

respect to one who appeared to be on such good terms with the world. He not only rose to wealth and consequence, but at last obtained the hand of one of the most favourite belles of the place. The secret was, J— never appeared ill used.

In like manner, Sophia — was a pretty and interesting girl, while her friend Charlotte — was decidedly homely. Any one asked to guess their fate, would have assigned to Sophia some high matrimonial location, and to Charlotte the task of helping to rear her friend's children. But Sophia had the misfortune to be jilted, at the very outset, by some thoughtless youth, whom her parents thought it their duty to prosecute for breach of promise of marriage. The consequence was, that the poor girl came under general notice as one who had been ill used. That she really had been ill used, a verdict of damages in her favour sufficiently proved. But nothing could do away with the general bad effect of appearing in this character. No other gentleman liked to be the man who was to use well the lady whom some other gentleman had used ill. The consequence was, that Sophia remained unmarried, while her friend Charlotte, prudent, unobtrusive, and always bearing the air of a hopeful and well-used person, chanced to get a good match.

Of all the evils which arise from litigation, decidedly the worst is the effect which it sometimes has in putting men into the position of ill-used people. Most men who find themselves wronged by law and lawyers—and how rarely are they otherwise than wronged!—have the good sense to absorb the injury, and appear as if they felt it not. But there are a few natures which do not easily brook wrong. These persons, foolishly thinking to avenge or redress themselves by an appeal to the world, trumpet forth their injuries wherever they go, and make themselves intolerable to all around them by long recitals of their case in all its details. They take on the character of ill-used people, and soon experience the natural consequences in the cold regards of their fellow-creatures. It is of course horridly base for those who once smiled upon them in prosperity, now to shun them in their adversity; but the plain truth is, that it is not in human nature long to en-

sure a man who is always telling how ill he has been used.

The principle is of immense importance with reference to office and preferment. When a greyish captain is heard perpetually complaining of the long postponement of his majority, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the Horse-Guards has its reasons for the delay. When an artist is found constantly railing against the hanging committee for the ignorance or prejudice which causes them to place his pictures in certain modest situations near the floor or ceiling, no one can doubt that the hanging committee does exactly what it ought to do. When a fashionable novelist is so weak as to complain that the Quarterly Reviews make a point (poor Goldy's phrase) of not noticing him, who can wonder that the fact is as he states it? Or when a would-be author tells everywhere of the rejections which his compositions meet with from booksellers and editors, does it not become clear that he must have been treated exactly according to his merits? In competitions for situations of any kind, it is absolutely self-ruinous for any candidate, under whatever circumstances, to say a word of his having been ill used. We once knew a learned and respectable person who competed, with good pretensions, for a chair in one of the Scottish universities. Another, somewhat his superior in reputation, was preferred. Unluckily, he conceived that some injustice had been done to him in the canvass, and, still more unluckily, he publicly complained of it. He assumed the ill-omened cognizance of the Ill-Used. The consequence was, that, on a similar vacancy occurring soon after in a neighbouring university, he was not preferred, although, as far as proficiency in that branch of scholarship went, he was unquestionably the first man on the list. The only reason that could be assigned for his non-success on this occasion was, that he had lowered his pretensions, and shaken the general credit of his understanding by appearing as an ill-used man.

In the well-known case of Mr. Buckingham, the world has recently had a remarkable example of the uselessness of coming forward with a complaint of ill usage. For ten years, this gentleman proclaimed the wrongs he had suffered,