

been seen to flash forth fire, that caused the beholder to quail, as does the gleaming of the sword of Azrael. His disposition was kind and his affections ardent, the only circumstance that prevented him from universally pleasing, was his extreme diffidence. This was heightened by a sense of comparative poverty, for like Clara, Charles had been left an orphan when very young, but unlike her, the trifle he inherited barely sufficed to procure a liberal education, on completing this, he entered a public office, and had probably risen to high diplomatic honors, but for his extreme modesty, which ever caused him, rather to conceal his brilliant talents, than court promotion by display.

From the first time that he had seen Clara she had never been absent from his mind, and each subsequent interview had engraved her image more deeply on his heart; no word had yet told that he loved, but his countenance, that true index to an honest man's heart had long since betrayed the truth. Candid to an extreme, dissimulation was impossible to him, his voice might be silent, but love beamed on his open brow, none could mistake the expression of those liquid orbs, that seemed even to shed additional interest over the object of their impassioned gaze.

As I said before, Clara had not yet made any choice among her lovers. Sir Henry Temple, she admired, and his delicate attentions flattered her, neither could she feel entirely free from a slight sensation of pride to see a man so universally sought after, a willing captive in her chains. Towards Charles Stanhope, her feelings were different, she esteemed him for his probity, and looked up to him as a perfect being; his approbation imparted an undefined and pure sensation of pleasure which she never thought of analysing.

About this time a great and unexpected change took place in the affairs of Mrs. Delville and her daughter. Mr. Delville had died leaving a fortune of fifty thousand pounds, to his wife and child; this had all, excepting the property on which they resided, been placed in the hands of two eminent merchants. Being intimately connected with each other, it is no way surprising that