

or whim, and caprice invent was thought of for their gratification, they were not to be disappointed, for fear of spoiling their temper, and as Miss Emma was considered very beautiful, all contradiction to her was very strictly forbidden by her *judicious* mamma, from an apprehension that the young lady should shed tears, which might dim the lustre of her eye, or give a melancholy cast to her countenance. Such was the family into which poor Maria was now introduced, and in which she soon found she was to be treated with the coolness, and servility of a dependant.

Long nurtured in the retirement of a country village, the beloved of a doating father, the admired of all around her, and loving *all* within her circle with the ardour of a young and affectionate heart, high-souled as meek, quick as artless, her pride was awakened not less than her sensibility by the hauteur of those whom in rank she knew to be her inferiors,—the insolence of Emma who envied her a look of kindly feeling, or encouragement from her guardian, the guarded yet pointed ill-treatment of Mrs. Penson who literally grudged her her food, were daily, hourly trials to poor Maria, who in short had plenty on her hands. Miss Emma had taken a fancy to the little orphan, and would have no other to wait on her, to dress her, or curl her hair,—her mamma had also discovered that Maria worked with extreme neatness, and therefore found her constant employment at the needle or tambour frame, and, occasionally when the cook was busy, she was found useful in assisting, or superintending the duties of the kitchen, even the housemaid did not think she was presuming too much in requesting Miss Austin to dust the drawing room, or her lady's dressing room on any particular occasion. There was however one, and only one in the family whose youthful heart sympathised with her suppressed feelings, and heartily wished it had been in his power to alleviate their pang; that one was William, the only son of Mr. Penson, who though not a favourite in the family, possessed a mind superior to them *all*, his disposition was mild, and his heart imbued with noble sentiments, he watched with tenderness the