

house, but was prevented by Sir Thomas, who, laying hold of her hand, led her back; endeavouring, at the same time, to dissipate her apprehensions. He then entered into discourse with her on the story she had been reading; and from that he proceeded to a subject more interesting to him, viz. the affection and good will he bore her, and the pleasure it would afford him to place her in a more independent state than she was at present.

Lucinda, displeased with the tendency of the baronet's discourse, made no reply to it, but attempted to get away. She was, however, prevented from doing this, partly by his remonstrances, and partly by compulsion; and she found her herself obliged to hear what he had to say. At length, the contemplation of her charms, heightened by the disorder she was in, and the convenient solitude of the place, raised his passions to such a pitch, that he proceeded to take liberties not to be admitted by a virtuous woman. The reflection that she was at too great a distance from the house to receive any assistance, induced Lucinda at first to temporise; and she accordingly endeavoured to ward off the threatening evil by intreaties; but, finding these ineffectual, she had recourse to struggles and shrieks, which she happily found of more efficacy.

From the time that Lucinda had resided at Sir Thomas Hazle's Orlando had felt a chasm in his heart. He grew restless and unhappy. His favourite sports had no longer their accustomed incitements. Nor could the partiality of the females of the village, which had used to furnish him with opportunities of exerting his vivacity and gallantry, and had till now proved an amusement to him, afford him the satisfaction it was wont to do. His chief pleasure arose from the transitory glances he now and then obtained of Lucinda; a pleasure which he was almost constantly on the watch for. In short, he now found that she had made a more lasting impression on his heart, than he once thought it would ever be in the power of any female to do. Thus disposed, he employed most of his leisure hours in walking round the environs of that abode which contained all he held dear. And in this employ he happened to be engaged, at the very time the scene, so interesting to his own and Lucinda's happiness, was acting. A sympathetic impulse, not to be accounted for by natural causes, had led him that evening to a grove, from which the pavilion was separated only by a slight hedge.

As he here reclined upon a mossy bank, indulging his melancholy reflections, and little dreaming of what was going forward

so near him, he was on a sudden startled by the sound of a female voice, which seemed to carry with it the tone of distress. Aroused by so unexpected an incident, he sprung up, and listening to hear more distinctly from whence it proceeded, thought it resembled a voice with which he was not unacquainted. A repetition of the shrieks convinced him that he was not mistaken; he recognized the sweet voice of her for whom he sighed, and needing no other incitement, he instantly leaped over the hedge, and, reaching the pavilion, beheld a sight that awakened every tender feeling. Compassion for a distressed female, increased by a newly imbibed affection, engrossed for a moment his thoughts—but these were soon succeeded by jealousy and resentment; which rushed like a torrent into his breast, and would have emboldened him to attempt her rescue, even from a troop of armed banditti.

Sir Thomas had at this juncture so far overpowered the trembling maiden, that her strength and senses had nearly forsaken her; and he must soon have completed his libidinous purposes, had not Orlando been thus fortunately sent to her relief. But he no sooner became sensible of the interruption, than he turned about, and with a countenance highly marked with anger and indignation, asked Orlando what occasioned his intrusion, and how he dared to enter his gardens without permission?

Orlando, with firmness, tempered by modesty, replied, that the shrieks of a woman in distress had called him there, and as a man, he thought it incumbent on him to enquire into the cause of them. 'Whatever be their cause,' said Sir Thomas, 'they need not your interference; therefore begone; nor tempt me to take that revenge for your insolence which the superiority of my rank puts it in my power to do.'—'As for your superiority of rank,' returned Orlando, 'such unwarrantable acts as you are now engaged in, level all distinction, I therefore value it not; nor will I stir, till I know whether that young lady, who seems to be in great distress, requires my assistance.'—'I do require it,' exclaimed the terrified maiden, 'and most fervently intreat that you will conduct me to my father's house, for I will no longer sleep under the same roof, with a person who has thus forfeited all claim to my respect.' Saying this, she sprung forward, and giving her hand to her deliverer, flew on the wings of terror toward the house, and from thence, without crossing the deserted threshold, to her father's habitation; leaving Sir Thomas motionless, through shame and vexation; not from compunction, but from the apprehension that his conduct