

tions aided by my endeavours, will I trust soon enable me to remove. Cheerfully indeed would this affectionate girl promise any thing that could have added to the happiness of him who was her all of earthly good. She saw with heartfelt grief that his eyes could not be blinded by her innocent artifices to conceal the mortifications of her unhappy station, and yet, that it was impossible for him to resent the indignities she suffered, or mitigate the toil she endured, without a violation of his duty toward his parents.

William had hardly quitted the parental roof when the family were plunged into dire calamity by the elopement of Miss Emma with an Ensign in the——Regiment of foot, with whom she had become acquainted in her frequent promenades on the *Steyne* at Brighton, where Mrs. Penson had taken lodgings for a few weeks in order to recruit her health and strengthen her nerves, which she pronounced to have been sadly shaken by the abrupt departure of her son. In the mean time their domicile in London had been consigned to the care of Maria, who indefatigable in the performance of her duty, had been actively employed in making arrangements for the return of the family, and devoting her leisure hours in writing long epistles to her dear William. The images which chiefly occupied her mind were those of his anxieties on her account, and often, and bitterly did she weep over the sorrows in which she feared he might indulge, and often did she determine for his sake, to sustain life, and hope even under the heart-rending miseries she felt, and the more terrible terrors which frequently assailed her from the utter desolation of her situation, from which she dared hardly look for relief; thus pondering over her fate Maria was one evening at a late hour aroused from her reverie by the unexpected arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Penson whose perturbation of mind, and extreme anger towards each other, both alarmed and grieved her; upon learning the cause of their distress, all remembrance of her own sufferings subsided, for them only she felt, and thought, endearing attentions were administered with an affection that could proceed only from the heart of innocence