

injure the insect that crossed his path, he could not sting a human being, even to display his own superior powers.

One day, that Mrs. Delville experienced one of these deluding changes, peculiar to her malady, which almost revive extinguished hope, Charles Stanhope came rather later than usual and bearing the marks of agitation in his countenance ; shortly after his entrance he announced his intended departure to South America ; the ladies looked astonished, and Mrs. Delville enquired if the object of his journey was a secret.—I had intended it should be so, Madam, but your permission to divulge it in your presence, is the only alleviation I can experience in a circumstance that fills me with despair. Clara, who had displayed strong emotion during this speech, now offered to leave the room. Leave me not, he exclaimed, but stay, Clara, to decide my fate ; and leading her beside her mother he continued : I have long loved you Miss Delville, as those only who are as isolated in the world as myself can love, my very limited income forced me to be silent, and almost to banish hope, as the height of presumption. I have formed plans for the acquirement of riches, but none have yet succeeded, at length I am come to the resolution of seeking elsewhere, not what will render me worthy of you, but at least that which is your due ; as I said before, I did not intend to whisper my wishes yet, but the trial for which I have taken so much pains to prepare myself, has proved above my strength ; and now may I depart with one ray of hope ?

Clara much affected by her lover's devoted affection, and struck with admiration by the convincing artlessness of his manner, nobly discarded the natural confusion arising from the unexpected avowal, and awakening to a consciousness, that, however absorbed by the late events and the state of her parent, she yet felt a deep interest in the disinterested being before her, frankly avowed the state of her mind, and referred Charles to her mother for an answer. Mrs. Delville, who like Clara, had learned more within the last few months than in her whole life of prosperity ; was deeply impressed by the scene ; she gave her warm approbation of Charles' attachment, and endeavored to cheer her