

eyes fixed with humility, and resignation, on a crucifix which they held before him, cannot surely, by the contrast, avoid dropping a sigh, at the fallacy of human hopes!

A little before he expired, he desired to be left alone with his page, that he might give him his latest orders.

'Bertram,' says he, looking wistfully on him, 'the day that hath ruined our sovereign's fortune hath blasted mine! and that too, in the moment when it shone the fairest! Thou wilt soon render me the last of thy faithful services! Let my body rest with the fathers of this house, and as soon as thou hast seen its due rites performed, speed thee to Canterbury, and acquaint the holy abbot of St. Augustin, with the bloody event of yesterday. Conjure him, that he unfold it to my intended bride, in such manner as his discretion shall advise. Bear her this jewel from my finger, in token, that my last thoughts dwelt on her; and tell her, my only sigh in leaving the world, was for the losing her, whose virtues so embellished it!

The faithful Bertram dropped a tear of affection and gratitude, over the grave of his gallant master; and journeying to Canterbury with a bursting heart, presented himself before the abbot, with such a countenance, as hardly needed a tongue to tell his melancholy errand.

The arrival of Belville's page, could not be long a secret to Isabella, who was then at her uncle's; and whose mind instantly forboded some extraordinary event; though the news of the battle had not yet reached that city.

When St. Clair was himself sufficiently composed, to open the mournful business to his niece, he spared none of that ghostly comfort, which a good man would offer on such occasion; though the amount of all that can be said to the sons and daughters of affliction, is no more than this, that it is our duty, and our interest, to bear, with patience, that which it is not in our power to alter! The emotions of nature must subside, before the soothing voice of reason can be heard!

Isabella, after giving way to the first transports of passion, assumed a fortitude, and resignation, which her piety alone could inspire. She desired that Bertram might be detained, two, or three days, at the monastery, and as soon as her mind was more fortified, she would dispatch him to her sister Frances, whom she could then hear to see with more calmness; and to whom she sent the following letter, by the hands of the page.

'Most beloved sister,

'I am plunged from the height of ima-

ginary happiness, into the depth of real distress! The messenger who delivers this, will inform you of my situation, and to him I refer you for particulars, which I am unable to dwell on. Belville is no more! All that dream of happiness, which I hoped for, from an alliance with that dear, that amiable man, is vanished in an instant! and I wake into a world, that hath no object for my regard, but the affliction of my tender Frances! I support my adversity with all the fortitude I can summon up; but heaven only knows the struggles of my heart! From the time that the united solicitations of you, and my uncle, prevailed on me (though reluctantly) to absent myself from you, my soul hath been agitated between hope and disappointment! I will trust the fallacy of the world no more; the remainder of my days shall be passed with you; and we will end life as we began it, in an inseparable union. Your converse, and the solitude of a cloyster, can alone restore tranquility to the mind of your ever faithful, and disconsolate,

ISABELLA.'

When the lady abbess saw her sister, she found her still more confirmed in her resolution of entering on a monastic life. Her uncle, conceiving it might best restore a calm to her troubled spirits, no longer opposed it; and as soon as her affairs were properly adjusted, and every thing prepared, she took the veil in the convent where Frances presided.

Isabella now found religion, the only consolation for her past misfortunes; and the remembrance of her beloved Belville, would often come across her, and spread a temporary gloom over her mind, yet she constantly strove to dispel it, by piety and resignation. The Two Sisters enjoyed all that heart-felt pleasure, which arises from rooted friendship; and, as the effects of benevolent dispositions operate on all around, theirs served to communicate happiness to all the sisterhood.

The Louvain manuscript informs us, that after these ladies had passed near fourteen years in this peaceful retirement, the abbess was seized with an alarming fever, the effects of which hung so long upon her, that they greatly endangered her life.

It is not difficult to conceive, how severe Isabella's sufferings were in the dreadful interval of suspense and apprehension, or the anxieties of her mind.

Frances, during her illness, had made a private vow to the Blessed Virgin Mary, that if she recovered, she would send some costly offering to a chapel, which was consecrated to her, at a little port, called Braditow, or Broad-stairs, in the Isle of

Thanet.