

THE
COTTAGER'S FRIEND,
AND
GUIDE OF THE YOUNG.

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THE FATHER AND SON.

"I TRIED the grape's oblivious power ;
Alas ! the power was vain :
My brain was madden'd for the hour,
Then felt its woes again."

A respectable part of the gay metropolis, there resided, many years since, a gentleman of independent property ; who, with his family, moved in the highest style of fashionable life. Though not say he was " clothed in purple and fine linen," yet the bonies of the numerous guests who were invited to share the pleasures of his table, prove that he " fared sumptuously every day." He had several daughters, and one son, William. The latter, from an early period of life, gave unequivocal indications of a love of pleasure ; and long before he arrived at the age of manhood, he had changed into all the excesses of folly and dissipation ; so that, in the various circles in which he pursued his ungodly career, he was regarded as a perfect libertine. To the voice of parental reproof he invariably turned a deaf ear ; and the reproaches of friends were alike disregarded. The theatre, the ball-room, the gaming-table, and other places of immorality and vice, were alternately and successively visited. He seldom returned home till after the chime of St. Paul's had tolled the hour of midnight. And the next morning, when his friends, who were compelled to sit up and wait for his return, usually found him in a state of intoxication.

It is no wonder that these dissolute habits, in one so young, should impair the health of the unhappy victim. Nor is it surprising that such an uninterrupted course of iniquity should prove the ruin of the peace and order of the family circle.

It is thus that domestic happiness is often interrupted ; and there