

CHAPTER XVII.

ALTHOUGH neither officially appointed to the guardianship of Mr. George, nor particularly desirous myself of acting in that capacity, I nevertheless found the honor thrust upon me by that young gentleman himself, whose polite attentions I must here take occasion to gracefully acknowledge ; seeing that he never for the first few months of our temporary sejour under the same roof, appeared to grow tired of my society. Even on occasion of paying visits to the lady of his love, he appeared equally desirous of it, a circumstance which at first struck me as somewhat peculiar, but which I could very readily account for, when, upon a closer acquaintance with the state of affairs in that quarter, I discovered that master George was only a very minor luminary in the long train of the young lady's admirers, and consequently received but a very minor share of her much coveted attention ; to be sure, she allowed him the honor of spending a few dollars whenever he felt so disposed on costly presents for her, which she also condescended to accept as the lawful homage of so *mean* a subject to his gracious Sovereign, as well as further stooping from her high