

opinion, which seems to have been shared by her father, that she and her husband might have lived happily together but for the residence of these relations with them in the same family. How far this opinion was well founded it may not be very easy to decide positively from the evidence; but there are some circumstances bearing upon this point—and it is a very important one in the case—to which it will be necessary to advert.

It is impossible to suppose that the lady and her family could have been ignorant, that at the time the defendant was paying his addresses, his mother and sisters were domesticated with him. His house was pleasantly situated, and comfortably furnished and stued up. There seems to have been no disguise or deceit used by him on the point; but when after having been in the habit of visiting her during the winter, during which he had announced his wish to make her his wife, without meeting with any discouragement, he stated expressly that it was to be understood that his mother and sisters were to live with them, an objection was made by Miss Venning to such an arrangement. He, however, was unwilling to yield the point of separate residences for his family and himself for reasons which he stated, and there seemed to be a probability of the engagement, which was mutually understood to exist, being broken off. He had been desired by the lady to speak to her father, and had agreed to do so on the following day, the 24th of May, which was a holiday, but on this difficulty arising she had requested him not to speak to her father at the time fixed on. Matters remained in this state for some days, when the subject was again mentioned between them but with the same result. According to the defendant's statement he told her that the matter had better drop, and that he bade her good-bye with the intention of not returning to the house. In fact, he seems to have come to the conclusion that the matter must be at an end. She however does not admit that the match was actually broken off, but there is no material variance. There was clearly a difficulty in the way, and the defendant did not return to the house until the following Monday, when, in consequence of a note he received from Mr. Venning, he went and saw him in a separate room. Mr. Venning undoubtedly seems to have considered that there was an intention of breaking off the match on the part of Hunter, and he admits that he told him he thought he had acted very improperly, and that it was not the way to gain the affections of a young woman and then cast her off like a suit of old clothes. This would certainly corroborate Hunter's account that the previous interview was intended to be a final one. Mr. Venning attributes this impression to the defendant's having ceased to visit his daughter for some days, but as the last visit was on Friday, and the note was written by Venning on the Monday following, it is evident that something more than the absence during