

There is an inherent playfulness of gesture and countenance natural to some good-natured, lively girls, by which they intend nothing but to amuse, if indeed they intend anything at all; but is more truly a spontaneous flow of the spirits, which cannot be prevented without effort. This disposition is, however, far from being safe, it can only procure for you from the kindest of your friends the character of thoughtless girls, whose hearts are better hid than their heads. Directly opposed, however, and even more to be avoided, is that affectation of reserve, which shows itself by airs of disdain, evident constraint of look and manner, and pretended, because it is contrary to nature and Providence that there should be any such dislike on either side. This assumed severity of manners is a disguise easily seen through, and frequently betrays beneath the mask of prudery the abominable heart of a coquette. The esteem of men of worth can only be secured by corresponding qualities of mind in women,—truth, sincerity, and a just sense of the most feminine virtues which ought to characterise the sex: of these, the reserve I wish you to possess is a permanent and valuable property, or, rather, a very striking feature. It unites modesty with prudence, the wisdom of the serpent with the harmlessness of the dove: the same quality, if I may be permitted a comparison, in a man being, as that possessed by the sensitive plant. “If there be any virtue, if any praise, think on these things.” So gratify your affectionate mother.

ADVICE TO A YOUNG MAN.

BY THE LATE WILLIAM ALLEN.

DEAR E——,—I feel anxious for thy welfare in every respect, especially in thy going among perfect strangers; but if thou be careful to attend to the divine monitor in thy own mind, the Spirit of Christ, thou wilt be under the notice and protection of the greatest of beings, and wilt be favoured with that sweet peace for thy own soul which is far beyond all other enjoyments. Accept, my dear E——, the following hints from thy friend and well-wisher. Preserve this letter, and peruse it occasionally.

1. Devote some portion of the day to the reading of the holy scriptures alone in thy chamber; and pray constantly the Almighty that he would enlighten thy mind to understand them.
2. Endeavour to keep thy mind in such a state that thou mayest