

so very brief an interval, is necessary to account for his expressing himself in the manner he did, and it is natural to suppose, that his impressions could only have been derived from his daughter's account of her interview with Hunter. There seems to have been a very strong objection in the minds of the parents to the plan of Mrs. Hunter, senior, and her daughter, living with the young married couple, and there can be no doubt that arrangements of this sort are frequently productive of domestic discomfort. But we know on the other hand where people are well disposed to each other, they may live in this way very happily, the experience of others more advanced in years is not without its advantages to a young housekeeper. At all events it was for the gentleman to decide on the terms of his offer; the rejection or approbation was for the lady and her friends. With the strong opinions Mr. Venning entertained on the subject, it would have been perhaps justifiable in him, and the better for all parties, had he acquiesced in the breaking off the marriage, finding that the defendant was unwilling to alter his plans in this respect. He seems, however, to have thought it best to let it go on, and to accept the assurances given him by the defendant in case of difficulties arising, and both parents and daughter consented to the marriage taking place on the terms proposed. I cannot but think it was singularly unfortunate and augured ill for the success of the experiment, that as the point was to be yielded at last, so much prominence was given to the aversion of the lady and her family to her living with Mrs. Hunter senior, and her daughters; and though Mr. Venning was quite justified in considering what was best for the comfort of his daughter, he seems to have considered the matter rather too exclusively from his own point of view. His daughter says in her evidence, she knew his mother and sisters were dependent on him, and the mutual attachment of those relatives and the defendant, and the steady kindness and protection afforded them, were very honorable traits in his character. Even the resolution to give up a cherished attachment, rather than depart from the rule he had laid down for himself, and abandon a self-imposed duty of this nature, was entitled to respect, and perhaps was hardly appreciated as it was entitled to be. His objection to forming two separate establishments, both as it regarded the happiness of an aged parent and sisters, and as entailing an expense which he did not consider justifiable, was rational and creditable, and the manner in which he had discharged the relative duties of a son and a brother, gave some warrant for supposing that those of a husband would not be disregarded. It was therefore, I think, to be regretted that the lady should enter the defendant's family under the disadvantage of being known to entertain a strong hostility to the arrangement under which she had consented to live, and that the same feeling had been shared by her family. It is asserted by Mr.