

too weak to ride her donkey, too qualmish to go inside the barouche, which was turned out every day to keep the bloods in wind, and nothing agreed with her delicate health but being mounted on the box beside Lord S—. The evenings passed off as heavily as the mornings. Lady Barbara used to ask me to take the usual stroll with her, and Lady Betty, being afraid to venture upon the damp grass, was again left to the mercy of Lord S—, to whom walking was a low-lived amusement, for which he had no taste. The lady mother as usual, had her sleeping fits, and when we returned, we invariably found things in disorder. The candles had not been lighted, the tea things had not been brought in, and Lord S—had turned sulky with his bottle, and was sitting quietly with Lady Betty. I felt for her more than I can express, and could not, for the life of me, conceive where she picked up patience to be civil to him. She even affected to be delighted with his conversation, and her good breeding was beyond all praise.

With such an example of endurance before me, and the pacific promises I had made, I could not avoid wearing a benevolent aspect. Indeed though the enemy had cut off the direct communication of sentiment between us, I was not altogether without my triumphs and secret satisfactions. The general outline I have given was occasionally intersected with little episodes that were quite charming. For instance, lady Betty used constantly to employ me on errands to her mother, who was usually absent in her private room, manufacturing caudle and flannel petticoats for the work-house. When I returned, she would despatch me to her sister, who was requiring my advice upon her drawing, in the study ; and thus Lord S..... could not fail to observe the familiar terms we were upon, and that we perfectly understood each other. What gave me more pleasure than all was, that he must see I had no fear of leaving my liege lady alone with him, which must have galled him to the quick. When she had no other means of showing her devotion to me, she would produce the lilac pocket-book, and pursue the work