

little did they reflect upon the enormity of their crime, that they were spurning from their protection the unhappy victim of their own mistaken management, and of the ill-judged education their own folly had led them to bestow on their now unhappy child. Nature had given to Emma, a mild and pliant disposition, that might with care have been trained to the stem of excellence, and amiability—but rocked in the cradle of indolence and vanity, she absolutely became a sacrifice to her parents' errors. Reduced to the last guinea, and receiving but an occasional trifling remittance from her husband, without either the energy or the means of exertion, poor Emma would have sunk into oblivion, and perhaps have ended her career by death, had not the soul of an angel, in the form of Maria, hovered over and protected her. That affectionate girl received from the little property bequeathed to her by her father, an annual allowance to purchase her cloathes, books &c. this had never been disposed of extravagantly, but it was now apparently hoarded with a parsimony that astonished both Mr. and Mrs. Penson, and the latter had not unfrequently reprov'd with severity Maria's want of taste in her dress, and her meanness in turning and patching her garments in lieu of replacing them with new. How little did she suspect that when such reproofs were harshly given they were like arrows to the heart of her who was devoting every guinea as she received it to the support of the unhappy Emma, who neglected and humbled was pining in misery.

Although Mr. Penson had become more tranquilized, he had never ceased to mourn the erring conduct of his daughter, upon whose contrition, it was believed, he would again have received under his roof and protection, but his wife was peremptory, her decision was irrevocable, and she was determined that her delicate nerves should not be excited by an interview with her disgraced daughter, who, by an act of folly had forfeited her affections for ever. Mr. Penson however could not forget that he was still the parent of Emma, he had been forbidden to mention her name—but his parental heart did not cease to ache, his temper became more uneven, indolence more apparent, busi-