

THE DISCOVERY

OR THE MARRIAGE PREVENTED,

By a Lady the author of "*Tales of the Heath.*" "*Improvement,*" a tale.
"Scenes at Home and Abroad," &c.

[Written for the Montreal Museum.]

DUPPLICITY and artifice are frequently defeated in their progress,
 by accidents apparently the most trivial and unlooked for !

Mr. LEE, was a plain, honest, English gentleman residing in the county of Kent, not many miles from the renowned Tunbridge Wells, where he led a happy, tranquil, good life ; a perfect stranger to the luxuries, vices and follies of the Metropolis, to which he seldom paid a visit oftener than once in three years, and then, his stay was seldom prolonged beyond the same number of days—his contentment rested in the enjoyment of an ample fortune, and an unsullied conscience : to the wealthy, he was a valuable neighbour, to the poor a sincere friend ; his table preserved that hospitality so proverbial to *old* English times, and so well understood in the county to which he belonged ; his manners were frank and generous ; the hand of prudence alone prescribed bounds to his liberality, his society was as much sought for its conviviality, as it was for the intellectual endowments of his mind.—Still Mr. Lee was a Bachelor ; an orphan niece who had been from her infancy consigned to his care, seemed to have complete power over his best affections. He spared no expense that she might be possessed of such accomplishments as form the general standard of female education. From a child, opening beauty and sprightliness united with perfect good nature rendered Miss Fanny the delight of her Uncle's circle,—she played and sung with exquisite feeling, and with science sufficient to render listening a pleasure, without exciting the surmise, that the cultivation of attainments less showy but more valuable had been sacrificed—her dancing is said to have been the very personation of grace, her form was light, rising scarcely above the middle size, and seeming in its faultless symmetry to float rather than to move through the Quadrille. She exercised her pencil with judgment and taste.