

and claim her own, which they were above all things most anxious to prevent, as that would defeat their plan of plunder and robbery. The sheriff, to his disgrace, consented to this arrangement; it was put in practice; and at the end of four and twenty days Louisa was allowed again to enter into her own apartments.

In the interval of five days which occurred between her liberation, and the evacuation of the house, this injured and insulted lady, without a home, without a friend, without any aid, was forced to seek a precarious refuge at night, wherever chance directed her steps through the town. Money, it is true, she had, but in such a place as this, where all are, or were, (for the spell is almost broken) in awe of the East India Company, who had besides circulated the falsest, and most infamous calumnies respecting her, money would neither open houses or hearts. Two nights she sought her abode again in the prison where she had been so long a suffering victim of oppression, and was accommodated by the gaoler's family as well as they could: two others were passed under obscure roofs, where liberal payment procured her a bed; the fifth, the gentleman of the bar, who had undertaken her cause, and who till then did not know of her being so houseless and forlorn, insisted upon her taking a bed at his house, whilst he went to sleep at a friend's in order to avoid any accumulation of that scandal which had been so industriously propagated by her vile persecutors. It was the worst part of our rainy monsoon, and Louisa, nurtured in ease, and habituated to every indulgence, in lieu of her slaves and palanquin to convey her, had to wander alone on foot, amidst the "pelting of the pitiless storm," through the streets of the settlement, for those comfortless five days and nights, whilst at the command of the base authors of her misery, a set of the lowest of mankind barred her own doors against her, rioted in her house, ransacked her clothes and papers, and destroyed her property.

But, you will say, will not the laws give redress for all these outrages, for such atrociously false imprisonment, for such illegal legal robbery, such forcible destruction, and aggravated injuries? Yes, nominally the law will. But it is in most cases utter mockery to refer the sufferers by such arbitrary conduct to the tardy, the expensive, the uncertain operation of law. Those who have neither money nor friends can never get redress. Louisa had indeed money, and has brought actions against the East India Company, and the other perpetrators of these evil deeds, but full two years I am