

make a stricter, though a more candid, investigation into the actions of men.

Mr. Irvin was the only man, next to his father, for whom Francis felt the least affection; and to him he gave his unbounded esteem and confidence.—In his choice of a friend, Francis Stanhope had chosen wisely. The excellent character and exemplary life of the pious divine never failed to enforce the truth of his doctrines; and Francis, when under his tuition, had been an amiable and benevolent boy. The gentle admonitions of the pastor had successfully subdued the violent and irascible temper of his pupil; but association with the world, in after life, had produced the most fearful change in his habits and disposition, and had again excited those violent passions which Mr. Irvin had so successfully endeavoured to overcome.

Francis had been absent from home two years; during which period he had occasionally corresponded with his respected tutor; and it was with real sorrow that Mr. Irvin perused letters which, instead of containing the joyous benevolent sentiments of youth, were filled with discontented murmurings and ungenerous strictures on the conduct of mankind.

Conscious of an alteration in himself, Francis had hitherto delayed returning the good vicar's