

first appearance at a mansion which she had so longed to see, she drove up the avenue of venerable oaks that led to it. Thomas, the man who accompanied her, had rode on before, and she was met on the steps of the entrance by Lothario's mother, and was received with the extremest tenderness by her of whose character she had been formerly made to stand in such dread.

Had this good lady not been prepossessed in favour of Caroline by her son's warm eulogiums, as well as predetermined to bestow upon her daughter-in-law all the attention in her power, her interesting figure, and behaviour, with her little cherub boys, would have not failed to have worked the same effect. But we need not dwell upon the reception she met with, every feeling mind, and warm fancy, can realise it to their imagination.

The coachman, and lady's woman were sent back with the carriage, taking with them very liberal proofs of the bounty of the old lady, together with a letter of warm acknowledgement for the favours bestowed upon her daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, and of entreaty that she would accept the small token of her gratitude which she enclosed in it, and which was a diamond ring of considerable value.

But Caroline's happiness was entirely marred by the situation in which she found Lothario.— Nothing could have equalled her felicity had the state of his bodily health been equal to that of his mind: yet perhaps it was principally, if not entirely, owing to that, that his acknowledgement of her as his wife had been made. But, alas! his mortal frame was too far exhausted, and the lamp of life near being extinguished on her arrival. It was necessary to use great precaution, lest the fulfilment of what he most de-