

CHARACTER; OR, JEW AND GENTILE; A TALE;

BY MRS. LEMAN GRIMSTONE,

(2 Vols.)

THE authoress of this tale is the Champion of her sex, the elegant and fearless advocate of the RIGHTS OF WOMAN; one who admires an independant and high-spirited Vashti more than a beautiful, submissive, meek, and prudent Esther. She is consequently a radical reformer of the modern system of female education; a leveller of unjust masculine domination, and a denoucer of the cant and conventionality which obstructs woman's advancement, and woman's moral and intellectual equality and independance of character. Taken altogether this is no common tale: it is calculated to make a sensation far beyond the novel-reading circles; if it does not, we know the reason why. The authoress has embodied certain favourite opinions and pet prejudices under particular characters. Old Mr. Coverly, for instance, represents a numerous and respectable sect, the opponents of all improvement, which they call innovation or revolution. He is especially, the opponent of the monstrous heresy, of the female character being capable of exaltation to an equality with that of her lord and master. He is a kind of a small Samuel Johnson; less acute, but quite as dogmatic and prejudiced; and his fierce encounters and skirmishes with Mrs. Lennox, the eloquent promulgator and defender of the New Light, produce many amusing, brilliant, and effective scenes. The lady will allow the nobler sex no superiority save physical strength. Physical beauty is conceded, even by Mr. Coverly, to her own kind. The phrenological argument of the quantity of the male brain, she adroitly balances by the other admitted element, the quality of all brains; appearing to regard the texture of Mr. Coverly's brain, which must have been a large one, as very honey-combed, or foamy indeed. The old gentleman is forced to bring up the moral poet, Pope, and next the apostle Paul, to the rescue.