

cloud. The first act of her husband after their marriage was to purchase a commission, with a portion of her father's liberal gift, which his own limited resources had hitherto prevented. They lived in good style, both had expensive tastes, and only the most luxurious articles were admitted into their residence. Mr. T.—'s horses were splendid, their dinners and select parties the most sumptuous and *recherche*; and Katrine and her husband were as much admired, and their society as eagerly sought for, after their marriage as before. But while all was gaiety and festivity with them, at her father's once luxurious and happy home, things wore a strangely altered appearance. After his daughter's wedding, Mr. Schiller grew more careworn and morose, his manner irritable and at times reckless, he absented himself from society, and his wife and Louise at times feared for his reason. Soon, however, the real cause of his abstraction and anxiety transpired: his speculations were empty bubbles—his funds were exhausted—creditors rushed in with their demands, and the great firm whose business had been so extensive, and wealth apparently so inexhaustible, was now bankrupt and ruined. It was an irretrievable failure. The sale of house, furniture, plate, horses, &c., was barely a drop to meet the ocean of demands. From the most opulent of his class, Mr. Schiller was turned penniless upon the world, his wife and daughter totally unprovided for. It was a crushing blow to many, but to none did it come with such force and amazement as to Mr. T. Such an occurrence had never suggested itself to him. In marrying Katrine he fancied himself wealthy for life; but for this supposition he would never have encumbered himself with a wife, or given up the freedom of his bachelor existence. It were vain to attempt to describe his anger and mortification on the occasion. To be connected with a bankrupt was a severe blow to his pride, but to have a wife and be without money was a still greater one. Bitterly did he curse the day in which appearances so blinded his discernment, and from the day of her father's failure poor Katrine's sorrow commenced. It was a hard trial to her affectionate and sensitive heart, to see the father she loved so dearly ruined and disgraced, humiliated among his fellow merchants, and suffering all it is possible for the proud and high minded to bear. The poor old man never rallied from the blow; he whose credit had been so extensive and sure, to become a miserable and despised bankrupt, was more than his keen sense of honour could endure. He neither tried to compromise or improve. All attempts on the part of friends and advisers to induce him to rally and look the evil boldly in the face, were fruitless. He felt himself disgraced, and the feeling produced despair. The whole family removed, immediately after the failure of the firm, and sale of their house and furniture, to the residence of Mr. T., who, though unwilling to maintain further connection with those from whom he could expect nothing, was still bound for the sake of appearances, to extend all the hospitality and attention in his power to the family he had so lately entered. Katrine's care