

let me into the secret of the Landlady's affairs:—She was, he said, from the same part of the old country with himself, but his first acquaintance with her had commenced during the voyage from Liverpool to Quebec, when they had been fellow-passengers. This is a situation where people are apt to become very intimately acquainted. The motion of a ship at sea, to those unaccustomed to it, brings them frequently in bodily contact—and thus from the gregarious property of man, when often repeated, gives rise to an interchange of ideas—and a unity of sentiments and feelings. Sea sickness, a malady like the toothach, which excites more laughter than commiseration operates in bringing about this collision of mental and corporal parts, for it tears down all disguise and shows men and women as they really are without dissimulation or concealment. I did not learn which of these causes had the greatest share in bringing about the intimate acquaintance between my friend and the Landlady; but he proceeded to inform me as follows. “On her arrival in this country, her charms in the height of their bloom, attracted the notice of many young men in her own rank of life. One of them, a native of the United States became the successful suitor, and they married. She accompanied her husband to his native country, where he had a small farm, and had been, by the exertions of his father, left in what are called comfortable circumstances—that is to say, in a state where industry and care will keep the wolf poverty from the door—though the inmates cannot frighten him away with the noise of riot and excess.”

“Too soon for her peace, but too late to be remedied; she discovered her husband possessed a rude, overbearing and violent temper, which neither her personal attractions nor the utmost suavity of disposition, and incessant exertions to please on her part—could tame. The ebullitions of his ungovernable passion frequently manifested themselves in acts of barbarous cruelty to the young creature he had thus taken from her friends, under the most solemn promise to protect and cherish. He was also addicted to drinking, gaming, and every species of dissipation, the indulgence in which soon wasted his property and increased the acrimony of his disposition. She, in a happy moment, proposed they should part, and he, brutally ignorant of the valuable gift he possessed in her, consented. This is a business in the country they then lived in which could be easily accomplished. He gave her what is termed a Bill\*, and they separated by mutual consent. He soon met the punishment his cruelty to her had merited—and paid the forfeiture

\* To the European, who has been accustomed to see the matrimonial tie contemplated with venerative regard, by civilized society, and kept at its proper stretch by wisely appointed and well organised laws, will be astonished to hear from the following facts how lightly this most solemn of all engagements is held in the United States of America. On an irreconcilable difference taking place between a married couple, here, they agree in commercial phrase to “dissolve the partnership by mutual consent.” But as the impression exists, that it is the duty of the husband to provide for the wife, he commonly gives her a sum of money, and they enter into a written agreement cancelling all claims the one may have upon the other for the past and future; and giving a mutual liberty allowing either party to enter again into wedlock whenever they please. How far this transaction is valid in law, or if its existence be owing to the want of