

personal attractions even when her affections were pledged to another. When that other, he allowed himself to think, was so inferior in external fascinations, he doubted not that he could easily secure the love of this fair one, whose beauty had so powerfully affected him. But when at the expiration of their academic career, he complied with his friend's earnest desire that he would accompany him to his beloved home, a favour however which he had determined to bestow long before it was requested, he found that Mary Lee's heart would be no easy conquest and he read in the fond enthusiasm of her sparkling eye, as it rested upon Charles, destruction to his wicked hopes. But when his friend, with a countenance radiant with happiness, informed him that his Mary had consented to become his wife before another month should elapse, envy knew no bounds, and while, with a bland smile, he expressed his congratulations—malice was rankling at his heart—and his joy was unbounded when the news arrived which compelled his friend to leave his lovely Mary. Apparently in the enthusiasm of friendship, he offered to accompany him. With delight did Charles accept his proposal, happy in the thought, that he could speak of his Mary's perfections to one who knew her and could respond to his enthusiastic emotions.

After Charles's departure Mary and Helen were seldom separate—Helen idolized her brother, and his virtues, his talents and his goodness were the inexhaustible theme of their conversation. After he reached Paris the first vessel informed them of his safe arrival, and assured his darling Mary, that amid the cares and bustle of business, her loved image was ever present before him, and he delighted to reflect that time and absence would not diminish the love which she had confessed for him. He spoke of his friend, and with enthusiasm descanted upon his kindness, and the happiness which his society afforded him. Mary and Helen had no secrets between them, and the moment Mary had perused her letter, Helen became acquainted with its contents.—“I must acknowledge” said Mary, as