

you could know the feelings which I dare to indulge towards you. Why, *why* did my mother bind me to a promise so cruel?" From this and many other circumstances which I but too faithfully remember, I was convinced that he loved me—but for some reason with which I was not acquainted, was prevented from confessing the state of his heart—It was then, my friend, "continued Ellen, and her eye sparkled with uncommon brilliancy and her cheek glowed with emotion"—*it was then*, that I determined to live for *him*, and whatever the event might prove, to *have none other*. I should blush to make this confession, even to my own heart—had I not sweet convincing proof that there was a time when he loved me, and did I not firmly believe; that should the cause which has prevented him from declaring his affection be removed, it will be seen that it has been mutual.—It is for this reason that I have refused the splendid alliances that have been offered me, and resisted the entreaties of those who have vainly sued for a heart, which, to the end of my life, will be devoted to Henry Mantville. Yes, my friend should he never ask an interest in my heart, my affections will be unaltered, and far, far happier should I be to live single for his sake, rather than give my hand to another where my heart could not accompany it. But I will confess to you my dear M——, my hopes have been far otherwise, I have had so many evidences of his affection, I cannot doubt his sincerity, and I have loved to look forward to the time, when every doubt would be removed and—but why do I dwell upon anticipations, which now I fear will never be realized." As she spoke, she drew her father's letter from her bosom, and put it into my hand, while a flood of tears relieved her sorrowing heart.

Her father informed her in the letter that he had received proposals for her "from a gentleman whom he was determined she should accept" "long" said he, "have your parents indulged the whimsical caprice, which has led you to reject the honourable alliances which have been offered you, and now it becomes them to command your compliance. If your heart is not pre-engaged you cannot know Mr. Dunforth without feeling for him a