

to wane. We find him now becoming involved in the meshes of those pecuniary embarrassments, which, by degrees, gathered like serpents round him, and finally crushed him; and also becoming addicted to that degrading intemperance which afterwards gained so complete a mastery over his energies.

It was about this time, not being what is vulgarly termed "flush of cash," that driving with an argumentative friend, (Mr. Richardson,) he engaged him in a dispute, for the express purpose of getting up a sham quarrel; and when the dispute waxed warm, he pulled the driver's string, and got out of the coach, saying to his companion, "that he could not submit to his language," *but leaving him to pay the fare.* It was about this time, too, that at the burning of Drury lane Theatre, (in which consisted his whole wealth,) when, to the surprise of a friend, he sat calmly in the Piazza Coffee House, discussing a bottle of sherry, whilst he gazed at the conflagration, he observed, in reply to the expression of that surprise, "Why should not a man enjoy his glass of wine at his own fireside?"

In 1795 he married again; and we find him in 1798 engaged in adapting to the English stage the beautiful German play of "The Stranger," and the next he produced Kotzebue's drama of "Pizarro," or "The Spaniards in Peru," to which he added much original matter. In 1801 he opposed, with all the force of his eloquence, the "Act of Union with Ireland," which Pitt purchased from that unhappy country at the price of her independence. In 1804 he became member for Westminster, thus throwing over-board his old friends at Stafford, who subsequently, in the hours of his adversity, acted by him in like manner.

In 1812 he delivered his last speech in Parliament, which was one in favour of "Catholic Emancipation," and which ended with these remarkable words: "If they were the last words I should ever utter in this House, I should say, Be just to Ireland, as you value your honour; be just to Ireland, as you value your own peace," proving (in common with many Irishmen) that he forgot not the beau-