

imagine, perhaps, from a certain readiness displayed in discovering facts connected with different places which have eluded the most vigilant antiquaries and historians ; the flattering generalities ; the complaints of the insufficient notice taken of a distinguished person coming from an important part of the world--his having to pay for eating and drinking at taverns, &c. &c. But, in order to prevent the impression that they had a finger in the business, it is most positively affirmed that not a line of the original is in the handwriting of either of these gentlemen.

One word more. As it has for some years been the custom to account for the possession of curious manuscripts (from the *Man of Feeling* to the *Dominic's Legacy*), it is considered advisable to state, that these sketches were brought to light under the following circumstances :—

Mr. L—ha d for several nights regularly observed Mrs. L—cut into square pieces what appeared to him to be a continuous MS., for the purpose of curling her hair—(they were only newly married). Perceiving one evening that she was using blank paper, it came into his head to ask her if the MS. was all gone ; to which she replied that it was. “ And what was it about ? ” said he. “ I cannot tell,” replied Mrs. L—; “ my father left it to me in his will, with an injunction not to read it, but to curl my hair with it as long as it lasted, which I have faithfully done.”

Knowing his wife's father to have been rather an eccentric man, Mr. L—'s curiosity was instantly excited ; and fortunately gaining possession of some of the ill-used fragments, he determined to investigate their nature. He soon discovered enough to make him regret what was irretrievably lost ; while the difficulty of rescuing these horribly-screwed-up relics from oblivion can only be compared to the task of unrolling the ancient papyri of Herculaneum, which cost Sir H. Davy so much trouble, and as given the world so little. Should the reader, therefore, find in them any expression which may appear over-strained, he must attribute it to its having been so much twisted !