

replied, "I cannot think of any. At another season, I might give you orders for political pamphlets, though I doubt whether your philosophic mind could stoop to render them such as would generally please, and obtain an extensive sale." I was about to leave him in despair, when he hesitatingly mentioned that he could procure me a situation, which, though it was beneath my talents, might possibly be acceptable in my present circumstances. I eagerly accepted this offer of his services, and was in a few days engaged as clerk in a newspaper-office, at a salary of forty pounds per annum. This, together with occasional contributions to magazines, afforded me a comfortable livelihood; but my time was completely sacrificed—my genius so much dissipated and frittered away, that I was as far removed from the possibility of producing any great original work, as if I had been employed from morn till night in measuring broad cloths. Daily I became convinced that of all men he is most miserable who is wholly dependent on literature as a profession. He, whose very subsistence must be purchased by the daily labors of his pen, can never attain that concentration of spirit so necessary to genius, nor transcend as may be his talents, will be ever win an immortal fame. But I must now hasten to a part of my narrative chequered by events and feelings more generally interesting.

One evening, about dusk, I was as usual in my office. It was the eve of publication, and I was busily engaged at my desk, when a small slip of paper was laid before me. Glancing hastily over it, I saw that it was an advertisement for insertion in the next day's paper. The advertiser desired a situation as governess and professed competency to teach the various accomplishments indispensable to modern female education. Communications were to be left at the office. I looked up at the bearer, who I felt assured was the advertiser. Her appearance strongly excited my curiosity and interest. She seemed scarcely sixteen, and had an air of utter artlessness and inexperience. Glossy golden ringlets fell in profusion round face and neck of singular beauty and fairness, but her eyes were strained with weeping and her hurried manner indicated terror and distress. She had on a deep claret bonnet and common gray cloak such as are worn by maids of the lower order; but an accidental

motion of her arm displayed the dress she wore beneath, which was extravagant, rich, and showy. Puzzled by these incongruities, but still more interested by her loveliness and evident embarrassment, I offered to send or bring her any communication, if she would favour me with her address; but she eagerly exclaimed, "O, not for the world!" Then, checking herself, she said she could not think of giving me that trouble, but would herself call in a day or two. When she left me, I saw her tripping along the street with the speed and lightness of a fairy; while ever and anon she glanced hurriedly around, as if fearful of being followed or discovered. The day after the advertisement appeared, a letter was left by a livery servant addressed to the advertiser. So anxious was I to see her again that I feared to leave the office for a moment, lest she should call during my absence—and every female form that approached made my heart palpitate with expectation. At length, when evening was deepening into twilight, the lovely little stranger came. Before she had time to ask a question I handed the letter to her, which she received with the fervent ejaculation of "Thank Heaven, thank Heaven!" Opening it impatiently, she began to read, but the brilliant flush of joy soon faded from her cheeks, her lip quivered, and she burst into tears. Deeply affected, I ventured to express my sympathy, and suggested that, by repeating the advertisement, she might meet with something more satisfactory than the present proposal. Restraining her tears, she answered, "Ah, yes, let it be repeated. The present situation would not do. I need not apply for it." She then inquired the cost of the advertisement—indeed, she seemed scarcely sure it would cost any thing, and availing myself of her evident inexperience, I named a price scarcely half the real one, purposing to supply the deficiency myself. I was delighted that I had done so when I saw how much she was appalled even by the small sum which I demanded. She paid it, however, in silence, and left the office. As it was now my time for returning home, I could not resist the impulse to follow her, and if possible discover her residence. Accordingly I kept as close to her as I could do without attracting her observation. In this manner we passed through several crowded streets, until we came to a comparatively private. Here too unperceived