

the evening she was prevailed upon to sing a beautiful ballad accompanied by herself on the piano, her voice was touchingly sweet, and unbounded applause attended her execution ; but this was not enough to satisfy her ambitious heart, and she sought for her dearest and best reward in her husband's approving glance, she received it, and was turning her head away when her eye met that of Sir Henry Temple, whom she had not seen since his last visit at her mother's house. That evening he had seen and marked all that passed between the happy pair ; it opened his eyes, and understanding to the selfishness of his own life, and the superior enjoyment of his rival, as he chose to consider Charles : rage and jealousy took possession of him, and after bowing with a supercilious smile to Clara, turned to Charles and exclaimed, well Stanhope, tired of love in a cottage yet ? your wife is a pretty singer, dances well, promised to patronize her once, will do it yet, if you like. This wanton insult from a person of Sir Henry's known politeness and *usage du monde*, can only be accounted for by his anger in having lost a treasure which he had in a manner once despised, because the fine gold had not been offered to his corporeal sight. Clara did not hear her husband's answer, but she saw the look that accompanied it ; his eyes assumed that appearance of which she had heard, but never before witnessed ; open to their full extent, they shot forth a bright spark that seemed to scathe like lightning. Sir Henry looked withered, but spoke again in a low tone, and then all seemed forgotten between them. Shortly after the company retired, on arriving at their door Charles said he wanted some papers from his office, and as the night was so light, the moon being at its full, he would walk over for them. Clara, in haste to see her child made no objection, and they parted. An hour elapsed, ere she felt any surprise at the length of his absence, but at the end of another half, she recalled to mind the scene that had passed between Sir Henry and Charles, at the concert.

Instantly the most intense anxiety filled her mind, and with a throbbing heart she counted the minutes as they passed, still