

conduct would be exposed, and from finding his designs upon Lucinda so unexpectedly frustrated.

When Orlando and Lucinda arrived at farmer Fallow's, they found him sitting before the door of his house, under a canopy of woodbines, smoking his evening pipe over a jug of his own home-brewed; and indulging himself in a train of pleasing meditations on the prosperity that attended him, and the domestic happiness he enjoyed. 'But what mortal,' says the son of Abdallah, the hermit of the rock, 'was ever known to enjoy uninterrupted happiness!' This reflection of the eastern sage was now verified in farmer Fallow. Till the present period, his bark had smoothly sailed through the ocean of life, nor had scarcely a rude blast ruffled his canvas. But he was no sooner informed of what had happened, (which the perturbations of Lucinda would not suffer to remain concealed) than down went his pipe, an universal trepidation shook his frame, his countenance glowed with resentment; and snatching up his oaken sapling, he was hastening away, to take instant revenge for the insult offered him through his favourite daughter. 'Let him be a baronet, or let him be a lord,' said the enraged farmer, 'what care I for him! I don't owe him, or any man a shilling; and though I am not so great a man as he, yet he shan't make a w— of my daughter. I'll find him out, and if he were a king, surrounded by his guards, I'd give him such a basting as he never had in his life, let him take the law of me if he will.'

He was posting with all speed toward the great house, when Mrs. Fallow, hearing him so vociferous, rushed out of the dairy, attended by her three daughters, and having been informed of the cause of his anger, though she felt almost as great a degree of resentment against the assailer of her daughter's honour, yet being possessed of more coolness than her husband, and prudence suggesting to her the consequence of his assaulting so great a man, she hastened after him, and flinging her arms about him, obstructed his passage; and Lucinda, at the same time, intreating her father not to be so precipitate, they got him back, and persuaded him to be calm. But this could not be effected till he had vented many severe reflections on Sir Thomas, and repeatedly vowed that he would be revenged on him. 'What have I done?' exclaimed the honest farmer, in the fullness of his heart, 'what have I done to deserve this treatment? I, who have always made it a rule never to give offence? But what a fool was I to trust my daughter in the hands of such a liber-

tine. I might as well have sent my geese to feed within the haunts of a fox!'

Sir Thomas had no sooner lost Lucinda, than he cursed his stars for snatching from his lips such a delicate morsel, just as he was upon the point of enjoying it; and much blamed himself, versed as he was in the art of seduction, for not laying his plans better. Vexation at the same time racked his heart relative to the consequences of his amorous adventure; for though he was not ashamed of having made the attempt, yet knowing that farmer Fallow was much esteemed in the neighbourhood, he was apprehensive that a general indignation would be excited by his conduct, which even his own consequence would not be able to oppose. He therefore came to the resolution of withdrawing awhile, till the storm should be a little overblown. He accordingly, under pretext of visiting a brother sportsman, set out the next morning for a neighbouring county, taking with him his daughters, who shared in some measure in their father's disappointment; for though they behaved with some degree of decency toward Lucinda while she was with them, yet they would not have been displeased to have had her envied superiority in point of beauty brought down.

Farmer Fallow, with his success in life, had imbibed those ideas which are usually generated upon such occasions in little minds. An increase of property created an increase of consequence; and priding himself at the same time in the accomplishments of his daughter Lucinda, he entertained no very distant hope of being able to marry her to a squire, at least, and thereby to elevate his name and family from the obscurity in which it had hitherto been involved. Mrs. Fallow, catching the ambitious infection from her husband, who frequently entertained her with his views on this head, would likewise hear of nothing but a gentleman as a husband for her favourite daughter. Many an hour, while the farmer has been smoking his evening pipe, have this good couple indulged themselves in looking forward into futurity, and taking a view of the grandeur of their family. Like Alnascher (whose aspiring reveries are so pleasingly described in the Spectator) they saw their progeny, after a few descents, advanced to the highest honours; and they enjoyed, by anticipation, the pleasing reverse.

The services of Orlando, when they were made known, were of course acknowledged with grateful fervour by both of them; as, without this fortunate interference, their ideal elevation, through the future alliance of their daughter, must have