

and truth.—No clue could be traced as to what had become of the fugitives, except that they had eloped in a post chaise and four from Brighton, Mr. Penson who loved his daughter became almost frantic, and his lady inconsolable ; on her beautiful Emma her fondest hopes had been fixed, and it had long been her determination that her exquisite girl should not accept the hand of any beneath the rank of a Peer, to which she considered her pretty face and reported fortune would quite entitle her, for though it is probable had Mr. Penson wound up his affairs he would not have been possessed of five thousand pounds, yet it was currently asserted, that the beautiful Miss Penson would on the day of her marriage receive from her father a fortune of thirty thousand pounds. From what channel this error arose it is not for me to decide, but probably to its source may be traced the imprudent step which this infatuated girl had taken, and which had involved her family in so much misery—lured by the prospect of gain, a thoughtless unprincipled young man had laid a net to ensnare one, of whose merits he knew too little to warrant the bare suspicion of an honorable attachment.—While poor Emma blinded by vanity, and dazzled by appearances, did not for an instant suppose that the red coat could conceal under its bright linings a heart of the blackest dye, but so it proved, for as soon as this juvenile son of Mars found that his beauty was destitute of fortune, his love became less ardent, in fact it soon dwindled into indifference ; perhaps no deluded victim was ever treated more harshly or severely—ere many months had passed Emma found that her protector had taken his departure, and that too, without the common courtesy of an adieu, to join his regiment in the West Indies, leaving his disconsolate wife bereft not only of protection, but also, nearly without the means of subsistence, and that at a time when her situation demanded his peculiar care. Emma in the extreme of her distress had supplicated by letter the forgiveness and assistance of her parents, but alas ! those parents were inexorable, the poor girl's letter was returned with a severe reprimand, coupled with an injunction never to trouble them again. How