

and privations, to which we must submit, with a serenity and fortitude, that administer to me perpetual consolation. With such an example, whatever I may feel, I should be ashamed to complain: During the principal part of the day, I am necessarily from home. We see no company whatever, and live in the utmost privacy and retirement. I have no books; but there is a library in the neighbourhood, where I may be furnished if I will. What leisure hours I have, particularly the evening, I employ in educating my children; in which task, when she is not indisposed, their mother is my assistant.

As if to reconcile us to our lot by proving how much worse it might be, we have been already visited with afflictions superadded to its ordinary and unavoidable hardships. Soon after we were settled in this house, a fire broke out one night in an adjoining street, to which I ran in order to assist in putting it out, while Jane and the children mounted up into the garret to have a better view of the danger. The parlour and chamber being thus deserted, some of those harpies who are always on the alert in this city to take advantage of confusion, found means to strip our ill-fated habitation of every article of furniture. Not a piece was left; and we were put to the expense, which we could but ill bear, of buying an entire new stock, or rather I should say another stock; for, far from being new, it was procured at second hand, at a sale of the goods of some companion in distress, which were brought to the hammer by an execution. This accident caused us a great deal of vexation and trouble; and we had hardly repaired its