

Clara Delville, as with young and rich ladies in general had several aspirants to her hand ; as yet she had not particularly distinguished any by the bestowal of her heart. Two gentlemen had, however, made a more favorable impression than is usually produced by commonplace acquaintances. Sir Henry Temple, by far the most striking in manners and appearance of the persons in question, was of the middle height, and handsome to an eminent degree. Master of every showy accomplishment, it was asserted that he had danced, sung, and blown, it was expressed to me, fluted, but I conceive that blown, however awkward it looks and sounds, to be the most proper word, he had then, it was said, insinuated himself into the affections of a score or so of young hearts, and moreover, frequently been in love himself, but as he had never married, although in actual possession of a large fortune and such a prepossessing person, this is not likely to be true, for why, if he had both loved and been beloved, should he not, under such a favorable combination of events, have united himself to one of the distinguished objects ? It was also whispered, that Sir H. was a heartless voluptuary, who basked in the smiles of beauty, and revelled in the delicious excitement of uncertain success, but that as soon as the downcast eye, anxious look, and faltering tongue had confessed deeply implicated feelings, the gay butterfly would flutter away to sip the sweets of first love from some other beauteous budding flower. This must also have been false, for he looked so good, so frank, and spoke so feelingly, that he must have been as free from selfish coquetry as from every other evil inclination. Thus reasoned Clara ; time will show the truth or fallacy of her amiable sophistry. So much I can take upon myself to assure my readers : that whatever may have been the actions of Sir H. heretofore, he had now, at the age of thirty-two come to the determination of marrying, that he sought for a lady of distinguished manners, and above all, of large fortune ; to account for the last mentioned advantage being thought absolutely requisite, I must own, that to a certain extent at least the world had spoken truth, in calling Sir H. a voluptuary. His table and the general ar-