

[CONCLUSION.]

THE MODERN MRS. CHAPONE.

THE NEWEST EDITION OF A SERIES OF LETTERS TO OUR JUDY'S
BELOVED CLARISSA.

MY DEAREST NIECE,

WE have now arrived at an important consideration, viz: a proper regard for your own interests. On this point, I must offer you some advice. Not that I think young ladies are generally insensible to their own welfare, for I have lately observed in numerous families a delicate and systematic prudence edifying to behold. But the sentiment is expressed with rare beauty and pathos, by one of our elder didactic poets, and it conveys with exquisite force, what ought to be the guiding principle of our conduct. It runs—"Number one is the first law of nature." Some skill however is required in the practical adherence to this golden rule, for it is by no means agreeable to be accused of meanness and selfishness, language, which many weak men are often in the habit of applying, to what is only a justifiable sense of one's merits.

Therefore get all you can and give nothing away, gratify every wish, at the expense of the dearest friend. Lend nothing but never refuse a request, without the strongest expressions of regret; that you cannot grant, what you have been asked. This line of conduct is only necessary to people who may be of use to you—a mere relation, should receive summary treatment, and ought to be told at once you do not like such liberties. On the other hand never hesitate to borrow when you are in want, even from a person whom you are in the habit of abusing. Unnecessary caution concerning what is lent to you is foolish;—and never inconvenience yourself by a too speedy restitution. Should you by accident happen to lose what has been lent to you take no notice of the matter. Shew that you have forgotten it, for the probability is, if your friend has any delicacy she will never ask you for her property: and the longer the time which elapses before you are reminded of the loan, the more easily you can get out of the scrape. Should your friend have some regard for the trinket beyond its intrinsic value, and gently remind you that you have it, reply by thinking you have returned it and by promising to look for it. With strangers be always in the best of humours, and reserve your ill-temper for your own family. At home be as querulous and as listless as you can, grumble eternally, and if you are asked to oblige others of the family, either do not do so at all—or comply in such a manner, that the party shall be quite sensible of the obligation. Be ready at all times to talk of yourself and your prospects, for you may be certain, that you are so important a personage, no topic of conversation can be more agreeable.

In your love affairs, for of course you will have them, never allow your heart to prompt you. Look what a man has, rather than what he is, marry to see company not to obtain a companion. Be the first to find out the ridiculous points in the character of the man who is courting you, and join others in laughing at him. Always have a certain number of hangers-on, because as you must have seen "one fool makes many." If you should be so unfortunate as to get entangled in an engagement and a richer man asks your hand, rebuke the impertinence of the first suitor should he be foolish enough to suppose you intend to keep your word. Snub him with a proper dignity and send him about his business—be sure however that your new beau is really tied to you, for it would be an awful thing after jilting another to get jilted yourself.

I have already said something about your reading, but the matter is of very secondary importance. I may as well say, if you have any leisure time I do not object to your studying those true pictures of life—the Wandering Jew and the Mysteries of Paris—or some of the immortal works of Mr. G. W. M. Reynolds of London. You there find subjects for meditation, and a fund of religious and instructive reading not to be met in the English classics. As to histories and such balderdash nobody ever talks about them here, and the majority of your friends see little difference between Alexander Pope, and Pope Alexander. Sufficient for you to be the pure, generous souled maiden, I have endeavored to make you,

intent upon looking well in your bonnet, and desirous of an affectionate husband who can give you a rich one to look well in.

And for the present, my dear niece, this is the last letter I shall write you. It is somewhat bitter to say "good bye," nevertheless we have to repeat those words of sad import every week of our lives. But I have this to say before we part. If you have any bosom friends whom you desire to read my letters, you have my consent to shew them. For the perusal will do no harm. None of us are perfect, even you whose eye rests upon these lines may have felt a quicker tingling of the cheek as you have looked at Aunt Judy's letters. If so, think of the old woman's advice, and extract good from it. She has put it to paper, with a far sadder spirit than one would discover, and like most people who give advice will get little thanks for her trouble. Let that pass, time works wonders and the modern Mrs. Chapone may not have been written in vain. And so says adieu,

Your affectionate friend and adviser.

JUDY.

SYMPATHY FOR THE GOVERNOR.

Our "well beloved" Governor General has received several addresses from "sympathisers" expressive of regret that his Lordship should have suffered such ignominious treatment at the hands of an indignant public, and hoping that if his Lordship is compelled to retire from his "responsibility" he will not think of returning to "bonny Scotland," but show his attachment to Canada and the French Canadians, by assuming the "bonnet rouge." The tradesmen at Montreal are determined to vie with each other in endeavoring to induce his Lordship to remain, and have declared their intention of selling all goods to his Excellency "under first cost," with the praiseworthy motive of enabling him to carry out that system of economy for which he is so flatteringly distinguished, and which will be doubly necessary as soon as his Lordship resigns the paltry seven thousand a year salary, which he receives.

We insert the following, which by some accident, have been omitted from the *Official Gazette*:

"M. Compain, Place D'Armes, a l'honneur de prevenir Mi Lord Elgin qu'il se trouvera bien servi a son etablissement. Il peut commander un bon potage au chou, trois plats, avec pain a discretion; et une pinte de demi-et-demi, enfin, il pourra parfaitement avoir des sacs souffles* pour un schelling. La societe est tres comme-il-faut, et on nedonne rien au garcon.

*French idiom—"He will be able to blow his bags out."

Madame St. Julien begs leave to express to Lord Elgin her deep regret at the present critical state of his Lordship's position: and feeling that it behoves every lady situated as she is, to endeavor to assuage, as much as possible, the awkward predicament into which his Lordship will shortly be thrown, begs to say that as her boarding house is in a cheerful part of the town and very convenient to the river (in case his Lordship should feel disposed to depart suddenly from the city) she will be happy to receive his Excellency on moderate terms, when an ungrateful province shall induce his retirement from office. Her establishment is chiefly composed of the French members—(addicted to short pipes and very bad tobacco) who will be proud to have the society of a Nobleman of his Lordship's economical habits. The dinner table is particularly well furnished, and a rubber is generally got up every evening, at which Lord Elgin could play long penny points if he wished it."

My Lord,—Probably your cellars will be Choke-damp when the door is opened, from long disuse and confined air. I have been accustomed to descend dangerous wells and shafts, and will undertake the job at a moderate price, should you labor under any temporary pecuniary embarrassment in paying me, I shall be happy to take it out in your wine, which I should think had been some years in bottle.

Your Lordship's most humble servant.