

LETTERS FROM A MOTHER TO HER
DAUGHTERS.*Written many years ago by the Wife of a Wesleyan Minister.*

LETTER VI.

ON THE DANGER OF EARLY CONNECTIONS.

In the gay enthusiasm of early years, when the mind is invited by interest, and a stranger to deceit, one of its first and strongest propensities is that of sociability. The affections are ardent and sincere; and being guiltless of design itself, it suspects it not in others. Inexperienced and warm, it seeks to assimilate itself with some one in whom it may repose an unbounded confidence, and, not knowing the dissimulation there is in the world, is apt to make a choice too soon and too decidedly; and, giving the preference to one more than all other acquaintances, to call such an one by way of eminence, a *friend*. This disposition is most predominant in young persons of sensibility, who are naturally of an ingenious temper, and thus run the greatest risk. Young persons are so inexperienced, that they are little fit for counsellors to each other; their views are often romantic, and at best they are too sanguine. Still should you meet with an amiable young woman whose education, genius, and taste may harmonize with your own, I would not discountenance such an intimacy, if her station in life be not too much above your own. When this is the case, intimacy is not to be recommended, for obvious reasons,—it induces imitations and emulations, which are natural, but not laudable. On the contrary, if you form an intimate connexion with one below yourself, you are apt to be a loser, as we unavoidably imbibed the spirit and acquire the manners, of those we really love.

But should Providence cast your lot all together, I see no temptation you need be under of forming intimacies with others. Sisters are surely the most fit for each other's confidence; and none have stronger claims to affection. It has often given me the purest pleasure to observe the tender regard you have borne each other from your earliest days. Perhaps the all-wise Disposer of events has implanted this unusual affection to answer some happy purpose for you in future life; that as you are, more than most other classes of children, strangers, in every place, you may be the stead of parents and friends to each other when the places the former are known no more on earth.