

indiscreet of her own sex, and flattered and followed by the empty and idle part of the other, she grew vainly inconsiderate: was at all public places, and for ever surrounded by a cluster of coxcombs. Made cheap by indiscretion, she at length became blown upon. The most prudent of her votaries withdrew their approbation; and all admiration decayed, from the commonness of her appearance.

Her parents, by degrees, grew convinced of their mistake, and would have altered their conduct: but it was then too late. Sophia's love of pleasure was become strongly rooted in her heart; she had no idea of happiness but in public adoration, and was resolved, at all events, to indulge that delight. Means however becoming exhausted at home, she was necessitated to look out for them elsewhere: accordingly, in desperation, she caught at a worn-out debauchee of fortune, and, in order to continue making a figure, she married the man whom, of his whole sex, she most heartily despised.

In such a situation, she naturally sought her happiness more than ever abroad, which as naturally created jealousy and disgust in one who knew life, and was sensible of his own imperfections. These produced more distasteful circumstances to increase her unhappiness at home, from which her high spirit prompted her to seek refuge in more indiscretions abroad. In fine, her Argus was so watchful, that he surprized her in the act of guilt, which was followed by a separation and disgrace that hurried her, through haughtiness and desperation, into open prostitution. This soon broke the hearts of her parents, and involved her in such miseries as soon brought her days to a speedy end. Such were the adventures of intoxicated beauty, relying too strongly on the chance of good fortune.

Aurelia her sister was brought up to humbler views. Having a person that was but passable, though neither ugly nor deformed, she was instructed to depend on merit for her highest recommendation, and also to pitch her hopes at a less exalted height. An early state of mortification, from the superior notice taken of her sister, proved that school of adversity to her, which, when rightly improved upon, is the perfecter of a good mind. Made to believe she could not appear abroad to her advantage, she sought for satisfaction at home in domestic employments; and, by making reading a frequent amusement, she much enriched her mind, so that she became amiable in conduct, and highly en-

tertaining, nay instructive, in conversation, but withal so modest, as to be without any of that affectation from knowledge which is deemed distasteful in women. Such were the fruits of that fortunate humility, which her sister's supposed superior excellencies had occasioned her being taught.

Talents so truly valuable, and a disposition so recommendatory, could not fail of attracting observation from those who made reason the director of their judgments. Sober men all approved, and sober women all esteemed; nay, the very rakes all declared, in their accustomed manner of expressing themselves, that they would prefer Sophia for a mistress; but Aurelia for a wife.

At length a worthy young tradesman of credit and fortune, who had sense enough to distinguish between happiness and pleasure, approved of her person, from an admiration of her mind and conduct; and soon rendered himself so agreeable as to become the master of her heart. Their marriage was celebrated with general approbation; for even Sophia was officiously free enough to declare, that her sister's match was as good an one as she had reason to expect.

Aurelia's excellent accomplishments and conduct had all the effects which they ought to have on a good husband. They excited his fullest attention to her, and to their mutual interests. They added ardor to his industry, and even made application delightful to him. Her conversation, attention, and endearments, were the continual sources of his delights; and her merits were sufficient to make her person appear charming to him. With a constant rivalry of endeavours which should best discharge their respective duties, and be most obliging to each other, they found their fortune and respect increase proportionably with their happiness, till, with a numerous and hopeful issue, they saw great affluence crown their years, and died, near together, in the extremity of age, after a life of uninterrupted felicity, and with universal approbation.

Reasoning applications of these narratives must be unnecessary for our readers; their own good sense will be their best directors in making proper uses of them. From these two striking examples, they will plainly see, that Merit is all that can make us truly estimable, and can only insure us the great enjoyments of life: that any particular advantage, nay even good fortune, without it, proves too often a snare, and leads people to great misery, instead of real bliss.