

in Rotterdam, the offer was not be rejected, for unhappily Mr. Penson's mercantile affairs had not escaped the general depression, he had found it necessary to reduce his establishment until his number of clerks amounted to one, and that one, a confidential person whose services were indispensibly necessary in the management of the concern.

As the hour approached for William's departure, Maria's anxiety and sorrow became almost intolerable, although not a shade of doubt sullied the pure light of love, yet she could not think of his absence unmoved, or be insensible, that to *him*, and *him* alone she owed the power of sustaining her mind in tranquillity, under the pressure of those many evils which crowded upon her, by the growing intolerance of Miss Emma, and the decreasing expectations of her mother, who, from necessity, had reduced her establishment from five to three servants, the natural consequences of uncertain fortune, and mercantile speculation.

Before the intimation of this new grief had had time to make any great impression on Maria's mind, William abruptly entered an apartment where his sole treasure was busily employed with her needle, and presenting her with a letter "*that*" said he, "dearest girl, seals my doom, and contains an order that I embark immediately for my destined port"—"your orders are indeed sudden," said Maria, striving to conceal a sigh which swelled her heart almost to bursting, "but we must submit, dear William; to be parted from those we love is always painful, but it is only irreconcilable when we lose the refreshing hope of meeting again." And on *that* hope I will sustain life, my charming Maria, and by your example meet with resignation the most poignant hour of my life, fondly cherishing the exhilarating hope that this dreaded separation will ultimately lead to our permanent happiness; bereft of that support every transient joy could, like a cloud, evaporate, leaving a blank only in my existence,—promise, dear Maria, that in your grief your mind shall not sink under the miseries of your situation, which my affec-