

forgotten, or easily eradicated. Won by the affectionate attention and kindness which he experienced at the hands of his aunt, and delivering himself up to the sweet bonds which the study of the various exalted qualities of Miss De Courç'i's mind had twined around his affections, he laid before them, in vivid colors, his wishes, and his hopes, and begged permission to be received in the character of a dearer, and nearer relative, than that in which he then appeared. How great was his disappointment, when his aunt mildly, yet positively, declined to grant his request.—However favorably disposed Miss De Courç'i might be towards him, her mother was too strict and rigid a Roman Catholic, ever to harbor for a moment, the idea of her daughter being married to her *cousin*—she looked upon such a union as a sin, not to be forgiven in this world, or in the next, and Reginald De Courç'i was obliged, shortly after, to tear himself from the society of her, in whom he now felt too much interested, speedily to forget, for in her were concentrated all those hopes, the realization or disappointment of which tinge the future with happiness or misery.

The young heart, however, is the last to despair—the youthful mind quickly recovers its elasticity. De Courç'i, therefore, on his return, applied himself, whether from prudence or vexation, with renewed energy, to the accomplishment of his studies, and at the end of his probation, retired from the seclusion of his college, with honor and credit. By the interest of some powerful friends, he was soon called into the bustle of active life, and was shortly after nominated to a confidential Mission, of some importance, to one of the South American States, which the policy of Canning, together with their own perseverance, had raised then almost to the rank of independance.

Flattered and elated by his good fortune, he turned once more his thoughts on the inmates of De Courç'i Lodge. He felt they were all the relations he had in the world, and fondly persuaded himself that it would be merely polite, to spend a short time with his aunt, were it but personally to thank her for the various attentions she bestowed on him, previous to his departure for another country, whence, perhaps, he was never to return. He fancied, likewise, that his personal influence might