

possession of the "pearl of great price" is essentially requisite to the enjoyment of conjugal felicity; but an abundance of "this world's goods" is far from being requisite. Such abundance generally increases the cares and anxieties of life, but seldom, if ever, adds to its real comfort. All who enter into the marriage-state from mercenary motives, though they may enlarge their possessions, and increase their fortune, live in splendid misery, and find that they have bartered happiness for wealth. The connexion which is truly desirable is pure and disinterested; it unites hearts and binds in the bonds of mutual love. Human life has few enjoyments so exquisite as that of loving and being loved. No pleasures are so comparable to pleasures which affect the *heart*. Such, in a peculiar manner, are the pleasures which are found in the sweet retirement of domestic life. They are simple, they are innocent, they are virtuous.—*Stowel*.

## LETTERS FROM A MOTHER TO HER DAUGHTERS.

*Written many years ago by the Wife of a Wesleyan Minister.*

### LETTER V.

#### ON FEMALE RESERVE.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

This subject is so nearly allied to a previous one, namely, modesty of behaviour, that it is difficult to make a distinction; and they are, without doubt, two distinct virtues. Perhaps the reserve I refer to may be termed the habit of the mind whence arises an outward modesty of conduct. There is a certain natural reserve of temper which is not particularly connected with any feminine grace, but possessed indiscriminately by men and women, showing itself in great shyness and distance, particularly to strangers, and in a particular caution of word and look, even to acquaintances, which seems to imply a fear of being imposed upon by those with whom we are in company, and lest we should by any means put ourselves in their power. It is not this kind of reserve which I now wish to speak.

There is an inherent playfulness of gesture and countenance natural to some good-natured, lively girls, by which they intend nothing but to amuse, if indeed they intend anything at all; but it is more truly a spontaneous flow of the spirits, which cannot be