

foolish rage he wrote a violent letter to the physician, demanding an apology. This only made matters worse. Next day, the lecturer took out the epistle from his pocket, and read it aloud to his pupils, commencing on it as he proceeded in terms of severe and cutting irony. He had scarcely reached home, when a young man waited upon him as Mr. Black's friend, with a demand either of a public apology, or what was then, as now, termed the *satisfaction of a gentleman*. The physician treated both alternatives with scorn; adding, that whatever were Mr. Black's *prospects* the difference between their *present* respective ranks in life, sufficiently entitled him to refuse any meeting of a hostile nature. The young man then requested a few lines, stating the latter view of the matter, for the satisfaction of his principal, which the physician readily gave him, and he returned to Black, expecting a renewed scene of passion and violence. But the result was very different. For some time after reading the physician's note Henry Black appeared so stunned and overwhelmed, that his friend began to fear for his reason; but he gradually recovered himself and seemed to be forming some internal resolution. He at last calmly took the physician's note, wrote something on the back of it, and enclosed it in an envelope, which he sealed and handed to his friend. "Keep this, my friend," said he; "this affair shall go no farther at present, I promise you; and I beg you will endeavor to forget all the circumstances connected with it, until I again ask this packet from you." The other stared with surprise, but undertook the charge requested of him, mentioning at the same time another place of depositing it, in case of his own death, or his leaving the country.

From that hour, Henry Black was a changed man. From notorious idleness and vacancy of mind, he became remarkable for studiousness and assiduity. Nothing could divert him from his studies, which were now principally

directed to the science of surgery; and in due time he received his diploma, with the most flattering marks of his instructors' approbation. At this time his relatives strongly urged him to commence practice in his native district, but he resisted all their solicitations, and proceeded to London, where, after prosecuting his studies for some time further, he obtained an appointment on board of a man-of-war, then about to proceed to the concluding scene of the American contest. There the ship was engaged in several actions, and Henry Black discharged his duties with a professional skill, and an anxious humanity; that endeared him both to officers and crew. Upon the conclusion of the war in 1783, the ship was ordered to a station in one of the West India Islands, and thither the young surgeon also proceeded. He had scarcely arrived, when he received a notification of his uncle's death, who had left him sole heir to his great wealth. The only reply he made to this communication was a letter appointing certain individuals trustees upon his property; directing the greatest part of his income to be paid over to his parents in the mean time, and the remainder to be invested in the funds.—He was determined to remain and practice in the island, and was fortunate enough to be soon afterwards appointed surgeon of the naval hospital at the seaport where his ship was stationed. He acquired, by degrees, great celebrity; but it is needless to detail his career, during the ten years he remained on the island. Suffice it to say, that, between the emoluments of his situation, and the produce of his general practice he acquired in that period a fortune more ample than what had been bequeathed to him. He then embarked for his native land, and, upon his arrival in London, graduated as a physician.

Meanwhile his former instructor had increased in fame and eloquence, and at the period at which we have now arrived, had held a professor's chair in