

ed with houses of the most chaste and ornamental workmanship, thus exhibiting at one glance of the eye the plain and elegant vying with each other. Advancing a little farther, I came in sight of an extremely splendid building, the design of which I was at a loss to conjecture. On inquiring what purpose it might be designed to subservise, I was informed by individuals who appeared to be gazing intently upon this noble structure, that it was once the mansion of a rich and affluent manufacturer, but had lately passed into the hands of his creditors. With no little surprise I eagerly asked, how the owner of a structure so magnificent could possibly experience such a sad reverse, and as the information which I acquired, may probably be of advantage by affording an instructive lesson to some of your youthful readers, I shall give the particulars as far as a faint recollection will enable me to do with accuracy:—"Sir," said a little man whom I perceived by his conduct to be a person of some importance, "by your inquiries I can easily see that you are a total stranger to the distressing events which have lately occurred in this place—circumstances at once as destructive as they are deplorable, and show in the strongest colour, the transitory nature of all human greatness: if it will not trespass too long upon your time, I shall be exceedingly happy in disclosing to you the chain of events which have finally led to the misfortune at which I just now hinted." Upon my expressing the satisfaction which it would afford, the stranger with all that freedom and loquacity which is so natural when any thing of importance has transpired, began his narration almost in the following strain. "Mr L**** was the son of one of those Scottish Chieftains who pride themselves in a long line of ancestors; and who, like their neighbours, the Welsh, can distinctly trace their pedigree up to the time of Adam, while almost every thing else is involved in obscurity. As no person was disposed to dispute their connection with such 'olden times,' his family were allowed to remain in peaceable possession of such distinguished honour. There is an old saying, however, that pride and poverty go hand in hand, and in this case nothing could be more true.

The members of the family seemed to live and walk in a sphere peculiar to themselves, and they scorned to hold communication with persons whom they considered to be beneath them, either as to ancestry or renown. The patrimony of the Laird, however, being extremely small, and much of his land covered with heather, and as the eldest son always succeeds to the honours and emoluments of the father, it was absolutely necessary that L****, who had now arrived at a proper age, should be settled in some respectable line of business. It was universally agreed that the glory of the family would be obscured by engaging any of them in the common concerns of life, and they accordingly turned their attention to a situation in the army as the most eligible for an individual of his rank in society. As a vacancy had lately occurred in one of the regiments serving in foreign parts, this place was immediately procured, and L****, with all the ardour of a new recruit, set out to join his fellow soldiers, and to engage in an uninterrupted round of pleasure, which his ardent imagination had pictured in the most glowing colours. He did not depart, however, without receiving from the Laird the most strict injunction to maintain

the glory of the family, and to associate with none but his equals in birth. It may be easily imagined, that for an individual educated with such high pretensions, it would be a difficult thing to find his equals, and L****, when he arrived at his destination, soon discovered that none could compete with him in a point so momentous. True to the commands of his father, he treated his fellow-officers with the most profound contempt—he associated with none—not even did he pay those common civilities to which one individual is entitled from another. The consequence of this conduct was, that he was hated in turn—none loved him—none respected him—not one in the ranks could be found who would speak in his favour—so entirely does the unwarranted assumption of pride cut an individual off from society, and embitter those hours which otherwise might have been fraught with pleasure and amusement! In addition to all this, his pride and impetuosity frequently involved him in disputes of an extremely unpleasant nature, and when these did happen, they were sure to terminate with dissatisfaction and disgrace. L**** now perceived how delusive were the charms of a military life, and how fleeting were those gratifications at which his mind had so eagerly grasped. He beheld himself cut off, as it were, from all communication with his fellow soldiers, and life seemed to him divested of half of its pleasure. In the calm hours of reflection, he determined to pursue a different course of conduct, and by his affability and kindness, to strip off the load of unpopularity which now hung so heavy upon him: but days and weeks passed away; pride interposed, and L****, in a fit almost of desperation,—disgusted with the world, and displeased with those around him, determined to sell his commission, and forever to forsake a pursuit which in the hour of passion he falsely charged with embittering the sunshine prospects of his youthful hours. In disposing of his situation in the army, he found no difficulty: a young man became the purchaser, who soon endeared himself to all around. But to L****'s great dissatisfaction, none seemed to exhibit tokens of sorrow or disappointment; on the contrary, they heartily congratulated each other, that an individual was to be removed, who had so amply contributed to spread murmuring and discontent throughout the regiment.

For him, who was known by all the neighbourhood, to enter upon business, he considered a disgrace, and he therefore wandered about in a state of inactivity, until the expenditure of the last shilling of his money, forcibly reminded him that pride and high pretensions were no safeguard from poverty. Like the prodigal in the parable, he would fain have filled himself with the most common fare, and I have often heard him say, that the homely victuals of his countrymen, would in his situation have equalled a royal banquet. To solicit succour from home, however, he knew would be fruitless, and he was too far removed for it at present to be of advantage: 'to dig he could not, to beg he was ashamed.' To add to his misfortunes, a lingering sickness came upon him, which, had it not been for the kindness of the inhabitants who had compassion upon him in his straitened circumstances, must inevitably have proved his last. A bed of sickness often affords ample opportunity for reflection, and L****, when he considered his previous misfortunes, and thought upon his future

prospects, bitterly lamented the gratification of that pride which he now found to have been the true cause of all his calamities. Well did he exclaim with the wise man, 'Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall,' and again 'a man's pride shall bring him low.' These were not the temporary ejaculations of a sufferer—they flowed apparently from the inmost recesses of the soul, while the vivid picture of his wrecked fortune, and disappointed hopes, were confused before him. With his returning health he formed strong resolutions to become as other men, and to efface the impression of his former misconduct. He accordingly engaged as a clerk with a merchant, who had penetration to perceive, and spirit to encourage, the alteration in his life. His behaviour in this situation was extremely creditable to himself, and pleasing to his employer, who, finding the care of a large establishment too much for a person of his advanced age, congratulated himself upon the prospect of associating in trade an individual who had proved such an able assistant. A few months after he became a partner in the business, which at that time yielded a considerable return of profit, but unfortunately, the requisite application was beyond what his weakened constitution could support, and he found it absolutely necessary to retire, with the small gains which he had already acquired. As the air of the country was injurious to his complaint, he was advised by his physician to return to his native land, with the expectation that a change of scene, and the company of his friends, would have a tendency to remove the disease.

The doctors hopes were not visionary, and L**** in a few months after his arrival, entirely recovered from his illness: he regained his health however, but to return to business with unimpaired vigour and activity. By the assistance of his brother, who was now become Laird, he established a manufactory, and employed an individual from a neighbouring place to superintend its management. Fortune smiled on his exertions, and showered her favours with the greatest profusion, and a full tide of success seemed to flow in upon him. His wife, whom he had married after his return, repeatedly presented him with pledges of her love; and the death of his brother transferred the family estate into his hands. Such prosperity was too much for poor L****, he became elated with his success, and soon wandered from his former simple habits. His establishment was increased, and his manner of living was entirely changed. His former high pretensions were assumed, and pride must be gratified with a corresponding show of greatness. So prone are men to be puffed up with prosperity. Country and town residences were built, (of which this is one,) and his sons who were educated with the same high pretensions were introduced to all the fashionable circles of dissipation. As might be expected, his business was left to the hands of hired servants, who perceiving that they were not overlooked as formerly, relaxed their accustomed diligence. His sons contracted a habit of gambling—thousands after thousands were staked, and they were invariably losers. The father was drawn upon to meet these demands which were as promptly forwarded by an indulgent parent in whose eyes his sons only 'did as others did.' In the nature of things however, this could not last long. Gamblers always proceed from less to greater hazards' and