

# THE GARLAND.

"TO RAISE THE GENIUS AND TO MEND THE HEART."

VOL. I.

HAMILTON, SATURDAY, DEC. 22, 1832.

NO. 6.

## POPULAR TALES.

Original.

### REWARD OF VIRTUE.

UNFINISHED.

Henry had rode out into the country, and was not expected to return that evening; and George took the advantage of his absence.—The persons who were with him at this time, were disguised in a similar manner to some of Henry's companions. George managed the whole affair so adroitly, as to leave no doubt on the mind of Mr. Walton, but that it was Henry. From the reports of George and his spies so often repeated previously, to a man growing old and getting doatish, Mr. Walton had sometimes been a little suspicious of Henry, and would have been more so had it not been for his daughter, who never mistrusted Henry's candor and innocence.

Upon the return of Henry, the old man was excessively cool to him; and having called him into a private room, accused him of robbing his house. Henry was astonished, and offered to prove his innocence: he said it was a wicked trick of his brother George, to banish him from his home, and that he believed he and his brother could never live together in peace.

For such reasons, he determined to leave his home and seek one elsewhere. His guardian was bitter in his remarks and persisted in accusing him of the robbery; which accusation Henry felt the more, because all his offers and endeavors to convince him to the contrary failed, and he was obliged to leave the home of his childhood under the chagrin that a consciousness of innocence accused of guilt, ever leaves its possessor.

George during this time was by no means idle in keeping the old man in the same mood of thinking with regard to Henry. His daughter Margaret, although she hesitated what to think of Henry, always shunned George and his courtesies. Thus far George had failed in his flattery of her charms, for she was convinced of the badness of his heart.

Things thus went on for a year, during which time George had managed to deceive the old man in his opinion. But from the conduct of George in this time and the wish of all grades of the neighborhood to have Henry restored because they esteemed him, and believed he was innocent, Mr. Walton began to treat George in the manner that his conduct had long merited. George perceiving the wavering regard of the old man for him, determined on robbing him in reality. Thus disposed, he seized the opportunity the absence

of Mr. Walton and his daughter in the country offered. Luckily for Mr. Walton, he had removed most of his money, but what was left George carried with him in his retreat, no one knew where. The old man being told of the departure of George on his return, and seeing his trunk broken open, was less astonished than grieved, at the favors he had bestowed on him and the ill treatment suffered by the virtuous youth, Henry. His journey had been partly to endeavor to learn something of Henry; after whom he had repeatedly inquired in vain.

From a view of the conduct of George, let all shun a like behavior; which from simple envy, had led him into crimes of the grossest character. Indeed, we may go to extremes in any thing, unless we pursue that smooth and peaceful medium that prudence and good sense point out in our journey through life.—The road upon which we all are doomed to travel, is indeed to most, a thorny one—less on account of the disposition of things by the hand of Providence, than from a proper want of experience in ourselves and an evenness of temper.

A year after the expiration of George's departure, of whose excesses abroad Mr. Walton had heard with regret, he took a long tour in the country adjacent, for his health, accompanied by his daughter. He had enjoyed his journey to his satisfaction and was on his return. One beautiful night in June he had determined to travel in the cool of the evening in order to reach a tavern some miles distant. He entered a forest and had got some distance into it when his horse and carriage were stopped by two highway-men, who demanded his money with cocked pistols. The old man in this frightful dilemma—his daughter having fainted, was on the point of giving the robbers his purse, when the gallop of a horse behind the carriage, threw a fresh hope of escape over his mind. Scarcely had he time to think again, when the stranger armed with a sword-cane, demanded of the robbers the cause of this noise; but quickly perceiving one of the fellows about to level a pistol at him, he made a pass at him, knocked the pistol out of his hand and laid him lifeless at his feet. The other robber fled, but was soon overtaken and knocked down by the active stranger; who thus rescued the old gentleman, and his daughter from their perilous situation. After having thanked the young stranger, he was about to take his departure when the young gentleman agreed to accompany him to the next inn.