

they discoursed on the subject which Charles's letter had suggested, "that I have no penetration—for notwithstanding Mr. Winthrop's fascinating appearance, I fancied I could discern in him many unamiable qualities—but I was mistaken, I doubt not, and while he is worthy of the affection and confidence of my Charles, he shall have my friendship."—Helen replied not—for although she had not confessed to her own heart how deeply she was interested in her brother's friend, yet it was evident that she had not regarded his particular attentions to herself with indifference—Time passed on, and every vessel assured Mary that she was remembered. Six months had elapsed since his departure, and one evening Mary received a letter which chilled her warm heart—there was no particular expression which she could detect as peculiarly deficient in affectionate warmth, but it seemed cold and formal—She knew not why, but she felt a reluctance that Helen should peruse it; "but, she reflected, "perhaps, my jealous love may imagine a coldness when it does not exist—I should not compare his expressions with the excessive fondness which my heart feels for him." She immediately sought Helen and gave her the letter. She perused it in silence and exclaimed—"Charles must be much engaged in his business, for his heart is evidently much more intent upon that than upon this letter when he penned it."—Mary felt that her suspicions were correct; at the moment, she wondered why she had not thought of the probable reason of it. She assented to Helen's remark, and dismissed all doubts from her bosom, although this letter did not afford her such unmixed delight, as his previous communication had done..... Two months passed and Mary heard nothing from Charles—at the expiration of that period, she recognized his well known hand in the superscription of a letter directed to her, and with an agitation for which she could not account, she opened it, and her eye vividly glanced over its contents—It was short and cold—He said nothing of the pressure of business, or apologized for disappointing her—Helen had brought her the letter, believing as she did.