

Assisted by her uncle she had early cultivated a knowledge of botany, a study peculiarly adapted to the female mind,—which employs without fatiguing the understanding, and impels the heart to hold converse with heaven, through the most beautiful and sweetest objects of earth.—But the charm of these acquirements was not a little diminished, by Miss Fanny appearing on all occasions too sensible of possessing them—nor was she less sensible of the attractions of her sylph-like form, her mirror which she frequently consulted left no doubt on her mind, that “nature had formed her in its fairest mould”—nor did her list of sensibilities close here. The young lady was also *sensible* that her father had left her five thousand pounds, which, when of age, were at her own disposal—she was also *sensible* that her uncle would double that sum whenever she might be disposed to bestow her heart and hand on a suitable aspirer to her charms.—That such advantages should inspire a girl of sixteen, just escaped from the restraints of a fashionable boarding school, with some degree of vanity, will not appear incredible to our most refined novel readers. Yet we must in justice state, that if Miss Fanny betrayed some vanity and frivolity of character, these, were *more* than over-balanced by the excellencies, and better feelings of our nature, the accents of pity never found her heart inaccessible,—her charities were numerous, and disposed with a correctness of judgment far beyond her years, while her affectionate attentions to her uncle and her magnanimity of conduct to all around, rendered her a reigning favourite in the village.

It is not to be supposed that a young lady so auspiciously circumstanced would remain long without an aspirer to her heart, she had already received many eligible offers, and was undecided on whom to bestow such an estimable treasure as herself, when a County Ball removed her perplexities, and presented at once to her view an individual, endowed as she imagined, with every accomplishment of mind and person calculated to render the marriage state—a state of bliss.

By the master of the ceremonies, miss Fanny was introduced to major Lucas, a tall, elegantly formed person, apparently