

THE LIFE

OF

AMOS WILSON, &c.

AMOS WILSON, (usually termed "The Pennsylvania Hermit,") whose eccentricity and seclusion from human society for nineteen years, has excited so much curiosity in the western part of the state, was born in Lebanon, Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, in 1774. His parents were honest and respectable, although not very wealthy. Amos was their only son, whom, at the age of sixteen, they apprenticed at the stone cutting-business—he was a youth of correct habits, and during his apprenticeship very deservedly respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. His countenance was of meek and modest expression, and perfectly characteristic of a mild, affectionate temper; indeed, he was a youth who bid fair to become not only a valuable member of society, but the support of his parents in their declining years, had it not been for a most distressing circumstance, which not only forever destroyed their peace of mind, but rendered their son apparently the most unhappy of human beings.

Wilson had an only sister, but two years younger than himself of whom he was affectionately fond. She was a young lady of amiable disposition, and not less esteemed by her acquaintance for her virtuous and unblemished character, than the youth to whom she was so nearly allied; but alas, esteemed and beloved as she was in early youth for her love of virtue, at the age of nineteen cruel fate doomed this deluded and unfortunate young woman to suffer an ignominious death!

Deceived, and shamefully seduced by a wretch, who with protestations of love, and promises of marriage, succeeded in depriving her of all that could render her respectable in the