felt her heart elated with the consciousness of doing good; and from the tender affection and assistance of

such a friend, which could be considered only as the benevolence of heaven itself, Lady Adelina drew a favourable omen, and dared entertain a faint hope that her penitence had been accepted.

They arrived without any accident at Bath, the following day; and Emmeline leaving Lady Adelina at the inn, went out immediately to secure lodgings in a retired part of the town. As soon as it was dark, Lady Adelina removed thither in a chair; and was announced by Emmeline to be the wife of a Swiss officer, to be herself of Switzerland, and to bear the name of Mrs. St. Laure—while she herself, as she was very little known, continued to pass by her own name in the few transactions which in their very private way of living required her name to be repeated.

When Mrs. Ashwood found that Emmeline had left Woodfield clandestinely and alone, and that Mrs. Stafford evaded giving any account whither she was gone, by saying coldly that she was gone to visit a friend in Surry whom she formerly knew in Wales,

all

all the suspicions she had herself harboured, and Miss Galton encouraged, seemed confirmed. James Crofts had related, not without exaggerations, what he had been witness to in the copse; and it was no longer doubted but that she was gone with Fitz-Edward, which at once accounted for her departure and the sudden and mysterious manner in which it was accomplished. James Crofts had suspicions that his behaviour had hastened it; but he failed not to confirm Mrs. Ashwood in her prepossession that her entanglement with Fitz-Edward was now at a period when it could be no longer concealed—intelligence which was to be conveyed to Delamere.

The elder Crofts, who had been some time with Lady Montreville and her daughter, had named Delamere from time to time in his letters to his brother. The last, mentioned that he was now with his mother and sister, who were at Nice, and who purposed returning to England in about three months. Crofts represented Delamere as still devoted to Emmeline;

and as existing only in the hope of being no longer opposed in his intention of marrying her in March, when the year which he had promised his father to wait expired; but that Lady Montreville, as time wore away, grew more averse to the match, and more desirous of some event which might break it off. Crofts gave his brother a very favourable account of his progress with Miss Delamere; and hinted that if he could be fortunate enough to put an end to Delamere's intended connection, it would so greatly conciliate the favour of Lady Montreville, that he dared hope she would no longer oppose his union with her daughter: and when once they were married, and the prejudices of the mother to an inferior alliance conquered, he had very little doubt of Lord Montreville's forgiveness, and of soon regaining his countenance and friendship.

This account from his brother added another motive to those which already influenced the malignant and illiberal mind of James Crofts to injure the lovely orphan, and

and he determined to give all his assistance to Mrs. Ashwood in the cruel project of depriving her at once of her character and her lover. In a consultation which he held on this subject with his promised bride and Miss Galton, the ladies agreed that it was perfectly shocking that such a fine young man as Mr. Delamere should be attached to a woman so little sensible of his value as Emmeline; that it had long been evident she was to him indifferent, and it was now too clear that she was partial to another; and that therefore it would be a meritorious action to acquaint him of her intimacy with Fitz-Edward; and it could not be doubted but his knowledge of it would, high spirited as he was, cure him effectually of his ill-placed passion, and restore the tranquillity of his respectable family. Hiding thus the inveterate envy and malice of their hearts under this hypocritical pretence, they next considered how to give the information which was so meritorious. Anonymous letters were expedients to which Miss Galton had before had recourse, and to an
anonymous

anonymous letter they determined to commit the secret of Emmeline's infidelity—while James Crofts, in his letters to his brother, was to corroborate the intelligence it contained, by relating as mere matter of news what had actually and evidently happened, Emmeline's sudden departure from Woodfield.

Delamere, when he saw his mother out of danger at Barege, had returned to the neighbourhood of Paris, where he had lingered some time, in hopes that Emmeline would accede to his request of being allowed to cross the channel for a few days; but her answer, in which she strongly urged the hazard he would incur of giving his father a pretence to withdraw *his* promise, by violating his own, had obliged him, tho' with infinite reluctance, to give up the scheme; and being quite indifferent where he was, if he was still at a distance from her, he had yielded to the solicitations of Lady Montreville, and rejoined her at Nice. There, he now remained; while every thing in England seemed to contribute

bute to assist the designs of those who wished to disengage him from his passion for Emmeline.

The day after Emmeline's departure with Lady Adelina, Fitz-Edward went to Woodfield; and hearing that Miss Mowbray had suddenly left it, was thrown into the utmost astonishment—astonishment which Mrs. Ashwood and Miss Galton observed to each other was the finest piece of acting they had ever seen.

The whole party were together when he was introduced—a circumstance Mrs. Stafford would willingly have avoided, as it was absolutely necessary for her to speak to him alone; and determined to do so, whatever construction the malignity of her sister-in-law might put upon it, she said—

“ I have long promised you, Colonel, a
 “ fight of the two pieces of drawing which
 “ Miss Mowbray and I have finished as
 “ companions. They are now framed;
 “ and if you will come with me into my
 “ dressing-room you shall see them.”

As the rest of the company had frequently

quently seen these drawings, there was no pretence for their following Mrs. Stafford; who, accompanied by the Colonel, went to her dressing-room.

A conference thus evidently fought by Mrs. Stafford, excited the eager and painful curiosity of the party in the parlour.

“Now would I give the world,” cried Mrs. Ashwood, “to know what is going forward.”

“Is it not possible to listen?” enquired Crofts, equal to any meanness that might gratify the malevolence of another or his own.

“Yes,” replied Mrs. Ashwood, “if one could get into the closet next the dressing-room without being perceived, which can only be done by passing thro’ the nursery. If indeed the nursery maids and children are out, it is easy enough.”

“They are out, mama, I assure you,” cried Miss Ashwood, “for I saw them myself go across the lawn since I’ve been at breakfast. Do, pray let us go and listen—I long of all things to know what my
“ aunt

“ aunt Stafford can have to say to that sly-
 “ looking Colonel.”

“ No, no, child,” said her mother, “ I
 “ shall not send you, indeed—but Crofts,
 “ do you think we should be able to make
 “ it out?”

“ Egad,” answered he, “ I’ll try—for
 “ depend upon it the mischief will out.
 “ It will be rare, to have such a pretty tale
 “ to tell Mr. Delamere of his demure-
 “ looking little dear.—I’ll venture.”

Mrs. Ashwood then shewing him the way, he went on tip toe up stairs, and concealing himself in a light closet which was divided from the dressing-room only by lath and plaister, he lent an attentive ear to the dialogue that was passing.

It happened, however, that the window near which Mrs. Stafford and Fitz-Edward were sitting was exactly opposite to that side of the room to which Crofts’ hiding-place communicated; and tho’ the room was not large, yet the distance, the partition, and the low voice in which both parties spoke, made it impossible for him to distinguish

guish more than broken sentences. From Mrs. Stafford he heard——“ Could not
“ longer be concealed—in all probability
“ may now remain unknown—the child,
“ I will myself attend to.” From Fitz-
Edward, he could only catch indistinct
sounds; his voice appearing to be lost in
his emotion. But he seemed to be thanking
Mrs. Stafford, and lamenting his own un-
happiness. His last speech, in which his
powers of utterance were returned, was—
“ Nothing can ever erase the impression
“ of your angelic goodness, best and love-
“ liest of friends!—oh, continue it, I be-
“ seech you, to those for whom only I am
“ solicitous, and forgive all the trouble I
“ have given you!”

He then hurried away. Mrs. Stafford,
after remaining alone a moment as if to
compose herself, went back to the parlour;
and Crofts, who thought he had heard
enough, tho' he wished to have heard all,
slunk from his closet and walked into the
garden; where being soon afterwards joined
by Mrs. Ashwood and Miss Galton, by re-
lating

lating the broken and disjointed discourse he had been witness to, left not a doubt remaining of the cause of Emmeline's precipitate retreat from Woodfield.

And perhaps minds more candid than their's—minds untainted with the odious and hateful envy which ulcerated their's, might, from the circumstances that attended her going and Fitz-Edward's behaviour, have conceived disadvantageous ideas of her conduct. But such was the uneasiness with which Mrs. Ashwood ever beheld superior merit, and such the universal delight which Miss Galton took in defamation, that had none of those circumstances existed, they would with equal malignity have studied to ruin the reputation of Emmeline; and probably with equal success—for against such attacks, innocence, however it may console it's possessor, is too frequently a feeble and inadequate defence!

While the confederates, exulting in the certainty of Emmeline's ruin, were manufacturing the letter which was to alarm the jealous and irascible spirit of Delamere,

Fitz-

Fitz-Edward, from whom Mrs. Stafford, before she would tell him any thing, had extorted a promise that he would enquire no farther than what she chose to relate to him, was relieved from insupportable anguish by hearing that Lady Adelina was in safe hands; but lamented in bitterness of soul the despondency and affliction to which Mrs. Stafford had told him she entirely resigned herself. He knew not that Emmeline was with her, whatever he might suspect; and Mrs. Stafford had protested to him, that if he made any attempt to discover the residence of Lady Adelina, or persisted in meeting her brother, she would immediately relinquish all concern in the affair, and no longer interest herself in what his rashness would inevitably render desperate.

He solemnly assured her he would take no measures without her knowledge; and remained at Tylehurst, secluded from every body, and waiting in fearful and anxious solicitude to hear of Lady Adelina by Mrs. Stafford.

Delamere, still at Nice with his mother,
who

who with different sources of uneasiness thought the days and weeks insupportably long in which he lived only in the hope of seeing Emmeline at the end of six months, was roused from his involuntary resignation by the following letter, written in a hand perfectly unknown to him.

“ Sir,

“ A friend to your worthy and noble
 “ family writes this; which is meant to
 “ serve you, and to undeceive you in re-
 “ gard to Miss Mowbray—who, without
 “ any gratitude for the high honour you
 “ intend her, is certainly too partial to
 “ another person. She is now gone from
 “ Woodfield to escape observation; and
 “ none but Mrs. Stafford is let into the
 “ secret of where she is. You will judge
 “ what end it is to answer; but certainly
 “ none that bodes you good. One would
 “ have supposed that the Colonel’s being
 “ very often her attendant at Woodfield
 “ might have made her stay there agree-
 “ able enough; but perhaps (for I do not
 “ aver

“ aver it) the young lady has some parti-
 “ cular reasons for wishing to have private
 “ lodgings. No doubt the Colonel is a
 “ man of gallantry; but his friendship to
 “ you is rather more questionable. The
 “ writer of this having very little know-
 “ ledge of the parties, can have no other
 “ motive than the love of justice, and be-
 “ ing sorry to see deceit and falsehood
 “ practised on a young gentleman who de-
 “ serves better, and who has a respectful
 “ tho’ unknown friend in

“ Y. Z.”

London, July 22, 17—.

This infamous scroll had no sooner been
 perused by Delamere, than fury flashed
 from his eyes, and anguish seized his
 heart. But the moment the suddenness of his
 passion gave way to reflection, the tumult
 of his mind subsided, and he thought it
 must be an artifice of his mother’s to sepa-
 rate him from Emmeline. The longer he
 considered her inveterate antipathy to his
 marriage, the more he was concerned that
 this