

Col. Tears so near at hand !

Wid. Indeed, Sir, she is not happy ; she is far from it : ever since my arrival, she has worn the mark of melancholy in her face, but since Captain Ranter came, she has appear'd in continual agitation, and never blessed us with a smile till she saw you

Col. Alas my poor girl ! 'tis four years since I saw her : I was then a favourite of her young heart, and then it was one of the best of hearts.

Wid. Indeed, Sir, I believe it is so yet, she is tenderness itself ! you, I understand—tho' so long absent from them—was their father's friend, and are the patron and supporter of her and her sister. The money she receives from you, is employed in deeds of holiness.

Col. Say you so ? Lovely girl ! sure, such a heart must not long be wrung by anguish, for whatever fools may say, heaven will not leave the virtuous to sorrow.

Wid. I will tell you, Sir, what rivetted my love to her. One day not being well, she had retired to her chamber ; I went up to enquire how she did, when opening the door without noise, thinking she might be asleep, a scene presented itself which angels might have gaz'd upon with pleasure, a poor woman with four sweet babes, all on their knees before her : I stood motionless, and heard the woman pouring forth the most grateful acknowledgments for a husband rescued from prison, an unfortunate debtor restored to his starving children, and their wretched mother ! the tears started from my eyes—I dared not go in—she was in tears, and so absorbed, that she could not attend to any noise I made ; I feared to interrupt her, and stole away----

Col. (taking her hand) You are as good as she is—

Enter Ranter and Mrs. Racket, as from the street.

Ran. Ha, ha, ha ! old crabstick has attack'd the widow---ha, ha, ha ! my dear Mrs. Racket, this is a good one, faith---ha, ha, ha !---I would at least have shut the door,---ha, ha, ha !

(Col. stands confused and agitated.)

Wid. Puppy !

Ran. Madam, Madam, if a man was to say that---

Col. (aloud) Puppy ! (the Col. walks by him contemptuously repeating) puppy, puppy, puppy, puppy. [Exit.

Ran. This must be answer'd dam'ne---

Mrs. R. (holding him) Oh ! Captain say there will be blood shed---for heaven's sake---

Wid. Let him go, Madam, he can take care of himself---a prudent gentleman.

[Exit.

Mrs. R. Oh ! don't go Captain.

Ran. Madam, my honour, my injur'd honour !---but your commands, Madam, and his age protect him.

Enter Racket.

Rack. What's the matter Ranter ? Nothing but quarrelling to-day ! you and the Colonel can't agree.

Mrs. R. Why, my dear Mr. Racket, the Colonel is so intolerably quarrelsome---the Captain did but laugh at him a little, and he was in such a passion.

Ran. Upon my word we found the old blade squeezing your aunt's wither'd fist---ha, ha, ha ! 'twas too ridiculous faith.

Enter Doctor Quiescent.

Qui. Oh Racket, how do do ?

Rac. My dear Quixzy, how goes it ?

Ranter, this my friend, Doctor Quiescent---Doctor, this is Capt. Ranter, just arrived in the last packet from Halifax.

Qui. How do do, Sir ? I'm very glad to see you indeed :---Racket---this way---here---just come from sea ?---Does he want me think ?

Rac. Ha, ha ! Oh no, I believe not, ha, ha, ha !

Qui. Servant Ma'am---fine weather ! ha ?---a little rainy, but that's good for the country.---A fine season for colds and coughs---Oh ! Racket, my dear fellow, I heard that you had been precipitated from a considerable elevation, and had fractured the os parietalia.

Rac. I tumbled from a cow's back, and broke my nose.

Qui. You, by the precipitation have caused an incision, in the occipito frontalis. Ay, ah ! I was call'd to a curious case last evening---

Rac. (Aside) Then I'm off---(while the Doctor is speaking, Racket goes out. Ranter and Mrs. Racket retire back laughing.)

Qui. Pretty late ; very dark ; monstrous dark---curfed cold---monstrous cold indeed ; very often the case with us, call'd up at all times and seasons ; us'd to be so at St. Thomas's, when I was a student ; call'd up one night to a pauper that had his skull most elegantly fractured, his leg most beautifully broke, and the finch dislocation of a shoulder I ever saw---but I soon brought about a concatenation of all the bones (see them) Oh ! oh ! you are there are you ! I thought you was by me here---ha, ha, ha !---so you see, Madam---as I was saying---you see, Madam---I---(follows them talking.)

Re-enter Racket.

Rack. (aside) So the Doctor's at it yet. (They advance.)

Qui. Thus you see, Racket, the bone was adroitly, and the patient reduced to a perfectly quiescent state. Nothing like tartar emetick---
Ran.