

ingly parted with one to have redeemed the others; but, oh! to take them all!—with one stroke to fell all my flourishing grove!—the merciless thunderbolt is satisfied with a single tree! But surely I am made of some insensative element, that I survive such desolation, and hear of kindness. Niobe, that lost but her children, wept herself to stone!—O! Murdoch, Murdoch! had I been that true wife which I was once accounted, I should have gone with thee to prison. No chiding for those fond errors, which have proved the ruin of our gallant boys, would then have escaped my lips. But I would have taken thy head upon my lap, and soothed thee to sleep, and shed no tear, neither for son nor father, till that was done. Methinks it would have been a far easier endurance than what I now suffer, to have listened to the knelling of their fatal bell, and to have gone with them to the scaffold, and seen the dreadful preparations!—for then, as the first axe lightened in the air,