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The True and Affecting History of Henrietta de Bellgrave; A Woman Born Only for Calamities. Being an Unhappy Daughter, Wretched Wife, and Unfortunate Mother; Containing a Series of the Most Uncommon Adventures that Ever Befel One Person by Sea and Land

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THE TRUE AND AFFECTING
HISTORY
OF
HENRIETTA de BELLGRAVE;
A WOMAN BORN ONLY FOR CALAMITIES.
BEING AN
UNHAPPY DAUGHTER, WRETCHED WIFE,
AND
UNFORTUNATE MOTHER;
CONTAINING A
SERIES OF THE MOST UNCOMMON ADVENTURES
THAT
EVER BEFEL ONE PERSON
BY
SEA AND LAND:

Giving an exact Account of her Shipwreck; her falling into the power of a brutal Villain; and her being providentially relieved by a party of Indians; with her further Sufferings to the Time of her Death.

Written by herself, and address'd to her Daughter ZOA.

BIRMINGHAM;
PRINTED by S. MARTIN, ANN STREET,
For JAMES SADLER.
(Price Six-pence.)

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THE
HISTORY
OF
HENRIETTA de BELLGRAVE.

Dear Daughter,

ALL that enables me to support a life, which, from my very infancy, has presented me with nothing but misfortunes, is the desire of seeing you arrive at an age capable of being made sensible of what you truly are: I cannot die, and leave you with no other knowledge of yourself, than that you are the daughter of an *Indian* banyan, and a heathen. O then, if it pleases heaven that these papers fall into your hands, be careful of them. I conjure you, by all that duty, that love, and that respect, which even the worship you are trained up in enjoins from children to their parents, read them not lightly over, but examine every article, weigh every precept; engrave them in your mind, that, if by any accident you lose the original, your memory may supply you with a faithful copy. I command you also, to keep whatever you find here an inviolable secret, unless providence, whose ways are all mysterious, should happily conduct you to some place, where it may be to your advantage to reveal it.

Know then, my dear *Zoa*, that, by my side, you are descended from two very antient and honourable families, in a kingdom famous over the whole world, not only for its extent, the pleasantness of its situation, and the magnificence of its buildings; but also, for the laws, customs, and manners of its inhabitants: I need not tell you it is *France* I mean, since you have often heard me say the place I was born in is called so.

My father was the eldest son of the Count *de Bellgrave*: my mother a daughter of the Baron *de Soissons*. If you should ever happen to meet any one from that country, you will hear such characters of the virtue and grandeur of your ancestors, as, though I would not wish should

make you proud, ought nevertheless to inspire in you a just scorn of doing any thing unworthy of the race you sprung from.

It is the policy of people of condition, in my country, and in most parts of *Europe*, when they have more daughters than they can conveniently portion out, rather than consent to their marriage with persons of an inferior rank, to shut one, or more of them, into certain houses called *convents*; where they are secluded from the world for ever; and compelled, often against their inclination, to devote themselves wholly to heaven, and the duties of religion. The baron, having a numerous offspring, intended to sacrifice my mother in this manner to the grandeur of his family; but the passion my father had for her prevented it. After having in vain implored the count's consent, they were privately married. The affair was kept a secret for some time, nor had been divulged so soon, had not the baron's resolution of forcing my mother into a convent obliged him to confess it to him; and she soon after becoming pregnant, the honor of his family rendered it necessary the truth should be made public. Nothing could surpass the count's indignation when he was first made acquainted with it: he would never after suffer my father to come into his presence, nor allow any thing towards his support, nor that of the wife he had made choice of; and, though a great number of the nobility interested themselves in this cause, and represented to him, that there was nothing in a daughter of the Baron *de Soissons*, except want of fortune, that could be looked upon as unworthy a son of the Count *de Bellgrave*, and that my mother's virtue, beauty, and other qualifications, well atoned for that deficiency, he continued as inexorable as ever; nor did my birth (for I was the first, and, indeed, the sole fruit of this unhappy marriage) in the least soften his obdurate heart; and, for thirteen years, neither my father, mother, nor self, had any other support than what we received from the indulgence of the good baron, which, giving a mortal uneasiness to his other children, rendered our lives very uncomfortable.

While we were in this melancholy situation, news arrived of the death of the governor of *Iranadad*, a settlement the *French* have in the *East Indies*. The prince of *Conde* requested the king, that my father might succeed him. It was a post, indeed, far beneath the heir of *Bellgrave* to accept of; but it was a noble provision for a son in disgrace with his father, and who had no subsistence, but from the father of his wife. As such my father received the grant of it; and kissed his majesty's hand, with the sincerest gratitude, as well as testified his acknowledgments to the prince, by whose intercession it had been conferred upon him.

It was the opinion of every body, that this news would bring the Count *de Bellgrave* to reason; and that he would rather forgive, and make a handsome settlement on his son, than suffer him to go to a place, whence he could not expect he would ever return during his life; but he was deaf to all the calls of nature and paternal affection, nor would even permit my father to take leave of him before his departure.

The baron would fain have persuaded my father and mother to leave me with him; but a fatal fondness, to which I owe all my miseries, would not suffer either of them to be prevailed upon. Yet, I ought not to condemn it; they knew the jealousy my uncles and aunts had of me, and feared the effect of it, if I were left defenceless, and exposed to their malice; which, they doubted not, would increase in proportion to the baron's affection toward me. Nothing, however, could have equalled, or even come within comparison, of the mischiefs entailed upon me by this *Indian* voyage; mischiefs so numerous, and of so dreadful a kind, that, if related by any other than a mother, you would scarce believe could happen to one woman.

Every thing being prepared for our departure, for the magnificence of which all the kindred on both sides, except the cruel count, contributed, we embarked on board a large and well-stored vessel. Favourable winds and smooth seas gave us the prospect of a happy voyage; and never was a greater alteration than what I perceived in

the faces of my dear parents. The pleasure of seeing themselves independent, though in a rank inferior to the dignity of their birth, diffused such an air of gaiety through all their features as was astonishing to me, being too young to penetrate into the cause, and made me discover charms in them I had never seen before. My mother, it is certain, was extremely lovely; and my father wanted none of those manly graces which command respect. I was thought to partake of what was most agreeable in both; but alas! few traces of what they were now remain in me! Wasted with continual pinings in youth, I suffer all the decays that age could have produced; nor have you ever seen in me any thing of that beauty, which seemed as if just bestowed upon me only for my ruin; and, when that was completed, was snatched away, no more than my peace of mind to be recovered, leaving me nothing but the sad remembrance of ideas it was my fortune never to enjoy the reality of.

If ever I knew true satisfaction, it was on board; while at the baron's the melancholy in which I saw those dear persons plunged, who gave me being; the distant looks of some of my relations, and the reflections sometimes thrown on me by others, the fear I was in of incurring their displeasure, and rendering them yet more harsh, gave me as much disquiet as it was possible for one of my age to feel; but now to find a great number of servants ready to obey my call, to see the obsequious behaviour of the whole ship's crew, and even of the officers themselves, towards my father and mother, was such a pleasing alteration in our fortunes, as quite elated my young heart, and I became in a manner transported with it.

One morning, as I lay in my cabin, within that of their *Excellencies* (for by that title they now called my father and mother), I was waked with an unusual noise, and presently after heard the firing of guns: I was starting up in order to enquire into the meaning of this alarm, when a maid that waited on me came in and told me, a pirate had attacked us, and that it was proper I should rise, in case of accidents. The terror that appeared in

her countenance, and her trembling as she spoke, convinced me that we were in great danger. With her assistance I soon got on my clothes, and ran to my mother, whom I found earnest at her devotions by her bed-side. Some others coming into the cabin, at the same time I did, interrupted them, and she cried out, "Where, O! where is the governor?"—"Safe, Madam, as yet," answered one of them, "but we cannot prevail on him to come down, and the balls fly as thick as hail about the deck." She was then running up to endeavour to persuade him to have a greater regard for his life; but was stopp'd by a sudden, loud, and confused noise, which to us sounded as if the top of the ship, with all the masts, were breaking down. "They have boarded us! They have boarded us!" cried one of the sailors, with a great oath; "death or slavery. We have no time to lose." With this the uproar over our heads grew more violent; and in an instant the cabin was cleared of all but my mother, myself, and two or three women servants. But with what words can I express the consternation, the horror this poor lady was in! She wept, she cried to heaven for relief. One moment she pressed me in her arms, and cried, "My dear *Henrietta*, what will become of thee?" The next shrieked out, "*Bellgrave!* where is my *Bellgrave*? O! why does his courage transport him to forget he has a wife and a daughter; and thus madly hazard a life on which alone ours depends?" A thousand times did she run to the cabin-door, thinking to reach him with her voice; then as precipitately started back, frightened at some fresh alarm; but the last, and most dreadful one, was the sight of my dear father, covered with blood, and supported between two men. As soon as they had laid him on the bed, "My dear," said he to my mother, "it was not in human valour to preserve our liberty; heaven has refused its assistance; the ship is taken, and we all are slaves; the evil is past redemption; do not, by your tumultuous grief, provoke our conquerors to use us worse." The agony he saw her in occasioned him to speak these words, which she had no time to reply to. The cabin

was in a moment crowded with men, who seemed to be a mingled rabble of all nations, but all equally fierce and terrible in their aspect. The captain, who, I perceived afterward, was among them, gave some orders in a language which I did not understand; but the effect declared they were in our favour; for the greatest part of those wretches, whose countenances added to the horror of our fate, withdrew; and left only himself and three or four more with us, one of whom happened to be a *Frenchman*, and afterward served as an interpreter between his officer and my father. On being informed who we were, he had the humanity to command my father's wounds to be taken care of, and to permit us to remain in the cabin; but all the rest, except two women servants belonging to us, were confined under hatches. Having removed all that was most valuable out of our ship into his own, he returned into it, and left a mate and some few sailors to make the best way they could with us to *Madagascar*; a large island, which has long been a receptacle and asylum for those sea-robbers.

We had not been above eight days prisoners to the pirates, before heaven, indeed, sent us a deliverance, which once more flattered us with hopes of happiness. The ship that took us, and which still kept company with us, it seems, had descried an *English* vessel, which, supposing it to be richly laden, the captain of the pirates resolved to attack; but, their powder and shot being very much wasted in the fight with us, they sent the long-boat for a supply. This occasioned our lying-by while the two ships were engaged. The *English* made a brave defence; but must have been taken at last, if, by an unexpected accident, it had not been relieved. Some of our men, in the confusion those were in whom the pirates had left on board us, found means to get their liberty, and soon gave it to their fellows; and presently overpowering their enemies, killed and threw over-board all that offered to make resistance; and our captain came to us with the joyful news, that he was now once more commander of his own ship. We then crowded all the

sails, thinking to escape, while the pirate was engaged with the *English*; but unhappily the vessel had sprung so great a leak, that those at the pump cried out, it was impossible it should endure two hours sail; on which my father, the captain, and whole crew, were of opinion, the best expedient we had was to join the *English* vessel, and assist her with what ammunition was left, which indeed was but a small quantity, the greatest part, as I said before, having been sent for by the pirate. We had, however, a great number of hands; and the *English* encouraged by so unhop'd for a relief, fell briskly on. Our men, who knew they must either conquer or die, in the midst of a thousand shot got up to, and boarded the pirate sword in hand; where, though many fell, the rest did great execution. The *English* then ceasing to fire, because their friends must have suffered by it equally with their foes, veered about, and boarded the pirate on the other side; in short, never was a more obstinate fight; but in the end, heaven gave the victory to the justest side, though not without a vast effusion of blood. The pirates were almost all killed or wounded, and their ship so shattered, that the *English*, having removed all the effects into their own vessel, left it, with the few that yet remained alive, to the mercy of the seas. Ours was also by this time so full of water, that we were obliged to quit it with the utmost precipitation, and get on board the *English*. The captain spoke *French* perfectly well, was a man of as much politeness as bravery; and no sooner heard from my father, who we were, and the accidents that had happened, since our leaving *France*, then he treated us with all the marks of respect imaginable; returned to us all that had been taken from us by the pirate, and which we had now retaken, and would have obliged my father and the captain to share with him in the other prizes found on board, in consideration of the seasonable assistance he had received from us: but they would accept of nothing, but what had been their own before; and only desired that they would put in at *Iranadad*, and permit us to land. The captain seemed extremely troubled at this

request; and told my father he was sorry he had asked the only thing out of his power to grant, the ship not being his own, but belonging to a company of merchants, to whom he was, in effect, no more than a servant. That the effects he had on board were of very great value, and that he could not answer the putting in at any place to which he had not a commission, much less one appertaining to a prince with whom his nation was, at that time, at war. "But," added he, "when we arrive at *Bombay*, where I am bound, I will take care to represent the service I have received from you in such a manner to the governor and factory, that I dare give your excellency assurance of a ship to carry you, and all belonging to you, to your desired port.

My father was sensible the reasons he gave were just; and we were obliged to content ourselves with the prospect we had, that, after this long voyage, we should at last arrive where we intended.

We should indeed have passed our time pleasantly enough on board this vessel, had it not been for my mother's indisposition, occasioned by a fright through the pirates boarding the vessel; which every day increased so, that her life was despaired of. My father, now perfectly recovered of his wounds, stirred not a moment from her bed-side; nor would either my duty or affection permit me to quit her. She lingered, in this melancholy decline, for about five weeks; and, when she found the hour of her dissolution approaching, took a farewell of my father with more resolution than could have been expected from her; so great was her tenderness and regard for him, that it even surmounted all those terrors which generally attended the separation of the soul from the body. She doubted not but; when she was no more, he would be easily reconciled to the count, and return to all those honours and pleasures of life, which his love for her had given so long an interruption to; and this idea made her quit the world with rather a show of satisfaction, than the contrary. She embraced and gave me her blessing with the same serenity; then turning again to my father, conjured him to let no accidents

or future events make him forgetful of me. These were the last words she spoke. That instant her pure and spotless soul flew to receive its reward for the virtues it had practised here, and left us to lament, with unavailing tears, so great a loss.

Though it is certain, never man loved with a more constant and ardent passion, than my father, yet he had that fortitude peculiar to great minds, not to bewail misfortunes which were irrecoverable; a decent sorrow sat upon his brow, and hung heavy on his heart; but his tears were few, and soon dried up; nor did he refuse the consolations given him by the *English*, as well as by those of his own people. He would not consent that my mother should be buried in the sea; but ordered her to be embalmed by the surgeon of the ship, and had her laid in a chest; resolving, though dead, she should be the companion of his voyage to *Bombay*, and afterward to his government, where he intended to inter her in a manner suitable to her birth, her virtue, and the affection he had borne her when living.

But alas! how vain are the designs of man, when all-disposing heaven refuses its assent! Not only his dear wife, but himself also was destined to a watery grave. We were so near *Bombay* as to be able to discern land when a storm arose more violent, as the mariners told us, than had ever been known in those seas. The ship was extremely large, and of great burthen; yet did the strength and fury of the waves toss it to a stupendous height, then plunge it down again, as from a precipice. One moment the gathered surges lifted us up as on a pinnacle; the next parted, and seemed to swallow us in the dreadful gap. Darkness came on, our dangers and our fears redoubled; the hurricane grew more outrageous: the masts, the rudder, were all torn away, the waters came pouring in; and one and all cried out, "We are lost! No hope but in the long-boat," which being immediately thrown out, my father, myself, and as many of the sailors as could get in, took to it: too many indeed; for it immediately sunk, and all perished that were in it, except three persons, one of whom was my unhap-

py self; and the others were one of the mates belonging to the *English*, and a cook we brought with us from *France*. Being extremely dexterous in swimming, they not only saved themselves, but me. They saw me floating, as they afterward told me, and caught hold of my garments each with one hand, and with the other combated the waves.

I was quite senseless when we reached the coast; but my two deliverers having taken proper methods to make me discharge the water I had swallowed, I soon came to myself; but judge, my dear *Zoa*, judge of the horribleness of my situation. In the first emotions of grief and despair, I neither thanked heaven, nor those who, at the hazard of their own lives, had preserved mine, but cried out for my father; and, not doubting but not only he, and all we had in the world was lost, uttered the most frantic exclamations.

These two men (for the mate spoke *French* well enough to be understood) said every thing they could to comfort me; it was not impossible, they told me, for the governor to be safe as well as we were; and, as to our effects, the ship might probably bulge against a rock, or be driven on the coast, and, if so, when once the storm was over, and the waters sunk to their usual bounds, great part of what was in her might be recovered by boats, which the factory would send out for that purpose.

This last I knew not but might be feasible enough but as I knew my father had not the least skill in swimming, I could entertain no shadow of a hope of ever seeing him more.

I laid myself down on the earth, where I had been sitting since my recovery, and wept bitterly. The darkness of the night, and hollow whistling of the winds, which still continued very high, though somewhat abated of their late fury, added to the horror of my ideas, and I wished for nothing more than to die that instant. At length the day appeared, and never had a more beautiful prospect struck my eyes: the elements were grown as calm as a few hours before they had been

disturbed; the sea rolled smooth; the land looked gay and pleasant; a wood behind us, whose trees were of an uncommon height, and loaded with fruit of various kinds, invited us to a taste; others charmed the smell with their fragrancy; a thousand birds of different sorts, and such as I had never seen before, were hopping from bough to bough, and chanting out their thank to bounteous nature. I will own to you, that for some moments the novelty of every thing that met my sight allayed some part of my just sorrows; but when I turned toward the sea, that cruel sepulchre of my dear father, my tears again began to flow. My companions had both of them glasses in their pockets; but, though by their help they could see a prodigious distance, they could discern nothing of the ship, nor any tokens of a wreck. We walked a considerable way on the sands by the sea-side in order to discover if it were lodged in any creek among the rocks, but could not perceive any thing of what we sought. The *English* mate, who had been three times in *India* before, and was well acquainted with the nature of the winds and seas in those parts, told us he imagined the vessel might be driven by the current down toward the neck of the harbour; and I might then depend a great deal of her cargo would be preserved. This was some little alleviation of my despair; for I began already to find the want of the necessities of nature in my faintness; having not eat for near 24 hours. The men also seemed as unable to withstand the calls of hunger as myself; and we agreed to go into the wood and gather fruit, in order to sustain ourselves till we should arrive at some town. The mate drew his sword, and made the cook do so too, in order, as he told me, to cut down the boughs; but, in reality, that they might defend themselves and me from the wild beasts; but, as neither the cook nor myself knew any thing of this danger, we went fearless on nor indeed met with any thing but squirrels, monkeys, and some other little harmless animals sporting up and down, and which fled at our approach. We all sat down and eat heartily of the fruit, which was no less delicious

to the taste than pleasant to the eye. While we were taking this refreshment, the mate expressed some trouble, that he knew not what part of the country we were in, or which way led to any town. He was not even positive that we were in *Bombay*, the darkness of the night and the violence of the storm not permitting him to have any direction when we made to shore. We were, however, obliged to submit to our fate; and had no other remedy than to travel on until we could happily meet some person that might give us information, which we did for many a weary mile, without being able to discover the least trace of any human step. The men supported this fatigue well enough, but I was frequently ready to fall down through faintness; and they were obliged to carry me by turns in their arms, or could I never have been able to go through this painful journey. Night again came on, and we seemed as far as ever from our hope; and the mate then informed us of the danger we were in from wild beasts; which, he said, it was very likely might haunt those unfrequented places, especially by night. Both of them then began to work at cutting down those boughs that seemed most withered, and made a pile of them: the cook had a flint and steel in his pocket, and between them, though with an infinite deal of labour, they set the wood on fire; the light of which, it seems, keeps these creatures at a distance. For my part, I was too faint and weary to give them any assistance, and laid down. While they were thus employed for our common safety, it was afterward agreed, that I should endeavour to take what repose I could that night, in order to enable me for the next day's travel; and that each of them should watch alternately, to take care the fire did not go out, and to rouse the other, in case of any accident.

The place I had made choice of for my bed was at the root of a tree, whose vast trunk and low-hung boughs at once defended me from the heat of the fire, and from the dews, which are apt to fall very thick in the night; and, being thus laid as commodiously as the place we

were now in would admit of, not all the disturbance of my mind kept me from falling into a profound sleep, in which I continued till toward morning, and had doubtless done so much longer, but for a sudden and most shocking interruption. I thought I was in the arms of a man, who, while he held me in a strenuous embrace, seemed to devour my lips with eager kisses. Frighted I awoke; and what, if I had been alone, would have passed as a dream, I now found was a real fact. I shrieked as loud as the surprise I was in would give me leave, but the villain stopped my mouth with his hand, and, thinking to impose upon my youth and innocence. "Do not be alarmed, my dear *Henrietta*," said he "I will do you no injury, by heaven! I have loved you, and adored you from the first minute I beheld you! Permit me but an innocent embrace. I ask no more." The sound of his voice now made me know it was *Reynier*, for so our cook was called, and at the same time the indecencies he proceeded to convinced me of the falshood of his professions. I struggled, I buffeted the wretch; but what could my weak resistance have availed, had not his hand by some accident slipped from my mouth, and gave me an opportunity to send forth a second shriek, so vehement, that it seemed to rend the very air, and and after that another, before he could be quick enough to prevent me.

The mate, awaking with my cries, started up amazed; and running to the place where I was, needed no more to inform him of the cause. "Monster!" said he, "when dangers of every kind encompass us, and that we live a moment is owing to the mercy of heaven, is it a time for lust?" *Reynier*, enraged at the disappointment, and not in the least ashamed of the base attempt, told him, he had no right to countermand his actions; and added some foul name, testifying his contempt of him, which the other not being of a temper to endure tamely, they fought. I was so terrified and confused at the affront I had received, and the thoughts of what I might receive, if the cook should get the better, that I staid not to see the issue of the combat, but ran as fast as my legs could carry me,

until I came into a forest; where breathless, and tired almost to death, I sat down beneath the cover of some trees that grew pretty thick. It was now but a kind of twilight; and I flattered myself that I might be hid there, if even chance should direct my intended ravisher that way. 'Till I thought myself secure from him, my mind was too much engrossed to think of any other danger, or any other misfortune; but now a thousand terrors assailed my poor throbbing heart: those beasts of prey the honest *Englishman* had spoke of, made me imagine that every little rustling the wind made among the leaves, was some voracious animal coming to devour me. Indeed the most sanguine expectation could not have flattered itself with any hope, in the situation I then was. I had been, indeed, preserved by a miracle, but could not look for a succession of such wonders in my favour; and nothing less I thought could afford me either shelter, food, or raiment. Restless I quitted my seat, I wandered a little farther, I cast my eyes every way, but could discern no hut, no cottage, no kind smoak from any distant chimney, that might direct my weary feet where I might beg a hospitable protection. Full of despairing thoughts, the impossibility there seemed for me to prolong my life, made me at length less fearful of death, and I sat down again, resolving in that posture to wait my fate, in whatever shape heaven should think fit to order it.

The various miseries, the toils, the dangers I had undergone, in a short space of time, crowded at once into my mind; and my brain being too weak to bear the wild ideas which presented themselves to me, even the power of reflection was taken from me, and I sunk as it were into a lethargy of grief. How long my faculties remained in this inactivity I know not; but I was roused from it by a new terror, which was perhaps the only thing that would have had the power to do it. It was the voice of the detestable *Reynier*, who, in the deep reverie I had been in, I neither heard, nor saw approach. "You are found again, my lovely fugitive," said he, "you might have fled from your deliverer; but from your lover nothing

should have concealed you. I would have pursued you to the utmost corner of the world; and torn you even from your dead father's arms; so violent is my passion, that to gratify it I would suffer not only all that man, but all that heaven could inflict."

The remembrance how he had used me reviving at his sight, and the apprehensions these words justly gave me, filled me with such a mixture of shame, indignation, and terror, that had I not been preserved for lasting anguish, sure I had died that instant. I would have spoke, and was endeavouring to bring forth some words that might have checked his audacity; But the extreme violence of the different emotions I then felt, stopped the passage of my words, and it was only by my eyes I could express my meaning. I believe they were intelligible enough, however, and made him see, that if I were to be gained, it must be by softer and more humble methods than those he had put in practice. "Hate me not for my excess of love," resumed he, in a more respectful tone than that in which he had at first accosted me; "if it be a fault, or may have hurried me to actions displeasing to you, blame your own charms, which as they are transcendant, must have transcendant effects. If you ask, why I am so bold? I may retort the question, and ask, why are you so beautiful? Believe, O most adorable *Henrietta*, that what ever my passion enforces me to commit, you, who inspire that passion, are the cause." With these words he caught hold of both my hands, and pulled me toward him. Rage at this action now getting the better of those agitations which had deprived me of utterance; "Villain!" cried I, "audacious slave! how darest thou even think of me in this manner, much less to touch me, and insult me with such odious declarations." I went on reproaching him in this manner, with all the violence I could find words to express, but could perceive it had little effect on him; and when he found I had raved and struggled myself quite out of breath, "come, come, my charming cruel *Henrietta*," said he, forcing me to sit down by him, "consult your reason: that will tell you, you are wholly in my power:

that this moment I could satiate my utmost wishes in the possession of your charms, in spite of all your coyness; but my love for you is not less tender than it is violent. I would enjoy your heart, would engage you to a willing return of the affection I have for you. I am not insensible of the disparity of our birth; but fortune has now reduced you to an equality with me. Are not we both in a condition, such as would make us rejoice to obtain a piece of bread by begging? Why then this pride, this unreasonable haughtiness? Let us rather endeavour to alleviate the misery of our present circumstances, by partaking of those pleasures nature denies not to the meanest. We may, if you consent, battle the malice of our ill stars, and be happy as the first created pair in paradise. See," said he, "I have found two arrows; I have packthread about me, and this forrest will easily furnish me with materials to make a bow. I will shoot birds to supply my lovely *Henrietta's* hunger; will hew out a can with my knife, and fetch her water from the brook; will gather her the choicest fruits, watch by her while she sleeps, and be her guardian angel. Moved by our mutual love and sufferings, heaven may at last direct us to some place, where we may find some of our own species, and there I will work for your support. O then," continued he, "despise me not, but let those lovely eyes look with compassion on me, take me to your bosom, and try the joys of love — joys, which, even in this dreadful wild, may make us more completely blest than monarchs on their thrones."

All the time he was speaking, though he had still hold of both my hands, which I in vain endeavoured to get loose, my face was turned from him, so that he saw not the tears that fell from my eyes, while internally I invoked heaven to send me some relief; but, having ended what he had to say at that time, he threw his head upon my breast, and conjured me to make him some reply. "What can I say," cried I as fiercely as I could, "but what thou knowest already, that I look on thee as a wretch unworthy of life; and that I almost loath myself for being loved by so contemptable and so impi-

ous a villain?"—"Then you resolve I shall have recourse to force," said he. "Not force nor fraud shall give thee any advantage over me," answered I; "a just consciousness of what we both are leaves me in no danger of the one, and to prevent the other I can die."

"You but deceive yourself," cried the wretch, with a malicious grin, "I will enjoy you first, and leave you afterward to choose what death your foolish pride likes best."—"O heaven have pity on me!" shrieked I out, ready to burst with inward rage and horror. "You waste your breath in vain," said he, "there now is none to interrupt my pleasures. He that attempted it I have sent to another world, to boast how great a champion he has been of virtue here."—"Murderous villain!" cried I, which was all he gave me leave to speak; he that moment aimed to perpetrate his base intent; and sure heaven in this dreadful juncture gave me a double portion of strength. I tore, I scratched the abandoned monster; I sprung from his grasp and fled. He pursued and overtook me; again I was in his power. I made the forest echo with my cries. A lion or a tyger to devour him, or me, or both of us, would now have been a welcome fight; for I, alas! in spite of all the efforts I made, was near being overcome, near being made the prey of a worse monster, *lust*; when all at once seven or eight men came rushing through the thicket where we were; and seeing the violence I was like to suffer, preserved my honor, and struck the invader of it dead at my feet, with a kind of javelin one of them had in his hand.

I must now inform you from whom, and by what chance, I received this unexpected deliverance. You know, my dear *Zoa*, your father has a fine country-house, about three leagues from the vast forest of *Chimara*; it was in that forest I had sustained the hardships I have related, and these were men belonging to the banyan, who happened to come there, in order to hunt the wild boar. As on those occasions they always go armed with javelins and arrows, I suppose it might be some of their arrows, which had missed their mark, that the

wicked *Reynier* found and mentioned to me. I cannot express to you the surprise with which these *Indians* stared upon me: indeed the figure I made might naturally occasion them to do so; my garments, though rich, drenched in the sea-water, and dried in the sun and wind, were of a thousand disagreeable colours, torn with the briars through which I had passed, as was also my flesh in many places. My hair unfilleted, and hanging in wild disorder over my shoulders, my looks were, doubtless, no less confused. All this joined to the place and manner in which they found me, must make them conclude some extraordinary adventure had befallen me. They came round me; they surveyed me from head to foot, and talked very fast one to another; but, though I had not the least understanding in their language, nor had ever heard it before, I could perceive by their gestures, what they said was not in my disfavour. After having had their fill of gazing on me, two of them took me by each hand, and lead me between them through the forest, helping me, whenever we came to any rough way, with tenderness enough. At length we reached where I beheld, what a very little time before I had despaired of ever seeing, a house; and though I knew not what treatment I might find there, or how I was to be disposed of, yet I could not help rejoicing to find myself out of that desolate wild, and once more among human kind. In this fashion they conducted me into your father's villa; and the first room they happened to bring me to, was that which I have since converted into a bed-chamber, and where I write these memoirs. Having made me sit down, they gave me water and a clean towel, which I was very glad of; and as soon as I had done washing, set a plate of rice, and some boiled fowl before me, with a silver mug full of water, and a little arrack mingled with it. This refreshed me, and I blessed heaven for the happy change in my condition; but was extremely troubled, that I could neither understand my benefactors, nor inform them any thing of myself, which might influence a continuance of their bounty. I easily perceived they were *Indians*, but could not be certain they

were of *Bombay*; because I remembered the *English* mate had seemed doubtful, whether it was on that country we were cast, or on some other. I earnestly wished it might be so, that I might apply to the factory, judging, by the virtue and goodness of that man, that the *English* would commiserate my misfortunes, and do me justice, in case any thing belonging to my father should have been found among the wreck: but, though I saw a great number of people passing in and out of the house, there were none among them that had the appearance of an *European*. I was left alone some hours, after they had taken away the remains of what they brought for my refreshment; but at last I saw a very graceful *Indian* enter, attended by three or four of those who had found me in the forest, and some others: he looked on me with the same wonder they had done, but was not so lost in it, as not to accost me with a great deal of civility. As I knew by the respect paid him, and the distance with which all the rest behaved, that he was the master of them and of the dwelling; I returned him thanks in *French* for the favours I had received, but had the mortification to find he understood not one word of what I said, any more than the others had done. The motions I made, however, made him guess at my meaning; and being instantly possessed with sentiments for me, which at that time I little apprehended; and was as little desirous of inspiring, he made a sign to all present to quit the room, and, seating himself near me, began to kiss my hands with an extremity of ardour. This action so frightened me, that, thinking I was fallen into the power of a second *Reynier*, I cried out, "O God what will become of me!" and at the same time burst into a flood of tears. Though he knew not the words I spoke, yet the agony that appeared in my face, while uttering them, rendered their meaning, as he has since told me, perfectly intelligible; and, willing to put an end to my apprehensions, he let go my hands, made a low bow, in token of entreating pardon for what he had done, and presently went out of the room.

Soon after, two *Indian* women came in; and, making

a sign for me to follow them, conducted me to a very handsome chamber, furnished much in the same manner I had been accustomed to in *France*. The bed was composed of mattraffes laid one upon another; the curtains about it were of the finest chints, as were also the hangings of the room. There were tables, chairs, glasses, and, in short, every thing perfectly commodious; but what pleased me most, was a great iron bar on the inside of the door, which as soon as they had left me I did not fail to make fast. Notwithstanding the vast fatigues I had endured, the anxiety of my mind would not suffer me to fall into a slumber till toward morning; but when I did, it was entirely undisturbed with any ideas of my past misfortunes, or warnings of those succeeding ones I was ordained to suffer. I awoke not till very late, on hearing a knocking at my door, accompanied with a female voice; which cried out to me, "are you awake, fair stranger?" Though I knew not what she said, I supposed it time to rise, and that she was come to call me up. I therefore got out of bed, and having thrown my gown about me, opened the door, which she immediately shut again, and presented me with a very rich *Indian* habit, which she helped me to put on, making signs to me, that my own was dirty, and unfit for me to wear. I was no sooner dressed, than another came in and brought chocolate and a sort of cake; and all this was served me with a respect, which would have been flattering enough to my youthful vanity, had it not been checked by my apprehensions of the motive which excited it.

After I had breakfasted, they shewed me into the great hall, where their *master*, (I need not say your *father*) waited my coming. He rose to receive me with the utmost civility, smiled, and, taking up one of my long sleeves, seemed to testify how well he thought my dress became me. He then led me into the gardens, the beauty of which, and the vast variety, and to me new flowers, very much charmed me. He plucked some of the most curious, and placed them in my hair, and on my breast, but with the greatest modesty and respect.

When he had pointed out to me every thing that was worthy observation, either in the gardens, the fine banqueting room at the upper end, the little grottos adorned with shells, or the rivulets which run winding in a kind of labyrinth, and meet in the middle, where they form a kind of canal, we returned into the hall, where, the table being spread, we sat down to dinner. His treatment of me during the repast, was conformable to the rest—all good manners mixed with an air of kindness. The cloth was scarce taken away, when a servant came hastily into the room, and said something to his master, at which he seemed extremely pleased. The occasion of it was this: being possessed of a passion for me, which, unhappy as it has made me, I must do him the justice to allow, was no less sincere than violent, and troubled that he could neither communicate his thoughts to me, nor be informed who I was, or by what strange accident I came to be exposed in the manner his servants had related, he sent immediately to town, offering a large reward to any one who could speak the languages of *Europe*, to come and serve as an interpreter between us. The person who went on this commission was successful enough to find a man, who spoke *Dutch*, *English*, and *French*. This man being presently brought into the room, the banyan, after some discourse with him, bade him try me all languages he was master of, which he did by speaking to me first in *Dutch*, then in *English*; but finding I understood neither, at last he asked me in *French*, what part of *Europe* I was born in, and on what occasion I had come to *India*? Never were any sounds more pleasing to my ear than what this fellow uttered. I was quite transported at having an opportunity of relating who I was, because by that I hoped to obtain some means of returning into *Europe*. I hesitated not a moment to let him know I was of that country, in whose language he last spoke to me; and then proceeded to give the whole narrative of my misfortunes; having done which, he repeated in the *Malayan* tongue to the banyan, who seemed astonished at my story, and bid his interpreter assure me of his readiness to serve me in every thing

in his power. I then desired to know the name of the country I was in; and, being told it was *Bombay*, said, I intended to petition the *English* factory for means to carry me home. But this my intention was no sooner mentioned to the banyan, than he ordered the man to acquaint me I was at a great distance from the colony; and that he, who often had business with them, and could boast of some interest, would undertake to solicit this matter for me. This answer was not altogether so pleasing to me. I wished to be out of the power of a man whose inclinations I dreaded, and to address the *English* in person, who being christians, though different in some points from our persuasion, I doubted not but they would take pity on my distress. I made therefore some excuses to evade giving him trouble; but they availed not: the banyan answered, that, as it was his good fortune to be the first that was serviceable to me in that country, he was resolved to have the honor of completing the good offices he had begun. On this it came into my head, to endeavour to make this man my friend, and prevail on him to carry a letter or message from me to the governor of *Bombay*, who, I had heard the *English* mate say, was a person of great worth and honor; but then I was deterred by the belief, that this fellow was a creature of the banyan's, who might betray the confidence I deposited in him; so mentioned nothing but what was proper to be repeated to him. The banyan, indeed, pretended an impatience equal to my own, for the accomplishment of what I desired; and went to town the next day, on purpose, as he said, to acquaint the *English* with my adventures, leaving the interpreter with me, that I might by him communicate my commands to his servants, who he had ordered to be very obsequious to me.

His absence ridding me for a time of the disquiets I was under, I diverted myself with asking the interpreter, who I found was a *Dutchman*, many questions, as, how long since he had been in *France*? What had occasioned his going there? How he came to, and in what station he was at *Bombay*? On which he told me, that, being a

mariner on board a *Dutch* merchant, the vessel was taken and that it was during the time he was a prisoner he learned the language; that afterward engaging in the *English* service, he arrived at a knowledge of their tongue, and also of the *Malayan* by coming frequently into *India*, and being much among the natives, with whom he now was settled; that he was married to an *Indian* woman, and had several children. I then asked him the name and rank of the person under whose protection I had fallen. On which he gave me the most high encomiums of him; and added, that whoever he married would be the happiest woman in the world. This I gave but very little ear to, and, to amuse myself, made him teach me several phrases in the *Malayan* language, which I really found so easy, that, in about ten days time, I could be able to ask for any thing I wanted; and this little study beguiled many melancholy hours I should otherwise have passed. I now began to wish for the banyan's return, thinking, by the answer he should bring, I might be able to form some judgment of what I was to expect, but we neither saw nor heard any thing of him for a whole month. At length he came and pretended (for, alas! I afterward found all he said was but to delude me), that he had tarried all that time, waiting for the governor's recovery, who was ill of a fever, and continued still in a condition which would not suffer him to see any company. He told me, he had related my history to several of the *English* merchants, but they seemed extremely cold and backward of doing any thing for me, which, he supposed, was owing to the war between the two nations; and that, as to my father's effects, whatever were on board that ship were entirely lost, she being sunk with her whole cargo.

This intelligence drew a flood of tears from my eyes, with which he seemed extremely moved, and told me, in the most tender terms, as the interpreter informed me, and which I now partly understood myself, that I had not any cause for this immoderate grief: that a little time, he hoped, would bring the *English* into more consideration of my distress, and that while I remained in *Bombay*,

though it were for ever, his house, and every thing in it, should be at my disposal. I thanked him, as his hospitality, had it been unmixed with any other views, would have indeed deserved; but, whatever my thoughts were on that head, I concealed them with all the little skill I was mistress of, and seemed uneasy only at the trouble his generosity and good-nature occasioned him on my score. But this he would hear nothing of, and endeavoured to abate my melancholy by all the ways he could invent. He made some of his people dance before me; others sung, and some played on instruments. The interpreter having told him what a progress I had made in the language of the country, he seemed in an extacy, and cried out, then I may hope every thing in *India* is not disagreeable to the lovely *Henrietta*." As I perfectly understood these words, I took upon me to answer without the help of an interpreter, that as yet I had found nothing so, and hoped to leave it with the same opinion I at present had. He made no direct reply, but told the *Dutchman*, that he was either an excellent tutor, or his pupil must have an uncommon genius, to be able not only to understand, but to pronounce, with so much grace and propriety, the accents of a language that a month ago, she had never heard. After this, whenever dinner or supper was served in, he made me tell him, out of which dish I would be helped, to drink to him, and, in short, for every thing I would have, in *Malayan*. The women too, who attended me in my chamber, were highly delighted that they could make themselves understood by me; and, when they dressed or undressed me, entertain me with some discourse or other; and this, in a very small time, made me so perfect in the language, that I could hold any conversation in it. Some days passed on, in which I had every thing done to divert my thoughts, and nothing to assure me the fears I had entertained had any real foundation, till the banyan, happening to be alone with me in the garden, led me into one of those grottos, which, you know, in the hottest season, are never without a certain coolness extremely refreshing.

We sat down on one of the benches, just opposite to the entrance, which gave us a prospect of the fun playing on the tops of trees, and gilding all around, without feeling any thing of its parching influence. "Is not this pleasant, *Henrietta*?" said he. "Might not any one find in *India* sufficient for content, without desiring to roam elsewhere?"—"Doubtless," answered I, "those who have their settlements here, have no reason to murmur at their lot; but those, whose dependance lies in other parts, can but half relish the delights of this."—"The way to make you like it then," resumed he, "is to fix you here. But I fear, not all the pleasure of the situation would atone for the complexion of the inhabitants. Our tawny colour is irksome to your eyes. You cannot bear to look on what is so different from yourself,"—"I have been always taught," answered I, "that *true* beauty is seated in the *mind*, and that we ought to be attracted only by virtue; and I have hitherto observed that lesson, always to *esteem* people according to their *actions*,"—"Have mine ever been offensive?" cried he, hastily. "Your's! Sir," said I, very much surprised: "can the charity, compassion, and hospitality, to which I am so much obliged, be ever too much, or too gratefully acknowledged?"—"No, *Henrietta*, no," answered he, with a sigh, "I have conferred no obligations on you. I could not act otherwise than I did, from the instant I beheld your charms, I became no longer the master of myself, or any thing I before was in possession of. You seized on all at once, and left me nothing, but the name of slave. Goddess of my soul!" continued he, taking hold of my hand, and putting it to his mouth, "I love you! I adore you!"

Never was confusion greater than mine at that instant: I blushed, I trembled, but had not power to speak. He trembled too though from a different cause; and, finding I was silent, had the temerity to snatch some kisses from my lips and breast. I struggled, but, finding my resistance ineffectual, "Why, Sir," cried I, "will you destroy all the merits of your favours, by using me in this unworthy manner? I know what it is to suffer

hardships; and, be assured, I will hazard every thing rather than be subjected to insults of this nature." These words had all the effect I spoke them for. He immediately drew back, only retaining that hand he had taken at first, and, pressing it tenderly between both his, "Why, charming *Henrietta*, will you put so cruel a construction on the innocent demonstrations I would give you of the ardency of my passion? Heaven only knows the tortures I have sustained, in forbearing to shock your modesty with too sudden a declaration, and sure it ought not so much to alarm you, when I protest, by all those powers we worship, that I never had any other than such designs upon you, as are agreeable to virtue, and to honour. No, *Henrietta*; permit me to be your *lover*, and, by the same powers, I swear never to be your *ravisher*."

"Alas! Sir," answered I, "what is it you require of me? Or, what can I infer from the distinction you have made?"—"All I intreat," said he, "is, that you will listen to my suit, and permit me to endeavour, by arguments, to win you to a more favourable opinion of my passion and person. If now and then, I feast my famished wishes with a touch of this dear hand, or even steal a kiss from those enchanting lips, impute it not as the forerunner of greater liberties, which I again bind myself by oath never to take without your free consent."

Though I was somewhat more assured than I had been, by these asseverations, yet I could not think of licensing a flame I was determined never to return, without an extreme reluctance; and I remained irresolute in what terms I should reply.

"You hesitate even to allow me this," said he; but my dearest *Henrietta*, when you reflect on the strange ways by which you were brought to me, how, among all the numerous partakers of your voyage, you were alone preserved; what dangers of every kind you were exposed to; what miseries you endured, 'till, almost miraculously, conducted to my roof, you must believe with me some supernatural power interposed, snatched you from ruin, and made it your fate you should be mine. Yes," continued he, "thou softest, loveliest creature, the gods,

whom I adore, sent thee to me, as the choicest blessing, to reward my piety and zealous observance of their laws."

"Ah, Sir," cried I, "mistake not the will of heaven, who sent me to you, only as an object to exercise your compassion and your bounty; to give you the highest noblest pleasure, that of doing good: those joys which love affords, seem too weak, in my opinion, to come in competition with the other; but, if there are any to be found in the gratification of that passion, you may partake them with some maid, whose religion and customs are more agreeable to your own."—"No, *Henrietta*, no," answered he; "the united charms of your whole sex, in any other than yourself, would give me short-lived blifs. It is you, and you alone, can make me truly happy; and, as for the difference of religion, I doubt not, but when you are well acquainted with our way of worship, you will allow our gods more benevolent than you have found your own." This blasphemy struck me with a horror which was very visible in my countenance, and, I instantly cried out, "O! Sir, rather kill me, than compel me to hear aught irreverent of the maker of heaven and earth." I could see a smile, which had something in it of contempt, upon his countenance, at the exclamation I made; but he was too artful to suffer it to continue, or add any thing which might increase my disquiet on this score: on the contrary, he told me, that he would never urge me to a change of faith; that I might enjoy my own opinion undisturbed; and pretended, that provided people acted according to the rules of virtue and reason, he did not think it any matter of moment to what gods they prayed. I say, but *pretended*; for in reality there never was a greater bigot to the idol-worship, nor a more prophane contemner of the divine mysteries of *christianity*. It was near sun-set before I was suffered to leave the grotto, nor then, 'till I had promised to listen calmly to his amorous addresses. All supper I was persecuted in the same manner, and when I counterfeited a drowsiness, and desired to retire, "cruel *Henrietta*!" cried he, "I see the little effect all my tenderness has on you. You hate me; My presence is insupportable to you; and

much I fear it never will be in my power to render it less so; yet, to prove the true respect I bear you, I will not detain you here. Perhaps, when left alone to meditate, you will think I deserve not to be treated with so much abhorrence." He spoke this with an air of such real grief, that I could not keep myself from being affected with it. "Ah, Sir!" answered I, with some emotion, "I am far from feeling any abhorrence of you, on the contrary, the benefits I have received from you, make me regard you as my only friend, my patron, my protector, and even to love you with the affection of a sister." "*Henrietta! Henrietta!*" cried he, with a voice which expressed as much satisfaction as that he had last spoke in was the reverse; "All thou hast lost, thou shalt find amply restored in me. I will ever be to thee more than all the world. But, if it be true you love me as a sister should, confirm it, by permitting me such an embrace as a brother ought not to be refused."

I now repented what I had said, and shuddered with apprehensions of the consequences, while he held me folded in his arms for several minutes. All this night I passed in anxieties not to be expressed. All my resource was to my prayers, in which I continued 'till the women came into my chamber. I was no sooner dressed, than they told me that the *Dutchman*, being about to depart, desired to take leave of me; on which I ordered he should be admitted. Having discovered in him a mercenary nature, I imagined that, if I could make it his interest to be faithful to me, he would be so. I then laid open all my soul to him, concealed not the declaration made me by the banyan; the aversion I had to any proposals of that kind, and the terrors I was hourly in on his account: and then ventured to let him know, that if any thing could be invented for my escape, I would quit his house, and venture every thing that might befall me. If therefore," continued I, "you will be so good as to provide some disguise for me, I will go away by night, and travel to the *English* factory; who I am certain, cannot be so inhuman as to refuse me a passage in one of their ships to some christian country, whence I may easily go to

France. To recompence what trouble you may take on this occasion, be assured, that as soon as I arrive at the factory, I will bestow upon you this ring; it is a diamond of value, and all my ill-fortune has left me." In speaking this I shewed the jewel, the glitter of which seemed to have all the effect I wished it should upon him; and, after a very little hesitation, he assured me, that within three days I should hear from him to my satisfaction; but advised me in the mean time, to treat the banyan in a manner that should give him room to hope I was less averse to his desires, lest a contrary behaviour should provoke him to have recourse to force.

Thinking that, if I staid too long in my chamber, the banyan might suppose it was only to avoid him, I went down into the hall, where I expected to find him, as was his custom, waiting to receive me; but now I was there, as near as I can guess, two hours before he came: at last he entered, and had a letter in his hand. "My dear *Henrietta*," said he, "how sorry am I to be the bearer of news which I fear will give you pain, but you must be told it. I have just now received a letter from one of the *English* merchants, who assures me, in the name of the whole factory, that, as there is at present so violent an animosity between the two nations, nothing can be done for one of yours, especially for a person of the family of one who was the intended governor of *Irana-dad*, and who, had he lived, had doubtless a commission to give what annoyance he could to their trade; so that now you have indeed no dependance but on me." My heart sunk in me while he spoke, but soon recovered itself, on the belief that this was all an artifice, as indeed it was, to reduce me to the necessity of complying with his will. Following the *Dutchman's* advice, I therefore only said, "then I find there are barbarians among christians."—"Aye," returned he, with some vehemence, "such as you will never find among the *Indians*." The whole day I so well supported an affectation of good humour, as, I imagined, passed upon him for reality. I now seemed to give a less reluctant ear to the professions he made me of his love; suffered him

to hold my hand for hours together, without offering to snatch it from him, and even to kiss me without struggling. He seemed transported at my condescension, and, pressing me to his bosom, cried, "O my *Henrietta*! shall I ever prevail on you to believe it will be your happiness, as well as mine, to allow me greater favours?" This action making me fear I had over-acted my part, I sprung from his embrace: "Remember, Sir," said I, "the vow you have made; nor wound my modesty with freedoms, I should be unworthy your affection to permit, I yet am young, and a virgin, nor can at once resign my heart: grant me at least a little time."—"You shall have all you ask," replied he, "but let that time be limited. Say but you will be mine, and when, and I will attend the blissful hour with cold *European* patience." "I cannot promise any thing," said I, "but, if you love me truly, you will try how far my gratitude, and the respect I have at present for you, will work by degrees upon my soul." "Well, I must be content," rejoined he, "with what you are pleased to grant."

After this I could perceive he was a little thoughtful, though he endeavoured to conceal it, but behaved to me with the same tenderness as ever. This continued for two days, and part of the third from the *Dutchman's* departure, during all which time the pain I was in for fear he should not keep his word, and the force I did myself in suffering the banyan's importunities, rendered my life very irksome. At last the *Dutchman* came under the pretence of searching for some papers, which, if he had not left behind, he said, were of great consequence to him; but, in reality, to slip a letter into my hand, which having done unperceived by any one, he went away again, and I took hold of the first moment I was left alone, to see what he had given me contained. These were the words:

"If you persist in your resolution of leaving the banyan's house, come into the garden about midnight, and by the side of the banquetting room you will find the habit of a slave. I thought that the properest disguise to conceal you. I will

wait for you on the back of the garden, in order to conduct you where you so much wish to be."

The banyan being that evening extremely pressing for me to fix the moment of his happiness; "to-morrow," answered I, "you shall know my resolution."—"Your resolution!" cried he, "that may be to doom me to despair; but tell me, may I hope it will be in my favour?"—"Yes, Sir," said I, "if you continue to desire it."—"That you may be convinced is past a doubt," rejoined he; "to-morrow, you say. Swear then by your god, you will be mine to-morrow."—"There is no answering for events," said I (very cunningly as I then thought;) "but if I live, and see you to-morrow in the same sentiments you now profess, I will refuse you nothing."—"But yet you have not sworn," resumed he; "confirm the charming promise with a vow, that I may be ascertained of my bliss, and pass this night in ecstasies of imagination, which can be exceeded by nothing but the reality of the next."—"Well then to satisfy you," said I, "by the all-seeing ruler of this wide creation, I swear to keep inviolably the promise I have made."

The banyan appeared transported, and kissed my hand several times; but yet I thought with less fervour than he was accustomed to; he also talked but little, and when I made a motion to retire to my chamber, he opposed it not, and only said, embracing me at the same time, "take heed, my lovely *Henrietta*, you perform your vow." I only smiled and took my leave.

Being got to my chamber, I suffered the women to prepare me for bed as usual; but as soon as they were gone I put on my clothes again, waiting impatiently for the appointed time, which I was obliged to stay somewhat beyond, imagining I heard some noise in the house, as if all the family were not in bed. At last finding all hushed and silent, I ventured down, and having opened the door softly, got into the garden, trembling at every step, lest some accident should retard my intended flight; and then, said I to myself, "what will become of me after the vow I have made?" I met

with nothing, however, to give me any alarm; and on my coming to the banquetting room, found the habit as the *Dutchman's* letter had informed me. I presently exchanged my taffety robe for the habit of a slave; and got over the little fence that parts that side of the garden from the meadow, where I found my expected guide, and put myself under his conduct. He told me I must arm myself with patience, for we had many a weary mile to travel, before we should come to any secure place of rest; but I was so overjoyed at my deliverance, that I thought I could walk for ever. We rather ran indeed, in order, as he said, to gain a considerable distance before I should be missed, and consequently pursued. We had not pursued our journey above half a league, when all on a sudden we heard a great noise, and presently found ourselves encompassed by several men, who, all at once, cried out, "a woman! a woman! We will share her among us." They fell upon the *Dutchman*, and, as I thought, killed him: then seized on me, and made use of some expressions, which, joined to the surprise and fright I was in before, took away my senses, and I fell down in a swoon. Whether any attempts were made to bring me to myself, or not, or by what means I was conveyed from that place, I was not capable of knowing; but the first objects that presented themselves to my returning senses, were the two very women who had been use to attend me, and who now seemed busy in applying things for my recovery. My brain was yet weak: I saw not presently where I was; and, though I perfectly knew them, the idea of these dreadful men, in whose power I had been but a moment before, to my thinking was so strong in my head, that I talked of nothing but rapés and murders. But this delirium lasted only a short space; reason returned, and shewed me what a wretch I was. I found that I was again in the power of the banyan, under his roof, and on the same bed as I had ever lain upon, since my being first presented to him. I asked the women several questions concerning this adventure; but all the satisfaction I could get from them was, that their

master would answer me. By this I guessed it would not be long before I saw the banyan; and the shame of having deceived him, joined to the apprehensions I before had of him, was ready to throw me into a second fainting. It was day before he entered; and, though he had all the marks of the most heavy displeasure on his brow, I could perceive a sullen satisfaction through the gloom. I was still on the bed, and as soon as he appeared I pulled the coverlet over my face. "Well may you hide yourself, ungrateful and perfidious maid," said he; "not only false to me, but to your god, who testifies his abhorrence of your crimes, and, had he no greater pity, would abandon you to all you seem most to dread. But come," continued he, throwing off the coverlet, "let me see what form that deceitful face now wears, and whether it yet has charms to disarm my indignation."—"I wish not that it should," cried I, with all the courage as I could muster up, "and ask no favour, but immediate death. Since my hard fate has again thrown me into your power, kill me, and ease me of the agonies I suffer, and yourself of the disquiets you feel on my account."—"No," resumed he, "I have another, and more pleasing way of satiating my revenge; when that is completed, you shall be free to dispose of yourself as you think fit. Prepare," continued he, turning to the women who were still in the room, "this perverse creature, in the best manner you can, to give me an hour's diversion; then bring her to my chamber." He went out with these words.

These creatures then, who had no sense of womanhood, or notion, but of obeying their imperious master, began to strip off the habit I had on, and by force dress me in a rich *Indian* gown; I all the time weeping, tearing my hair, and invoking heaven to strike me dead that moment. I was then conducted, or rather dragged, to the place where I expected to have what was dearer far to me than life, sacrificed to brutal lust and cruelty. Whether the sight of my distress moved him with some little pity, I know not, but his countenance seemed to have lost great part of it's late fierceness; and making a

sign to those that brought me, to leave us alone together; "Well, *Henrietta*," said he, "is it thus you endeavour to abate my just resentment? Is it by tears and sullen silence you think to win me to a forgetfulness of what is past?" I would now have spoke, but something rose in my throat, and stopped the passage of my words; and I could, for a considerable time, answer only with sobs, groans, and all the symptoms of unutterable grief. "Obstinate, foolish girl," cried he, "I might rather have expected you would have tried to awaken in me that tenderness, which so long pleaded in your favour. Where are now the arts, the counterfeited softness and regard you could yesterday so well put on, in order to deceive me?"—"If my words contradicted my actions," answered I, casting down my eyes, "It was cruel necessity enforced me to it. Heaven knows I wish not to dissemble with you; and I now again, with the utmost perfect sincerity, avow my heart was never insensible of your favours, though incapable of being touched with your love."—"O! thou lly evader," resumed he, "couldst thou be grateful for the effects, yet ungrateful to the cause from whence they sprung? What motive, but my love, induced me to give thee my protection? And what return, but love, hadst thou to make me?"—"I know not what it is to love," said I; "but have been told it is not the effect of choice, but chance; a secret sympathy, which attaches us, in spite of ourselves, to the beloved object."—"True," answered he, "and you have found a proof of it in me. I have loved you, *Henrietta*, loved you against my will; but what I did by compulsion, you should have endeavoured to have done by gratitude and reason. That you have still too great an ascendant over me, even my present behaviour may make you see; but I will break the enchantment which so much debases me, and think of you no otherwise than as a woman, and as such compel you to assist my pleasures." In speaking this he took hold of me with a violence, which left me no ground to hope I could escape. I threw myself at his feet, conjured him to have pity on my youth and innocence, entreated his

forgiveness for the deception I had put on him; or, if he would not grant it, to punish me by another way than that he threatned. But he seemed deaf to all I said. At last, "if not for mine," cried I, "for your own sake refrain this horrid violation: remember you have sworn by all your gods, never to have recourse to force. O think on the guilt of perjury!"

I was going on, but he interrupted me at that word, "O! thou hypocrite!" said he "with what front canst thou name perjury, when thou thyself art doubly guilty of it? Didst thou not vow by thy own god, that if alive, and in my power this day, thou wouldst refuse me nothing? Why then this resistance, unless to make me guilty too?"—"Hold, Sir," replied I, "the vow you upbraid me with I own; own too I made it to deceive you, and beg you to forgive the only offence I ever willingly committed against you. But, Sir, be also pleased to remember it was conditional, and could not bind, without you retained the same sentiments for me as at the time I made it: which now, after this detection of my fraud, I am sure you do not; cannot."

"Then you allow it binding if I did," rejoined he. "Most certainly;" answered I, "nor durst I have departed from it, however averse by inclination to fulfil it."—"Then hear me," said he, "by your own words you are condemned: my sentiments are the same of you at this moment, as when you made that vow. To prove it, know I was acquainted with every method you took in order to impose upon me. The letter given you by the *Dutchman* was dictated by me; the disguise laid for you by myself; the persons who surpris'd you in the forest no other than my own servants, in the rear of whom I was in person; nor quitted sight of you 'till laid on the bed, and means were used for your recovery. Thus, knowing your fraud as well before your flight as after, I could not have other sentiments of you then, than those I now retain.

I now became sadly convinced I was caught in my own snare, and had not one argument to offer in opposition to his reasons; all I could do, to vent the anguish

of my mind, was to exclaim against the treacherous *Dutchman*, who had seemed to favour my design, seduced me by his pernicious advice, and betrayed me in so cruel a manner. The banyan suffered me to evaporate my rage awhile, and then taking me in his arms, "come; *Henrietta*," said he, "must we both be perjured? You, in refusing what you have sworn to yield; and I, in using a violence, it is neither in my nature or my principles to be guilty of? Or will you unreluctant resign yourself to me, and save our souls a crime mine shudders at, though determined to commit?"

What could I now say? How avoid what fate seemed to have ordained for me? Bound by an oath, I durst not even refuse what I would rather have died a thousand deaths than have granted: yet willing the cruel sacrifice should be performed with the greatest shew of decency I could; "I have nothing, Sir, to urge," answered I, "against the justice of your claim: I acknowledge myself yours by compact, and dare not oppose your seizing the forfeit. But, Sir, you then professed to love me honourable, expressed a wish to pass your life with me: if what you said was sincere, the gratification of your desires on my unhappy person ought to be introduced with a certain ceremony."—"I understand you," cried he; "and to prove how little I deserve the treatment you have given me, will still make you my wife. O *Henrietta! Henrietta!*" pursued he pressing my trembling, but now yielding lips, "with all thy faults, thou still art dear to my fond heart."

Name what is past on more," said I, "if you would establish in my breast that tranquillity, which alone can make our future happiness; and, in return, I now swear with the utmost sincerity, that, however averse my soul has been to your desires, I will henceforward endeavour to regard you with an equal degree of tenderness; never be repugnant to your will, disobedient to your commands, nor refractory to your embraces; but behave in all things as a wife would do, who became so merely by her own choice and inclination."

It is not possible for any words to express the extacy he was in at this protestation; nor could he himself testify it, but by incoherent phrases and broken sentences. "Is it possible?" cried he. "May I believe thee?" Then kissed, embraced, and held me to his breast with a tenderness, which, as it had nothing in it offensive to modesty, did really abate great part of the distaste his colour had been used to give me.

Fain would he have had the marriage solemnized that day, but I prevailed with him to delay it to the next, alledging, that my last night's fatigue, joined to the hurry of spirits the strange alteration in my fortune had occasioned, required I should pass this alone. "You need not apprehend," said I: "any attempt of deceiving you a second time: I too much repent the first; and those hours I am absent from you shall be employed in studying ways to atone for that transgression."

This obliging behaviour won him to grant my request, and all the remainder of that day was past in demonstrations of the extremest love on his part, and gratitude on mine. And, though it is certain I could not bring myself all at once to be perfectly contented with my fate, yet I was much more resigned to it, than some days before I could have imagined. The horrors of it by degrees diminished, and the tenderness, the consideration he still had of me, in spite of all I had done to disoblige him, made me think, that, if I could not love, I ought not to hate him. "How ridiculous is it," said I to myself, "to confine our liking to what is merely owing to the difference of climates! Had I been born in *India*, I should have been of the same colour with this banyan: and what, except a skin, is wanting, to render his person as agreeable as any *European* I have ever seen?" While I was thus ruminating, I looked earnestly upon him; and my sentiments being at that moment very much in his favour, they doubtless gave an unusual softness to my eyes. He instantly perceived it, and though we were then at supper, started from his seat, and throwing his head upon my breast, cried, "O

my *Henrietta*! may I believe those looks of yours have any correspondence with your heart?" "Believe every thing," said I, blushing, "that may add to your contentment on my score. I promised to endeavour to love you; a few hours hence it will be my duty to do so; and I hope, when once that sacred ceremony is past, I shall fulfil it." I had no sooner spoke these words, than a sudden thought came into my head, which gave me some disquiet; and the moment I had disengaged myself from his arms, I communicated it to him. "Sir," said I, "in what manner is our marriage to be performed? For if it is not according to the rights of the christian church, I never shall be able to believe myself legally your wife." "You would not be esteemed so in this country," answered he, "if not united to me in the forms appointed by the *Indian* worship; nor could I at my death, in case it happens before yours, leave you as I would wish to do. Besides, if you consider that I am a banyan, and a man bound to uphold the religion I profess, you will allow I cannot marry otherwise.

I knew very well that what he said was reasonable; yet the thoughts of pledging my vows in the pagod of an idol was so terrible a shock to me, that I could not get over the melancholy it occasioned: in vain he endeavoured to render me more cheerful: I carried the most gloomy meditations to my chamber, and pass'd great part of the night in tears. That I might be really a wife, which I could not believe the *Indian* ceremony would make me, I resolved to repeat internally, while the other was performing, that of the christian church.

Early in the morning the two women who constantly attended me came in, with several others, and equipped me indeed in a very sumptuous manner for my nuptials, and then conducted me to the banyan, whom I found also very richly dress'd. I told him in his ear the expedient I had form'd to satisfy my scruples: at which he smiled, and answered, that he was glad I had found any thing to make me more satisfied with my lot. A numerous train of banyans and others, whom he had invited to be witnesses of our marriage, immediately

entered, and we went in procession to the place appointed for the ceremony. Here ended the calamities of my *virgin* state; but, alas! only to begin again in that of a *wife*: for though never woman, possess of an unworthy passion, ever laboured more than I did to cherish a lawful one for him, who was now my husband; yet could I not bring myself to feel any of those ardours which they say ought to accompany the union between man and woman. As I thought it my duty to be fond, I returned his endearments in the best manner I could; yet were they so indefinitely short of those I received, that a less penetrating eye than his might easily perceive the difference. He complained of it at first in the most tender terms, omitted nothing that might excite in me a greater warmth of affection, yet all in vain; my soul remained insensible of those furious emotions of delight, with which he met me after a very little absence, and was indeed amazed at them in him. 'Tis certain, had he lov'd me with less excess, we had been more happy: possession was so far from making any abatement in the wildness of his passion, that every day I found the effects of its increase. He would hang whole hours together on my neck; gaze on my face with such earnestness, as though each look was to be his last; asked if I lov'd him, yet prevented the answer he desired by stifling me with kisses. As I had then a tolerable voice, and some judgment in music, he often desired me to sing; but I no sooner had begun, than some fond act of dotage obliged me to break off. In short, though the testimonies he gave me of his passion would to a person who loved to the same degree, have been transporting, they seemed to me folly and madness, and were so far from heightning my esteem, that I was obliged to make use of all my efforts to conceal the dissatisfaction they occasioned me.

As he was never easy out of my sight, I took notice to him one day, that his staying so much in the country was a prejudice to his affairs; and asked, when he thought of going to town. On which he told me he had ordered every thing for our departure in three or four days: For," said he, "I intend you shall go

with me; I could transact no business; my head would be incapable of any thing at such a distance from my *Henrietta*." It was necessary for me to feign myself highly contented with the journey, though in reality I should much rather have chose to indulge my meditations in that agreeable solitude.

On our arrival we received the visits of several *Indian* families, who congratulated my husband on his choice, and made many flattering compliments on my beauty: but he always seemed averse to my going much abroad; and, as I was not at all desirous of any conversation with the *Indians*, I readily enough complied with his inclinations in that point. I soon after became pregnant; and the banyan having discovered it, insisted on my accompanying him to the temple, to invoke the blessing of the idol worshipped there for a happy birth. It was, he told me, a custom that was not to be dispensed with, more especially in the wife of a banyan; and that, if I refused to go, he should incur the censure of all his country as a favourer of christianity.

I was conducted to the pagod in a close sedan, and attended by the greatest part of our domesticks: the banyan, with several of his friends met me at the entrance, and led me to the pillar on which the idol is placed; where having finished my orisons, the ridiculous ceremonies that ensued filled me at once with wonder and detestation. All being over the banyan was leading me to my sedan, when four or five *English* gentlemen, excited I suppose by curiosity, to see the *Indian* mode of worship, were coming in. They seemed to know my husband, and saluted him in the most courteous manner, but had their eyes immediately fixed on me with tokens of admiration; which giving him some alarm, he scarce returned the civilities they paid him, and made what haste he could to thrust me into the sedan.

The habit of these persons assuring me they were *Europeans*, I doubted not but they were of the *English* factory; and the banyan, on my asking him, told me that they were. On which I said, that, if he approved of it I should be glad to become acquainted with their ladies, as I suppose some of them who were settled

there had wives and families. He answered me, that on many accounts it would be improper; but chiefly, that to converse with christians would make it supposed that I still entertained the same principles; and as it was absolutely necessary for his interest to take off any such suspicion, he desired I would not think of it. "Besides," added he, with a smile, "to see these white people often would renew in you all that aversion you once had for my colour, and which I have too much reason to fear is not yet altogether dissipated." These words I thought discovered something of a jealous nature in him; and, as I knew it was the interest of my peace, as well as my duty, to give him no cause of offence that way, I assured him with the most passionate tenderness I was capable of assuming, that I had no wish equal to that of pleasing him, and would be glad it were in my power to prove my affection for him, by much greater sacrifices than the trifle I had mentioned. "Ah *Henrietta!*" cried he, "how happy should I be to believe this obliging protestation: but alas! there is a test I have long wished to put you to, which I much doubt your love for me would not be able to get over. It is, my dear," continued he, "that you would be prevailed upon to throw off the prejudices of education, renounce the foolish principles your youth imbibed, and become in verity as true a pagan as the necessity of our affairs has obliged you to pretend. Then, then," added he, embracing me, "should we be one soul indeed; then I shall believe you truly love me, which till then I never can."—"O say not so, I conjure you," answered I; "for though I never can exchange my faith, or bow my body in reality to gods of wood or stone; yet I would die to prove you are, next heaven, dearest to my soul." The earnestness with which I spoke these words, giving him an opinion they were sincere, as indeed they were (for though I loved him not with passion, yet I loved none but him), made him the less displeased at the contempt I testified of his religion, and he forbore to urge me any farther at that time, nor indeed at any other, 'till after I had brought you into the world.

But, O my Zoa! what horrors did my poor heart feel when regarding you with all a mother's tenderness, I reflected, that you must be trained up in infidelity, taught to despise the faith of your ancestors, and abjure the power that gave you being. Few opportunities I had for prayers, but those I had were all employed, that heaven which had by such strange accidents brought me among pagans, might by ways unforeseen conduct you among christians. Every time I considered you had not received baptism my soul shook within me; and one day, when I was alone, I got a basin of water, and repeating as much as I could remember of the sacred ceremony, of consecration, I dipt your little head into it, gave you the sign of christianity; and beseeched Him in whose name I did it, to accept you as an offering from my hands, since I was denied the assistance of a person whose office it properly was. I was in the midst of this act of devotion, when the banyan came and surprised me. He had, it seems, been present at this ceremony, and therefore was not ignorant what I was about, as the rage which sparkled in his eyes too well convinced me. "Vain foolish woman!" cried he; "how durst you practice these follies on a child of mine? But dearly shalt thou pay for this abuse of my indulgence. Here," continued he, calling in some women who were waiting in the next room, "take this babe, and let her be conveyed, where the first words she is taught to speak, shall be to curse the christians." I was at first so seized with terror, that I could not open my lips; but at these words I fell on my knees; and, in the best terms I could, begged him to moderate his indignation; but all I said was ineffectual; he tore you screaming, as if sensible of your misfortune, from my struggling arms, and made you be carried from my sight; on which, forgetting all that before I had thought the duty of a wife, and regardless of what he might do to me, I burst into the most violent exclamations against his cruelty, against his gods; and deplored my own fate, for subjecting me to the power of such a barbarian; nay, I think I even called him *monster*; and what stung him yet more, said he was in malice, as in colour, of a piece

with hell. This last reflection on his person, which he had always suspected was disagreeable to me, so put him past all patience, that without thinking what he did, he drew his dagger, and, as I thought was going to put an end to my wretched life, but he only gave me a blow on my head with the flat part of it, which however struck me to the ground, and for a time took away both my speech and senses. How he behaved after he saw me fall I know not, nor did I ever give myself the trouble of enquiring, so entirely had this last action destroyed all that tenderness I had so many months been labouring to establish. All my care was for my little *Zoa*; and, as soon as I came to myself, I asked where you were sent. My women then told me that you were yet in the house; but how you were to be disposed of they knew not, and advised me to submit myself to the banyan, who they doubted not would be prevailed upon to suffer you to continue with me, especially as I gave you suck, and it might be prejudicial to you if removed to any other breast. As I knew his fondness of you, I was of their opinion; but it was not immediately I could think of ever speaking more with any show of tenderness to a man who had treated me as a slave. At length however my love and care of you got the better of my resentment, and I consented they should bear a message from me, in what terms they thought would have most effect upon him, to prevent his sending you out of the house. They went and soon after returned with you in their arms, but told me that if I hoped to retain any part of their master's affection, or keep you always with me, I must humble myself to him in person, my wretched lot subjected me to his authority, it had indeed been the most prudent step I could have taken; but the pride of blood now aiding my disdain at his unworthy usage made the thoughts of ever seeing him more insupportable to me. 'Tis sure that nothing but the danger of being separated from you could ever have made me bend to a man, in all things, but his power, so much my inferior, and whom I had not now the least remains of regard for.

Several days did I support this resolution, in every one of which the women remonstrated to me, that my obli-

nacy so incensed the banyan, that it would infallibly occasion the loss of my child. This terrified me for a moment; but then my vanity suggested, that those charms which once had so great an influence over him, would get the better of his haughtiness; and the impossibility of living without me force him to be the first that should desire a reconciliation, and then I might make my own conditions. But these expectations deceived me; he came not, nor sent, 'till with the cruel order of depriving me of you. I now tore my hair and garments, and at last bid the messenger intreat of him to permit me to come into his chamber; and if he then insisted on my delivering the infant I would do it. I was told that it was not without a great deal of difficulty he was induced to grant my request; and I believe by the manner in which he received me, I was informed no more than the truth. All that softness, that regard, with which he was wont to look upon me, and on which I so much depended, seemed vanished as if it had never been; and casting his eyes towards me, with the air of an imperious master, rather than a tender husband, "woman what is it you would have?" said he; "briefly relate the subject of your petition."—"I come Sir, answered I, trembling between the constraint I put upon myself, and the fears of not succeeding, "to deliver up this infant to you, and withal to conjure you to command my death at the same time; for, after the loss of your affection, and the presence of my dear child, I cannot wish to live.

"Death may indeed be preferable," answered he fiercely, "to living with me; but since that discovery of your sentiment, I have been kind enough to keep out of your sight this barbarian! this monster! who, in malice, as in colour, is of a piece with hell; and who, it is plain, you, always had an equal abhorrence of in your heart, though you dissembled otherwise in your actions."

"'Tis actions speak the heart," said I, sobbing, "and ought to be regarded, when a few rash words enforced by an extremity of passion are forgot: mine were no more, and if you loved you would forgive."—"Had they been such," interrupted he, "you would long e'er this have repented of them, and implored that pardon which you

even now hardly vouchsafe to ask."—"Will then," cried I, falling at his feet, "this humble posture move you to believe? On my knees I humbly beg all animosities between us may be no more remembered, and that you will not part me from my child."

He seemed a little touched with these words, and the tears that accompanied them; and either through his consideration of you, or some remains of tenderness for me, vouchsafed, though in the most haughty terms, a grant of my request, on this condition, that I would bind myself by a solemn oath, never, as you grew up, to attempt inspiring you with any notions of the christian faith. I was obliged to yield to this injunction, hard as it was; and you know, my *Zea*, how religiously I have observed it; but with my life all obligations cease; and I hope what I bequeath, as the only and best legacy I could give you at my death, will have some influence over you.

It is now at the time of my writing this, twelve years since the quarrel I have been relating happened, yet has there never been a perfect reconciliation between us. Convinced by what I had said, that all the tenderness he had for me had never made a real impression on my heart, his pride would not permit him to show any marks of its continuance. I, on the other side, not able to forgive the contemptuous blow I had received, used no efforts to make him think I had a more favourable opinion of him. Jealousy of his honor, or perhaps a pleasure he takes in denying me all that would give me any satisfaction, makes him keep me in a continual imprisonment. A stranger in a place where I have lived so many years, I breathe not the fresh air beyond the precincts of our own grounds; know not the face of any creature but our own domesticks; partake of no diversion; enjoy no conversation but my own melancholly thoughts; and sometimes, what is yet less agreeable, the company of a man, who from the utmost excess, and even troublesome degree of dotage, now behaves with the most stabbing indifference; sits by me either in sullen silence, or entertains me with malicious jests on the alteration of my person. All this I bear with seeming patience, as the ills I suffer are without a remedy; but a secret grief preys on my vitals: Withered

in my bloom, moped, spiritless, I pass my days in a wasting anguish, which life cannot long sustain.

The dreadful solitude I long have lived in has given me opportunity to write you this account of myself, and the papers you will find inclosed: all I have to ask of heaven is, that they may have due weight with you to make you become a christian in your heart: as to an exterior show of it, at least while the banyan lives, I can neither expect nor desire. Remember that, though he has been my *tyrant*, yet he is your *father*; and you must not only *obey*, but also *oblige* him in all things wherein your conscience is not concerned; but above all things, if it be possible, my dear Zoa, avoid marrying a *pagan*; for that would be binding yourself for ever to idolatry, and perhaps make you the mother of a race of unbelievers—a crime which would render you no less cruel to them, than I should be to you, if I forbore giving you those instructions at my death, which I was bound by oath never to reveal in life.

Farewel, my dear, dear child! As before you read this I shall be released from this vale of misery, be assured I am continually making intercession to the throne of mercy, both for your present and immortal happiness.

ZOA, a few years after her mothers death, met with a singular circumstance, which induced her to quit her father, and make her escape to England, where she has been prevailed on by her friends to write her OWN HISTORY; with which the public may be accommodated for the small charge of *Six-pence*.

F I N I S.

in my blood moved, I said to my dear friend,
the angels which life cannot and cannot

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heaven is that they must have been

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important circumstance, which induced her to quit her fa-

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charge of the work.

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