

he had not been able to reconcile to his mind, the manners of major Lucus, as those of a well educated gentleman ! and it was with difficulty he could expel the feeling of dissatisfaction which was continually obtruding itself whenever the subject of marriage, or his guest were introduced. Still he could entertain no doubt of his being a person of very great property, and he was inclined to endure what he did not much approve, determined to relinquish his own opinion to that of his niece whose happiness was dearer to him than any earthly treasure.

It was at this juncture that Mr. Lee received as a visitor into his house a distant relation, an old maiden lady who claimed his hospitality at that season by the advice of her physician who recommended the Tunbridge Wells waters as a necessary autumnal restorative. Sincerity and truth, were the characteristics of her mind ; and, circumstances had endowed her with a more extensive knowledge of the world than had fallen to the lot of Mr. Lee who had passed a more sequestered life. This lady was no sooner introduced to the major than she distinctly perceived symptoms of too gross vulgarity in his deportment, and ignorance in his conversation to suppose, that he was in reality the character he had assumed.—She prudently offered her advice, that Mr. Lee should proceed with caution, and procure undeniable proof of the identity, and property of the person, who it appeared was shortly to become their relative. This wise suggestion caused some delay in the marriage, and gave time for the developement of an event which proved of the highest importance to the happiness of the family ; and destroyed at one blow the future fortunes of the assumed major. It happened that his valet, who officiated on all occasions as his confidential servant, had been sent by his master on some secret expedition, and failing to return at the appointed time, a sensation of uneasiness and evident alarm, were visible through the efforts of concealment, on the pale countenance of the major, which did not escape the penetration of Mr. Lee, and his still more inquisitive guest. And excited from them, though secretly, a succession of surmises and doubts.—The mystery however was soon to be