

ings that then occupied your mind, I would have a more favourable opinion of your conduct, but my good Sir, you ought to recollect that passion ought to be always to be kept from overruling judgment—and in the case between us you certainly acted upon that principle, I know from this reason because all that my wife you believed, and what I said you treated with the utmost contempt, when at the same time I was telling you the truth, whether she did or not, I considered myself abused by you very grossly, as well as some others of your family, and positively know that I was shamefully used by you, and what a great error you committed in taking her, parting man and wife, how great the crime, now it appears that you have no objections to my living with her, what a change of times within your breast unasked for by me, it appears to me that when I was living with her, that you and your family wished to rule me, but I must inform you that you, nor your wife, nor my wife, nor any of your family is ever going to rule me, as I will not be interfered with by you nor no other person, I must let you know in soft words that I will never be governed by you nor no one else, you are not to come to my house to order me or my wife or my child no that is for me to see to—not for you or your family to do so, I let her return for the present until the 24th of next month I wish that length of time to take the case into serious consideration, as it is a matter of great importance to me, as I wish to spend the remainder of my days as I have for the ten years past in peace and quietness, and in that time if I can possibly make myself think that you and your family will let her remain quietly, and that I can also think that she will behave herself like a virtuous and pious woman from this time forward I will then take her, but at the same time it weighs heavy on my mind, to think that she has been gone ten years, and then come back to live with so bad a man as I represented to be by you as well as your family, your opinion must have altered very much about me, but my opinion has not altered

I am yours &c
(Signed) GEORGE HAM—
To Mr. SHELDON HAWLEY
Ernest Town.

There, Gentlemen, you have the entire of the epistle, 'soft words' and hard. It

is the Defendant's own statement of his side of the case; and I beg your attention to a few passages contained in it.

'All my wife [said] you believed, and what I said you treated with the utmost contempt.' Here is a clear admission; that in his presence his wife had charged him, before her father, with ill treatment, and that the father, after hearing them both, believed her charge to be true. This may not, perhaps, satisfy you that it was true in fact, as she asserted, and her father believed; but it at least admits that the Plaintiff acted under a conviction of its truth; and, therefore, it acquits him of any wantonness of interference. His whole conduct, indeed, throughout this unhappy misunderstanding between the Defendant and his wife, carries self evidence of a sincere belief that he beat and abused her, so that she could not live with him in safety.

'Parting man and wife, how great the crime!' With what a grace does this moral reflection come from a man, who gloried in the separation, and has ever since proclaimed himself unwilling to live with his wife, and even in this very letter, boasts of the 'peace and quietness' he has enjoyed during the ten years of his liberation from her!

'Now it appears that you have no objections to my living with her.' The Plaintiff never did object to their living together, provided she could be safe from violence and abuse. He gave her to him at the marriage altar, in good faith, and in confidence that he would love and cherish her, as he solemnly called God and men to witness that he would; and had now no objections to his living with her; if she could only have a reasonable assurance of good treatment. That was all he had ever required, and all that was now expected or desired.

'Unasked for by me.' Observe, Gentlemen; the overture for a reconciliation, made by his wife and her father, in the most courteous and condescending manner, was 'unasked for,' undesired, unwelcome; and it was accordingly met by him with repulsive taunts. This circumstance shews where the blame of their long separation lies. Indeed the very fact, that a dependant wife, of her age and character and prospects, left her husband's house and returned to her father's, there to be a burden upon him in his moderate circumstances, submitting to all the mortifica-

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