

attainments and promising talents would have eminently adorned. But to this noble minded youth, the path of duty was the path of happiness and peace; and in that he ever walked. As soon as he had satisfactorily arranged his business, he claimed the hand of Mary, which her parents had pledged when he should be located for life. They gave him their heart's fervent blessing, and directed him to Mary, to name the happy day which would give to them a son, whom they now loved, next only to their darling daughter. Blushingly she yielded to his solicitations, that in one short month they should be united forever. But before that period had elapsed an unforeseen occurrence delayed their happiness. The business in which Charles was engaged was extensive, and a partner was located in Paris, who transacted the business there. He had died suddenly, and left the affairs of the firm in such a state, that it was necessary that Charles should be there as soon as possible. His last interview with his betrothed bride has been described, and we leave him to indulge the reflections which filled his mind as he left his native village, while we introduce to our readers the companion of his journey. Edward Winthrop was a young man possessed of an ample fortune, polished manners and insinuating address. At college, he had been the intimate friend of Charles, whose pure and generous nature indulged no suspicion, that Edward did not possess all the noble qualities which his warm enthusiastic ardour led him to believe existed under an exterior so bland, and fascinating. Had he been permitted to know the motives which actuated Edward Winthrop, he would have recoiled with horror from the wretch, who meditated destruction to his peace. In the confidence of friendship, the fond lover had shown his friend the miniature which he ever wore next his heart; and when Edward gazed on the heavenly beauty of that face, a fiendish jealousy took possession of his soul, and he determined to leave no means untried, to secure this angelic being for himself. Indulging as he did the contemptible belief, that no female heart could resist his irresistible