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MEMOIRS

OF A

WOMAN

OF

PLEASURE.

VOL. I.



LONDON:
Printed for G. FENTON in the *Strand*
M.DCC.XLIX.

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MEMOIRS

OF A

WOMAN of Pleaſure.

MADAM,

I SIT down to give you an undeniable proof of my conſidering your deſires as indiſpenſible orders: ungracious then as the taſk may be, I ſhall recall to view thoſe ſcandalous ſtages of my life, out of which I emerg'd at length, to the enjoyment of every bleſſing in the power of love, health, and fortune to beſtow; whilſt yet in the

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flower of youth, and not too late to employ the leiſure afforded me by great eaſe and affluence, to cultivate an underſtanding naturally not a deſpicable one, and which had, even amidſt the whirl of looſe pleaſures I had been toſt in, exerted more obſervation on the characters and manners of the world, than what is common to thoſe of my unhappy profeſſion, who looking on all thought or reflexion as their capital enemy, keep it at as great a diſtance as they can, or deſtroy it without mercy.

Hating, as I mortally do, all long unneceſſary prefaces, I ſhall give you good quarter in this, and uſe no farther apology, than to prepare you for ſeeing the looſe part of my life, wrote with the ſame liberty that I led it.

Truth! ſtark naked truth, is the word, and I will not ſo much as take the pains to beſtow the ſtrip of a gauze-wrapper on it, but paint ſituations ſuch as they actually roſe to me in nature, careleſs of violating thoſe laws of decency, that

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that were never made for ſuch unreſerved intimacies as ours; and you have too much ſenſe, too much knowledge of the *originals* themſelves, to ſnuff prudiſhly, and out of character, at the *pictures* of them. The greateſt men, thoſe of the firſt and moſt leading taſte, will not ſcruple adorning their private cloſets with nudities, though, in compliance with vulgar prejudices they may not think them decent decorations of the ſtair-caſe or ſaloon.

This, and enough, premiſed, I go ſouſe into my perſonal hiſtory. My maiden name was *Francis Hill.* I was born at a ſmall village near *Liverpool* in *Lancaſhire*, of parents extremely poor, and I piouſly believe, extremely honeſt.

My father, who had received a maim on his limbs that diſabled him from following the more laborious branches of country-drudgery, got, by making of nets, a ſcanty ſubſiſtance, which was not much enlarg'd by my mother's keeping a little day-ſchool for the girls in her neighbourhood. They had had ſeveral children,

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but none lived to any age, except myſelf, who had received from nature a conſtitution perfectly healthy.

My education, till paſt fourteen, was no better than very vulgar; reading, or rather ſpelling, an illegible ſcrawl, and a little ordinary plain-work, compoſed the whole ſyſtem of it: and then all my foundation in virtue was no other than a total ignorance of vice, and the ſhy timidity general to our ſex, in the tender ſtage of life, when objects alarm, or frighten more by their novelty, than any thing elſe: but then this is a fear too often cured at the expence of innocence, when Miſs, by degrees, begins no longer to look on man as a creature of prey that will eat her.

My poor mother had divided her time ſoentirely between her ſcholars, and her little domeſtic cares, that ſhe had ſpared very little of it to my inſtruction, having, from her own innocence from all ill, no hint, or thought of guarding me againſt any.

I was

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I was now entering on my fifteenth year, when the worſt of ills befell me in the loſs of my tender fond parents, who were both carried off by the ſmall-pox, within a few days of each other; my father dying firſt, and thereby haſtening the death of my mother, ſo that I was now left an unhappy friendleſs Orphan: (for my father's coming to ſettle there, was accidental, he being originally a *Kentiſh-man.*) That cruel diſtemper which had proved ſo fatal to them, had indeed ſeized me, but with ſuch mild and favourable ſymptoms, that I was preſently out of danger, and, what I then did not know the value of, was entirely unmark'd. I ſkip over here, an account of the natural grief and affliction, which I felt on this melancholy occaſion. A little time, and the giddineſs of that age, diſſipated too ſoon my reflections on that irreparable loſs; but nothing contributed more to reconcile me to it, than the notions that were immediately put into my head, of going to *London*, and

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looking out for a ſervice, in which I was promiſed all aſſiſtance and advice, from one *Eſther Davis*, a young woman that had been down to ſee her friends, and who, after the ſtay of a few days, was to return to her place.

As I had now nobody left alive in the village, who had concern enough about what ſhould become of me, to ſtart any objections to this ſcheme, and the woman who took care of me after my parents death rather encouraged me to purſue it, I ſoon came to a reſolution of making this launch into the wide world, by repairing to *London*, in order to *ſeek my fortune*, a phraſe, which, by the bye, has ruined more adventurers of both ſexes, from the country, than ever it made, or advanced.

Nor did *Eſther Davis* a little comfort and inſpirit me to venture with her, by piquing my childiſh curioſity with the fine ſights that were to be ſeen in *London*; the Tombs, the Lions, the King, the Royal Family, the fine Plays and *Operies*, and in ſhort all the diverſions which

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which fell within her ſphere of life to come at; the detail of all which perfectly turn'd the little head of me.

Nor can I remember, without laughing, the innocent admiration, not without a ſpice of envy, with which we poor girls, whoſe church-going cloaths did not riſe above dowlaſs ſhifts, and ſtuff gowns, beheld *Eſther*'s ſcower'd ſattin-gown, caps border'd with an inch of lace; taudry ribbons, and ſhoes belaced with ſilver! all which we imagined grew in *London*, and entered for a great deal into my determination of trying to come in for my ſhare of them.

The idea however of having the company of a townſwoman with her, was the trivial, and all the motive that engaged *Eſther* to take charge of me during my journey to town, where ſhe told me, after her manner and ſtyle: " *as how ſeveral* " *maids out of the country had made them-* " *ſelves and all their kin for ever, that* " *by preſerving their* VARTUE, *ſome had* " *taken ſo with their maſters, that they* " *had*

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" *had married them, and kept them*
" *coaches, and lived vaſtly grand,*
" *and happy, and ſome, may-hap came*
" *to be Dutcheſſes: Luck was all, and*
" *why not I as well as another,*" with other almanacs to this purpoſe, which ſet me a tiptoe to begin this promiſing journey, and to leave a place, which though my native one, contained no relations that I had reaſon to regret, and was grown inſupportable to me, from the change of the tendereſt uſage into a cold air of charity, with which I was entertain'd, even at the only friend's houſe, that I had the leaſt expectations of care and protection from: She was however ſo juſt to me, as to manage the turning into money the little matters that remained to me after the debts, and burial-charges were accounted for, and at my departure put my whole fortune into my hands, which conſiſted of a very ſlender wardrobe, pack'd up in a very portable box, and eight guineas, with ſeventeen ſhillings in ſilver, ſtowed in a ſpring-pouch,

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pouch, which was a greater treaſure than ever I had yet ſeen together, and which I could not conceive there was a poſſibility of running out: and indeed I was ſo entirely taken up with the joy of ſeeing myſelf miſtreſs of ſuch an immenſe ſum, that I gave very litle attention to a world of good advice which was given me with it.

Places then being taken for *Eſther* and me, in the *Cheſter*-Waggon, I paſs over a very immaterial ſcene of leave-taking, at which I dropt a few tears betwixt grief and joy; and for the ſame reaſons of inſignificance, ſkip over all that happened to me on the road, ſuch as the Waggoner's looking liquoriſh on me, the ſchemes laid for me by ſome of the paſſengers, which were defeated by the vigilance of my guardian *Eſther*, who, to do her juſtice, took a motherly care of me, at the ſame time that ſhe taxed me for her protection, by making me bear all travelling charges, which I defray'd with the utmoſt chearfulneſs, and thought myſelf

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myſelf much obliged to her into the bargain. She took indeed great care that we were not over-rated, or impoſed on, as well as of managing as frugally as poſſible: expenſiveneſs was not her vice.

It was pretty late in a ſummer evening when we reached the town, in our ſlow conveyance, though drawn by ſix at length. As we paſſed thro' the greateſt ſtreets that led to our inn, the noiſe of the coaches, the hurry, the crowds of foot paſſengers, in ſhort, the new ſcenery of the ſhops and houſes at once pleaſed and amazed me.

But gueſs at my mortification and ſurprize when we came to the inn, and our things were landed, and deliver'd to us, when my fellow traveller and protectreſs, *Eſther Davis*, who had uſed me with the utmoſt tenderneſs during the journey, and prepared me by no preceding ſigns for the ſtunning blow I was to receive; when, I ſay, my only dependance, and friend, in this ſtrange place, all of a ſudden aſſumed a ſtrange and

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and cool air towards me, as if ſhe dreaded my becoming a burden to her.

Inſtead then of proffering me the continuance of her aſſiſtance and good offices, which I relied upon, and never more wanted, ſhe thought herſelf, it ſeems, abundantly acquitted of her engagements to me, by having brought me ſafe to my journey's end, and ſeeing nothing in her procedure towards me, but what was natural and in order, begun to embrace me, by way of taking leave, whilſt I was ſo confounded, ſo ſtruck, that I had not ſpirit or ſenſe enough ſo much as to mention my hopes or expectations from her experience, and knowledge of the place ſhe had brought me to.

Whilſt I ſtood thus ſtupid and mute, which ſhe doubtleſs attributed to nothing more than a concern at parting, this idea procured me perhaps, a ſlight alleviation of it, in the following harrangue: "That "now we were got ſafe to *London*, and "that ſhe was obliged to go to her "place, ſhe adviſed me by all means to "get

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" get into one as ſoon as poſſible——
" That I need not fear getting one——
" there were more places than pariſh-
" churches——that ſhe adviſed me to go
" to an intelligence-office——that if ſhe
" heard of any thing ſtirring, ſhe would
" find me out, and let me know. ——
" that in the mean time I ſhould take a
" private lodging, and acquaint her where
" to ſend to me,——that ſhe wiſh'd me
" good luck,—— and hop'd I ſhould
" always have the grace to keep myſelf
" honeſt, and not bring a diſgrace on
" my parentage :" with this ſhe took her leave of me, and left me, as it were, on my own hands, full as lightly as I had been put into hers.

Left thus alone, abſolutely diſtitute and friendleſs, I began then to feel moſt bitterly the ſeverity of this ſeparation, the ſcene of which had paſt in a little room in the inn: and no ſooner was her back turned, but the affliction I felt at my helpleſs ſtrange circumſtances, burſt out into a flood of tears, which infinitely

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finitely relieved the oppreſſion of my heart; though I ſtill remained ſtupified, and moſt perfectly perplex'd how to diſpoſe of myſelf.

One of the drawers coming in, added yet more to my uncertainty, by aſking me, in a ſhort way, if I called for any thing? to which I replied, innocently, *No*; but I wiſhed him to tell me where I might get a lodging for that night: he ſaid, he would go and ſpeak to his miſtreſs, who accordingly came, and told me drily, without entering in the leaſt into the diſtreſs ſhe ſaw me in, that I might have a bed for a ſhilling: and that, as ſhe ſuppoſed I had ſome friends in town (here I fetched a deep ſigh in vain!) I might provide myſelf in the morning.

'Tis incredible what trifling conſolations the human mind will ſeize in its greateſt afflictions. The aſſurance of nothing more than a bed to lie on that night, calmed my agonies; and being aſham'd to acquaint the miſtreſs of the inn that I had

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had no friends to apply to in town, I propoſed to myſelf to proceed, the very next morning, to an intelligence-office, to which I was furniſh'd with written directions, on the back of a ballad of *Eſther*'s giving me. There I counted on getting information of any place that ſuch a country-girl as I might be fit for, and where I could get into any ſort of being, before my little ſtock ſhould be conſumed: and as to a character, *Eſther* had often repeated to me, that I might depend on her managing me one; nor, however affected I was at her leaving me thus, did I entirely ceaſe to rely on her, as I began to think, good-naturedly, that her procedure was all in courſe, and that it was only my ignorance of life that had made me take it in the light I at firſt did.

Accordingly, the next morning, I dreſs'd me as clean and as neat as my ruſtic wardrobe would permit me; and having left my box, with ſpecial recommendation, to the landlady, I ventured out by

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by myſelf, and without any more difficulty than may be ſuppoſed of a young country-girl, barely fifteen, and to whom every ſign or ſhop was a gazing-trap, I got to the wiſh'd-for intelligence-office.

It was kept by an elderly woman, who ſat at the receipt of cuſtom, with a book before her, in great form and order, and ſeveral ſcrolls, ready made out, of directions for places.

I made up then to this important perſonage, without lifting up my eyes, or obſerving any of the people round me, who were attending there on the ſame errand as myſelf, and dropping her curtſies nine-deep, made juſt a ſhift to ſtammer out my buſineſs to her.

Madam having heard me out, with all the gravity and brow of a petty-miniſter of ſtate, and ſeeing, at one glance over my figure, what I was, made me no anſwer, but to aſk me the preliminary ſhilling, on receipt of which ſhe told me, places for women were exceeding ſcarce, eſpecially as I ſeemed too ſlight-built for hard-

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hard-work; but that ſhe would look over her book, and ſee what was to be done for me, deſiring me to ſtay a little till ſhe had diſpatched ſome other cuſtomers.

On this, I drew back a little, moſt heartily mortified at a declaration which carried with it a killing uncertainty, that my circumſtances could not well endure.

Preſently, aſſuming more courage, and ſeeking ſome diverſion from my uneaſy thoughts, I ventured to lift up my head a little, and ſent my eyes on a courſe round the room, where they met full-tilt with thoſe of a lady (for ſuch my extreme innocence pronounc'd her) ſitting in a corner of the room, dreſs'd in a velvet manteel (*nota bene*, in the midſt of ſummer) with her bonnet off; ſquob-fat, red faced, and at leaſt fifty.

She look'd as if ſhe would devour me with her eyes, ſtaring at me from head to foot, without the leaſt regard to the confuſion and bluſhes her eying me ſo fixedly put me to, and which were to her,

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her, no doubt, the ſtrongeſt recommendation, and marks of my being fit for her purpoſe. After a little time, in which my air, perſon, and whole figure, had undergone her ſtrict examination, which I had, on my part, tried to render favourable to me, by primming, drawing up my neck, and *ſetting* my beſt looks, ſhe advanc'd, and ſpoke to me with the greateſt demureneſs:

Qu. Sweat heart, do you want a place?

Anſ. Yes! and pleaſe you, (with a curtſy down to the ground.)

Upon this, ſhe acquainted me, that ſhe was actually come to the office herſelf, to look out for a ſervant —— that ſhe believed I might do, with a little of her inſtructions, —— that ſhe could take my very looks for a ſufficient character, ——— that *London* was a very wicked, vile place,——— that ſhe hop'd I would be tractable, and keep out of bad company,—— in ſhort, ſhe ſaid all to me that an old experienced practitioner in town could think of, and which was much more

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more than was neceſſary to take in an artleſs unexperienced country-maid, who was even afraid of becoming a wanderer about the ſtreets, and therefore gladly jump'd at the firſt offer of a ſhelter, eſpecially from ſo grave and matron-like a *lady*, for ſuch my flattering fancy aſſur'd me this *now* miſtreſs of mine was: I being actually hired under the noſe of the good woman that kept the office, whoſe ſhrewd ſmiles and ſhrugs I could not help obſerving, and innocently interpreted them as marks of her being pleaſed at my getting into place ſo ſoon: but, as I afterwards came to know, theſe *Beldams* underſtood one another very well, and this was a market where Mrs. *Brown* (my miſtreſs, frequently attended. on the watch for any freſh goods that might offer there, for the uſe of her cuſtomers, and her own profit.

Madam was, however, ſo well pleaſed with her bargain, that, fearing, I preſume, leſt better advice, or ſome accident might occaſion my ſlipping through her fingers,

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fingers, ſhe would officiouſly take me in a coach to my inn, where calling herſelf for my box, it was, I being preſent, delivered without the leaſt ſcruple, or explanation as to where I was going.

This being over, ſhe bid the coachman drive to a ſhop in St. *Paul*'s churchyard, where ſhe bought a pair of gloves, which ſhe gave me, and thence renew'd her directions to the coachman, to drive to her houſe in —— *ſtreet*, who accordingly landed us at her door, after I had been chear'd up, and entertain'd by the way with the moſt plauſible flams, without one ſyllable from which I could conclude any thing but that I was by the greateſt good luck fallen into the hands of the kindeſt miſtreſs, not to ſay friend, that the *varſal* world could afford; and accordingly I enter'd her doors with moſt complete confidence and exultation, promiſing myſelf, that, as ſoon as I ſhould be a little ſettled, I would acquaint *Eſther Davis* with my rare good fortune.

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You may be ſure the good opinion of my place was not leſſened by the appearance of a very handſome back-parlour, into which I was led, and which ſeemed to me magnificently furniſhed, who had never ſeen better rooms than the ordinary ones in inns upon the road. There were two gilt pier-glaſſes, and a beaufet, in which a few pieces of plate, ſet out to the moſt ſhew, dazzled, and altogether perſuaded me, that I muſt be got into a very reputable family.

Here my miſtreſs firſt began her part, with telling me, that I muſt have good ſpirits, and learn to be free with her; that ſhe had not taken me to be a common ſervant, to do domeſtic drudgery, but to be a kind of companion to her; and that, if I would be a good girl, ſhe would do more than twenty mothers for me; to all which I anſwered only by the profoundeſt and the aukwardeſt curtſies, and a few monoſyllables, ſuch as yes! no! to-be-ſure.

Preſently my miſtreſs touch'd the bell, and in came a ſtrapping maid-ſervant, who

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who had let us in: Here, *Martha*, ſaid Mrs. *Brown*, I have juſt hir'd this young woman to look after my linnen, ſo ſtep up, and ſhew her her chamber; and I charge you to uſe her with as much reſpect as you would myſelf, for I have taken a prodigious liking to her, and I do not know what I ſhall do for her.

Martha, who was an arch jade, and being uſed to this decoy, had her cue perfect, made me a kind of half curtſy, and aſked me to walk up with her, and accordingly ſhew'd me a neat room two pair of ſtairs backwards, in which there was a handſome bed, where *Martha* told me I was to *lay* with a young gentlewoman, a couſin of my miſtreſs's, who ſhe was ſure would be vaſtly good to me: then ſhe ran out into ſuch affected encomiums on her good miſtreſs! her ſweet miſtreſs! and how happy I was to light upon her,——that I could not have beſpoke a better,——with other the like groſs ſtuff, ſuch as would itſelf have ſtarted ſuſpicions in any but ſuch an unpractiſed ſim-

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ſimpleton who was perfectly new to life, and who took every word ſhe ſaid, in the very ſenſe ſhe laid out for me to take it; but ſhe readily ſaw what a penetration ſhe had to deal with, and meaſured me very rightly in her manner of whiſtling to me, ſo as to make me pleaſed with my cage, and blind to its wires.

In the midſt of theſe falſe explanations of the nature of my future ſervice, we were rung for down again, and I was reintroduced into the ſame parlour, where there was a table laid with three covers; and my miſtreſs had now got with her one of her favourite girls, a notable manager of her houſe, and whoſe buſineſs it was to prepare and break ſuch young Fillies as I was to the mounting-block: and ſhe was accordingly, in that view, allotted me for a bed-fellow; and to give her the more authority, ſhe had the title of couſin confer'd on her by the venerable preſident of this college.

Here I underwent a ſecond ſurvey, which ended in the full approbation of Mrs.

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Mrs. *Phœbe Ayres*, the name of my tuteresſ elect, to whoſe care and inſtructions I was affectionately recommended.

Dinner was now ſet on the table, and in purſuance of treating me as a companion, Mrs. *Brown*, with a tone to cut off all diſpute, ſoon over-rul'd all my moſt humble and moſt confuſed proteſtations againſt ſitting down with her *Ladyſhip*, which my very ſhort breeding juſt ſuggeſted to me could not be right, or in the order of things.

At table, the converſation was chiefly kept up by the two madams, and carried on in double-meaning expreſſions, interrupted every now and then by kind aſſurances to me, all tending to confirm and fix my ſatisfaction with my preſent condition: augment it they could not, ſo very a novice was I then.

It was here agreed, that I ſhould keep myſelf up, and out of ſight for a few days, till ſuch cloaths could be procured for me, as were fit for the character I was to appear in, of my miſtreſs's compa-

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panion, obſerving withall, that on the firſt impreſſions of my figure, much might depend; and, as they well judged, the proſpect of exchanging my country-cloaths for *London* finery, made the clauſe of confinement digeſt perfectly well with me. But the truth was, Mrs. *Brown* did not care that I ſhould be ſeen or talked to by any, either of her cuſtomers, or her *Does*, (as they call'd the girls provided for them) till ſhe had ſecured a good market for my maidenhead, which I had at leaſt all the appearances of having brought into her *ladyſhip*'s ſervice.

To ſlip over minuties of no importance to the main of my ſtory, I paſs the interval to bed-time, in which I was more and more pleaſed with the views that open'd to me of an eaſy ſervice under theſe good people: and after ſupper, being ſhew'd up to bed, Miſs *Phœbe*, who obſerved a kind of modeſt reluctance in me to ſtrip, and go to bed in my ſhift before her, now the maid was withdrawn, came up to me, and beginning with unpinning my hand-

kerchief,

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kerchief, and gown, ſoon encouraged me to go on with undreſſing myſelf, and, ſtill bluſhing at now ſeeing myſelf naked to my ſhift, I hurried to get under the bed-cloaths, out of ſight. *Phœbe* laugh'd, and was not long before ſhe placed herſelf by my ſide. She was about five and twenty, by her own moſt ſuſpicious account, in which, according to all appearances, ſhe muſt have ſunk at leaſt ten good years, allowance too being made for the havoc which a long courſe of hackney-ſhip, and hot waters, muſt have made of her conſtitution, and which had already brought on, upon the ſpur, that ſtale ſtage, in which thoſe of her profeſſion are reduced to think of *ſhowing* company, inſtead of *ſeeing* it.

No ſooner then was this precious ſubſtitute of my myſtreſs's lain down, but ſhe, who was never out of her way when any occaſion of lewdneſs preſented itſelf, turned to me, embraced, and kiſs'd me with great eagerneſs. This was new, this was odd; but imputing it to nothing but

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pure kindneſs, which, for ought I knew, it might be the *London* way to expreſs in that manner, I was determin'd not to be behind-hand with her, and returned her the kiſs and embrace, with all the fervour that perfect innocence knew.

Encouraged by this, her hands became extremely free, and wander'd over my whole body, with touches, ſqueezes, preſſures, that rather warm'd and ſurpriz'd me with their novelty, than they either ſhock'd or alarm'd me.

The flattering praiſes ſhe intermingled with theſe invaſions, contributed alſo not a little to bribe my paſſiveneſs, and knowing no ill, I fear'd none; eſpecially from one who had prevented all doubt of her womanhood, by conducting my hands to a pair of breaſts that hung looſely down, in a ſize and volume that full ſufficiently diſtinguiſhed her ſex, to me at leaſt, who had never made any other compariſon.

I lay then all tame and paſſive as ſhe could wiſh, whilſt her freedom, raiſed

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no other emotion but thoſe of a ſtrange, and till then unfelt pleaſure: every part of me was open, and expoſed to the licentious courſes of her hands, which like a lambent fire ran over my whole body, and thaw'd all coldneſs as they went.

My breaſts, if it is not too bold a figure to call ſo, two hard, firm, riſing hillocs, that juſt began to ſhew themſelves, or ſignify any thing to the touch, employ'd and amuſed her hands a while, till ſlipping down lower, over a ſmooth track, ſhe could juſt feel the ſoft ſilky down that had but a few months before put forth, and garniſh'd the mount-pleaſant of thoſe parts, and promiſed to ſpread a grateful ſhelter over the ſweet ſeat of the moſt exquiſite ſenſation, and which had been, till that inſtant, the ſeat of the moſt inſenſible innocence. Her fingers play'd, and ſtrove to twine in the young tendrils of that moſs which nature has contrived at once for uſe and ornament.

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But not contented with theſe outer-poſts, ſhe now attempts the main-ſpot, and began to twitch, to inſinuate, and at length to force an introduction of a finger into the quick itſelf, in ſuch a manner, that had ſhe not proceeded by inſenſible gradations, that enflamed me beyond the power of modeſty to oppoſe its reſiſtence to their progreſs, I ſhould have jump'd out of bed, and cried out for help againſt ſuch ſtrange aſſaults.

Inſtead of which, her laſcivious touches had lighted up a new fire that wanton'd through all my veins, but fix'd with violence in that center appointed them by nature, where the firſt ſtrange hands were now buſied in feeling, ſqueezing, compreſſing the lips, then opening them again, with a finger between, till an Oh! expreſs'd her hurting me, where the narrowneſs of the unbroken paſſage refuſed it entrance to any depth.

In the mean time the extenſion of my limbs, languid ſtretchings, ſighs, ſhort heavings, all conſpired to aſſure that experienced

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perienced wanton, that I was more pleaſed then offended at her proceedings, which ſhe ſeaſoned with repeated kiſſes and exclamations, ſuch as "Oh! what a charming creature thou art! —— what a happy man will he be that firſt makes a woman of you! —— —— Oh! that I were a man for your ſake —— —— !" with the like broken expreſſions, interrupted by kiſſes as fierce and ſalacious as ever I received from the other ſex.

For my part, I was tranſported, confuſed, and out of myſelf: Feelings ſo new were too much for me; my heated and alarm'd ſenſes were in a tumult that robb'd me of all liberty of thought; tears of pleaſure guſh'd from my eyes, and ſomewhat aſſuaged the fire that rag'd all over me.

Phœbe herſelf, the hackney'd, thorough-bred *Phœbe*, to whom all modes and devices of pleaſure were known and familiar, found, it ſeems, in this exerciſe of her art to break young girls, the

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gratification of one of thoſe arbitrary taſtes, for which there is no accounting: not that ſhe hated men, or did not even prefer them to her own ſex; but when ſhe met with ſuch occaſions as this was, a ſatiety of enjoyments in the common road, perhaps to a ſecret byaſs, inclined her to make the moſt of pleaſure, where-ever ſhe could find it, without diſtinction of ſexes. In this view, now well aſſured that ſhe had, by her touches, ſufficiently inflamed me for her purpoſe, ſhe roll'd down the bed-cloaths gently, and I ſaw myſelf ſtretch'd naked, my ſhift being turned up to my neck, whilſt I had no power or ſenſe to oppoſe it; even my glowing bluſhes expreſſed more deſire than modeſty, whilſt the candle left, to be ſure not undeſignedly, burning, threw a full light on my whole body.

"No! (ſays *Phœbe*) you muſt not, "my ſweet girl, think to hide all theſe "treaſures from me, my ſight muſt be "feaſted as well as my touch —I muſt "devour with my eyes this ſpringing *bo-*

"*ſom*,

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" *ſom*, —— ſuffer me to kiſs it —— " I have not ſeen it enough —— let " me kiſs it once more —— what " firm, ſmooth, white fleſh is here —— " —— how delicately ſhaped! —— " —— then this delicious down! Oh! " let me view the ſmall, dear, tender " cleft! —— this is too much, I can- " not bear it, I muſt, I muſt ——". Here ſhe took my hand, and, in a tranſport, carried it where you will eaſily gueſs; but what a difference in the ſtate of the ſame thing! —— a ſpreading thicket of buſhy curls mark'd the full-grown complete woman: then the cavity, to which ſhe guided my hand, eaſily received it, and as ſoon as ſhe felt it within her, ſhe moved herſelf to and fro, with ſo rapid a friction, that I preſently withdrew it, wet and clammy, when inſtantly *Phœbe* grew more compoſed, after two or three ſighs, and heart-fetch'd Oh's! and giving me a kiſs, that ſeemed to exhale her ſoul through her lips, ſhe replaced the bed-cloaths over us.

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What pleaſure ſhe had found I will not ſay; but this I know, that the firſt ſparks of kindling nature, the firſt ideas of pollution, were caught by me that night, and that the acquaintance and communication with the bad of our own ſex, is often as fatal to innocence, as all the ſeductions of the other: But to go on: ——— when *Phœbe* was reſtor'd to that calm, which I was far from the enjoyment of myſelf, ſhe artfully ſounded me on all the points neceſſary to govern the deſigns of my virtuous miſtreſs on me, and by my anſwers, drawn from pure undiſſembled nature, ſhe had no reaſon but to promiſe herſelf all imaginable ſucceſs, ſo far as it depended on my ignorance, eaſineſs, and warmth of conſtitution.

After a ſufficient length of dialogue, my bed-fellow left me to my reſt, and I fell aſleep, through pure wearineſs, from the violent emotions I had been led into, when nature (which had been too warmly ſtir'd, and fermented to ſubſide without allay-

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allaying by ſome means or other) relieved me by one of thoſe luſcious dreams, the tranſports of which are ſcarce inferior to thoſe of waking, real action.

In the morning I awoke, about ten, perfectly gay and refreſhed; *Phœbe* was up before me, and aſked me in the kindeſt manner how I did, how I had reſted, and if I was ready for breakfaſt? carefully at the ſame time avoiding to encreaſe the confuſion ſhe ſaw I was in, at looking her in the face, by any hint of the night's bed-ſcene. —— I told her, if ſhe pleaſed, I would get up, and begin any work ſhe would be pleaſed to ſet me about. She ſmil'd; preſently the maid brought in the tea-equipage, and I juſt huddled my cloaths on, when in waddled my miſtreſs. I expected no leſs than to be told of, if not chid for, my late riſing, when I was agreeably diſappointed by her compliments on my pure and freſh looks: "I was a bud of beauty; (this was "her ſtile) and how vaſtly all the fine "men would admire me!" to all which my

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my anſwers did not, I can aſſure you, wrong my breeding: they were as ſimple, and ſilly as they could wiſh, and, no doubt, flattered them infinitely more than had they proved me enlightened by education and knowledge of the world.

We breakfaſted; and the tea-things were ſcarce removed, when in were brought two bundles of linnen and wearing apparel; in ſhort, all the neceſſaries for *rigging me out*, as they termed it, compleatly.

Imagine to yourſelf, madam, how my little coquet-heart flutter'd with joy at the ſight of a white lute-ſtring, flower'd with ſilver, ſcoured indeed, but paſt on me for ſpick-and-ſpan new, a *Bruſſel*-lace cap, braided ſhoes, and the reſt in proportion, all ſecond-hand finery, and procured inſtantly for the occaſion, by the diligence and induſtry of the good Mrs. *Brown*, who had already a chapman for me in the houſe, before whom my charms were to paſs in review; for he had

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had not only in courſe inſiſted on a previous ſight of the premiſſes, but alſo on immediate ſurrender to him, in caſe of his agreeing for me; concluding very wiſely, that ſuch a place as I was in, was of the hotteſt, to truſt the keeping of ſuch a periſhable commodity in, as a maidenhead.

The care of dreſſing, and tricking me out for the market, was then left to *Phœbe*, who acquitted herſelf, if not well, at leaſt perfectly to the ſatisfaction of every thing but my impatience of ſeeing myſelf dreſs'd. When it was over, and I view'd myſelf in the glaſs, I was, no doubt, too natural, too artleſs, to hide my childiſh joy at the change; a change in real truth for much the worſe, ſince I muſt have much better become the neat eaſy ſimplicity of my ruſtic dreſs, than the aukward, untoward, taudry finery, that I could not conceal my ſtrangeneſs to.

Phœbe's compliments, however, in which her own ſhare in dreſſing me was not

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not forgot, did not a little confirm me in now the firſt notions I had ever entertained concerning my perſon, which, be it ſaid without vanity, was then tolerable enough to juſtify a taſte for me, and of which it may not be out of place here to ſketch you an unflatter'd picture.

I was tall, yet not too tall of my age, which, as I before remark'd, was barely turned of fifteen, my ſhape perfectly ſtraight, thin waiſted, and light and free, without owing any thing to ſtays. My hair was a gloſſy auburn, and as ſoft as ſilk, flowing down my neck, in natural buckles, and did not a little ſet off the whiteneſs of a ſmooth ſkin. My face was rather too ruddy, though its features were delicate, and the ſhape was a roundiſh oval, except where a pit in my chin had far from a diſagreeable effect: my eyes were as black as can be imagin'd, and rather languiſhing than ſparkling, except on certain occaſions, when I have been told they ſtruck fire faſt enough: my teeth, which I ever carefully

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fully preſerv'd, were ſmall, even, and white; my boſom was finely rais'd, and one might then diſcern rather the promiſe, than the actual growth, of the round, firm breaſts, that in a little time made that promiſe good: in ſhort, all the points of beauty that are moſt univerſally in requeſt, I had, or at leaſt my vanity forbid me to appeal from the deciſion of our ſovereign judges the men, who all, that I ever knew at leaſt, gave it thus highly in my favour; and I met with, even in my own ſex, ſome that were above denying me that juſtice, whilſt others praiſed me yet more unſuſpectedly, by endeavouring to detract from me, in points of perſon and figure that I obviouſly excelled in. —— This is I own, too much, too ſtrong of ſelf-praiſe; but ſhould I not be ungrateful to nature, and to a form to which I owe ſuch ſingular bleſſings of pleaſure and fortune, were I to ſuppreſs, through an affectation of modeſty, the mention of ſuch valuable gifts?

Well

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Well then, dreſs'd I was, and little did it then enter into my head that all this gay attire was no more than decking the victim out for ſacrifice, whilſt I innocently attributed all to ſheer friendſhip and kindneſs in the ſweet good Mrs. *Brown*, who, I was forgetting to mention, had, under pretence of keeping my money ſafe, got from me, without the leaſt heſitation, the Driblet, (ſo I now call it) which remained to me after the expences of my journey.

After ſome little time, moſt agreeably ſpent before the glaſs, in ſcarce ſelf-admiration, ſince my new dreſs had by much the greateſt ſhare in it, I was ſent for down to the parlour, where the old lady ſaluted me, and wiſhed me joy of my new cloaths, which, ſhe was not aſham'd to ſay, fitted me as if I had worn nothing but the fineſt all my life time; but what was it ſhe could not ſee me ſilly enough to ſwallow? at the ſame time ſhe preſented me to another couſin of her own creation, an elderly gentleman, who got up at my entry

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entry into the room, and on my dropping a curtſy to him, ſaluted me, and ſeemed a little affronted that I had only preſented my cheek to him; a miſtake, which, if one, he immediately corrected, by glewing his lips to mine with an ardour which his figure had not at all diſpoſed me to thank him for: his figure, I ſay, than which nothing could be more ſhocking or deteſtable; for ugly, and diſagreeable, were terms too gentle to convey a juſt idea of it.

Imagine to yourſelf, a man rather paſt threeſcore, ſhort and ill made, with a yellow cadaverous hue, great goggling eyes, that ſtared as if he was ſtrangled; an out-mouth from two more properly tuſhes than teeth, livid lips, and a breath like a jakes; then he had a peculiar ghaſtlineſs in his grin, that made him perfectly frightful, if not dangerous to women with child; yet, made as he was thus in mock of man, he was ſo blind to his own ſtaring deformities, as to think himſelf born for pleaſing, and that no woman

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woman could ſee him with impunity: in conſequence of which idea, he had laviſhed great ſums on ſuch wretches as could gain upon themſelves to pretend love to his perſon, whilſt to thoſe who had not art or patience to diſſemble the horror it inſpired, he behaved even brutally. Impotence, more than neceſſity, made him ſeek in variety, the provocative that was wanting to raiſe him to the pitch of enjoyment, which too he often ſaw himſelf baulked of by the failure of his powers: and this always threw him into a fit of rage, which he wreak'd, as far as he durſt, on the innocent objects of his fit of momentary deſire.

This then was the monſter to which my conſcientious benefactreſs, who had long been his purveyor in this way, had doomed me, and ſent for me down purpoſely for this examination: accordingly, ſhe made me ſtand up before him, turned me round, unpin'd my handkerchief, remark'd to him the riſe and fall, the turn, and whiteneſs of a boſom juſt beginning

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ginning to fill; then made me walk, and took even a handle from the ruſticity of my gait, to inflame the inventory of my charms: in ſhort, ſhe omitted no point of jockey-ſhip; to which he only anſwer'd by gracious nods of approbation, whilſt he look'd goats and monkeys at me: for I ſometimes ſtole a corner-glance at him, and, encountering his fiery eager ſtare, looked another way from pure horror and affright, which he, doubtleſs in character, attributed to nothing more than maiden modeſty, or at leaſt the affectation of it.

However, I was ſoon diſmiſs'd, and reconducted to my room, by *Phœbe*, who ſtuck cloſe to me, by way of not leaving me alone, and at leiſure, to make ſuch reflections as might naturally riſe to any one, not an idiot, on ſuch a ſcene as I had juſt gone through; but to my ſhame be it confeſs'd, that ſuch was my invincible ſtupidity, or rather portentous innocence, that I did not yet open my eyes on Mrs. *Brown*'s deſigns, and ſaw nothing in

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in this titular couſin of her's, but a ſhocking hideous perſon, which did not at all concern me, unleſs that my gratitude for my benefactreſs made me extend my reſpect to all her couſinhood.

Phœbe, however, began to ſift the ſtate and pulſes of my heart towards this monſter, aſking me how I ſhould approve of ſuch a fine gentleman for a huſband? (fine gentleman, I ſuppoſe ſhe called him, from his being daubed with lace) I anſwered her very naturally, that I had no thoughts of a huſband; but that if I was to chooſe one, it ſhould be among my own degree *ſure!* ſo much had my averſion to that wretch's hideous figure indiſpoſed me to all *fine gentlemen*, and confounded my ideas, as if thoſe of that rank had been neceſſarily caſt in the ſame mould that he was; but *Phœbe* was not to be beat off ſo, but went on with her endeavours to melt and ſoften me for the purpoſes of my reception into that hoſpitable houſe: and whilſt ſhe talked of the ſex in general, ſhe had no reaſon to deſpair of a compliance, which

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which more than one reaſon ſhewed her would be eaſily enough obtained of me; but then ſhe had too much experience not to diſcover that my particular fix'd averſion to that frightful couſin, would be a block not ſo readily to be removed, as ſuited with the conſummation of their bargain and ſale of me.

Mother *Brown* had in the mean time agreed the terms with this liquoriſh old goat, which I afterwards underſtood were to be fifty guineas peremptory for the liberty of attempting me, and a hundred more at the compleat gratification of his deſires, in the triumph over my virginity: and as for me, I was to be left entirely at the diſcretion of his liking and generoſity. This unrighteous contract being thus ſettled, he was ſo eager to be put in poſſeſſion, that he inſiſted on being introduc'd to drink tea with me that afternoon, when we were to be left alone; nor would he hearken to the procureſs's remonſtrances, that I was not ſufficiently prepared, and ripened for ſuch an attack;

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tack; that I was yet too green and untam'd, having been ſcarce twenty-four hours in her houſe: it is the character of luſt to be impatient, and his vanity arming him againſt any ſuppoſition of other than the common reſiſtance of a maid on thoſe occaſions, made him reject all propoſals of delay, and my dreadful trial was thus fix'd, unknown to me that very evening.

At dinner, Mrs. *Brown* and *Phœbe* did nothing but run riot in praiſes of this wonderful couſin, and how happy that woman would be that he would favour with his addreſſes: in ſhort, my two goſſips exhauſted all their rhetoric to perſuade me to accept them; "that the gentle- "man was violently ſmitten with me at "firſt ſight - - - that he would make "my fortune if I would be a good girl, "and not ſtand in my own light - - - "that I ſhould truſt his honour - - - - "that I ſhould be made for ever, and "have a chariot to go abroad in," - - - with all ſuch ſtuff as was fit to turn the head

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head of ſuch a ſilly ignorant girl as I then was: but luckily here my averſion had taken already ſuch deep root in me, my heart was ſo ſtrongly defended from him by my ſenſes, that, wanting the art to maſk my ſentiments, I gave them no hopes of their employer's ſucceeding, at leaſt very eaſily, with me. The glaſs too march'd pretty quick, with a view, I ſuppoſe, to make a friend of the warmth of my conſtitution, in the minutes of the imminent attack.

Thus they kept me pretty long at table, and about ſix in the evening, after I was retired to my own apartment, and the tea-board was ſet, enters my venerable miſtreſs, follow'd cloſe by that ſatyr, who came in grinning in a way peculiar to him, and by his odious preſence confirm'd me in all the ſentiments of deteſtation which his firſt appearance had given birth to.

He ſat down fronting me, and all tea-time kept ogling me in a manner that gave me the utmoſt pain and confuſion, all

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all the marks of which he ſtill explained to be my baſhfulneſs, and not being uſed to ſee company.

Tea over, the commode old lady pleaded urgent buſineſs, (which indeed was true) to go out, and earneſtly deſired me to entertain her couſin *kindly* till ſhe came back, both for my own ſake and her's; and then, with a "pray ſir, be "very good, be very tender of the ſweet "child," ſhe went out of the room, leaving me ſtaring, with my mouth open, and unprepared, by the ſuddenneſs of her departure, to oppoſe it.

We were now alone; and on that idea a ſudden fit of trembling ſeized me; —————I was ſo afraid, without a preciſe notion of why, and what I had to fear, that I ſat on the ſettee, by the fire-ſide, motionleſs, and petrified, without life or ſpirit, not knowing how to look, or how to ſtir.

But long I was not ſuffered to remain in this ſtate of ſtupefaction: the monſter ſquatted down by be on the ſettee, and with

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without farther ceremony, or preamble, flings his arms about my neck, and drawing me pretty forcibly towards him, oblig'd me to receive, in ſpite of my ſtruggles to diſengage from him, his peſtilential kiſſes, which quite overcame me: finding me then next to ſenſeleſs and unreſiſting, he tears off my neck-handkerchief, and laid all open there to his eyes, and hands; ſtill I endur'd all without flinching, till emboldened by my ſufferance, and ſilence, (for I had not the power to ſpeak, or cry out) he attempted to lay me down on the ſettee, and I felt his hand on the lower part of my naked thighs, which were croſs'd, and which he endeavour'd to unlock. Oh then! I was rouzed out of my paſſive endurance, and ſpringing from him with an activity he was not prepar'd for, threw myſelf at his feet, and begg'd him, in the moſt moving tone, not to be rude, and that he would not hurt me: - - - "Hurt you, "my dear! ſays the brute, I intend you "no harm - - - Has not the old lady

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" told you that I loved you? - - - that " I ſhall do handſomely by you? " - - - ſhe has indeed, ſir, ſaid I; but I cannot love you, indeed I cannot! —— pray, let me alone - - - - yes! I will love you dearly, if you will let me alone, and go away: ——— but I was talking to the wind; for whether my tears, my attitude, or the diſorder of my dreſs prov'd freſh incentives, or whether he was now under the dominion of deſires he could not bridle, but ſnorting and foaming with luſt and rage, he renews his attack, ſeizes me, and again attempts to extend and fix me on the ſettee; in which he ſucceeded ſo far as to lay me along; and even to toſs my petticoats over my head, and lay my thighs bare, which I obſtinately kept cloſe, nor could he, though he attempted with his knee to force them open, effect it ſo as to ſtand fair for being maſter of the main avenue: he was unbuttoned, both waiſtcoat and breeches, yet I only felt the weight of his body upon me, whilſt I lay ſtruggling with indig-

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indignation, and dying with terrors; but he ſtopt all of a ſudden, and got off, panting, blowing, curſing, and rehearſing upon me *old* and *ugly!* for ſo I had very naturally called him, in the heat of my defence.

The brute had, it ſeems, as I afterwards underſtood, brought on, by his eagerneſs, and ſtruggle, the ultimate period of his hot fit of luſt, which his power was too ſhort-liv'd to carry him through the full execution of; of which my thighs and linnen received the effuſion.

When it was over, he bid me, with a tone of diſpleaſure, get up - - - - "that "he would not do me the honour to "think of me any more, - - - that the "old b—h might look out for another "cully, - - - - that he would not be "fool'd ſo by e'er a country mock-"modeſty in *England* - - - - that he "ſuppoſed I had left my maidenhead "with ſome hobnail in the country, and "was come to diſpoſe of my ſkim-milk

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" in town," with a volley of the like abuſe; which I liſtened to with more pleaſure than ever fond woman did to proteſtations of love, from her darling minion: for, uncapable as I was of receiving any addition to my perfect hatred and averſion to him, I look'd on his railing, as my ſecurity againſt his renewing his moſt odious careſſes.

Yet, plain as Mrs. *Brown*'s views were now come out, I had not the heart, or ſpirit to open my eyes on them: ſtill I could not part with my dependence on that beldam; ſo much did I think myſelf her's, ſoul and body: or rather, I ſought to deceive myſelf with the continuation of my good opinion of her, and choſe to wait the worſt at her hands, ſooner than being turn'd out to ſtarve in the ſtreets, without a penny of money, or a friend to apply to: theſe fears were my folly.

Whilſt this confuſion of ideas was paſſing in my head, and I ſat penſive by the fire, with my eyes brimming with tears, my

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my neck ſtill bare, and my cap fall'n of in the ſtruggle, ſo that my hair was in the diſorder you may gueſs, the villain's luſt began, I ſuppoſe, to be again in flow, at the ſight of all that bloom of youth which preſented itſelf to his view, a bloom yet unenjoy'd, and in courſe not yet indifferent to him.

After ſome pauſe, he aſk'd me, with a tone of voice mightily ſoften'd, whether I would make it up with him before the old lady returned, and all ſhould be well; he would reſtore me his affections: at the ſame time offering to kiſs me, and feel my breaſts. But now my extreme averſion, my fears, my indignation, all acting upon me, gave me a ſpirit not natural to me, ſo that breaking looſe from him, I ran to the bell, and rang it, before he was aware, with ſuch violence and effect, as brought up the maid to know what was the matter, or whether the gentleman wanted any thing? and, before he could proceed to greater extremities, ſhe bounc'd into the room,

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and ſeeing me ſtretch'd on the floor, my hair all diſhevell'd, my noſe guiſhing out blood, (which did not a little tragedize the ſcene) and my odious perſecutor ſtill intent on puſhing his brutal point, unmov'd by all my cries and diſtreſs, ſhe was herſelf confounded, and did not know what to do.

As much however as *Martha* might be prepared, and hardened to tranſactions of this ſort, all womanhood muſt have been out of her heart, could ſhe have ſeen this unmov'd. Beſides that, on the face of things, ſhe imagined that matters had gone greater lengths than they really had, and that the courteſy of the houſe had been actually conſummated on me, and flung me into the condition I was in: in this notion ſhe inſtantly took my part, and advis'd the gentleman to go down, and leave me to recover myſelf, and that all would be ſoon over with me. —— That when Mrs. *Brown*, and *Phœbe*, who were gone out, were return'd, they would take order for every thing to his ſatis-

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ſatisfaction, - - - - that nothing would be loſt by a little patience with the poor tender thing, - - - - that for her part, ſhe was frighten'd, - - - - - ſhe could not tell what to ſay to ſuch doings, - - - but that ſhe would ſtay by me till my miſtreſs came home. As the wench ſaid all this in a reſolute tone, and the monſter himſelf began to perceive that things would not mend by his ſtaying, he took his hat and went out of the room murmuring, and pleating his brows like an old ape, ſo that I was delivered from the horrors of his deteſtable preſence.

As ſoon as he was gone, *Martha* very tenderly offered me her aſſiſtance in any thing, and would have got me ſome hartſhorn drops, and put me to bed; which laſt I, at firſt, poſitively refuſed, in the fear that the monſter might return, and take me at that advantage: however, with much perſuaſion, and aſſurances that I ſhould not be moleſted that night, ſhe prevailed on me to lie down; and indeed I was ſo weakened by my ſtruggles, ſo dejected

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by my fearful apprehenſions, ſo terrour-ſtruck, that I had no power to ſit up, or hardly to give anſwers to the queſtions with which the curious *Martha* ply'd and perplex'd me.

Such too, and ſo cruel was my fate, that I dreaded the ſight of Mrs. *Brown*, as if I had been the criminal, and ſhe the perſon injur'd: a miſtake which you will not think ſo ſtrange, on diſtinguiſhing that neither virtue, or principles, had the leaſt ſhare in the defence I had made; but only the particular averſion I had conceiv'd againſt this firſt brutal and frightful invader of my tender innocence.

I paſs'd then the time till Mrs. *Brown*'s return home, under all the agitations of fear and deſpair that may eaſily be gueſſed.

About eleven at night my two ladies came home, and having receiv'd rather a favourable account from *Martha*, who had run down to let them in: (for Mr. *Crofts*, that was the name of my brute, was gone out of the houſe, after waiting

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waiting till he had tired his patience for Mrs. *Brown*'s return) they came thundering up stairs, and seeing me pale, my face bloody, and all the marks of the most thorough dejection, they employed themselves more to comfort and re-inspirit me, than in making me the reproaches I was weak enough to fear: I who had so many juster and stronger to retort upon them.

Mrs. *Brown* withdrawn, *Phœbe* came presently to bed to me, and what with the answers she drew from me, what with her own method of *palpably* satisfying herself, she soon discovered that I had been more frighted than hurt; upon which, I suppose being herself seiz'd with sleep, and reserving her lectures and instructions till the next morning, she left me, properly speaking, to my unrest: for after tossing, and turning, the greatest part of the night, and tormenting myself with the falsest notions and apprehensions of things, I fell, through meer fatigue, into a kind of delirious doze, out of which

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I wak'd late in the morning, in a violent fever; a circumſtance which was extremely critical to reprive me, at leaſt for a time, from the attacks of a wretch, infinitely more terrible to me than death itſelf.

The intereſted care that was taken of me during my illneſs, in order to reſtore me to a condition of making good the bawd's engagements, or of enduring further trials, had however ſuch an effect on my grateful diſpoſition, that I even thought myſelf oblig'd to my undoers for their attentions to promote my recovery, and, above all, for the keeping out of my ſight that brutal raviſher, the author of my diſorder, on their finding I was too ſtrongly mov'd at the bare mention of his name.

Youth is ſoon raiſed; and a few days were ſufficient to conquer the fury of my fever: but what contributed moſt to my perfect recovery, and to my reconciliation with life, was the timely news, that Mr. *Crofts*, who was a merchant of conſiderable

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derable dealings, was arreſted at the king's ſuit, for near forty thouſand pounds, on account of his driving a certain contraband trade, and that his affairs were ſo deſperate, that even were it in his inclination, it would not be in his power to renew his deſigns upon me: for he was inſtantly thrown into a priſon, which it was not likely that he would get out of in haſte.

Mrs. *Brown*, who had touch'd his fifty guineas, advanc'd to ſo little purpoſe, and loſt all hopes of the remaining hundred, began to look upon my treatment of him with a more favourable eye; and as they had obſev'd my temper to be perfectly tractable, and conformable to their views, all the girls that compos'd her flock, were ſuffer'd to viſit me, and had their cue to diſpoſe me, by their converſation, to a perfect reſignation of myſelf to Mrs. *Brown*'s direction.

Accordingly they were let in upon me, and all that frolic and thoughtleſs gaiety in which thoſe giddy creatures conſume

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ſume their leiſure, made me envy a condition of which I only ſaw the fair ſide: inſomuch, that the being one of them became even my ambition: a diſpoſition which they all carefully cultivated; and I wanted now nothing but to reſtore my health, that I might be able to undergo the ceremony of the initiation.

Converſation, example, all, in ſhort, contributed, in that houſe, to corrupt my native purity, which had taken no root in education, whilſt now the inflamable principle of pleaſure, ſo eaſily fired at my age, made ſtrange work within me, and all the modeſty I was brought up in the habit, (not the inſtruction) of, began to melt away, like dew before the ſun's heat; not to mention that I made a vice of neceſſity, from the conſtant fears I had of being turn'd out to ſtarve.

I was ſoon pretty well recover'd, and at certain hours allow'd to range all over the houſe, but cautiouſly kept from ſeeing any company, till the arrival of lord *B* —— from *Bath*, to whom Mrs. *Brown*, in

in reſpect to his experienced generoſity on ſuch occaſions, propoſed to offer the refuſal of that trinket of mine, which bears ſo great an imaginary value; and his lordſhip being expected in town in leſs than a fortnight, Mrs. *Brown* judged I ſhould be entirely renewed in beauty, and freſhneſs, by that time, and afford her the chance of a better bargain than ſhe had driven with Mr. *Crofts*.

In the mean time, I was ſo thoroughly, as they call it, brought over, ſo tame to their whiſtle, that, had my cage-door been ſet open, I had no idea that I ought to fly anywhere, ſooner than ſtay where I was; nor had I the leaſt ſenſe of regretting my condition, but waited very quietly for whatever Mrs. *Brown* ſhould order concerning me, who on her ſide, by herſelf, and her agents, took more than the neceſſary precautions to lull and lay aſleep all juſt reflexions on my deſtination.

Preachments of morality over the left ſhoulder, a life of joy painted in the gayeſt

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gayeſt colours, careſſes, promiſes, indulgent treatment, nothing in ſhort was wanting to domeſticate me entirely, and to prevent my going out any where to get better advice; alaſs! I dream'd of no ſuch thing.

Hitherto I had been indebted only to the girls of the houſe for the corruption of my innocence: their luſcious talk, in which modeſty was far from reſpected, their deſcriptions of their engagements with men, had given me a tolerable inſight into the nature and myſteries of their profeſſion, at the ſame time that they highly provok'd an itch of florid warm-ſpirited blood through every vein; but above all, my bed-fellow *Phœbe*, whoſe pupil I more immediately was, exerted her talents in giving me the firſt tinctures of pleaſure: whilſt nature now warm'd, and wantoned with diſcoveries ſo intereſting, piqu'd a curioſity which *Phebe* artfully whetted, and leading me from queſtion to queſtion of her own ſuggeſtion, explain'd to me all

all the myſteries of *Venus*; but I could not long remain in ſuch an houſe as that, without being an eye-witneſs of more than I could conceive from her deſcriptions.

One day about twelve at noon, being thoroughly recover'd of my fever, I happened to be in Mrs. *Brown*'s dark cloſet, where I had not been half an hour, reſting on the maids ſettle-bed, before I heard a ruſtling in the bed-chamber, ſeparated from the cloſet only by two ſaſh-doors, before the glaſſes of which were drawn two yellow-damaſk curtains, but not ſo cloſe as to exclude the full view of the room from any perſon in the cloſet.

I inſtantly crept ſoftly, and poſted myſelf ſo, that ſeeing every thing minutely, I could not myſelf be ſeen; and who ſhould come in but the venerable mother Abbeſs herſelf! handed in by a tall, brawny, young horſe-grenadier, moulded in the *Hercules*-ſtile; *in fine*, the choice of the moſt experienced dame, in thoſe AFFAIRS, in all *London*.

Oh!

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Oh! how ſtill and huſh did I keep at my ſtand, leſt any noiſe ſhould baulk my curioſity, or bring madam into the cloſet!

But I had not much reaſon to fear either, for ſhe was ſo entirely taken up with her preſent great concern, that ſhe had no ſenſe of attention to ſpare to any thing elſe.

Droll was it to ſee that clumſy fat figure of her's flop down on the foot of the bed, oppoſite to the cloſet-door, ſo that I had a full front-view of all her charms.

Her paramour ſat down by her: He ſeemed to be a man of very few words, and a great ſtomach; for proceeding inſtantly to eſſentials, he gave her ſome hearty ſmacks, and thruſting his hands into her breaſts, diſengag'd them from her ſtays, in ſcorn of whoſe confinement they broke looſe, and ſwagged down, navel low at leaſt. A more enormous pair did my eyes never behold, nor of a worſe colour, flagging-

ſoft,

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ſoft, and moſt lovingly contiguous: yet ſuch as they were, this neck-beef-eater ſeemed to paw them with a moſt unenviable guſt, ſeeking in vain to confine or cover one of them with a hand ſcarce leſs than a ſhoulder of mutton: after toying with them thus ſome time, as if they had been worth it, he laid her down pretty briſkly, and canting up her petty-coats, made barely a maſk of them to her broad red face, that bluſh'd with nothing but brandy.

As he ſtood on one ſide for a minute or ſo, unbuttoning his waſte-coat, and breeches, her fat brawny thighs hung down, and the whole greaſy landſkip lay fairly open to my view: a wide open-mouth'd gap, overſhaded with a grizzly buſh, ſeemed held out like a beggar's wallet for its' proviſion.

But I ſoon had my eyes called off by a more ſtriking object, that entirely engroſs'd them.

Her

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Her ſturdy ſtallion had now unbutton'd, and produced naked, ſtiff, and erect, that wonderful machine, which I had never ſeen before, and which, for the intereſt my own ſeat of pleaſure began to take furiouſly in it, I ſtar'd at with all the eyes I had: however my ſenſes were too much flurried, too much concenter'd in that now burning ſpot of mine, to obſerve any thing more than in general the make and turn of that inſtrument, from which the inſtinct of nature, yet more than all I had heard of it, now ſtrongly informed me, I was to expect that ſupreme pleaſure which ſhe has placed in the meeting of thoſe parts ſo admirably fitted for each other.

Long, however, the young ſpark did not remain, before, giving it two or three ſhakes, by way of brandiſhing it, he threw himſelf upon her, and his back being now towards me, I could only take his being ingulph'd for granted, by the direction he mov'd in, and the impoſſibility of miſſing ſo ſtaring a mark;

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mark; and now the bed shook, the curtains rattled so, that I could scarce hear the sighs, and murmurs, the heaves, and pantings that accompanied the action, from the beginning to the end; the sound and sight of which thrill'd to the very soul of me, and made every vein of my body circulate liquid fires: the emotion grew so violent that it almost intercepted my respiration.

Prepared then, and disposed as I was by the discourse of my companions, and *Phœbe*'s minute detail of every thing, no wonder that such a sight gave the last dying blow to my native innocence.

Whilst they were in the heat of the action, guided by nature only, I stole my hand up my petty-coat, and with fingers all on fire, seized, and yet more inflamed that center of all my senses; my heart palpitated, as if it would force its way through my bosom: I breath'd with pain: I twisted my thighs, squeezed, and compress'd the lips of that virgin-

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gin-ſlit, and following mechanically the example of *Phœbe*'s manual operation on it, as far as I could find admiſſion, brought on at laſt the critical extaſy, the melting flow, into which nature, ſpent with exceſs of pleaſure, diſſolves and dies away.

After which my ſenſes recover'd coolneſs enough to obſerve the reſt of the tranſaction between this happy pair.

The young fellow had juſt diſmounted, when the old lady immediately ſprung up, with all the vigour of youth, derived no doubt from her late refreſhment, and making him ſit down, began in her turn to kiſs him, to pat and pinch his cheeks, and play with his hair, all which he receiv'd with an air of indifference, and coolneſs, that ſhowed him to me much altered from what he was when he firſt went on to the breach.

My pious governeſs, however, not being above calling in auxiliaries, unlocks a little caſe of cordials that ſtood near the bed, and made him pledge her in

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in a very plentiful dram: after which, and a little amorous parley, madam ſat herſelf down upon the ſame place at the bed's foot; and the young fellow ſtanding ſideways by her, ſhe, with the greateſt effrontery imaginable, unbuttons his breeches, and removing his ſhirt, draws out his affair, ſo ſhrunk and diminiſh'd that I could not but remember the difference, now creſt-fallen, or juſt faintly lifting its head: but our experinc'd matron very ſoon, by chafing it with her hands, brought it to ſwell to that ſize and erection I had before ſeen it up to.

I admired then, upon a freſh account, and with a nicer ſurvey, the texture of that capital part of man: the flaming red head as it ſtood uncapt, the whiteneſs of the ſhaft, and the ſhrub-growth of curling hair that embrowned the roots of it, the roundiſh bag that dangled down from it, all exacted my eager attention, and renewed my flame; but as the main-affair was now at the point the in-

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induſtrious dame had laboured to bring it to, ſhe was not in the humour to put off the payment of her pains, but laying herſelf down, drew him gently upon her, and thus they finiſh'd, in the ſame manner as before, the old laſt act.

This over, they both went out lovingly together, the old lady having firſt made him a preſent, as near as I could obſerve, of three or four pieces; he being not only her particular favourite on the account of his performances, but a retainer to the houſe, from whoſe ſight ſhe had taken great care hither to ſecret me, leſt he might not have had patience to wait for my lord's arrival, but have inſiſted on being his taſter, which the old lady was under too much ſubjection to him to dare diſpute with him; for every girl of the houſe fell to him in courſe, and the old lady only now and then got her turn, in conſideration of the maintenance he had, and which he could ſcarce be accuſed of not earning, from her.

As

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As ſoon as I heard them go down ſtairs, I ſtole up ſoftly to my own room, out of which I had been luckily not miſt. There I began to breath a little freer, and to give a looſe to thoſe warm emotions which the ſight of ſuch an encounter had rais'd in me. I laid me down on the bed ſtretch'd myſelf out, joining, and ardently wiſhing, and requiring any means to divert or allay the rekindl'd rage and tumult of my deſires, which all pointed ſtrongly to their pole, man. I felt about the bed, as if I ſought for ſomething that I graſp'd in my waking dream, and not finding it, could have cried for vexation, every part of me glowing with ſtimulating fires. At length, I reſorted to the only preſent remedy, that of vain attempts at digitation, where the ſmallneſs of the theater, did not yet afford room enough for action, and where the pain my fingers gave me, in ſtriving for admiſſion, though they procur'd me a ſlight ſatisfaction for the preſent, ſtarted an apprehenſion, which I could not be

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be eaſy till I had communicated to *Phœbe*, and received her explanations upon it.

The opportunity however did not offer till next morning, for *Phœbe* did not come to bed till long after I was gone to ſleep: as ſoon then, as we were both awake, it was but in courſe to bring our ly-a-bed chat to land on the ſubject of my uneaſineſs: to which a recital of the love-ſcene, I had thus, by a chance been ſpectatreſs of, ſerved for a preface.

Phœbe could not hear it to the end without more than one interruption by peals of laughter, and my ingenuous way of relating matters did not a little heighten the joke to her.

But on her founding me how the ſight had affected me: without mincing or hiding the pleaſurable emotions it had inſpir'd me with, I told her at the ſame time that one remark had perplex'd me, and that very conſiderably: "Ay! ſays ſhe, what "was that?" why, replied I, having very curiouſly and attentively compared the

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the ſize of that enormous machine, which did not appear, at leaſt to my fearful imagination, leſs than my wriſt, and at leaſt three of my handfuls long, to that of the tender, ſmall part of me which was framed to receive it, I could not conceive its being poſſible to afford it entrance there, without dying, perhaps in the greateſt pain, ſince ſhe well knew that even a finger thruſt in there, hurt me beyond bearing: - - - - - - - - as to my miſtreſs's and your's - - - - - - - - - I can very plainly diſtinguiſh the different dimenſions of them from mine, palpable to the touch, and viſible to the eye, ſo that in ſhort, great as the promiſed pleaſure may be, I am afraid of the pain of the experiment.

Phœbe at this redoubl'd her laugh, and, whilſt I expected a very ſerious ſolution of my doubts and apprehenſions in this matter, only told me that ſhe never heard of a mortal wound being given in thoſe parts, by that terrible

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weapon, and that ſome ſhe knew younger, and as delicately made as myſelf, had outlived the operation, that ſhe believed, at the worſt, I would take a great deal of killing: - - - - - that true it was, there was a great diverſity of ſizes in thoſe parts, owing to nature child-bearing, frequent over-ſtretching with unmerciful machines; but that at a certain age, and habit of body, even the moſt experienc'd in thoſe affairs could not well diſtinguiſh between the maid, and the woman, ſuppoſing too an abſence of all artifice, and things in their natural ſituation: but that ſince chance had thrown in my way one ſight of that ſort, ſhe would procure me another, that ſhould feaſt my eyes more delicately, and go a great way in the cure of my fears from that imaginary diſproportion.

On this ſhe aſked me if I knew *Polly Philips*. Undoubtedly, ſays I, the fair girl which was ſo tender of me when I was ſick, and has been, as you told

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told me, but two months in the house? the same says *Phœbe*. You must know then, she is kept by a young *Genoese* merchant, whom his uncle, who is immensely rich, and whose darling he is, sent over here with an *English* merchant his friend, on a pretext of settling some accounts, but in reality to humour his inclinations for travelling, and seeing the world. He met casually with this *Polly* once in company, and taking a liking to her, makes it worth her while to keep entirely to him: he comes to her here twice or thrice a week, and she receives him in the light closet up one pair of stairs, where he enjoys her in a taste I suppose peculiar to the heat, or perhaps the caprices of his own country. I say no more; but tomorrow being his day, you shall see what passes between them, from a place only known to your mistress, and myself.

You may be sure, in the ply I was now taking, I had no objection to the proposal, and was rather a tiptoe for its accomplishment.

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At five in the evening then, next day, *Phœbe*, punctual to her promiſe, came to me as I ſat alone in my own room, and beckon'd me to follow her.

We went down the back-ſtairs very ſoftly, and opening the door of a dark cloſet, where there was ſome old furniture kept, and ſome caſes of liquors, ſhe drew me in after her, and faſtening the door upon us, we had no light but what came through a long crevice in the partition between ours, and the light cloſet, where the ſcene of action lay: ſo that ſitting on thoſe low caſes, we could, with the greateſt eaſe, as well as clearneſs, ſee all objects, (ourſelves unſeen) only by applying our eyes cloſe to the crevice, where the moulding of a pannel had warp'd, or ſtarted a little on the other ſide.

The young gentleman was the firſt perſon I ſaw, with his back directly towards me, looking at a print. *Polly* was not yet come, In leſs than a minute tho', the door opened, and ſhe came

in

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in, and at the noise the door made, he turned about, and came to meet her, with an air of the greatest tenderness and satisfaction.

After saluting her, he led her to a couch that fronted us, where they both sat down, and the young *Genoese* help'd her to a glass of wine, with some *Naples* bisket on a salver.

Presently, when they had exchanged a few kisses, and questions in broken *English* on one side, he began to unbutton, and, in fine, stript into his shirt.

As if this had been the signal agreed on for pulling off all their cloaths, a scheme which the heat of the season perfectly favoured, *Polly* began to draw her pins, and as she had no stays to unlace, she was in a trice, with her gallant's officious assistance, undress'd to all but her shift.

When he saw this, his breeches were immediately loosen'd, waist, and knee-bands, and slipt over his ancles, clean off: his shirt collar was unbut-

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toned too: then first giving *Polly* an encouraging kiss, he stole as it were the shift off the girl, who being I suppose broke and familiariz'd to this humour, blush'd indeed, but less than I did, at the apparition of her now standing stark-naked, just as she came out of the hands of pure nature, with her black hair loose, and a-float down her dazling white neck and shoulders, whilst the deepen'd carnation of her cheeks went off gradually into the hue of glaz'd snow; for such were the blended tints, and polish of her skin.

This girl could not be above eighteen. Her face regular and sweet-featur'd, her shape exquisite, nor could I help envying her two ripe enchanting breasts, finely plump'd out in flesh, but withal so round, so firm, that they sustain'd themselves, in scorn of any stay: then their nipples pointing different ways mark'd their pleasing separation: beneath them lay the delicious tract of the belly, which terminated in a parting or rift scarce discernable, that modestly seem'd to retire down-

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downwards, and ſeek ſhelter between two plump fleſhy thighs: the curling hair that overſpread its delightful front, cloathed it with the richeſt ſable fur in the univerſe: in ſhort, ſhe was evidently a ſubject for the painters to court her ſitting to them for a pattern of female beauty, in all the true pride and pomp of nakedneſs.

The young *Italian* (ſtill in his ſhirt) ſtood gazing, and tranſported at the ſight of beauties that might have fir'd a dying hermit; his eager eyes devour'd her, as ſhe ſhifted attitudes at his diſcretion: neither were his hands excluded their ſhare of the high feaſt; but wander'd, on the hunt of pleaſure, over every part, and inch of her body ſo qualified to afford the moſt exquiſite ſenſe of it.

In the mean time, one could not help obſerving the ſwell of his ſhirt before, that bolſter'd out, and pointed out the condition of things behind the curtain: but he ſoon remov'd it, by ſlipping his ſhirt over his head; and now, as to

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nakedneſs, they had nothing to reproach one another,

The young gentleman, by *Phœbe*'s gueſs, was about two and twenty: tall and well limb'd. His body was finely form'd, and of a moſt vigorous make, ſquare ſhoulder'd, and broad-cheſted. His face was not remarkable any way, but for a noſe inclining to the *Roman*, eyes large, black, and ſparkling, and a ruddineſs in his cheeks that was the more a grace for his complexion being of the browneſt, not of that duſky dun colour which excludes the idea of freſhneſs, but of that clear, olive gloſs, which glowing with life, dazzles perhaps leſs than fairneſs, and yet pleaſes more, when it pleaſes at all. His hair being too ſhort to tie, fell no lower than his neck, in ſhort eaſy curls: and he had a few ſprigs about his paps, that garniſh'd his cheſt in a ſtile of ſtrength and manlineſs. Then his grand movement, which ſeem'd to riſe out of a thicket of curling hair that ſpread from the root, all round his thighs

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thighs and belly up to the navel, ſtood ſtiff, and upright, but of a ſize to frighten me, by ſympathy, for the ſmall tender part, which was the object of it's fury, and which now lay expos'd to my fairest view: for he had immediately, on ſtriping off his ſhirt, gently puſh'd her down on the couch, which ſtood conveniently to break her willing fall. Her thighs were ſpread out to their utmoſt extenſion, and diſcovered between them the mark of the ſex, the red-center'd cleft of fleſh, whoſe lips vermillioning inwards, expreſt a ſmall rubid line in ſweet miniature, ſuch as not *Guido*'s touch or colouring could ever attain to the life, or delicacy of.

Phœbe, at this, gave me a gentle jog, to prepare me for a whiſper'd queſtion, "whether I thought my little maiden-"toy was much leſs?" but my attention was too much engroſs'd, too much enwrap'd with all I ſaw, to be able to give her any anſwer.

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By this time, the young gentleman had changed her poſture from lying breadth to length-wiſe on the couch: but her thighs were ſtill ſpread, and the mark lay fair for him, who now kneeling between them, diſplay'd to us a ſide-view of that fierce erect machine of his, which threaten'd no leſs than ſplitting the tender victim, who lay ſmiling at the uplifted ſtroke, nor ſeem'd to decline it. He look'd upon his weapon himſelf with ſome pleaſure, and guiding it with his hand to the inviting ſlit, drew aſide the lips, and lodg'd it (after ſome thruſts, which *Polly* ſeem'd even to aſſiſt) about half way: but there it ſtuck, I ſuppoſe, from its growing thickneſs: he draws it again, and juſt wetting it with ſpittle, re-enters, and with eaſe ſheath'd it now up to the hilt, at which *Polly* gave a deep ſigh, which was quite in another tone than one of pain; he thruſts, ſhe heaves, at firſt gently, and in a regular cadence, but preſently the tranſport began to be too violent to obſerve any order or meaſure, their

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their motions were too rapid, their kisses too fierce, and fervent, for nature to support such fury long: both seem'd to me out of themselves, their eyes darted fires; "Oh! Oh! —— I can't bear it —— "—— It is too much. —— I die. — "———— I am a going——" were *Polly*'s expressions of extasy: his joys were more silent; but soon broken murmurs, sighs heart-fetch'd, and at length a dispatching thrust, as if he would have forced himself up her body, and then the motionless langour of all his limbs, all showed that the die-away moment was come upon him, which she gave signs of joining with, by the wild throwing of her hands about, closing her eyes, and giving a deep sob, in which she seem'd to expire in an agony of bliss.

When he had finish'd his stroke, and got from off her, she lay still without the least motion, breathless, as it should seem, with pleasure. He replaced her again breadthwise on the couch, unable to sit up, with her thighs open, between

tween which I could obſerve a kind of white liquid, like froth, hanging about the outward lips of that recent opened wound, which now glowed with a deeper red. Preſently ſhe gets up, and throwing her arms round him, ſeemed far from undelighted with the trial he had put her to, to judge at leaſt by the fondneſs with which ſhe ey'd, and hung upon him.

For my part, I will not pretend to deſcribe what I felt all over me, during this ſcene; but from that inſtant, adieu all fears of what man could do unto me? they were now changed into ſuch ardent deſires, ſuch ungovernable longings, that I could have pull'd the firſt of that ſex that ſhould preſent himſelf, by the ſleeve, and offered him the bauble, which I now imagin'd the loſs of would be a gain I could not too ſoon procure myſelf.

Phœbe, who had more experience, and to whom ſuch ſights were not ſo new, could not however be unmov'd at ſo warm a ſcene; and drawing me away ſoftly from the peep-hole, for fear of being

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being over-heard, guided me as near the door as possible; all passive, and obedient to her least signals.

Here was no room either to sit, or lie, but making me stand with my back towards the door, she lifted up my petticoats, and with her busy fingers fell to visit, and explore that part of me, where now the heat, and irritations were so violent, that I was perfectly sick and ready to die with desire: that the bare touch of her finger in that critical place, had the effect of fire to a train, and her hand instantly made her sensible to what a pitch I was wound up, and melted by the sight she had thus procured me: satisfied then with her success, in allaying a heat that would have made me impatient of seeing the continuation of tranfactions between our amorous couple, she brought me again to the crevice, so favourable to our curiosity.

We had certainly been but a few instants away from it, and yet on our return we saw every thing in good forwardness

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wardneſs for recommencing the tender hoſtilities.

The young foreigner was ſitting down, fronting us, on the couch; with *Polly* upon one knee, who had her arms round his neck, whilſt the extreme whiteneſs of her ſkin was not undelightfully contraſted by the ſmooth gloſſy brown of her lover's.

But who could count the fierce, unnumber'd kiſſes given and taken? in which I could often diſcover their exchanging the velvet thruſt, when both their mouths were double-tongu'd, and ſeem'd to favour the mutual inſertion with the greateſt guſt and delight.

In the mean time, his red-headed champion that had ſo lately fled the pit, quell'd, and abaſh'd, was now recover'd to the top of its condition, perk'd and creſted up between *Polly*'s thighs, who was not wanting on her part to coax and keep it in good humour, ſtroaking it with her head down, and receiv'd even its velvet tip between the lips of not its proper

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per mouth, whether she did this out of any particular pleasure, or whether it was to render it more glib, and easy of entrance, I could not tell; but it had such an effect, that the young gentleman seem'd by his eyes, that sparkled with more excited lustre, and his inflamed countenance, to receive encrease of pleasure. He got up, and taking *Polly* in his arms embraced her, and said something too softly for me to hear, leading her withal to the foot of the couch, and taking delight to slap her thighs, and posteriours with that stiff sinnew of his, which hit them, with a spring, that he gave it with his hand, and made them resound again, but hurt her about as much as he meant to hurt her, for she seem'd to have as frolick a taste as himself.

But, guess my surprise, when I saw the lazy young rogue lie down on his back, and gently pull down *Polly* upon him, who giving way to his humour, straddled, and with her hands conducted her blind favourite to the right place, and following her impulse, ran directly upon the

the flaming point of this weapon of pleasure, which she stak'd herself upon, uppierc'd, and infix'd to the extremest hair-breadth of it: thus she sat on him, a few instants, enjoying, and relishing her situation, whilst he toyed with her provoking breasts. —— Sometimes she would stoop to meet his kiss: but presently the sting of pleasure spurr'd them up to fiercer action: then began the storm of heaves, which, from the undermost combatant, were thrusts at the same time: he crossing his hands over her, and drawing her home to him with a sweet violence: the inverted strokes of anvil over hammer soon brought on the critical period, in which all the signs of a close conspiring extasy, informed us of the *point* they were at.

For me, I could bear to see no more: I was so overcome, so inflamed at this second part of the same play, that, mad with intolerable desire, I hugg'd, I clasp'd *Phœbe*, as if she had had wherewithal to relieve me: pleased however with,

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with, and pitying the taking she could feel me in, she drew me towards the door and opening it as softly as she could, we both got off undiscover'd, and she reconducted me to my own room, where unable to keep my legs, in the agitation, I was in, I instantly threw myself down on the bed, where I lay transported, tho' asham'd at what I felt.

Phœbe lay down by me, and asked me archly, if now that I had seen the enemy, and fully considered him, I was still afraid of him? or did I think I could venture to come to a close engagement with him? to all which not a word on my side: I sigh'd, and could scarce breath: She takes hold of my hand, and having roll'd up her own petticoats, forced it half-strivingly towards those parts, where now grown more knowing, I mist the main object of my wishes; and finding not even the shadow of what I wanted, where every thing was so flat! or so hollow! In the vexation I was in at it, I should have withdrawn my hand,

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hand, but for fear of diſobliging her. Abandoning it then entirely to her management, ſhe made uſe of it as ſhe thought proper, to procure herſelf rather the ſhadow than the ſubſtance of any pleaſure. For my part, I now pin'd for more ſolid food, and promis'd tacitly to myſelf that I would not be put off much longer with this foolery from woman to woman, if Mrs. *Brown* did not ſoon provide me with the eſſential ſpecific: in ſhort I had all the air of not being able to wait the arrival of my lord B——, tho' he was now expected in a very few days: nor did I wait for him, for love itſelf took charge of the diſpoſal of me, in ſpite of intereſt, or groſs luſt.

It was now two days after the cloſet-ſcene, that I got up about ſix in the morning, and leaving my bed-fellow faſt a-ſleep, ſtole down, with no other thought than of taking a little freſh air in a ſmall garden, which our back-parlour open'd into, and from which my confinement debarr'd me at the times company came

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to the houſe: but now ſleep and ſilence reign'd all over it.

I open'd the parlour-door, and well ſurpriz'd was I, at ſeeing, by the ſide of a fire half out, a young gentleman in the old lady's elbow-chair, with his legs laid upon another, faſt a-ſleep, and left there, by his thoughtleſs companions, who had drank him down, and then went off with every one his miſtreſs, whilſt he ſtay'd behind by the curteſy of the old matron, who would not diſturb, or turn him out in that condition at one in the morning, and beds, it is more than probable, there were none to ſpare: On the table ſtill remain'd the punch-bowl and glaſſes, ſtrow'd about in their uſual diſorder after a drunken revel.

But when I drew nearer to view the ſleeping eſtray: Heavens! what a ſight! no! no term of years, no turns of fortune could ever eraze the lightening-like impreſſion his form made on me. . . . . Yes! deareſt object of my earlieſt paſſion, I command for ever the remembrance of thy

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thy first appearance to my raviſh'd eyes, —— it calls thee up, preſent; and I ſee thee now!

Figure to yourſelf, *Madam*, a fair ſtripling, between eighteen and nineteen, with his head reclin'd on one of the ſides of the chair, his hair in diſorder'd curls, irregularly ſhading a face, on which all the roſeate bloom of youth, and all the manly graces conſpired to fix my eyes and heart. Even the languor, and paleneſs of his face, in which the momentary triumph of the lilly over the roſe, was owing to the exceſſes of the night, gave an inexpreſſible ſweetneſs to the fineſt features imaginable: his eyes cloſed in ſleep, diſplayed the meeting edges of their lids beautifully bordered with long eye-laſhes, over which no pencil could have deſcrib'd two more regular arches than thoſe that grac'd his fore-head, which was high, perfectly white and ſmooth; then a pair of vermillion lips, pouting, and ſwelling to the touch, as if a bee had freſhly ſtung them, ſeem'd to challenge me

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me to get the gloves of this lovely sleeper, had not the modesty, and respect, which in both sexes are inseparable from a true passion, check'd my impulses.

But on seeing his shirt collar unbutton'd, and a bosom whiter than a drift of snow, the pleasure of considering it could not bribe me to lengthen it at the hazard of a health that began to be my life's concern: Love that made me timid, taught me to be tender too: with a trembling hand I took hold of one of his, and waking him as gently as possible, he started, and looking at first a little wildly, said, with a voice that sent its harmonious sound to my heart: "Pray, "child, what a clock is it? I told him: and added, that he might catch cold, if he slept longer with his breast open in the cool of the morning air: On this he thanked me, with a sweetness perfectly agreeing with that of his features and eyes: the last now broad open, and eagerly surveying me, carried the sprightly

ly fires they ſparkled with directly to my heart.

It ſeems that having drank too freely before he came upon the rake with ſome of his young companions, he had put himſelf out of a condition to go through all the weapons with them, and crown the night with getting a miſtreſs, ſo that ſeeing me in a looſe undreſs, he did not doubt but I was one of the miſſes of the houſe, ſent in to repair his loſs of time; but though he ſeiz'd that notion, and a very obvious one it was, without heſitation; yet, whether my figure made a more than ordinary impreſſion on him, or whether it was his natural politeneſs, he addreſt me in a manner far from rude, though ſtill on the foot of one of the houſe-pliers, come to amuſe him; and giving me the firſt kiſs that I ever reliſh'd from man in my life, aſk'd me if I could favour him with my company, aſſuring me that he would make it worth my while: but had not even new-born love, that true refiner of luſt, oppos'd

ſo

ſo ſudden a ſurrender, the fear of being ſurpriz'd by the houſe, was a ſufficient bar to my compliance.

I told him then, in a tone ſet me by love itſelf, that for reaſons I had not time to explain to him, I could not ſtay with him, and might not even ever ſee him again, with a ſigh at theſe laſt words which broke from the bottom of my heart. My conqueror, who, as he afterwards told me, had been ſtruck with my appearance, and lik'd me as much as he could think of liking any one in my ſuppos'd way of life, aſk'd me briſkly at once, if I would be kept by him, and that he would take a lodging for me directly, and relieve me from any engagements he preſum'd I might be under to the houſe. Raſh, ſudden, undigeſted, and even dangerous as this offer might be from a perfect ſtranger, and that ſtranger a giddy boy, the prodigious love I was ſtruck with for him, had put a charm into his voice there was no reſiſting, and blinded me to every objection: I could,

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at that inſtant, have died for him; think, if I could reſiſt an invitation to live with him! thus my heart beating ſtrong to the propoſal, dictated my anſwer, after ſcarce a minute's pauſe, that I would accept of his offer, and make my eſcape to him, in what way he pleaſed, and that I would be entirely at his diſpoſal, let it be good or bad. I have often ſince wondered that ſo great an eaſineſs did not diſguſt him, or make me too cheap in his eyes; but my fate had ſo appointed it, that, in his fears of the hazard of the town, he had been ſome time looking out for a girl to take into keeping, and my perſon happening to hit his fancy, it was by one of thoſe miracles reſerv'd to love, that we ſtruck the bargain in the inſtant, which we ſealed by an exchange of kiſſes, that the hopes of a more uninterrupted enjoyment engaged him to content himſelf with.

Never, however, did dear youth carry in his perſon more wherewith to juſtify the turning of a girl's head, and making her

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her set all consequences at defiance, for the sake of following a gallant.

For besides all the perfections of manly beauty which were assembled in his form, he had an air of neatness and gentility, a certain smartness in the carriage and port of his head, that yet more distinguish'd him: his eyes were sprightly, and full of meaning; his looks had in them something at once sweet and commanding. His complexion out-bloom'd the lovely-colour'd rose, whilst its inimitable tender vivid glow, clearly sav'd it from the reproach of wanting life, of raw and dough-like, which is commonly made to those so extremely fair as he was.

Our little plan was, that I should get out about seven the next morning, (which I could *readily* promise, as I knew where to get the key of the street-door) and he would wait at the end of the street with a coach, to convey me safe off; after which he would send and clear any debt incurr'd by my stay at Mrs. *Brown*'s, who he only judg'd, in gross, might not care

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to part with one, he thought, ſo fit to draw cuſtom to the houſe.

I then juſt hinted to him not to mention in the houſe his having ſeen ſuch a perſon as me, for reaſons I would explain to him more at leiſure: and then, for fear of miſcarrying by being ſeen together, I tore myſelf from him with a bleeding heart, aud ſtole up ſoftly to my room, where I found *Phœbe* ſtill faſt aſleep, and hurrying off my few cloaths, lay down by her, with a mixture of joy and anxiety, that may be eaſier conceived than expreſs'd.

The riſks of Mrs. *Brown*'s diſcovering my purpoſe, of diſappointments, miſery, ruin, all vaniſh'd before this new-kindl'd flame. The ſeeing, the touching, the being, if but for a night, with this idol of my fond virgin-heart, appeared to me a happineſs above the purchaſe of my liberty or life. He might uſe me ill! let him! he was the maſter! happy, too happy even to receive death at ſo dear a hand.

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To this purpoſe were the reflexions of the whole day, of which every minute ſeem'd to me a little eternity. How often did I viſit the clock? nay, was tempted to advance the tedious hand, as if that would have advanc'd the time with it! Had thoſe of the houſe made the leaſt obſervations on me, they muſt have remark'd ſomething extraordinary from the diſcompoſure I could not help betraying: eſpecially when at dinner mention was made of the charmingeſt youth having been there, and ſtay'd breakfaſt! Oh, he was ſuch a beauty! I ſhould have died for him! they would pull caps for him! and the like fooleries, which however, was throwing oil on a fire I was ſorely put to it to ſmother the blaze of.

The fluctuations of my mind, the whole day, produc'd however one good effect; which was, that through mere fatigue I ſlept tolerably well till five in the morning, when I got up, and having dreſs'd myſelf, waited, under the double tortures of fear and impatience, for the appointed

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hour: It came at laſt, the dear, critical, dangerous hour came; and now ſupported only by the courage love lent me, I ventur'd a tip-toe down ſtairs, leaving my box behind, for fear of being ſurpriz'd with it in going out.

I got to the ſtreet-door, the key whereof was always laid on the chair by our bed-ſide, in truſt with *Phœbe*, who having not the leaſt ſuſpicion of my entertaining any deſign to go from them, (nor indeed had I but the day before) made no reſerve, or concealment of it from me I open'd the door then with great eaſe; love that emboldened, protected me too: and now, got ſafe into the ſtreet, I ſaw my new guardian-angel waiting at a coach-door ready open: How I got to him I know not: I ſuppoſe I flew; but I was in the coach in a trice, and he by the ſide of me, with his arms claſp'd round me, and giving me the kiſs of welcome.——The coachman had his orders, and drove to them.

My

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My eyes were instantly fill'd with tears, but tears of the most delicious delight. To find myself in the arms of that beauteous youth, was a rapture that my little heart swam in. Past or future were equally out of the question with me. The present was as much as all my powers of life were sufficient to bear the transport of without fainting: Nor were the most tender embraces, the most soothing expressions wanting on his side, to assure me of his love, and of never giving me cause to repent the bold step I had taken, in throwing myself thus entirely upon his honour and generosity: but, alas! this was no merit in me, for I was drove to it by a passion too impetuous for me to resist, and I did what I did, because I could not help it.

In an instant, for time was now annihilated with me, we were landed at a publick house in *Chelsea*, hospitably commodious for the reception of duet-parties of pleasure, where a breakfast of chocolate was prepared for us.

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An old jolly ſtager who kept it, and underſtood life perfectly well, breakfaſted with us, and leering archly at me, gave us both joy, and ſaid, we were well paired, e'faith! that a great many gentlemen and ladies uſed his houſe, but he he had never ſeen a handſomer couple; ——— He was ſure I was a freſh piece ——— I look'd ſo country, ſo innocent! well, my ſpouſe was a lucky man! ——— all which common landlord's cant, not only pleas'd and ſooth'd me, but help'd to divert my confuſion at being with my new ſovereign, whom, now the minute approach'd, I began to fear to be alone with, a timidity which true love had a greater ſhare in, than even maiden baſhfulneſs.

I wiſh'd, I doated, I could have died for him, and yet I know not how, or why, I dreaded the point which had been the object of my fierceſt wiſhes; my pulſes beat fears, amidſt a fluſh of the warmeſt deſires: this ſtruggle of the paſſions, however, this conflict betwixt modeſty and love.

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love-ſick longings, made me burſt again into tears, which he took as he had done before, only for the remains of concern and emotion at the ſuddenneſs of my change of condition, in committing myſelf to his care, and in conſequence of that idea, did, and ſaid, all that he thought would moſt comfort and re-inſpirit me.

After breakfaſt, *Charles*, the dear familiar name I muſt take the liberty henceforward to diſtinguiſh my *Adonis* by, with a ſmile full of meaning, took me gently by the hand, and ſaid, "Come, "my dear, and I will ſhow you a room "that commands a fine proſpect over ſome "gardens:" and without waiting for an anſwer, in which he relieved me extremely, he led me up into a chamber airy and lightſome, where all ſeeing of proſpects was out of the queſtion, except that of a bed, which had all the air of having recommended the room to him.

Charles had juſt flipp'd the bolt of the door, and running, caught me in his

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arms, and lifting me from the ground, with his lips glew'd to mine, bore me trembling, panting, dying with ſoft fears, and tender wiſhes, to the bed; where his impatience would not ſuffer him to undreſs me more than juſt unpinning my handkerchief, and gown, and unlacing my ſtays.

My boſom was now bare, and riſing in the warmeſt throbs, preſented to his ſight and feeling the firm hard-ſwell of a pair of young breaſts, ſuch as may be imagin'd of a girl not ſixteen, freſh out of the country, and never before handled; but even their pride, whiteneſs, faſhion, pleaſing reſiſtance to the touch, could not bribe his reſtleſs hands from roving, but giving them the looſe, my petty-coats and ſhift were ſoon taken up, and their ſtronger center of attraction laid open to their tender invaſion: my fears however made me mechanically cloſe my thighs; but the very touch of his hand inſinuated between them, diſcloſed them, and open'd a way for the main-attack.

In

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In the mean time I lay fairly exposed to the examination of his eyes, and hands, quiet and unresisting, which confirm'd him in the opinion he proceeded so cavalierly upon, that I was no novice in these matters, since he had taken me out of a common bawdy-house: nor had I said one thing to prepossess him of my virginity; and if I had, he would sooner have believ'd that I took him for a cully that would swallow such an improbability, than that I was still mistress of that darling treasure, that hidden mine, so eagerly sought after by the men, and which they never dig for but they destroy.

Being now too high wound up to bear a delay, he unbutton'd, and drawing out the engine of love-assaults, drove it currently, as at a ready-made breach: then! then! for the first time did I feel that stiff horn-hard gristle, battering against the tender part; but imagine to yourself his surprize, when he found, after several vigorous pushes, which hurt me extremely, that he made not the least impression.

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I complain'd, but tenderly complain'd; "I could not bear it ——" Indeed! he hurt me —— ſtill he thought no more than that being ſo young, the largeneſs of his machine (for few men could diſpute ſize with him) made all the difficulty, and that poſſibly I had not been enjoy'd by any ſo advantageouſly made in that part as himſelf; for ſtill, that my virgin-flower was yet uncrop'd never once enter'd into his head, and he would have thought it idling with time and words to have queſtion'd me upon it.

He tries again; ſtill no admittance; ſtill no penetration; but he had hurt me yet more, whilſt my extreme love made me bear extreme pain almoſt without a groan: at length, after repeated fruitleſs trials, he lay down panting by me, kiſs'd my falling tears, and aſk'd me tenderly, what was the meaning of ſo much complaining, and if I had not born it better from others than I did from him? I anſwer'd with a ſimplicity fram'd to perſwade,

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ſwade, that he was the firſt man that ever ſerv'd me ſo: truth is powerful, and it is not always that we do not believe what we eagerly wiſh.

Charles already diſpos'd by the evidence of his ſenſes to think my pretences to virginity not entirely apocryphal, ſmothers me with kiſſes, begs me, in the name of love, to have a little patience, and that he will be as tender of hurting me, as he would be of himſelf.

Alaſs! it was enough I knew his pleaſure, to ſubmit joyfully to him, whatever pain I foreſaw it would coſt me.

He now reſumes his attempts in more form: firſt he put one of the pillows under me, to give the blank of his aim a more favourable elevation, and another under my head, in eaſe of it: then ſpreading my thighs, and placing himſelf ſtanding between them, made them reſt upon his hips: applying then the point of his machine to the ſlit, into which he ſought entrance; it was ſo ſmall, he could ſcarce aſſure himſelf of it's being rightly pointed:

He

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He looks, he feels, and ſatisfies himſelf; then driving forward with fury, its prodigious ſtiffneſs thus impacted, wedge-like, breaks the union of thoſe parts, and gain'd him juſt the inſertion of the tip of it, lip-deep; which being ſenſible of, he improves his advantage, and following well his ſtroke, in a ſtrait line, forcibly deepens his penetration; but put me to ſuch intolerable pain, from the ſeparation of the ſides of that ſoft paſſage by a hard thick body, I could have ſkream'd out; but unwilling as I was to alarm the houſe, I held in my breath, and cram'd my petticoat (which was turn'd up over my face) into my mouth, and bit it through in the agony. At length, the tender texture of that tract giving way to ſuch fierce tearing and rending, he pierc'd ſomething further into me: and now, outrageous, and no longer his own maſter, but born head-long away by the fury and over-mettle of that member, now exerting itſelf with a kind of native rage, he breaks in, carries all before him, and one violent merci-

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mercileſs lunge, ſent it, imbrew'd, and reeking with virgin blood, up to the very hilts in me: then! then! all my reſolution deſerted me: I ſkream'd out, and fainted away with the ſharpneſs of the pain; and (as he told me afterwards) on his drawing out, when emiſſion was over with him, my thighs were inſtantly all in a ſtream of blood, that flow'd from the wounded torn paſſage.

When I recover'd my ſenſes, I found myſelf undreſs'd, and a-bed, in the arms of the ſweet relenting murderer of my virginity, who hung mourning tenderly over me, and holding in his hands a cordial, which coming from the ſtill-dear author of ſo much pain! I could not refuſe: my eyes, however moiſten'd with tears, and languiſhingly turn'd upon him, ſeem'd to reproach him with his cruelty, and aſk him if ſuch were the rewards of love? but *Charles*, to whom I was now infinitely endear'd by his compleat triumph over a maidenhead, where he ſo little expected to find one, in tenderneſs to that pain which

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which he had put me to, in procuring himſelf the height of pleaſure, ſmother'd his exultation, and employ'd himſelf with ſo much ſweetneſs, ſo much warmth, to ſooth, to careſs, and comfort me in my ſoft complainings, that breath'd indeed more love than reſentment, that I preſently drown'd all ſenſe of pain in the pleaſure of ſeeing him, of thinking that I belong'd to him, he who now was the abſolute diſpoſer of my happineſs, and in one word, my fate.

The ſore was however too tender, the wound too bleeding freſh, for *Charles*'s good-nature to put my patience preſently to another tryal; but as I could not ſtir or walk a-croſs the room, he order'd the dinner to be brought to the bed-ſide, where it could not be otherwiſe than my getting down the wing of a fowl, and two or three glaſſes of wine, ſince it was my ador'd youth who both ſerv'd, and urged them on me, with that ſweet irreſiſtible authority with which love had inveſted him over me.

After

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After dinner, and every thing but the wine was taken away, *Charles* very impudently aſks a leave, he might read the grant of in my eyes, to come to-bed to me, and accordingly falls to undreſſing; which I could not ſee the progreſs of, without ſtrange emotions of fear and pleaſure.

He is now in bed with me the firſt time, and in broad day; but when thruſting up his own ſhirt, and my ſhift, he laid his naked glowing body to mine: ---- Oh inſupportable delight! oh ſuperhumane rapture! what pain could ſtand before a pleaſure ſo tranſporting? I felt no more the ſmart of my wounds below; but curling round him like the tendril of a vine, as if I fear'd any part of him ſhould be untouch'd or unpreſs'd by me; I return'd his ſtrenuous embraces and kiſſes with a fervour and guſt only known to true love, and which mere luſt could never riſe to.

Yes even at this time, that all the tiranny of the paſſions is fully over, and that

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that my veins roll no longer but a cold tranquil ſtream, the remembrance of thoſe paſſages that moſt affected me in my youth, ſtill chears, and refreſhes me: Let me proceed then —— my beauteous youth was now glew'd to me in all the folds and twiſts that we could make our bodies meet in: when no longer able to rein in the fierceneſs of refreſh'd deſires, he gives his ſteed the head, and gently inſinuating his thighs between mine, ſtopping my mouth with kiſſes of humid fire, makes a freſh irruption, and renewing his thruſts, pierces, tears, and forces his way up the torn tender folds of the ſheath, that yielded him admiſion with a ſmart little leſs ſevere than when the breach was firſt made: I ſtifled however my cries, and bore him with the paſſive fortitude of an heroine: ſoon his thruſts more and more furious, cheeks flush'd with a deeper ſcarlet, his eyes turn'dup in the fervent fit, and rolling nothing but their whites, ſome dying ſighs, and an agonizing ſhudder, announced the approaches of that extatic plea-

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pleaſure, I was yet in too much pain, to come in for my ſhare of.

Nor was it till after a few enjoyments had numb'd and blunted the ſenſe of the ſmart, and giving me to feel the titillating inſperſion of balſamic ſweets, drew from me the delicious return, and brought down all my paſſion, that I arriv'd at exceſs of pleaſure, through exceſs of pain; but when ſucceſſive engagements had broke and inur'd me, I began to enter into the true unallay'd reliſh of that pleaſure of pleaſures, when the warm guſh darts through all the raviſh'd inwards; what floods of bliſs! what melting tranſports! what agonies of delight! too fierce, too mighty for nature to ſuſtain: well has ſhe therefore, no doubt, provided the relief of a delicious momentary diſſolution, the approaches of which are intimated by a dear delirium, a ſweet thrill, on the point of emitting thoſe liquid ſweets in which enjoyment itſelf is drown'd, when one gives the languiſhing ſtretch-out, and dies at the diſcharge.

How

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How often, when the rage and tumult of my ſenſes has ſubſided after the melting flow, have I, in a tender meditation, aſk'd myſelf coolly the queſtion, if it was in nature for any of its creatures to be ſo happy as I was? or, what were all the fears of my future fate, put in the ſcale of one night's enjoyment of any thing ſo tranſcendently the taſte of my eyes, and heart, as that delicious, fond, matchleſs youth?

Thus we ſpent the whole afternoon, till ſupper-time, in a continued circle of love-delights, kiſſing, turtle-billing, toying, and all the reſt of the feaſt. At length ſupper was ſerved in, before which *Charles* had, for I do not know what reaſon, ſlipt his cloaths on, and ſitting down by the bed-ſide, we made table and table-cloath of the bed and ſheets, whilſt he ſuffer'd nobody to attend or ſerve but himſelf. He eat with a very good appetite, and ſeem'd charm'd to ſee me eat. For my part, I was ſo inchanted with my fortune, ſo tranſported with the com-

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compariſon of the delights I now ſwarm in, with all the inſipidity of my paſt ſcenes of life, that I thought them ſufficiently cheap at even the price of my ruin, or the riſque of their not laſting. The preſent poſſeſſion was all my little head could find room for.

We lay together that night, when after playing repeated prizes of pleaſure, nature overſpent, and ſatisfy'd, gave us up to the arms of ſleep: thoſe of my dear youth encircl'd me, the conſciouſneſs of which made even that ſleep more delicious.

Late in the morning I wak'd firſt; and obſerving my lover ſlept profoundly, ſoftly diſengag'd myſelf from his arms, ſcarcely daring to breath, for fear of ſhortening his repoſe: my cap, my hair, my ſhift were all in diſorder, from the rufflings I had undergone; and I took this opportunity to adjuſt, and ſet them as well as I could: whilſt every now and then, looking at the ſleeping youth with inconceiveable fondneſs and delight; and reflecting

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reflecting on all the pain he had put me to, tacitly own'd that the pleaſure had over-paid me for my ſufferings.

It was then broad day. I was ſitting up in the bed, the cloaths of which were all toſt, or roll'd off, by the unquietneſs of our motions, from the ſultry heat of the weather; nor could I refuſe myſelf a pleaſure that ſollicited me ſo irreſiſtibly, as this fair occaſion of feaſting my ſight with all thoſe treaſures of youthful beauty I had enjoy'd, and which lay now almoſt entirely naked, his ſhirt being truſt up in a perfect wiſp, which the warmth of the room and ſeaſon made me eaſy about the conſequence of. I hung over him enamour'd indeed! and devour'd all his naked charms with only two eyes, when I could have wiſh'd them at leaſt a hundred, for the fuller enjoyment of the gaze.

Oh! could I paint his figure as I ſee it now ſtill preſent to my tranſported imagination! a whole length of an all-perfect manly beauty in full view. Think of a face

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face without a fault, glowing with all the opening bloom, and vernal freſhneſs of an age, in which beauty is of either ſex, and which the firſt down over his upper-lip ſcarce began to diſtinguiſh.

The parting of the double ruby-pout of his lips, ſeem'd to exhale an air ſweeter and purer than what it drew in: Ah! what violence did it not coſt me to refrain the ſo tempted kiſs?

Then a neck exquiſitely turn'd, grac'd behind and on the ſides with his hair playing freely in natural ringlets, connected his head to a body of the moſt perfect form, and of the moſt vigorous contexture, in which all the ſtrength of manhood was conceal'd and ſoften'd to appearance, by the delicacy of his complexion, the ſmoothneſs of his ſkin, and the plumpneſs of his fleſh.

The plat-form of his ſnow-white boſom, that was laid out in a manly proportion, preſented on the vermillion ſummet of each pap, the idea of a roſe about to blow.

Nor

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Nor did his ſhirt hinder from obſerving that ſimmetry of his limbs, that exactneſs of ſhape, in the fall of it towards the loins, where the waiſt ends, and the rounding ſwell of the hips commences, where the ſkin, ſleek, ſmooth, and dazzling white, burniſhes on the ſtretch over firm, plump-ripe fleſh, that crimped and run into dimples at the leaſt preſſure, or that the touch could not reſt upon, but ſlid over as on the ſurface of the moſt poliſh'd ivory.

His thighs finely faſhion'd, and with a florid gloſſy roundneſs gradually tapering away to the knee, ſeem'd pillars worthy to ſupport that beauteous frame, at the bottom of which I could not without ſome remains of terrour, ſome tender emotions too, fix my eyes on that terrible ſpit-fire machine, which had not ſo long before, with ſuch fury broke into, torn, and almoſt ruin'd thoſe ſoft tender parts of mine, which had not yet done ſmarting with the effects of its rage; but behold it now! creſt-fall'n, reclining its half-

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half-capt vermillion head over one of his thighs, quiet, pliant, and to all appearance incapable of the miſchiefs and cruelty it had committed. Then the beautiful growth of the hair, in ſhort and ſoft curls round its root, its whiteneſs, branch'd veins, the ſupple ſoftneſs of the ſhaft, as it lay foreſhorten'd, roll'd and ſhrunk up into a ſquob thickneſs, languid, and born up from between the thighs, by its globular appendage, that wondrous treaſure-bag of nature's ſweets, which rivell'd round, and purs'd up in the only wrinkles that are known to pleaſe, perfected the proſpect; and all together form'd the moſt intereſting moving picture in nature, and ſurely infinitely ſuperior to thoſe nudities furniſh'd by the painters, ſtatuaries, or any art, which are purchas'd at immenſe prices, whilſt the ſight of them in actual life is ſcarce ſovereignly taſted by any but the few whom nature has endowed with a fire of imagination, warmly pointed by a truth of judgment to the ſpring-head, the originals of beauty of nature's

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nature's unequall'd compoſition, above all the imitations of art, or the reach of wealth to pay their price.

But every thing muſt have an end. A motion made by this angelic youth, in the liſtleſſneſs of going-off ſleep, replac'd his ſhirt and cloaths in a poſture that ſhut up that treaſury from longer view.

I lay down then, and carrying my hands to that part of me, in which the objects juſt ſeen had begun to raiſe a mutiny, that prevail'd over the ſmart of them, my fingers now open'd themſelves an eaſy paſſage; but long I had not the time to conſider the wide difference *there*, between the maid, and the now finiſh'd woman, before *Charles* wak'd, and turning towards me, kindly enquir'd how I had reſted? and ſcarce giving me time to anſwer, imprinted on my lips one of his burning rapture-kiſſes, which darted a flame to my heart, that from thence radiated to every part of me: and preſently, as if he had proudly meant revenge for the ſurvey I had ſmuggled of all his naked

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naked beauties, he spurns off the bed-cloaths, and trussing up my shift as high as it would go, took his turn to feast his eyes with all the gifts nature had bestow'd on my person; his busy hands too rang'd intemperantly over every part of me. The delicious austerity, and hardness of my yet unripe budding breasts, the whiteness and firmness of my flesh, the freshness and regularity of my features, the harmony of my limbs, all seem'd to confirm him in his satisfaction with his bargain: but, when curious to explore the havoc he had made in the tender center of his over-fierce attack, he not only directed his hands there, but with a pillow put under, placed me favourably for his wanton purpose of inspection; then, who can express the fire his eyes glisten'd, his hands glow'd with? whilst sighs of pleasure, and tender broken exclamations were all the praises he could utter. By this time, his machine stiffly risen at me, lifted and bore the flap of his shirt out, which presently fiercely removing, gave me to see

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it in its higheſt ſtate and bravery: He feels it himſelf, ſeems pleas'd at its condition, and, ſmiling loves and graces, ſeizes one of my hands, and carries it, with a gentle compulſion, to this pride of nature, and its richeſt maſter-piece.

I ſtruggling faintly, could not help feeling what I could not graſp, a column of the whiteſt ivory, beautifully ſtreak'd with blue veins, and carrying, fully uncapt, a head of the livelieſt vermillion: no horn could be harder, or ſtiffer; yet no velvet more ſmooth or delicious to the touch; preſently he guided my hand lower, to that part, in which nature and pleaſure keep their ſtores in concert, ſo aptly faſten'd and hung on to the root of their firſt inſtrument and miniſter, that not improperly he might be ſtil'd their purſe-bearer too: there he made me feel, diſtinctly, through their ſoft cover, the contents, a pair of roundiſh balls, that ſeem'd to play within, and elude all preſſure, but the tendereſt, from without.

But

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But now this viſit of my ſoft warm hand, in thoſe ſo ſenſible parts, had put every thing into ſuch ungovernable fury, that diſdaining all further preluding, and taking the advantage of my commodious poſture, he made the ſtorm fall where I ſcarce patiently expected, and where he was ſure to lay it: preſently then I felt the ſtiff interſertion between the yielding divided lips of the wound now open for life; where the narrowneſs no longer put me to intollerable pain, and afforded my lover no more difficulty than what heighten'd his pleaſure, in the ſtrict embrace of that tender warm ſheath, round the inſtrument it was ſo deliciouſly adjuſted to, and which, now caſed home, ſo gorged me with pleaſure, that it perfectly ſuffocated me, and took away my breath: then the killing thruſts! the unnumber'd kiſſes! every one of which was a joy inexpreſſible! and that joy loſt in a crowd of yet greater bliſſes; but this was a diſorder too violent in nature to laſt long: the veſſels ſo ſtir'd, and intenſely

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heated, ſoon boil'd over, and for that time put out the fire: mean while all this dalliance and diſport had ſo far conſum'd the morning, that it became a kind of neceſſity to lay breakfaſt and dinner into one.

In our calmer intervals *Charles* gave the following account of himſelf, every tittle of which was true. He was the only ſon of a father, who having a ſmall poſt in the revenue, rather over-liv'd his income, and had given this young gentleman a very ſlender education: no profeſſion had he bred him up to, but deſign'd to provide for him in the army, by purchaſing him an enſign's commiſſion; that is to ſay, provided he could raiſe the money, or procure it by intereſt, either of which clauſes was rather to be wiſh'd than hop'd for by him: on no better a plan, however, than this, had this improvident father ſuffer'd this youth, and a youth of great promiſe, to run up to the age of manhood, or near it at leaſt, in next to idleneſs, and had beſides taken

no

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no sort of pains to give him even the common premonitions against the vices of the town, and the dangers of all sorts which wait the unexperienc'd, and unwary, in it. He liv'd at home, and at discretion, with his father, who himself kept a mistress, and for the rest, provided *Charles* did not ask him for money, he was indolently kind to him: he might lie out when he pleas'd: any excuse would serve, and even his reprimands were so slight, that they carried with them rather an air of connivance at the fault, than any serious controul or constraint. But, to supply his calls for money, *Charles*, whose mother was dead, had, by her side, a grand mother who doated upon, and did not a little help-spoil him. She had a considerable annuity to live upon, and very regularly parted with every shilling she could spare, to this darling of her's, to the no little heart-burn of his father, who was vex'd, not that she by this means fed his son's extravagance; but that she preferred *Charles* to himself; and we shall too

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ſoon ſee what a fatal turn ſuch a mercenary jealouſy could operate on the breaſt of a father.

Charles was however, by the means of his grand-mother's laviſh fondneſs, very ſufficiently enabl'd to keep a miſtreſs ſo eaſily contented as my love made me; and my good fortune, for ſuch I muſt ever call it, threw me in his way, in the manner above related, juſt as he was on the look-out for one.

As to his temper, the even ſweetneſs of it made him ſeem born for domeſtic happineſs: tender, naturally polite, and gentle-manner'd; it could never be his fault, if ever jars, or animoſities ruffled a calm he was ſo qualify'd every way to maintain or reſtore. Without thoſe great or ſhining qualities that conſtitute a genius, or are fit to make a noiſe in the world, he had all thoſe humble ones that compoſe the ſofter ſocial merit: plain common ſenſe, ſet off with every grace of modeſty and good-nature, made him, if not admir'd, what is much happier, univerſally

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verſally belov'd and eſteem'd. But, as nothing, but the beauties of his perſon had at firſt attracted my regard, and fix'd my paſſion, neither was I then a judge of that internal merit, which I had afterward full occaſion to diſcover, and which perhaps, in that ſeaſon of giddineſs and levity, would have touch'd my heart very little, had it been lodg'd in a perſon leſs the delight of my eyes, and idol of my ſenſes. But to return to our ſituation.—

After dinner, which we eat a-bed in a moſt voluptuous diſorder, *Charles* got up, and taking a paſſionate leave of me for a few hours, he went to town, where concerting matters with a young ſharp lawyer, they went together to my late venerable miſtreſs's, from whence I had but the day before made my elopement, and with whom he was determin'd to ſettle accounts in a manner that ſhould cut off all after-reckonings from that quarter.

Accordingly, they went; but by the way, the Templar, his friend, on think-

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ing over *Charles*'s information, ſaw reaſon to give their viſit another turn, and inſtead of offering ſatisfaction, to demand it.

On being let in, the girls of the houſe flock'd round *Charles*, whom they knew, and from the earlineſs of my eſcape, and their perfect ignorance of his ever having ſo much as ſeen me, not having the leaſt ſuſpicion of his being acceſſary to my flight, they were, in their way, *making up* to him; and as to his companion, they took him probably for a freſh cully: but the Templar ſoon check'd their forwardneſs by enquiring for the old lady, with whom he ſaid, with a grave judge-like countenance, that he had ſome buſineſs to ſettle.

Madam was immediately ſent for down, and the ladies being deſir'd to clear the room, the lawyer aſk'd her ſeverely if ſhe did not know, or had not decoy'd, under pretence of hiring as a ſervant, a young girl, juſt come out of the country, called *Frances* or *Fanny Hill*, deſcribing me withall as particularly as he could from *Charles*'s deſcription.

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It is peculiar to vice to tremble at the enquiries of juſtice: and Mrs. *Brown*, whoſe conſcience was not entirely clear upon my account, as knowing as ſhe was of the town, as hackney'd as ſhe was in buffing through all the dangers of her vocation, could not help being alarm'd at the queſtion, eſpecially when he went on to talk of a Juſtice of Peace, *Newgate*, the *Old Baily*, Indictments for keeping a diſorderly houſe, Pillory, Carting, and the whole proceſs of that nature: She who, it is likely, imagin'd I had lodg'd an information againſt her houſe, look'd extremely blank, and began to make a thouſand proteſtations, and excuſes. However, to abridge, they brought away triumphantly my box of things, which had ſhe not been under an awe, ſhe might have diſputed with them; and not only that, but a clearance and diſcharge of any demands on the houſe, at the expence of no more than a bowl of arrack-punch, the treat of which, together with the choice of the houſe-conveniencies, was of-

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fer'd, and not accepted. *Charles* all the time acted the chance-companion of the lawyer who had brought him there, as he knew the houſe, and appear'd in no wiſe intereſted in the iſſue, but he had the collateral pleaſure of hearing all I had told him verified, ſo far as the bawd's fears would give her leave to enter into my hiſtory, which, if one may gueſs by the compoſition ſhe ſo readily came into, were not ſmall.

Phœbe, my kind tutreſs *Phœbe*, was at that time gone out, perhaps in ſearch of me, or their cook'd up ſtory had not, it is probable, paſs'd ſo ſmoothly.

This negociaton had however taken up ſome time, which would have appear'd much longer to me, left as I was in a ſtrange houſe, if the landlady, a motherly ſort of woman, to whom *Charles* had liberally recommended me, had not come up and born me company: We drank tea, and her chat help'd to paſs away the time very agreeably, ſince he was our theme; but as the evening deep-

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ned, and the hour ſet for his return was elaps'd, I could not diſpel the gloom of impatience, and tender fears which gather'd upon me, and which our timid ſex are apt to feel in proporion to their love,

Long however I did not ſuffer, the ſight of him over-paid me; and the ſoft reproach I had prepar'd for him, expir'd before it reach'd my lips.

I was ſtill a-bed, yet unable to uſe my legs otherwiſe than aukwardly, and *Charles* flew to me, catches me in his arms, raiſed, and extending mine to meet his dear embrace, and gives me an account, interrupted by many a ſweet parentheſis of kiſſes, of the ſucceſs of his meaſures.

I could not help laughing at the fright the old woman had been put into, which my ignorance, and indeed my want of innocence, had far from prepar'd me for beſpeaking: She had, it ſeems, apprehended that I had fled for ſhelter to ſome relation I had recollected

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in town, on my diſlike of their ways and proceeding towards me, and that this application came from thence. For, as *Charles* had rightly judg'd, not one neighbour had, at that ſtill hour, ſeen the circumſtance of my eſcape into the coach, or at leaſt notic'd him; neither had any in the houſe the leaſt hint or clue of ſuſpicion of my having ſpoke to him, much leſs of my having clapt up ſuch a ſudden bargain with a perfect ſtranger: Thus the greateſt improbability is not always what we ſhould moſt miſtruſt.

We ſupp'd with all the gayety of two young giddy creatures at the top of their deſires; and as I had moſt joyfully given up to *Charles* the whole charge of my future happineſs, I thought of nothing beyond the exquiſite pleaſure of poſſeſſing him.

He came to bed in due time, and this ſecond night, the pain being pretty well over, I taſted, in full draughts, all the tranſports of perfect enjoyment. I ſwam, I bath'd in bliſs, till both fell faſt aſleep, through

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through the natural consequences of satisfi'd desires, and appeas'd flames; nor did we wake but to renew'd raptures.

Thus making the most of love, and life, did we stay at this lodging in *Chelsea* about ten days, in which time *Charles* took care to give his excursions from home a colourable gloss, and to keep his footing with his fond, indulgent grandmother, from whom he drew constant and sufficient supplies for the charge I was to him, and which was very trifling, in comparison with his former less regular course of pleasures.

Charles remov'd me then to a private ready-furnish'd lodging in *D——street*, St. *James*'s, where he paid half a guinea a week for two rooms and a closet on the second floor, which he had been some time looking out for, and was more convenient for the frequency of his visits, than where he had at first plac'd me, in a house which I cannot say but I left with regret, as it was infinitely endear'd to me by the first possession of my *Charles*, and the

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the circumſtance of looſing there that jewel which can never be twice loſt. The landlord however had no reaſon to complain of any thing, but of a procedure in *Charles* too liberal not to make him regret his loſs of us.

Arriv'd at our new lodgings, I remember I thought them extremely fine, though ordinary enough even at that price; but had it been a dungeon that *Charles* had brought me to, his preſence would have made it a little *Verſailles*,

The landlady, Mrs. *Jones*, waited on us to our apartment, and with great volubility of tongue explain'd to us all its conveniences, "that her own maid ſhould "wait on us, —— that the beſt of qua- "lity had lodg'd at her houſe, —— that "her firſt floor was let to a foreign ſe- "cretary of an embaſſy, and his lady, — "that I look'd like a very good-natur'd "lady ———." At the word lady, I bluſh'd out of flatter'd vanity: this was too ſtrong for a girl of my condition: for though *Charles* had had the precau-

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precaution of dreſſing me in a leſs taudry flaunting ſtile than were the cloaths I eſcap'd to him in, and of paſſing me for his wife that he had ſecretly married, and kept private, (the old ſtory) on account of his friends. I dare ſwear this appear'd extremely apocryphal to a woman who knew the town ſo well as ſhe did; but that was the leaſt of her concern; It was impoſſible to be leſs ſcruple-ridden than ſhe was: and the advantage of letting her rooms being her ſole object, the truth itſelf would have far from ſcandaliz'd her, or broke her bargain.

A ſketch of her picture and perſonal hiſtory will diſpoſe you to account for the part ſhe is to act in my concerns.

She was about forty ſix years old, tall, meager, red-hair'd, with one of thoſe trivial ordinary faces you meet with every where, and go about unheeded and unmention'd. In her youth ſhe had been kept by a gentleman, who dying, left her forty pounds a year during her life, in conſideration of a daughter he had by her; which

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which daughter, at the age of seventeen, she sold, for not a very considerable sum neither, to a gentleman, who was going an *Envoy* abroad, and took his purchase with him, where he us'd her with the utmost tenderness, and it is thought was secretly married to her: but had constantly made a point of her not keeping up the least correspondence with a mother base enough to make a market of her own flesh and blood. However, as she had no nature, nor indeed any passion but that of money, this gave her no further uneasiness, than, as she thereby lost a handle of squeezing presents, or other after-advantages out of the bargain. Indifferent then by nature or constitution to every other pleasure but that of encreasing the lump, by any means whatever, she commenc'd a kind of private procuress, for which she was not amiss fitted by her grave decent appearance, and sometimes did a job in the match-making way; in short there was nothing that appear'd to her under the shape of gain, that she would not have

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undertaken. She knew moſt of the ways of the town, having not only herſelf been upon, but kept up conſtant intelligences in it, dealing, beſides her practice in promoting a harmony between the two ſexes, in private pawn-broking, and other profitable ſecrets. She rented the houſe ſhe liv'd in, and made the moſt of it by letting it out in lodgings; and though ſhe was worth, at leaſt, near three or four thouſand pounds, ſhe would not allow herſelf even the neceſſaries of life, and pinn'd her ſubſiſtence entirely on what ſhe could ſqueeze out of her lodgers.

When ſhe ſaw ſuch a young pair come under her roof, her immediate notions doubtleſs were how ſhe ſhould make the moſt money of us, by every means that money might be made, and which ſhe rightly judg'd our ſituation and inexperience would ſoon beget her occaſions of.

In this hopeful ſanctuary, and under the clutches of this harpy, did we pitch our reſidence. It will not be mighty material to you, or very pleaſant to me, to enter into a detail

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detail of all the petty cut-throat ways and means with which ſhe us'd to fleece us; all which *Charles* indolently choſe to bear with, rather than take the trouble of removing, the difference of the expence being ſcarce attended to by a young gentleman who had no ideas of ſtint, or even œconomy, and a raw country girl who knew nothing of the matter.

Here, however, under the wings of my ſovereignly belov'd, did I ſlow the moſt delicious hours of my life; my *Charles* I had, and in him every thing my fond heart could wiſh or deſire. He carried me to Plays, Operas, Maſquerades, and every diverſion of the Town, all which pleas'd me indeed, but pleas'd me infinitely the more for his being with me, and explaining every thing to me, and enjoying perhaps the natural impreſſions of ſurprize and admiration, which ſuch ſights, at the firſt never fail to excite in a *Country Girl* new to the delights of them: but to me they ſenſibly prov'd the power and full dominion of the ſole paſſion of my heart

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heart over me, a paſſion in which ſoul and body were concenter'd, and left me no room for any other reliſh of life but love.

As to the men I ſaw at thoſe places, or at any other, they ſuffer'd ſo much in the compariſon my eyes made of them with my all-perfect *Adonis*, that I had not the infidelity even of one wandering thought to reproach myſelf with upon his account. He was the univerſe to me, and all that was not him, was nothing to me.

My love, in fine, was ſo exceſſive, that it arriv'd at annihilating every ſuggeſtion or kindling ſpark of jealouſy, for one idea only tending that way gave me ſuch exquiſite torment, that my ſelf-love, and dread of worſe than death, made me for ever renounce and defy it: nor had I indeed occaſion, for were I to enter here on a recital of ſeveral inſtances wherein *Charles* ſacrific'd to me women of greater importance than I dare hint, (which conſidering his form was no ſuch wonder), I might indeed give you full proof of his unſhaken conſtancy to me, but would not you

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you accuſe me of warming up again a feaſt, that my vanity ought long ago to have been ſatisfy'd with?

In our ceſſations from active pleaſure, *Charles* fram'd himſelf one, in inſtructing me, as far as his own lights reach'd; in a great many points of life, that I was, in conſequence of my no-education, perfectly ignorant of: nor did I ſuffer one word to fall in vain from the mouth of my lovely teacher: I hung on every ſyllable he utter'd, and receiv'd as oracles all he ſaid: whilſt kiſſes were all the interruption. I could not refuſe myſelf the pleaſure of admitting, from lips that breath'd more than *Arabian* ſweetneſs.

I was in a little time enabl'd, by the progreſs I had made, to prove the deep regard I had paid to all that he had ſaid to me; repeating it to him almoſt word for word; and to ſhow that I was not entirely the parrot, but that I reflected upon, that I enter'd into it, I join'd my own comments, and aſk'd him queſtions of explanation.

My

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My country accent, and the ruſticity of my gait, manners, and deportment, began now ſenſibly to wear off, ſo quick was my obſervation, and ſo efficacious my deſire of growing every day worthier of his heart.

As to money, though he brought me conſtantly all he receiv'd, it was with difficulty he even got me to give it room in my bureau, and what cloaths I had, he could prevail on me to accept on, on no other foot, than that of pleaſing him by the greater neatneſs in my dreſs, beyond which I had no ambition; I could have made a pleaſure of the greateſt toil, and work'd my fingers to the bone, with joy, to have ſupported him: gueſs then, if I could harbour any idea of being burdenſome to him: and this diſintereſted turn in me was ſo unaffected, ſo much the dictate of my heart, that *Charles* could not but feel it, and if he did not love me as much as I did him, (which was the conſtant and only matter of ſweet contention between us) he manag'd ſo at leaſt as to give me the ſatiſ-

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ſatisfaction of believing it impoſſible for man to be more tender, more true, more faithful than he was.

Our landlady, Mrs. *Jones*, came frequently up to my apartment from whence I never ſtirr'd on any pretext without *Charles:* nor was it long before ſhe worm'd out, without much art, the ſecret of our having cheated the church of a ceremony; and in courſe of the terms we liv'd together upon: a circumſtance which far from diſpleas'd her, conſidering the deſigns ſhe had upon me, and which, alas! ſhe will have too ſoon room to carry into execution. But in the mean time her own experience of life, let her ſee that any attempt however indirect, or diſguis'd, to divert or break, at leaſt preſently, ſo ſtrong a cement of hearts as ours was, could only end in loſing two lodgers, of whom ſhe made very competent advantages, if either of us came to ſmoak her commiſſion, for a commiſſion ſhe had from one of her cuſtomers, either to debauch or get me away from my keeper at any rate.

But

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But the barbarity of my fate, ſoon ſav'd her the taſk of diſuniting us. I had now been eleven months with this life of my life, which had paſt in one continu'd rapid ſtream of delight: but nothing ſo violent was ever made to laſt. I was about three months gone with child by him, a circumſtance which would have added to his tenderneſs, had he ever left me room to believe it could receive an addition, when the mortal, the unexpected blow of ſeparation fell upon us. I ſhall gallop poſt over the particulars, which I ſhudder yet to think of, and cannot to this inſtant reconcile to myſelf how, or by what means I could outlive it.

Two live-long days had I linger'd through, without hearing from him, I who breath'd, who exiſted but in him, and had never yet ſeen twenty-four hours paſs without ſeeing or hearing from him. The third day my impatience was ſo ſtrong, my alarms had been ſo ſevere, that I perfectly ſicken'd with them, and being unable to ſupport the ſhock longer, I ſunk upon

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upon the bed, and ringing for Mrs. *Jones*, who had far from comforted me under my anxieties, she came up and I had scarce breath and spirit enough to find words to beg of her if she would save my life, to fall upon some means of finding out instantly what was become of its only prop, and comfort: She pity'd me in a way that rather sharpen'd my affliction than suspended it, and went out upon this commission.

For she had not to go to *Charles*'s house, who liv'd but at an easy distance, in one of the streets that run into *Covent-Garden*. There she went into a public-house, and from thence sent for a maid servant, whose name I had given her, as the propereſt to inform her.

The maid readily came, and as readily, when Mrs. *Jones* enquir'd of her what was become of Mr. *Charles*, or whether he was gone out of town, acquainted her with the disposal of her master's son, which the very day after was no secret to the servants; such sure measures had he taken for the most cruel punishment of his child, for having

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having more intereſt with his grand-mother than he had, though he made uſe of a pretence, plauſible enough to get rid of him in this ſecret and abrupt manner, for fear her fondneſs ſhould have interpos'd a bar to his leaving *England*, and proceeding on a voyage he had concerted for him, which pretext was, that it was indiſpenſably neceſſary to ſecure a conſiderable inheritance, that devolv'd to him by the death of a rich merchant (his own brother) at one of the factories in the South-Seas, of which he had lately receiv'd advice, together with a copy of the Will.

In conſequence of which reſolution to ſend away his ſon, he had, unknown to him, made the neceſſary preparations for fitting him out, ſtruch a bargain with the captain of a ſhip, whoſe punctual execution of his orders he had ſecured by his intereſt with his principal owner and patron, and in ſhort concerted his meaſures ſo ſecretly and effectually, that whilſt his ſon thought he was going down the river that would take him a few hours, he was ſtopt on

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board of a ſhip, debar'd from writing, and more ſtrictly watch'd than a ſtate-criminal.

Thus was the idol of my ſoul torn from me, and forc'd on a long voyage without taking leave of one friend, or receiving one line of comfort, except a dry explanation and inſtructions from his father how to proceed, when he ſhould arrive at his deſtin'd port, encloſing withal ſome letters of recommendation to a factor there: all theſe particulars I did not learn minutely till ſome time after.

The maid at the ſame time added, that ſhe was ſure this uſage of her ſweet young maſter, would be the death of his grandmama, as indeed it prov'd true, for the old lady on hearing it, did not ſurvive the news a whole month, and as her fortune conſiſted in an annuity, out of which ſhe had laid up no reſerves, ſhe left nothing worth mentioning to her ſo fatally envied darling, but abſolutely refus'd to ſee his father before ſhe died.

When Mrs. *Jones* return'd, and I obſerv'd her looks, they ſeem'd ſo unconcern'd and

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and even neareſt to pleas'd, that I half flatter'd myſelf, ſhe was going to ſet my tortur'd heart at eaſe, by bringing me good news; but this indeed was a cruel deluſion of hope: the barbarian, with all the coolneſs imaginable, ſtabs me to the heart, in telling me ſuccinctly that he was ſent away at leaſt on a four years voyage, (here ſhe ſtretch'd maliciouſly) and that I could not expect in reaſon ever to ſee him again: and all this with ſuch pregnant circumſtances, that I could not eſcape giving them credit, as in general they were indeed too true!

She had hardly finiſh'd her report, before I fainted away, and after ſeveral ſucceſſive fits, all the while wild and ſenſeleſs, I miſcarried of the dear pledge of my *Charles*'s love: but the wretched never die when it is fitteſt that they ſhould die, and women are hard-liv'd to a proverb.

The cruel and intereſted care taken to recover me, ſav'd an odious life: which inſtead of the happineſs and joys it had overflow'd in, all of a ſudden preſented no view

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before me of any thing but the depth of miſery, horror, and the ſharpeſt affliction.

Thus I lay ſix weeks, in the ſtruggles of youth and conſtitution againſt the friendly efforts of death, which I conſtantly invok'd to my relief and deliverance, but which proving too weak for my wiſh, I recover'd at length, but into a ſtate of ſtupefaction and deſpair that threaten'd me with a loſs of my ſenſes, and a mad-houſe.

Time, however, that great comforter in ordinary, began to aſſuage the violence of my ſuffering, and to numb my feeling of them. My health return'd to me, though I ſtill retain'd an air of grief, dejection, and langour, which taking off from the ruddineſs of my country complexion, render'd it rather more delicate and affecting.

The landlady had all this time officiouſly provided, and ſeen that I wanted for nothing, and as ſoon as ſhe ſaw me retriev'd into a condition of anſwering her purpoſe; one day after we had dined together, ſhe congratulated me on my recovery,

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recovery, the merit of which ſhe took entirely to herſelf, and all this by way of introduction to a moſt terrible, and ſcurvy epilogue: "You are now, ſays ſhe, miſs "*Fanny*, tolerably well, and you are very "welcome to ſtay in theſe lodgings as long "as you pleaſe, you ſee I have aſk'd you "for nothing this long time, but truely I "have a call to make up a ſum of money "which muſt be anſwer'd"; and, with that, preſents me with a bill for arrears of rent, diet, apothecary's charges, nurſe, *&c.* ſum total twenty-three pounds ſeventeen and ſix-pence: towards diſcharging of which I had not in the world (which ſhe well knew) more than ſeven guineas, left by chance of my dear *Charles*'s common ſtock with me: at the ſame time ſhe deſir'd me to tell her what courſe I would take for payment. I burſt out into a flood of tears, and told her my condition, that I would ſell what few cloaths I had, and that for the reſt, would pay her as ſoon as poſſible: but my diſtreſs being favourable to her views, only ſtiffen'd her the more.

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—She told me very coolly, that she was indeed sorry for my misfortunes, but that she must do herself justice, though it would go to the very heart of her to send such a tender young creature to prison: —— at the word prison! every drop of my blood chill'd, and my fright acted so strongly upon me, that turning as pale and faint as a criminal at the first sight of his place of execution, I was on the point of swooning: my landlady, who wanted only to terrify me to a certain point, and not to throw me into a state of body inconsistent with her designs upon it, began to sooth me again, and told me, in a tone compos'd to more pity and gentleness, that it would be my own fault if she was forc'd to proceed to such extremities, but she believ'd there was a friend to be found in the world, who would make up matters to both our satisfactions, and that she would bring him to drink tea with us that very afternoon, when she hop'd we would come to a right understanding in our affairs. To all this, not a word of answer: I sate mute, confounded, terrify'd.

Mrs.

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Mrs. *Jones*, however, judging rightly that it was her time to ſtrike whilſt the impreſſions were ſo ſtrong upon me, left me to myſelf, and to all the terrors of an imagination, wounded to death by the idea of going to a priſon, and, from a principle of ſelf-preſervation, ſnatching at every glimpſe of redemption from it.

In this ſituation I ſat near half an hour, ſwallow'd up in grief and deſpair, when my landlady came in, and obſerving a death-like dejection in my countenance, ſtill in purſuance of her plan, put on a falſe pity, and bidding me be of good heart, things ſhe ſaid would not be ſo bad as I imagin'd, if I would be but my own friend: and cloſed with telling me ſhe had brought a very honourable gentleman to drink tea with me, who would give me the beſt advice how to get rid of all my troubles: upon which, without waiting for a reply, ſhe goes out, and returns with this very honourable gentleman, whoſe very honourable procureſs ſhe had been on this as well as other occaſions.

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The gentleman on his entering the room made me a very civil bow, which I had ſcarce ſtrength, or preſence of mind enough to return a curtſey to: when the landlady taking upon her to do all the honours of this firſt interview; for I had never, that I remember'd, (ſeen the gentleman before) ſets a chair for him, and another for herſelf. All this while not a word on either ſide: a ſtupid ſtare was all the face I could put on this ſtrange viſit.

The tea was made, and the landlady, unwilling, I ſuppoſe, to loſe any time, obſerving my ſilence and ſhyneſs before this entire ſtranger, "come miſs *Fanny* (ſays ſhe in a coarſe familiar ſtyle, and tone of authority) "hold up your head child, and "do not let ſorrow ſpoil that pretty face "of yours: What! ſorrows are only for a "time: Come, be free, here is a worthy "gentleman who has heard of your miſ-"fortunes, and is willing to ſerve you—— "you muſt be better acquainted with him, "do not you now ſtand upon your punctili-"o's, and this and that, but make your "market while you may. At

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At this ſo delicate, and eloquent harangue, the gentleman, who ſaw I look'd frighted and amaz'd, and indeed incapable of anſwering, took her up for breaking things in ſo abrupt a manner, as rather to ſhock than incline me to an acceptance of the good he intended me: then addreſſing himſelf to me, told me he was perfectly acquainted with my whole ſtory, and every circumſtance of my diſtreſs, which he own'd was a cruel plunge for one of my youth and beauty to fall into: —— that he had long taken a liking to my perſon, for which he appeal'd to Mrs. *Jones*, there preſent, but finding me ſo deeply engag'd to another, he had loſt all hopes of ſucceeding, till he heard the ſudden reverſe of fortune that had happen'd to me, on which he had given particular orders to my landlady to ſee that I ſhould want for nothing, and that had he not been forc'd abroad to the *Hague* on affairs he could not refuſe himſelf to, he would himſelf have attended me during my ſickneſs; —— that on his return, which was but

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the day before, he had, on learning my recovery, desir'd my landlady's good offices to introduce him to me, and was as angry at least, as I was shock'd, at the manner in which she had conducted herself towards obtaining him that happiness, but that to show me how much he disown'd her procedure, and how far he was from taking an ungenerous advantage of my situation, and from exacting any security for my gratitude, he would, before my face, that instant, discharge my debt entirely to my landlady, and give me her receipt in full, after which I should be at liberty either to reject or grant his suit, as he was much above putting any force upon my inclinations.

Whilst he was exposing his sentiments to me, I ventur'd just to look up to him, and observe his figure, which was that of a very well looking gentleman, well made, of about forty, dress't in a suit of plain cloaths, with a large diamond ring on one of his fingers, the lustre of which play'd in my eyes, as he wav'd his hand in talk-

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talking, and rais'd my notions of his importance: in ſhort, he might paſs for what is commonly call'd a comely black man, with an air of diſtinction natural to his birth and condition.

To all his ſpeeches, however, I anſwer'd only in tears that flow'd plentifully to my relief, and choaking up my voice, excus'd me from ſpeaking, very luckily, for I ſhould not have known what to ſay.

The ſight however mov'd him, as he afterwards told me, irreſiſtibly, and by way of giving me ſome reaſon to be leſs powerfully afflicted, he drew out his purſe, and calling for pen and ink, which the landlady was prepar'd for, paid her every farthing of her demand, independant of a liberal gratification, which was to follow unknown to me, and taking a receipt in full, very tenderly forc'd me to ſecure it, by guiding my hand, which he had thruſt it into, ſo as to make me paſſively put it into my pocket.

Still I continued in a ſtate of ſtupidity, or melancholic deſpair, as my ſpirits could not

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not yet recover from the violent ſhocks they had receiv'd, and the commode landlady had actually left the room, and me alone with this ſtrange gentleman before I obſerv'd it, and then obſerv'd it without alarm, for I was now lifeleſs, and indifferent to every thing.

The gentleman, however, no novice in affairs of this ſort, drew near me, and under the pretence of comforting me, firſt with his handkerchief dried my tears as they ran down my cheeks: preſently, he ventur'd to kiſs me: on my part neither reſiſtance nor compliance; I ſat ſtock-ſtill; and now looking on myſelf as bought by the payment that had been tranſacted before me, I did not care what became of my wretched body: and wanting life, ſpirits, or courage to oppoſe the leaſt ſtruggle, even that of the modeſtyof my ſex, I ſuffer'd tamely whatever the gentleman pleaſed, who proceeding inſenſibly from freedom to freedom, inſinuated his hand between my handkerchief and boſom, which he handled at diſcretion: finding thus no repulſe,

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repulse and that every thing favour'd, beyond expectation, the completion of his desires, he took me in his arms, and bore me without life or motion to the bed, on which laying me gently down, and having me at what advantage he pleas'd, I did not so much as know what he was about, till recovering from a trance of lifeless insensibility, I found him buried in me, whilst I lay passive and innocent of the least sensation of pleasure: a death cold corpse could scarce have had less life or sense in it. As soon as he had thus pacified a passion, which had too little respected the condition I was in, he got off, and after recomposing the disorder of my cloaths, employ'd himself with the utmost tenderness to calm the transports of remorse and madness at myself, with which I was seiz'd, too late I confess, for having suffer'd on that bed the embraces of an utter stranger: I tore my hair, wrung my hands, and beat my breast like a mad-woman: but when my new master, for in that light I then view'd him, applied himself

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himſelf to appeaſe me, as my whole rage was levell'd at myſelf, no part of which I thought myſelf permitted to aim at him, I begg'd him with more ſubmiſſion than anger, to leave me alone, that I might at leaſt enjoy my affliction in quiet; this he poſitively refus'd, for fear, as he pretended, that I ſhould do myſelf a miſchief.

Violent paſſions ſeldom laſt long, and thoſe of women leaſt of any. A dead ſtill calm ſucceeded this ſtorm, which ended in a profuſe ſhower of tears.

Had any one, but a few inſtants before, told me that I ſhould have ever known any man but *Charles*, I would have ſpit in his face, or had I been offer'd infinitely a greater ſum of money than that I ſaw paid for me, I had ſpurn'd the propoſal in cold blood: but our virtues and our vices depend too much on our circumſtances; unexpectedly beſet as I was, betray'd by a mind weakned by a long ſevere affliction, and ſtunn'd with the terrors of a goal, my defeat will appear the more excuſable, ſince I certainly was not preſent at,

or

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or a party in any sense, to it. However, as the first enjoyment is decisive, and he was now over the bar, I thought I had no longer a right to refuse the caresses of one that had got that advantage over me, no matter how obtain'd: conforming myself then to this maxim, I consider'd myself as so much in his power, that I endur'd his kisses and embraces without affecting struggles, or anger, not that they as yet gave me any pleasure, or prevail'd over the aversion of my soul, to give myself up to any sensation of that sort: what I suffer'd, I suffer'd out of a kind of gratitude, and as matter of course after what had pass'd.

He was however so regardful as not to attempt the renewal of those extremities which had thrown me just before into such violent agitations; but, now secure of possession, contented himself with bringing me to temper by degrees, and waiting at the hand of time for those fruits of his generosity and courtship, which he since often reproach'd himself with having gather'd much too green, when yielding to

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to the invitations of my inability to reſiſt him, and overborn by deſires, he had wreak'd his paſſion on a mere lifeleſs ſpiritleſs body, dead to all purpoſes of joy, ſince taking none, it ought to have been ſuppos'd incapable of giving any. This is however certain, my heart never thoroughly forgave him the manner in which I had fall'n to him, although, in point of intereſt, I had reaſon to be pleas'd that he found in my perſon——wherewithal to keep him from leaving me as eaſily as he had had me.

The evening was in the mean time ſo far advanc'd, that the maid came in to lay the cloth for ſupper, when I underſtood with joy, that my landlady, whoſe ſight was preſent poiſon to me, was not to be with us.

Preſently a neat and elegant ſupper was introduc'd, and a bottle of burgundy, with the other neceſſaries, were ſet on a dumb-waiter.

The maid quitting the room, the gentleman inſiſted, with a tender warmth, that I ſhou'd

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I ſhould ſit up in the elbow chair by the fire, and ſee him eat, if I cou'd not be prevail'd on to eat myſelf. I obey'd, with a heart full of affliction, at the compariſon it made between thoſe delicious tete-a-tetes with my ever dear youth, and this forc'd ſituation, this new aukward ſcene, impos'd and obtruded on me by cruel neceſſity.

At ſupper, after a great many arguments us'd to comfort, and reconcile me to my fate, he told me that his name was *H*——, brother to the earl of *L*——, and that having, by the ſuggeſtions of my landlady, been led to ſee me, he had found me perfectly to his taſte, had given her a commiſſion to procure me at any rate, and that he had at length ſucceeded as much to his ſatisfaction, as he paſſionately wiſh'd it might be to mine, adding withal ſome flattering aſſurances that I ſhould have no cauſe to repent my knowledge of him.

I had now got down at leaſt half a partridge, and three or four glaſſes of wine, which he compell'd me to drink by way of

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of reſtoring nature, but whether there was any thing extraordinary put into the wine, or whether there wanted no more to revive the natural warmth of my conſtitution, and give fire to the old train, I began no longer to look with that conſtraint, not to ſay diſguſt, on Mr. *H*—— which I had hitherto done, but withal there was not the leaſt grain of love mix'd with this ſoftening of my ſentiments: any other man would have been juſt the ſame to me as Mr. *H*——, that ſtood in the ſame circumſtances, and had done for me, and with me, what he had done.

There are not, on earth at leaſt, eternal griefs; mine were, if not at an end, at leaſt ſuſpended: my heart, which had been ſo long overloaded with anguiſh and vexation, began to dilate and open to the leaſt gleam of diverſion, or amuſement. I wept a little, and my tears reliev'd me: I ſigh'd, and my ſighs ſeem'd to lighten me of a load that oppreſt me: my countenance grew, if not chearful, at leaſt more compos'd, and free.

Mr.

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Mr. *H*—— who had watched, perhaps brought on this change, knew too well not to ſeize it: He thruſt the table imperceptibly from between us, and bringing his chair to face me, he ſoon began, after preparing me by all the endearments of aſſurances, and proteſtations, to lay hold of my hands, to kiſs me, and once more to make free with by boſom, which being at full liberty from the diſorder of my looſe diſhabil, now panted and throb'd leſs with indignation than with fear and baſhfulneſs, at being uſed ſo familiarly by ſtill a ſtranger: but he ſoon gave me greater occaſion to exclaim, by ſtooping down and ſlipping his hand above my garters; thence he ſtrove to regain the paſs which he had before found ſo open, and unguarded: but now he could not unlock the twiſt of my thighs: I gently complain'd, and begg'd him to let me alone; told him I was not well: however, as he ſaw there was more form and ceremony in my reſiſtance, than good earneſt, he made his conditions for deſiſting from purſuing his point, that I ſhould be put inſtantly to bed

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bed, whilſt he gave certain orders to the landlady, and that he would return in an hour, when he hop'd to find me more reconcil'd to his paſſion for me, than I ſeem'd at preſent. I neither aſſented nor deny'd, but in my air and manner of receiving this propoſal, gave him to ſee that I did not think myſelf enough my own miſtreſs to refuſe it.

Accordingly he went out and left me, when a minute or two after, before I could recover myſelf into any compoſure for thinking, the maid came in with her miſtreſs's ſervice, and a ſmall ſilver porringer of what ſhe call'd a bridal poſſet, and deſir'd me to eat it as I went to bed, which conſequently I did, and felt immediately a heat, a fire run like a hue-and-cry through ev'ry part of my body; I burnt, I glow'd, and wanted even little of wiſhing for any man.

The maid, as ſoon as I was lain down, took the candle away, and wiſhing me a good night, went out of the room, and ſhut the door after her.

She

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She had hardly time to get down ſtairs before Mr. *H*—— open'd my room door ſoftly, and came in, now undreſt, in his night-gown and cap, with two lighted wax-candles, and bolting the door, gave me, though I expected him, ſome ſort of alarm. He came a tip-toe to the bed-ſide, and ſaying with a gentle whiſper, "pray "my dear do not be ſtartl'd, —— I will "be very tender and kind to you." He then hurry'd off his cloaths, and leap'd into bed, having given me openings enough, whilſt he was ſtripping, to obſerve his brawny ſtructure, ſtrong made limbs, and rough ſhaggy breaſt.

The bed ſhook again when it receiv'd this new load: He lay on the outſide, where he kept the candles burning, no doubt for the ſatisfaction of ev'ry ſenſe; for as ſoon as he had kiſs'd me, he roll'd down the bed-cloaths, and ſeem'd tranſported with the view of all my perſon at full length, which he cover'd with a profuſion of kiſſes, ſparing no part of me. Then, being on his knees between my thighs, he

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he drew up his ſhirt, and bared all his hairy thighs, and ſtiff ſtaring truncheon, red-topt, and rooted into a thicket of curls, which cover'd his belly to his navel, and gave it the air of a fleſh-bruſh: and ſoon I felt it joining cloſe to mine, when he had drove the nail up to the head, and left no partition but the intermediate hair on both ſides.

I had it now, I felt it now: and beginning to drive, he ſoon gave nature ſuch a powerful ſummons down to her favourite quarters, that ſhe could no longer refuſe repairing thither: all my animal ſpirits then ruſh'd mechanically to that center of attraction, and preſently, inly warm'd, and ſtirr'd as I was beyond bearing, I loſt all reſtraint, and yielding to the force of the emotion, gave down, as mere woman, thoſe effuſions of pleaſure, which in the ſtrictneſs of ſtill faithful love, I could have wiſh'd to have held up.

Yet oh! what an immenſe difference did I feel between this impreſſion of a pleaſure merely animal, and ſtruck out of the col-

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colliſion of the ſexes, by a paſſive bodily effect, from that ſweet fury, that rage of active delight which crowns the enjoyments of a mutual love-paſſion, where two hearts tenderly and truly united, club to exalt the joy, and give it a ſpirit and ſoul that bids defiance to that end, which mere momentary deſires generally terminate in, when they die of a ſurfeit of ſatisfaction.

Mr. *H*—— whom no diſtinctions of that ſort ſeem'd to diſtract, ſcarce gave himſelf or me breathing time from the laſt encounter, but as if he had taſk'd himſelf to prove that the appearances of his vigour, were not ſigns hung out in vain, in a few minutes he was in a condition for renewing the onſet, to which preluding with a ſtorm of kiſſes, he drove the ſame courſe as before with unbated fervour, and thus in repeated engagements, kept me conſtantly in exerciſe till dawn of morning, in all which time, he made me full ſenſible of the virtues of his firm texture of limbs, his ſquare ſhoulders, broad cheſt, compact hard muſcles, in ſhort a ſyſtem of manlineſs, that might

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might pass for no bad image of our antient sturdy barons, when they weilded the battle-ax, whose race is now so thoroughly refin'd and fritter'd away into the more delicate modern-built frame of our papnerv'd softlings, who are as pale, as pretty, and almost as masculine as their sisters.

Mr. *H*——, content however with having the day break upon his triumphs, resign'd me up to the refreshment of a rest we both wanted, and we soon dropt into a profound sleep.

Tho' he was some time awake before me, yet did he not offer to disturb a repose he had given me so much occasion for; but on my first stirring, which was not till past ten o'clock, I was oblig'd to endure one more trial of his manhood.

About eleven, in came Mrs. *Jones*, with two basons of the richest soupe, which her experience in these matters had mov'd her to prepare. I pass over the fulsome compliments, the cant of this decent procuress, with which she saluted us both, but tho' my blood rose at the sight of her, I suppress

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preſt my emotions, and gave all my concern to reflections on what would be the conſequence of this new engagement.

But Mr. *H*——, who penetrated my uneaſineſs, did not long ſuffer me to languiſh under it, and acquainted me, that having taken a ſolid ſincere affection to me, he would begin by giving me one leading mark of it, in removing me out of a houſe which muſt for many reaſons be irkſome and diſagreeable to me, into convenient lodgings, where he would take all imaginable care of me; and deſiring me not to have any explanations with my landlady, or be impatient till he returned, he dreſs'd and went out, having left me a purſe with two and twenty guineas in it, being all he had about him, as he expreſt it, to keep my pocket till farther ſupplies.

As ſoon as he was gone, I felt the uſual conſequence of the firſt launch into vice; (for my love attachment to *Charles* never appear'd to me in that light.) I was inſtantly born away down the ſtream, without the power of making back to the

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ſhore. My dreadful neceſſities, my gratitude, and above all, to ſay the plain truth, the diſſipation, and diverſion I began to find in this new acquaintance, from the black corroding thoughts my heart had been a prey to, ever ſince the abſence of my dear *Charles*, concurr'd to ſtun all contrary reflections. If I now thought of my firſt, my only charmer, it was ſtill with the tenderneſs and regret of the fondeſt love, embitter'd with the conſciouſneſs that I was no longer worthy of him. I could have beg'd my bread with him all over the world, but wretch that I was! I had neither the virtue orcourage requiſite not to outlive my ſeparation from him.

Yet! had not my heart been thus preingag'd, Mr *H* —— might probably have been the ſole maſter of it, but the place was full, and the force of conjunctures alone had made him the poſſeſſor of my perſon, the charms of which had, by the bye been his ſole object, and paſſion, and were of courſe no foundation for a love either very delicate, or very durable.

He

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He did not return till ſix in the evening, to take me away to my new lodgings, and my moveables being ſoon pack'd, and convey'd into a hackney-coach, it coſt me but little regret to take my leave of a landlady whom I thought I had ſo much reaſon not to be over-pleas'd with, and as for her part, ſhe made no other difference of my ſtaying, or going, but what that of the profit created.

We ſoon got to the houſe appointed for me, which was that of a plain tradeſman, who, on the ſcore of intereſt, was entirely at M. *H* —— 's devotion, and who let him the firſt floor very genteelly furniſh'd for too guineas a week, of which I was inſtated miſtreſs, with a maid to attend me.

He ſtaid with me that evening, and we had a ſupper from a neighbouring tavern, after which, and a gay glaſs or two, the maid put me to bed, Mr. *H*—— ſoon follow'd, and notwithſtanding the fatigues of the preceding night, I found

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no quarter nor remiſſion from him: He piqu'd himſelf, as he told me, on doing the honours of my new apartment.

The morning being pretty well advanc'd, we got to breakfaſt: and the ice now broke, my heart, no longer engroſs'd by love, began to take eaſe, and to pleaſe itſelf with ſuch trifles as Mr. *H*—'s liberal liking led him to make his court to the uſual vanity of our ſex. Silks, laces, earrings, pearl-necklace, gold watch, in ſhort all the trinkets and articles of dreſs were laviſhly heap'd upon me, the ſenſe of which, if it did not create returns of love, forc'd a kind of grateful fondneſs ſomething like love, a diſtinction it would be ſpoiling the pleaſure of nine tenths of the keepers in the town to make, and is I ſuppoſe the very good reaſon why ſo few of them ever do make it.

I was now eſtabliſh'd the kept miſtreſs, in form, well lodg'd, with a very ſufficient allowance, and lighted up with all the luſtre of dreſs.

Mr.

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Mr. *H*——continu'd kind and tender to me, yet, with all this I was far from happy; for, besides my regrets for my dear youth, which though often suspended, or diverted, still return'd upon me in certain melancholic moments with redoubl'd violence, I wanted more society, more dissipation.

As to Mr. *H*——, he was so much my superior in every sense, that I felt it too much to the disadvantage of the gratitude I ow'd him, thus he gain'd my esteem, though he could not raise my taste; I was qualify'd for no sort of conversation with him, except one sort, and that is a satisfaction which leaves tiresome intervals, if not fill'd up by love, or other amusements.

Mr. *H*——, so experienc'd, so learned in the ways of women, numbers of whom had past through his hands, doubtless soon perceiv'd this uneasiness, and without approving or liking me the better for it, had the complaisance to indulge me.

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He made ſuppers at my lodgings, where he brought ſeveral companions of his pleaſures, with their miſtreſſes, and by this means I got into a circle of acquaintance that ſoon ſtrip'd me of all the remains of baſhfulneſs and modeſty which might be yet left of my country-education, and were, to a juſt taſte, perhaps, the greateſt of my charms.

We viſited one another in form, and mimick'd, as near as we could, all the miſeries, the follies, and impertinences of the women of quality, in the round of which they trifle away their time, without its ever entering into their little heads, that on earth there cannot ſubſiſt any thing more ſilly, more flat, more inſipid and worthleſs, than, generally conſider'd, their ſyſtem of life is: they ought to treat the men as their tyrants indeed! were they to condemn them to it,

But tho', amongſt the kept miſtreſſes (and I was now acquainted with a good many, beſides ſome uſeful matrons, who live by their connexions with them) I hardly

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I hardly knew one that did not perfectly deteſt their keepers, and of courſe, made little or no ſcruple of any infidelity they could ſafely accompliſh, I had ſtill no notion of wronging mine: for beſides that no mark of jealouſy on his ſide ſtarted me the hint, or gave me the provocation to play him a trick of that ſort, and that his conſtant generoſity, politeneſs, and tender attentions to pleaſe me, forc'd a regard to him, that, without affecting my heart, inſur'd him my fidelity, no object had yet preſented, that could overcome the habitual liking I had contracted for him: and I was on the eve of obtaining from the movements of his own voluntary generoſity, a modeſt proviſion for life, when an accident happen'd which broke all the meaſures he had reſolv'd upon in my favour,

I had now liv'd near ſeven months with Mr. *H*———, when one day returning to my lodgings, from a viſit in the neighbourhood, where I us'd to ſtay longer, I found the ſtreet-door open, and the maid

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of the houſe ſtanding at it talking with ſome of her acquaintance, ſo that I came in without knocking; and as I paſt by, ſhe told me Mr. *H*— was above. I ſtept up ſtairs into my own bed-chamber, with no other thought than of pulling off my hat, *&c.* and then to wait upon him in the dining-room, into which my bed-chamber had a door, as is common enough. Whilſt I was untying my hat-ſtrings, I fancy'd I heard my maid *Hannah*'s voice, and a ſort of tuſtle, which raiſing my curioſity, I ſtole ſoftly to the door, where a knot in the wood had been ſlipt out, and afforded a very commanding peep-hole to the ſcene then in agitation, the actors of which had been too earneſtly employ'd, to hear my opening my own door, from the landing place of the ſtairs, into my bed-chamber.

The firſt ſight that ſtruck me, was Mr. *H*— pulling and hauling this courſe country-ſtrammel towards a couch that ſtood in the corner of the dining-room; to which the girl made only a ſort of an aukward hoidening reſiſtance, crying

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crying out so *loud!* that I who listen'd at the door could scarce hear her, "Pray, Sir, don't—— let me alone — "I am not for your turn.—— You can- "not, sure, demean yourself with such "a poor body as I ——. Lord, Sir, "my mistress may come home.——I "must not indeed. I will cry out—" All which did not hinder her from insensibly suffering herself to be brought to the foot of the couch; upon which a push of no mighty violence serv'd to give her a very easy fall, and my gentleman having got up his hands to the strong-hold of her *vartue*, she no doubt thought it was time to give up the argument, and that all further defence would be vain; and he throwing her petticoats over her face, which was now as red as scarlet, discover'd a pair of stout, plump, substantial thighs, and tolerably white; he mounted them round his hips, and coming out with his drawn weapon, stuck it in the cloven spot, where he seem'd to find a less difficult entrance than perhaps he had

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flatter'd himſelf with (for by the way this Blouze had left her place in the country for a baſtard) and indeed all his motions ſhew'd he was lodg'd pretty much at large. After he had done, his *dearee* gets up, drops her petticoats down, and ſmooths her apron and handkerchief. Mr. *H*— look'd a little ſilly, and taking out ſome money, gave it her, with an air indifferent enough, biding her be a good girl, and ſay nothing.

Had I lov'd this man, it was not in nature for me to have had patience to ſee the whole ſcene through: I ſhould have broke in and play'd the jealous princeſs with a vengance; but that was not the caſe, my pride alone was hurt, my heart not, and I could eaſier win upon myſelf to ſee how far he would go, till I had no uncertainty upon my conſcience.

The leaſt delicate of all affairs of this ſort being now over, I retir'd ſoftly into my cloſet, where I began to conſider what I ſhould do: my firſt ſcheme naturally was to ruſh in and upbraid them: this

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this indeed flatter'd my preſent emotions and vexations, as it would have given immediate vent to them; but on ſecond thoughts, not being ſo clear as to the conſequence to be apprehended from ſuch a ſtep, I began to doubt whether it was not better to diſſemble my diſcovery, till a ſafer ſeaſon, when Mr. *H*—— ſhould have perfected the ſettlement he had made overtures to me of, and which I was not to think ſuch a violent explanation, as I was indeed not equal to the management of, could poſſibly forward, and might deſtroy. On the other hand, the provocation ſeem'd too groſs, too flagrant, not to give me ſome thoughts of revenge, the very ſtart of which idea reſtor'd me to perfect compoſure, and delighted as I was with the confus'd plan of it in my head, I was eaſily miſtreſs enough of myſelf to ſupport the part of ignorance I had preſcrib'd to myſelf; and as all this circle of reflections was inſtantly over, I ſtole a tip-toe to the paſſage-door, and opening it with a noiſe, paſt for having that

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that moment come home; and after a ſhort pauſe, as if to pull of my things, I open'd the door into the dining-room, where I found the dowdy blowing the fire, and my faithful ſhepherd walking about the room, and whiſtling, as cool and unconcern'd, as if nothing had happen'd: I think, however, he had not much to brag of having out-diſſembled me; for I kept up, nobly, the character of our ſex for art, and went up to him with the ſame open air of frankneſs, as I had ever receiv'd him. He ſtaid but a little while, made ſome excuſe for not being able to ſtay the evening with me, and went out.

As for the wench, ſhe was now ſpoil'd at leaſt for my ſervant; and ſcarce eight and forty hours were gone round, before her inſolence, on what had paſs'd between Mr. *H*—— and her, gave me ſo fair an occaſion to turn her away at a minute's warning, that not to have done it would have been the wonder; ſo that he could neither diſapprove it, nor find in it the leaſt

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leaſt reaſon to ſuſpect my original motive. What became of her afterwards I know not; but generous as Mr. *H*— was, he undoubtedly made her amends: tho' I dare anſwer, that he kept up no farther commerce with her of that ſort; as his ſtooping to ſuch a coarſe morſel, was only a ſudden ſally of luſt, on ſeeing a wholeſome-looking, buxom country-wench, and no more ſtrange than hunger, or even a wimſical appetite's making a flying meal of neck-beef, for change of diet.

Had I conſider'd this eſcape of Mr. *H*—— in no more than that light, and contented myſelf with turning away the wench, I had thought and acted right; but, fluſh'd as I was with imaginary wrongs, I ſhould have held Mr. *H*—— to have been too cheaply off, if I had not puſh'd my revenge farther, and repaid him, as exactly as I could for the ſoul of me, in the ſame coin.

Nor was this worthy act of juſtice long delaid: I had it too much at heart,

Mr.

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Mr. *H*——— had, about a fortnight before, taken into his ſervice a tenant's ſon, juſt come out of the country, a very handſome young lad, ſcarce turn'd of nineteen, freſh as a roſe, well ſhap'd, and clever-limb'd; in ſhort, a very good excuſe for any woman's liking, even tho' revenge had been out of the queſtion; any woman, I ſay, who was diſprejudic'd, and had wit and ſpirit enough to prefer a point of pleaſure to a point of pride.

Mr. *H*——— had clap'd a livery upon him; and his chief employ was, after being ſhewn my lodgings, to bring and carry letters or meſſages between his maſter and me; and as the ſituation of all kept-ladies is not the fitteſt to inſpire reſpect even to the meaneſt of mankind, and perhaps leſs of it from the moſt ignorant, I could not help obſerving, that this lad, who was, I ſuppoſe, acquainted with my relation to his maſter by his fellow ſervants, uſed to eye me, in that baſhful con-

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confus'd way, more expreſſive, more moving, and readier catch'd at by our ſex, than any other declarations whatever: my figure had, it ſeems, ſtruck him, and modeſt and innocent as he was, he did not himſelf know that the pleaſure he took in looking at me was love, or deſire; but his eyes, naturally wanton, aud now enflam'd by paſſion, ſpoke a great deal more than he durſt have imagin'd they did. Hitherto indeed I had only taken notice of the comelineſs of the youth, but without the leaſt deſign: My pride alone would have guarded me from a thought that way, had not Mr. *H*——'s condeſcenſion with my maid, where there was not half the temptation in point of perſon, ſet me a dangerous example; but now I began to look on this ſtripling as every way a delicious inſtrument of my deſign'd retaliation upon Mr. *H*——, of an obligation for which I ſhould have made a conſcience to die in his debt.

In order then to pave the way for the accompliſhment of my ſcheme, for two or

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or three times that the young fellow came to me with meſſages, I manag'd ſo, as without affectation, to have him admitted to my bed-ſide, or brought to me at my toilet, where I was dreſſing; and by careleſly ſhewing, or letting him ſee, as if without meaning or deſign, ſometimes my boſom rather more bare than it ſhould be; ſometimes my hair, of which I had a very fine head, in the natural flow of it while combing; ſometimes a neat leg, that had unfortunately ſlipt its garter, which I made no ſcruple of tying before him; eaſily gave him the impreſſions favourable to my purpoſe, which I could perceive to ſparkle in his eyes, and glow in his cheeks: Then certain ſlight ſqueezes by the hand, as I took letters from him, did his buſineſs compleatly.

When I ſaw him thus mov'd, and fir'd for my purpoſe, I inflam'd him yet more, by aſking him ſeveral leading queſtions; ſuch as, "had he a miſtreſs?——"was ſhe prettier than me?——could he "love ſuch a one as I was?——and "the

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"the like;" to all which the blushing simpleton answer'd to my wish, in a strain of perfect nature, perfect undebauch'd innocence, but with all the aukwardness and simplicity of country-breeding.

When I thought I had sufficiently ripen'd him for the laudable point I had in view; one day that I expected him at a particular hour, I took care to have the coast clear for the reception I design'd him: and, as I had laid it, he came to the dining-room door, tapped at it, and on my bidding him come in, he did so, and shut the door after him: I desir'd him then to bolt it on the inside, pretending it would not otherwise keep shut.

I was then lying at length on that very couch, the scene of Mr. *H*——'s polite joys, in an undress, which was with all the art of negligence flowing loose, and in a most tempting disorder, no stays, no hoop—— no incumbrance whatever: on the other hand, he stood at a little distance, that gave me a full view of a fine featur'd,

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featur'd, ſhapely, healthy, country lad, breathing the ſweets of freſh blooming youth: his hair, which was of a perfect ſhining black, play'd to his face in natural ſide-curls, and was ſet out with a ſmart tuck-up behind: new buck-ſkin breeches, that clipping cloſe, ſhew'd the ſhape of a plump well made thigh, white ſtockings, garter-laced livery, ſhoulder-knot, altogether compos'd a figure in which the beauties of pure fleſh and blood, appear'd under no diſgrace from the lowneſs of a dreſs, to which a certain ſpruce neatneſs ſeems peculiarly fitted.

I bid him come towards me, and give me his letter, at the ſame time throwing down careleſly, a book I had in my hands. He colour'd, and came within reach of delivering me the letter, which he held out aukwardly enough for me to take, with his eyes rivetted on my boſom, which was, through the deſign'd diſorder of my handkerchief, ſufficiently bare, and rather ſhaded than hid.

I, ſmil-

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I, ſmiling in his face, took the letter, and immediatly catching gently hold of his ſhirt-ſleeve, drew him towards me, bluſhing, and almoſt trembling: for ſurely his extreme baſhfulneſs, and utter inexperience, call'd for at leaſt all theſe advances to encourage him: his body was now conveniently inclin'd towards me, and juſt ſoftly chucking his ſmooth beardleſs chin, I aſk'd him, *If he was afraid of a lady?*——and with that took and carrying his hand to my breaſts, I preſt it tenderly to them; they were now finely furniſh'd, and raiſed in fleſh, ſo that panting with deſire, they roſe, and fell, in quick heaves, under his touch: at this the boy's eyes began to lighten with all the fires of inflam'd nature, and his cheeks fluſh'd with a deep ſcarlet: tongue-tied with joy, rapture, and baſhfulneſs, he could not ſpeak, but then his looks, his emotion, ſufficiently ſatisfy'd me that my train had taken, and that I had no diſappointment to fear.

My

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My lips, which I threw in his way, ſo as that he could not eſcape kiſſing them, fix'd, fir'd and embolden'd him, and now glancing my eyes towards that part of his dreſs which cover'd the eſſential object of enjoyment, I plainly diſcover'd the ſwell and commotion there, and as I was now too far advanc'd to ſtop in ſo fair a way, and was indeed no longer able to contain myſelf, or wait the ſlower progreſs of his maiden baſhfulneſs, (for ſuch it ſeem'd, and really was) I ſtole my hand upon his thighs, down one of which, I could both ſee and feel a ſtiff hard body, confin'd by his breeches, that my fingers could diſcover no end to: curious then and eager to unfold ſo alarming a myſtery, playing as it were with his buttons, which were burſting ripe from the active force within, thoſe of his waiſt-band and fore-flap flew open at a touch, when out *it* ſtarted; and now, diſingag'd from the ſhirt, I ſaw with wonder and ſurprize, what? not the play-thing of a boy, not the weapon of a man, but a may-pole of

ſo

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so enormous a standard, that had proportions been observ'd, it must have belong'd to a young giant: its prodigious size made me shrink again: yet! I could not without pleasure behold, and even ventur'd to feel, such a length! such a breadth of animated ivory, perfectly well turn'd and fashion'd, the proud stiffness of which distended its skin, whose smooth polish, and velvet-softness, might vye with that of the most delicate of our sex, and whose exquisite whiteness was not a little set off by a sprout of black curling hair round the root, through the jetty sprigs of which, the fair skin shew'd as, in a fine evening, you may have remark'd the clear light æther, through the branch-work of distant trees, over topping the summet of a hill: then the broad and bluish-casted incarnate of the head, and blue serpentines of its veins, altogether compos'd the most striking assemblage of figure and colours in nature; in short, it stood an object of terror and delight.

But

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But what was yet more ſurpriſing, the owner of this natural curioſity (through the want of occaſions in the ſtrictneſs of his home-breeding, and the little time he had been in town not having afforded him one) was hitherto an abſolute ſtranger, in practice at leaſt, to the uſe of all that manhood he was ſo nobly ſtock'd with; and it now fell to my lot to ſtand his firſt trial of it, if I could reſolve to run the riſques of its diſproportion to that tender part of me, which ſuch an over-ſiz'd machine was very fit to lay in ruins.

But it was now of the lateſt to deliberate, for by this time, the young fellow, over-heated with the preſent objects, and too high-mettl'd to be longer curb'd in by that modeſty and awe which had hitherto reſtrain'd him, ventur'd, under the ſtronger impulſe and inſtructive prompter-ſhip of nature alone, to ſlip his hands, trembling with eager impetuous deſires, under my petty-coats, and ſeeing, I ſuppoſe, nothing extremely ſevere in my looks to ſtop, or daſh him, he feels out and

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and ſeizes gently the center-ſpot of his ardours: oh then! the fiery touch of his fingers determines me, and my fears melting away before the growing intolerable heat, my thighs diſcloſe of themſelves, and yield all liberty to his hand: and now a favourable movement giving my petty-coats a toſs, the avenue lay too fair, too open to be miſt; he is now upon me: I had placed myſelf with a jet under him, as commodious, and open as poſſible to his attempts, which were untoward enough, for his machine meeting with no inlet, bore and batter'd ſtiffly againſt me in random puſhes, now above, now below, now beſide his point, till burning with impatience from its irritating touches, I guided gently with my hand, this furious feſcue to *where* my young novice was now to be taught his firſt leſſon of pleaſure: thus he nick'd at length the warm and inſufficient orifice: but he was made to find no breach practicable, and mine, though ſo often enter'd, was ſtill far from wide enough to take him eaſily in.

By

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By my direction, however, the head of his unwieldy machine was so critically pointed, that feeling him fore-right against the tender opening, a favourable motion from me, met his timely thrust, by which the lips of it, strenuously dilated, gave way to his thus assisted impetuosity, so that we might both feel that he had gain'd a lodgment: persuing then his point, he soon, by violent, and to me most painful piercing thrusts, wedges himself at least so far in, as to be now tolerably secure of his entrance: here he stuck; and I now felt such a mixture of pleasure and pain, as there is no giving a definition of: I dreaded, alike, his spliting me farther up, or his with-drawing: I could not bear either to keep, or part with him: the sense of pain, however, prevailing, from his prodigious size and stiffness, acting upon me in those continu'd rapid thrusts with which he furiously persu'd his penetration, made me cry out gently, "oh, "my dear, you hurt me!" This was enough to check the tender respectful boy,

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boy, even in his mid-career: and he immediately drew out the ſweet cauſe of my complaint, whilſt his eyes eloquently expreſs'd at once his grief for hurting me, and his reluctance at diſlodging from quarters, of which the warmth and cloſeneſs had given him a guſt of pleaſure that he was now deſire-mad to ſatisfy, and yet too much a novice not to be afraid of my withholding his relief, on account of the pain he had put me to.

But I was myſelf far from being pleas'd with his having too much regarded my tender exclaims, for now more and more fir'd with the object before me, as it ſtill ſtood with the fierceſt erection, unbonneted, and diſplaying its broad vermillion head: I firſt gave the youth a re-encouraging kiſs, which he repaid me with a fervour that ſeem'd at once to thank me, and bribe my farther compliance, and I ſoon replac'd myſelf in a poſture to receive, at all riſques, the renew'd invaſion, which he did not delay an inſtant; for being preſently remounted, I once

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more felt the ſmooth hard griſtle, forcing an entrance, which he atchiev'd rather eaſier than before: pain'd, however, as I was, with his efforts of gaining a complete admiſſion, which he was ſo regardful as to manage by gentle degrees, I took care not to complain; in the mean time, the ſoft ſtrait paſſage gradually looſens, yields, and, ſtretch'd to its utmoſt bearing, by the ſtiff, thick, in-driven engine, ſenſible at once to the raviſhing pleaſure of the *feel*, and the pain of the diſtenſion, let him in about half way, when all the moſt nervous activity he now exerted to further his penetration, gain'd him not an inch of his purpoſe; for whilſt he heſitated there, the criſis of pleaſure overtook him, and the cloſe compreſſure of the warm ſurrounding fold, drew from him the extatic guſh, even before mine was ready to meet it, kept up by the pain I had endur'd in the courſe of the engagement, from the unſufferable ſize of his weapon, tho' it was not as yet in above half its length.

I expected then, but without wiſhing it, that he would draw; but was pleaſingly diſappointed, for he was not to be let off ſo. The well-breath'd youth, hot-mettl'd, and fluſh with genial juices, was now fairly in

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in for making me know my driver: as ſoon then as he had made a ſhort pauſe, waking as it were out of the trance of pleaſure, (in which every ſenſe ſeem'd loſt for a while, whilſt, with his eyes ſhut, and ſhort quick breathings, he had yielded down his maiden tribute;) he ſtill kept his poſt, yet unfated with enjoyment, and ſolacing in theſe ſo new delights, till his ſtiffneſs, which had ſcarce perceptibly remitted, being throughly recover'd to him, who had not once unſheath'd, he proceeded afreſh to cleave and open to himſelf an entire entry into me, which was not a little made eaſy to him by the balſamic injection, with which he had juſt plentifully moiſten'd the whole internals of the paſſage; redoubling then the active energy of his thruſts, favour'd by the fervid appetency of my motions, the ſoft oil'd wards can no longer ſtand ſo effectual a picklock, but yield, and open him an entrance: and now with conſpiring nature, and my induſtry, ſtrong to aid him, he pierces, penetrates, and at length, winning his way inch by inch, gets entirely in, and finally, a home-made thruſt, ſheaths it up to the guard; on the information of which, from the cloſe jointure of our

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bodies, (inſomuch that the hair on both ſides perfectly interweav'd, and incurl'd, together), the eyes of the tranſported youth ſparkl'd with more joyous fires, and all his looks and motions acknowledg'd exceſs of pleaſure, which I now began to ſhare, for I felt him in my very vitals! I was quite ſick with delight! ſtir'd beyond bearing with its furious agitations within me, and gorg'd and cram'd even to a ſurfeit: thus I lay gaſping, panting, under him, till his broken breathings, faultering accents, eyes twinkling with humid fires, lunges more furious, and an encreaſed ſtiffneſs gave me to hail the approaches of the ſecond period: —— it came,—— and the ſweet youth, overpower'd with the extaſy, died away in my arms, melting in a flood, that ſhot in genial warmth into the innermoſt receſſes of my body, every conduit of which, dedicated to that pleaſure, was on flow to mix with it: thus we continu'd for ſome inſtants, loſt, breathleſs, ſenſeleſs of every thing, and in every part, but thoſe favourite ones of nature, in which all that we enjoy'd of life and ſenſation, was now totally concenter'd.

When our mutual trance was a little over, and the young fellow had withdrawn that

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that delicious ſtretcher, with which he had moſt plentifully drown'd all thoughts of revenge, in the ſenſe of actual pleaſure, the widen'd wounded paſſage refunded a ſtream of pearly liquids, which flow'd down my thighs, mix'd with ſtreaks of blood. the marks of the ravage of that monſtrous machine of his, which had now triumph'd over a kind of ſecond maiden-head: I ſtole, however, my handkerchief to thoſe parts, and wip'd them as dry as I could, whilſt he was re-adjuſting, and buttoning up.

I made him now ſit down by me, and as he had gather'd courage from ſuch extreme intimacy, he gave me an after-courſe of pleaſure, in a natural burſt of tender gratitude and joy, at the new ſcenes of bliſs I had open'd to him; ſcenes poſitively ſo new, that he had never before had the leaſt acquaintance with that miſterious mark, the cloven ſtamp of female diſtinction, tho' nobody better qualify'd than he to penetrate into its deepeſt receſſes, or do it nobler juſtice; but when by certain motions, certain unquietneſſes of his hands, that wander'd not without deſign, I found he languiſh'd for ſatisfying a curioſity, natural enough, to view and handle thoſe parts which attract and

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concenter the warmeſt force of imagination, charm'd as I was to have any occaſion of obliging and humouring his young deſires, I ſuffer'd him to proceed as he pleas'd, without check or controul, to the ſatiſfaction of them.

Eaſily then reading in my eyes the full permiſſion of myſelf to all his wiſhes, he ſcarce pleas'd himſelf more than me, when having inſinuated his hands under my petticoat and ſhift, he preſently remov'd thoſe bars to the ſight, by ſlily lifting them upwards, under favour of a thouſand kiſſes, which he thought, perhaps, neceſſary to divert my attention to what he was about. All my drapery being now roll'd up to my waiſt, I threw myſelf into ſuch a poſture upon the couch, as gave up to him, in full view, the whole region of delight, and all the luxurious landſcape round it. The tranſported youth, devour'd every thing with his eyes, and try'd with his fingers to lay more open to his ſight the ſecrets of that dark and delicious deep: he opens the folding lips, the ſoftneſs of which yielding entry to any thing of a hard body, cloſe round it, and oppoſe the ſight: and feeling further, meets with, and wonders at, a ſoft fleſhy

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fleſhy excreſcence, which, limber and relax'd after the late enjoyment, now grew, under the touch and examination of his fiery fingers, more and more ſtiff and conſiderable, till the titilating ardours of that ſo ſenſible part, made me ſigh, as if he had hurt me. On which he withdrew his curious probing fingers, aſking me pardon, as it were, in a kiſs that rather increas'd the flame *there*.

Novelty ever makes the ſtrongeſt impreſſions, and in pleaſures eſpecially: no wonder then, that he was ſwallow'd up in raptures of admiration of things ſo intereſting by their nature, and now ſeen and handled for the firſt time. On my part, I was richly overpaid for the pleaſure I gave him, in that of examining the power of thoſe objects thus abandon'd to him, naked, and free to his looſeſt wiſh, over the artleſs, natural ſtripling: his eyes ſtreaming fire, his cheeks glowing with a florid red, his fervid frequent ſighs, whilſt his hands convulſively ſqueez'd, opened, preſs'd together again the lips and ſides of that deep fleſh-wound, or gently twich'd the over-growing moſs; and all proclaim'd the exceſs, the riot of joys, in having his wantonneſs thus humour'd.

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But he did not long abuſe my patience, for the objects before him had now put him by all his, and coming out with that formidable machine of his, he lets the fury looſe, and pointing it directly to the pouting-lipt mouth, that bid him ſweet defiance in dumb-ſhew, ſqueezes in the head, and driving with refreſh'd rage, breaks in, and plugs up the whole paſſage of that ſoft-pleaſure-conduit, where he makes all ſhake again, and put once more all within me into ſuch an uproar, as nothing could ſtill, but a freſh inundation from the very engine of thoſe flames, as well as from all the ſprings with which nature floats that recevoir of joy, when riſen to its flood-mark.

I was now ſo bruiſed, ſo batter'd, ſo ſpent with this over-match, that I could hardly ſtir, or raiſe myſelf, but lay palpitating, till the ferment of my ſenſes ſubſiding by degrees, and the hour ſtriking at which I was oblig'd to diſpatch my young man, I tenderly advis'd him of the neceſſity there was for parting, which I felt as much diſpleaſure at as he could do, who ſeem'd eagerly diſpos'd to keep the field, and to enter on a freſh action: but the danger was too great: and after ſome hearty

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hearty kiſſes of leave, and recommendations of ſecrecy, and diſcretion, I forc'd myſelf to force him away, not without aſſurances of ſeeing him again, to the ſame purpoſe, as ſoon as poſſible, and thruſt a guinea into his hands: not more; leſt being too fluſh of money, a ſuſpicion or diſcovery, might ariſe from thence, having every thing to fear from the dangerous indiſcretion of that age in which young fellows would be too irreſiſtable, too charming, if we had not that terrible fault to guard againſt.

Giddy and intoxicated as I was with ſuch ſatiating draughts of pleaſure, I ſtill lay on the couch, ſupinely ſtretch'd out, in a delicious languor diffus'd over all my limbs, hugging myſelf for being thus reveng'd to my heart's content, and that in a manner ſo preciſely alike, and on the identical ſpot, in which I had receiv'd the ſuppos'd injury: no reflections on the conſequences ever once perplex'd me, nor did I make myſelf one ſingle reproach for having, by this ſtep, completely enter'd myſelf of a profeſſion more decry'd than diſus'd. I ſhould have held it ingratitude to the pleaſure I had receiv'd, to have repented of it; and

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ſince I was now over the bar, I thought by plunging over head and ears into the ſtream I was hurried away by, to drown all ſenſe of ſhame or reflection.

Whilſt I was thus making theſe laudable diſpoſitions, and whiſpering to myſelf a kind of tacit vow of incontinency, enters Mr. *H*——. The conſciouſneſs of what I had been doing, deepen'd yet the glowing of my cheeks, fluſhed with the warmth of the late action, which, join'd to the piquant air of my diſhabil, drew from Mr. *H*—— a compliment on my looks, which he was proceeding to back the ſincerity of with proofs, and that with ſo briſk an action, as made me tremble for fear of a diſcovery from the condition thoſe parts were left in from their late ſevere handling: the orifice dilated and inflam'd, the lips ſwoln with their uncommon diſtenſion, the ringlets preſs'd down, cruſh'd and uncurl'd with the overflowing moiſture that had wet every thing round it; the different feel and ſtate of things, in ſhort, would hardly have paſs'd, upon one of Mr. *H*——'s nicety and experience, unaccounted for but by the real cauſe; but here the woman ſav'd me: I pretended a violent

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disorder of my head, and a feverish heat, that indispos'd me too much to receive his embraces. He gave into this, and good-naturedly desisted. Soon after, an old lady coming in, made a third, very *a propos* for the confusion I was in, and Mr. *H*——, after bidding me take care of myself, and recommending me to my repose, left me much at ease, and reliev'd by his absence.

In the close of the evening, I took care to have prepar'd for me a warm bath of aromatick and sweet herbs; in which, having fully lav'd, and solaced myself, I came out voluptiously refresh'd in body and spirit.

The next morning, waking pretty early after a night's perfect rest and composure, it was not without some dread and uneasiness, that I thought of what innovation that tender soft system of mine might have sustain'd from the shock of a machine so siz'd for its destruction.

Struck with this apprehension, I scarce dar'd to carry my hand thither, to inform myself of the state and posture of things.

But I was soon agreeably cur'd of my fears.

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The ſilky hair that cover'd round the borders, now ſmooth'd, and reprun'd, had reſum'd its wonted curl and trimneſs; the fleſhy pouting lips, that had ſtood the brunt of the engagement, were no longer ſwoln or moiſture-drench'd: and neither they, nor the paſſage into which they open'd, that had ſuffer'd ſo great a dilatation, betray'd any the leaſt alteration, outward or inwardly, to the moſt curious reſearch, notwithſtanding alſo the laxity that naturally follows the warm bath.

This continuation of that grateful ſtricture which is in us, to the men, the very jet of their pleaſure, I ow'd, it ſeems, to a happy habit of body, juicy, plump, and furniſh'd towards the texture of thoſe parts, with a fullneſs of ſoft ſpringy fleſh, that yeilding ſufficiently as it does, to almoſt any diſtenſion, ſoon recovers itſelf ſo as to retighten that ſtrict compreſſion of its mantlings and folds which form the ſides of the paſſage, wherewith it ſo tenderly embraces, and cloſely clips any foreign body introduc'd into it, ſuch as my exploring finger then was.

Finding then every thing in due tone and order, I remember'd my fears, only

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to make a jest of them to myself. And now, palpably mistress of any size of man, and triumphing in my double atchievement of pleasure and revenge, I abandon'd myself entirely to the ideas of all the delight I had swam in. I lay stretching out, glowingly alive all over, and tossing with burning impatience for the renewal of joys that had sinn'd but in a sweet excess: nor did I lose my longing, for about ten in the morning, according to expectation, *Will*, my new humble sweet-heart, came with a message from his master, Mr. *H*——, to know how I did. I had taken care to send my maid on an errand into the city, that I was sure would take up time enough; and from the people of the house I had nothing to fear, as they were plain good sort of folks, and wise enough to mind no more of other people's business than they could well help.

All dispositions then made, not forgeting that of lying in bed to receive him; when he was enter'd the door of my bedchamber, a latch that I govern'd by a wire, descended, and secur'd it.

I could not but observe that my young minion was as much spruc'd out as could be

be expected from one in his condition; a desire of pleasing that could not be indifferent to me, since it prov'd that I pleas'd him, which I assure you was now a point I was not above having in view.

His hair trimly dress'd, clean linnen and above all, a hale, ruddy, wholesome country look, made him out as pretty a piece of woman's meat as you should see, and I should have thought any one much out of taste, that could not have made a hearty meal of such a morsel as nature seem'd to have design'd for the highest diet of pleasure.

And why should I here suppress the delight I receiv'd from this amiable creature, in remarking each artless look, each motion of pure undissembled nature, betray'd by his wanton eyes, or shewing transparently the glow and suffusion of blood through his fresh, clear skin, whilst even his sturdy, rustic pressures, wanted not their peculiar charm? Oh! but say you, this was a young fellow in too low a rank of life to deserve so great a display. May be so! but was my condition, strictly consider'd, one jot more exalted? or had I really been much above him, did not his capacity of giving such exquisite plea-

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pleaſure ſufficiently raiſe and enoble him, to *me* at leaſt? Let who would, for me, cheriſh, reſpect, and reward the painter's, the ſtatuary's, the muſician's arts, in proportion to the delight taken in them; but at my age, and with my taſte for pleaſure, a taſte ſtrongly conſtitutional to me; the talent of pleaſing, with which nature has endow'd a handſome perſon, form'd to me the greateſt of all merits; compared to which the vulgar prejudices in favour of titles, dignities, honours, and the like, held a very low rank indeed! nor perhaps would the beauties of the body be ſo much affected to be held cheap, were they in their nature to be bought and deliver'd; but for me, whoſe natural philoſophy all reſided in the favourite center of ſenſe, and who was rul'd by its powerful inſtinct, in taking pleaſure by its right handle, I could ſcarce have made a choice more to my purpoſe.

Mr. *H*——'s loftier qualifications of birth, fortune, and ſenſe, laid me under a ſort of ſubjection and conſtraint, that were far from making harmony in the concert of love; nor had he perhaps thought me worth ſoftening that ſuperiority to; but with this lad I was more on that level which love delights in.

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We may ſay what we pleaſe, but thoſe we can be the eaſieſt and freeſt with, are ever thoſe we like, not to ſay love the beſt.

With this ſtrippling, all whoſe art of love was the action of it, I could without check of awe or reſtraint, give a looſe to joy, and execute every ſcheme of dalliance my fond fancy might put me on, in which he was, in every ſenſe, a moſt exquiſite companion. And now my great pleaſure lay in humouring all the petulances, all the wanton frolic of a raw novice juſt fleſh'd, and keen on the burning ſcent of his game, but unbroken to the ſport: and to carry on the figure, who could better *thread the wood* than he, or ſtand fairer for the heart of the hunt?

He advanc'd then to my bedſide, and whilſt he faulter'd out his meſſage, I could obſerve his colour riſe, and his eyes lighten with joy, in ſeeing me in a ſituation as favourable to his looſeſt wiſhes, as if he had beſpoke the play.

I, ſmil'd, and put out my hand towards him, which he kneel'd down to, (a politeneſs taught him by love alone, that great maſter of it) and greedily kiſs'd. After exchanging a few confus'd queſtions and anſwers, I aſk'd him if he would come to bed

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bed to me for the little time I could venture to detain him. This was just asking a person dying with hunger, to feast upon the dish on earth the most to his palate. Accordingly, without farther reflection, all his cloaths were off in an instant; when blushing still more at this new liberty, he got under the bed-cloaths I held up to receive him, and was now in bed with a woman for the first time in his life.

Here began the usual tender preliminaries, as delicious perhaps as the crowning act of enjoyment itself; which they often beget an impatience of, that makes pleasure destructive of itself, by hurrying on the final period, and closing that scene of bliss, in which the actors are generally too well pleas'd with their parts, not to wish them an eternity of duration.

When we had sufficiently graduated our advances towards the main point, by toying, kissing, clipping, feeling my breasts, now round and plump, feeling that part of me I might call a furnace-mouth, from the prodigious intense heat his fiery touches had rekindled there; my young sportsman, embolden'd by every freedom he could wish, wantonly takes my hand, and carries it to that enormous machine of his, that

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that ſtood with a ſtiffneſs! a hardneſs! an upward bent of erection! and which, together with its bottom dependence, the ineſtimable bulſe of lady's jewels, form'd a grand ſhow out of goods indeed! Then its dimenſions, mocking either graſp or ſpan, almoſt renew'd my terrors. I could not conceive how, or by what means, I could take, or put ſuch a bulk out of ſight. I ſtroak'd it gently, on which the mutinous rogue ſeem'd to ſwell, and gather a new degree of fierceneſs and inſolence; ſo that finding it grew not to be trifl'd with any longer, I prepar'd for rubbers in good earneſt.

Slipping then a pillow under me, that I might give him the faireſt play, I guided officiouſly with my hand, this furious battering-ram, whoſe ruby head preſenting neareſt the reſemblance of a heart, I applied to its proper mark, which lay as finely elevated as we could wiſh; my hips being born up, and my thighs at their utmoſt extenſion, the gleamy warmth that ſhot from it, made him feel that he was at the mouth of the indraught, and driving foreright, the powerfully divided lips of that pleaſure-thirſty channel receiv'd him. He heſitated a little; then, ſettled

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ſettled well in the paſſage, he makes his way up the ſtreights of it, with a difficulty nothing more than pleaſing, widening as he went, ſo as to diſtend and ſmooth each ſoft furrow: our pleaſure increaſing deliciouſly, in proportion as our points of mutual touch increas'd, in that ſo vital part of me, in which I had now taken him, all indriven, and compleatly ſheath'd, and which cram'd as it was, ſtretch'd ſpliting ripe, gave it ſo gratefully ſtrait an accommodation! ſo ſtrict a fold! a ſuction ſo fierce, that gave and took unutterable delight! We had now reach'd the cloſeſt point of union; but when he backen'd to come on the fiercer, as if I had been actuated by a fear of loſing him, in the height of my fury, I twiſt my legs round his naked loins, the fleſh of which, ſo firm, ſo ſpringy to the touch, quiver'd again under the preſſure; and now I had him *every way* encircled and begirt; and having drawn him home to me, I kept him faſt there, as if I had ſought to unite bodies with him at that point. This bred a pauſe of action, a pleaſure ſtop; whilſt that delicate glutton, my neither-mouth, as full as it could hold, kept palating, with exquiſite reliſh, the morſel that

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that ſo deliciouſly ingorg'd it. But nature could not long endure a pleaſure that ſo highly provok'd without ſatisfying it; perſuing then its darling end, the battery recommenc'd with redoubled exertion; nor lay I unactive on my ſide, but encountring him with all the impetuoſity of motion I was miſtreſs of, the downy cloathing of our meeting mounts, was now of real uſe to break the violence of the tilt; and ſoon, too ſoon indeed! the high-wrought agitation, the ſweet urgency of this to-and-fro friction, rais' d the titilation on me to it's height, ſo that finding myſelf on the point of going, and loath to leave the tender partner of my joys behind me, I employ'd all the forwarding motions and arts my experience ſuggeſted to me, to promote his keeping me company to our journey's end. I not only then tightened the pleaſure-girth round my reſtleſs inmate, by a ſecret ſpring of ſuction and compreſſion, that obeys the will in thoſe parts, but ſtole my hand ſoftly to that ſtore-bag of nature's prime ſweets, which is ſo pleaſingly attach'd to its conduit-pipe, from which we receive them; there feeling, and moſt gently indeed ſqueezing thoſe tender globular reſervoirs, the

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the magic touch took inſtant effect, quicken'd, and brought on upon the ſpur, the ſymptoms of that ſweet agony, the melting moment of diſſolution, when pleaſure dies by pleaſure, and the myſterious engine of it overcomes the titillation it has rais'd in thoſe parts, by plying them with the ſtream of a warm liquid, that is itſelf the higheſt of all titillations, and which they thirſtily expreſs, and draw in like the hot-natured leach, who, to cool itſelf, tenaciouſly attracts all the moiſture within its ſphere of exſuction: chiming then to me, with exquiſite conſent, as I melted away, his oily balſamic injection mixing deliciouſly with the ſluices in flow from me, ſheath'd and blunted all the ſtings of pleaſure, whilſt it flung us into an extacy, that extended us fainting, breathleſs, entranced. Thus we lay, whilſt a voluptuous languor poſſeſt, and ſtill maintain'd us motionleſs, and faſt lock'd in one another's arms. Alaſs! that theſe delights ſhould be no longer-liv'd! for now the point of pleaſure, unedg'd by enjoyment, and all the briſk ſenſations flatten'd upon us, reſign'd us up to the cool cares of inſipid life. Diſingaging myſelf then from his embrace,

I made

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I made him ſenſible of the reaſons there were for his preſent leaving me; on which, tho' reluctantly, he put on his cloaths with as little expedition, however, as he could help, wantonly interrupting himſelf between whiles, with kiſſes, touches, and embraces, I could not refuſe myſelf too; yet he happily return'd to his maſter before he was miſs'd; but at taking leave, I forc'd him (for he had ſentiments enough to refuſe it) to receive money enough to buy a ſilver watch, that great article of ſubaltern finery, which he at length accepted of as a remembrance he was carefully to preſerve of my affections.

And here, Madam, I ought perhaps to make you an apology for this minute detail of things, that dwelt ſo ſtrongly upon my memory after ſo *deep* an impreſſion. But beſides that this intrigue bred one great revolution in my life, which hiſtorical truth requires I ſhould not ſink upon you; may I not preſume that ſo exalted a pleaſure ought not to be ungratefully forgotten or ſuppreſs'd by me, becauſe I found it in a character in low life, where, by the bye, it is oftner met with, purer and more unſophiſticate, than amongſt the falſe ridiculous refinements with

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with which the great ſuffer themſelves to be ſo groſly cheated by their pride: the great! than whom, there exiſt few amongſt thoſe they call the vulgar, who are more ignorant of, or who cultivate leſs, the art of living than they do: they, I ſay, who for ever miſtake things the moſt foreign to the nature of pleaſure itſelf, whoſe capital favourite object is enjoyment of beauty, wherever that rare invaluable gift is found, without diſtinction of birth or ſtation.

As love never had, ſo now revenge had no longer any ſhare in my commerce with this handſome youth. The ſole pleaſures of enjoyment were now the link I held to him by: for though nature had done ſuch great matters for him in his outward form, and eſpecially in that ſuperb piece of furniture ſhe had ſo liberally enrich'd him with; though he was thus qualify'd to give the ſenſes their richeſt feaſt, ſtill there was ſomething more wanting to create in me, and conſtitute the paſſion of love. Yet *Will* had very good qualities too, gentle, tractable, and above all grateful: ſilentious, even to a fault; he ſpoke at any time very little, but made it up emphatically with action; and to do

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do him juſtice, he never gave me the leaſt reaſon to complain either of any tendency to encroach upon me for the liberties I allow'd him, or of his indiſcretion in blabing them. There is then a fatality in love, or have lov'd him I muſt; for he was really a treaſure, a bit for the *bonne bouche* of a ducheſs: and, to ſay the truth, my liking for him was ſo extreme, that it was diſtinguiſhing very nicely to deny that I lov'd him.

My happineſs, however, with him did not laſt long, but found an end from my own imprudent neglect. After having taken even ſuperfluous precautions againſt a diſcovery, our ſucceſs in repeated meetings embolden'd me to omit the barely neceſſary ones.——About a month after our firſt intercourſe, one fatal morning (the ſeaſon Mr. *H*——rarely, or never viſited me in) I was in my cloſet, where my toilette ſtood, in nothing but my ſhift, a bed-gown, and under-petty-coat. *Will* was with me, and both ever too well diſpos'd to baulk an opportunity: for my part, a warm whim, a wanton toy had juſt taken me, and I had challeng'd my man to execute it on the ſpot, who heſitated not to comply with my humour;

I was

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I was ſat in the arm-chair, my ſhift and petty-coat up, my thighs wide ſpread, and mounted over the arms of the chair, preſenting the faireſt mark to *Will*'s drawn weapon, which he ſtood in act to plunge into me, when, having neglected to ſecure the chamber door, and that of the cloſet ſtanding a-jar, Mr. *H*—— ſtole in upon us, before either of us was aware, and ſaw us preciſely in theſe convicting attitudes.

I gave a great ſcream, and drop'd my petty-coat: the thunderſtruck lad ſtood trembling and pale, waiting his ſentence of death. Mr. *H*—— look'd ſometimes at one, ſometimes at the other, with a mixture of indignation and ſcorn, and, without ſaying a word, ſpun upon his heel, and went out.

As confus'd as I was, I heard him very diſtinctly turn the key, and lock the chamber-door upon us, ſo that there was no eſcape but through the dining-room, where he himſelf was walking about with diſtemper'd ſtrides, ſtamping in a great chafe, and doubtleſs debating what he ſhould do with us.

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In the mean time poor *William* was frighten'd out of his ſenſes, and as much need as I had of ſpirits to ſupport myſelf, I was oblig'd to employ them all to keep his a little up: The misfortune I had now brought upon him, endear'd him the more to me, and I could have joyfully ſuffer'd any puniſhment he had not ſhar'd in. I water'd plentifully with my tears the face of the frighten'd youth, who ſat, not having ſtrength to ſtand, as cold and as lifeleſs as a ſtatue.

Preſently Mr. *H*—— comes in to us again, and made us go before him into the dining-room, trembling and dreading the iſſue: Mr. *H*—— ſat down on a chair, whilſt we ſtood like criminals under examination; and, beginning with me, aſk'd me with an even firm tone of voice, neither ſoft nor ſevere, but cruelly indifferent, what I could ſay for myſelf for having abus'd him in ſo unworthy a manner, with his own ſervant too, and how he had deſerv'd this of me?

Without adding to the guilt of my infidelity that of an audacious defence of it, in the old ſtyle of a common kept Miſs, my anſwer was modeſt, and often interrupted

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rupted by my tears, in substance as follows: "That I had never had a single "thought of wronging him (which was "true) till I had seen him taking the "last liberties with my servant-wench, "(here he colour'd prodigiously) and "that my resentment at that which I "was over-aw'd from giving a vent to by "complaints, or explanations with him, "had driven me to a course that I did not "pretend to justify; but that as to the "young man, he was entirely faultless, for "that in the view of making him the in-"strument of my revenge, I had down-"right seduc'd him to what he had done, "and therefore hop'd, whatever he deter-"min'd about me, he would distinguish "between the guilty and the innocent; and, "that, for the rest, I was entirely at his "mercy."

Mr. *H*——, on hearing what I said, hung his head a little; but instantly recovering himself, he said to me, as near as I can retain, to the following purpose:

"Madam, I take shame to myself, "and confess you have fairly turn'd the "tables upon me. ——— It is not "with one of your cast of breeding and "sentiments that I should enter into a

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" diſcuſſion of the very great difference " of the provocations: be it ſufficient that " I allow you ſo much reaſon on your " ſide, as to have changed my reſolutions, " in conſideration of what you reproach " me with: and I own too, that your " clearing that raſcal there is fair and ho- " neſt in you: renew with you I can- " not; the affront is too groſs: I give " you a week's warning, to go out of " theſe lodgings: whatever I have given " you, remains to you; and as I never " intend to ſee you more, the landlord " will pay you fifty pieces on my account, " with which, and every debt paid, I " hope you will own I do not leave you " in a worſe condition than what I took " you up in, or than you deſerve of me. " —— Blame yourſelf only that it is no " better."

Then, without giving me time to reply, he addreſt himſelf to the young fellow.

" For you, ſpark, I ſhall for your " father's ſake take care of you: the " town is no place for ſuch an eaſy fool " as thou art; and to-morrow you ſhall " ſet out under the charge of one of my " men, well recommended, in my name,

" to

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" to your father, not to let you return " and be spoilt here."

At these words he went out, after my vainly attempting to stop him, by throwing myself at his feet: he took me off, though he seem'd greatly mov'd too, and took *Will* away with him, who, I dare swear, thought himself very cheaply off.

I was now once more a-drift, and left upon my own hands, by a gentleman whom I certainly did not deserve. And all the letters, arts, friends entreaties that I employ'd within the week of grace in my lodging, could never win on him so much as to see me again. He had irrevocably pronounc'd my doom, and submission to it was my only part. Soon after he married a lady of birth and fortune, to whom I have heard he prov'd an irreproachable husband.

As for poor *Will*, he was immediately sent down to the country, to his father, who was an easy farmer, where he was not four months before an inn-keeper's buxom young widow, with a very good stock both in money and trade, fancy'd, and perhaps pre-acquainted with his secret excellencies, marry'd him; and I am

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ſure there was at leaſt one good foundation for their living happily together.

Though I ſhould have been charm'd to ſee him before he went, ſuch meaſures were taken by Mr. *H*———'s orders that it was impoſſible; otherwiſe I ſhould certainly have endeavour'd to detain him in town, and would have ſpar'd neither offers nor expence to have procur'd myſelf the ſatisfaction of keeping him with me, he had ſuch powerful holds upon my inclinations as were not eaſily to be ſhaken off or replac'd; as to my heart, it was quite out of the queſtion: glad however I was from my ſoul that nothing worſe, and, as things turn'd out, probably nothing better could have happen'd to him.

As to Mr. *H*——, though views of conveniency made me at firſt exert myſelf to regain his affection, I was giddy and thoughtleſs enough to be much eaſier reconcil'd to my failure than I ought to have been; but as I never had lov'd him, and his leaving me gave me a ſort of liberty that I had often long'd for, I was ſoon comforted; and flattering myſelf that the ſtock of youth and beauty I was going into trade with, could hardly fail of procuring me a maintenance, I

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ſaw myſelf under a neceſſity of trying my fortune with them, rather with pleaſure and gayety, than with the leaſt idea of deſpondence.

In the mean time, ſeveral of my acquaintance amongſt the ſiſter hood, who had ſoon got wind of my misfortune, flock'd to inſult me with their malicious conſolations: moſt of them had long envied me the affluence and ſplendour I had been maintain'd in; and though there was ſcarce one of them that did not at leaſt deſerve to be in my caſe, and would probably ſooner or later come to it, it was equally eaſy to remark, even in their affected pity, their ſecret pleaſure at ſeeing me thus diſgrac'd and diſcarded, and their ſecret grief that it was ſtill no worſe with me. Unaccountable malice of the human heart! and which is not confin'd to the claſs of life they were of.

But as the time approach'd for me to come to ſome reſolution how to diſpoſe of myſelf, and I was conſidering round where to ſhift my quarters to, Mrs. *Cole*, a middle-aged diſcret ſort of woman, who had been brought into my acquaintance by one of the miſſes that viſited me, upon learning my ſituation, came to offer her cordial

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dial advice and ſervice to me; and as I had always taken to her more than to any of my female acquaintance, I liſten'd the eaſier to her propoſals; and as it happen'd, I could not have put myſelf into worſe, or into better hands in all *London*; into worſe, becauſe keeping a houſe of conveniency, there were no lengths in lewdneſs ſhe would not adviſe me to go in compliance with her cuſtomers, no ſchemes of pleaſure, or even unbounded debauchery, ſhe did not take even a delight in promoting: into better, becauſe no body having had more experience of the wicked part of the town than ſhe had, was fitter to adviſe and guard one againſt the worſt dangers of our profeſſion; and what was rare to be met with in thoſe of her's, ſhe contented herſelf with a moderate living profit upon her induſtry and good offices, and had nothing of their greedy rapacious turn. She was really too a gentlewoman born, and bred, but through a train of accidents reduc'd to this courſe, which ſhe purſued partly through neceſſity, partly through choice, as never woman delighted more in encouraging a briſk circulation of the trade, for the ſake of the trade itſelf, or better under-

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underſtood all the myſteries and refinements of it, than ſhe did; ſo that ſhe was conſummately at the top of her profeſſion, and dealt only with cuſtomers of diſtinction: to anſwer the demands of whom ſhe kept a competent number of her daughters in conſtant recruit: ſo ſhe call'd thoſe whom their youth and perſonal charms recommended to her adoption and management: ſeveral of whom, by her means, and through her tuition and inſtructions, ſucceeded very well in the world.

This uſeful gentlewoman, upon whoſe protection I now threw myſelf, having her reaſons of ſtate, reſpecting Mr. *H*—, for not appearing too much in the thing herſelf, ſent a friend of her's, on the day appointed for my removal, to conduct me to my new lodgings, at a bruſh-makers in *R*——*ſtreet*, *Covent-Garden*, the very next door to her own houſe, where ſhe had no conveniences to lodge me herſelf; lodgings, that by having been for ſeveral ſucceſſions tenanted by ladies of pleaſure, the landlord of them was familiariz'd to their ways; and provided, the rent was duly paid, every thing elſe was as eaſy and as commodious as one could deſire.

The

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The fifty guineas promis'd me by Mr. *H*——, at his parting with me, having been duly paid me, all my cloaths and moveables cheſted up, which were at leaſt of two hundred pounds value, I had them convey'd into the coach, where I ſoon follow'd them, after taking a civil leave of the landlord and his family, with whom I had never liv'd in a degree of familiarity enough to regret the removal; but ſtill, the very circumſtance of its being a removal, drew tears from me. I left too a letter of thanks for Mr. *H*——, from whom I concluded myſelf, as I really was, irretrievably ſeparated.

My maid I had diſcharged the day before, not only becauſe I had her of Mr. *H*——, but that I ſuſpected her of having ſome how or other been the occaſion of his diſcovering me, in revenge perhaps for my not having truſted her in it.

We were ſoon got to my lodgings, which, though not ſo handſomely furniſh'd, nor ſo ſhowy as thoſe I left, were to the full as convenient, and at half price, though on the firſt floor. My trunks were ſafely landed, and ſtow'd in my apartments, where my neighbour and now governante, Mrs. *Cole*, was ready with my

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my landlord to receive me, to whom ſhe took care to ſet me out in the moſt favourable light, that of one from whom there was the cleareſt reaſon to expect the regular payment of his rent: all the cardinal virtues attributed to me would not have had half the weight of that recommendation alone.

I was now ſettled in lodgings of my own, abandon'd to my own conduct, and turn'd looſe upon the town, to ſink or ſwim, as I could manage with the current of it: and what were the conſequences, together with the number of adventures which befell me in the exerciſe of my new profeſſion, will compoſe the matter of another letter; for, ſurely, it is high time to put a period to this.

I am,

MADAM,

Yours, &c. &c. &c.

* * * * * * *

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