

did not keep his auditors long in ignorance : this was the advice sent through him to Clara, of seeking a situation as teacher, and offers of service in furtherance of this purpose, without noticing Clara's burning blushes, or her mother's evident agitation, he proceeded in a lively manner to paint the mortifications to which governesses are subject, and concluded by advising her to act like a girl of spirit and try the stage. With this advice and assurances of deep interest, he departed.

To describe what were the feelings of the mother and daughter at that moment is impossible ; Clara threw herself into her mother's arms in a passion of tears ; to her, a volume had lately been opened, every page of which contained a lesson that lacerated the heart. Bitterly did Mrs. Delville reproach herself for having neglected to prepare the mind of her child for this reverse of fate, and fain would she have whispered consolation, but a consciousness of her own precarious state and weakness deprived her of utterance, and she fainted. With much difficulty life and consciousness was restored, but a severe fit of illness succeeded, during which Clara seemed to exist but in the room of her beloved parent. Long before Mrs. Delville was so far restored as to be enabled to converse on her affairs, the remainder of their money was exhausted, and Clara had been forced to part with her jewels, and even a part of the family plate.

During this time Charles Stanhope, who was absent from town when the first news of their misfortunes were published, returned, and hastened to call at their residence ; on being informed of Mrs. Delville's illness he returned home and sent a note to Clara entreating her to employ him in some manner that might prove useful to them. She returned her thanks in a polite answer, but declined his offers of service. From that day forward, Charles was regular in his enquiries each morning and evening at their door, till at length the temporary convalescence of the invalid gave him admittance. How different was his manner from that of Sir Henry, at this last visit. Shocked by the great alteration in the looks of both the ladies, his respectful