

The pride of a married woman must consist in the fulfilment of the duties her station in life imposes upon her—never can it be enlisted on the side of an abandonment of those duties ; the preservation of the moral links of life, as regards marriage, are placed it may be said, exclusively in her hands ; and an indifference in any shape to the sacred trust, is an injury done to society. On closely viewing the case, we may not discover a very great difference between the woman who forgoes the solemn vow plighted at the altar, from considerations purely selfish—and her who sacrifices her faith and fame at the unhallowed shrine of passion. At least, the world does not award a proportionate degree of censure to the wound inflicted, the one retires in triumph, entrenched within the pale of decorum, no matter how harrowing the individual misery she has caused, or the demoralizing effect it is likely to produce ; whilst the other entails by her crime, a punishment immediate and eternal.

If unfortunate circumstances, lead to the estrangement of a wedded pair, the pride of a wife can never suffer from a desire to conciliate, therein is the strong line of demarcation, between wedded and unwedded love, a wife may acknowledge, nay, boast of her tenderness ; may go a' lengths towards forgiveness, and the farther a husband has strayed in the path of error, the more imperative is her duty, in demanding concession, entreaty, any device which may lead him from an evil course. There is no situation in life, however exalted, can exempt man or woman from the discharge of those moral obligations, voluntarily assumed, and that Lady Byron failed in the fulfilment—by repelling his Lordship's advances towards a reunion, must be admitted ; there could not exist even a false delicacy to influence her conduct, she would not have lost one jot of matronly dignity, not a shade could be cast on the refined purity of her mind by the most fastidious, and she would this day have stood far higher in the estimation of mankind, if a yielding and compassionate tenderness to the failings of humanity had marked her conduct.