

BOOK IV.

Consanguinity, or Natural Relations.

CHAP. I.—HUSBAND.

TAKE unto thyself a wife, and obey the ordinance of God ; take unto thyself a wife and become a faithful member of society.

But examine with care, and fix not suddenly. On thy present choice depends thy future happiness.

If much of her time is destroyed in dress and adornments ; if she is enamoured with her own beauty and delighted with her own praise ; if she laugheth much and talketh loud ; if her foot abideth not in her father's house, and her eyes with boldness rove on the faces of men : though her beauty were as the sun in the firmament of heaven, turn thine eyes from her charms, turn thy feet from her paths, and suffer not thy soul to be ensnared by the allurements of imagination..

But when thou findest sensibility of heart. joined with softness of manners ; an accomplished mind, with a form agreeable to thy fancy, take her to thine house, she is worthy to be thy friend, thy companion in life the wife of thy bosom..

O cherish her as a blessing sent thee from heaven. Let the kindness of thy behavior endear thee to her heart.

She is the mistress of thy house : treat her therefore with respect, that thy servants may obey her..