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T

ORIGINAL LETTERS,
OR,
Modern Love, Exemplified;
BEING THE CORRESPONDENCE OF
A well-known Character
OF THE
DANDY WORLD,
IN THIS CITY,
Under the assumed Name of "Amoroso,"
TO A YOUNG FEMALE,
NOW RESIDING WITH A RESPECTABLE TRADESMAN;
Addressed to her under the fictitious Name of
"GEORGINA DARCY,"
*And her Confession, as to what passed at their several
Interviews, before and during such Correspondence.*

the note
"Which is Villain? let me ~~see~~ his Eyes,
"That when I see another Man's, like his,
"I may avoid him."

Bristol:

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PREFACE.

IN offering to the public, those original Letters, it may be necessary for me to state the real motives that induced me to do so, in order to remove that censure which my enemies have so industriously attempted to prejudice my character. As soon as the illicit correspondence was made known to me, I had a case drawn up, with the confession of the young female, attached, and transmitted to London, to an eminent Barrister for his opinion, as to the best mode of bringing the Author before a British Tribunal; but I am sorry to say, that my anxious expectations were blighted in their bud, by being informed, the Letters were so cautiously worded, that no action for damages could possibly lie.

By the advice of a friend, I then resolved to get the whole correspondence inserted in one of our most public newspapers; and delivered part of the copy to one of the principals for that purpose; who promised at first, to comply with my request; but after a short time elapsing, he positively declined to do so, with this remark, that "the

correspondence was too long, for the columns of a newspaper; otherwise, he would with pleasure have inserted them." I then made applications to several printers, of this city, to print the same in the shape of a pamphlet, as it now appears; but, which, they all thought proper to decline; whether by THREATS OF A PROSECUTION, or otherwise, is best known to themselves: as I know that an Attorney, of this city, was very busily engaged to endeavour to suppress their appearance, in public, after I had indignantly refused to accept of a certain bribe, to give up the original Letters.

Having thus accomplished the presenting of the publication, they then industriously circulated, that my sole object was EXTORTION; and this gaining ground, rapidly, every day, to the great injury of my profession, character, and family, I found that I had no alternative left, but to endeavour finding some printer elsewhere, who was not easily intimidated by threats, or corrupted by bribery; such a one, I have happily discovered; and I now leave the subject to the scrutiny and judgement of a generous public.

JAMES LEWSEY.

Bath,
August 14, 1819.

A
NARRATIVE
OF
Facts.

UPWARDS of two years since, a gentleman, of considerable property, residing in Bath, introduced himself to a young female, then between fourteen and fifteen years of age, by accosting her in the street, as she was going on her business: he requested to accompany her, which she then prudently declined.

The female was under my care, and protection: who had been from her infancy brought up by me, as my own child; and instructed in my business.

As the gentleman generally took the opportunity of walking near the place of my residence, whenever this young person went out on business, particularly of evenings, he was sure to fall in with her. Those promiscuous meetings took place for some considerable time, before this young person (whose name is Amelia A——) knew the gentleman's name, or who he was; and no particular familiarities took place between them, excepting only that of kissing her hand, or occasionally saluting her at parting; at the same time, urging the strongest professions of love, and attachment, and

declaring he felt the greatest affection for her: and always at parting, pressed hard for a future appointment, which she objected.

In January, 1818, an accidental meeting (on the part of the female) took place, about seven o'clock in the evening. He then prevailed with her to take a walk; and after various professions of his fondness, and regard for her, he drew from his pocket, (to use the female's own expression,) a note or notes, which appeared to her like bank paper, and put them into her hand. She with disdain, refused them. He told her, "they are to buy you something, whatever you like." He said, "I do not mean to insult, it is only my love and affection for you, that induce me to make the offer." He then made her an offer of some pastry, which she likewise refused. Having inquired of her her name, she told him it was "*Amelia*." He then replied, "it is a very pretty name," and begged her surname, which was likewise given. She then inquired of him what his name might be, which he stated to her to be, by saying it is "*Holton*," and then turned the conversation on the respectability of his family connections and residence.

Several other accidental interviews, subsequently, took place: one in about April following; when he accosted her in the street, telling her, "I am going out on a fishing excursion;" and asked her, "would you like to accompany me." She replied, "I feel no inclination to go." He pressed her much, and promised to treat her with great kindness; and asked her, "how can you bear to stay in Bath, all the summer;" to which she replied, "very well, rather than go on a fishing excursion with you, Sir." He then changed the topic, by asking,

"will you enter into a correspondence with me by letters;" and asked, "if I direct a letter for you, in a fictitious name, and leave it at the Post Office, will you take it out:" to which she replied, "certainly not, Sir." He then inquired, "what is your reason;" She said, "I will not give you the trouble to write to me." He said, "I shall not consider it a trouble;" upon which she coolly replied, "I will not receive them." He then paid her a great many compliments, and made use of many expressions of attachment, previous to their leaving each other, when she returned home.

In the month of June, following, she met him by accident in the Market Place, and he pressed her much to accept of a ticket for the Gardens, which she refused; and they soon separated, she being in great haste.

Some time afterwards, the female being walking in company in the Crescent Fields, on a Sunday afternoon, he went to her, and said, "you shall not walk with those persons with whom you are walking;" and immediately she left them, and accompanied him. They talked on various subjects, and she complained of the heat of the weather. He said, "it is warm, but the heat is nothing here to what it is in the East or West Indies." She said, "if I travel any where, I should like to go to France or Italy." He immediately said, "I am going there in the spring;" and asked, "will you go with me:" to which she replied, "no, Sir." She then said, "I have not any particular wish to go, neither should I wish to go with you." He entreated her to think of it, and pressed her much to go with him. She said, "it is not of any use pressing me, for I really could not think of going." He then pressed her to take

some fruit, and said, "I have some very handsome silk handkerchiefs, that I brought over from France with me;" and requested her to accept of one, which she refused. After walking some time and distance together, he entreated her much to make an appointment, to meet him in the evening: she to get away from him, made a promise; but did not keep it, being otherwise engaged.

In September, following, she met him one Sunday afternoon, according to an appointment made the preceding evening: it had been raining. They walked together some distance. He expressed much pleasure at seeing her, and talked a great deal about his love and affection for her. She thinks *he made some expressions about offering her his hand*; and said a great deal about offering her money. She refused his offer, saying, "you are very generous, but I cannot think of accepting any thing." The conversation then turned again upon writing. He said, "I have been considering of a very good plan." She asked him, "what plan is that." He replied, "it is by carrying on a correspondence by letters." She said, "have you, Sir." He again replied, "I have also thought of a name for you to sign your letters: it is '*Georgina Darcy*;' and that he would sign his letters, "*Amoroso*." She made some objections to the name; and he said, "I think it a very good name, it is not a common name:" and observed, "that if you should happen to lose a letter, and it should fall into the hands of any person, they would not suspect it was addressed to you." It was also agreed, that no NAMES should be mentioned in the letters. It was likewise proposed, that his letters to her, should be addressed, "*Georgina Darcy, Post*

Office;" and she was to call for them. The letters proposed to be sent by the female, were, (by this gentleman's particular desire,) to be addressed to himself in his real name, and to his place of residence.

He then said, "you must go and take tea with me," and made an observation on the fine music he had; saying, "I am a great amateur in music;" and said, "are you fond of music?" she replied, "I am; but I cannot think of going to hear music, or to drink tea, with you." He then told her, "I have a very elegant carriage just come out;" and asked her, "will you take a ride in it with me?" to which she replied, "never." He then expressed great concern, for fear she should take cold, as it had been raining. They then returned by a circuitous rout, upon a promise of meeting again in the evening.

She met him again in the evening, agreeably to appointment. They walked together about an hour, and talked on various subjects. He made her an offer of some fruit, which she refused. He made no further appointment, but said, "I will write to you in the morning; and I hope you will answer my letters as early as possible." She apologized about her writing, saying, "I cannot write very well." He replied, "that does not signify." They then separated, and she returned home about half-past seven in the evening.

It is necessary here to observe, that the interviews previously stated, are not one-fourth of what absolutely took place, between them. Those are merely to shew, the various offers and promises made, to work upon the young girl's feelings, and to entrap her into the snares and plans formed for her destruction.

As my daughter being in London, and other

places, on a visit to her friends, the girl in her absence had, consequently, greater opportunities of going out alone, either on business, or to places of worship, which she had been accustomed to, in company with my daughter. In those opportunities, the gentleman took every precaution to meet her. She could not even stir to a neighbouring shop, but what he was sure to intercept her; and made it a constant practice of walking, every evening, to and fro past my residence, for a considerable time, until it became observable by the neighbours; and then she was obliged to remonstrate on the impropriety of such conduct.

Neither myself, or my wife, (being elderly domesticated persons,) could be constantly watching the girl's motions; and as she has ever since she has been with us, till latterly, behaved with the strictest propriety, decency, and respect, we ever entertained the highest opinion of her virtue, integrity, and honour.

On Tuesday morning, after the last mentioned interview, the first letter from "*Amoroso*," was received by the girl, and the other seven letters contain the substance of his correspondence, which are all subjoined.

Shortly after my daughter's return home, she received some few hints from a neighbour, that led to a discovery of the whole transaction, between the parties; and the girl is convinced, that through my daughter's vigilance alone, she has been saved from everlasting misery and destruction.

My daughter having mentioned the subject to me, I incautiously let fall a word or two in the girl's hearing, who immediately took the alarm, and said, "I suppose, Sir, you have heard something about me?" to which I replied, "I

have, not much to your credit." No further notice was then taken of the business by me, at that time. However, the girl's agitation of mind became so great, reflecting on the impropriety of her conduct, and fearing the censure of those by whom she had scarcely ever before been contradicted, she formed the desperate resolution of absconding, with a view of travelling into Yorkshire, a distance of three hundred miles, with only one shilling in her pocket. In consequence of my being called out on business, she took the opportunity of quitting my house, and hurried away to some of her relations in the city. She called on them in a state of great perturbation, and haste, which they supposed arose from hurry in business; and left them again almost immediately. She then set off on the road to London, and arrived at Chippenham, about three o'clock in the afternoon. Being unaccustomed to long journies, she found herself extremely faint and fatigued, on her arrival there. She was totally unacquainted with any person in that place, and had nothing more than one shilling to pay coach hire, or to satisfy expenses of refreshment, at public places. She having applied to a little girl for information where she could rest herself, and the child with the greatest compassion, told her, she should go to her mother's; she accordingly followed the child to the mother's humble cottage, in a private lane; who, after some preliminary questions, (and on receiving information from her, that she was in great trouble and distress, having clandestinely quitted her home,) prevailed upon her, to stay there and refresh herself, and charitably gave her some tea. She told the good woman her intention of proceeding on the road, towards Calpe; and that

she meant to travel into Yorkshire, and mentioned the small sum she had to accomplish that journey. The woman aware of the dangers to which she might be exposed, if she proceeded, as the evening was fast approaching; and perceiving she was not a similar character to most of those who are too frequently presenting themselves to the humane, on the different roads, in the present unfortunate state of this country, prevailed on her, though with some reluctance on her part, to stop under her hospitable roof for that night; which she did, and slept with one of the good woman's children. In the morning, this humane woman gave her some breakfast; and by her persuasion, she was induced to return again to Bath.

Instead of seeking out the character who had proved the author of her trouble and distress, she prudently went to the person who had nursed her in her infancy: there she staid, during the remainder of the following day.

The nurse, who had been apprised of her elopement, seeing she was extremely unwell by over fatigue, and in order to give her an opportunity of calming the fears of a too precipitate an interview, with the persons from whom she had absconded, soothed and consoled her as far as she was able, and concealed her return until the evening.

About noon, the second day after her departure, the nurse called on me, and informed me, that Amelia had called on her the preceding day; and as she appeared very unwell, and greatly fatigued with her journey, requested she might be allowed to remain with her the remainder of that day. Myself and family were glad to hear she was in existence, (as we all concluded, by receiving no previous intelligence

of her, that she had been induced, in a fit of despair, to put an end to herself;) and being fearful, if she was permitted to continue at the nurse's house, that some plan might be formed for subsequent elopement, I resolved to accompany the nurse home to her residence, which I did, and on the girl's seeing me, her feelings became extremely poignant; and being overwhelmed with grief and fatigue, she fully admitted the impropriety of her conduct; and regretted she had not placed more confidence in me and my family, by whom she had been so long cherished and protected; and consented to accompany me home again.

On her arrival home, (she having previously, in a partial manner, disclosed the illicit correspondence, which for a considerable time past had been carried on between the gentleman and herself,) I considered it most prudent to obtain the assistance of another person, to put some questions to her on the subject, and if possible obtain a sight of the letters, which we accomplished.

Upon being interrogated, on various points, for a considerable time, she with some hesitation and reluctance, confessed her intimacy with the gentleman, and admitted that a correspondence, by letters, had been carried on for some time past: and mentioned, at last, the name of the person to whom she had confided such letters; and accordingly I accompanied her to the person, and demanded the letters, which were immediately given up to me.

The letters, in my possession, are eight in number, which she declares to be all she ever received from the gentleman, whose name is "*Robert Houlton*," under the signature of "*Amoroso*," but she only sent answers to

three of them in return, under the fictitious name of "*Georgina Darcy*." Exact copies of the whole correspondence, between them, are transcribed, numbered as she received them, with dates from post marks, as accurately as can be ascertained.

It will be perceived, on the perusal of the letters, and by the preceding and subsequent declarations of the female, that every allure-ment hath been held forth, by pecuniary and other fascinating offers; and by the most fervid professions of inviolable attachment, love, and esteem, on his part, to attract and rivet the affections of this young and unsuspecting girl; and to fix her future destiny under the controuling power and influence of the author of her present misfortunes; and whom she declares to be the person who sent her the letters, hereto subjoined, under the assumed name and character of "*Amoroso*." For what purpose those alluring offers and professions were made, is best known to himself: other persons are at liberty to form their own conclusions on the subject.

It is impossible to conceive, (on examination of the letters, and perusal of a passage contained in the third letter of "*Amoroso's*," dated the 22nd October, 1818,) the effect it had upon my daughter; and, indeed, upon my whole family. Reflecting on the perturbed state of mind, and the situation of the girl for some time past, and judging the impression such passages might have caused in her bosom, as well as my daughter's, (knowing she had been particularly circumspect on the girl's behaviour, of late, and being sensible she was the person alluded to in that passage,) she became greatly terrified; indeed myself and wife were as much

alarmed as herself, and considered it a fortunate circumstance, that some such plan had not been put into effect, to remove the obstacle to the consummation of that happiness, so fervently wished for, and anticipated on his part. Indeed, upon a weaker mind, there is no knowing how far such insinuations might not have extended. Daily instances occur, of persons of more superior sense and understanding, falling victims to some sudden dangerous and frantic impulse: as the tender mind and passions of a young female, (when corrupted, oppressed, and labouring between hope and despair,) are not so strong, nor so well shielded, against such dangerous insinuations and stimulus, as the male part of the creation.

To ascertain the impression the passage in the letter of the 22nd of October, 1818, had made upon the girl's mind, I thought it necessary to put a few questions to her on that head, in the presence of a respectable witness; and at the same time commit them with her answers to paper: the substance of which is as follow.

Question. What did he say to you on the subject of that letter, at your next interview?

Answer. He asked me if I had read that letter, to which I said, yes, Sir. "Ah! you see what a poor fellow I was, when I wrote that letter. What do you think of it?" I said, I think it was a very ridiculous letter, altogether; and I thought he had more value for his life, than to put an end to his existence, by taking poison: that I did not suppose he had bought any such thing. He replied, that he had bought it, but it was for another purpose. I said, I thought it was a very horrid idea; and that I hoped he would not write me such another

letter. He laughed, and said, he did not know that he should.

Q. As to the allusion in his letter, of getting rid of a person very much in his way, to whom might he allude?

A. To Miss L. (meaning your daughter,) my friend and protector.

Q. Did he ever express any particular dislike to my daughter?

A. He never expressed any particular dislike: he said, he often wished Miss L. (meaning your daughter,) out of the way.

Q. Did he ever point out any specific method of getting rid of her?

A. No, Sir.

Q. What could you suppose he meant, by saying, he would answer for it being "*a prescription effectually to assist us,*" in allusion to persuading her to drink the contents of the fatal cup instead of himself.

A. I cannot suppose any other, than that he meant your daughter to drink the contents of the fatal cup, instead of himself. I cannot suppose otherwise.

Q. Do you know the reason for his dislike to my daughter?

A. No other reason, than he thinks she is the obstacle that prevented my meeting him oftener than I did.

Q. Did he ever put an idea afloat, in course of previous conversations, of the manner in which he would wish to be effectually assisted, and the object he had in view by my daughter's removal?

A. There was no plan laid nor thought of by me. I suppose, by the above letter, he meant to sound me, to know what I would say about it.

Q. What do you mean by—it?

A. Why, about what he has wrote, in regard to the poison. All I could enfer from it, was, that he wished your daughter out of the way, that we might meet oftener.

Q. What do you conceive he meant, by saying, that “if she is under the perplexities and troubles of this world, it would soon put an end to all her joys and sorrows?”

Answer. I should conceive he had no good meaning towards the person he alluded; and I think he had the horrid idea of putting an end to her existence. Those are my ideas upon the subject, at present; before, I did not give the subject due consideration. He then turned the discourse, and said, “I have an idea of going to France and Italy,” and said, “have you thought on that subject, since I first mentioned it? I replied, “I have never given it a thought since.” He again repeated, the great happiness he should feel in taking me, and said a great deal more on that head; to which I made similar replies.

In the Evening, the girl, as was generally her custom, went to the Abbey Church, and in coming out, she met him again. He persuaded her to walk with him, and they went together as far as Widcombe. They stopped some time on the bridge in conversation, where he expressed greater affection for her than ever; and entreated to know, if she loved him in return. After some hesitation, she replied, “I do.” He urged a repetition of her declaration of attachment for him, and she again confessed, “I feel an affection for you;” upon which he embraced her. They then returned together, and separated; and she arrived home about a quarter before eight o’clock.

They met again the beginning of December, when he, in a more arduous manner than ever, renewed his expressions of affection for her, and pressed her much to go to his house; he told her, "I wish to shew you my elegant furniture;" and used every possible entreaty, to persuade her to go home with him; she refused, and declared, "I never will."

Soon after the receipt of the letter of the first of December, (which on perusal will be found to contain most impassioned expressions of love, admiration, and attachment,) she passed him in the street, walking with another female, whom he quitted, and followed her. After making some frivolous excuses and apologies, respecting the person, with whom he was walking, he inquired if she had received his letter. Being answered in the affirmative, he began paying her many compliments, and urging his great affection, as usual. He then said, "I have got a beautiful gold repeater, of the value of twenty guineas." She replied, "have you Sir," in a very indifferent manner. He said, "yes, and should like to give it to you." She again replied, "I cannot think of accepting it." He then asked, "why will you not accept it?" She then asked him, "why are you so very pressing for me to have it, and what do you think I shall do with it, if I accept it?" He then said, "keep it; and when you look at it, you will think of me." He then said, "I am going to London," and asked, "can I bring you any thing that you like from London?" and begged, "will you mention it." She replied, "there is not any thing that I wish for." He repeated the offer, which she again refused. At this interview, he inquired, "what do you with my letters?" She replied, "I have burned some, and intend burn-

ing the others." He replied, "it is best to burn them, and if you have not burned them, and will return them to me again, I will give you a fresh set." She said, "there is no occasion for that, they will do very well."

Several subsequent interviews has taken place between the parties, at which it appears, the gentleman conducted himself with his usual gallantry and address; urging the strongest expressions of love, attachment, and inviolable friendship. Only two more letters appear to have passed. One of them seems to feel the effects of coolness, exhibited on the part of the female; the other runs in a different strain.

The following paragraph, with the female's name affixed to it, was written by herself, on the morning she was informed that the copy was going to be placed into the hands of the printer; and on being asked whether she had any thing further to say in the business, she wrote as follows.

During *Mr. Robert Houlton's* absence in London, I heard what his character was. That he was a gentleman of the most dissolute and dishonourable principles; that through his art and insinuations, he had accomplished the ruin of several girls. I therefore concluded from that, his intentions were equally dishonourable, in regard to myself. I felt extremely hurt, and astonished, as I always had a higher opinion of his principles and honour. Situated as I was, I knew not what to do. I could not prevail on myself to tell him. Sensible also, of the impropriety of any further correspondence with him, I finally determined to break off with him entirely; without either answering his letters, seeing him again, or assigning any particular reason whatever. I therefore assumed all the indiffer-

ence and coolness I possibly could, in hopes, that when he perceived it, he would relax in his attentions towards me; and when he requested to know, whether he should write again, the reason I said yes, was, because I wished to know whether he felt it. I received his letter according to promise; but I still continued firm in my determination of not answering his letters. I did not see him for several weeks after, when he asked me, "will you answer my letter?" I made some observations on the last which I received: he said, "it was my affection for you which induced me to write it," and added, "what is your reason for treating me with such coolness." I replied; "I had my reason for it, and when you know it, I think you will be perfectly satisfied." He then said, "If I write the next day, will you answer it." I replied, "perhaps I may." I received his letter, which made the eighth; all that I ever received. I felt quite disgusted with its contents. I never answered it, nor have spoken to him since.

"Amelia Arkbell."

The foregoing substance of the female's examination, with the following extracts of the letters received, appear, materially, to shew the multiplicity of base offers, and tenders of valuable articles that were made, to seduce an unsuspecting girl from the path of rectitude; and duty to those, to whom (through gratitude, for the numberless obligations she was under from her infancy,) she was attached and bound to obey.

No great degree of penetration seems requisite, to ascertain the drift of the foregoing intimacy and correspondence. The rapturous expressions of love, fondness, and attachment, made use of in his declarations and epistles,

might have secured the affections of a much elder and wiser person, than the object to whom they were addressed; independent of those numberless fascinating offers—of bank notes, silk handkerchiefs, gold repeater, and the various other allurements that were held forth; and the unremitting attention and watchfulness exercised by the gentleman, to catch hold of the girl at every avenue of the streets, whenever she went from home, might have bewildered the imagination of almost any individual, of greater experience and solidity of judgement; and overwhelm them into irretrievable ruin, misery, and destruction.

In consequence of the above connection, the girl's conduct, latterly, became completely changed. Her senses were so thoroughly bewitched, by the flattering and specious promises of the gentleman, that she could neither eat, drink, or sleep, in comfort. On every trivial occasion, being spoken to, by persons in the house, or by those coming on business, she scarcely knew what answer to give; and appeared all agitation, fear, and alarm, whenever any person came to the door. Her appearance and behaviour began to discover that something more than usual ailed her; and the alteration in her looks were noticed by the neighbours, as well as by my daughter, whose esteem for the girl *was undiminished*, having always considered and treated her, more as a companion and friend, than *as a domestic*. My daughter became much alarmed for her situation, thinking she was unwell, and offered to send for medical assistance, which the girl objected to. My daughter being sensible that something must be the matter, with her, she became more

vigilant in her observations on the girl's conduct, having once or twice caught her in the act of writing. She endeavoured to discover the object of her compositions; but the girl was too wary to permit any discovery to be made on that head; and had the address to turn it off as being merely a copy, or quotation, from some book she had been reading. It may be supposed, that by this interference, on the part of my daughter, and by the hints thrown out in the letters of "*Amoroso*," that she made herself completely obnoxious to both; being in my opinion, the only bar or obstacle, to the full enjoyment of their wishes. How to remove her, was the only point to be considered; and, to accomplish that purpose, several questions and suggestions were asked and given, by both parties, as will be seen on perusal of the letters; particularly in the girl's answer to the second letter of "*Amoroso*," and his reply thereto, in No. 3, dated the 22nd of October, 1818.

To accomplish this object, may in some degree account for the agitation of the girl's mind, and the alteration in her conduct and appearance. Immediately after Amelia had left my house, the neighbours on hearing that she had absconded, thought proper to disclose what they had seen and heard, relative to her intimacy and correspondence, with the before mentioned gentleman.

It is utterly impossible to describe, in proper colours, the great consternation and alarm experienced, by myself and family, when it was ascertained, for a certainty, that the girl had absconded. I lost not one moment's time in calling upon such of her relatives, and friends, as lived in or near Bath, to make inquiries after her; and request of them to detain her, in case

she might call on either of them. On receiving information that she had called on a distant relation, and took her leave, in great haste and agitation of mind, I pursued my inquiries after her, to every part of the city and adjacent places. Night coming on, and no tidings being obtained of the course she had taken, I and my family became quite miserable, fearing she (like some other unfortunate females, under similar circumstances,) might have formed the desperate resolution of self-destruction. Terrified at such an idea, I, (who had always looked upon her almost as my own child,) went towards the River and Canal, and made every possible inquiry after her, of the persons at the respective Ferry Boats; and of those who had residences near, or whose avocations called them to the water side. In my reserches, and inquiries, I was detained until the very dead of night, and without obtaining any intelligence whatever of her.

At break of day, on the following morning, I renewed my inquiries, (in vain,) by the River side and Canal, unable to obtain any information of her. All, at home, became distress and distraction. My wife and daughter were inconsolable, for nothing could eradicate the impression they had formed; but the girl, (apprehensive that full discovery had been made, of the illicit connections and correspondence, carried on between herself and the gentleman, under fictitious characters,) on reflection, at the imprudence of her conduct, had in a fit of despondency, put a period to her existence. And what served in a great degree, to strengthen and confirm this impression, was, that a misfortune of a similar denomination, had some time previously happened to an unfortunate female, under the

like circumstances, not quite unknown to a branch of this gentleman's *****.

Terrified at those ideas, the whole of my family continued, during the girl's absence, in a state of consternation and dismay. My wife was seized with a violent illness, and confined to her bed; and I was obliged to apply for medical assistance, who gave very little hopes of her recovery; indeed, she was considered so near dissolution, that a clergyman was sent for, to attend her; and she still continues in a very *precarious and dangerous situation*. My Daughter, (whose attachment to the girl, was equal to that of a sister, having none of her own, she being an only child,) was almost inconsolable at her loss; and was so much affected, that she became entirely indisposed, and incapable of attending to any thing. On the girl's return, (which was not until the middle of the second day from her departure,) and disclosure of the intrigues that had been carried on between herself and the gentleman; and on investigation of the substance of the correspondence that had passed, particularly with respect to the contents of the letter of the 22nd October, 1818; and the construction, or implication, in regard to the poison, put upon it, by the girl's testimony on her examination; and the person to whom allusion was made, being declared by her; it had such a serious effect, upon the mind of my daughter, *that it threw her into hysterical fits*, and was for some time, confined to her bed; *her whole nervous system being so completely deranged*, that on the least sudden surprise, or alarm, she is seriously troubled with a return of those *hysterical affections*, which if not shortly removed, it is fearful, they may bring on a rapid

decline. Such is the opinion of *a gentleman of the faculty*.

It may be naturally supposed, that the girl, from over fatigue, anxiety of mind, and on reflection of her past misconduct, could not be in a much better state of health, than other branches of my family: indeed, after her return, she was very unwell, and remained so, in a very perturbed and distressed state, for some time, and almost incapable of business. Being fearful of sending her on an errand, lest she may chance to fall into the hands of the author of her misfortunes, or some of his agents, I am deprived of her services in a great degree.

In consequence of the injuries, myself and family have experienced, I sent a sharp letter to the gentleman, censuring him in severe terms, on the impropriety of his conduct and behaviour, towards the girl; and animadverted in strong terms, the dangerous tendency of the *letter*, of the 22nd October, 1818, relative to the poison, and the suggestions thrown out thereby: a copy whereof, is as follows.

“Bath, 17th May, 1819.”

“Sir,

“Your conduct, towards an unfortunate young person, in my service, and under my protection, calls aloud for that retribution, which the laws of this country afford, for the salvation of an innocent thoughtless girl, against the vile and deliberate artifices, of one of the most diabolical characters that ever existed.

“Not content with the exercise of those abilities, which fortune in her bounty hath bestowed upon you, aided by a liberal education, you have prostituted those inestimable blessings, in a cool and deliberate manner, for the basest of

all purposes; that of effecting the ruin of a young person, whose mind was pure and uncontaminated by vice, or pollution, until disturbed and corrupted, by your infamous, fulsome, and atrocious epistles, and vain professions: that *the cause to be loved by Georgina, was so soft, so sweet, that you feigned estimation, to those blessings, more dearly than the mines of Peru?*

“From the commencement to the end of your correspondence, and intrigues, with this unsuspecting unfortunate girl, it appears you had determined that she should fall the victim to your villany. Not content, with endeavouring to seduce her by every stratagem, it was possible to adopt, to bewilder, and fascinate her imagination, to deprive her of her virtue; but it absolutely appears by your letters, that you exerted all your endeavours to plunge her into the depth of guilt, by instigating her to become an instrument in the vilest plot, that ever could enter into the imagination of man.

“In an allusion to your letter of the 22nd Oct. last, which is now before me, as well as others of similar tendency; that *‘in order to remove a person very much in our way,’* (meaning, as I am informed, my daughter,) *you would recommend her to administer an ounce of poison.* You observe, *‘it would be a prescription effectually to assist us;’* alluding to yourself, and the unfortunate object of your seduction. And you observe, *‘should she,’* (meaning my daughter,) *‘be perplexed in the many troubles of this world, it would put an end to all her joys and sorrows.’*

“The dose, you observe, you had prepared for yourself. It is unfortunate, for society, that you did not swallow it; as it might have relieved

you from the merited contempt, you have pre-meditatedly brought upon your character.

"It is impossible for the most superficial observer, to pass over language couched in such terms, as the contents of that letter, without discovering its full tendency.

"By threatening your own destruction, you thought to work upon the feelings of the unhappy victim of your villany; and afterwards, to add to that vice, and plunge her into everlasting misery, you insinuate what might be done, to remove the obstacle to the gratification of your deep plotted voluptuousness.

"Let me inform you, Sir, that the object you are so desirous of removing, is one of the best friends the poor unfortunate girl ever possessed; and had it not been for her vigilance, you would, most probably, (long since,) have perpetrated your diabolical intentions: and had she followed your persuasive insinuations, she might ere this, have forfeited her existence; for being made an instrument, in the hands of a vile instigator, to a most diabolical plot, against the lives of those, who with the greatest tenderness and affection, have reared, cherished, and protected her, as their own—the object of your deliberate destruction.

"Until you, Sir, by your delusive arts, corrupted her thoughts, and seduced her imagination by shadowy objects, and vain professions, she was void of guile or blemish; dutiful and respectful to those, by whom she from her infancy had been cherished and protected.

"Since your baneful poison hath been dissipated, she hath remained in a continual state of fear, agitation, and alarm; so much so, that to relieve her afflicted mind, she was induced the other day, to quit the roof that had sheltered

and protected her; and wandered a considerable distance from those, in whom she had ever the greatest reason to place confidence; and remains in a very perturbed state of mind.

"Be assured, Sir, that for the injuries the girl hath sustained, I will seek every recompence the law will afford, in punishing the author of her trouble and affliction; and she declares *yourself to be the person*; and in vindication of the conduct of my own family, as well as what I conceive to be due to public justice, in such flagrant cases of vice, folly, and corruption, I will publish the whole of your correspondence, with such comments, as I am enabled to make from the declaration of the person, whom you wished to make the instrument of your villany.

"Yours", &c.

"JAMES LEWSEY."

About a quarter past eight o'clock, in the evening of the day, the letter had been sent by me, the gentleman to whom it was sent, called at my shop, in company with his brother, and demanded, in a peremptory manner, "who wrote me this letter?" to which I replied, "I did." He then threatened me with an action, which should cost me £800: whereupon, I replied, "I am ready to defend it." My daughter being present, requested of me to leave them. The person, (who in his letters, had stiled himself "*Amoroso*,") immediately declared, in a threatening attitude, shaking his fingers in my daughter's face, that if she dared to say a word, he would expose her. She replied, "I am not at all afraid of what you can say about me; conscious innocence will always defend itself;" upon which he still threatened: and my daughter then observed, "I suppose that you mean to

frighten me, that I may not expose your diabolical plan." The brother of this gentleman then demanded to know, "what do you mean by a diabolical plan?" She replied, "I am not speaking to you, Sir; that remains to be proved." My daughter then asked the gentleman, (*Amoroso*) "have you ever seen any thing in my conduct, that authorizes you to injure my character?" He replied, "no, I have *never seen you before this evening*." Having called in a neighbour, he did not say more to my daughter on that subject. He then asked me, "how do you know but what my intentions were honourable to the girl." I replied, "your letters convince me of every thing." He then observed, "*MY LETTERS contain nothing but morality*."

The brother then inquired, "*what letters* are you talking about?" to which the gentlemen (*Amoroso*) made no reply.

They then made use of insulting language, calling me a fool, and casting reflections on my line of business, of which I took no notice; but declared, "if you do not leave my house, I will send for an officer:" whereupon, they quitted my house, muttering about my business; and using other scurrilous and insulting language.

It is proper to notice, that in the above conversation, the gentleman (*Amoroso*) *admitted the letters* to be his, and said, "they contain nothing but *morality*." His brother did not appear to understand that *admission*. Instead of endeavouring to quiet his brother's mind on the subject, he insulted me; and in a menacing attitude, shook his hand in my daughter's face, threatening her, with what he knew nothing at all about; for he declared he never saw her before that evening.

The letter of the 22nd October, 1818, it is conceived, conveys a very dangerous tendency and signification ; and there is no calculating on the fatal consequences that might have resulted therefrom, to some part of my family, had the connexion continued. And any impediment opposed to that enjoyment, the parties so fervently anticipated, by their correspondence and declarations ; as the letters, when perused, will be found to admit of very singular constructions ; and by the girl's examination, seems to bear out a most serious implication.

The following Letters are correctly transcribed, from the Originals, as sent to the female, (under the assumed name of "AMOROSO;") with her answers, in reply to three of them, affixed to each; in the fictitious name of "GEORGINA DARCY;" addressed, (by the gentleman's own particular desire,) MR. ROBERT HOULTON, as his real name, and to his place of residence.

LETTER 1.

(Addressed)

"Miss Georgina Darcy,

"Post Office, Bath."

"Monday Morning.

"I sit down to the pleasing task of writing, my dearest Georgina, for communications, directly or indirectly, with those we love and esteem, cannot fail to excite every emotion of tenderness; for to see my dear Georgina, is only to admire; to know, only to love, value and esteem her. With these sentiments, you will perceive, that if you have bestowed a share of your good will, it is at least upon a being, who knows and feels how to appreciate its merit. In fact, I find it somewhat difficult, to express my sense on this subject, in writing, as the feelings of congenial hearts, are more evident by the eyes and lips, than by any artificial conveyance. Though so short a time since I

pressed your dear hand to my lips, and your lovely form to my heart, my mind and thoughts have this morning had the impertinence to leave me, and to wander from their master, near you for a resting place. However, I am in some measure compensated; as in lieu, your dear image has continually presented itself, obliterated for the time my sorrows, and pressed with soft but exquisite emotion, to fill that place, in which my heart once beat. What a poor shell of emptiness, you have made of me. I think, for the benefit of mankind, you should be put in a cage. Do my dear girl then have pity, and if you inflict wounds on the unfortunate, send in your answer, a prescription, or some remedy for the alarming symptoms and ills you have caused. Tell me also dear girl, how you got home; whether any thing has been said. I hope and trust dear Georgina, you escaped catching cold by your wet feet yesterday: and till I have once more the pleasure, dear, of seeing you, may the guardian angel of every thing that is good, watch over you; and believe me your's faithfully and affectionately,

“AMOROSO.”

Dated per post mark,
29th September, 1818.

ANSWER.

“ Mr. Robert Houlton,

“ Barlington House,”

“ With a heart impressed, with every emotion of tenderness and esteem, for the generosity and condescension of my kind Amoroso, your

Georgina takes the liberty of addressing you; and entreats your pardon, for not writing to you before, which I shall not despair of obtaining, as I know your good nature will excuse your Georgina.

“ You say, your mind and thoughts have had the impertinence to leave you, and wander near me for a resting place; for which, mine has in return to you. I think it a very cruel part of your letter, where you say I ought to be put in a cage; indeed, I think I am caged enough already: and, as for inflicting wounds on you, or any other, I did not imagine I had the power of wounding any one. But, if pity can possibly do you any good, I am sure you have it free and uncontrouled from me. But I do not know of any prescription for you; but, I think, if you were to apply to your own good sense, and superior understanding, it would afford you a much better one than I can think of for you. I reached home very well, as I had not many dangers to encounter with, after I left you; nor have I heard that any of my good natured friends, that interest themselves so much about me, had the pleasure of seeing me; so, therefore, I think it passed off very well.

“ I received your letter the day Miss Lewsey returned home. I was so agitated, when I went to the coach, to receive her, I really did not know what to do, to conceal my emotion from her keen and penetrating glance; for I could not look at her with that confidence which conscious rectitude ever inspires; for I could not help thinking of the deception which I was practising; and the idea of that only served to increase my imagination: but, I at

length succeeded, in calming my emotion, without its being observed.

"I think I must now conclude this long and ill-written letter; and with this assurance, that I will use my utmost endeavours to see you; and I hope you will answer this letter, as soon as you possibly can.

"Adieu, your's affectionately,

"GEOGINA DARCY."



LETTER II.

(Addressed)

"Georgina Darcy,

"Post Office, Bath."

"Bath, Oct. 12th, 1818.

"Your letter, my dearest Georgina, came very apropos, for I had been so long in expectation, and running about the streets in hopes of seeing or meeting you, that I heard indirectly said, by some of my acquaintance, "what is the matter with poor Amoroso: certainly he has lost his senses; if he goes on thus, we shall soon see the poor fellow in Doctor Fox's Conservatory, near Keynsham:" not knowing what they alluded to, but fortunately having for a short time a lucid interval, I innocently inquired what this museum meant, when I was informed, that it was an asylum for lunatics, kept by a gentleman of the name of Fox, a physician of Bristol. Ah! dear Georgina, you cannot easily conceive for the return of my reason,

the electric effect I experienced on the receipt of your dear letter; for the next enjoyment of my heart, to the company of my Georgina, *will be her letters*. I have ever since been continually reading it; and the oftener I read, I am always sure to discover some new beauty in it, I did not perceive at first; and if you wish that I should retain the little portion of returning reason, write me very quickly, for fear I should again relapse; for I know you have too feeling a nature, to punish a being for loving you. When, dear maid, am I again to be blessed with a sight of you? will it be possible to see you on Sunday next. *Do, if possible, get Miss —— out of the way*. I generally every evening, about half-past seven, or eight, pass your way; do, if possible, continue to meet me at that time, any evening; if it is only for a minute, it will at least make me happy for the day.

“God bless thee dear girl,
Write me as soon as you can,
And believe me unalterably

“Yours,

“AMOROSO.”

ANSWER.

“Mr. Robert Houlton,

“Barlington House”

“At last, Amoroso, your Georgina presumes to avail herself of the first opportunity of writing to you, and should have answered your letter before, if I could have found an opportunity. I think you will say I am full of my excuses; but, I assure you, they are all guided by truth.

"I could not help laughing at that part of your letter, where you say your acquaintance talk of sending you to Doctor Fox's; for, I think it would be doing you a very great charity, in sending you, as there you would be taken care of.

"I suppose you will say I am getting very bold; but now difference shrinks as much upon the approach of intimacy, as the sensitive plant does upon the touch of one's finger; so, therefore, you must not be offended with me, although I laugh at your misfortunes; yet still you have my pity, whether you are deserving of it, or not; for your Georgina is not insensible of your kindness.

"You say, I am to get Miss Lewsey out of the way; but I think it would be too difficult a thing for me to do: so, therefore, I must ask a little of your advice upon the subject.

"I cannot tell when you will see me again; for I have not time to write any more, except

"Yours', sincerely,

"GEORGINA DARCY."



LETTER III.

(Addressed)

"Miss Georgina Darcy,

"Post Office, Bath."

"Thursday Morning.

"My lovely and dear Georgina,

"Thank God I am not dead, though my dear girl, I was yesterday very near it, for I felt such unusual low spirits, that *I went out and bought*

an ounce of poison, determined, (as an example to all desponding lovers,) to swallow a *full dose*; and like the dying swan, finish my career in this world, singing your praises. But fate has decreed it should be otherwise; for when all my preparations were completed, the fatal *drug mixed*, and my soul prepared to breathe out its last sighs to love, and my Georgina, I was suddenly startled by a knock at my room door. Confused in a kind of breathless agitation, I almost unconsciously demanded, 'who is there?' when my servant entered with a letter in his hand. Ah! dear guardian, and consoling angel, it was from thee; the arbiter of my destiny, the proloner of my existence: I no sooner read, than a new creation appeared to be effected; my disturbed imagination became calm and composed; my anguish of mind subsided, in a rapturous anticipation, that I should again see thee, and press thee once more to my heart. *I looked at the fatal cup, and as you ask my advice, how we SHALL GET RID OF A CERTAIN PERSON VERY MUCH IN OUR WAY, I think the best thing that can, under our present circumstances, be done, would be to persuade her TO DRINK ITS CONTENTS INSTEAD OF ME. I will answer for its being A PRESCRIPTION EFFECTUALLY TO ASSIST US; and if perplexed with many troubles in this wicked world, will SOON PUT AN END TO ALL HER JOYS AND SORROWS.*

"Do, dear Georgina, contrive by some means or other, to meet me on Sunday. You can write me a line, and tell me how, where, and when: your faithful Amoroso will certainly not keep you long in attendance.

"I passed last night, but saw you were engaged: at least, a *friend* of ours, not far from you: I would have given the mines of Peru, to

have exchanged places. God bless thee. I shall pass as usual; and believe me,

“Your’s most sincerely,

“AMOROSO.”

“If you put a letter in the post in the morning, I am sure to receive it by two o’clock, the same day.”

Post mark, 22nd October, 1818.



LETTER IV.

(Addressed)

“Miss Georgina Darcy,

“Post Office, Bath,”

—
“Wednesday Morning.

“I have, my dear Georgina, for these last two days, been engaged out of Bath, on a shooting excursion; of course have not been enabled to fulfil my engagement, and promise of writing you. However, in lieu of correspondence, I have felt your guardian spirit continually hovering about me; and from its tenderness and humanity, find it has saved the lives of numberless hares and partridges. In fact, since you have taken from me my heart, I perceive, also, I fail in many other accomplishments: for from being reckoned one of the first shots, I found my companions amusing themselves with my blunders: in continually thinking of you, lovely girl, I forget myself. I can imagine you reading this, and your rosy lips drawn up also. I understand you, I have pronounced my own judgment, and in return, do not say I am wise

in having lost my intellect: yet the cause to be loved by Georgina, is so soft, so sweet, that I estimate the blessing more than the mines of Peru. I may also add, what are the use of my senses, when I have not the faculties left me of thinking: yet I do not complain, but am happy and content in the cause, and rejoice, dear Georgina; and shall ever feel satisfied in the sunshine of thy smiles, and which I shall ever feel ambitious in retaining. If this is delirium, let me be ever blest with so delightful a madness; and may it continue till my shadow lengthens, and my sun declines; and till your faithful Amoroso goes to that 'bourne, from whence no traveller returns.' God bless thee, dear girl, and believe me, your's,

“AMOROSO.”

“Let me hear from you, as soon as possible; and if you can continue it, meet me in the evenings. I hope to be blest with your company on Sunday.”

Post mark, 29th Oct. 1818.

ANSWER.

“Mr. Robert Houlton,
“Barlington House.”

“Notwithstanding what I said, Amoroso, I received your letter, on Saturday evening, but could not find time to answer it until the present moment; so, I hope, you will excuse this long silence: for, I assure you, it does not proceed from inattention, or neglect, or any abatement of that affection, which I have confessed I feel for you. I hope, also, you will pardon the abrupt manner in which I left you that evening,

I am sure you must think it very unkind of me. I could not help it; as I was afraid my absence would be noticed: and I am certain Amoroſo would not wiſh to get me any anger on his part.

“ I thought of ſeeing you according to promiſe, on Sunday, but in that I was denied; for diſappointments ſtill purſues me, and with its baneful influence, deſtroys that hope, which my imagination ſo freely gives way to. I am afraid you will laugh, and ſay, I am getting quite grave, and melancholy; ſo, I ſhall conclude, by aſſuring you, that I will contrive by ſome means or other to ſee you, on Sunday; and I hope you will answer this letter very ſoon, and excuſe all imperfections, as it comes from

“ Your ever affectionate

“ GEORGINA DARCY.”



LETTER V.

(Addressed)

“ Miss Georgina Darcy,

“ Post Office, Bath.”

“ Saturday Morning.

“ I was made comparatively happy, my beloved Georgina, on the receipt of your letter, on my return home laſt night: I ſay comparatively, for I can only *exiſt in your company*; and like the wintry coaſts of Greenland, frozen, heartleſs, and diſpiſed, till reſtored by the ſunſhine of your ſmiles, to love and animation. Write on, dear maid, in the ſame ſtyle, never quit your own far ſtudied phraſes, or follow the

ideas or diction of others, when your own possess such intrinsic worth.

"O, nature, how divinely! how beautifully sweet! Thou art before art, and a collision with a corrupt world, injures thy original simplicity. How fortunate do I feel, as the possessor of thy pure and uncontaminated heart, as unpolluted as the morning dew; and where not one grain of deceit has taken place."

"When from Georgina I'm removed,
 "Comfort's a stranger to my breast;
 "Unless with her whose sight I love,
 "My wearied soul can never rest.
 "Pining, I sit and waste the day;
 "Sleepless, I pass the darksome night;
 "Thou, Georgina, refuse to stay;
 "Or the sun to me affords no light.
 "Oh, then, return to my fond arms;
 "Georgina, glads my longing eyes;
 "Her beautiful air, her killing charms,
 "Makes day amid the darkness rise.
 "Then let her heaven, propitious prove,
 "With kindness heal the smarting wound;
 "May she return to me her love,
 "So shall our joys, each day abound.
 "When will you meet me, my lovely fair?
 "To make light my heart, and ease my care."

"Sunday Morning.

"I had proceeded thus far, my sweet girl, yesterday; but, being interrupted by a party of gentlemen, who came to see me, and who were so obliging as to remain, (much against my inclination,) so that I could not finish it, I am obliged to resume my pen this morning. How comes it, my dear girl, you did not speak to me half a dozen words last night, and that after promising. You kept me waiting in the street, during the period of an hour, without coming out. You may be assured, to a being who loves you faithfully, as I do, and who has not seen

you for more than a week, that I did not return home *in better spirits for this unkindness*; however, dear Georgina, you will for some time, be relieved from my importunities, as I leave Bath, on Tuesday morning, for Devonshire, and shall not return till December. I trust, however, fortune will favour me, to day, and that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you, before I go.

“ God bless thee, and believe me,

“ Your faithful

“ AMOROSO.”

Post mark, 8th Nov. 1818.



LETTER VI.

(Addressed)

“ Miss Georgina Darcy,

“ Post Office, Bath.”

“I sit down once more, to the pleasing task of writing to my Georgina, although I formerly detested it, I now find writing to thee my only comfort. Ah! dear maid, what a conflict of troubles, love blended with admiration, the first sight of thy dear face, has caused to your poor Amoroso; and that he feels surprised, for I know the natural cheerfulness of her manners, the lively good sense of her conversation, and the winning sweetness of her temper, would attract the admiration of every one, were her face and person of the meanest kind: but these amiable qualifications, joined to all the external beauties that can be possibly described, must render Georgina, most particularly, to her Amoroso. In fact, poor Amoroso is much to be pitied: for when absent, he is miserable; and

when present, the poor fellow's tongue looses half its power of expression. My dear angel, how delightful is the returning thought, that I am beloved by thee; that your dear lips has sealed the compact between us. Ah! dear Georgina, when this blissful thought, (however unhappy I may feel,) steals on my mind, it awakens my feeling to love and rapture. If this is a deceptive illusion, still let me indulge in it. Let me but on Sunday next, hear it once more, and again be pressed to your heart; and there is not any one in the world, whose happiness will equal mine.

"Till then, farewell. May the guardian angels of mortals, who watch over love, beauty, sense, and innocence, guard thy charms. May peaceful slumbers, every night, compose thy senses; and may joys as blythe as innocent, amuse and make happy the girl of my heart; and such will ever be the prayers of her

"AMOROSO."

"If I should not have the good fortune to see you before, remember half-past six, precisely, on Sunday.

Post mark, 1st December, 1818.



LETTER VII.

(Addressed)

"Miss Georgina Darcy,
"Post Office, Bath."

"Thursday Morning.

"I scarcely know what to say to you, my beloved girl; for I perceive, the more poor

Amoroso is anxious, and wishes to please his Georgina, the less does his endeavours appear by the result to have the wished for success. I love you with every feeling a heart ambitious of pleasing a cherished object, can do; and what is the return, after a month's absence: instead of being on my return received with that thrilling delight and softness, peculiar to you, I am, on the contrary, greeted with an unbearable coldness, on your part, I certainly do not deserve; as the only complaint you can possibly produce against me, is that of loving you too well; and I leave it to your own generosity, whether, on that account, you ought to treat me ill. Rest assured, my dear Georgina, the pure flame that unites two hearts, cannot exist upon such food as indifference, *on the one side*; and were I well convinced, my attentions and love to you, were irksome and unpleasant, I would not hesitate a moment, however distressing the sacrifice would be to my feelings. But your poor Amoroso, under the above conviction, would bear with passive endurance his unfortunate lot, and leave Georgina to her own feelings: and if possible, reconcile by thus acting to himself, that at least, by so doing, he hath pleased the being he loved, and whose quiet he would not disturb, by an over attention on his part. You will perceive, my dear Georgina, by thus candidly stating to you my sentiments and feelings, that it is impossible I can exist, or go on in the situation, I feel at the present moment placed; eternally wandering about, in the hope of seeing you, and when I have this happiness, you always appear in a hurry to leave me. I know well, my dear girl, you are not your own mistress; but still it strikes me, you could, if you had the inclination, meet

me much oftener than you do, as you have nothing to do; but, at any time, put a letter in the post office, and you may rest assured, to miss any appointment, will not be on my side of the question. I wish, dear Georgina, you should digest and think of what I have written; and as candidly answer, by giving me your real sentiments; I mean, whether my conjectures, as above expressed, are true or not; for believe me, neither time nor clime will ever obliterate the sentiments of love and affection, in the breast of your

“AMOROSO.”

Post mark, 14th January, 1819.



LETTER VIII.

(Addressed)

“Miss Georgina Darcy,

“Post Office Bath”

“Saturday Morning.

“No, my dear Georgina, it is impossible to see thee and not love thee; nor can my affection but increase, as thy dear person does every day in beauty and loveliness. You are to me, dear maid, an inexhaustable source of feelings, and sentiments; that till I knew you, I could not have imagined to have existed: nor do you possess one feeling my heart does not beat in unison, and divide, as well as acknowledge you, in every sense, the perfect mistress of. Tell me, dear Georgina, who that lovely being is, whose least power consists in her charms, who makes herself adored, (like a supernatural being,) equally by the pain she causes, as by her kindness.

Alas! she has robbed me of every thing worth having: the cruel girl! and yet I love her more; and the more miserable I find myself, the more perfect do I acknowledge the author of my woes; nor do I find I love her the less. When we met yesterday, with what joy could I have clasped thee dear angel to my bosom; a heart that ceases to beat out of her presence. How ridiculous are the dull heartless forms we are prescribed to wade through in this stupid world, when the best sentiments of our nature are checked, and the noblest feelings of our hearts curbed, by what! a stupid set of two legged animals, with bulky carcasses, and slender souls; things patched up by nature's journeymen, late of a Saturday night.

"With what joy, after so long moping out of your sight, would I have pressed that angelic shape to my heart: but here to express my raptures, my pen fails, and power of language is lost; and I shall only add, that if by any chance I have unintentionally, by word or deed, offended my Georgina, the next time we meet, (and that I hope will be very shortly,) you shall see me, poor "Amoroso," cloathed in sackcloth and ashes, on his knees at your feet; where by proper contrition, and humble sense of his wrongs, he lives in the hope of being once more reinstated in the sunshine of your smiles.

"God bless thee, my lovely Georgian; let me have as soon a possible an answer, and if possible meet me to-morrow; and till then, believe me to remain,

"Your faithful and affectionate

"AMOROSO."

