

THE VICAR'S TALES.

Through what a magnifying glass we view
The faults of others!—with half-shut eyes behold
The follies incident to human nature,
When pictured in ourselves!

It were well for mankind in general, did they attend more strictly to the benign precept delivered by our blessed Saviour in his inimitable Sermon on the Mount:—"Judge not, that ye be not judged."—We are all too prone to pronounce a hasty and even severe judgment on the actions of our fellow-creatures; and maliciously to exaggerate their foibles, and to place their failings in the most conspicuous point of view, at the same time carefully concealing from our own hearts, all consciousness that we are ourselves deserving the same censure we so liberally bestow on the actions of our neighbours.

Francis Stanhope, the hero of the following tale, was the only child of a gentleman of good family and considerable fortune. He had just