

and, as the expiration of her pregnancy drew near, her anxiety increased: but, the greatest addition to her distress was, that the persons of the house where she lodged, having all along regarded her as a kept mistress, and having indeed had scarcely any reason to suppose otherwise, told her very plainly that she must not expect to lie-in at their house; that her residence there so long, and the visits Lothario made, had occasioned much talk in the neighbourhood; and that if she did not speedily remove, they must take measures to compel her, and even spoke of applying to the parish-officers. In vain she assured them, and shewed them, that she had sufficient money to defray every expense incident on her situation, and that they could not come to any pecuniary loss by her. All she could say had no effect upon them; they told her it was by the reputation of their house they lived, and not by such as she; that they would have no bastard born amongst them; and, in short, reproached her with so much coarseness, that any one less scrupulous of her promises, would have declared the whole truth. Yet, hard as all this was to be borne by a woman, who was conscious she had never transgressed the rules of virtue, the duty she conceived she owed to Lothario, as a husband, the obligation he had laid her under of keeping their marriage an inviolable secret, and the firm belief she had, that her dubious character would one day be cleared, and she should attain her proper elevated station in society, gave her patience to sustain, not only this shock, but also the many others she afterwards met with.

Her youth, however, her condition, and the good nature and complaisance, with which she had always behaved towards the family, at last wrought so far upon them, that the good wo-