

have great power upon men's actions, but the first greater far, and he who can attract these the most successfully, will gain the largest fortune. A real scene of affliction moves few hearts to pity; dissembled wretchedness is what most reaches the human mind, and I am past dissembling. Take, therefore, among you, the maxims I have laid down as my own guide, and use them with as much success as I have done.

"Trouble not yourselves about the nobility — prosperity has made them vain and insensible; they cannot pity what they can never feel.

"Some people show you in their looks the whole thoughts of their heart, and give you a fine notice how to succeed with them. If you meet a sorrowful countenance with a red coat, be sure the wearer is a disbanded officer; let a female always attack him, and tell him she is the widow of a poor marine, who had served twelve years, and then broke his heart because he was turned out without a penny: if you see a plain man hang down his head as he comes out of a nobleman's gate, tell him — "Good worthy Sir, I beg your pardon, but I am a poor ruined tradesman, that once was in good business, but the great people would not pay me!" And if you see a pretty woman with a dejected look, send your first sister that is at hand to complain to her of a bad husband that gets drunk and beats her, that runs to whores, and has spent all her substance. There are but two things that can make a handsome woman melancholy — the having a bad husband, or the having no husband at all; if the first of these is the case, one of the former crimes will touch her to the quick, and loosen the strings of her purse; if the other, let the second distressed object tell her that she was to have been married well, but that her lover died a week before: one way or other the tender heart of the female will be melted, and the reward will be handsome. Many more things there are I have to speak of, but my feeble tongue will not allow me to speak them; profit by these, they will be found sufficient, and if they prove to you, my children, what they have been these eighteen years to me, I shall not repine at my dissolution." Here he paused for some time, being almost spent; then recovering his spirits, he thus began again: "As I find the lamp of life is not quite extinguished, I shall employ the little of it that remains in taking a view of my public conduct, as your king: I call heaven to witness that I have loved you all with a parental love; these now feeble limbs and broken spirits have been worn out in providing for your welfare. I call you all to witness that I have kept an impartial register of your actions, and no merit has been passed unnoticed. And: