

thundering knock one morning announced some well-bred footman, and our little ebony attendant entered with two little three cornered notes. An invitation ! I exclaimed with delight, and at the Glovers too, answered Mrs. C——, and then she paused—awful pause. Shan't we go ? I said, half-frightend to death. Why yes, in a hesitating tone, but Mr. C——don't like parties, and to tell you truth, Maria, he has been so long out of society (meaning he never was in it), I am afraid he will commit some blunder. Oh ! we can go without him you know, by all means, let him stay at home. We can't do that, said Mrs. C—— in a decided manner ; ladies never go here, unless accompanied by gentlemen ; we'll get some other gentleman ? But no ! I felt the impossibility ; no man in his common senses would enter a crowded room with such a little object on his arm, perhaps arrayed in rainbow colours ; it was inevitable, we must go with Mr. C——said I almost crying, is there no alternative, none ! Maria, none ! or *believe me* I would *avail* myself of it,—for I know he will commit us—and himself. And with this *encouragement*, I was yet fool enough to accept. Mr. C——'s dread of the party even surpassed my delight, the paper dropped from his grasp, go to the party, Susie ! And at the Glovers, too ! Why you didn't go last year ? is that a reason why I should not go this year, Mr. C—— ? *We are* going, and you too. Me too ! good gracious ! why I haven't any pumps, or a waistcoat, or a——. Mrs. C——quietly waited for the rest of the catalogue. Oh ! I tell you what to do, said he in a brisk tone, as a sudden idea struck him ; lend them our silver forks and spoons, that will do as well as our going. What has put that into your head, you stupid fool, said she evidently annoyed ? Nobody, only they borrowed them last year you know. They did not, replied she now in a rage, you would not go last year, so I refused the invitation, and sent to offer any thing I had, and she named a few silver spoons and forks. Very likely, said the poor man half bewildered, that was the way, however they sent them home very nice and clean, and so we shan't mind to lend them again ; only I thought as *you said last year* they invited us *only* to bor-