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DANGER OF APPEARING
ILL USED.

It is extremely dangerous for any one who wishes to make his way in the world to appear ill used—it is so sure to afford some presumption not quite favourable to him. The clever, the well-born, the wealthy, the agreeable—all whom nature or accident has placed in a situation to be looked up to or courted by their fellow-creatures—rarely have any occasion to describe themselves as ill used. It is the opposite classes in general who are not well used by their fellow-creatures—the stupid and troublesome, because nobody can endure them; the poor and lowly, because nobody cares anything about them. Such has been the way of the world since its beginning, and all our associations are formed accordingly. Hence, when any one is heard complaining of being ill used, he is more apt to be set down as one of the latter than of the former classes—a circumstance which may be in no respect discredit to him, but which, nevertheless, is not likely to be favourable to his prospects. No matter how real may be the wrongs he has suffered, or how eminently entitled they may be to sympathy, few have opportunities of becoming satisfied of their reality; and even if sympathy be extended, it does no good. The general impression is bad, and he finds too late that, by complaining of ill usage, he has only put himself in the way of continuing to be ill used.

This is a principle which we have seen exemplified so often, that the only difficulty is to make a selection of cases. T—G— was good-looking, had a winning address, and began the world with the favour and applause of a large circle of admiring friends. He might have

got any one of twenty ladies. Unluckily, his profession was one in which success is both slow and uncertain: it was that of a barrister. He was disappointed in getting a particular preferment to which he thought himself entitled. About the same time, it did happen that a fair dame to whom he preferred his suit, did not accept him. He got a little soured, and began to talk satirically of things. He might have done still very well, if he had kept up a hopeful air. But when he began to assume the tone of an ill-used man, there was no more good to be expected of him. As friends became cold, his satirical and complaining manner increased, and then they became colder. In short, T—G— joined the ranks of the gentlemen who are not anxious for business, and concluded in gloom and settled discontent a career which commenced under the fairest and gayest auspices. He had shipwrecked on the great mistake of *letting it be supposed that he was ill used.*

J—R—, on the contrary, was a man of plain aspect and few friends. His society was not sought by the men, nor were his advances well received by the ladies. He had fortunately chosen a profession in which cut of face and style of manner are not of particular consequence. Being a man of some sense, he never complained of the unsociableness of his fellow-creatures, or said a word of the many refusals he got from the ladies. On the contrary, J— had always rather a cheerful air, talked of being asked out here, and invited there, and appeared as if he knew that he had only to ask any lady he chose, in order to make her his humble servant. This succeeded. People became accustomed to his unfavourable looks, and began to pay involuntary