I 5. 26

134

Sarah Warden
Chichester

JEMIMA and LOUISA.

IN WHICH IS CONTAIN'D,

Several Remarkable INCIDENTS

RELATING TO

TWO LADIES

OF

Diſtinguiſh'd FAMILIES and FORTUNES.

In a SERIES of LETTERS.

BY

A LADY.

" A Woman write! The Town cries One and All,
" No Wonder *Bedlam*'s lately found too ſmall.
" Have not we Head and Hands, and Pens and Ink?
" And what ſhould ail us then but we can think?"

CLIVE's *Epilogue to* BAYES IN PETTICOATS.

LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR,

And ſold by OWEN, at HOMER'S-HEAD,
near TEMPLE-BAR.

MDCCLIX.

INTRODUCTION

IT being usuall for every Jesuiste, when they publish their works to the publick, to give some account of the [illegible] [illegible] by way of preface [illegible] acquaint the publick [illegible] time they are [illegible] which [illegible] acknowledgment [illegible] leave [illegible] exciting [illegible] proceeding [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]

As to the contents, they are a [illegible] tion of [illegible] remarkable [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] on [illegible] you are void of any [illegible] [illegible]

INTRODUCTION.

IT being cuſtomary for every ſcribbler, when they tranſmit their works to the public, to give ſome account of the ſubject they treat of, and the motives that induced them to ſuch an undertaking, (by way of preface) I therefore beg leave to acquaint the peruſers of the following ſheets, that they are the production of a female pen, which acknowledgment will, I hope, in ſome meaſure, plead an excuſe for their errors, and be a means of preſerving them from a great part of that cenſure they may be juſtly intitled to.

As to the contents; they are a plain relation of ſome remarkable events, with as little variation as poſſible, from the account I received from a friend who was formerly well acquainted with the parties concern'd; but for ſome good and ſufficient reaſons, I choſe to give the perſons and places feign'd names, and to relate the ſtory in a ſeries of letters, that have indeed nothing to recommend them to the readers attention, (except being founded on facts) as they are void of any embelliſh-

ment

ment of language or ſentiment. But as novel reading is become faſhionable, I hope the introducing one requires little apology.

The motives of the publication, proceed from two deſires, in which, as I am equally anxious, I have endeavour'd to the utmoſt of my ability, to prove equally ſucceſsful, the amuſement of the purchaſer, and the benefit of their

Moſt obliged

and obedient

humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

THE

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JEMIMA AND LOUISA.

LETTER I.

Miſs COURTLY *to Miſs* WELLERS.

MY dear Fanny will no doubt wonder at my long ſilence; but I hope, and truſt, when ſhe knows the occaſion, ſhe will readily excuſe her friend: my aunt Kitty has been extremely ill, and I was the only perſon ſhe would ſuffer to attend her; ſhe well deſerves my tendereſt care, I have often experienced hers; ſhe is now much better, and I have taken this my firſt opportunity of complying with the deſire expreſſed in your laſt epiſtle. I cannot poſſibly explain the preſent ſituation of my affairs without giving you a kind of a hiſtory of my life (the beſt part of which you are well acquainted with) from the time of my dear Mamma's death to this preſent ſeventeenth year of my age. I believe the eaſieſt way of telling my ſtory will be as to one who knew nothing of it.

To be truly ſenſible of a mother's value one muſt have experienced the loſs of her; this loſs I ſuſtained in the eighth year of my age; ſhe left a ſon two years older than me, and a daughter one year younger; it was thought quite improper for me to remain with my father, it being a dangerous age to be left to ſervants management; I was therefore ſent to ſchool in a few months after my mother's death, and my brother to an academy; my father could not think of parting with all his children at a time (ſo ſoon after the loſs of his wife) ſo reſolved on keeping my ſiſter Emily at home for ſome months, and never after could bring himſelf to a reſolution of parting with her, which was the ſource of my misfortunes: my abſence, and her preſence, made great difference in his affections between us; and as his love increaſed towards her, his diſlike was more and more apparent to me. During the ſpace of eigh years my brother and I lived very unhappy at our ſeparate ſchools, never ſeeing my father but at the times of breaking up, and then our holidays were very much ſhortened, and our time ſpent leſs agreeable than at ſchool.

My brother was then ſent to the Univerſity to compleat his education; and I being arrived at the age of ſixteen, and generally thought

thought handſome, became very much the talk of the neighbouring gentlemen, Horatio was one who moſt diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his particular regard to me; he was an accompliſhed man, his age about twenty-three. I will open my heart to my Fanny and hide nothing from her, I thought him more than agreeable and gave him the ſmall encouragement that lay in my power: the vigilance of my tutoreſs perhaps prevented my ruin, but I think ſhe neither acted a prudent or friendly part: without admoniſhing Horatio, or reproving me, ſhe ſent to my father (as I have reaſon to imagine) a much worſe account than I deſerved.

I was one day muſing on the unmerited indifference of my father toward me, when I was ſurprized with the account of his being at the ſchool, and wanting to ſpeak with me: I joyfully obeyed the ſummons, but how ſhall I deſcribe the agony I was in, when, with a ſtern look and angry voice, he pronounced theſe words: "I have ſent for you, Jemima, "to acquaint you, that you are to leave this "place to-morrow morning; where your "next reſidence will be, I am not yet deter-"mined. Your imprudence has rendered it "neceſſary where ever you are, that you

"ſhould be under ſtrict confinement; and, "I think, my own houſe the propereſt place, "but that I tremble at the thoughts of "having you ſo near my Emily; ſhe, has "hitherto, been a prudent, good, and du-"tiful child, and ſhould you corrupt her, I "ſhould then have no comfort in life." He was then pleaſed to order me from his preſence; I complyed, with the aſſiſtance of Mrs. Teachum, for I was almoſt unable to walk: when I was a little compoſed, I got my things in readineſs for my departure, took leave of my ſchool fellows, and the next morning ſet out in a chariot my father ſent for me; I knew not where I was to be conveyed, but in a few hours found myſelf arrived at my father's gate: I was conducted to a chamber by my ſiſters, Abigail, who ſneeringly told me, ſhe would not inſiſt on my paying garniſh, then flirted out of the room, and locked the door. I ſaw not my father nor ſiſter for a week. In a few days after my arrival, Mrs. Abigail told me, that at my ſiſter's interceſſion, my father permitted me to walk in the garden from ſix till eight in the morning; I was glad of that privilege, and rejoiced to find her attendance was excuſed; in one of thoſe walks it was, that I met

met our friend Miſs Brand, who contrived to give me an account of Horatio's behaviour on my being ſo ſuddenly removed. I think, indeed, he did not behave well to the father of her for whom he profeſſed ſo great a regard. Miſs Brand ſent the next morning about ſeven o'clock to know how our family did, her ſervant came in at the back door through the garden, I met her, and immediately wrote a letter to thank that lady for her kindneſs to me, to inform her of the ſituation of my affairs, and to beg the favour of her to convey a note from me to Horatio; depending that ſhe would, I encloſed it (unſealed) in my letter to her; the contents were to upbraid him for his haughty behaviour to my Father, and to charge him as he valued my eſteem, to amend it for the future. Thus I inſenſibly drew myſelf into a private correſpondence, which, in any other caſe (than mine is at preſent) I ſhould abhor. A few weeks after my return home, my uncle Sheldern died, and my aunt Kitty came to live with my Father: ſhe procured me the liberty I now enjoy of making one in the family, and the ſtill greater liberty and pleaſure of correſponding with you. My ſiſter's ſudden kindneſs, makes me fear ſhe has ſome miſ-

chievous design against me. Pray let me hear from you often, and don't think your agreeable epistles can ever tire

JEMIMA COURTLY.

LETTER II.

Miss WELLERS *to Miss* COURTLY.

My dear Jemima,

YOU have many thanks due from me, for the obliging detail you have entered into of your affairs; the chief of which I find I was before acquainted with: I think the friendship that has always subsisted between us should have intitled me to your earlier confidence; I sincerely pity you in your present situation, but however unkind your Father may be, it will not in the least excuse your transgressing the rules of prudence or modesty. Consider, my dear Mima, how little knowledge you have of Horatio; you know him to be gallant and polite, you have had but little opportunity, and perhaps less inclination, to examine his morals; which I greatly fear are faulty: if you regard yourself,

let

let no conſideration whatever, draw you on to continue a correſpondence which muſt be greatly detrimental to you. Mrs. Sheldren's company I look upon as a great happineſs for you, ſhe has more influence over your Father than any one I know; make it your ſtudy to oblige, and pleaſe her, ſhe is really a good woman. Let me adviſe you, make as little uſe of the liberty given you as poſſible, ſeem always deſirous of their company; and this, I hope, may be a means of eſtabliſhing you in your Father's favour. Continue to let me hear how you go on. Mamma and I deſign waiting on Mrs. Sheldren when ſhe is a little ſettled in her new habitation, then I ſhall hope for the pleaſure of a little converſation with you, which is much more ſatisfactory than writing, for I think a thouſand things I have not time to pen down. My mother is a great confinement to me, as I am always with her, and ſhe likes to have me read to her while ſhe works: I make little uſe of my fingers but when I write to you: I have dropt all my other correſpondents, but whilſt life remains, I hope always to continue a friendſhip with my dear Jemima. I I have juſt heard your brother is coming to Courtly Hall, which gives me great pleaſure,

as I am ſure it muſt be a great ſatisfaction to you. My time obliges me to conclude.

I am, ſincerely yours,

FRANCES WELLERS.

LETTER III.

Miſs JEMIMA COURTLY *to Miſs* WELLERS.

WHEN I ſhall be able to write any thing to my dear Frances that may conduce to her entertainment I know not; but greatly fear it will not be in a ſhort ſpace of time: my ſiſter (or rather the daughter of my Father) ſeems to have forgot her near affinity both to me and my brother; he is really an amiable young man; and (I have heard) very ſenſible; but, I fear he will hardly be able to avoid the deep laid ſchemes of Emily. I love him the better for the regard he always expreſſes for my much loved friend. My inclination entirely coincides with your advice, concerning the correſpondence between me and Horatio; but cannot at preſent break it off, as I lately received from him (by Miſs Brand) a letter full of ten-

tenderneſs to me, but intimating ſome dreadful reſolution, if my affairs ſhould not ſuddenly take ſome more favourable turn. I will endeavour to take your advice in my behaviour to the family, but cannot pretend to like their company, when they make it ſo extremely diſagreeable to me. My aunt Kitty will now be extremely glad to ſee your Mamma, and ſelf, whenever it ſuits you; and, I may venture to aſſure you, there is nothing but a reconciliation with my father, could give me equal pleaſure. Do not think it hard that your Mamma deſires ſo much of your company; I ſincerely wiſh I had a mother to read to. I ſhould think myſelf guilty of the higheſt ingratitude, if I could ever renounce the friendſhip ſubſiſting between us, and think I have reaſon to depend on the continuance of it from you. Juſt as I had diſpatched my laſt letter to you, I ſaw my brother ride into the court-yard; I ran with open arms to receive him, and he expreſſed equal joy at the ſight of me: my Father and ſiſter were at church, which gave me an opportunity of ſpending an hour in private converſation with my brother, a happineſs which I fear I ſhall not often enjoy. When they returned from church, and found us

together, my ſiſter was in great confuſion, yet forced a ſeeming civility to us both; ſhe ſoon retired; I ſaw her touch my Father's ſleeve, and he immediately followed her; they went but into the next parlour, where we heard them frequently mention our names with great warmth: they returned in about half an hour, and my ſiſter deſired me to take a walk with her in the garden; ſhe kept me there converſing on different ſubjects near two hours; on my return, I found that my drawers had been ſearched, but could not gueſs for what; it gave me great apprehenſion, but little concern, as I never kept any letters there that I did not chooſe ſhould be ſeen. I then ſat down to examine the contents of a letter from Miſs Brand, which I had in my pocket; I had juſt finiſhed it, and was going to read one (that was incloſed in hers) from Horatio, as my Father entered the room, ſnatched it out of my hand, and went down ſtairs, without ſpeaking a word. It is impoſſible for me to deſcribe, or you to conceive, the terror I was in; and what will be the event Heaven only knows: I fear it will be a more ſtrict confinement; will therefore beg of you to ſuſpend writing till you hear further from the unfortunate

JEMIMA COURTLY.

P. S.

P. S. Inclofed you have a letter from Mifs Brand to me, which I think a very odd one.

LETTER IV.

Mifs BRAND *to Mifs* JEMINA COURTLY.

Dear Mifs Courtly,

I HAVE fent you another letter from Horatio. What a fine thing it is to have fuch a lover! I wonder your Papa fhud obgect to the man for his want of fortin, efpefhily when he can give you anuff: Horatio came to fe me the other day, and wrot the letter at my hous: I afhure you Mifs Mima, he is a very gallant man, and can mak a grate many fine fpeches; to be fhure he is a pafhonate man; but, I believe, a woman of equal fpirit might live tolerably happy with him: I have allways herd a very bad carretter of him; but every boddy has fum enimys. Pray, take care your Papa fees none of my letters, burn them as foon as you have read them. You fay, you are very carefull of Horatio's letters, I think, you need not give your felf any truble about them; for, I don't beleeve, your Father fu-

ſpects you coriſpond with him. When you ſee Miſs Wellers, pray, give my love to her; I don't ſopoſe you have ſeen her laitly, for ſhe ſems to be a lady who is deſireus of contracting new frendſhips, and forſaking old ones; among which is,

Your humbel Sarvant,

MARY BRAND.

LETTER V.

Miſs EMILY COURTLY *to Miſs* BRAND.

ONCE more, my dear Molly, I have got Miſs Courtly into her chamber; where I ſhall keep her, till I find it more compatible with my views, to have her come into my Father's way, which, I do not yet deſign. My ſcheme of Horatio's letter ſucceeded beyond my expectation; the Old Man went up and caught it in her hand, juſt going to ſolace herſelf with the contents: he believes my brother brought it, and is vaſtly inraged againſt him; I ſhall take care to prevent their coming to an eclairciſſement. I have ſent you five guineas, would have

 ſent

ſent you more, but cannot at this time ſpare it. Theſe commotions make the Old Man horrid croſs, as well to me as to every body elſe, but muſt be content to bear ſome inconveniency for the profit it will yield hereafter. You aſk me that ſtupid queſtion, Why I had her brought home? I ſhould think you might eaſily ſee it was to exaſperate my Father, and for the better execution of my project. I would have you to continue to write to her, and to ſend Horatio's letters, always inſinuate what you can againſt Miſs Wellers, who is a great obſtruction to me, ſhe is as King Richard ſays, "a ſpider that "I would have ſome friend to tread upon." Mrs. Sheldren is much better: ſhe I fear will prove a great incumbrance to me, not that I have reaſon to fear any body, as I have got ſo much the aſcendancy over my Father. As civility coſts me nothing, I take care to ſhow as much of it as I can, both to my brother and ſiſter; for by that means I ſhall be leſs ſuſpected. I will now give you ſome general rules for your conduct when you write to Jemima; appear to be very much in her intereſt, and don't ſcruple to ſpeak againſt me, but not too much of that: endeavour to ſting her as much as poſſible without appearing to deſign it; ſpeak well of Horatio, for I would have

have her continue to like him: but when you ſee Horatio, endeavour to leſſen his opinion of my ſiſter, but perſuade him to keep up the correſpondence with her, and give her no reaſon to think he loves her leſs than ever; this part you muſt manage with great diſcretion or you will ruin all: you muſt conſtantly ſpeak well of my brother; but at the ſame time endeavour to give her a ſuſpicion of him. I think this is all I have to ſay to you at preſent, only, I deſire you will let me have a copy of your next letter to Mima; and to give me a particular account of your interviews with Horatio. I have now ſo much buſineſs upon my hands with providing for the family, keeping my father in proper humour, and diſpoſing of my brother and ſiſter, that I have ſcarce time to write to my dear Miſs Brand what is neceſſary to the happineſs of her

Affectionate Friend,

EMILY COURTLY.

LET-

LETTER VI.

Miſs JEMIMA COURTLY *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Dear Miſs Wellers,

I AM indeed confined to my chamber as I expected, but ſtill write, in hopes of finding ſome method to convey my afflictions to you; the pity of a ſincere friend is a great alleviation in misfortunes: they ſtill treat me with civility, who I am obliged to for it, I don't as yet know. I was reading in my chamber when the bell rung for dinner; I was preparing to go down when Mary entered the room; ſhe had a napkin hung over her arm, which ſhe ſpread upon the table, and then told me, My Papa deſired I would not come out of my room till I had further orders from him; ſhe then mentioned what was provided for dinner, and deſired to know what I would chooſe: that I might not appear obſtinate, I named what I choſe, which was brought me up after they had done with it in the parlour. At five o'clock my aunt Kitty came up; I was writing when ſhe came in ſome thoughts that occurred to me out of *Pope's Eſſay on Man*; ſhe deſired to

ſee

ſee what I was employing myſelf upon; I immediately gave her the paper, ſhe did but juſt caſt her eyes upon it, and returned it, ſaying, That is well my, dear Jemima, had you always employed your pen in ſo good a manner, you would not now have been forbid your Father's preſence: my heart was ſo full I could not anſwer one word; ſhe pauſed for ſome time expecting me to ſpeak: I recovered myſelf a little, and then aſked her, Why I was; and how long I might expect to be thus treated? ſhe aſked me, Was it not ſufficient provocation to my Father my correſponding with a man he had abſolutely forbid me ever to think of more. I told her, that had my liberty been continued me, I would have broke off that correſpondence; that ſome circumſtances made it abſolutely neceſſary for me to act as I had done; ſhe then intreated, I would acquaint her with the whole affair as it had paſſed between us; and if ſhe found I was ſincere, ſhe would continue my friend, as ſhe had always been: her looks were then ſo extremely tender and kind, and her requeſt made with ſuch earneſtneſs, that I could not refuſe it, but frankly told her the beginning of our acquaintance, the contents (as well as I could recollect) of every letter that had paſſed between us; ſhe ſeemed

ſeemed vaſtly pleaſed that I had not given him ſo much encouragement as ſhe apprehended I had; and aſked me, if I had any of his letters by me; I could not place ſo much confidence in any one (but my dear Fanny) as to part with them into their hands; ſo anſwered, I had always deſtroyed them as ſoon as read: ſhe then aſked me, if I would copy a letter ſhe ſhould pen me to Horatio; if I would, ſhe would endeavour to perſuade my Father, that I might always bear her company; which, I hope, continued ſhe, will not be very diſagreeable to you: I told her, it would be my greateſt happineſs; that nothing ſhould be wanting on my part to oblige her; but that I could not help thinking it a very hard caſe, and a very great injuſtice done to my character in the world, that my younger ſiſter ſhould be miſtreſs of my Father's family, whilſt I was to think it a favour, to be allowed the privilege of a cat in creeping about the leaſt frequented parts of the houſe; ſhe ſaid, That would not be her caſe when I was her companion; for, that I ſhould viſit and receive viſits from all her acquaintance: and, as for the management of the family my ſiſter had been uſed to it; and I having ſpent my time at ſchool, could not be ſup-

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poſed to underſtand houſekeeping; and the leſs I had to do, the leſs I could diſoblige in. She feared I had ſome unmerited enemies; but, if I wrote the letter ſhe would give me, and continue to do as ſhe would adviſe me, which ſhould always be (to the beſt of her judgment) for my advantage, ſhe did not doubt of eſtabliſhing me in my Father's favour. I returned her my ſincere thanks, and promiſed a chearful compliance with all ſhe ſhould adviſe me to do. She then ordered tea and coffee in her dreſſing room. My Father and ſiſter were gone out on horſeback. When the ſervant told her tea was ready, ſhe took my hand, and led me in where my brother was ſitting; he rejoiced greatly to ſee me releaſed from my confinement: my aunt told him, ſhe had found in me all the compliance ſhe could wiſh; he joined with her in giving me comfort and advice. After tea, as the weather was very fine, my brother propoſed our walking in the wilderneſs; my aunt agreed to accompany us, but walked at ſome diſtance to give us an opportunity of ſome private converſation, which ſhe rightly judged would be agreeable to both: our time was ſhort, we made the beſt uſe of it we could, by ſettling a method

of

of correſponding with him through you (which, I hope, you will not object to.) I fear your goodneſs will make me too intruding, when I am, pray do not ſcruple to tell me ſo; we have never been allowed to write to each other ſince I left ſchool: he will convey this to you, as he deſigns riding over to ſee your Mamma and you ſome day this week. I have thought of a method to continue to correſpond with you: my chamber window, you know, looks to the road, Williams, the walking confectioner, comes by once a week, and takes your houſe in his way; by a little baſket fixed to a long ſtring, which I can eaſily get, I can convey any ſmall parcel in or out of the window. You muſt ſpeak to him of it, I think we may depend upon his ſecreſy, eſpecially after he has brought one letter (which, no doubt, he may be bribed to) as it would be the ruin of him to confeſs he had ever done any ſuch thing.

Whilſt we was walking, a ſervant came and told my aunt, that my Father and ſiſter was returned; we immediately went in the back way, and they left me at my chamber door. I am determined to write any thing my aunt ſhall dictate to Horatio. I had my ſupper ſerved in the ſame manner as my dinner.

ner. This morning early my aunt brought me the letter I was to copy, and putting it in my hand, ſaid, I hope you continue in the ſame reſolution as when we parted laſt night; ſhe did not wait for an anſwer, but left me immediately. The following is the copy of what ſhe wrote.

To HORATIO GRANVILLE, Eſq;

SIR,

I AM ſorry I have made myſelf ſo ridiculous, as to correſpond with you in a clandeſtine manner: I was not then ſo ſenſible as I now am, how diſagreeable it was to my Father and family: the unmerited kindneſs I have lately been treated with, induces me to take the following reſolution, which is, that on any account whatever will I again put pen to paper for your peruſal; nor, will I ever read further than the direction of any letter you may by ſome unaccountable method have put into my hands: you, I think, can have nothing of conſequence to ſay concerning me; but, if you have, it muſt be to my Father, as I here ſolemnly declare, I never more will, in any ſhape whatever, think of you but as my Father ſhall direct; who, I am certain, will always conſider the happineſs of,

JEMIMA COURTLY.

I have not yet had resolution to give my aunt the copy directed for Horatio; that solemn declaration I cannot relish: if I write it, What can absolve me from keeping it? Can I answer, That weakness may not tempt me to break my oath, for such it is? I hope, my aunt was not the dictator of those artful lines; for then she would not be that friend I have always thought her: 'tis a mean artifice, to draw me in to take an oath without my knowledge; but let the consequence be what it will, that letter to Horatio I never will write. My brother's horses I see are ready; I am to drop this out of the window, I hope he will get it safe, then do I not doubt your having it. Do not fail thinking of the confectioner, as my brother leaves us soon, and I shall then have no method of letting you sympathize in my distresses, if the window scheme fails. Adieu; may you be happier than

Your affectionate,

JEMIMA COURTLY.

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LETTER VII.

Miſs WELLESRS *to Miſs* COURTLY.

My dear Jemima,

I SNATCH a few moments, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter by Mr. Courtly. I am delighted with the ſcheme of conveying our letters, will not fail to apply to Williams; it is really hard to be reduced to ſuch methods to write to a brother and a female friend. You ſhall hear fully from me very ſoon; but can't at preſent add more, than that,

I am, ſincerely yours,

FRANCES WELLERS.

LETTER VIII.

Miſs WELLERS *to Miſs* COURTLY.

IT provokes me beyond expreſſion, to think, that you, my dear Jemima, ſhould be ſo ſcandalouſly confined. I wiſh you could be relieved by pity, as you have mine ſincerely. Treat you with civility! they must be

be worſe than brutes if they did not, when you ſubmit yourſelf ſo tamely to their tyrannical wills! Mary, I fear, is a creature of your ſiſter's; if you could bribe her to your intereſt it would be very uſeful: feel your way carefully before you give her any thing of conſequence; buy her to convey ſome trifling letter to me, wherein be careful you mention nothing that may cauſe any ſuſpicion, was ſhe to betray you. Your aunt, I believe, is your friend, be careful to oblige her, and to continue her good opinion of you: I need not repeat to you the influence (ſuperior to any one elſe) ſhe has over your Father. I think, you could not have done better than you did, in telling Mrs. Sheldren ingenuouſly your affairs: the pleaſure of her company, and your reſtoration to liberty, ſhould, I think, induce you to write that letter to Horatio. You ſurely do not perfectly underſtand the contents of it, you there are to promiſe, never to do that which conſiſtent with your happineſs never can be done: ſurely, my dear, you do not imagine you could, without the approbation of your Father ever think of marrying Horatio? and, as to your correſponding with him (without that proſpect) I am too certain of your good ſenſe, to ſuppoſe, you would ever think of conti-

continuing it; by all means, let me perſuade you, to write that letter immediately, and give it to your aunt. You are now diſgracefully treated, but no one blames you; on the contrary, they pity you, and conſider, that you erred before you were capable of judging for yourſelf; but if you perſevere, you will then have all to blame, none to pity you. What I am going to mention is not with any wiſhes of your Father's death, but by courſe of nature, he muſt be expected to die before you; and if you oblige him in this, and eſtabliſh yourſelf (by your conduct) in his opinion, you will, in all probability, have it in your own power to live many happy years with Horatio, if you continue to love each other, which, give me leave to tell you, is a queſtion: for, as my mother tells me, Such childiſh paſſions are not the moſt laſting! and if you ſhould alter your minds, How will you bleſs the hands that prevented your being for ever chained together! by your compliance, How will your ſiſter's views be diſappointed! that, methinks, ſhould ſpur you on to act with becoming reſolution. Miſs Brand's letter, is indeed, as you obſerve, a very odd one; be careful of her, I there ſuſpect a ſnake in the graſs: there's a great deal of low art contained in it; her obſerva-

tion

tion of Horatio's being a gallant man, is thrown out to make you jealous, which would greatly concern me, as 'tis a certain ſign of love: then her ſaying, He was a paſſionate man, is as extraordinary, ſhe has ſome meaning in it; 'tis my firm opinion ſhe is in love with him herſelf; I am convinced ſhe is; her kind advice to you to be careful of her letters and careleſs of his as not being ſuſpected, was you to be ſearched, there is equal danger of his being found as hers. I really believe ſhe is in league with your ſiſter, there is ſeveral very ſuſpicious circumſtances, one in particular: ſhe has lately bought many things ſhe has not an income for; nay, more, ſhe was ſeen at church, with the diamond ring your ſiſter uſed to wear on her firſt finger, you know, 'tis a remarkable good one, and, I am ſure, would not have been given her, without ſome material conſideration: certainly, a ſcheme, for her to ſend a letter from Horatio, the day your brother came home, and then Miſs Emily was to contrive to have a ſearch made, that it might be imagined he was the conveyer of it. Miſs Brand is deſirous of inſinuating my making new friendſhips and forſaking old ones, I hope, I need not aſſure you of the contrary; her deſire is to leſſen your eſteem

for me, that you may be quite deſtitute. I have heard ſhe ſays many ſlighting things of you; and this I know, ſhe was the firſt that blazed about your confinement, and intimated, that care was taken but juſt in time; ſhe had fears 'twas rather too late, as ſhe thought you had gone great lengths before you was ſuſpected; then ſhe pretends to be vaſtly concerned, and profeſſes great love for you, and regard for the honour of your family. Its along while ſince I have ſeen her, ſhe is a perſon not at all pleaſing to my Mamma, which I am very glad of, for if ſhe was, I muſt ſubmit to her company. I will now endeavour to divert you with ſome of our neighbourhood converſation, they ſay Miſs Preſton is going to be married to a man immemſely rich, but ſuch a miſer, that he almoſt ſtarves himſelf; he is not above four foot five inches high; ſo exceſſively thin, that you may ſee through him; has had but one coat theſe twenty years; his uſual diet is water-gruel and bread; he never has any other liquor in his houſe than water; if he has any fragments of bread left, he can't truſt it to locks like other miſers, but carries it about him: does it not ſurprize you, that ſo gay a woman as Miſs Preſton, ſhould be able to bear the thoughts of ſuch a wretch as Grimes,

(for

(for that is his name) I can ſcarce believe it, but am told, 'tis really to be a match very ſoon; whatever be his inducement I cannot gueſs; I cannot ſuppoſe, that Chip can be ſuſceptible of love, but 'tis that is the caſe it ſeems. Your brother tells me, Miſs Emily treats him with great civility, more, indeed, than he could wiſh from her: our ſervant will be ſent to-morrow to your houſe, with a meſſage from Mamma and ſelf to Mrs. Sheldren and the Miſs Courtly's, that we deſign ourſelves the pleaſure of waiting on them that afternoon, if agreeable: I hope we ſhall be received, as I long much to ſee you, and to know how Mr. Courtly got home, he went very late from our houſe. We are to dine to day at Mr. Preſton's, I ſhall hear from Miſs Sally the particulars of the affair between her ſiſter and Grimes; I ſhall believe what I hear from one of the family; I wiſh he may be there. Mamma rings for breakfaſt, I ſhall have no opportunity of writing again: to-morrow Thomas ſhall convey this by ſome ſtratagem or other; he is a clever fellow, and I dare ſay, will get it ſafe into your hands; if he does not ſucceed, he is to bring it back to

Your affectionate,

FRANCES WELLERS.

LETTER IX.

Miſs JEMIMA COURTLY *to Miſs* WELLERS.

My dear Miſs Wellers,

THANKS to the dexterity of your ſervant for your obliging letter; before I begin to anſwer the contents, I muſt tell you how he conveyed it to me: I was ſitting alone in my chamber, and heard ſomething hit againſt my window, I did not regard the firſt time, but hearing it again and again repeated, I got up, and cloſe under the window ſaw Thomas, he did not wait for the ſtring which I had prepared againſt Monday, but with one jirk throwed it clear in at the window, and inſtantly rode off. I pauſed but to faſten my ſide of the door which I had not the thought to do before; I then opened and read your kind advice, which, I am ſorry to tell you, I think is reaſonable and right, and fear, I ſhall never have reſolution to copy that letter to Horatio; I allow your arguments are very juſt, that I could never think of marrying without my Father's conſent; though my Mother's fortune was ſettled on younger children, yet the diſpoſition

tion of it left ſo intirely to my Father, that I am ſenſible, he may give my ſiſter Emily nine thouſand nine hundred and ninety-nine pounds, and the remaining one pound he may think ſufficient for my portion; but, if I ſhould ever be ſo happy as to gain his conſent, or by any accident become miſtreſs of myſelf, what could it avail me, when in all probability, Horatio, in conſequence of my ſolemn declaration, would have given over all thoughts of me, and very likely engage his affections to one more deſerving than myſelf, who, would not renounce him for ever, to obtain the poor ſatisfaction of creeping about a houſe, and viſiting with an aunt: no; it ſhall never be, whilſt I have the ſatisfaction of conveying my letters to you, and remain ſatisfied of Horatio's affections, I cannot be truly miſerable. I cannot think of having any thing to ſay to Mary, as that creature has always behaved with ſo much inſolence to me; nor do I ſee any uſe it could be of: ſhe is ſo ſelfiſh a creature, good nature would have no influence over her; and as to money, I need not tell my Fanny I have none, as had I, her ſervant ſhould not have gone unrewarded for his trouble and fidelity. I cannot think Miſs Brand means me any harm; ſhe is a vulgar low-bred wo-

man, and there's an oddity in her letters I cannot well make out; however, your opinion, ſhall prevent my truſting her, or having any thing of conſequence more to ſay to her. They continue to treat me as uſual, only I ſee leſs of my aunt; ſhe has ſeveral times aſked me for the letter I unguardedly promiſed to write; ſhe tells me, 'tis intirely out of her power to replace me in my Father's opinion, without I conſent intirely to give up Horatio: I make fair promiſes that I will not write to or ſee him, but that will not do: I lament greatly to her, that I have not the liberty of writing to you, or my brother, when he leaves us, which will be ſoon. I write full of the hopes of ſeeing you tomorrow, but we, perhaps, may not have an opportunity for any private converſation: pray, deſire your Mamma, will inſiſt on ſeeing me. My ſiſter never favours me with her company; I have the liberty of walking in the garden when my Father is out: I find myſelf ſo ſtrictly watched when I go down ſtairs, which I cannot do without firſt ringing my bell, when my goaleresſ comes, and makes as much racket at the door as if ſhe was turnkey to Newgate.

Yeſterday, I met Emily in the wilderneſs, we chopt upon one another in the croſs walk;

walk; conſcience ſtung her! ſhe turned directly back, and ran as hard as her legs could carry her, I walk'd on quite compoſed. I have not anſwered Miſs Brand's letter that I ſent you, ſince that I have received another more unaccountable than the firſt, which I ſhall encloſe: I think it is better I ſhould entirely break off the correſpondence with her, and take no further notice than in a few lines: tell her, That I am obliged to her for the trouble ſhe has taken, but that I am determined never to write to, or hear from Horatio again; this I am reſolved upon. If you will oblige me in one thing, 'tis a favour which I will never deſire you to repeat. I cannot bear that Horatio ſhould imagine me ungrateful, which muſt be the caſe, if I diſcontinue writing to him ſo abruptly. The favour then I have to aſk is, to convey a letter from me to him; I will deſire you to ſeal it when you have read it, and if there is any thing imprudent in it, return it me again, and I will write any thing you ſhall pen, that may tend to aſſure him of my regard: do not deny your Jemima this one favour, you are always uſed to oblige me. I ſhall take an opportunity to ſlip this unobſerved into your hand to-morrow. O! how I long for the time! How glad ſhall I be to ſee you! yet

dread the ſight of my father; perhaps, I ſhall not be to dine with you, only come down when he is not there: if I ſhould dine below, I know it will vex you, to ſee Emily ſupercede me at the head of the table. Why ſhould not my aunt take that place if I am unfit for it? What does your Mamma think of me? I hope, I have ſtill her good opinion, that will give me great ſatisfaction. I ſhould be glad, if an opportunity ſhould offer, of ſeeing my brother before he goes, but greatly doubt it. I need not deſire you would juſtify my character in all companies where you hear it condemned. I think, it was very cruel in Miſs Brand, to hear what ſhe ſays ſhe did, and not contradict it. I looſe my appetite exceſſively, but at preſent find no inconveniency from it at all; I really believe it may be better, as I uſe ſo little exerciſe. You are very kind in writing me the occurrences of the neighbourhood: what you tell me of Miſs Preſton greatly ſurprizes me, ſhe certainly truſts to her ſpirit to conquer his covetouſneſs; I have heard much talk of that Grimes, my ſiſter Emily is very fond of him; I have often heard her ſpeak in his praiſe to my Father; ſurely then, he cannot be ſo very covetous as is reported; if what ſhe ſays is true, that ſhe is ſure he would

marry

marry any agreeable woman with a thouſand or fifteen hundred pounds. Pray let me hear how affairs go on between theſe extraordinary lovers, and when the wedding is to be conſummated.

I read a great deal in my preſent confinement, have no great variety, but the books I have are well choſen, ſuch as may well bear reading over and over again, Pope and Addiſon, can never tire. I dreſs myſelf every day, as if I was to dine below, or ſee company, and am determined to continue it as long as my cloaths will laſt; I think it helps to amuſe me and keep up my ſpirits: you cannot imagine how eaſy I make myſelf, conſidering my ſituation. My paper is full; adieu till to-morrow, when I ſhall have the pleaſure of giving you this, from

Your affectionate,

JEMIMA COURTLY.

LETTER X.

Miſs BRAND *to Miſs* EMILY COURTLY.

Dear Miſs Emily,

I WOUD not ſo long have deferd writing to you, and acknoliging the receit of your kind preſent, had I not wated for an intervew with Horatio, who I ſaw the day before yeſterday; as ſoon as he com in he enquired after Miſs Courtly, I faind a grate deel of conſern at what I was going to tell him; but at laſt made ſhift to utter, I am ſorry ſo fine a gentleman ſhud fling away his love on a lady who regards it ſo little; he ſeemd in great ſurpries, and aſk'd me the meaning of what I ſaid: I repeated, That I was ſory he ſhoud throw away his love on a lady that regarded it ſo little, as not only to receve the adreſes of another man, but even to make advances to him, as I was well aſhured Miſs Courtly had done. He aſked me, Who the man was? I pretended to know who it was, but to conſeel it for fear of conſequences; he then very calmy ſaid, Miſs Brand, I have ſo good an opinion of you, as to think you wold not tell a falsſity, knowing it to be ſuch; but this I muſt tell you, That

if

if angels ſwore it, I wold not beleeve my Jemima wold be faulſe to me, or that there is a man in the world for whom ſhe woud throw of her moddeſty ſo far, as to make advances to him. I was vaſtly confounded at this unexpeckted behavor, but had juſt ſenſe enuff to ſay, That it muſt ſertinly be a maliſhous report, that I coud not think ſhe woud give the incuragement to any other man that ſhe had to him; he replyd, Perhaps, Madam, there may not be many men that woud ſtudy ſo much to deſerve it as I have done, and ever ſhall: he went away immediately, and left me, as you may imagine, very ill ſatisfied, with the effect of his viſit, of which, I think, I have given you a full account. I can't think, why you wold make him jealous, and diſlike your ſiſter, if ſhe is not to know it? You will, perhaps, think me very ſtupid, but I reely can't imagin. I ſhall take care ſtrictly to obſerve the inſtructions given in your laſt: ſure, never was ſo good a head and heart met together as in you. I am not ſorry, that your Father is ſo ill umer'd, as he will be the eaſier work'd upon. I hear your brother is to leave you very ſoon, Good news for us! I know Horatio will not be abell to ſtay from me long, I expect him ſoon making abundance of

apologees for his abrupt leaving me; I will ſend you as pertickelar an acount of his next viſit as I have done of thiis: in the mean time, you may imply your ſelf in reading a copy of my letter to your ſiſter, which I have not ſent to her, nor ſhall, till I hear how you like it. Pray, when you have leaſure, write to me as formmerly, for it is a long time ſenſe I have heard from you, excepting on the preſent biſneſs; I beleeve I had forgot to tell you, that I have incloſed my letter to your ſiſter. You need not have made any excuſe about the five guineas, I think it is a very hanſom preſent, and ſhall always conſider it more as your goodneſs, then the deſart of,

Your affexſhonate Friend,

and very humble Servant,

MARY BRAND.

P. S. The account of Mr. Brewin's converſation with me is very trew, but have improv'd it a littel to plage her.

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LETTER XI.

Miſs BRAND *to Miſs* JEMIMA COURTLY.

Dear Miſs,

I WONDER much that I have not heerd from you in anſer to my laſt letter, when it contand ſuch agreable news. Horatio, I beleeve, loves you to deſtrackſhon, he is ſo conſernd he has not heerd from you laitly, and ſo am I, for I do think he deſerves a return of his love, even from the fineſt woman in the world; and, you may depend upon your letters comeing ſafe through my hands. I think, you ſhud take care of your ſiſter, ſhe ſeems an artfull kind of a gal, and, I beleeve, has no grate regard for you: I realy beleeve, Miſs Fanny Wellers is of her partey, they are very fond of each other, and Miſs Wellers takes very little notis of me, becauſe ſhe knows me to be a friend to you and Horatio; I think you wold make a very fine cupple, and wiſh your marage was as near as Mr. Grimes and Miſs Preſton's is, it wold promis to be a much more happy one then theres does at preſent. Your brother's company muſt be very agreabel to you, he is a very good and very clever young gentleman,

man, and ſeames to have a very grate afexſhon for you; but I woud not have you truſt him with any ſecrets, for fear he ſhud betray you. I ſhud be very glad to ſee you at my hous, and beg, that in your next letter you will fix your time eather to come to me, or for me to wait on you. I am very uneaſy at the carreckter you have in the town; I will give you a pertickalar acount of a converſaſhon I had to days ago with Mr. Brewin, I met him at Mrs. Tagg's, the milliner's; ſaid he, What a fine peace of work there is at Mr. Courtly's, have you heard of it Miſs Brand! I ſaid, I had the honor of an acquaintance with the family, and knew that you was in ſum difficultys at preſent, but hop'd you would ſoon git over them; but I had not heerd of any thing extraornery that had happend lately. Why then, ſaid he, I'll tell you: The eldeſt Miſs came from ſchool ſome time ago; her Father was obleged to fetch her from thence, becauſe ſhe had a likeing to a good for nothing young fellow, of no fortin, who, they thought wold run away with her, for ſhe was allways a bold young huſſey: when ſhe cam e home, he ſtill folow'd her, and ſhe contrived frequent meatings with him, which, when her father found her out, he lock'd her up, but

locks

her when ſhe was reading it; I fancy, your invitation muſt ſhock her a little, as ſhe will be obliged to ſet down tamely, and write to you, She can't come to ſee you, becauſe ſhe is confined; nor can deſire your company, becauſe ſhe has only a chamber, and that not to receive company in: her knowing the bad character ſhe has in the world will be very ſerviceable to me, as it will make her unwilling to appear in publick, were ſhe permitted. I think, I may now ſay, I have her under my thumb, for ſhe cannot ſtir without my leave, though ſhe does not know it; I believe, I ſhall be able to manage her very well, notwithſtanding my aunt's great kindneſs to her. She cannot poſſibly now correſpond with Miſs Wellers, or any body but you, without my knowledge. One thing mortifies me exceedingly, which is, That Mr. Grimes is going to be married to Miſs Preſton; I don't know whether you ever ſaw him, he is a hideous creature, entirely calculated to make the married ſtate unhappy: I had once a thought, of getting my Father to offer him my ſiſter with about a thouſand pound, and I'll be hang'd if he would not have accepted her; for he might keep a woman in his manner for fifty years with half that ſum; I muſt now look out ſome where

elſe

LETTER XII.

Miſs EMILY COURTLY *to Miſs* BRAND.

My dear Molly,

I DISPATCH this and your letter to Mima, with the utmoſt expedition, that no time may be loſt before ſhe has it. I approve of it vaſtly; you are, really, a more notable contriver than I imagined. I will the firſt opportunity write to you more fully.

I am, yours,

EMILY COURTLY.

LETTER XIII.

Continuation of Miſs EMILY COURTLY *to Miſs* BRAND.

Dear Molly,

I MUST again aſſure you, I am vaſtly pleaſed with your letter to Jemima: you have, indeed, obſerved my inſtructions to a tittle, but done it much better than I could poſſibly expect: I ſhould like to have ſeen

 her

LETTER XIV.

Miſs BRAND *to Miſs* E. COURTLY.

MANY thanks are dew to you, my dear Miſs Emily, as well for your former favors as your laſt kind preaſant, which is as good as new; I muſt likewiſe thank you for your approbation of my conduckt, and for your oblegeing inquiry into my hiſtory; but will onely ſay, That you muſt neſſeſaryly know the heds of it; and as for partickalars, I feer, they will tend onely to leſſon me in your opinion, as I have ſertinly been gilty of grate imprudences in my time: another reaſon I have for refuſing your kind requeſt, which is, That I am a very bad ſpellar and no extraunary writer, and have a grate diſlike to that impliment; I depend you will not take amis my refuſal, now you know my reaſons for it. I have receeved a very od letter from Miſs Courtly, wich I ſhall incloſe in this; ſhe takes a verry formal leave, and ſeams to be diſpleaſed at every thing I've done. I do not intend to anſer her unleſs you adviſe it: I fear ſhe ſuſpects us, but it matters not much, as I immagin her biſneſs is pritty well done; and as in her con-

elſe for a huſband for her; but, fear, I ſhall never meet with his fellow: I have at preſent a little ſpare time upon my hands, will employ it in giving you his picture; no, I have altered my mind; for if you have never ſeen him, you muſt ſoon, for he goes conſtantly every day to Miſs Preſton's. I ſend you this letter by the gardener, and with it, a blue and white ſtriped lute ſtring ſuit of cloaths, which was my mother's; ſhe never wore it but twice, and none of our ſervants have ever ſeen it. I have often heard you ſay, That there were ſome paſſages in your life, that you thought would furniſh a hiſtory, (as we ſhall have a good deal of leiſure time) I wiſh you would exerciſe it in giving me an account of them; I fancy it would be very entertaining, as are all your letters to,

Your affectionate Friend,

EMILY COURTLY.

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LETTER XIV.

Miſs BRAND *to Miſs* E. COURTLY.

MANY thanks are dew to you, my dear Miſs Emily, as well for your former favors as your laſt kind preaſant, which is as good as new; I muſt likewiſe thank you for your approbation of my conduckt, and for your oblegeing inquiry into my hiſtory; but will onely ſay, That you muſt neſſeſaryly know the heds of it; and as for partickalars, I feer, they will tend onely to leſſon me in your opinion, as I have ſertinly been gilty of grate imprudences in my time: another reaſon I have for refuſing your kind requeſt, which is, That I am a very bad ſpellar and no extraunary writer, and have a grate diſlike to that impliment; I depend you will not take amis my refuſal, now you know my reaſons for it. I have receeved a very od letter from Miſs Courtly, wich I ſhall incloſe in this; ſhe takes a verry formal leave, and ſeams to be diſpleaſed at every thing I've done. I do not intend to anſer her unleſs you adviſe it: I fear ſhe ſuſpects us, but it matters not much, as I immagin her biſneſs is pritty well done; and as in her con-

finement ſhe can not jeſtify her ſelf or hurt us. I am ſorry for your diſapintment in Mr. Grimes, but don't let that vex you; had your ſiſter marrid him, ſhe wold have bin purely out of the way to be ſure; but that may be contrived ſtill, there may be men enuff found to ſuit your purpus, if you can bring your father into it; and if not, I think, you may do well enuff with her in her chamber, till her Father's deth, or till you are marrid; but, What muſt be done with her then? I ſuppoſe, You wold not have her in your houſe? and to leave her with your Father wold never do. Now I think of it, I ſhoud like her for my boarder very well; but all this is a diſtent proſpect, I think, we have affairs at preſent in a very good ſituation; but if thare is any thing more to be done, I beg, you will beleeve, that you may allways command,

Your moſt obleged,

and obedient humbel Servant,

MARY BRAND.

LET

LETTER XV.

Miſs JEMIMA COURTLY *to Miſs* BRAND.

Miſs Brand,

I WRITE this letter, to thank you for all your former acts of friendſhip to me; but cannot think of ever writing to you again but on indifferent ſubjects. I do not intend to continue a correſpondence with Horatio: I cannot bear any reflections on Miſs Wellers (who has always been ſo extremely kind to me) or my relations, and your two laſt letters have been filled with invectives againſt them: the ill opinion ſome people entertain of me gives me little concern, as I have no hopes of ſoon, if ever, appearing again in the world; but this I muſt tell you, I think it would better have become one who profeſſed their ſelf my friend, to have juſtified my character when ſhe heard it aſperſed, than to have pretended ignorance of it; as all the country knowing your intimacy in our family, will conſtrue your pretended ignorance of my affairs, as a confeſſion of what I am accuſed of. I will not trouble you any further, than to repeat my thanks for the kind ſervices you have done, the unfortunate,

JEMIMA COURTLY.

LETTER XVI.

Miſs JEMIMA COURTLY *to Miſs* WELLERS.

WHAT can be more mortifying, than to think, that yeſterday, the ſame houſe contained, my dear Fanny Wellers and me, and that we ſhould be deprived the pleaſure of ſeeing each other; 'tis ſome alleviation, to think, by your truſty ſervant's carefulneſs, you have my laſt letter, with that to Horatio incloſed; let me conjure you, as you value my happineſs, to convey it as ſoon as poſſible. As your ſervant has ſuch frequent opportunities of coming this way, and is not the leaſt ſuſpected, I think, it is better you ſhould not apply to the walking confectioner. I muſt now give you ſome account of yeſterday: In the morning, Mary, when ſhe brought my breakfaſt, told me, That Mrs. and Miſs Wellers, were coming to dine with us; I look'd ſurpriſed; and anſwered, Not with us, Mary; I fear, I ſhall not be of the company? ſhe made no anſwer. I ſaw nor heard of my aunt or ſiſter the whole day. I dreſſed myſelf better than uſual about twelve twelve o'clock, in expectation every moment

 after

after you came, of being ſummoned down ſtairs; but it was not ſo: about three o'clock, in came my goaleresſ, with the appurtenances of my ſolitary dinner. I aſked her, If the family dinner was ready? ſhe told me, They were juſt ſat down to table in the hall; I then puſhed the table from me, and burſt into tears: ſhe brought up ſomething for my dinner, but I did not eat a morſel, indeed, I could not; ſhe left the things ſtanding, tho' I ordered them out. I deſired ſhe would carry a meſſage from me to you, to enquire after Mrs. Wellers and your ſelf; and beg of her, to deſire leave of my Father, that I might be permitted to ſee you for a little time, in preſence (if he thought proper) of my ſiſter; ſhe had the complaiſance to hear me out, and then told me, She was ſorry ſhe could not oblige me, but that ſhe had been ordered, never to carry meſſages about the houſe; and, that ſhe valued her place, and our family too much, to do any thing to diſoblige. I was ſo provok'd, I ſaid no more. When ſhe left the room, I faſtened myſelf in, and ſpent the remainder of the day in laying on the bed, and looking out of the window, to ſee you paſs by in your way home; when I ſaw Thomas turn out of the road to my window, I immediately put a

waſer

wafer into the letter for you, and throwed up the ſaſh; he came directly under, and caught the letter. I did not encloſe the letter from Miſs Brand, that I mentioned to you, but it is now incloſed in this. Pray, let me have the particulars of your reception by our family. If you ſee Horatio, pray, tell him, He muſt not expect to hear any more from me as yet, and preſs his leaving this part of the country for ſome time. My brother leaves us to-morrow, as he has juſt ſignified by a note ſlipt under my door: he tells me, He will come into my chamber when the family are a bed, by a key he has had made to the door, which he will leave with me, in caſe of any emergency; this pleaſes me much, I will make up this letter for him to convey to you; as I am ſure, he will not leave this part of the country without firſt viſiting Swinderby Abby. I muſt beg you to contrive ſome way of letting me have a little paper and a few pens, ink I have in plenty. I long for twelve o'clock, as that hour will bring my brother to my room, God grant we may not be found out! my ſiſter is juſt gone out on horſeback with my Father; perhaps, I may now be favoured with a viſit from my aunt; I hope, I ſhall not; for, I really, am not well enough to ſee her,

her, my ſpirits are quite fluttered. I will write no more now, but endeavour to compoſe myſelf a little. Adieu; believe me,

Affectionately yours,

JEMIMA COURTLY.

LETTER XVII.

Miſs WELLERS *to Miſs* COURTLY.

INDEED, my dear Jemima, you could not be more mortified at our not ſeeing each other than I was. My Mamma is quite angry with all your family, except your brother. I will begin, and give you the particulars of our viſit: When the firſt compliments were over, we directly aſked for you, and expreſſed ſome ſurprize, that you were ſo long coming to us; and aſked, Miſs Emily, If you knew we was come? ſhe anſwered, She, really, could not tell. I then deſired ſhe would let you know. I never ſhall forget the affected looks of concern your ſiſter put on, when ſhe ſaid, She was ſurprized, I ſhould be a ſtranger to that, which ſhe thought the whole country was

acquainted with: that her Father thought it proper to confine you to your chamber, on account of ſome very great indiſcretions, which, ſhe was ſorry to ſay, her ſiſter had been guilty of. My blood, really boil'd; I felt the colour fly up in my face; I could have fell'd her to the ground: I was going to ſpeak, but was interrupted by my mother; ſhe anſwered Miſs Emily for me; which, I believe, upon the whole, was better; as ſhe was much milder than I could have been: She told her, We had, indeed, heard of your diſgraceful treatment and confinement; and, that ſhe was inclined to believe it, by not hearing from you for ſome time; but ſaid, She could not help thinking, there was a great difference between proper care being taken to prevent your correſponding with Horatio, and your being debarred the privilege of ſeeing and converſing with thoſe friends, who, ſhe was certain, would always adviſe you for the beſt: Miſs Emily began here to ſtretch her jaws, as if going to ſpeak, but was interrupted by Mrs. Sheldren; who very gravely told my mother, That her brother was certainly the beſt judge how to act in his own family; that he had the tendereſt regard that was poſſible for you; and, that ſhe was poſitive, he would do nothing but

what

what was abſolutely neceſſary for your honour and ſafety: She then ſaid, It was a very diſagreeable ſubject to her, and that ſhe begg'd the diſcourſe might be waved; my mother ſaid nothing, but lifted up her hands and eyes: your Father juſt then came in, my mother went up to him, took hold of his hands, and begg'd, he would give us leave to ſee you; and, that he would replace you in his favour; that ſhe would anſwer for your future conduct: that it would be ſuch as would merit a continuance of his regard and indulgence; ſhe pauſed; I roſe up, and ſtood before him, to make interceſſion likewiſe: your ſiſter walked haſtily about the room; your aunt muttered, what I could not diſtinctly hear: your Father at laſt ſpoke; he turned from us, and ſaid, She has almoſt broke my heart, Mrs. Wellers; you don't know what you aſk; let me beg, as you value my friendſhip, never to mention that ungrateful girl to me again: had it not been for my dear Emily, I had died with vexation; but ſhe comforts my diſtreſſes; at theſe words, the deceitful wretch fawn'd upon him like a dog: my mother would ſtill have continued her interceſſion for you, but was abſolutely ſtopt by your Father's ſaying, He muſt leave the room, if ſhe perſiſted in renewing

the diſcourſe. I ſpent a moſt ſtupid day, did not open my lips till dinner: when I ſat by your brother, he was very obliging, and talked a great deal to me; he retired ſoon after dinner. My mother ordered the coach two hours ſooner than we at firſt intended; they did not preſs our ſtay, but ſeemed as glad to part with us as we were to go; thus ended our dull viſit, and, I believe, we ſhall not ſoon again ſee Courtly-Hall. It was Thomas's own thought, coming under your window, I am glad he ſucceeded ſo well. You may depend I will deliver your letter to Horatio. Miſs Brand's letter was, indeed, very odd; I am glad, you will have no more to ſay to her. I will adviſe Horatio as you deſire, think it quite a right method of proceeding. Your brother conveyed me your laſt letter, he is greatly affected at leaving you in ſo unhappy a ſituation; he lay at our houſe that night, which he did not chooſe your Father ſhould know. It is, really, a ſad thing, to be concerned with ſuch odd people, that every thing, though of ever ſo innocent a nature, muſt be concealed from them. I am ſorry your ſpirits are ſo much affected as your brother tells me they are. The private key may be of ſervice to you, pray be careful to conceal it. Miſs Preſton was yeſterday mar-

married to Mr. Grimes, ſhe has no new cloaths for the wedding; they are to ſpend the winter in the country; he has hired a little houſe and one ſervant maid; it is amazing that ſhe can thus ſubmit. Horatio is now below ſtairs, I fly to give him yours; will give you an account of his viſit in my next; till then, adieu.

Yours for ever,

FRANCES WELLERS.

LETTER XVIII.

Continuation of Miſs WELLERS *to Miſs* COURTLY.

My dear Jemima,

HORATIO is juſt gone, I would have had him dine with us; but he ſaid, He could not; he read your letter ſeveral times over: the whole time almoſt that he ſtay'd was that way employed. He ſaid, He had been vaſtly uneaſy at not hearing from you through Miſs Brand, but now was heartily glad you had taken another method, as he had lately ſeen in Miſs Brand many things he

disliked. I took an opportunity to urge his leaving this part of the country for some time; which he has promised to do, saying, As there was no possibility of seeing you, all places were alike to him; but requested the favour of me, to send you a letter he would bring me for you, before he left this place; which, I assured him, I would safely convey. My mother desires her love to you, and bids me assure you, next to myself, you are the person in all the world she loves most. Farewell. I remain,

Affectionately yours,

F. WELLERS.

LETTER XIX.

Miss COURTLY *to Miss* WELLERS.

My dear Fanny,

I RECEIVED both your kind favours, with Horatio's inclosed, wherein he takes a kind and tender leave, vowing eternal fidelity, and earnestly requesting the favour of hearing from me when he is arrived in London, which he is immediately to acquaint you with:

with: I depend upon your letting me know it, though I do not intend correſponding with him, unleſs affairs ſhould take a happier turn, which at preſent, there is little proſpect of. I now ſee neither my aunt nor ſiſter; but, am in hopes, when they hear Horatio is gone, they will allow me more liberty. Mary tells me, there is a gentleman viſiting in the houſe; ſhe ſays, He is the moſt accompliſh'd gentleman, underſtands all ſorts of farming, and is the beſt judge of cattle in the kingdom; fine accompliſhments, Are they not? the creature talks to me ſo inceſſantly about him, I fancy he comes to pay his addreſſes to Emily; I wiſh that may be the caſe, and that ſhe may accept them. Miſs Preſton's wedding much ſurprizes me: I wiſh her happineſs, but think there's little proſpect of it. It greatly concerns me, that it is not in my power to reward poor Thomas for his fidelity and kindneſs to me: I will pauſe, that if he comes, I may not make the poor fellow loiter about, as that would certainly cauſe ſuſpicion, and prevent the continuance of our correſpondence; which, would be the greateſt mortification that can happen to the unfortunate,

JEMIMA COURTLY.

LETTER XX.

Miſs WELLERS *to Miſs* COURTLY.

YOUR letter, my dear Jemima, gave me infinite ſatisfaction, to find you ſo well ſatisfied with Horatio's taking your advice in quitting this place; he has ſince been to take his leave of me, and earneſtly requeſted me, to let him hear of your health, and any thing material that might happen in his abſence, which, I have faithfully promiſed I will do. Pray, what is the name of your new viſitor? I will make enquiry about him, let him be who or what he will; I wiſh he may have Miſs Emily; as I am inclined to believe, you would be better treated both by your Aunt and Father, were ſhe out of the way. You have heard me talk of Miſs Lewis, ſhe has been ſome time with me, which I have not before, I believe, told you: you muſt have ſeen her; ſhe knows you, ſhe tells me, very well; has met you here at Swinderby; now I recollect, you ſpent two or three days here together one Chriſtmas holidays, when your Father was in town. My mother, thank God, uſes herſelf to her-

ſelf

ſelf a good deal more than ſhe uſed to do; I fancy, ſhe thinks I ſhall not remain long ſingle, and that 'tis beſt to wean herſelf by degrees, than all at once; for, do you know, I have it from all quarters, that I am in love, and going ſoon to be married. Well! I am glad I know nothing of all this myſelf: Emma has laid me five guineas, I am not ſingle twelve months hence; is it not odd, people ſhould take ſuch notions into their heads, without any foundation? with this letter Thomas ſhall convey you ſome paper and pens; I beg, you will not make yourſelf uneaſy about him: I am ſure, he is ſufficiently happy in an opportunity of ſerving you. Miſs Lewis, poor girl, is ſadly hurried about, to be out of the way of Sir Harry Harwood, who her good Mother and Aunt are greatly afraid ſhould run away with her: he is an officer in the army, and his regiment is now quartered near Woodberry; and, on that account, Mrs. Lewis was ſo kind as to favour us with her daughter's company, inſtead of ſending her any where elſe: ſhe is a ſprightly ſenſible girl, good natured to the laſt degree; I love her exceſſively. Mrs. Lewis is ſo extremely careful of Emma, her only child, that this is the firſt time of her being ever truſted without Madam Swaffam to attend

her, which uſed to mortify us all exceſſively: ſhe is an old governeſs that brought her up; we never knew how to entertain her, but we found out the way to fatigue her exceſſively, for go, or do what we would, ſhe would never quit her charge. I ſhall hope for a letter from you by the return of Thomas. I remain,

Sincerely, and affectionately yours,

FRANCES WELLERS.

LETTER XXI.

Miſs EMILY COURTLY *to Miſs* BRAND.

Dear Miſs Brand,

JEMIMA's laſt letter to you ſurprizes me greatly; I cannot conceive what could induce her to write ſo to you; I cannot think ſhe ſuſpects us? and you have done nothing ſo materially to diſoblige her, that ſhe would give up hearing from her lover, rather than continue a correſpondence with you; ſhe muſt certainly have taken miff at your not contradicting what you heard at the Milliner's; or, perhaps, Horatio has diſobliged her?

her? Well! that is the very thing I moſt wiſh may be the caſe; for I have in the houſe a Mr. Mullins, who I deſign ſhall in a ſhort time make Miſs Courtly his ſpouſe; I muſt tell you as briefly as poſſible all about it: I have perſuaded my Father, that the only way to ſecure the honour of the family, is to marry my ſiſter as ſoon as poſſible, to ſome ſober good kind of a man; that ſhe will otherways ruin herſelf with Horatio; he inſtantly determined I was right, and ſaid, He would look out for ſome ſuch ſort of perſon; I then recommended this Mullins, as one I had heard an extraordinary character of, which my Father ſeemed highly to approve: he is a pretty ſubſtantial farmer, but has preſent occaſion for ſix or eight hundred pounds, which my Father has agreed to give him; and Mullins agrees to take the incumbrance of a wife, for the ſake of the money; he knows her affections are engaged, but he ſays, He matters not that, he warrants to teach her country-buſineſs, and make her uſeful to him, and that will content him; he ſays, Too much love in a wife is fulſome, and ſhe'll like him well enough when ſhe is uſed to him; his notions are not very delicate, I muſt own; but he is an admirable

fellow for my purpoſe: I am in high ſpirits, to think how ſoon I ſhall be clear of my incumbrance, and with the loſs of ſo little money too; for I don't imagine, my Father will ever give her more than he at firſt pays down with her; and then, you know, all the remainder of my mother's fortune will be my own; glorious thought! I have cut in finely with aunt Sheldren, ſhe is quite of my ſide; yet, for all that, I wiſh ſhe was any where but with us, for ſhould Jemima get the canting of her over by herſelf, ſhe may ſoon ſpoil my plot, and undo all I have done; I take as much care as poſſible to keep them aſunder. Horatio, I dare ſay, will mourn heartily for the loſs of his miſtreſs; but when the firſt tranſports of his grief is over, I fancy any woman of tolerable fortune will ſerve his purpoſe: I, really, ſhould like him very well myſelf; he is, certainly, a prodigious clever man; and, I think, my perſon is not much inferior to Miſs Courtly's, and with my fortune, I believe, will not prove unacceptable to him; but before I proceed to any ſuch ſtep, I ſhall take care to make myſelf independent; which I muſt contrive ſome way or other, when my old dad is in a right humour to work upon; but more of that

that another time, I can at preſent write no more. I remain,

Miſs BRAND'S

Affectionate Friend,

EMILY COURTLY.

LETTER XXII.

Miſs BRAND *to Miſs* E. COURTLY.

Dear Miſs Emily,

I AM delited with your ſkeme of Mr. Mullins; how I ſhall like to ſee that pretty cretur yoked! Oh! Miſs, I had like to have forgot, Who do you think I met at Mrs. Tagg's, the millener's? why, Horatio himſelf: he took very little notis of me, he was buying ſome glovs and a watch ſtring; he told me, He was going to London for the Winter, was to ſet out that very afternoon; neither he nor I menſhon'd your ſiſter; he left the ſhop before I did, Mrs. Tagg's prais'd him up to the ſkies; and ſaid, It was a great pitty, he ſhould like a lady, who ſhe had herd ſuch ſad things of; when to her knollege, there was manny fine ladys dying

for him. Indeed, I hope, you will ſoon get your aunt out of your hous; how came you, to let her come there. Do you know, laſt Sunday, thare was ſcarſe a farmer's dauter in this plaſe, but what was at church in a ſilk pettecote: I wiſh to God, I had one, it woud laſt me my life tiem; but, I feer, I ſhall never be abell to by one. If I can be of any ſervis to you, pray, let me know; there is nothing in the world I wou'd not do to ſerve you; as I ſhall allways remember the manny favours beſtow'd on,

Your very affectionate,

MARY BRAND.

LETTER XXIII.

Miſs COURTLY *to Miſs* WELLERS.

OH! my dear Miſs Wellers, I am in a dreadful ſituation! How ſhall I pen the ſhocking account? my aunt has juſt been with me, and bid me prepare to ſee a Mr. Mullin's, who my Father deſigns I ſhall marry: How ſhe ſurprized me! I raved; ſhe heard me for ſome time; then told me, It was in vain to make any reſiſtance; that it

was

was my Father's determination, and it muſt be: ſhe deſired I would compoſe myſelf, as I poſitively muſt ſee Mr. Mullin's in a few days; God, forgive me! I gave her a violent ſhove from me, and ſaid, Could I have expected this from you, madam? I may be obliged to ſee the man, my father may continue to confine me or turn me out of doors, but never ſhall he force me to marry any man who I object to; ſhe anſwered, It's very well, child! we ſhall ſee that! remember, you would not oblige me in taking the good advice I gave; and, I aſſure you, need not expect any favours from me. So now, my dear Fanny, you ſee, what a friend I have in my aunt Sheldren; ſhe talked a great deal to me, which I never anſwered, till I was ſo provok'd, I could not contain myſelf. Thomas is under the window. Adieu.

Yours, &c. &c.

JEMIMA COURTLY.

LET-

LETTER XXIV.

Continuation of Miſs COURTLY *to Miſs* WELLERS.

My dear Fanny,

I CONCLUDED my laſt abruptly, by the unexpected arrival of your ſervant; was ſorry, you ſhould ſend him empty handed; it was, really, no ſmall mortification to me. I will now continue my account from where I left off: About five o'clock, my aunt came again to ſee me; ſhe had not been in the room ten minutes, when my ſiſter flung open the door, and in ſtalk'd a moſt hideous fellow, imagination cannot form one ſo frightful! My aunt roſe up, and ſaid, This is Mr. Mullin's, my dear; he bow'd: Madam, ſaid I to my aunt, I have not been uſed to ſee company for ſome time; I am deny'd the ſight of my beſt friends, and, I beg, I may not be troubled with the company of a ſtranger, whoſe very appearance is diſagreeable to me; ſhe trembled with paſſion. Madam, ſaid the man, I will not trouble you longer with my company at preſent; ſhe is a pretty girl, ſaid he, (turning to my aunt) I like

like her much; I am ſure ſhe will come to in time, and out he walk'd, my aunt trotted after with my ſiſter. I find their deſign is to make me miſerable; it ſhall not, cannot be: What power on earth can make me repeat thoſe dreadful words, that would for ever join me to a man I deteſt. I am quite ill with this cruel perſecution! Oh! my dear Fanny Wellers! you have a good and affectionate mother; have no tyrant of a father; no ſiſter to ill uſe you: it is impoſſible, (I hope) that you ſhould ever know half the affliction I endure. Pray, Heaven, I keep my ſenſes, for am now ſo confuſed, I know not what I write; Why is my brother not here? he, perhaps, might have ſome influence in my favour.

The Miſs Lewis you mention, I very well remember: ſhe is, I think, very lively and agreeable; ſhe has been jok'd ſome time, I think, about Sir Harry. I long vaſtly, to know, who they ſay, you are in love with, and when the match is to be: ſhould take it very unkind, if I thought it was only a ſecret to me; but while people are young and ſingle, the world is always matching them. I wonder, I have had no letter from my brother. My head achs dreadfully, ſo muſt leave

leave ſcribbling, and make this ready againſt Thomas comes. I am,

With the greateſt Sincerity,

Your ever affectionate,

JEMIMA COURTLY.

LETTER XXV.

Miſs EMILY COURTLY *to Miſs* BRAND.

Dear Miſs Molly,

I HAVE not time to write to you all I could wiſh; let it at preſent ſuffice, that, Madam, has reſolutely refuſed Mullins; but that will not ſave her, for married to him ſhe muſt be, as ſure as ſhe lives. He, is in a hurry for his money I find, ſo, I ſuppoſe, will ſoon renew his addreſſes.

I have ſent you a blue ſattin petticoat, which I never wore; it was but juſt come home as I received your laſt letter; I am glad I had it for you. Farewell, my dear Molly, I muſt away to my Father; 'tis not fit he ſhould be left too much alone at this critical time. I remain,

Your obliged Friend,

EMILY COURTLY.

LET-

LETTER XXVI.

Continuation of Miſs EMILY COURTLY *to Miſs* BRAND.

OH! my dear Miſs Brand! it's impoſſible to deſcribe the agony I am in, with rage and diſappointment: my ſchemes are all abortive; my ſiſter is out of my power, ſhe has out-witted me, and carried on a correſpondence with Miſs Wellers during her whole confinement, which never was diſcovered till yeſterday; I have not patience to enter into the particulars now, but will tell you all when I ſee you, which, I beg, may be as ſoon as poſſible, to conſult with me, for ſomething muſt be done: my Father is ſufficiently enrag'd, ſhe has no ſhare in him at preſent; but, then ſhe has ſo powerful an advocate in Mrs. Wellers, I tremble to think what may be the conſequence: and, as ſhe is with Fanny Wellers, ſhe may now ſee Horatio; nay, perhaps, marry him, there's the ſting! that's my greateſt torment! and how to prevent it, I know not! my invention, that uſed always to be ready, when I had a

point

ing, She could ſecret her in a back room; but ſhe abſolutely refuſed, telling her, She could not conſent to accept admittance into her Father's houſe as a favour from her ſiſter, thoſe were terms too hard to ſubmit to; Emily then aſked her, Where ſhe propoſed going? ſhe reply'd, To Mrs. Wellers, who, I hope, will receive me: Won't you, Thomas, take me under your protection, and conduct me to your miſtreſs; don't you think, Thomas, your miſtreſs will receive me; the poor fellow was ſo affected he could hardly ſpeak, but faintly utter'd: Oh, yes, madam, I am ſure ſhe will! pray, madam, endeavour to make yourſelf eaſy, I am ſure you will be welcome at our houſe. Oh, without doubt! ſaid Emily, with a ſcornful ſneer, and went in. Jemima then walked out of the yard, and Thomas followed her, till they came to the place where he had left his horſe, which, Thomas, begg'd ſhe would pleaſe to ride, and he would walk; but ſhe judg'd it would be eaſier riding behind him, than ſingle, on a man's ſaddle; ſo ordered him to mount, which, in compliance with her deſire he did, and ſafely conducted her to our houſe, to the very great ſurprize of all our family. She was for a long time incapable of letting us into the cauſe of her

 flight;

flight; ſo the chief of this account is from Thomas; ſhe is now, thank God, more compoſed. My mother is juſt ſat out for Courtly-Hall, to make interceſſion for her with Mr. Courtly, the ſucceſs of which embaſſy ſhall be the ſubject of my next; for, my dear Mima, is in too great diſorder to be left alone. So, muſt now conclude,

Your affectionate,

and obliged humble Servant,

FRANCES WELLERS.

LETTER XXVIII.

Continuation of Miſs WELLERS *to Miſs* LEWIS.

My dear Emma,

I CONCLUDED my laſt, with aſſuring you, that my next ſhould give you an account of my mamma's reception at Courtly-Hall, and the ſucceſs of her viſit, from which ſhe is juſt return'd: Mr. Courtly's reſentment is carried to that height, that it has entirely taken place of his reaſon; he ſtorm'd like a madman at the ſight of my mother; and it was a long time before ſhe could prevail with him,

him, to hear what ſhe had to ſay; and when he was a little more compoſed, and ſuffered her to expoſtulate with him, it tended to no manner of purpoſe; he was deaf to all intreaties, and has ſolemnly declared, never to receive her again: poor Jemima ſeemed to dread nothing ſo much as being taken in again; never did I ſee ſo affecting a ſcene, as the interview between ſhe and my mother, on her return from Courtly-Hall: ſhe flew to my mamma, and ſaid, Well, madam, what is the reſult of your viſit; I hope, you have not conſented to ſend me to my Father upon terms I can't ſubmit to. Miſs Courtly, ſaid my mother, what are the terms you can't ſubmit to? would not you wiſh, to make one in your Father's family? Yes, anſwered ſhe, To make one in my Father's family upon my own conditions, and not otherways, that is, To be admitted as his daughter, but not his priſoner; think not, dear madam! I mean to be an incumbrance to you; that is far from my deſire, I only beg your protection till I can diſpoſe of myſelf: I think, I could make myſelf uſeful to a lady in the capacity of a ſervant, at leaſt, I'll endeavour it; for, rather than endure the frowns of my Father, and triumph of my ſiſter, I would embrace, with chearfulneſs,

the loweſt degree of ſervitude: my mother, tenderly embracing her, ſaid, My dear Miſs Courtly, you are not, nor ſhall not, be reduced to ſuch circumſtances; I bleſs God, I am able to prevent it! Your Father has, indeed, refuſed to reinſtate you in his favour; he is deaf to all remonſtrances; but let it not afflict you ſo greatly; you ſhall find a home in my houſe, and the ſame treatment and privilege in every reſpect, as my own daughter. The dear creature's grateful heart was ſo full, ſhe could not utter her acknowledgment, but taking faſt hold of my hand, ſaid, Oh! then madam, I have here a ſiſter, and though a cruel Father, ſtill I have a bleſſing I never thought to experience, an indulgent mother; ſhe then wept, as, indeed, we all did; but, as ſoon as poſſible, I recovered myſelf, and uſed every means I could think of, to divert her thoughts from thoſe diſagreeable reflections. —— My mamma ſays, Miſs Emily ſeems vaſtly uneaſy at her ſiſter's being with us, and wants very much to have her home again; which made my mother leſs anxious after it; for ſhe ſays, ſhe clearly ſaw, her deſire proceeded from a kind of envy and pique; ſo, that ſhe ſtrongly ſuſpected ſome ill deſign in her: in which, I am perſuaded, ſhe judges very right. Miſs Courtly

has wrote to her brother, ſo we expect to ſee him here very ſoon. Mamma, has juſt ſent to propoſe our taking a little walk, as it is a fine evening, in hopes, it will amuſe poor Jemima; ſo muſt bid adieu to, my dear Miſs Lewis, and conclude myſelf,

Her affectionate Friend,

and obliged humble Servant,

F. WELLERS.

LETTER XXIX.

Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Dear Miſs Wellers,

YOUR two obliging epiſtles have given me both pain and pleaſure in extreme. Poor Miſs Courtly's treatment, for a long time, has been cruelty in the higheſt degree; her Father's inhumanity, I believe, can ſcarce be parallell'd: How happy then, is her preſent ſituation, in being releaſed from his tyranny! Oh! how amiable, does dear Mrs. Wellers appear, in thus exerting herſelf in the cauſe of injured innocence: her generoſity and goodneſs can never be ſufficiently com-

commended. I am vaſtly glad Mr. Courtly is ſoon expected with you, as it muſt be a great comfort to his ſiſter: and I am greatly miſtaken, if Anthony's company, is not ſomewhat more than agreeable to my dear Fanny; you muſt excuſe me, you know, I love to banter a little upon that head. Pray, let me hear of your proceedings, and make my compliments to Miſs Courtly; the ſame waits on your mamma and ſelf, from

Your affectionate Friend,

and obliged humble Servant,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LETTER XXX.

Miſs WELLERS *to Miſs* LEWIS.

My dear Emma,

IT ever was a pleaſure to me, to comply with every deſire of yours; but more particularly, your laſt requeſt, of an account of our proceedings, in regard to my dear Jemima; as her affairs intirely engroſs my thoughts and attention. Mr. Anthony Courtly came to us immediately after he received Miſs

Courtly's letter, and has ſince been to make interceſſion with his Father: he uſed every argument in his power, and urged every circumſtance that thought could ſuggeſt in favour of his ſiſter without ſucceſs. He is now ſet out for London, to acquaint Horatio with what has happen'd, and purpoſes bringing him down to viſit us; but we greatly fear he will have ſome difficulty in finding him, for Jemima had not ſo much as open'd his letter, when her Father ſurprized and took it from her: but ſhe has recollected the name and place of abode of a gentleman in London, with whom, ſhe knows, he is very intimate; ſo, we hope, Mr. Courtly, will get information there. You ſmile now, I dare engage, and think, I long as impatiently for Anthony's return, as poor Jemima. Well! if my ſpirits were quite compos'd, I could banter a little too upon that head: imagine what you pleaſe, perhaps you may not be much miſtaken. Mamma and Miſs Courtly joins in compliments with,

Your very affectionate,

F. WELLERS.

LET-

LETTER XXXI.

Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

My dear Fanny,

YOU have actually made me the exact reſemblance of a humour'd child, the more you indulge me the more I covet. Your obliging compliance with my laſt requeſt, makes me now impatient to know the event of young Courtly's embaſſy; I hope he will ſucceed in his enquiry, Miſs Courtly, will ſurely then be happy: your mamma would, doubtleſs, rather check than encourage her inclinations, if ſhe had not entertain'd a very good opinion of Horatio; ſo that I imagine, there is no other bar to their proſpect of a happy union, than want of fortune: I have heard he is very much the gentleman, and a man of letters. Miſs Blyden knows ſome of his family, and informs me, ſhe had heard he was deſign'd for a clergyman; but never any further account of him. There is a coach with company juſt ſtopt at our

our gate; ſo muſt deny myſelf the pleaſure of adding more at preſent than, that, I am,

Dear Miſs WELLERS'S,

very affectionate,

and obliged humble Servant,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LETTER XXXII.

Miſs WELLERS *to Miſs* LEWIS.

Dear Miſs Lewis,

YOUR curioſity is natural, and needs no apology; on the contrary, I think, you are extremely kind in ſo far intereſting yourſelf in the affairs of one, for whom you know I have ſo great regard.

Mr. Courtly is return'd with Mr. Granville, whoſe character I will now give you, as receiv'd from Mr. Courtly; who has made ſtrict enquiry after him, both at the college where he was educated, and of ſeveral gentlemen to whom he is well known: He is of a good family, and was (as you have been inform'd) deſign'd for the church; but

but ſome friends from whom he was promis'd great favours being removed out of power, and other misfortunes that have ſince happen'd in his family, has hitherto prevented his reaping any real benefit or advantage from his education: He is of a lively diſpoſition, and when very young, was guilty of ſome irregularities; but has ſince taken quite a different turn, and according to all accounts acted with great ſobriety, prudence and œconomy: He is undoubtedly a man of ſenſe, is extremely polite, and ſeems to have a great ſhare of good nature. My mother is exceſſively pleas'd with his behaviour, and has aſſur'd him, that if all his actions correſpond with what ſhe has already ſeen, he ſhall always meet with a welcome reception at our houſe; but added, that (as he has declared his only wiſh and higheſt ambition is to procure ſome ſtation or employment, that may enable him to ſupport Miſs Courtly genteely in the marriage ſtate) ſhe would by all means adviſe him to reſide in London, as he will there be moſt in the way of preferment. Miſs Courtly and he are entirely of that opinion, and have mutually agreed to make themſelves as eaſy as poſſible in their ſtate of ſeparation; and patiently wait for ſome happy event, that may unite and

crown their wishes. My dear Jemima is much more chearful and compos'd: Anthony and Horatio are quite pleased with Miss Courtly's continuing with us, (which my mother has insisted on) for her brother proposed putting her to board in some family in this neighbourhood; but my mamma told him, she would by no means consent to part with so great a pleasure and comfort, as her adopted daughter; so begg'd he would desist from any further proposals of that kind. I am quite happy, and all are abundantly easier than before this affair was so settled. I am, with due compliments and respect to yourself and family,

Your obliged Friend

and Servant,

FRANCES WELLERS.

LETTER XXXIII.

Miss LEWIS *to Miss* WELLERS.

I AM quite delighted with your pleasing account of your mutual lovers; am heartily glad Miss Courtly's affections are fix'd on

on a perſon ſo deſerving, and meets with ſuch juſt return. I am going to ſpend a few weeks in London; am in the greateſt haſte imaginable to get my accoutrements ready, ſo beg you will pardon my abrupt concluſion.

Yours ſinçerely,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

P. S. I ſhall do myſelf the pleaſure of viſiting you on my return from London.

LETTER XXXIV.

Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

My dear Miſs Wellers,

I HOPE, and truſt, you will pardon, my not paying my reſpects in Cambridgeſhire before I return to Woodberry, when I acquaint you with the occaſion of breaking my promiſe: It's a moſt joyful ſummons, and the only thing that could poſſibly atone for the mortification of leaving London without ſeeing you. I talk and write, and think ſo much of dear Miſs Blyden, that you can be no

ſtranger to her; ſhe is very ſhortly to marry Mr. Evanion, and honours me with a requeſt, to attend as one of her bride-maids. All things are ſettled, and brought ſo near a concluſion, that I muſt ſet out early on Saturday morning to reach Blyden-lodge in due time; this match gives me the higheſt delight; I am ſo alive, I can hardly ſupport the joy that has ſeized me; for that couple are both my boſom friends; and without partiality, moſt worthy creatures; who have been kept in the dreadful ſtate of ſuſpence, for two years, by an uncouth and obſtinate Father and Uncle; that could no ways agree upon their ſettlements till within theſe ſix weeks; in which time, a lawyer, by great diligence, has finiſh'd all things neceſſary. I really believe their affections for each other is great and ſincere; their fortunes are very ample, and they come together with every proſpect of happineſs: the wedding is to be next Thurſday, the ceremony perform'd at her pariſh church; there will be ſix bride-men and maids, all cleverly pair'd; the maids dreſs'd in blue lute-ſtring trimm'd with white; the bride and bride-groom in white (of courſe;) on that, and the two following days, will be public entertainments extremely magnificent; a ball each night. They have contrived to

fix

fix their attendants as they think will prove agreeable; for which reaſon, I am appointed to Sir Harry Harwood; I take it kind, becauſe I know they mean it ſo; but, upon my word, I don't like him at all; that is, I like him well enough; —— nay, I like him very much —— that is —— I — I — think him very clever, and all that; but, upon honour, I have no partiality for him; however, it does not ſignify who or what I like; nor, indeed, do I like or diſlike any body particularly. How much! How ſincerely I wiſh for my dear Fanny Wellers at this wedding! for it will be a moſt joyous affair. I think, the pleaſure of my London journey ends in the compleateſt manner; and, I ought, with the greateſt ſatisfaction, return to my melancholy mother and aunt, and endeavour to divert them, for they are infinitely kind and good to me; and worthy people they are, tho' the dejection of their ſpirits, and retired way of living, makes it too dull for a young perſon; ſo much ſo, that I can never think of aſking one with leſs good Nature than yourſelf, to viſit me at Woodberry. Mr. Blyden is to retire to a hunting ſeat, and leave the lodge (which is, really, a glorious manſion) to the young people. I propoſe ſtaying a month with them, and then return home, where, I

ſhall depend on ſeeing you very ſoon. In three days after the wedding, I will write you a full account of all proceedings. In the interim, I am, with due reſpect to yourſelf and family,

My dear FANNY'S

affectionate and devoted,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LETTER XXXV.

Continuation of Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Dear Miſs Wellers,

A CIRCUMSTANCE has happen'd to cloud our joys for the preſent; but hope, we ſhall ſoon recover them, tho' not in the high degree that ſo lately promiſed us. Mr. Blyden was ſeized laſt Monday with an apoplexy, which carried him off in a few hours. I hear Miſs Blyden is greatly affected; but hope this marriage in expectation, will be the means of carrying off her concern. The wedding is to be poſtpon'd for ſome weeks at leaſt; during which time, if it is as convenient to you, as it is agreeable to me, I will do

do myſelf the pleaſure of waiting on you. I muſt at preſent be ſhort; as a letter of condolance to dear Miſs Blyden is indiſpenſible. I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. M. LEWIS.

LETTER XXXVI.

Miſs BLYDEN *to Miſs* LEWIS, *at Miſs* WELLERS.

Dear Miſs Lewis,

I RETURN a thouſand thanks for your very kind and comfortable letter: it claim'd a more early acknowledgment; but I have been ſo ill for theſe ten days, that I could not poſſibly take pen in hand, and am at this time extremely indiſpos'd: my ſpirits are ſo violently affected, that I fear, I never ſhall overcome this affliction; tho', I have every comfort that is poſſible, after the loſs of ſuch an affectionate parent; who has ſhewed me the greateſt regard in his laſt act, as I am left his whole eſtate in my poſſeſſion and diſpoſal; which is a happy alteration from a will juſt found, of two years date; in which

I was left entirely in my uncle's power as to marriage; and the eſtate ſettled on him in caſe I died without heirs; tho', I believe firmly, that I ſhould have met with the moſt generous treatment from him, if one may judge of him by his writing; which plainly ſhews him a man of ſenſe and goodneſs. He has ſent me a very kind and affectionate letter, begging me to look on him as my Father, promiſing to act that character in every particular; deſiring my wedding might be deferr'd half a year, in reſpect and decency to my dear Father; (which was my intention, before I had the honour of his letter) he is ſo kind, as to come directly from Ireland to comfort and adviſe me, and will bring his lady with him, intending to ſtay till I am quite ſettled. How happy it is to have ſuch a relation! Now, my dear Emma, I have an extraordinary favour to aſk, that you muſt not refuſe, becauſe I have ſet my heart upon it: It is begging you will come directly to this houſe of mourning, to comfort and aſſiſt me in the ceremony of receiving my uncle and aunt, who we expect here ſome time the week after next: I long for his arrival, tho' ſhall be greatly ſhock'd at firſt ſeeing him; and ſhould he be like my Father, know not how I ſhall ſupport it. I depend on ſeeing

you very ſhortly: it is that hope which enlivens and enables me to write this; for till within theſe three days, I have not been enough myſelf to attend to any thing. I am,

Dear EMMA,

Your much afflicted Friend,

LOUISA BLYDEN.

LETTER XXXVII.

Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Blyden-Lodge.

Dear Miſs Wellers,

I MUST beg you will make my grateful compliments, and return ten thouſand thanks to your mamma, in my name, for all her favours, and particularly her good nature, in permitting me to leave you ſo ſuddenly. I know you will readily pardon me; therefore ſhall only ſay, I ſincerely wiſh for an early opportunity, of ſpending a calm and tranquil month with you. I know you delight to indulge me, and naturally love thoſe that I do; therefore ſhall make my Louiſa and her family the ſubject of this letter.

Never

Never was the loſs of a man ſo much regretted as Mr. Blyden; ſorrow extends it's ſelf many miles round the country; I very ſoon met with feeling lamentations for his death, which increas'd apparently as I reach'd nearer and nearer the lodge; where I found all inconſolable, and my dear Louiſa ſo alter'd, that I ſcarcely knew her. Her woman tells me, ſhe is ſurprizingly better, ſince her expectation of me and her uncle: he is upon the ſea, and Mr. Evanion is gone this morning for Falmouth to meet them. He is amazingly affected with Mr. Blyden's death, was very urgent with Louiſa to marry privately, before her uncle's arrival, as all things was ſettled in a ſatisfactory manner. Old Mr. Evanion was very deſirous it ſhould be ſo; and I endeavoured to perſuade her to it all in my power, but it was impoſſible; I really muſt confeſs, I think ſhe judges beſt; for, as ſhe is entirely her own miſtreſs, it will appear more reſpectful to her uncle, and more decent to the deceas'd father; but I had ſuch an irreſiſtible deſire it ſhould be ſo, that I could not forbear perſuading, contrary to my opinion. I deſire you will favour me very ſoon with a letter; for we greatly want amuſement. I am, *Yours entirely*,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LET-

LETTER XXXVIII.

Continuation of Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Blyden-Lodge.

Dear Miſs Wellers,

YOUR letter both pleaſed and entertained me. I took the liberty of reading the comical parts to Miſs Blyden; and had the ſatisfaction to ſee her ſmile for the firſt time ſince my being here; and I (tho' melancholy) laugh'd exceſſively. I am concern'd Mrs. Wellers was a little diſpleaſed; but mothers don't always enter into young people's jokes and ſchemes; nor, indeed, is it proper: for I am very ſenſible, without the check of experienc'd years, our ſpirits would ſometimes flow above high water mark. Miſs Blyden delights to hear me talk of my Frances and Jemima. I indulge her prodigiouſly, and ſhe inſiſts upon my going to the St. Cecilian meeting at Saliſbury; and deſires, I will perſuade you and Miſs Courtly to meet me there, and then prevail on you both, to honour her with your company at Blyden-Lodge. She has made me a moſt agreeable party; conſiſting of

of three young women, and three very ſuitable men, beſides Mr. Evanion; who will wait on you to conduct your ladyſhips to Saliſbury, where he will couple you properly for the time; he attends us as a careful guardian to high and unthinking ſpirits; for as we look upon him as a married man, we will not ſuffer him to coquet it with the girls. If you reject this ſcheme, I never will forgive it. Our good folks arrived laſt Monday; it was a fluttering day to my Louiſa, and no very pleaſing one to me; for ſo ungracious a countenance as Mr. Blyden's, never before met my eyes: the women are all queer, aukward, and reſerved; their attendants numerous, and moſt ſhocking in appearance; I have not to this hour found out the uſe or denominations of half. Mr. Evanion has told me, he thought he ſhould have ſunk at the firſt ſight of them; neither he nor I imagine we can ever forget our firſt interview; as to Miſs Blyden, the melancholy and unavoidable reflections, the ſight of her Father's own brother, and her new adopted father muſt occaſion, left no room for obſervation in her: but I muſt no longer omit giving ſome account of their characters, leaſt you may be (as I was) prejudiced by appearances: we find in Mr. Blyden, a very

extra-

extraordinary ſhare of ſenſe and good nature, with but one fault, which is, (without drinking any great quantity) being always diſguiſed from dinner till bed-time; but even then he is perfect goodneſs, telling his whole ſoul, and I fear, incapable of even neceſſary diſguiſe: I think, we may juſtly call him, A rough diamond; and eſteem his niece moſt happy in a valuable uncle: Mrs. Blyden is a good ſort of woman; that you know, ſignifies, A harmleſs perſon, not the leaſt of a fool, but without any active genius or ſprightly ſenſe; ſhe much reſembles a very tame cat, neither offending or pleaſing, but always civil and compliable: their ſervants (for I muſt mention them again) are really excellent; ſo far exceeding our Engliſh ones in duty and diligence, and much more cunning, (I cannot call it ſenſe) than their appearance gives room to expect; I firmly believe, they would die in a cauſe of their maſter's. Mr. Blyden honours me with long and frequent converſations; the preference he ſeems to pay my judgment is, perhaps, the reaſon of my admiring him ſo much; but, really, all like him, who have been in his company. He was yeſterday morning aſking my opinion of Miſs Blyden's ſpending ſome time in London before her marriage; and,

and, really, his reaſons for it was ſo good, that I am quite convinced it is right, and am deſired by him, to forward the affair. I was ſorry, to find in this converſation, that he did not entirely approve Mr. Evanion; but there does not appear the leaſt intention to put off the match; ſo far from it, that he propoſes him to attend her to London, and to ſtay there till the ſix months is expired: for he very juſtly obſerves, it is neceſſary ſhe ſhould ſee the world a little before ſhe enters into it; and be acquainted with other men, equal to her in merit and fortune, beſides Mr. Evanion, which ſhe never yet has. He greatly blames her Father for not educating her in London; and thinks, as ſhe is one of the firſt fortunes, her alliance ought to be noble. However, is highly ſatisfied with Mr. Evanion's merit and fortune, and thinks a title may ſoon be procured. Mr. Blyden ſeems to have ſome conſiderable ſhare of family pride; but quite approves his niece's pleaſing herſelf in this and every point; he is undoubtedly exceſſively fond of her. Tomorrow we expect Mrs. Blyden's ſon by her firſt huſband, his name is Clavering; and I learn from her woman, he's a moſt accompliſh'd man, and has a large eſtate; but is mar-

married, and parted from his wife; therefore ſomething is wrong 'tis plain; when I have ſeen him, you ſhall know more of him; till when, I am,

Your obliged and obedient,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LETTER XXXIX.

Continuation of Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Dear Miſs Wellers,

THE day after I wrote to you Mr. Clavering arrived, he is, really, an agreeable man; but, I cannot think him a perſon of equal merit with his father in-law. Yeſterday Sir Harry Harwood came, he is to accompany us to London. Miſs Blyden is much indiſpoſed, which makes me very unhappy; I really think her extremely ill, and cannot perſuade her to have any advice. Indeed, we have met with ſeveral things to ruffled us lately; one of which is, ſome diſagreements between Mr. Evanion and Mr. Blyden. I hope, all now is compoſed again in that quarter; but the quarrels run very high, they

they began upon trifles, but proceeded to what, I fear, will not ſoon be ſettled; for the young gentleman was piqued to find himſelf deceived; and more ſo, that he appeared a deceiver in the eyes of Mr. Blyden very clearly, and ſuſpected by Miſs Blyden a little: for on the old gentleman's examining the ſettlements, he found them quite ineffectual, and out of their power to make them good; this Mr. Blyden thought neceſſary to tell his niece, who was greatly ſhock'd at the thoughts of being deceived by the man ſhe beſt loved; but ſhe was ſoon perſuaded to believe him innocent, and no doubt but he is; Mr. Blyden is exceſſively vext, and endeavours to work her up to a reſentment; but it would be impoſſible, I firmly believe, did ſhe really think him guilty! The old gentleman carries his anger ſo far, that ſhe is determin'd to end the diſputes by marrying in a few days, which, I think, is the beſt way; as ſhe is entirely miſtreſs of herſelf. The wedding will now be quite private; Mr. Blyden has refuſed his preſence, intending to remove himſelf and family the day before. He now has ſent to invite me into the garden, for ſome converſation on this unhappy affair, I imagine. So no more at preſent.

I

I am now return'd from walking, and much happier than when I ſat out; finding by Mr. Blyden, that his great anger was only pretended, to try his niece, how far her affections were engaged; that he was vaſtly diſguſted at old Evanion's ill uſage; and rather ſorry, ſhe ſhould be allied to ſuch a family; the more, becauſe he was offer'd a Duke's ſon for her, and thought her fortune and accompliſhments deſerv'd it; however, he was ſenſible of young Evanion's merit, and ſhould be happy in that marriage, now he found her ſo firmly attach'd to him: he hoped his appearance of warmth would not too much affect her, and deſired me to tell her his motive; and furthermore, that he was ready to attend her nuptials, as the next Tueſday, (if ſhe choſe it) but rather adviſed the firſt plan, of going to London. I went immediately to Miſs Blyden, and relieved her much afflicted ſpirits. She directly ſent for Mr. Evanion, and the firſt ſcheme is again agreed on; we are to ſet out for London the week after next, without you can obtain the liberty of coming to St. Cecilia, and then we put off our journey for a fortnight longer; we are now quite compoſed and reinſtated: my Louiſa's ſpirits revived; Mr. Evanion

Evanion happy; and I am alive again; Evanion and Clavering are great friends; Sir Harry as ſprightly as a bird; and we only want my little Blyden's former livelineſs, to make this lodge Gaiety Hall. I will not be a month in London, without taking a trip to Swinderby-Abby; till when, I am,

With all humility,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LETTER XL.

Continuation of Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

MANY thanks to my dear Miſs Wellers for her two obliging letters; how kind ſhe is not to be exact with me! however, it will ſoon be in my power to write to you from morning till night: for all my joyous ſchemes are over, and poor Miſs Blyden goes heavily off to-morrow, with no other company, than her aunt, Sir Harry, and ſervants. Mr. Blyden thinks, Mr. Evanion cannot with ſafety leave his uncle, till they have contrived ſome means to remove Mr. Burman, the ſteward, who, they have found, by ſome lucky chance, correſponds with

with a very diſtant relation of Mr. Evanion's, who endeavours by Burman to intercept our young friend; and it is entirely owing to him, that all this unhappineſs has been between the uncle and nephew: this Burman was always look'd upon as particularly honeſt, but none can eſcape Mr. Blyden's penetration. I look upon his being here as a moſt fortunate circumſtance to Louiſa, for he finds the whole eſtate in a very bad condition, and ſtays in the country to ſet things to rights. As for me! poor me! Sir Harry Harwood is the impediment to my London journey; for, as ſoon as my mother and aunt heard of his going, they ſent abſolute commands for me to return home; ſince which, I find he only goes to introduce the Blyden's to his mother and ſiſters, and a few people of faſhion in town, and then returns immediately to his quarters; from this, you may conclude all here in a melancholy ſituation. I am vaſtly glad Mr. Evanion will have ſo chearful a companion as Clavering to keep up his ſpirits: we go the firſt day's journey with them, and Mr. Blyden does me the honour of ſeeing me home, from whence, I ſhall ſoon indulge myſelf in writing to you. I am,

Yours in the Dumps,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LETTER XLI.

Continuation of Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Woodberry.

My dear Fanny,

I HAVE really been ill ever ſince I came home, and not able to write, which makes me again indebted to you two letters; the laſt Mr. Evanion was ſo obliging to bring me yeſterday from Blyden-Lodge; he looks extremely dejected, and complains of that lurking enemy Burman, who continues his miſchiefs without poſſibility of removal. Miſs Blyden has been ever ſince her arrival in town greatly indiſpoſed, and continues ſo much ſo, that ſhe has not been able to write to any of us; this greatly afflicts Mr. Evanion, and the more, as he cannot obtain the liberty of ſeeing her, notwithſtanding the unwearied pains good Mr. Blyden takes for that purpoſe. He informs me, Sir Harry Harwood will return on Thurſday, and propoſes to ſpend a fortnight with our neareſt neighbour, Sir Hugh Hetchmore, which will add ſome little chearfulneſs to this ſpot of deſpair. I am,

Yours ſincerely,

E. M. LEWIS.

LET

LETTER XLII.

Continuation of Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

My dear Miſs Wellers,

THE young Baronet ſpent yeſterday with us, and inform'd my Mother of his intended ſtay with Sir Hugh; ſhe was horrid croſs all the day; and this morning told me, I look'd melancholy, and that ſhe inſiſted on my paying you a viſit to divert my thoughts a little from my friend's troubles, which ſhe obſerved lay heavy on my ſpirits: this journey, ſhe knew well would take my fancy, and ſo, Fanny, I ſhall be with thee in a few days after you receive this. Till when, I am, with due reſpect to Mrs. Wellers, Miſs Courtly, &c.

Your pleaſed,

and obedient Friend and Servant,

E. M. LEWIS.

LETTER XLIII.

Miſs BLYDEN *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLERS.

My dear Miſs Lewis, Groſvenor-ſtreet.

I HOPE you know it is illneſs has prevented my writing to you; nothing elſe in the world would have hinder'd my indulging myſelf in this manner. Oh! Emma, how much have I wiſh'd for you here! or to be again in the country; not one gleam of joy or happineſs have I known ſince my being in London: my journey was melancholy; you know, I had nothing to make it otherwiſe. The day after my arrival, I paid my reſpects to Lady L——, Lady B——, and Lady Harwood and daughters, (to whom Sir Harry introduced me;) they are all polite and agreeable, and have been infinitely obliging to me. If I continue mending, am to go to court on Monday next, which will be the ſecond time of my going out. I am ſo unhappy in this great metropolis, I am ſometimes inclined to return immediately; but then the bad accounts I receive from the country makes that thought equally diſagreeable;

able; ſo, that I am truly miſerable: for by what I learn, my uncle is but juſt come in time to ſave my noble eſtate (I think, I may without vanity call it noble) from the ruin my dear Father's eaſy temper, and the negligence of unjuſt ſtewards has involved it: among which, Anthony Plain amazes me, as he was always eſteemed honeſt and capable of his truſt: his total diſcharge I can by no means conſent to, for he was a great favourite of my Father's; therefore, have deſired his removal to the care of the ſmall eſtate in Lincolnſhire. Mr. Evanion's differences with his uncle makes me vaſtly uneaſy, as it appears impoſſible to remove the cauſe. That vile Burman is too cunning for his honeſt antagoniſt; had it not been for my uncle's penetration, we never ſhould have found him out. I beg, I may hear from you frequently; and, that you will make my beſt compliments to Mrs. and Miſs Wellers, and Miſs Courtly. I am,

With all ſincerity, yours,

LOUISA BLYDEN.

LETTER XLIV.

Mr. BLYDEN *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLERS.

Madam,

I DEPEND you'll excuſe my giving you this trouble, as I know your readineſs to ſerve thoſe who want your aſſiſtance. I muſt now beg you will join with me in perſuading Louiſa to part with Anthony Plain, who is a very improper perſon for her ſervice; and ſhe is partial to him even to her ruin. There is ſad confuſion at old Evanion's: I wiſh I knew how to extricate the worthy young gentleman from his troubles, which, I fear, will effect him greatly. I ſincerely regret your not being able to go to London with my niece, as you are a comfortable and proper companion for her: I am likewiſe ſorry, as you could not go to town with her, that you left Woodberry at this time; as I continually want your advice in her affairs. I am, Madam, with the utmoſt reſpect,

Your moſt devoted Servant,

ISAAC BLYDEN.

LET-

LETTER XLV.

Continuation of Mr. BLYDEN *to Miſs* LEWIS.

Madam,

I Muſt beg you will not think of mentioning to Miſs Blyden your deſire and opinion of haſtening the marriage, which I ſincerely hope will ſoon be farther from her thoughts than ever, but I ſo well know the influence of your advice, that on receiving the honour of your letter, I immediately ſet down to write this, and ſend my ſervant over with it, to prevent (if poſſible) your ſentiments of this affair going to Louiſa, who, I hope, will not once think of marrying a pennyleſs man in diſgrace, for ſuch poor Mr. Evanion now is, being forbid ever to enter his uncle's doors; but I have happily prevailed on him to ſettle 800 a year upon my young friend, and ſent my ſon to accompany him when he chuſes to go, and greatly fear London will be the place; if it is, ſhall perſuade my neice to return home, as this is the only place he cannot come to: however, ſhould ſhe perſiſt in her intention of marrying him, ſhe ought, in common prudence, to ſtay till her eſtate can be brought into ſome order

and regularity (which will be at leaſt a year accompliſhing.) This I hope you will join with me in perſuading her to. I remain, Madam,

your moſt obedient

humble Servant,

ISAAC BLYDEN.

LETTER XLVI.

Miſs RAINSFORD *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLER'*s.*

Dear Emma,

I AM amazed at not hearing from you in all this time, I am certain it is two months ſince I wrote, and am ſo angry that I was determined to take no notice of it, but leave you to the quiet poſſeſſion of thoſe happy people, who have lately engaged all your attention. Indeed I am piqued, I think you unkind, I could almoſt ſay ungrateful, to neglect one who regards you ſo much as I do; and ſtill I love you too well I think. The occaſion that now tempts me to trouble you, is an invitation from my grand-mamma Highm into Devonſhire, and another from my aunt Burton

ton to London. As I cannot go to both, and muſt accept one, I would wiſh to govern myſelf by your movements, and chuſe that where I ſhall be moſt likely to ſee you. If I do not hear from you extremely ſoon, I ſhall then believe (what I now with ſome reaſon ſuſpect) that you mean to drop me, in that caſe my ſtudy will be to avoid you as much as it is now to meet you. It is reported in this part of Somerſetſhire that you was ſent away from Woodberry on Sir Harry Harwood's account, it is odd ſo long as that regiment has been in this part of the world, that I have never ſeen this much-talked-of captain. My uncle and aunt Willet, with all their children, have been with us a week, and are to ſtay while their houſe is repaired, which makes us above thirty in family, that upon my word I ſhall rejoice to get out of the crowd. I want your advice how to act in reſpect to Miſs Blyden, in caſe I go to London. I have met her at races, and ſuch country affairs ſeveral times, and we have always converſed together, now ought I to take any notice of her on going to town. I muſt confeſs myſelf very ambitious of contracting an acquaintance with her, yet would not be too forward, leſt ſhe ſhould think it more for the honour than pleaſure of knowing her that

I ſought it ſo much. My beſt reſpects attends you, who am, with all ſincerity,

Your obedient friend,

ANNA MA. RAINSFORD.

LETTER XLVII.

Continuation of Miſs RAINSFORD *to Miſs* LEWIS.

Bingfield-Park.

My dear Miſs Lewis,

I FREELY pardon you, your excuſes are ſo good and my love ſo great, that you have all my forgiveneſs and all my pity; for you muſt have ſuffered greatly, and poor Miſs Blyden I am ſincerely grieved for; my determination is for London; I ſhall ſet out on Friday; as ſoon as I get there, will ſend to Miſs Blyden, as I doubt not of a polite reception from that amiable lady. I muſt mention ſomething to you in confidence that very greatly concerns me. I beg it may go no farther. A few days ago, young Mr. Evanion, and another young gentleman, paſſed through this town, it was at the time of the races; they ſtaid one day on that account; and I have been credibly in-

 formed,

formed, Mr. Evanion was extremely drunk the whole time, made many ridiculous bets, and loſt a hundred and twenty guineas, and behaved very ill in other reſpects. The gentleman with him expreſſed great concern, and with vaſt perſuaſion got him to bed about three in the morning. Since he has been gone, we hear a rumour, that he has left his uncle in diſpleaſure, and is never to return. I imagine, if this is true, the match with Miſs Blyden muſt be quite off. I find there is many alterations at the Lodge, moſt of the old ſervants diſmiſſed, and the tenants greatly offended at the changes. All the low people give Mr. Blyden a terrible character; but the more ſenſible part of the country eſteem him a man of merit and parts: I therefore conclude it a happy circumſtance to his neice his being here. I beg you will excuſe all the faults and blunders in this epiſtle, as my thoughts are wholly engaged on my London joys, which I depend upon being vaſtly prodigious! as I never was there, all things will be new to me; then one very happy thing is my being juſt come of age, and have received a year's intereſt of my bleſſed godmother's twelve thouſand pound legacy, with all the dear old woman's diamonds. I am determin'd to ſhew away, and go to every public place. I hope to God I ſhall be

thought handſome in London; I know I am reckon'd ſo here; 'tis a folly to diſguiſe myſelf Emma; you have all I think juſt as it comes; don't expoſe me, and let me very ſoon be aſſured that you will ſtill love her, who, while ſhe treads this earthly globe, will always be

your moſt affectionate

ANNA MARIA RAINSFORD.

LETTER XLVIII.

Continuation of Miſs RAINSFORD *to Miſs* LEWIS.

St. James's-ſtreet.

My dear Emma,

I HAVE been four days in London, and am not much pleaſed; for my aunt is really a mighty grave kind of a gentlewoman, and without I can ſome way or other bruſh up ſome ſprightly acquaintance, I fear all my afternoons muſt be ſpent at the corner of a ſtupid card-table. The day after my arrival, I had the pleaſure of the politeſt card I ever ſaw from Miſs Blyden; and the next morning ſhe honoured me with a viſit, and has engaged me to

to dine with her to-morrow. All this highly delights me; but I was very ſorry to ſee, as you will to hear, that poor Miſs Blyden has loſt all her vivacity, notwithſtanding which, ſhe ſtill remains handſome, tho' very pale and thin. I find ſhe ſeldom goes into public, when ſhe does, it is to court, where ſhe is taken great notice of by many people of quality. I have ſpent all my mornings vaſtly to my ſatiſfaction, in equipping myſelf with cloaths of all ſorts. The full-dreſs'd ſuits are a dark blue, flower'd with ſilver and colours; a yellow, flower'd with ſilver; a roſe-colour'd ſattin, trimm'd with ſilver, and a white and ſilver with a little purple. My ſecond dreſſes are, a flower'd luteſtring, a pink damaſk, and a blue and white tiſſue: theſe things, with what I had before, I hope will make me taring fine. I forgot to tell you, I've laid out a hundred pounds in lace; but what will all this ſignify, if I may not go abroad to ſhew them? I was this morning promiſed vaſt indulgences while in London; two or three plays, to go to court, and to ſee the lions and the wax-work; it made me horrid croſs, but luckily for me, the old lady did not ſee it. I am this moment a princeſs in happineſs; for my goddeſs of a mantua-woman has kept her word, and brought home the white and ſilver, which I ſhall deck

myſelf

myſelf in to-morrow to wait on Miſs Blyden; a good angel! to take ſo much notice of me; it is very lucky; for I have no chance of a companion out of my aunt's acquaintance, as her woman informs me ſhe viſits only three and twenty people; and they generally treat her with a pool of quadrille (which ſhe loves as her eyes) they meet at five, and part at eight; we then come home, eat a tart, and a piece of Glouceſterſhire cheeſe toaſted, or cold; which you like beſt, drink a glaſs of dry mountain, ſay our prayers, and to bed at ten. In the morning we riſe at eight, pray heartily, and breakfaſt at nine upon weak tea, made worſe with ſkim-milk (call'd here thin cream) and uſed for the wholeſomes. We have always a noble joint of meat for dinner, the remainder of which is given away at night: at each meal I have a lecture on the unwholeſomeneſs of country luxury; all things ſo different to what I have left! but I'll ſoon pleaſe myſelf, or I am much miſtaken. I have hired a very elegant chariot, and a pair of bays by the month, as long as I ſtay in town; for my aunt's is an old cathedral vehicle, with an old coachman and purblind horſes, that we can't go faſter than an old woman with a corn upon every toe. I have a very ſmart footman already come, ſhall put him in my father's livery,

very, as he may perhaps be of his family; but I pray moſt ardently, that Anna Maria Rainsford may never ſee Bingfield-Park any more; it will be very hard, wo'nt it, Emma, if I don't get a huſband with my fortune, and not an ugly face, let me tell you? The moment my new equipage comes home, I'll fly about the town, if I go by myſelf; but I have a ſcheme for company; for at chapel yeſterday, ſome ſmart girls ſat in the ſame pew with me, it ſeems it is their place; next Sunday I'll invite them to come to ſee me; they live juſt oppoſite to us, and have a handſome brother, that delights me. It's a fine warm morning, and my aunt ſends to invite me to walk in the Park with her; old cats, you know, love to ſun themſelves; but we muſt firſt to chapel; well, I'll humour the tabby, that ſhe in my turn may humour me; for if poſſible, I'll keep her in good temper, leſt I ſhould be order'd into the country for high rebellion againſt an aunt; and though I have an independant fortune, I ſhould not chuſe to act in open defiance, without an abſolute neceſſity. Farewell, I hear old crazy come lumber, lumber to the door, like a funeral hearſe. Compliments to good Miſs Wellers, and tell her

I know

I know Anthony Courtly very well, and hear of all his motions.

Yours,

ANNA MARIA RAINSFORD.

LETTER XLIX.

Continuation of Miſs RAINSFORD *to Miſs* LEWIS.

St. James's-ſtreet.

Dear Emma,

YOU will now have a very ſtupid epiſtle from me, for I am very dull, tho' at the ſame time have much reaſon to be pleaſed; and ſo am both happy and unhappy. I do aſſure you, I greatly fear I ſhall make you vaſtly uneaſy: I went this day (for I can't ſleep till I tell you) to dine with Miſs Blyden; I thought the ſervant who let me in look'd melancholy, and confuſed: he ſhewed me into a dining room, where I ſat above a quarter of an hour without ſeeing any body; then came in a moſt agreeable man, (I muſt obſerve that) with only one imperfection, that I could ſee about him; and that is a ſmall claret mark on one cheek: he addreſs'd me with a very dejected voice and

and countenance, made apology for Miſs Blyden and his mother (who, I found was Miſs's aunt) their not appearing, his couſin, as he call'd her, being extremely ill, and not juſt then able to come to me; I immediately deſir'd leave to return home, and wait on her again at a more convenient time; but he begg'd I would ſtay, ſaying, It was quite neceſſary, and that he would give me his reaſons why it was ſo: he began, That I could be no ſtranger to the match concluded on between Miſs Blyden and Mr. Evanion; and that the world judg'd it muſt prove very happy, as it had been a paſſion of long ſtanding; and began without any intereſted views of either ſide, at a time, when neither of them was old enough to have any ſuch conſideration, and continued after noble and rich alliances were offer'd to both: that they were eſteem'd perſons of great and equal merit and ſenſe: How happy was then the proſpect! continued he; and how ſhocking it muſt be to every one that hears, Mr. Evanion has ſuddenly taken to drinking, and every other vice in conſequence of that! this we perceived in a few days after my couſin left the country: we ſuſpected him about a month before that, but then it came on with great rapidity! how to acquaint Miſs Blyden with

with this unhappy change was our greateſt diſtreſs, and it was indiſpenſible her knowing it! but our contrivances were ſoon ſtopt by his reſolution to viſit her; the regard his merit had attracted from me ſtill remain'd, that with my reſpectful affection to Miſs Blyden, induced me to accompany him to London; and infinitely I ſuffer'd in that attendance, as ſhe loiter'd on the road, going many miles out of the way, to any place where was a cock-match, fair, or bull-bating, behaving all the time like a diſſolute reprobate! much to my ſhame and confuſion! we arrived in town but laſt night: I with difficulty kept him from Miſs Blyden; and left him, as I thought, ſafe in bed this morning, while I waited on her, to endeavour at breaking it to her; but before I could ſum up ſufficient reſolution, he broke in upon us, with all the rage of a mad man! I can ſay no more on this head; you may more eaſily imagine, than I can deſcribe our confuſion! I got him away about two hours ago; the time ſince, has been employ'd in comforting my dear Couſin: and we have perſuaded her to ſee company, and go out in moderation, from this moment, as that will be moſt likely to carry off her affliction: ſhe takes our advice, and will wait on you preſently; ſhe

ſhe deſires her diſcompoſure may paſs for illneſs, and intends playing a game at whiſt in the afternoon, with you and two or three other friends, who ſhe has appointed to meet here. I aſk'd him, If he could aſſign any reaſon for this unfortunate change in Mr. Evanion? he ſaid, It was his opinion, that that damnable Burman was the whole cauſe, by ſetting him at variance with his uncle! and then the ſettlement turn'd out bad, which hurt him exceſſively, fearing, it might be thought, he knew it, and kept it ſecret to cheat Miſs Blyden; theſe conjoin'd, I fear, hurried him to the vice of drinking, which together has, I fear, a little touch'd his brain. He was proceeding in theſe melancholy reflections, when Miſs Blyden enter'd the room; ſhe received me with the utmoſt politeneſs, notwithſtanding her trouble ſat heavy on her countenance; in her face was expreſs'd the height of diſtreſs, and great reſignation. In the afternoon came in two ſprightly girls, and a handſome man, (upon my life he was) they were Sir John Hale's daughters and Captain Bryerton. Miſs Blyden obligingly deſir'd to introduce me to their acquaintance; which they moſt complaiſantly receiv'd, and promiſed me the honour of a viſit on Friday; and engaged me in

in their party for the play to morrow, and to court on Sunday; how lucky is this for me! they are girls of ſpirit, and, I am certain, we ſhall be excellent companions. Egad! that Bryerton's a charming fellow! he runs much in my head. Miſs Blyden deſires I will viſit her often; and, really, it would give me pleaſure to oblige her, but ſhe dejects me ſo much. Compliments, as due from,

Dear Miſs LEWIS'S

obedient humble Servant,

ANNA MARIA RAINSFORD.

LETTER L.

Miſs BLYDEN *to Miſs* LEWIS.

Groſvenor-ſtreet.

I THANK my dear Miſs Lewis for her kind letter: can ſhe pardon my not anſwering it as ſoon as ſuch an obliging favour deſerved? but I have had a great deal to employ my thoughts, and am at this time very incapable of writing, my mind is ſo diſorder'd. I hope you have heard of my misfortunes, as I cannot

not attempt to relate them without ruffling myſelf more than I can bear, and that I know would add to your concern, which I am ſenſible is already very great, if you are acquainted with my troubles; however, I will write, concluding, you know as much as I do: my aunt is very indulging to me, and Mr. Clavering moſt extremely kind, quite the tenderneſs of an affectionate brother in every particular: he adviſes me not to give way to immoderate grief, but ſee a little company, and go out ſometimes, but not too much of either; he makes me play at cards now and then, and is teaching me backgammon, always ſtudying to employ my thoughts without hurrying my ſpirits. I wiſh it was more in my power to entertain Miſs Rainsford, but ſhe is too lively for me now; but I have introduced her to ſome young acquaintance, becauſe, I know Mrs. Burton, is a very grave, retired woman, for ſuch a gay girl. How ſhock'd my kind uncle will be to hear of my affliction! but I learn, he knew it before I did. What a providence it was for me his coming hither; or, I ſhould, Oh! dreadful to think of, been married! before this unhappy, this terrible change had happen'd. What, or who, in this world can we depend on? My dear Emma,

I hope, I pray, you are ſtill the ſame? You an't chang'd, I hope? however, I am happy now; for I can never again be ſurpriz'd, ſhock'd, or frighted. I ſhall never more go to the Lodge, nor into any part of that country nor the next, nor the next to that; I never will leave the houſe I am now in. I muſt not write any more at preſent, I find myſelf fatigued; and Mr. Clavering thinks I have wrote too long. My beſt compliments to Mrs. and Miſs Wellers, and all my love to you. I am,

Your obliged,

LOUISA BLYDEN.

LETTER LI.

Miſs RAINSFORD *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLERS.

St. James's-ſtreet.

My dear Emma,

NOW I am alive, and in high ſpirits, my chariot, my men, and all my fine cloaths, are come home; my acquaintance vaſtly increaſed; and I have been at court, at plays, and at operas, every morning in the Park

Park, and all things go clever. I was introduced to the royal family; the prince talked prodigiouſly to me. I like plays better than operas; but as the latter is reckoned genteeleſt, I go moſt to them. I am more and more charm'd with Bryerton; we are always together, but I cannot learn what fortune he has, that I ſhould like to know. My aunt ſeems to take my flying about very patiently, only obſerves, ſhe is glad I don't live always at London, and let's me know ſhe ſhall go early into the country this ſpring; ſo I muſt make the better uſe of my time: I think I have broke off the evening prayers, as I make it a rule never to be at home at that time; for the morning devotions I march down decently and orderly enough, as I cannot well refuſe it; and as I am an early riſer, it is not much amiſs; for really one ſhould pray a little, but I cannot love ſo much of it. There is going to be three grand ſubſcription balls; I hope I ſhall get tickets; if I don't, how will I abuſe Bryerton and Clavering; egad, I'll ſwear at them; now don't frown and look croſs, Emma, becauſe I rattle; for rattle I will as long as I live; and do no more harm when I've done, than your prim prudiſh ladyſhip, who, I'll be hang'd elſe, loves Harwood better than I do any man upon earth. I know

know you'll be angry if I ſend this letter without mentioning Miſs Blyden; and I can ſay nothing of her but what muſt give you pain; for ſhe is an object of diſtreſs and melancholy; but as I have ſo lately been thinking of love, cannot help obſerving how ſweet ſhe looks on her couſin, and how often ſhe calls on his name; and I think he perfectly idolizes her; I never ſaw ſo much admiration; I almoſt envy her, for he is really a charming fellow. I was vaſtly ſurpriſed yeſterday at Miſs Blyden's, to find him and his mother in deep mourning; I learn it is for his wife, who died in Ireland about two months ſince, and they have juſt heard it. Poor Evanion has now acted his laſt ſcene in England: three days ſince he headed ſome rioters in pulling down a houſe of ill fame; he narrowly eſcaped being taken; but Mr. Clavering gave him a thouſand pounds, contrived his eſcape, and begg'd him to go to ſome very remote place, and in about a twelvemonth's time, write to him by a feign'd name; they thought Miſs Blyden would have died when ſhe heard this account; ſhe lay in fits for ſeveral hours, and has kept her chamber ever ſince; but I hear ſhe is now rather more compoſed than ſhe has been ſince this misfortune.

But

But away with this melancholy, and let me prepare for the grand ball next Thurſday; there will be fifteen hundred people at it; I wiſh you was to be one of the company, alſo Miſs Wellers, Miſs Courtly, Sir Harry and young Courtly: I hear the 'ſquire reſides at Swinderby, and that the baronet has made you a viſit, ſince which he has made propoſals in form at Woodberry, but rejected on account of circumſtances, he having but three hundred a year beſides his commiſſion; you ſee I know every tittle about you. I am invited to dine with Louiſa to-morrow; will give you account when I come home how ſhe does, which I know will pleaſe you better than all my rattle.

Farewell, Emma, ſays

ANNAMA. RAINSFORD.

LETTER LI.

Continuation of Miſs RAINSFORD *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLERS.

St. James's-ſtreet.

Dear Miſs Lewis,

I ASK pardon for not anſwering your letter much ſooner; but really I have been ſo much engaged lately, you cannot imagine how much; not one half hour to ſpare, but that in the morning for prayers, and having a vaſt deal to ſay, I muſt begin with abuſing you, leſt I ſhould not have time or paper left ſufficient for that purpoſe: you are a ſpiteful little devil to ſay I've no admirers, and a fibbing toad to ſay you have been told ſo; for all that know me, know I have hundreds; but no matter what you think, you country bumkin, quite a milk-maid to me; I find you want to learn who I like moſt; that you never ſhall, Emma, I'll give you my word; not even when I am married; for the man I like beſt will never come to my ſhare; and I ſhall not make myſelf unhappy about that neither, loving grandeur better than I love him; I am determined on the firſt

man who will keep me a ſet of horſes, and all things anſwerable thereto. I have an immenſity to ſay to you, and will not be at home to a prince till this letter is concluded. Since I wrote laſt, I have had a fine ſcolding-bout, and very near being ſent into the country in high diſgrace: the poor lady, God bleſs her! really thinks my virtue in danger! for thinking it neceſſary to ſtay more at home, I muſt needs invite about ſix or eight young ſparks to entertain me, who behaved ſo wild and noiſy, that my aunt vow'd home, ſhe would carry me, the next day, firmly believing thoſe people would hurry me to the devil in a moment; but I with great condeſcenſion, and ſeeming penitence, have got a reprieve, upon promiſing to go out but four times a week, and only where ſhe chuſes; it will be eaſy to cheat her, you know. The day after I wrote to you, I dined with Miſs Blyden, and in the evening, Mrs. Blyden, I, and an old captain Grant, went to the play; we ſat in the Green Boxes; for Mrs. Blyden is ſo low ſpirited, ſhe can't bear to dreſs; ſeldom appears at all in public, or comes down to any but particular people at home. I was horrid mad to go without a young fellow, and Clavering ſtaid to keep his couſin company till we returned: however, I chatted the time away

merrily enough with two or three beaux, while Mrs. Blyden wetted as many handkerchiefs; for it was a very deep tragedy. Within this last month my Lord D—— has whispered love in my ear; so may a dozen, you'll say; but to speak plain and boldly, as you are my friend, it was marriage he talk'd of; he has a very large estate, and is tolerably handsome; however, I prefer'd my other admirer Bryerton much before him; therefore kept my Lord D—— in play, in hopes of Bryerton's declaring himself; and Thursday's ball fix'd me. I'll tell you how it was; I and Bryerton went in the Edgerly's party; he was as close as my petticoat for two hours; heard me refuse six or seven partners; one of which was Lord D——; and presently a young fellow call'd to him, Frank, do you know Miss Stephenson's here? No, says Frank, is she! upon your life! Yes, says t'other, she is; and he left me like lightening, and in three minutes was dancing with this Stephenson. So homely a pug I never saw; but it seems she has twenty thousand pounds: so much for Bryerton's love my God, how mad I was! I could have kick'd with all my soul; but I'll tell you how I serv'd him; now getting a partner was the difficulty, after refusing so many; but I luckily found Lord D—— pouting in a corner; I went most graciously up to him, and said

ſaid, is your lordſhip engaged with a partner? He anſwer'd ſternly, no madam. I then made a congee, and aſk'd, if he could pardon my ficklenefs; but when he did me the honour to aſk me, I had ſo violent a pain in my ſide, that I thought more of going home than dancing; but it was now ſo much better, that all the happinefs I wiſh'd for was the pleaſure of dancing with him. He ſurlily ſaid, You had, madam, a great Bryerton by your ſide, which the pretty Miſs Stephenſon I ſee has removed; however, I am your ſlave at all times, and led me gruffly to the dancing; where I was all good humour and pleaſantnefs, inſomuch, that he begg'd me to go into the tea-room for a little private chat; I moſt willingly conſented, As we paſs'd, in a ſnug corner, like turtle doves, ſat Bryerton and his girl; I colour'd; in truth, I could have cry'd for madnefs; but conquer'd myſelf, and, with a great flirt, I bruſh'd off the beaſt's wig, and terribly tumbled Stephenſon's hair; Madam, ſays I, I aſk ten thouſand pardons: ſhe look'd ſower, and up flew Bryerton; Madam! with a challenging air, ſays he. Sir, ſays I (burſting with laughter) do you want ſatisfaction, appoint your place, ſword or piſtol, which you pleaſe! He look'd fury itſelf, ſo much, that Lord D— ſeem'd frighten'd, and ſaid, Dear Mr.

Bryerton, an intire accident, upon my honour; but I muſt not ſee the lady affronted, and tell you, Sir, her affronts are mine. Quite compos'd, the Captain reply'd, I mean not to offend Miſs Rainsford; and as ſhe has apologized to Miſs Stephenſon, I have done, and wiſh your lordſhip much happineſs with the lady. We proceeded to the tea-room, and there my Lord again urged his ſuit, and begg'd liberty to wait on my father with propoſals; which I readily granted, and he ſe-out next morning. I am inform'd all things go on ſmoothly, and we expect him back the latter end of the week. Now, Emma, you know as much of my affairs as I do. My aunt is in great ſpirits with the thoughts of this match; he has clear nine thouſand pounds a year; what a glorious ſound! That raſcal Frank Bryerton has not four. I hope Stephenſon will baulk him; that would delight me. I am all impatience for Lord D——'s return; I long to be buying wedding-cloaths; they ſhall be taring fine. I beg, Emma, you'll not trouble me with Jemima's afflictions; Louiſa's are too much for me; I am only made for joy. All my compliments attend you and the family where you are. I am, for a little while longer, your faithful

ANNA MA. RAINSFORD.

LET-

LETTER LIII.

Mr. BLYDEN *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLERS.

Madam,

INCLOS'D, you have a letter from my ſon, whoſe modeſty would not ſuffer him to addreſs you, even in writing, without introduction, and begs me to open his caſe, and plead for him. You ſee, my dear Miſs, the inconvenience of good-nature; for we trouble you with all our difficulties: Mr. Clavering has unhappily taken a ſtrong affection for Miſs Blyden: I call it unhappy, becauſe I ſo much doubt its ſucceſs; and, without your kind aſſiſtance, it muſt remain unknown to my niece; for neither I nor he have courage to mention it; he having but two thouſand pound a year; which is ſo much inferior to her fortune, that the world would condemn me greatly for propoſing it; and if, through your means, this match ſhould be effected, I am certain of general cenſure: however, my conſcience will acquit me of any wrong thing, as my only reaſon for urging this ſuit is, that I know him to be a man of true merit, and intirely calculated to make her happy. All my

desires center in that wish: if she does not approve my son, I wish to know some man she could prefer; for I really think her happiness and my character depends on her marrying, as this late disappointment sets too heavy on her spirits, and the world will think I have interested views in keeping her single; therefore most earnestly intreat you will endeavour to learn who it is she could chuse for a husband; I will engage she shall command the man, whoever it may be.

I am, Madam,

with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient Servant,

ISAAC BLYDEN.

LET-

LETTER LIV.

Mr. CLAVERING *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLERS'*s.*

Bond-ſtreet.

Madam,

CONCLUDING Mr. Blyden has introduced the occaſion of my addreſſing you in this manner, ſhall trouble you only with a few words, after begging ten thouſand pardons for taking the liberty of aſking a favour, which nothing but your exceeding good-nature entitles me to do, and that I hope will induce you to forgive and endeavour to ſerve one, whoſe happineſs, I firmly believe, is only in your power to obtain. Should you be kind enough to undertake my cauſe, and fortunate enough to ſucceed, the whole ſtudy of my life ſhall be to make Miſs Blyden happy; which, I am certain, Miſs Lewis will eſteem the beſt return I can make to her goodneſs. If I prove unſucceſsful, the remainder of a miſerable life ſhall be ſpent in prayers for your happineſs, and for cutting ſhort the days of him, who is, with all reverence,

Your moſt humble,
and obedient Servant,
GEORGE CLAVERING.

LETTER LV.

Miſs BLYDEN *to Miſs* LEWIS, *at Miſs* WELLERS.

My dear Miſs Lewis,

SOME time ago I deſired Miſs Rainsford, (and I hope ſhe did) to inform you, that by the advice of the doctor, and deſire of my aunt and Mr. Clavering, I refrain'd from writing, which we found was too much for my hurried ſpirits. Thank God I am infinitely better than I was, that is, much more compoſed, tho' ſtill very ill in body; but hope I am now well enough to return all the thanks that is due for your obliging and affectionate letter. How kind it was not to dwell on a ſubject, which I find, you are ſenſible fills me with melancholy reflections. On the receipt of your favour, I took the firſt opportunity of telling Mr. Clavering (in the genteeleſt manner I could) that it was my fix'd determination never to marry, but ſpend the ſmall remainder of my days in the happieſt and moſt compoſed manner poſſible; for that my ſpirits were ſo wounded, I never ſhould recover them, and am very ſenſible, my death

is

is much nearer than any body imagines. As to marrying for my uncle's credit, I never ſhall conſent, tho' I would do almoſt any thing elſe to oblige him; but, I am convinced, he is ſo good a man, the world can never cenſure him. I am ſure, there is nobody ſo ſoon as himſelf that I ſhould wiſh to heir my eſtate, after ſome legacies of friendſhip that I intend leaving. Indeed, that I have left for my will, is to be ſigned and ſealed this day.

I ſuppoſe, you know, Miſs Rainsford is going to marry Lord D——; it is a prodigious match for her; I am very glad of it; for ſhe is ſo delighted with the thoughts of all her grandeur, and ſhe is really a good-natur'd obliging creature, and comes and goes juſt as I am diſpoſed: She diverts me very much ſometimes, and ſometimes ſhe is too much for my poor ſpirits; then I ſend her away. I have been conſulted vaſtly about her cloaths; ſhe honours me with a high opinion of my fancy; all things are in prodigious forwardneſs; the wedding will be Thurſday fortnight, I fancy: I am invited, but have not the leaſt thoughts of going; for was my health ſufficient, my ſpirits are much too low for ſuch joyous occaſions. I go no where but to church; and ſometimes Mr. Clavering forces me to air in Hyde-Park. As to my

aunt, ſhe is worſe than me, for going out, or ſeeing company. My uncle preſſes me greatly to return home; but that I never will on any account, it would only be to ſpend my few remaining days in greater miſery. My dear Emma, I beg you will never mention to me any perſon or thing relating to any part of Devonſhire, Woodberry only excepted. Write to me continually, and do not wait letter for letter, as I am ſometimes not able to take a pen in hand for ſeveral days. My beſt regards await yourſelf and Miſs Wellers, and I remain,

Dear Miſs Lewis's

ſincere and affectionate

LOUISA BLYDEN.

LETTER LVI.

Miſs RAINSFORD *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLERS.

Dear Emma,

MY Lord return'd as expected, and all things ſettled to every one's ſatisfaction: and now all neceſſary preparations are in

in ſurprizing forwardneſs, ſo much, that Thurſday ſe'nnight is the appointed day; and believe me, it makes me a little grave: upon my word I'm melancholy; but when all the fine things ruſh into my head, I'm all joy again: but, my dear, as you are my very good friend, I muſt clear up what will otherwiſe make you wonder; which is, how ſo great a wedding could be ſo ſpeedily equipt: it is thus, The very good Lord, who is entering the marriage ſtate with me, was on the brink of it with another lady of great fortune, about four months ago: and was for ſome reaſon (I care not what) broke off; therefore, the ſame fine things (without affront) may ſerve a woman with twelve thouſand, that was intended for a lady with thirty. I am to have the moſt expenſive chariot and ſedan in London; a pair of Flander's mares, and four footmen: my Lord's chariot is a very fine one, with a pair of pye-balds, and two footmen, ſilver laced liveries: my diamonds are remarkably fine, a large pair of ear-rings, hair ſprig, necklace and ſtomacher, compleat; all my own diamonds I ſhall ſend to my ſiſter. I have a large pearl necklace, each bead as big a pea; a moco ſtone watch and equipage, with my Lord's picture ſet in diamonds; an four exceſſive fine rings: now

Now for my cloaths: About ten days ago, my aunt ſent for me into her cloſet; ſhe began with Anna Ma. you are mighty private in all your affairs: I ſuppoſe, you think me an old woman, and not capable of chooſing wedding cloaths? I anſwered, My dear madam, I thought you did not like to be troubled about ſuch trifles. My dear, replied ſhe, I do not think cloaths for this occaſion is a trifle: for, I think, you ought to appear fine; and, I fear, whether your finances will hold out; for you have been very extravagant. I was happy to find her in a good humour; and ſaid, with chearfulneſs, That as I had great variety of new cloaths, I ſhould buy but very little on this occaſion. She immediately went to her cabinet, and after fumbling for ſome time, gave me a parcel of paper, and ſaid, There my dear, is my opinion; now pleaſe yourſelf, and I ſhall be happy. I thank'd her abundantly, imagining, I was to take it as a favour; but knew not what it was, till I made my eſcape up ſtairs, where I found it to be eight hundred in bank notes. Ye gods! how happy I was! I flew to the mercers, and bought a gold ground, flower'd with red, green, and ſilver: a pink tabbey, cover'd with the richeſt point de-ſpan: a white and gold; and a white and ſilver, which

which I am to be married in: I gave one hundred pound for a ſuit of point; have bought two ſuits of Bruſſels, a ſuit of Mechlin; and my wedding night cap and ſhift, contains twenty yards of point, at twenty ſhillings a yard. Of the wedding-day, my Lord, and his mother, are to fetch me and my aunt in the Dowager's coach to the houſe, where we dine with all his Lordſhip's relations; in the evening, we all go to ſupper at my Lord's houſe in Groſvenor Square, and at eleven at night we are to be married; till after which time, you'll hear no more of me, as every day is engag'd in being introduced to his relations, who are all to make their entertainments before the wedding; for the day after we go into the country for a week; then return, and to court, &c. &c. &c.

I am, yours, &c. &c.

ANNAMA. RAINSFORD.

LET-

LETTER LVII.

Miſs BLYDEN *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLERS.

Groſvenor-ſtreet.

My dear Miſs Lewis,

I AM deſired by Miſs Rainsford, to give you the particulars of her marriage, which, I do aſſure you, is rather extraordinary; ſhe ſurprized me, who knew more of it than any body elſe. Intends writing very ſoon herſelf, but did not chooſe to be the firſt meſſenger: I do believe at preſent, ſhe is the happieſt mortal breathing, and I hope, will continue ſo; for her huſband is a very accompliſh'd, and (I think) a worthy good man, tho' not the lord you imagine; for to the amazement of every one, ſhe married Mr. Clavering, my couſin Clavering! laſt Thurſday night at our lodgings, and went home with him about twelve o'clock. You ſhall now know all I do about this odd affair: Laſt Monday morning ſhe was with me before I was up, look'd very melancholy, and hardly ſpoke till after breakfaſt, that the ſervant quitted the room. I took notice of her dullneſs, and aſk'd if there was any particular reaſon:

reaſon: I fear, ſays ſhe, I am going to do a very fooliſh thing; indeed I muſt; for it is too far gone to retract now. I hope, ſays I, you have no reaſon to alter your opinion of Lord D———. She ſaid, Her opinion of him was juſt the ſame, and ſo was her affection; for that ſhe never liked him, but was dazzled with his title and fortune: and now, to her misfortune, found all that was inſufficient to make her happy; and did ſhe marry him, muſt infallibly be miſerable: but thought ſhe never could ſhow her face after uſing him ſo baſely; for that every thing was fixt, and Thurſday was the appointed day. I was ſorry (I ſaid) ſhe had carried things ſo far; but it was uſing him much more honeſtly to put it off, even now, than marrying a man to make him miſerable. But, ſays ſhe, I ſhall be miſerable, a miſerable creature, if I don't marry him. Then, ſaid I, Miſs Rainsford, what can be done, if you muſt be miſerable either way? however, marry not my lord for the univerſe, if you can't love him; for that will be very great folly. Why, ſays ſhe, How croſs and unfortunate it is, that a man ſhould like me, whoſe love I cannot return; and bitterly ſhe ſigh'd, and turn'd pale, I was really frighted. Why, I thought, ſays I, your ſpirits was ſo high, that no-body's mis-

misfortunes much affected you. I was once ſuch a brute, anſwer'd ſhe, and ſigh'd again terribly. I am ſorry to ſee you ſo low, I ſaid, but for heaven's ſake, don't marry Lord D——, you'll ſoon overcome the trouble, I hope. She ſat two hours after this, without ſpeaking three words. I was very ill, and melancholy, and we ſeem'd more ſuitable companions than ever we had been before. At laſt, with a faint and trembling voice, ſhe aſk'd, If I thought Mr. Clavering would ever marry. I anſwer'd, I hoped he would, as I thought him qualified to make an excellent huſband. Is it true, ſays ſhe, that you have refuſed him. Very true, ſays I, for I would not marry a Prince. She then roſe to go; I perſuaded her to ſtay dinner, but ſhe hurried away in great confuſion. On reflecting on what had paſs'd, I thought it appear'd clearly ſhe liked Mr. Clavering: I immediately waited on my aunt, to conſult her how the match might be brought about; ſhe much approved it, and ſent directly for my couſin, as no time could be loſt; for, I plainly ſaw, nothing but the certainty of Mr. Clavering, would induce her to quit my Lord's dazzling grandeur. When my couſin came, I left mother and ſon to conſult proper meaſures, and retired to my room; my

aunt

aunt came to me preſently, and after ſome neceſſary compliments on the occaſion, ſaid, Mr. Clavering approved of it ſo much, that he had ſent for liberty to wait on her at any hour moſt agreeable to her: before we had done ſpeaking an anſwer came, deſiring he would come immediately, as ſhe was engag'd all that afternoon, and ſeveral days to come: it was juſt our dinner-time; but I perſuaded him to faſt for once, as I well knew Lord D—— would be with her before five; about which time, Mr. Clavering return'd, and inform'd us all was ſettled. I directly ſent to invite her to breakfaſt with me next morning, agreeable to which ſhe very obligingly came: a countenance ſo full of joy and ſhame I never ſaw; ſhe thank'd me abundantly. I then enquired, what ſhe had done in reſpect to Lord D——; ſhe ſaid, Nothing yet; ſhe really wanted reſolution. I hinted, that Thurſday drew very near. She would have put the diſagreeable office upon me; but, I begg'd to be excus'd. She left me, vaſtly embarraſſed with her two lovers; but I did not greatly pity her, knowing ſhe had ſpirits ſufficient for any undertaking. On Wedneſday night, Mr. Clavering deſir'd I would invite her to ſpend the next day with me, as it muſt be an aukward one to her; that being

ing the day fixt for the wedding. I directly ſent; ſhe came to us pretty early, dreſt in her bridal ſuit of white and ſilver, and all things ſuitable to it. She ſaw I was ſurpriz'd, and merrily ſaid, This is in honour of my wedding-day. I knew her to be ſo odd a girl, that I haſtily ſaid, I hope you have not married Lord D—— this morning? No, thank God, ſhe anſwer'd with a moſt joyous counteance, I unmarried him yeſterday: how to do it, puzzled me exceedingly: at laſt, I thought the genteeleſt way was to wait on him; or to ſay the truth, I fear'd he might fly in a paſſion, and my aunt might hear him. Why, have you not told Mrs. Burton of it, ſaid I? O! my God, ſays ſhe, I can't have the face to tell any body! About five minutes before dinner, in came Mr. Clavering, as fine as a Prince, quite out of mourning. I ſtared at him, and he coloured exceſſively. After we had dined, he deſired to ſpeak with me in the dining room; we went up ſtairs, where he begg'd, I would give him and Miſs Rainsford leave to be married at my houſe that evening. With all my heart, I ſaid, but was ſurprized at it's being ſo ſoon. He urg'd, that it would ſave a great deal of trouble and confuſion; for, that one wonder would now ſerve for her not marrying Lord D——,

D—, and marrying him: and ſhould her friends know any thing of it, they would moſt probably interfere in favour of his Lordſhip: and all things being maturely conſider'd, they judg'd it quite right to do it thus ſuddenly. Very maturely conſider'd, indeed, thought I, to put off one match, and conclude another in three days! but I had no objection, if they had none; ſo down to the parlour we went. My aunt was next inform'd, and all points ſettled. I was concern'd their wedding entertainment was only a family dinner; but endeavour'd to make amends at ſupper, by ordering the houſekeeper to do all in her power upon ſo ſhort notice. About five o'clock, Captain Bland dropt in, by appointment, I ſuppoſe, for father in the ceremony. At ſix came the clergyman; we drank tea, and married my friends about eight: after which, I deſired, they would ſend a handſome meſſage to Mrs. Burton; they inſtantly did, deſiring permiſſion to pay their duty that night, or the next morning. Her anſwer was, Not to dare to attempt ſeeing her face as long as they lived. This made the bride look grave; but ſhe ſoon recovered her ſpirits. As I thought this would make a prodigious noiſe in town, I adviſed their taking a trip to Paris, till it was blown

 over;

over: but Mr. Clavering ſaid, His affairs would not permit. I then begg'd them, to go down to the Lodge, and viſit my uncle; for, I thought, ſhe could not with any decency appear in publick. This they agreed to, and ſet out about twelve the next day: I breakfaſted with them, when ſhe deſired me to give you an account of this affair, in confidence of your ſecrecy. I promiſed writing to you as ſoon as ſhe arrived at the Lodge. I am fatigued with the enormous length of this letter; and beg, you'll excuſe all ceremony, from,

Your affectionate,

LOUISA BLYDEN.

LETTER LVIII.

Mrs. CLAVERING *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLERS.

Blyden-Lodge.

Dear Emma,

CONCLUDING you know all things relating to my wedding, I ſhall write, as if I had been married theſe twenty years: I wiſh to God, that you and Wellers, and all you girls

girls was married: thank Heaven, I am, and to a man, that I love and like; and one, who loves grandeur and riot, as well as I do myſelf. The night before I ſet out (I won't ſay the night I was married for the world) we ſupp'd with Miſs Blyden, and had the moſt elegant entertainment I ever ſaw. I can't help loving that fooliſh little toad, tho' ſhe has vowed eternal lamentation and weeping for her love. Do you know, I travelled all Friday night, becauſe I would not paſs by Bingfield by day-light, for fear of ſeeing my Father, who, I know, will never forgive me. We dined at the Lodge a Saturday, where Mr. Blyden received us with the greateſt affection and politeneſs. I live here like a Princeſs, in grandeur, and much happier, I dare believe: How can Miſs Blyden be ſo ſilly, to forſake this charming place? my Father intends to perſuade her to go to Bath: I hope, ſhe will; if ſhe does, I'll meet her there, that is, if Clavering will let me; for he is confounded whimſical: but old Dad Blyden always takes my part; ſo hope, I ſhall manage him. He wants me to go to Ireland; but I won't; Egad! I won't: I am in tip-top ſpirits, with the thoughts of three aſſemblies we are going to have; where, I hope, to ſee Sir Harry. I hear his regiment

is

is going from this part of the country; ſhall hope, Mrs. Lewis will ſend for you home, when he is gone; for company is all I want at preſent: I ſhall viſit you moſt violently, when I get you here. Old Evanion is extremely ill; 'tis thought he'll die ſoon: he has never recovered the loſs of his nephew. I am rejoiced, he found out Burman's wickedneſs, who, is not only turned out of his place, but drove out of the country: and Mr. Blyden has undertaken to get his eſtate in order: it's amazing, how much he has done to both the eſtates; and what good he does in the country, tho' none of the tenants love him. Mr. Evanion is not eaſy a moment without Mr. Blyden; and, really, the melancholy ſcene overcomes him; it is too much for his ſpirits: I wiſh he was better, or dead; for, I hate all theſe dulneſſes. However, Clavering and I gallop about, and viſit the neighbours: we ſhall very ſoon beat up their quarters at Woodberry, and put your old women in a fuſs: Egad! I'll plague them finely about Harwood; we expect him here every moment, he is to dine with us to day. I muſt dreſs for dinner; therefore, can add nothing more, than mine and Clavering's compliments to you and your friends. Write me much about Wellers and young Courtly, but

but ſay nothing of the melancholies: Pray does that girl Wellers, yet know ſhe's over head and ears in love with Courtly? I am,

Your moſt obedient,

ANNAMA. CLAVERING.

P. S. Sir Harry's juſt left us, and I have ſomething to tell you will make your heart leap, and your very ears glow. He beg'd me to prevail on you to keep yourſelf diſengaged to-morrow ſe'nnight, for he ſhould certainly ſpend that day at Swinderby; and I can aſſure you the journey is purpoſely to ſee you. Poor girls, how I pity ye, ye Courtly's ye Lewis's, ye Wellers's, and all the languiſhing tribe: had ye half my reſolution and ſpirits, you would be as mad and as gay as myſelf. Once more, I ſay adieu, and once more, write the dearly beloved name of,

Your moſt devoted,

ANNAMA. CLAVERING.

LETTER LIX.

Miſs BLYDEN *to Miſs* LEWIS *at Miſs* WELLERS'*s*.

Groſvenor-ſtreet.

Dear Miſs Lewis,

I HOPE, long before this, Mrs. Clavering has perform'd her promiſe, and wrote to you. I find my uncle likes her extremely, and is much pleaſed with the match. Both he and my Couſin have offer'd to wait on Mr. Rainsford, but he will not on any terms hear of a reconciliation. She is a good-natured engaging creature, but ſo wild and mad headed: She is a lucky girl to have fallen into a family of honour, and to have met with a man of fortune. My uncle urges ſo kindly my going to Bath, that I cannot poſſibly refuſe it, tho' I am certain, neither waters nor medicines can be of any ſervice to me; yet to oblige my friends, I have ſuffered a phyſician to attend me for ſeveral weeks, but my aunt is now ſo far of my opinion, that ſhe preſſes it no more, and has agreed to my diſcharging him. My uncle has got a friend to take me a houſe at Bath; for my ſpirits would not bear a lodging, as

as I do not intend ever appearing in public. All our ſervants, except my aunt's woman and chambermaid, and two footmen, ſet out tomorrow ſe'nnight, and we ſet out two days after. I ſhall invite Mrs. Clavering to come to me, as I know ſhe will be in her element at ſuch a gay place. I ſhall then recommend him to think of ſettling in ſome place, for poſſibly they may neither of them think of a houſe, till their family is juſt on the point of increaſing, nor then neither perhaps, for they are a very inconſiderate couple. Next poſt I purpoſe writing, to beg Mrs. Lewis will give you leave to come to me at the Bath, truſting it will not be diſagreeable to you. I greatly fear her denial, for my uncle's letter this morning informed me, he had been at Woodberry, and found your mother ſending the chariot and old governeſs, to fetch you home without any notice. She being extremely uneaſy at Sir Harry Harwood's abſence, who ſhe heard was gone into Cambridgeſhire, near Mrs. Wellers's; and that the regiment was very ſoon to go quite away, and no body knew where: I hope her fears are unneceſſary, becauſe he is rather too expenſive a man, though not addicted to any vice; and actually has but two hundred a year beſides his commiſſion. A poor baronet Emma, is a

very bad thing; then what is ſtill worſe I think, is, Mrs. Lewis's unreaſonable diſlike to him: and your being her only child, muſt make it an unhappy match to all parties. I ſhall ſend this letter to Swinderby, as I know Miſs Wellers will ſend it you if you ſhould be gone, which I fear muſt be the caſe. My beſt affections attend you. And I ſubſcribe,

My dear Miſs LEWIS'S

moſt obliged and obedient,

LOUISA BLYDEN.

LETTER LX.

Mrs. CLAVERING *to Miſs* LEWIS, *at Miſs* WELLERS'S.

I HAVE ten thouſand things to ſay to my dear Miſs Lewis, what ſhall I begin with? Oh! old Evanion is dead, he died yeſterday morning, and has left Mr. Blyden all his eſtate: he delivered his will in preſence of ſome of the moſt material of his neighbours, declaring himſelf thoroughly ſatisfied with the diſpoſal of his fortune, therefore it can't be diſputed. We had three aſſemblies laſt week, I wore my fineſt ſuit,

and

and immenſely fine I look'd; I danced each night with the Duke of K——, and began the balls with him. He's a charming man, has been ever ſince with us at the lodge, went away this morning; he has engaged me to dance with him next aſſemblies, for he has ſettled to have three every month. When I was dreſs'd, egad, I long'd for Lord D—'s Diamonds, how mad I was to part with them, after having tried them on, pranced about the room, and looked myſelf a thouſand times in the glaſs. By gad I look'd charmingly; however I have got a charmer in their room, but a very devil, my dear, to manage. He is as obſtinate as a hog, we have many a bruſh, but I'll never give up my humour to any man upon earth; I married him to pleaſe myſelf, and I'll manage him for the ſame reaſon, by my bonnet I will. Lord bleſs me! now I think of it I hear you are coming, or come home; however I'll ſend this letter to the Abbey, and let them pack it back again if you are gone. I learn the Woodberry old dame ſends for you home, for fear of Harry, why don't you cure her fears and the world's curioſity, by marrying the man, nothing like it? Emma, marry him, take my advice and you'll thank me. How mad the noble tribe of Bingfield park will be to hear of my fine cloaths, my

charmer Clavering, and the honours I received at the balls. Now I'll tell you ſomething I have contrived; all muſt allow my couſin Louiſa has money enough; then why ſhould not my good father in law Blyden leave us old Evanion's eſtate, and let us live there, while he lives? that I ſhould like prodigiouſly. I ſhall fly to Woodberry, and rattle your old woman the moment I hear you are come home. I hunt three mornings a week; Clavering has bought me a very fine horſe; well he is a good creature, that's true; but not the obedient ſlave he was to Miſs Blyden; there is ſomething vaſtly unaccountable in that girl! for though ſhe is good-natur'd, affable, and not exquiſitely handſome, yet every body ſtands in awe of her! her uncle is vaſtly unhappy about her health; he thinks her in a dangerous way; now I don't. I do think ſhe is more humourſome than ſick; I would lay my life ſhe'll marry, though every body believes ſhe wont; only think of me when you hear ſhe's as gay as a bird at Bath; for its impoſſible ſhe can grieve much longer for one man. The ſweet creature has invited me to Bath; how kind it is, egad I'll go and rout her about, and myſelf to, I'll enjoy the place I am determin'd; for as I have made my fortune, I don't value my behaviour; I'll laugh

with

with the young men, laugh at the old ones, and despise all prudes. I know mother Lewis won't give you leave to go: but now, my dear little angel, for once take my advice, marry Harwood, and keep your wedding with us at Bath; nothing so high as to surprise people with a sudden marriage. I conclude,

Dear Miss LEWIS's

most affectionate,

ANNAMA. CLAVERING.

LETTER LXI.

Miss LEWIS *to Miss* WELLERS.

Woodberry.

Dear Miss Wellers,

I KNOW you hate repetitions, therefore will not trouble good Mrs. Wellers or you with any more thanks for the innumerable favours conferr'd on me at Swinderby. I got home yesterday to dinner, and was joyfully received, till they held a private conference with madam Swaffam, and then all was turn'd sour; for that old lady and I quarrel'd the whole journey: she has really told stories to

my mother and aunt, moſt abominable ones. I'll tell you all about it: The morning I left the abbey, while I was dreſſing, ſhe ſaid ſhe muſt ſearch my pockets, and accordingly made ſuch an attempt; I was in a great paſſion, and gave her a violent puſh, which I believe ſprain'd her ancle, and was very near throwing her down; now, ſhe ſays, I box'd her ears twenty times, and beat her with the bellows; upon my word I never thought of any ſuch thing: then at night the coachman drove to a wrong inn, ſhe call'd to him to go right, but the more ſhe call'd the faſter he drove, till we got to Sir Harry Harwood's quarters: and ſhe tells at home, that as ſhe bid the man drive to the ſtar, out at one window, I bid him out of the other, drive to the crown. I really did not know what inn Sir Harry was quartered at. The next misfortune was, my treading on her gown as ſhe was alighting, and down ſhe roll'd, hurt herſelf dreadfully, and was carried directly to bed. I ſent for a ſurgeon and a nurſe, and thought I behaved very well, but becauſe I did not ſit in the room with her, ſhe ſaid I purpoſely flung her out of the chariot, and ſat up all night with Sir Harry. I muſt confeſs ſhe was ſo croſs, that I ſaw very little of her, till we ſat out again; we

we were obliged on her account to ſtay a day and a half at the inn: ſhe groan'd and call'd me her murderer all the way home, but was well enough to lock me up the next night: to convince her, ſhe ſhould not confine me, I took the lock off in leſs than ten minutes, that cured her of locking all the reſt of the way; and we grumbled, groan'd and quarrel'd home, without any material adventure. The old woman's lies put my mother and aunt in ſuch a paſſion, that I don't know what would have been the conſequence, if luckily good Lady Hetchmore and Sir Hugh had not come in this morning; the young gentleman was quite in my party; but the kind and conſiderate interpoſition of the old lady, quite reconciled us, on my promiſing not to deſire to go any where, but to Lady Hetchmore's; which I readily did, as we have no other neighbours I much care for. This privilege I ſhould not have had, but my Lady inſiſted on my going to her houſe, and any where ſhe choſe to take me. I hope you will write to me very frequently, for my ſpirits want ſupport. This moment I have a meſſage from Mrs. Clavering, ſhe comes to me tomorrow, I ſhall be merry then I am certain, for ſhe is a droll creature, I believe you know

it. Be assured, my dear Fanny, that I am, faithfully yours,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LETTER LXII.

Miss LEWIS *to Miss* WELLERS.

Woodberry.

Dear Miss Wellers,

YOU must have heard of my misfortune; the whole world must know the loss I have sustained! surely I now am miserable, never to be happy more! She's dead! my Louisa's dead! but how no creature knows! for the morning, the unhappy morning they were to set out for Bath, she was found lifeless in her bed! You, I know, will sympathize in my grief: Can my loss ever be repaired? so kind! so sensible a friend and neighbour! so good to all the world! This is indeed a country of tears; poor Mr. Blyden is inconsolable, and Mr. Clavering in the utmost concern; they set out yesterday for London, and Mrs. Clavering has flown to me, quite in despair! her grief knows no moderation! she is like a mad woman, and almost distracts me, who want no addition to my trouble. The poor

ſervants that were going to Bath, are come home in the greateſt affliction, and are much troubled that Mr. Blyden's gentleman would not let them return to ſee the remains of their dear Lady; and Mr. Blyden, (who is kind to every body) is ſo concern'd they were not permitted to go back, that he has given them leave to return and attend her corpſe down; which is vaſt ſatisfaction to the poor creatures. All theſe little particulars Mrs. Clavering will tell me, and I am too well pleaſed with indulging my ſorrow to prevent her, and the ſame reaſon makes me tranſmit it to you. My dear Fanny, I never ſhall recover this ſtroke? it is a blow ſo ſevere! but why ſhould I be ſo wicked to repine? why do I upbraid the Almighty by my unreaſonable grief? Why ſhould I wiſh to ſnatch from heaven a ſaint, who has ſo long been prepared for thoſe bliſsful regions? one whoſe afflictions had worn out a declined frame, much too tender for this turbulent world. One who had been tried in a ſea of adverſity, and ſubmitted to the divine will, with a truly chriſtian ſpirit! and yet I would contend with God, and ſnatch her from him! Would bring this glorified angel, back to her frail mortality and woes. Oh! my Louiſa, how wicked I am! how barbarous I

would be to you, my beſt and tendereſt friend! Can you be ſenſible of my folly, and regard me with a pitying eye? Oh! that you might be permitted to be my guardian angel: How carefully ſhould I be attended. Oh! my Louiſa thou bleſſed ſpirit! thou happy angel! protect me from every ſtep of wickedneſs; lead me through the paths that thou haſt trodden, that I may follow thee: Oh! guard me through the day, and guide my ſleeping fancy to dream of thee! My dear Miſs Wellers I never knew ſorrow till this, nor ever can be ſenſible of any greater. Oh! ſend me ſome comfort; but it is impoſſible; you cannot reſtore my Louiſa, ſhe is gone for ever, and with her all my earthly happineſs! How terrible is death! and how little thought of, till he viſits us? I knew the infirm ſtate of Louiſa's health, but never dreamt of death's invading ſo ſweet a form; but what is beauty? what is merit? what are riches? they cannot ſave us from the grave, or Louiſa had not died; but could her worth have been rewarded in this life? Oh! no, to make her truly happy, all behind is truly miſerable. I muſt ſubmit, it is the will of heaven, and the only reward of her great patience and ſufferings. I will trouble you no longer with my melancholy

melancholy thoughts, which are the ſame over and over again; but I have no other friend to ſympathize with me, and take me in every humour, as I know your good nature always does: With that comfortable dependence, I ſubſcribe,

Your obliged humble Servant,

and affectionate friend,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LETTER LXIII.

Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

My dear Fanny,

THE happieſt moments I know are when I am writing to you, and my only comfort communicating my ſorrows; therefore I hope you will give me leave to relate the laſt doleful ſcene of my dear Miſs Blyden: The honours paid her remains, quite overcome me with pleaſing melancholy; all her houſhold went to London to attend the corpſe, and that good Mr. and Mrs. Blyden, and Mr. Clavering attended alſo; ſhe lay in ſtate at

at London two days, then ſet out with twelve coaches and ſix, in the greateſt funeral pomp that is poſſible; two clergymen firſt, then the hearſe, a ſtate coach, Mr. and Mrs. Blyden the next, after them Mr. Clavering and a Couſin of Miſs Blyden's, who is heir after her uncle; all the reſt fill'd with ſervants; and fifty horſemen; ſhe lay in ſtate three nights at the lodge before her interment, the whole houſe was open, and hung with mourning, the family being at Evanion mount: The Blyden eſtate has ſeveral hundred tenants, the chief of which met their Lady 20 miles from the lodge; a more magnificent funeral never was known, except for a prince; nor ever any creature ſo much lamented and with ſo much reaſon. Her ears were ever open to the complaints of the diſtreſſed, and her heart and purſe to their relief. I ſuppoſe you have heard ſhe has left Miſs Jemima Courtly, five hundred pounds, only from hearing me ſay how worthy ſhe was, and how cruelly treatly by her relations: She has alſo been ſo kind as to leave me the ſame ſum, and two guineas a piece to all her tenants, five to her lower ſervants, ten to the upper ones, and fifty to her own maid, and Anthony Plain, who I fear was a villain, though ſhe could never believe it. Mrs. Clavering goes home

home to-morrow, but is ſo kind to promiſe me frequent viſits. How I ſhall ſupport my ſpirits when ſhe is gone, diſtreſſes me, as I have not one creature to ſpeak to, except my mother and aunt: Indeed Fanny I am a miſerable wretch; can't you come to me? You never can do a higher act of charity and compaſſion; but I know its impoſſible, therefore will not flatter myſelf with falſe hopes. I muſt obey a diſagreeable ſummons to dinner, and, contrary to my inclinations, take leave of my dear Miſs Wellers, who I hope will believe me to be her

Very obedient,

and affectionate Friend,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LET-

LETTER LXIV.

Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Upper-Woodberry.

Dear Miſs Wellers,

I HAVE received three kind letters from you, and now return a thouſand thanks. I beg'd Madam Swaffam to let you know I was too ill to attempt writing; but fear by your laſt favour, ſhe was ſo ill-natured as to deceive me. I have been much better ſome time, but a trembling continued in my hands that I could not hold a pen till this day. I think I muſt have died, had I not left home; good Lady Hetchmore would fetch me away, and abſolutely refuſed Swaffam's coming with me, for ſhe has great influence over my mother. Oh! Fanny, I have been at the lodge, and thought it would have killed me, but my Lady was engaged to go there, and would take me with her. Indeed Mrs. Clavering beg'd as the greateſt favour that I would come with them; and I was willing to bruſh through the firſt viſit, that I might indulge the pleaſing melancholy of reflecting on my dear Louiſa, and the many happy hours we have

have paſs'd in that place together; we found all the family apparently affected with grief; and Mrs. Clavering more concern'd than I thought poſſible for her, for ſo long a time; I love her the better for it. We ſtaid at the lodge two days, breakfaſted one morning at Evanion mount. I am happy to find Mr. Blyden keeps up all the ancient grandeur and hoſpitality of both families; for every thing, and all the ſervants, is exactly kept as if a family lived there; and a dinner provided every day in the old hall for thirty poor people; he has diſpleaſed me only in one particular, which is, having ſold all the timber on both eſtates, to be cleared at the purchaſers pleaſure; he has already received on account, forty thouſand pounds. I think it ten thouſand pities to cut down ſuch charming woods; nevertheleſs he is a good man, for there is much attention paid to all that Louiſa delighted in; her poultry, her garden, and her own peculiar flock of ſheep; and all her charities punctually preſerved; in ſhort, I do love him for all theſe, and a thouſand little circumſtances too tedious to enumerate. They are to come to Sir Hugh's next week, and Lady Hetchmore will not part with me till after that time; ſhe intends to perſuade my mother to look out for

for ſome chearful companion ſuitable to my years, or to place me in ſome lively family; for ſhe even thinks her own too melancholy, or would propoſe it, as ſhe would think herſelf very happy in my company. I heard the other day that our clergyman Mr. Duncombe, is going to ſend for a niece from London; if it is true, and ſhe ſhould prove agreeable, it will be a happy circumſtance for me, as he is coming from Aſhbourn to reſide in a little tenement at the end of our garden. Sir Hugh inſiſts upon my concluding, that we may go to battledore and ſhuttle-cock; he with my lady and ſelf, join in beſt reſpects to you and yours. I am,

My dear Miſs WELLERS'*s*

faithful humble Servant,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LET-

LETTER LXV.

Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Dear Miſs Wellers, Upper Woodberry.

WE have juſt parted with Mr. and Mrs. Blyden, and Mr. and Mrs. Clavering: every meeting is a renewal of grief; they ſtaid three days with us, and drank tea one afternoon at Lower Woodberry. Mr. Blyden finds he cannot pay Miſs Courtly's legacy, till ſhe is of age, but will ſend her the intereſt, as it may prove a great comfort to her. My dear Fanny, I muſt tell you what a pleaſing preſent Mr. Blyden brought me; it was my Louiſa's fine pearl necklace, made into a bracelet of ſix rows; the locket is her picture ſet with rubies, on the inſide is her hair plaited under a chryſtal, and the ſetting of the rubies is curiouſly enamel'd. Mrs. Clavering is quite diſtracted to go to Bath, but her huſband won't hear of it. Lady Hetchmore is gone this morning to Lower Woodberry, to deſire my mother will let me go to Bath with her, where ſhe goes next week to ſtay two months; but I much fear ſhe will not ſucceed; how

how dreadful it will be if ſhe does not? but how happy I am in having ſuch a good friend? Lady Hetchmore is juſt now return'd extremely angry with my mother's refuſing to let me go on any terms that could be propoſed, even thoſe of taking my old woman; however ſhe obtain'd me much more liberty than my mother willingly granted; it was removing Swaffam out of my bed chamber, to go to the lodge, and to walk out whenever I chuſe it, accompanied with any attendant ſhe pleaſes to appoint; theſe indulgences will make me go home with a little more chearfulneſs than otherwiſe I ſhould have done. You will hardly hear from me again before I get home. I ſhall then pleaſe myſelf with writing to you the very firſt opportunity; till then remain,

Your moſt obliged,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LET-

LETTER LXVI.

Continuation of Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

My dear Miſs Wellers,

I HAVE been at home three days, and find all things much more agreeable than they have been theſe two years; partly owing to good Lady Hetchmore, and partly to a very extraordinary letter that I found by chance in my mother's dreſſing room; I incloſe you a copy of it. I have not yet tried any of my liberties, but ſhall very ſoon, that they may not be forgot; my mother ſent me, the day after my return home, to viſit our new neighbour Mr. Duncombe; I ſtaid and drank tea with him, you know what a chatty old man he is; he ſmoked his pipe and moralized; he adviſed me not to aſſociate much with Mrs. Clavering, indeed he feared ſhe was a child of the devil's, and a very immodeſt and prophane young creature; why ſays he, ſhe ſwears like a trooper, and dances and hunts with all the rakes in the country. He then told me, he had ſent for a niece to keep his houſe, that he hoped we ſhould be friends

and companions, for he heard ſhe was a modeſt well behaved girl; he then read me a lecture on imprudent marriages, and ſaid girls ſhould let their parents chuſe their huſbands, for it was by no means proper they ſhould think of ſuch things; he hoped I ſhould never deſire to marry a red coat, for they beat the devil's march and carried women to hell by ſacks full: I could not help laughing at the good man's oration; he ſhook his head, and we parted about eight o'clock. My mother and aunt are always pleaſed when I ſeem to like the Doctor's company: His niece comes in a fortnight; I have no notion I ſhall like her, for I want a lively companion, not one to make me more ſtupid than I am already. Lady Hetchmore has promiſed to enquire for one at Bath. My beſt reſpects attend Swinderby, and believe me

Your obliged and obedient,

EMMA MARIA LEWIS.

LET-

LETTER LXVII.

Sir HARRY HARWOOD *to Mrs.* LEWIS, *inclosed in the foregoing.*

Madam,

YOU will, without doubt, be surprized at my addressing you in this manner; but the regard I have for your daughter's and your happiness, is the present occasion of my giving you this trouble; your unreasonable confinement of, and behaviour to Miss Lewis, is lessening her peace at home, and reputation abroad, and your own at the same time; I therefore beg she may be treated as her duty and goodness deserves. You may depend on my honour, and the solemn promise I now make, that I never will steal your or any person's daughter; you may trust my prudence for Miss Lewis's safety at present, as I never will marry, till mine or the Lady's fortune enables me to maintain her with credit as my wife. What I have said is the strictest truth, and likewise what I am going to say, the same; very few are the opportunities I have of commanding my time, but whenever that happens,

pens, aſſure yourſelf it will be ſpent in ſeeing your daughter, and not to be prevented by the force or artifice of mean-ſpirited women. I am a gentleman by birth, education, and behaviour; till I forfeit that character no perſon is juſtified in uſing me ill, and ſhamefully affronting me from their houſe, for no other crime than prefering her daughter to all other of their ſex. I am,

Madam,

Your moſt obedient,

HENRY HARWOOD.

LETTER LXVIII.

Continuation of Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Woodberry.

Dear Fanny,

I AM but juſt return'd from the lodge, where I ſpent eight days, had old incumbrance with me, who was the leſs troubleſome, becauſe ſhe was ſick all the time. Mrs. Clavering behaves ſo vaſtly indiſcreet, that ſhe is the ridicule of the whole country; ſhe and he nave promiſed to come and ſpend two or three days

days with me, I hope they will not be with us on a ſunday, leſt our old doctor ſhould preach at her, (as ſhe calls it) for he entertains a ſhocking opinion of her wickedneſs. I expected to have found my new neighbour Miſs Moore, at the parſonage; but find ſhe is detain'd on account of her mother's death, and is to bring a ſiſter with her; as they have now neither father nor mother, and left in very indifferent circumſtances, intirely dependant on their uncle for ſupport: they are to come the beginning of next week; I am glad they will be near ſo good a woman as Lady Hetchmore. I had a letter from her yeſterday; ſhe has found ſo much benefit by the Bath waters, that ſhe propoſes being at home in leſs than a month. She deſires me to make her compliments to Mrs. Wellers and you; to whom this family joins in beſt reſpects. Believe me

Dear Fanny,

Yours to command,

EMMA MA. LEWIS.

LETTER LXIX.

Continuation of Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

My dear Miſs Wellers,

I DEFER'D writing to you till after Mr. Clavering's viſit, hoping that chearful company might enliven me, and make my letter more entertaining. They left us the day before yeſterday; we ſpent our time in great good humour and pleaſantry; even my mother and aunt ſhewed ſome ſenſe of pleaſure, and have lately given me a vaſt deal of liberty, I really believe owing to Sir Harry's ſevere letter. I muſt now give you ſome account of our neighbours; they have been a week here; poor Miſs Moore is now extremely ill, it happen'd very unlucky. I invited them to dine with us one day with Mrs. and Miſs Vincent, and Mrs. Clavering, for I want to introduce them to the principal people of our country, as they really are exceſſive fine girls. The moment they came into our houſe the eldeſt was ſeized with a ſhivering fit, and obliged to go home directly, where ſhe has been confin'd ever ſince: She is about ſeven or eigh

an

and twenty, has been a perfect beauty, but the troubles of her family has wore her to skin and bones; she has had a compleat education, is a great reader and uncommonly sensible, which together make her a most agreeable companion; her sister Miss Jenny is between eleven and twelve years old, is quite an elegant girl, and a promising beauty, owes all her accomplishments to her sister's instructions, who is a perfect mother to her. Jenny has great vivacity, and frights her old uncle exceedingly; he prophecies her growing like Mrs. Clavering; Olivia, which is the name of the eldest, is much better; I shall now take her in the chariot three or four times a week, for the benefit of the air. Lady Hetchmore will be at home next Tuesday, and desires me to meet her there, and spend a week with her, which is a prodigious joy to one who subscribes,

Your obliged,

and affectionate Servant,

EMMA MA. LEWIS.

LETTER LXX.

Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Upper-Woodberry.

Dear Miſs Wellers,

I CAME here laſt Tueſday, and had the pleaſure of receiving good Lady Hetchmore and Sir Hugh in perfect health. In converſing over the various occurrences of our populous neighbourhood, I thought the Miſs Moores arrival was none of the ſmalleſt. Lady Hetchmore was ſo pleaſed with my account of them, that ſhe determin'd to dine at my mother's, and drink tea at the parſonage the next day; we did ſo, and my Lady was greatly charmed with the Moores, and has ſent a milch'd aſs for Olivia, who is very much inclined to a conſumption, but has recovered her late fit of illneſs. The coach goes tomorrow to fetch the parſon and his nieces to dine here. Lady Hetchmore ſends for me, I muſt defer the finiſhing this letter to another opportunity; not a moment has been my own theſe three days. I go home to day, not to return for ſome time I imagine, but will give you a hiſtory of our proceedings; Mr. Duncombe

Duncombe and Miſs Moores, came as expected. Sir Hugh was prodigiouſly ſtruck with Olivia, he owns himſelf ſurprized, notwithſtanding our account; and gave Mr. Duncombe a purſe of twenty guineas, in conſideration of the increaſe of his family. They had not been gone half an hour, when Sir Harry Harwood came in, quite unexpected. The next day Lady Hetchmore judged it right to ſhew nothing clandeſtine was meant, that they ſhould ſend his and their compliments to Lower Woodberry, and propoſe drinking tea with them that afternoon. A very civil anſwer, that they ſhould be glad to ſee us was return'd. We go, and Lady Hetchmore does not intend to preſs my coming back with her. I go with more ſatisfaction than common, as I am ſure of an agreeable companion in Olivia. I ſay farewell for the preſent, as the Baronet invites me to Battledore. Adieu

EMMA MA. LEWIS.

LETTER LXXI.

Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Lower-Woodberry.

My dear Fanny,

I HAVE ſome very intereſting things to communicate; and having been in a ſtate of great ſuſpence for two or three days, choſe to know ſome certainty before I wrote to you. We were genteely received by my mother, but my aunt was very angry; I was not permitted to return. The next morning Lady Hetchmore and ſon came to breakfaſt with us, after which Sir Hugh deſired me to take him to the parſonage; we ſpent two hours very agreeably with Olivia, then return'd to the old ladies, whom we found all out of temper, even Lady Hetchmore, who parted ſaying I ſhall be with you again Mrs. Lewis ſooner than you think for; my mother muttered as ſoon as you pleaſe my lady, but it ſhall be to no purpoſe. All that day they were vaſtly ill-natur'd, and ſaid I ſhould go no more to Upper Woodberry, if they were to be thus teaſed. In the afternoon I went to the parſonage, old Swaffam was diſpatched after me,

me, and ordered not to quit her charge. She came to us in ſo impertinent a manner, that I was highly provok'd, but dare not ſay any any thing. I ſoon propoſed walking, and took Jenny Moore to keep me company, Swaffam follow'd, I walk'd very leiſurely for a mile and a half, the old woman complaining of dreadful tire; I then mended my pace, till we left Madam Swaffam quite out of ſight. She returned in a violent rage puffing and blowing, frighted my mother and aunt, to think where I was gone; they immediately diſpatched John to Sir Hugh's, where he found Sir Harry very compoſed with my lady and ſon at cards. I return'd before it was dark, and they took no notice of my abſence, but Swaffam was ordered to lay with me; this made me horrid mad. I got up early in the morning, lock'd madam into my room, and went directly to Olivia. By nine o'clock Lady Hetchmore and Sir Hugh came again, they were both with my mother and aunt till twelve, then came to the parſonage, and took Miſs Moores home to dine with them. I then went to my mother, and found her in pretty good humour; ſhe ſaid Lady Hetchmore and Sir Hugh teaſed her to death, to marry me to a beggar; ſhe aſked me if I choſe to marry a beggar? I ſaid, no, nor did I apprehend Lady

Hetchmore propoſed any ſuch thing; ſhe ſaid very near it, for his eſtate was but two hundred a year nominal, his commiſſion and that together made a bare 300, and what was that for a baronet and his lady; I anſwered it might do very well if the lady's friends would give her a ſuitable fortune. I find ſays ſhe, the Hetchmores and you have ſettled the whole affair. I aſſured her I knew nothing of the matter. She then aſked me if I ſhould be contented with two thouſand pounds and two hundred a year during her life: I ſaid very well; and thought her extremely kind, as I am very ſenſible ſhe could not conveniently ſpare any more; for you know all her eſtate is but ſix hundred a year, out of which ſhe has contrived to ſave the two thouſand pounds I am to have, and one that ſhe reſerves for any emergency. There is no body without failing or oddity; but upon the whole, I muſt acknowledge my mother to be a worthy good woman, and all I have or ſhall have, I owe to her frugality and prudent management; for my father had brought two thouſand a year to ſix hundred; and on that a conſiderable mortgage, which my mother paid off, by living on one hundred per annum, till I was ten years old. After our converſation, my mother ſent a letter to Lady Hetchmore,

more, which ſhe anſwered; and I find they all breakfaſt with us to-morrow. I know you ſo well, that I am ſure this letter will give you great pleaſure. I am quite angry you mention nothing of Anthony; for which reaſon I only ſign,

EMMA MA. LEWIS.

LETTER LXXII.

Miſs LEWIS *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Upper Woodberry.

My dear Fanny,

I MUST begin with my uppermoſt thoughts, more particularly as you make the whole ſubject of your letter. The match I think has made a rapid progreſs; but nothing leſs than a Rainsford could conclude one ſo ſoon as you ſeem to expect. They breakfaſted with us as was appointed, and Lady Hetchmore inſiſted on taking me home with her, which was readily conſented to. Sir Harry is gone to ſettle ſome affairs, will return in a fortnight, and be married directly, as his regiment goes in three weeks to Ireland,

which ſuits us extremely well, for our fortunes being ſmall, we have no thought of new cloaths, or any of the Bridal parade. I have two ſuits ſo clean, that they may very well paſs for new in Ireland. Since I came here we ſpent three days at the Lodge; I took Jenny Moore with us, but all the intreaties we could uſe, would not prevail on Olivia to go, for which reaſon our baronet return'd the ſame night, for he lives but in her company; however more of his flame hereafter. Mr. Clavering is paſſionately fond of Jenny Moore, quite the love of a doting father to his child: He gave her twenty guineas, poor Jane put it into my care; the girl was quite aſtoniſh'd, never having ſeen ſo much together in her days. I muſt now proceed to my account of Sir Hugh, and acquaint you with his melancholy fall——— into love with Olivia; it is ſo certain, that he determin'd to marry her, but ſhe abſolutely rejects his propoſals, and will not liſten to a ſyllable on that ſubject. My lady was ſorry at firſt, but has ſo great a regard for her ſon's happineſs, that ſhe now uſes all poſſible perſuaſions with Olivia to conſent. I have been employ'd in this affair, and uſed my utmoſt endeavours to no purpoſe; in ſhort every friend has interfered, and none ſucceeded. It is really amazing, for all look'd

on

on the match as concluded, when they saw how far Sir Hugh's affections were engag'd, for he was actually enamour'd the first moment he saw her. I beg my best compliments may be acceptable to Mrs. Wellers, yourself, and your Jemima. I am,

My dear Fanny's

Ever affectionate,

EMMA MA. LEWIS.

LETTER LXXIII.

Continuation of Miss LEWIS *to Miss* WELLERS.

Lower Woodberry.

Dear Miss Wellers,

EVERY day since I wrote, has been engaged in taking leave of my friends, I am so hurried that I can hardly steal a moment to take this farewell of my dearest Fanny. Sir Harry has been return'd these three days. To-morrow at eight o'clock we are to be married, and set out directly for Falmouth, to embark for Dublin. Lady Hetchmore and Sir Hugh will lie here to-

night, as he does me the honour of giving me away, and her ladyſhip condeſcends to be preſent at the ceremony. The thoughts of parting ſo ſoon, makes us all very melancholy; therefore it will be an exceeding dull wedding. Pray give my beſt reſpects to your good mamma, and tell her I return her ten thouſand thanks for all her kind favours; in like manner I do to you, begging you will confer one more upon me, which is to continue that friendſhip when married, as you have hitherto honour'd

EMMA MA. LEWIS.

LETTER LXXIV.

Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Dublin.

My dear Miſs Wellers,

I HAVE only time to tell you we are ſafe rived here, after a dangerous and tedious voyage, and long with the utmoſt impatience to hear from you. I am terribly ſick, and in a dreadful inn, which I ſhall leave to-morrow, we being invited to a gentleman's houſe. I fancy Mr. Blyden has ſome intention of leav-

ing England, for almoſt all his Iriſh ſervants came over in the ſhip with us; but the reaſon they gave us, was, that Mr. Blyden thought two ſets of ſervants too many, and would not part with any of Louiſa's. When you favour me, direct to Dublin, as then it will come to me wherever I may happen to be, for we ſhall be continually moving. Sir Harry joins in compliments to yourſelf and family, with

My dear FANNY'*s*

moſt obliged and

affectionate Servant,

EMMA MA. HARWOOD.

LETTER LXXV.

Miſs WELLERS *to Lady* HARWOOD.

THE agreeable news of my dear Lady Harwood's ſafe arrival in Ireland, gave me joy inexpreſſible: I know not how I ſhould have ſupported my anxiety, on account of

of not hearing from you ſooner, had not a very particular circumſtance intervened, that help'd to employ my thoughts; nothing leſs than the nuptials of my dear Jemima. So ſudden a concluſion of an affair that has been ſo long in agitation, and of which there only appear'd a diſtant proſpect, muſt ſurprize you, till you are acquainted with the following particulars. Mr. Granville during his reſidence in London, uſed every poſſible means for the attainment of ſome employ, ſuitable to his genius and education, which he has at length accompliſh'd, by renewing his acquaintance with a fellow-collegian, who is now chaplain to the duke of B. The duke has a ſon who, purpoſing to make the tour of Europe, wanted a gentleman to accompany him in his travels; with which Mr. Davis the chaplain acquainted Mr. Granville, and knowing him properly qualified, offered to recommend him: Horatio thankfully accepted the propoſal, and was accordingly introduced to the duke and his ſon, who both highly approv'd him, and preſently made an agreement to the entire ſatisfaction of both parties. Granville inſtantly wrote to acquaint Anthony Courtly with this fortunate event, deſiring him to meet him at our houſe, declaring he could not poſſibly think of leaving England

till he had ſecured his Jemima, and hoped ſhe would not reject the terms he had to offer; which were to allow her the whole ſallary he was to receive of the young nobleman, during his abſence; as his own fortune he ſaid, would be ſufficient for him in that attendance: So honeſt and generous a propoſal could not be objected to, it met with the general approbation of us all; and now nothing remain'd but to fix the day for their marriage; the Thurſday following was concluded on, and the ceremony perform'd at our pariſh church by Horatio's friend, Mr. Davis: His Grace is ſo pleaſed with the account his chaplain has given him of this wedding, that he immediately ſign'd an agreement to pay Mrs. Granville two hundred per annum, in quarterly payments during her huſband's attendance on his ſon, which is conſiderably more than was at firſt intended him. You cannot conceive how happy this affair has made us all; Jemima has now ſcarce a wiſh ungratified, except that of a reconciliation with her father; time we hope may gain that point, tho' there are little hopes of it at preſent. Horatio ſeem'd very deſirous of ſettling his wife before he went abroad, and was conſulting with Anthony upon that ſubject, when my mother interpoſed, begging him not to think

think of depriving her of the pleasure of Mrs. Granville's company, till his return; telling him neither she nor I could consent to resign such an agreeable companion to any body but himself; he made a very polite answer, and seem'd thoroughly satisfied with its being so determined. Mr. Davis informs us that his Lordship intends us the honour of a visit, before he and Mr. Granville leave England, which I believe will be in a fortnight or three weeks. I have now only to add an earnest desire, that my dear Emma will as soon as possible favour me with a letter, which will, I hope, bring a better account of her health and situation, than that I have already receiv'd. My mother and our whole family joins in compliments to Sir Harry and yourself, with

My dear Lady HARWOOD'*s*

obliged and affectionate

humble Servant,

FRANCES WELLERS.

LET-

LETTER LXXVI.

Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Dublin.

My dear Fanny,

THE day after I wrote to you, we came to our friends houſe, and I was immediately ſeized with a violent fever, with which I was three days given over, have had ſix bliſters, and ſuffered extremely. Sir Harry was obliged to leave me before I was out of danger, to attend the regiment into the extreme part of Ireland, where they expect a riſing every day. I ſhall ſet out to overtake him the day after to-morrow, tho' I am ſtill exceſſively weak and low; for I find myſelf vaſtly dejected by being among intire ſtrangers, who endeavour to be extremely civil; but all things appear aukward and ſtrange to me. I was perfect happineſs yeſterday in reading my packet of letters from England, among which, yours gave me infinite joy; I return you ten thouſand thanks for the obliging detail you have given me of Mrs. Granville's happy change of life; upon which, I beg leave to congratulate her, and ſincerely

wiſh

wiſh her all the happineſs that can attend the marriage ſtate. I have an account to give you that will ſurprize you, it did me very greatly: You will find it in the inclos'd letter; I tranſmit it in confidence, that it will go no further. From

Your ſincere,

and affectionate Friend

and Servant,

EMMA MA. HARWOOD.

LETTER LXXVII.

Miſs MOORE *to Lady* HARWOOD.

Woodberry.

Madam,

I ENTERTAIN the higheſt ſenſe of the honour you have done me, in writing to her who had not the leaſt reaſon to expect a pleaſure of that ſort. I embrace the very firſt opportunity of returning my grateful thanks for ſo kind a favour; and am grieved to be obliged to reſiſt the ſolicitation of ſuch a friend, to

an

an honour, that the world muſt judge me mad in ſo obſtinately refuſing: how it ſhocks me, to be ſued to ſuch honour and riches, by ſo many eminent perſons, whoſe great kindneſs to me claims all my obedience, and all my gratitude. You will be amazed to find me declare, that my gratitude obliges me to reject theſe honourable propoſals. I cannot, dare not, give my reaſons; all my future expectations depend on my keeping them ſecret from my uncle, if it did not, I could never publiſh my ſhame to the world; but to you, dear madam, who I know will pity my misfortunes, I will throw off all diſguiſe, and give you a true hiſtory of my life. My mother, (who was my uncle Duncombe's own ſiſter) married a ſhopkeeper at Oxford, whoſe ambition and extravagance brought us at laſt to the greateſt diſtreſs; it was his natural turn, and he gave me the beſt and moſt expenſive education. I grew up handſome, which increas'd his vanity and ambition, not doubting but I ſhould make my fortune among the number of young ſtudents who fill that place. My perſon and his bountiful treating, did not fail to draw all the young fellows he thought proper to entertain; but in one thing he was careful, that was, in only picking up ſuch as he was well inform'd were

very

very large fortunes; tho' he might ſometimes be miſtaken. He dreſs'd me in the moſt extravagant cloaths, and nothing was ſpared (not even paint) to make me more alluring. I was carried to all the public diverſions, and in leſs than a twelvemonth after my coming from ſchool, I became particularly admired by a Mr. Johnſon; my father who gave me many inſtructions in the art of coqueting, ordered me to give this gentleman great encouragement, for he knew him to be a man of large and independent fortune; this was an eaſy command to me, for he was ſenſible, genteel, and handſome, (ſo like Mr. Claverring, that on firſt ſeeing him at your houſe, it gave me that fit of illneſs, you muſt remember I was ſeized with); at laſt my father order'd me to deny nothing Mr. Johnſon wiſh'd or deſired. A circumſtance ſoon happen'd that my father ſeem'd to think a fortunate one; he then exerted himſelf, and inſiſted on marriage; Mr. Johnſon, with great reluctance, conſented; the day was appointed, but before it came, the intended huſband was flown, and has never been heard of ſince. My father's fortune growing lower and lower, and all his hopes in me blaſted, it ſeized his ſpirits, that brought on a deſperate malady; and one and the ſame day, made me ſeven-

teen,

teen, fatherleſs, and a ſhameful mother, to that unfortunate girl, I call my ſiſter. That fatal day, plunged us into extreme poverty. I think no diſtreſs could equal ours. As ſoon as I could move, we left the deteſted place of my ruin, where my former finery and ridiculous pride, render'd me then the object of every bodies ſcorn. Without friends, or pity, we placed ourſelves in London, in the cheapeſt lodging we could find, where my mother and ſelf, by working with our needle, kept ourſelves and my infant from ſtarving. My poor uncle who has always believed Jenny to be my mother's daughter, deſired that as ſoon as ſhe was able to be of any aſſiſtance to his ſiſter, that I would come to live with him; this my mother inſiſted on my doing, when poor woman ſhe reſign'd a life, which by her huſband's and child's wickedneſs, had been a heavy burden to her for ſeveral years. My uncle was then ſo kind to take us both, ſince which time you know every circumſtance relating to me. Now, dear Madam, could I with any honeſty, with any gratitude, or modeſty, conſent that ſo honourable, ſo worthy a gentleman ſhould be ſo deceived, and take polution to his bed? no, he never ſhall, I never will be ſo loſt to ſenſe of ſhame, but endeavour to dedicate the remainder of my days

days to contrition, and the ſervice of God. My whole attention ſhall be, to bring up my child in the paths of virtue; and all my earthly joy and concern is to preſerve the friendſhip of my few, but ineſtimable worthy neighbours. I hope, madam, this open confeſſion of my guilt, will not prove the means of my looſing your eſteem, but truſt you will rather pity than deſpiſe a penitent ſinner, who while ſhe lives will ever be

Your Ladyſhip's

moſt devoted,

and grateful Servant,

OLIVIA MOORE.

LETTER LXXVIII.

Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Coleraine.

Dear Miſs WELLERS.

I AM juſt arrived at this place, had a very diſagreeable journey; not overtaking the regiment till I came to Londonderry, and it was terrible travelling in a ſtrange country by myſelf.

myſelf. I am ſtill very weak, and was obliged to ſtay almoſt a week at a farm-houſe; it was the moſt lonely melancholy ſituation I ever ſaw, at the foot of a tremendous mountain; at that place, to my great aſtoniſhment, I learnt the hiſtory of Miſs Brand your neighbour, which I will relate to you, and make no doubt but it will ſurprize you as much as it did me, tho' we always thought ſomething very odd appear'd in her: To make you underſtand her hiſtory, I muſt begin in a very round about manner, and give you an account of other people, who you know nothing of; in our journey hither, we were one night belated, and I was taken ſo ill, that with great difficulty I was got to the farm-houſe I before mention'd, where every thing bore a mean, but neat appearance; and I was received in ſo polite a manner by the maſter and miſtreſs, as plainly ſhewed they could not always have lived in that obſcure manner. I was pleaſed to find they did not want for the common comforts of life, ſuch as decent cloaths, good food, and neceſſary fuel, a maid ſervant, and two farm men: At ſupper there appeared one who certainly had been a beautiful woman, about thirty years of age, ſhe was extremely melancholy, and did not ſpeak at all; very

ſoon

ſoon retired. When ſhe was gone, the gentlewoman of the houſe inform'd me ſhe was crazy, and that her brain was turn'd by misfortunes, adding that they themſelves had known ſo much affliction, that they ſympathized with the unfortunate, and therefore their compaſſion induced them to take care of that lady. I went early to bed, ſo heard no more that night. Sir Harry was obliged to leave me, and proceed on his march to Coleraine, therefore my ſervant lay with me; I aſk'd if ſhe had learn'd any particulars relating to the family, that had ſo kindly received us. She anſwered only, that they were the beſt people in that county, and their names were Morris; and the other lady was mad, her name was Perkins. During my ſtay with theſe good people, I had a great deal of agreeable converſation with them, in which I took the liberty to obſerve, that I imagin'd they had not always lived in that retired ſituation; on which ſhe in the moſt good natur'd manner ſaid, I ſee, madam, you are curious to know my misfortunes, and I will give you my real ſtory. I was the only daughter of a rich citizen, a very rich one indeed; but married a young man unknown to my father, which diſpleas'd him ſo much,

that

that he gave all his money to public charities: This gave me but little concern, as I was directly on my marriage, received in an affectionate manner by my husband's relations, who indulged me in every thing that was agreeable, and educated me with their daughters; for my father thinking money a sufficient happiness and qualification, intirely neglected both my improvement and amusement; I therefore thought my change vastly for the better. In a few years my father and mother died, and a house and an estate of about five hundred a year left to the quiet possession of me, my husband and little son; we lived in a state of uninterrupted happiness, till he was old enough to go to the university, when we sent him to Oxford, to pursue such studies as he liked best, thinking some profession might make a pretty addition to his paternal estate; but to our great affliction, he turn'd out every thing that was wicked and extravagant, in so much that he soon brought us to real poverty, and would as certainly have brought us to absolute beggary, had not his extreme wickedness obliged him to leave England; we then collected our little remains, and came over to this country, where we purchas'd our farm, and have lived in peaceful sorrow these ten years: Our son not knowing where to find us,

as we changed our names: we have heard of his being in Ireland by a feign'd name, and with an impudent woman that he brought from England, who is twenty years older than he is. Here the poor woman left off. The next day in converſation, I mention'd Cambridgeſhire; ſhe aſk'd me what part I was acquainted with; on my telling her, ſhe aſk'd if I knew a Miſs Brand. I ſaid yes. She aſk'd what character ſhe bore, and how ſhe behaved; I ſaid as to character ſhe had none, for nobody knew any thing of her; and her behaviour was decent, but vulgar: She ſaid, if it was agreeable to me, ſhe could give ſome account of Miſs Brand's life, and the misfortune of the poor lady who lived with them. I gladly accepted her offer, and ſhe inform'd me as follows; that Miſs Brand was the daughter of an attorney at Wapping in England, that he died when ſhe was about twelve years old, and had committed her with five hundred pounds to the care of his brothers, who lived in the neighbourhood of Londonderry; ſhe came to him an ignorant obſtinate girl; he took ſome pains to improve her, but to no purpoſe; ſhe increaſed daily in ill-nature, vulgarneſs and boldneſs, till at laſt ſhe proved with child by a blackſmith's man, who at the ſame time had a wife: This ſhock'd her uncle

uncle extremely, and to hide her diſgrace, he ſent the ſtory to a friend at Cork, and begg'd him to find ſome tradeſman in deſperate circumſtances, that would marry her, and he would add three hundred pounds to her fortune. A huſband was ſpeedily found, but not a tradeſman; a ruin'd gentleman, and ruin'd by extravagance; the event of this match was miſery; he uſed her very ill: She flew to Dublin, and became a common proſtitute for ſupport; her uncle forced her from that way of life, ſent her to a friend in England, and deſiring him to place her in a ſober family in a remote country, and as long as ſhe behaved well, he would pay for her board, and allow her fifteen pounds a year for cloaths. Her huſband after ſpending her fortune in various debaucheries, ran away with an heireſs of forty thouſand pounds fortune, from a boarding ſchool; he kept her ſome time at Cork, anſwerable to her fortune; but neither that, her great beauty, or good nature, did long preſerve her from his ill treatment. He brought her to this village, where he left her in the utmoſt diſtreſs, and her friends refuſing her any relief or comfort, ſhe grew melancholy mad; our compaſſion induced us to take her, and we will keep her as long as we

live: Thus ended these two remarkable histories. I was soon obliged to leave these good and unfortunate people, who we found it very difficult to reward for their kindness to me. At last, Sir Harry thought a present of wine might prove acceptable, and accordingly sent them a hogshead of red, and the same of white. I am very happily situated in this place with a clergyman and his wife, but I fancy our stay in this part of the country will not be very long; we are in some apprehension of going to Germany, which I cannot in the least relish. With the hopes of hearing from you soon, I remain,

Dear Miss WELLERS,

Your affectionate,

EMMA MA. HARWOOD;

LET-

LETTER LXXIX.

Continuation of Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Cheſter.

My dear Miſs Wellers.

HOW ſurpriſed you muſt be to find I am in England, if you have not heard the unhappy occaſion of my ſudden coming, on account of my mother's dangerous illneſs; the moment I heard it, I took ſhipping for Falmouth, but was ſo unlucky to be caſt away on the Welch ſhore; the ſhip and moſt of the crew periſh'd; but thank God, I, my maid, and two men, were miraculouſly ſaved by a ſmall fiſhing boat, which got us to Holyhead, from whence we was conveyed on moſt terrible horſes to this place, where fright and fatigue ſo far overcame me, that I am obliged to ſtay all this day, and employ the little ſtrength I have, in writing to two or three of my beſt friends, whom (I flatter myſelf) will rejoice to hear of my ſafety. I hope to find myſelf ſomewhat better, when I have a little unburthen'd my mind of the various circum-

ſtances which at preſent agitate my ſpirits; for to grief, fright, and fatigue, is added, ſurprize, joy, amazement and concern; for know, my dear Fanny, I have ſeen Mr. Evanion! the real young Mr. Evanion! him that I once loved ſo well; and I cannot help loving him again: but I muſt be regular in my account, or you will think me light-headed. Near a town call'd Ruthyn, which I paſs'd through yeſterday, the horſe ſtarted and flung me, it was near a cottage into which they took me; when I was a little recover'd, a ſurpriſing genteel young man caught my eyes; he had a tauny complexion, and an unſhaven head and beard. I look'd ſtedfaſtly at him, and recollected his features, as he inſtantaneouſly did mine. You muſt judge our ſurprize, I can't deſcribe it, he appear'd rather ſhock'd than pleaſed, and ſaid, he flattered himſelf he was ſo ſituated as never to be heard of, or ſeen by any that knew him. I was going to mention ſome paſt affairs, but he earneſtly begg'd me to wave thoſe ſubjects; only deſiring to know in what ſtate Miſs Blyden was, adding his fears that ſhe was married, which (he was aſhamed to own) would grieve him infinitely more than to hear ſhe was dead. I then thought it beſt to inform him of the truth,

truth, that ſhe really had been dead a great while: he ſaid, that was happineſs ſufficient for him; that he ſhould now ſpend his days in the greateſt tranquility, and rejoice in the paſſing of every hour, haſtening to his end with the higheſt delight, hoping to meet her in heaven, where his innocence and integrity would appear; for that, which was judged wickedneſs, was a diſorder of his brain; that he had been perfectly well ever ſince he came to that retirement. I aſk'd him if he did not want a comfortable ſubſiſtance, and begg'd he would accept a ſmall annuity from us, to ſupport him with the neceſſary comforts of life; he ſaid he had more left of the thouſand pounds Mr. Clavering gave him, than would laſt twelve years; and he hoped and pray'd his days might not continue half that time. Indeed I think they cannot, for he appears in a deep conſumption. I was grieved to leave him; he (after various intreaties) promiſed to write to me, on condition that I would take the trouble of ſeeing him interr'd with Miſs Blyden; I engaged to do ſo, in caſe I ſurvived him, which I think very probable, notwithſtanding the bad ſtate of health I am in. I hope to be able to ſet out to-morrow; ſhall haſten home with the greateſt expedition,

and write to you the first leisure moment. My best compliments attend all friends, and believe me

Your faithful Friend,

EMMA MA. HARWOOD.

LETTER LXXX.

Lady HARWOOD *to Miss* WELLERS.

My dear Miss Wellers, Lower-Woodberry.

YOU have heard by Miss Moore, (who I desired to write to you) of my arrival at home, and how extremely ill I found my mother; also the severe fever which I had, occasion'd by my frights and fatigue. Thank God we are all in a favourable way, and I hope soon to be able to see my friends, and give you some account of the state of our neighbourhood, which at present I know nothing of myself: Have just heard of Lady Harwood's death, in a letter from Sir Harry, which has been come almost as long as I have, but they thought it not proper to give it me, till this day. Sir Harry is so kind to give his

his four ſiſters her jointure, who otherwiſe had not a halfpenny; ſuch an action is true generoſity and greatneſs of mind; for few men with his ſmall fortune, would have given away three hundred a year: But how much more commendable it is, to act in this manner, than to keep ſuch near relations, as poor dependants on ſome ſmall yearly allowance, as many would have done? ſuch an action affords more real ſatisfaction, than the higheſt grandeur. My mother and aunt joins with in beſt compliments to yourſelf and family. I remain,

My dear Fanny's

Moſt affectionate,

EMMA MA. HARWOOD.

LETTER LXXXI.

Continuation of Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

My dearest Fanny, Lower Woodberry.

I RETURN thanks a thouſand, for all your kind letters; they have given me infinite pleaſure: ſurprize and aſtoniſhment haſt prevented my anſwering them as ſoon as I wiſh'd to have done. Mr. and Mrs. Clavering have been to ſee me; they ſtaid two days, and inſiſted on my returning to ſpend a fortnight with them, which I conſented to, though with reluctance, on account of poor Clavering's flights, always fearing her getting into ſome ſcrape; but five days had paſs'd, when Mr. Clavering came to me in private, and ſaid ſome urgent buſineſs required his going into Wales immediately, and that he muſt ſtay at leaſt five weeks, and begg'd me to take the charge of his wife during that time, offering to conduct us that evening to Woodberry. I thought (at that time) I knew his reaſons, and was glad to go home, hoping my

my mother and aunt might prove ſome reſtraint to her great gaiety. We had not been here a week, when the old houſekeeper's ſon came over to know what orders Mr. and Mrs. Blyden had left with Mrs. Clavering, for they had left none at home. This queſtion greatly ſurpris'd us; in ſhort, on enquiring we found, that Mr. Clavering had not been ſeen ſince he came with us to Woodberry; that Mr. and Mrs. Blyden ſet out extremely early the next morning, on horſeback, without any ſervant; went to Exeter, where they heard of their going on board an Iriſh veſſel, which ſail'd immediately; and that the ſteward and gentleman went away in the middle of the night, unſeen by any body, nor can they conjecture which way they went. You may with truth, imagine us in the greateſt amazement, for what can be the reaſon of this conduct, it is impoſſible to gueſs. All the ſervants are in exceeding perplexity, not knowing how to act in any reſpect. Mrs. Clavering is like a diſtracted creature, ſhe lay three days in fits, what to do with her diſtreſſes me greatly; I muſt get ſome perſon to go over to her father, and beg him to take her home. Mr. Brooke I think is the moſt proper man in the world for ſuch an undertaking. I intend going to-morrow to the Lodge, and

will ſend for him to come to me. I wiſh Sir Harry was come, we have reaſon to expect him every hour, for my laſt letter was wrote on his return from Coleraine, to embark for England. You muſt not expect to hear any more from me till I have ſettled Mrs. Clavering, for ſhe quite diſtracts me; you know how violent ſhe is in all her paſſions. Farewell, dear Emily.

I am yours,

EMMA MA. HARWOOD.

LETTER LXXXII.

Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Lower Woodberry.

Dear Miſs Wellers,

I AM this inſtant return'd from the Lodge, it is impoſſible to deſcribe the confuſion of the ſervants: The firſt thing I look'd for was Mrs. Clavering's jewels, all gone, even ſeventy pounds ſhe had left in her cabinet was gone, the door broke open, for ſhe had the key with her; the ſervants offer their oaths they found it ſo, ſoon after Blyden's

 depar-

ture. We can no longer doubt their villainy, but the cause of so sudden removal, is very difficult to guess. Oh! my Emily, have we not reason to suspect my dear, dear Miss Blyden did not die a natural death; for you must remember how odd it happen'd, when none but those cursed Irish folks was with her, all her own servants being sent out of the house; and, perhaps, poor Mr. Evanion might be poison'd; I can now recollect a thousand odd circumstances; do you not remember the terror that struck us on these creatures first appearance? I must proceed with my account; I sent for Mr. Brooke who carefully examined all over the house, and found the iron chest that contain'd the diamonds and cash, open and empty; he also went to the mount, and found that treasure trunk in the same condition: He has sent an express to the nearest relation of each estate; and is gone on my ambassy to old Rainsford; in case of no success, I have begg'd him to write to her brother, who I am certain will take some care of her; but thought it best to apply first to her father. It comforts me to find I have your pity in all this distress, and now I stand more in need of it than ever; for so far from seeing Sir Harry, as I expected, have just

juſt received a letter from him, informing me, that ſome private buſineſs of the greateſt conſequence, required his going into the extreme parts of France, but ſhould uſe the utmoſt diligence to make his journey expeditious. All things conſpire to make this affair as bad to me as poſſible; the Hetchmores being abſent, and Sir Harry's unthought of retardment, deprives me of every one that could comfort me; for Mrs. Claverings grief, is quite to deſpair; ſhe is inconſolable, and I am never from her a moment; and my mother and aunt are ſo croſs, they are really unbearable. I only write now to eaſe my ſpirits, by communicating my troubles. You muſt therefore excuſe all ceremony in

Your affectionate Friend,

EMMA MA. HARWOOD.

LET-

LETTER LXXXIII.

Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Lower-Woodberry.

Dear Fanny,

I HOPE I am in the way to be happier than I have been ſome time. I confeſs it with joy, and inform you, Mr. Rainsford comes this night to carry away his ſiſter, for ſhe has really been too much for my ſpirits. Yeſterday morning I receiv'd a moſt polite and obliging letter from him, for old Rainsford poſitively refuſed doing any thing for her; but the kind brother has prevail'd on Mrs. Burton to take her on theſe conditions, that ſhe is to be her inſeparable companion, without ſhewing any diſcontent or ill humour. If Mrs. Clavering chuſes to ſubmit to this, he will allow her twenty guineas a year for cloaths, which kind offer ſhe has accepted. I have had the ſatisfaction of hearing from Sir Harry, he is arrived ſafe in France. All here join in due reſpects. I remain

Your ſincere Friend,

and obedient Servant,

EMMA MA. HARWOOD.

LET-

LETTER LXXXIV.

Continuation of Lady HARWOOD *to Miss* WELLERS.

Lower-Woodberry,

My dearest Fanny,

I WAS glad to find young Mr. Vincent was as good as his promise in calling at Swinderby, to inform you of my accident in spraining my wrist, and that there was no expectation of being able to use it for several weeks, tho' I hoped (and the surgeon gave me reason) that I might have wrote a month ago, but we were both mistaken; this is the first effort, and it is with difficulty I now do it; but a strong inclination renders it practicable, tho' painful. I am in daily expectation of Sir Harry, he writes in prodigious spirits, and tells me he shall bring with him a friend, that will both fright and delight me; that he dreads the consequence of our meeting, and begs me to prepare for the greatest surprize and joy. I never knew any person, that the seeing of them would both fright and delight me, without your ladyship travel'd on foot from Swinderby, and arrived in the middle

middle of the night; however I muſt prepare for aſtoniſhment, which I do with all neceſſary flutters and tremblings, for I have not been compoſed ſince I received Sir Harry's letter, tho' he promiſes I ſhall know who it is before I ſee them. My mother and aunt have been very good humour'd ever ſince poor Mrs. Clavering left us; but they confeſs the fears they had of my having her to keep, which I really would have ventured to have done, had ſhe been quite deſerted. She abſolutely refuſed to oblige me by writing ſometimes, vowing no creature ſhould ever hear from her, and wiſh'd the whole circle of her acquaintance would forget there ever was ſuch a perſon in the world. However ſhe has wrote once, for in packing up her cloaths I contrived to put twenty guineas, which ſhe begs to know whither it was accident or deſign; ſhe concludes the latter, and expreſſes the higheſt gratitude. My wriſt will only give me leave to add how much I am

My dear FANNY WELLERS's

Very affectionate Friend

and obliged humble Servant,

EMMA MA. HARWOOD.

LET-

LETTER LXXXV.

Continuation of Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

My dereſt Fanny,

IF you are in the world, you muſt already have heard who my ſurpriſing friend was. I thought the meeting would have kill'd me, but I ſurvive; you muſt imagine all the reſt. And now I will not lay down my pen, till I have inform'd you, how my dereſt ever dear Louiſa was found, in what ſituation; how ſhe got home, and the whole hiſtory of the curſed Blyden's. I could not believe my eyes, but it is ſhe, her very ſkin and bones; nothing elſe I do aſſure you; thank God ſhe is already mended, tho' it is only three days that ſhe has been with us. But to my narrative; juſt as Sir Harry was coming home, at an inn where he was in bed, the people came to tell him a gentlewoman was juſt arrived with a broken leg, three broken ribs, and other violent hurts from a terrible overturn, and that they had no other bed fit to put her into. He immediately roſe, and went to ſome other; in the

the morning he enquired who it was; but could not learn the name, nor any other particulars, but that they were ſuppoſed to be on ſome very urgent buſineſs, for the gentleman and all the ſervants, except his wife's maid, ſet off at twelve o'clock, and were to travel all night. Juſt as Sir Harry was mounted to proceed on his journey, a meſſage was brought him from the lady, (who was then judged to be dying) begging to ſpeak with him. He went to her, but could not gueſs by her countenance, who ſhe was, till ſhe inform'd him her name was Blyden, and, that ſhe could not die in peace without confeſſing the various wickedneſs ſhe had been guilty of; and then in extreme agonies, and with a fluttering accent, ſhe began as follows: I muſt firſt inform you that Miſs Blyden is ſtill living, and confined by our villainy, in a farm houſe within five miles off Menſa, a town that is a hundred and fifty miles from Paris. She then began a regular account of her life, which I will tranſmit to you as perfectly as I poſſibly can. This Mrs. Blyden was born of mean parents in Oxfordſhire, her firſt ſetting out, was a ſervant in a publick houſe at Oxford, where ſhe was ſoon corrupted, and became a common proſtitute; that the man who paſſed for her ſon by the name of Clavering, was really

ſon

ſon to a Mr. Johnſon, of a very good eſtate; that ſhe firſt corrupted him, then perſuaded him to rob his father, leave a young woman who was with child by him, (and that he had promiſed to marry) and go with her into Ireland, where they practiſed all ſorts of cheats and villanies to ſupport their extravagance; that they cultivated acquaintance with all worthleſs people, among which was Mr. Blyden, the real uncle of Miſs Louiſa Blyden, who had run out a very large fortune, and was reduced to the greateſt extremity, when he had the offer of marrying Miſs Brand, (who was with child by ſome married man) and her uncle gave her a fortune to conceal her ſhame; he ſoon ſpent her money and turn'd her off; then married a beautiful girl with a very large fortune, who (through Mrs. Blyden's wicked purſuaſion) he ſoon deſerted; they had not quite ſpent her money, when Miſs Blyden's father died; then directly they laid the ſcheme of making a prey of her, which they judged muſt ſerve them their lives very amply, and did not doubt of ſucceeding: little apprehending how difficult it would prove. Their plan was for Clavering to marry Miſs Blyden; and, to attone for ſome of their wickedneſs, they was to ſend a large ſum of money to Mr. Johnſon, Clavering's father,

father, who lived in great poverty in Ireland by the name of Morris) that Mr. Blyden always pretended being drunk, to prevent his deep designs being suspected; that his first scheme was to get rid of the old servants of both estates, and to set Evanion and his uncle at variance: In all this he succeeded, but Clavering's match he found was extreme difficult to bring about. He then contrived to give young Evanion some intoxicating drug, which quite turn'd his brain: So far it went well. Then a journey to London was contrived, where Mrs. Blyden was afraid to shew her face, least she should be known, therefore would not often go out, or appear in company. As to Clavering he had taken the precaution to contrive a claret mark on his face, as soon as he came to England: that finding old Evanion in a bad state of health, Blyden soon contrived to forge a will in his own favour. When they found it impossible to marry Clavering to Miss Blyden, they soon judged her death necessary to compleat their designs, but could not bring themselves to that pitch of wickedness, as to murder her; therefore contrived to forge her death, and hide her: To effect that, they got her servants out of the way, under pretence of going to Bath; in the mean time, Clavering thought Miss

Miſs Rainsford a fine girl, and that her fortune was a good pretty morſel; and to ſave ſettlements or preſents, &c. he contrived to hurry the marriage in the manner related; and that he brought about by the help of her Maid, who he bribed to perſuade her that he certainly was very much in love with her, only courted Miſs Blyden for the ſake of her fortune; and that it was clear to her, Miſs Rainsford liked Clavering; in this manner ſhe perſuaded her into a fancy ſhe liked Clavering, telling her they would be the fineſt couple in England; that they would certainly be the envy of every body; thus ſhe prevail'd, and they ſucceeded: that Miſs Blyden had made a will, where ſhe left Miſs Courtly and me five thouſand pounds a-piece, and all the other legacies three times as much as was ſaid. That they judged it moſt prudent to produce ſome will of Miſs Blyden's; and therefore gave every one that was named in her will ſomething, to prevent ſuſpicion. I ſend this hiſtory with horror and amazement; 'tis all I can ſay upon it. My dear Miſs Blyden is to ſtay with me, till Sir Harry (who is gone to fetch Mr. Evanion) returns; I hope he is ſtill living, but we have reaſon to doubt it, therefore we give Miſs Blyden very ſmall hopes of ſeeing him. Poor creature, ſhe's

ſhe's quite like one waked out of a frightful dream. I fancy ſhe has been out of her mind, for ſhe remembers nothing hardly that has happen'd ſince her leaving London; and Sir Harry ſays, ſhe was quite ſtupid all the way home. She recovers hourly, and has cried ſeveral times lately, which we think a good ſign. In my confuſion I have neglected to inform you of a moſt material circumſtance; that is, the motive of their ſudden flight; it was owing to one of their principal ſervants being taken up for a robbery and murder, the dread of his confeſſion hurried them off. However, all this villainy was hang'd with him, for he did not mention it. There is all poſſible ſearch making in Ireland, to bring theſe people to juſtice, and it is thought they cannot eſcape. I can write no more at preſent. My dear Fanny farewel.

EMMA MA. HARWOOD.

LET-

LETTER LXXXVI.

Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Dear Miſs Wellers, Blyden-Lodge.

I SNATCH this moment before I go to bed, to tell you we came here the day before yeſterday, in order to receive Mr. Evanion, who came laſt night, but gave us no other ſatisfaction, than ſeeing him before he dies. I muſt not pretend to deſcribe the meeting. All our troubles has been nothing to this ſcene. Poor Louiſa is only affected with a ſtupid kind of melancholy, which the phyſicians are of opinion will never leave her, and that ſhe may live many years, which I thought was impoſſible; for any thing ſo thin I never ſaw before. We have juſt received from Ireland, an account of the miſerable end of the Blydens; the woman died deſpairing; old Blyden was found hanging in a barn, not quite dead, but irrecoverable; Clavering was taken, and immediately ſhot himſelf; many of the ſervants are taken and confined in ſeveral goals; the ſteward who forged Mr. Evanion's will, will

will certainly be hang'd, and ſeveral of the others, for divers robberies and forgeries that can be proved upon them. Thus ends that helliſh crew. And now I muſt conclude faithfully yours,

EMMA MARIA HARWOOD.

LETTER LXXXVII.

Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Lower-Woodberry.

My dear Fanny,

I HAVE not had ſpirits ſufficient to write for ſo long a time, that I fear you'll accuſe me of great neglect. I came home but laſt night, and have promiſed Louiſa I will ſoon go and ſpend a month with her, but Sir Harry would not let me ſtay any longer, fearing it was too much for my ſpirits. The day after I wrote to you laſt, poor Mr. Evanion died; he was buried in the lodge vault. Miſs Blyden took it amazingly calm. She was with him at the time of his departing; after which ſhe went to her room, from whence ſhe never intends to come any more.

The day after he was buried, ſhe ſent for Mr. Brook, and put all her affairs into his hands, deſiring him to allow the houſe-ſteward three thouſand a year for the family expences; and the overplus of her eſtate, which is at leaſt five thouſand a year, to be given in charity. She will ſee no creature's face on any conſideration, but Mr. Brook, me, her own maid, and the chaplain who reads prayers to her twice a day. She appears perfectly ſenſible and quite reſign'd, but a perpetual melancholy on her countenance. Now I am ſo far ſettled as to be able to command my own time, I want to know how I may prevail on Mrs. Wellers to give you liberty to make a charitable viſit at Woodberry; for when the Hetchmores are abſent, I have not one reaſonable or decent neighbour; and my mother finding herſelf decline very faſt, will not ſuffer me to attend Sir Harry any more while ſhe lives; and he is now going with the regiment into Scotland, which will be eighteen months before it returns. Now judge my ſituation, if it is not deplorable; and as I can write nothing entertaining, will treſpaſs no longer on your time, than to aſſure you that I am yours unalterably.

EMMA MARIA HARWOOD.

LET-

LETTER LXXXVIII.

Continuation of Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

SINCE I wrote laſt to my dear Miſs Wellers, I have received a letter from Mrs. Clavering, which I here incloſe. From the account ſhe gives of her new acquaintance, I have no notion ſhe will prove of any real advantage to her; on the contrary, greatly fear the gay ſcenes ſhe is going to re-enter, may ſubject her to greater inconveniences than any ſhe has yet experienced; for I underſtand, this Miſs French is a perſon of no fortune, tho' in high life, and much taken notice of by people of faſhion. When I have ſeen her, will give you more of my opinion. 'till then, adieu, and believe me to remain,

Your ever affectionate,

EMMA MARIA HARWOOD.

LETTER LXXXIX.

Mrs. CLAVERING *to Lady* HARWOOD, *inclosed in the foregoing.*

OH! my dear Lady Harwood, I am ſurely the luckieſt of unlucky mortals, I have met with ſuch a friend! the world can't produce her equal! but I muſt calm my ſpirits, before I can give you a rational account of this matchleſs excellence.

My aunt, ſweet creature, one evening indulged me with a friſk to Ranelagh, with the only tolerable ſmart girl in the circle of her acquaintance; one of our party was a Miſs French, daughter of ſome old Cit; that's her misfortune, not her fault, poor dear; ſhe is exquiſitely handſome, extravagantly genteel, ſings like an angel; that's nothing; what's above all, ſhe's acquainted with all the people of quality in the kingdom! and can you believe it? This adoreable creature has invited me to ſpend a month with her, when my aunt goes into the country; and to convince you that miracles are not ceas'd, ſhe has conſented, I might indeed go directly; but I chuſe to ſtay till ſhe is out of the hearing of

of our joyous ſchemes, not that this Lovely has any thing of the flight in her compoſition; the reverſe entirely, languid, gentle, &c. &c. I long with the utmoſt impatience to ſee you, and have no hopes of any opportunity, unleſs you will permit me to bring Miſs French with me? If I can prevail with her to take ſuch a trip, how compleatly happy ſhall I be. I have twenty thouſand ſchemes in view, but none ſo much at heart as ſeeing your ladyſhip. I am, with all poſſible reſpect,

Your moſt obliged,

and moſt devoted,

ANNAMA. CLAVERING.

LETTER XC.

Lady HARWOOD *to Miſs* WELLERS.

Dear Miſs Wellers,

THE night before yeſterday, my expected viſitors arrived, Mrs. Clavering and Miſs French. I embrace this leiſure half hour to return thanks for your laſt obliging

favour, and to give you (if poſſible) ſome idea of the latter lady, who is the higheſt character I ever met: ſincerely wiſh my account could entertain you, as ſhe has entertain'd us. They came in about ſix in the evening; Mrs. Clavering's joy at meeting was great, and I was truly glad to ſee her; you know her pleaſing gay good humour, it always engaged my partiality. Her friend is a ſtriking figure, handſome and genteel; her dreſs was elegantly dirty and ragged, quite the ſmart ſlattern. She went through the hall into the parlour, and without taking notice of any one, flung herſelf into my mother's eaſy chair, in a fainting attitude; we were much alarm'd, and drops were call'd for: Mrs. Clavering aſſured us, ſhe'd ſoon recover, but was of a delicate nature, and eaſily fatigued: She then rais'd herſelf, and began with dear ladies, a thouſand pardons; but ſuch a journey, and ſuch roads, are only to be ſuſtain'd by ruſtick frames. I am all confuſion to perceive that the diſcompoſure which had totally involved me, ſo abſorb'd my ſenſes, as to diſable me from paying the decent ceremonies on this pleaſing occaſion. Here ſhe again grew faint and languid, but the ſeaſonable entrance of coffee and tea ſoon revived her drooping ſpirits. About eight o'clock

ſhe

ſhe begg'd for ſome harmonious comforts, which after a little puzzle of ours, and her more intricate explanations, we found to be muſick; I therefore offer'd to ſhow her to my harpſichord, but fear'd it was not in perfect tune. Oh! my dear Lady Harwood, (ſhe cried) take me a thouſand miles from an inſtrument out of tune, I die at diſcord: but Me'm, can't you aſk the favour of ſome of your neighbours to come in and make us up a little claſh; I ſhan't recover till I have had ſome muſick, that's a healing balm to all my wounds. I told her our remote ſituation, upon which ſhe immediately fell back in her chair, but ſoon recover'd, hum'd a piece of an Italian air, and begg'd to be conducted to her Chambre Dormir, not chuſing any ſupper. On taking leave, ſhe deſir'd not to be call'd till twelve, except the morning was remarkably clear, and the ſun of an Italick warmth; for the Engliſh damps muſt have taken off the extremity of her voice, ages ago, had not the utmoſt care been taken. I yeſterday took ſome opportunities of enquiring a little into her ſituation; find ſhe is the only child of a very ridiculous old man. On aſking in what part of London ſhe lived, I was anſwer'd by, Oh! Me'm, my pa'as buſineſs obliges him to reſide in a moſt filthy

part of the Metropolis—in the city, Me'm, but he is so sweetly indulgent, that I might live where I chuse—filial duty, Me'm, is an impediment to that gratification; for nothing less than a conjugal attachment, shall ever take me from so kind a parent. We also touch'd upon the subject of singing; I find it is with the utmost reluctance that she quavers forth to less than fourscore or a hundred persons; nor then, except the whole company join in assuring her, its only a private party: If a duke and two or three lords lay at her feet during the performance, it adds infinite spirit to her song. Sometimes (I learn) there are parties made of noble personages, and she invited to sing, and as frequently disappoints them; the consequence of which, she gave me in the following manner; that the morning after one of these invitations, the whole company forced themselves upon her to breakfast; and then, says she, Me'm, I was obliged to sing, for my dear pa'a is so fond of hearing me applauded, that I cannot resist his importunity, when I see the dear good old man prostrate on the ground, kissing my feet, and offering me the world to indulge him and my friends with a song, half a song, nay a million for three notes; and then their praises, Me'm, are so——I must, indeed I must totally obscure

ſcure my voice; for really, Me'm, the applauſes quite confound my ſenſes; I muſt, Me'm, give it up, for the world is ſo ſatyrical; wou'd you imagine that the people who live near me, (neighbours I've none, Me'm) talk of inditing my pa'a, Me'm, becauſe the noblemen's coaches that wait on me, keep the avenues to their ſhops, Me'm, always block'd up; and certainly it is rather hard, that I ſhould obſtruct their cuſtomers, who have all I uſe from the other end of the town.

My dear Miſs Wellers, I have tired myſelf and pen, in writing this girl's nonſenſe. Excuſe ceremony in your

EMMA MARIA HARWOOD.

LETTER XCI.

Miſs WELLERS *to Lady* HARWOOD.

Swinderby Abbey.

I RETURN dear Lady Harwood many thanks for the entertaining account of her viſitors; am glad to find they have taken their leave, as I cannot ſuppoſe ſuch oddities can pleaſe for any length of time. I am rejoiced to hear Miſs Blyden appears rather more chearful; heartily wiſh ſhe could be prevail'd on to quit her chamber, and ſee a little company, but you ſeem to think it impoſſible to carry that point.

I have loſt my agreeable companion Mrs. Granville, but am happy under the reflection of its being a removal greatly to her advantage; old Mr. Courtly having ſent her a very affectionate letter of invitation home, ſhe inſtantly obeyed; and I am now in hourly expectation of hearing from her. Pray my beſt reſpects to Mrs. Lewis, the ſame attends your ladyſhip, from

Your affectionate and obliged,

F. WELLERS.

LET-

LETTER XCII.

Continuation of Miſs WELLERS *to Lady* HARWOOD.

My dear Lady Harwood, Swinderby Abbey.

BY the friendſhip that has long ſubſiſted, inviolate between us, our ſeparate connections ſeem united; I love your Louiſa, you my Jemima; therefore am convinced the incloſed letter will give you infinite ſatisfaction. I never experienced a pleaſure equal to what it afforded me.

My mother and ſelf propoſe to ſet out tomorrow for Courtly Hall; from whence, whatever occurs that can in any reſpect contribute to the entertainment of dear Lady Harwood, ſhall be communicated by her

faithful Friend

and Servant,

FRANCES WELLERS.

LETTER XCIII.

Mrs. GRANVILLE *to Miſs* WELLERS, *incloſed in the foregoing.*

Courtly Hall.

HOW varied the ſcene ſince I laſt pen'd a letter to my dear Miſs Wellers from this place, then was I the unhappy object of my father's diſpleaſure, now his chief delight; then only a ſecret admirer of Horatio, now his happy wife; and what was then my reputed crime, is now my greateſt triumph. Bleſt change! Innumerable reflections of this kind crowd on my memory, and retard the chief deſign of this epiſtle—but without further digreſſion, I'll now proceed.

As to our firſt meeting, it may eaſier be imagined than deſcrib'd; after the alternate tranſports of joy and grief were over, my father inform'd me, that all my unhappineſs had proceeded from my ſiſter's treachery, at length diſcovered by Miſs Brand, who in a letter to my father, with a vaſt deal of pretended contrition, declared herſelf confederate with Emily, in forming various ſchemes for injuring me in my father's affections; moſt of which,

which, both you and myſelf have long been acquainted with.

As ſoon as my father had peruſed the letter, he ſent for Miſs Brand, who then gave a particular account of their wicked combination, and produced the letters ſhe had received from my ſiſter, proteſting remorſe of conſcience, prompt her to a diſcovery, that ſhe had long been a ſtranger to peace of mind, and never ſhould enjoy a moment's ſatisfaction, 'till the grievances ſhe had been acceſſary to were redreſs'd; but how falſe that aſſertion, pique and reſentment were her ſole inſtigators, for it ſeems as ſoon as I was out of the power of my ſiſter, and ſhe found Miſs Brand could be of no further ſervice, ſhe treated her with great coolneſs and indifference, and at length total diſregard. Miſs Brand quickly perceived this alteration, but having preſent occaſion for a little caſh, reſolved to put Emily's friendſhip once more to the trial; accordingly requeſted the loan of five guineas, which Emily refuſed, deſiring Miſs Brand would never trouble her upon ſuch accounts, nor ever expect any ſuch favour from her.

What a fortunate circumſtance was this to me, Miſs Brand reſolving on revenge, divulged their vile conſpiracy, and thereby turn'd the tide of my adverſe fortune, and

prevente

prevented the train of ills I might have suffered from a continuance under a parent's displeasure.

My father justly observing Miss Brand never repented the sewing discord in our family, till she found it no longer of advantage to herself, presenting her with five guineas, frankly told her he should regard that sum as much too trifling a recompence for the benefits that accru'd from her discovery, but could not think of rewarding as a virtue, what evidently appear'd the result of a contrary principle. What pity was it, that a man so capable of judging right, should so long be misled by prejudice and partiality; but God forbid I should even in thought, reproach or censure his past conduct, since he now makes such ample amends by the utmost tenderness and paternal affection.

My aunt Sheldren has acquainted me with Emily's situation, that as her unnatural behaviour had made the sight of her unbearable to my father, he insisted upon her quitting his house, and was with difficulty prevail'd on to make any provision for her, but by my aunt's earnest intreaty, he has promised she shall be decently provided for during her life, tho' not as his daughter, and has put her to board

board in a family at a very considerable distance.

I believe you have often heard that my mother's fortune, which was ten thousand pounds, was to be distributed according to my father's discretion among the younger children; he therefore has allotted one thousand of it for my sister's maintenance; and the residue is reserved for my portion, and to be paid Mr. Granville at his return, an event my father seems almost as anxious after as myself; he also seconds me in an earnest desire, which is partly in your power to gratify, I mean the pleasure of Mrs. Wellers and your company at Courtly Hall, which will greatly add to the felicity of

Your most affectionate,

JEMIMA GRANVILLE.

LET-

LETTER XCIV.

Miſs WELLERS *to Lady* HARWOOD.

Courtly Hall.

Dear Lady Harwood,

I RECEIVED your obliging favour a few days after my arrival at this place; Mrs. Granville deſires me to preſent her moſt reſpectful compliments and thanks for your congratulations, for which I likewiſe think myſelf extremely obliged to you. Young Mr. Courtly came to conduct us from Swinderby hither; he deſir'd that at our firſt meeting, we would take no notice of former affairs, as his father ſeem'd too ſenſibly affected whenever the leaſt mention was made of them.

Old Mr. Courtly received us with great politeneſs, and appear'd tolerably chearful; you cannot conceive what pains he takes to make us all happy, his whole ſtudy and attention is conſtantly bent upon that endeavour.

I am vaſtly glad to hear your mother is well enough to propoſe going to Upper Woodberry, and think her remaining there while you are at Blyden-Lodge, is an excellent ſcheme,

ıe, as Lady Hetchmore and Mrs. Lewis
ıitable companions, and will be happy
each other, but your ſituation with poor
ſa muſt be exceſſive melancholy. How-
as your company is her deſire, I am
ied it's a pleaſure to you to comply. All
family join in compliments to your
ıer and ſelf, with

Your obliged

and affectionate

F. WELLERS.

. *S.* Old Mr. Courtly was yeſterday ſeveral
:s engaged in private conference with my
her.

LET-

LETTER XCV.

Mrs. GRANVILLE *to Lady* HARWOOD.

Dear Madam, Courtly Hall.

I AM commiſſion'd by Miſs Wellers to acquaint your ladyſhip with ſome particulars of a nature that will not ſo properly admit of a relation from herſelf. Your ladyſhip I am certain is no ſtranger to the reciprocal regard my brother and Miſs Wellers have for ſome years entertain'd for each other, but the unhappy ſituation of our family oblig'd them to conceal their well placed affections till now. My father, by my brother's deſire, has made propoſals to Mrs. Wellers, and aſſur'd her, that if he ſucceeded in his embaſſy, his happineſs would be compleated, for had he the choice of the whole ſex, Miſs Wellers would be the firſt woman he would point out as a wife for his ſon. Mrs. Wellers declaring herſelf equally ſatisfied on her daughter's account; the lawyers were inſtantly employ'd in the neceſſary points relating to ſettlements, &c. and as ſoon as they are compleated, the marriage will be ſolemnized. Now I have broke

broke the ice, I believe Miſs Wellers will give you further information in a ſhort time. I am with due reſpect,

Your Ladyſhip's moſt obliged

and obedient humble Servant,

JEMIMA GRANVILLE.

LETTER XCVI.

Miſs WELLERS *to Lady* HARWOOD.

My dear Lady Harwood,

MRS. Granville having acquainted you with the particular engagement that has for ſome time engroſs'd my attention, I hope you will readily excuſe my neglect in not writing to your ladyſhip before this.

Every circumſtance is now ſettled relating to my eſpouſal with Mr. Courtly; and now my dear Emma, let me prevail with you to honour me with your preſence at the ceremony, which is to be performed at Swinderby, on the anniverſary of Mrs. Granvill's wedding day; I muſt deſpair of the happineſs of

of Mrs. Lewis's company, as I fear the journey would be too fatiguing, but as my joys will not be compleat till I have seen her, will make a visit at Woodberry as soon as possible. I suppose you are not now with Miss Blyden, so shall direct this letter to Woodberry, and hope very soon to receive one from your ladyship. I am

Your affectionate, &c.

F. WELLERS.

LETTER XCVII.

Lady HARWOOD *to Miss* WELLERS.

My dear Miss Wellers,

I AM preparing with all speed for Courtly Hall, I was at Blyden-Lodge when your kind invitation came, but my dear Louisa immediately consented to my leaving her, obligingly saying, she could part with me without reluctance on this occasion. My mother would most gladly accompany me, could she support the fatigue of the journey, but as she is very certain of the contrary, says her

her beſt and tendereſt wiſhes that ever will attend you, muſt ſuffice. I am with joy and gladneſs inexpreſſible

Your affectionate, &c.

EMMA MARIA HARWOOD.

LETTER XCVIII.

Lady HARWOOD *to Mrs.* LEWIS.

Honoured Madam,

I AM ſafe arrived at Courtly Hall, where I was received with the greateſt friendſhip and politeneſs by the whole family. We are to ſet out for Swinderby next Saturday, and in a few days after, the marriage is to be there conſummated; the young folks intended a private wedding, but old Mr. Courtly inſiſts upon its being very public, and celebrated with great joy and feſtivity; he deſigns keeping open houſe for a fortnight. As ſoon as the viſits are received and return'd, the bride and bridegroom will accompany me to Wood-

Woodberry, and ſpend a few days with us. I am,

Dear Madam,

Your dutiful and

affectionate Daughter,

EMMA MARIA HADWOOD.

CONCLUSION.

IN about a twelve month after Mr. Anthony Courtly's marriage, Mr. Granville return'd from his travels, an event that compleated the felicity of that family. Old Mr. Courtly ſoon became truly ſenſible of his ſon in law's great merit and juſt title to his parental regard, in ſo much that he gave him eight thouſand pounds, excluſive of the fortune Mrs. Granville was intitled to by her mother's marriage articles, which he cauſed to be ſettled in like manner on her iſſue.

As young Mr. Courtly reſided at Swinderby, old Mr. Courtly propoſed Mr. Granville's continuing with him, but Horatio's active genius

genius naturally inclined him more to the purſuit of ſome employment and a town life, than a country retirement; his firm attachment to the young nobleman he had travel'd with, greatly contributed to ſtrengthen that choice, as by reſiding in London, he could have more frequent opportunities of ſeeing his lordſhip, who likewiſe entertained the greateſt eſteem and friendſhip for Mr. Granville, which he afterwards manifeſted, by procuring him a poſt of great honour and profit, which he enjoyed during his life, and filled with the higheſt reputation.

Immediately after the death of Mrs. Wellers, Mr. Anthony Courtly removed to Courtly Hall, as Swinderby Abbey was extremely diſagreeable to Mrs. Courtly, after the loſs of her mother.

Old Mr. Courtly lived to a great age, in a ſtate of uninterrupted tranquility.

Miſs Emily Courtly ſhortened her days by intemperate living, endeavouring to drown the reflections of a guilty conſcience.

Miſs Blyden perſevered in her reſolution of never quitting her chamber, and lived ſome years in that melancholy ſituation. After her deceaſe, every body that were in the leaſt deſerving her notice, found themſelves remember'd in her will; her more particular acquaintance

quaintance were bequeathed very conſiderable legacies, and large ſums intruſted to her executors to be diſtributed in both public and private charities.

After the death of Mrs. Lewis, Lady Harwood's mother, Sir Harry ſold his commiſſion and retired with his lady and family to Woodberry.

Mrs. Clavering continued with her aunt Burton during her life, and after the death of her aunt, was received and ſupported by Mr. Rainsford her father.

The Miſs Moores were, after the death of their uncle Duncombe, genteely provided for in Lady Hetchmore's family.

Lady Harwood, Mr. Anthony Courtly, and Mrs. Granville, were the laſt ſurviving perſons, the only circumſtance that made the loſs of their conſorts ſupportable, and, that could alleviate that misfortune, was obſerving all the amiable qualities of the deceas'd ſurvive in their offspring, which they did in ſuch eminent degree, that to all the iſſue of thoſe happy pairs, might be juſtly aſcrib'd, that fine encomium on the family of a gentleman inter'd in Weſtminſter-Abbey: *That all the Sons were valiant, and all the Daughters virtuous.*

F I N I S.

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RBC
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Mendelssohn
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Errata

Letter 51. page 124. line 26 read kick'd him.

Letter 82. page 205. for Emily read Fanny.