

py, and Mr. Penson shall be immediately liberated. A sensation difficult to express, but mingled with gratitude, surprise and joy, for a moment prevented an acknowledgment to the generous offer, but Maria perceiving the lady was now in a state to be left, she pressed her lips to her forehead, and entreating that she would seek repose on the bed, she staid only to gain the name and address of the fortunate winner of Mr. Penson's property, then hastening to the drawing room, she wrote to the gentleman requesting that he would call upon her banker for the amount of the draft enclosed. At the same time requested, that Mr. Penson might be immediately liberated; her wishes were of course complied with, and Maria had the heartfelt happiness of seeing her guardian through her generous exertions restored to his own fire-side. How much this last act had enhanced her value in the family, we will leave the public to decide.

Major H.... for that was the name of the gentleman who had received Maria's check waited on the banking firm, at Charing-cross for the cash. The note from Miss Austin, though laconic, had been dictated with so much elegance and feeling as to inspire the Major with an exalted opinion of the refined sensibility of the writer;—her signature "Maria Austin," had also startled him—and impressed him with an ardent desire to become acquainted with the young lady. The fact was, that he had *once* loved a "Maria" with so much sincerity, that neither time nor distance could teach him to forget her, though he has said that hitherto "He never told his love;" the object of his unchanged affections proved to be the mother of the charming girl with whom he was now brought in contact. Colonel Austin and himself had been brother officers in the same regiment, and at the same time became each enamoured with the lovely daughter of Major Wimpole. Finding that Austin had proposed, and had been accepted by the young lady, he exchanged into a Regt. then in India from whence he had never returned until a few months previous to the gambling transaction.

Having ascertained from the banker an outline of Maria's history, with a faithful recital of her late generous conduct to