

companion had raised her she feared, from the marble rigidity of her features and the dark hue around her lips, that life was entirely extinct. Blanche, however, returned to consciousness; returned to it a blighted, broken-hearted, hopeless woman. The physicians spoke of imprudent exposure; hinted at thin shoes, fresh colds; Blanche contradicted them not, thankful that she was thus spared the added penalty of the world's mockery or sympathy, and her faithful friend who alone knew the sad secret of all, on whose bosom alone she could freely weep, bound by her agonized prayers and entreaties, was silent too. A few days after, strange faces occupied the apartment where the two girls had passed so many happy and tranquil hours. Charlotte rejoined her family and her lover to whom she was shortly after united, whilst Blanche Castleton returned to her gloomy home in the North of England, to hide in its solitude her blighted hopes and her broken heart. Whether the egotist pursued his heartless career unchecked by adversity, undisturbed by remorse whether chance ever again associated him in any manner with his victim, a further development of our tale will tell.

(To be continued)

## PUBLIC MEN IN PRIVATE LIFE.

BY W. P. C.

It is a delicate thing to draw aside the veil that shields from public observation the virtues or the vices of domestic life—to reveal at once its happiness and misery, its pleasures and its pains. Yet this is interesting and useful, especially when they whose characters we study, have, in public capacities, attracted a more than ordinary share of popular attention. We may derive peculiar advantage from a contemplation of the statesman's home, his accustomed recreations, his social companions, and his private studies. From such a contemplation, we may learn the secret of his fame, observing all the various circumstances which have tended to exalt or to obscure it. It is worthy of regret, that in our historical researches, we should manifest so little curiosity respecting matters so important. We are satisfied with knowing what political sentiments, distinguished public men have entertained, without seeking to discover the reasons which led to the adoption of them. If we would comprehend the real character of any one who holds a prominent position in society, we ought to turn to him when general attention seems diverted from his actions; when wearied with the toils and troubles of an arduous career, he seeks relief in the enjoyment of domestic pleasures; when in the bosom of his family,

he unrestrainedly pours forth the feelings of his heart, disclosing the true motives of that conduct which the world applauds or censures. Hence we may determine how far our admiration of his brilliant talents or profound acquirements should extend, and learn what limits to assign to our confidence in his integrity. An endless variety of examples are found, to show the closeness of the union which subsists between the public and the private character of men. Two or three will be sufficient for our present purpose.

To the researches of Mr. D'Israeli, we are indebted for the possession of many curious facts concerning the domestic habits of distinguished historical personages. With respect to the famous Chief Justice Coke—"The oracle of law,"—this interesting writer remarks: "official violence brutalized, and political ambition extinguished, every spark of nature in this great lawyer when he struck at his victims, public or domestic. His solitary knowledge, perhaps, had deadened his judgment in other studies; and yet his narrow spirit could shrink with jealousy at the celebrity obtained by more liberal pursuits than his own. The errors of the great are as instructive as their virtues, and the secret history of the outrageous lawyer may have, at least, the merit of novelty, although not of panegyric."

We are told that Coke had already acquired a considerable amount of wealth when his insatiable avarice, united with his indomitable and unscrupulous ambition, induced him, in the hope of gratifying both, a second time to marry. He became the husband of a lady of high rank, whose selfish and overbearing disposition corresponded nearly with his own. It is singular, that in the celebration of this marriage, he pretended ignorance of those laws whose great expounder and unflinching advocate he was, and caused it to occur in an illegal and forbidden manner. This union resulting from a combination of the worst passions of the human heart, produced its natural consequences. Violent quarrels ensued between the equally vindictive and unconciliating parties,—quarrels which drew down on both the merited contempt of all who knew them. These quarrels ended only with the life of Coke, who died at a very advanced age, transmitting to posterity a reputation for profound legal knowledge which no one since has rivalled,—a reputation which no earthly means could have tarnished, save the undisputed record of his private vices.

A different example is afforded by the history of Richard Brinsley Sheridan. In the case of few great men, has the connection between public and private character been closer or more decided—