

conduct, was an estimable young man blasted in reputation, and his labour of years totally destroyed ; not only so, but his moral ruin was effected.

The sudden death of his partner, for whose memory, notwithstanding his errors, he still cherished a sincere regard, together with the utter annihilation of his fortune, seized on his spirits ; his disposition underwent an entire change ; he became abstracted, reserved, sullen, and shunned society : he shut himself up without any other companion than his own moody thoughts, and it was whispered that he once or twice attempted suicide but was prevented.

This paroxysm passed away, and changing to the other extreme, he became guilty of as much indecorous levity, as he had before exhibited useless sorrow ; plunging into society of the most fashionably vicious class, in the arms of degraded beauty, he forgot Eliza and her pure truth ; the last stage was dissipation, wine, brandy ! Yet all who knew his character, rightly attributed his conduct to an affection of the brain.

Once and once only, did he exhibit signs of returning reason ; he wrote to Eliza's Uncle, but that unfeeling, brutal devotee of gold returned his letter with an insulting message ; this was the seal of poor Charles' fate ; the brandy-bottle became his inseparable companion, and he rarely, if ever, slept the sleep of sobriety.

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After a night of debauchery, he was one morning looking out of the window of his dressing room, when he beheld Eliza in the street, leaning on the arm of her Uncle : but she was pale, attenuated, shrunken—the mere spectre of her former self ; and she moved as if in the last stage of some mortal disease.

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