

At the birth of his infant, Colonel Austin had to deplore the loss of a wife, imbued by nature with virtues which give an exaltation to the female character, raising it in dignity as superior to the follies and vanities of this life, as beyond its aspersions and jealousies. To a heart ennobled by the best feelings of our nature, Mrs. Austin combined an accomplished, and well regulated mind, enriched by cultivation produced from the prolific seeds of education, until it had blossomed with an energy, and an amiability, peculiarly its own.

Nature had also with the hand of liberality bestowed her favors on the Colonel, who was not only an intellectual, but in every sense of the word a good man. He had gloried in his attachment to her whose death he now so deeply deplored, not only as the idol of his heart, but as the sincerest friend, and wisest counsellor he could ever hope to possess. The keen anguish of accumulated suffering now pressed heavily upon him, the natural energies of his mind became enfeebled, to paroxysms of despair succeeded a pale and fixed melancholy, which for a season threatened the annihilation of reason.—That eye that had ever smiled the smile of benevolence, now wept the tear of sorrow. Yet through the cloud of grief, there sometimes shone a ray of religious resignation, which springing from the mind afforded its own consolation, and conveyed a gleam of hope to his surrounding friends; many of whom strenuously advised that he should exchange into a regiment on foreign service, considering that a variation of scene afforded the only chance of his recovery from a shock, which, like the vampire had been destroying the energies of the mind, and almost depriving it of its very existence.

He would not however listen to the proposal, but immediately disposing of his commission retired with his infant girl to a small cottage in the west of England; determined there to devote his remaining days to the performance of a duty which had now so imperatively become his own. Who shall bound the powers of human misery! or say to sorrow, so far shalt thou