

sentential differences and fitnesses, &c. will have less proof from *fact* to support their foundation, although it really be the nobler principle, and also the first and original principle of obligation.

And now, Madam, I take my leave of you, but with very great concern, I must assure you, because I find I am not to hear from you any more, at least not on this subject. Those words in the conclusion of your letter, that *you have done your part, and need not trouble the world or me with any more of your reflexions*; what shall I say to them? However sensibly I am touched with the loss of so agreeable a correspondent, I must not forget to thank you heartily for the instructive part you have performed in these subjects; and for your condescensions and favours to me in particular, under a just sense of which I subscribe myself,

Your faithful, and

obedient servant,

T. SHARP.

Fatal

Fatal Friendship:

A

TRAGEDY.

As it was Acted at the

NEW-THEATRE

IN

LITTLE-LINCOLN'S-INN-FIELDS,

In the Year MDCXCVIII.

TO
Her Royal Highness
THE
PRINCESS.

MADAM,

MY happy success in one bold attempt not only encourages, but forces me, to a much greater, aspiring to lay this trifle at your Royal Highness's feet. When a woman appears in the world under any distinguishing character, she must expect to be the mark of ill nature; but most one, who seems desirous to recommend herself by what the other sex think their peculiar prerogative. This, Madam, makes me fly to the protection of so great a Princess; though I am sensible so high an honour must raise me many more enemies, making me indeed worthy of envy, which I am but too well secured from in myself; though an undertaking, so few of my sex have ventured at, may draw some malice on me. But it is my happiness, that the thing, which will most reasonably make me the object of enmity, will be my safety against the effects of it. What insolence dare injure one they find in your Royal presence, and under your illustrious patronage?

Nor need your Highness disdain to look favourably down upon this humble present; though I have hitherto seem'd to offer it only for my own security. I may say, it in some measure merits your regard, though the performance is much unworthy of it: its end is the most noble, to discourage vice, and recommend a firm unshaken virtue. That must receive your Royal Highness's approbation, since it is the same great design, as that of your own admirable life; but with what disadvantage imitated! How must I blush for the copy, when I cast my eyes upon such an excellent original!

But here permit me, Madam, to decline attempting your encomium, as a mark both of the most profound respect, and highest admiration, best expressed by an awful silence, which confesses you above all praise. But were it possible for some nobler pen to reach the height of your perfections, the work would be superfluous; since they need not even the lustre of your rank to make them conspicuous to the world, or to engage mankind in your service. Nor be offended, most illustrious Princess, if I say, it is they, more even than your Royal birth, make me ambitious, with all submissive duty, to be allowed the title of

Your Royal Highness's

most humbly devoted,

and most obedient servant,

C. TROTTER.

T O

TO THE
A U T H O R
OF THE
FATAL FRIENDSHIP.

W H E N Sappho sang with universal praise,
'Greece saw a beauteous nymph possess the bays;
But ever since, our title once regain'd,
The muses empire we have still maintained;
Till you your sex asserted, and redrest,
By custom and our tyranny oppress.
You shew, that if they fail in any part,
'Tis not in genius, but ignoble art.
Others some small efforts of wit have made;
But want of nerves the woman still betray'd,
Till you, in judgment old, in fancy young,
With all your sex's delicacy strong,
Possess the talents we so vainly vaunt,
With all the nicer beauties that we want.
Thus, cruel nymph, all pity you disclaim,
At once invade our liberty and fame.

B. Higgons,

VOL. II.

H h

T O

TO THE
AUTHOR,
ON HER

Tragedy, call'd FATAL FRIENDSHIP.

GREAT Sappho, with some few, that shar'd
her glory,
Kept the bright character they had in story,
With doubted right, till after-ages came,
By fair examples to assert their fame.
As when the tribute of our praise we give,
They by your worth to endless fame survive:
Nor can I silently my thoughts delay;
The joy's too exquisite, and will have way.
Tho' greatest beauties less in praise appear,
'Tis hard, to see, be charm'd, and not cry out, she's
fair.

Your play with an exalted genius shines,
And charming numbers every thought refines.
But sure thy mind was meant the court of love,
Soft as the joys, that yielding virgins move.
There every grace does to thy pen repair,
Firing the brave, melting the rigid fair.
Nor less in honour's school hast thou been read,
Thy men with equal steps the tract of glory tread:
As when some master-hand a Cupid draws,
With pointed arrow in a lover's cause;
On th' other side a Mars with manly grace,
Expressing right and victory in his face;

The

The sporting fair, who now despis'd his art,
Feels from the shadow a resistless dart;
And he——

Who for inglorious ease could fame forego,
Rous'd at the sight starts forward to the foe.
Nor do thy rules for life alone excel;
You've taught the harder task of dying well;
Safe from the glingling folly of our time,
Whose heroes die in simile and rhyme.
'Tis thus you may support the sinking stage,
Thus learn the scriblers, that infect this age,
To mourn, how nature stinted their poor lot,
And leave for humbler arts their plays and plot.
Let Congreve, Granville, and the few, who yet
Support the credit of our poets wit,
With you the empire of the stage maintain,
Nor suffer fools so oft to usurp your reign.
Then perfect plays would perfect joys inspire,
Touch to the soul, and waken dead desire;
Deny each chatt'ring ape his fancy'd part,
And teach us to revere your sacred art.

P. Harman.

H h 2

T O

To my much esteemed Friend,

On her P L A Y called

FATAL FRIENDSHIP.

WITH what concern I sat and heard your play,
 None else can judge, but such a friend sure may.
 The Indian mother could not feel more pain,
 Whose newborn babe's thrown headlong in the main,
 To prove him lawful, at whose welcome rise
 (Her fears dispers'd) joy gushes at her eyes.
 Were I but judge enough, I'd do thee right,
 Though yet much more I want poetic flight;
 And 'twere his folly to repeat anew,
 Who lights a taper the bright sun to shew,
 Should I attempt your praise; but as a friend,
 I express my thoughts, is all that I intend.
 Your fable's clear; no rule you have transgress;
 Chast all your thoughts, yet nature still express;
 Your numbers flow, as if the muses all
 Consulted nothing, but their rise, and fall:
 Your characters are just, and with such art
 Your passions rais'd, they gain th' unwary heart;
 And what you feign, effectually create.
 Who was unmov'd at sad Felicia's fate?
 Scarce cou'd the stubbornest deny their tears;
 All felt your heroes miseries, as theirs;
 But as a faithful friend, he touch'd me most;
 By life's most noble, best of blessings, lost.
 O heav'n, this my fondest wish decree!
 Our mutual friendship may ne'er fatal be.

T O

TO THE
 A U T H O R
 O F
 FATAL FRIENDSHIP.

THE fam'd Orinda's and Astrea's lays,
 With never-dying wit, blest'd Charles's days;
 And we suppos'd wit could no higher rise,
 Till you succeeding tear from them the prize.
 More just applause is yours, who check the rage
 Of reigning vice, that has debauch'd the stage,
 And dare shew virtue in a vicious age. }
 With eager wishing eyes the day we sought,
 When to its first design the drama might be brought.
 Now an unusual charm our hearts has seiz'd,
 For we at once both profit, and are pleas'd;
 And you may boast, that by your skilful hand,
 You've done what senates did in vain command:
 For such examples bear a mighty sway,
 Since none in vicious paths will chuse to stray, }
 When wit and beauty join to lead in virtue's way.

H h 3

T O

To the ingenious

A U T H O R,

On her TRAGEDY called,

FATAL FRIENDSHIP.

Sent by an unknown Hand.*

AS when Camilla once, a warlike dame,
 In bloody battles won immortal fame;
 Forsook her female arts, and chose to bear
 The pond'rous shield, and heave the massy spear,
 Superior to her sex; so swift she flew
 Around the field, and such vast numbers slew,
 That friends and foes alike surpriz'd behold
 The brave Virago desperately bold,
 And thought her Pallas in a human mold.
 Such is our wonder, matchless maid! to see
 The tragic laurel thus deserv'd by thee.

Yet greater praise is yours; Camilla shines
 For ever bright in Virgil's sacred lines;
 You in your own; — where to the world's last date
 You shall survive, and triumph over fate.
 Nor need you to another's bounty owe
 For what yourself can on yourself bestow.
 So monarchs in full health were wont to rear,
 At their own charge, their future sepulchre.

Who thy perfections fully would commend,
 Must think how others do their hours mispend,
 In trifling visits, pride, impertinence,
 Dress, dancing, and discourse quite void of sense:

* John Hughes, Esq;

To twirl a fan, to please some foolish beau,
 And sing an empty song, the most they know,
 In body weak, more impotent of mind —
 Thus some have represented womankind.
 But you your sex's champion are come forth,
 To fight their quarrel, and assert their worth.
 Our Salique law of wit you have destroy'd,
 Establish'd female claim, and triumph'd o'er our pride.
 While we look on, and with repining eyes
 Behold you bearing off so rich a prize,
 Spight of ill-nature we're compell'd to approve
 Such dazzling worth, and, spight of envy, love.

Nor is this all thy applause, that is your due;
 You stand the first of stage-reformers too.
 No vicious stains pollute your moral scene;
 Chast are your thoughts, and your expression clean.
 Strains such as yours the strictest test will bear.
 Sing boldly then! nor busy censure fear;
 Your virgin voice offends no virgin ear.
 Proceed, in tragic numbers, to disclose
 Strange turns of fate, and unexpected woes!
 Reward, and punish; awfully dispense
 Heav'n's judgments, and declare a providence!
 Nor let the comic muse your labours share;
 'Tis meaness after this the sock to wear:
 Tho' that too merit praise, 'tis nobler toil
 To extort a tear, than to provoke a smile.
 What hand, that can design a history,
 Would copy low-land boors at snick a snee?
 Accept this tribute, Madam! and excuse
 The hasty raptures of a stranger-muse.

H h 4

PRO-

PROLOGUE.

Written by Mr. HARMAN, and spoke by
Mr. BOWEN.

Your Servant, Sirs,

Conscious of many favours from the town,
And that he poorly pays, who does but own;
I'm come to save each of you half a crown.
(Our author truly would invite your stay,
And if you will be all such fools you may;
There's some are wiser, and will walk away.) } To the
For I, who've heard the tale within, can tell ye, } side-box
A worse disaster never yet besel ye. }
A critic yonder has been stating rules,
To gain the wife, and scorn the herd of fools:
To which 'twas said, one friend would raise ten foes,
And that's too dear, as common friendship goes.
Success with both is found no human task:
Who please the boxes will affront the mask.
To charm and to instruct's too great a trouble;
'Tis hard for Pegasus to carry double.
I argu'd much to entertain the fools;
They are the poets and the players tools.
Are sown so thick o'er gallery, box, and pit,
Can give success without the help of wit.
For one grimace more favour will dispense,
Than for whole scenes, that boast of stricter sense.
Ev'n I, by help of band and cropt disguise,
Can reach your hearts, as love does, through your eyes;
Well the fool's coat, the fool's defect supplies.

But still poetic fate attend the muse,
This thriving counsel did our fool refuse;
She'd please no crambo critic with dull chime;
Preferring sense ev'n to engaging rhyme;
Nor little lord ——— who still affects to be
Learn'd in the knacks of visiting galantry,
With scraps of scandal, and pert repartee.
On ruin bent, I left her to her fate,
And stole to warn you for what treat you sat.
If to the wits alone our plays are writ,
And authors will allow so few have wit,
Why should they grumble at an empty pit?
Since I have been thus frankly dealing now,
But one request for my dear sake allow:
With crowded benches we shall grace our play,
If each, who thinks himself a wit, will stay.

The Persons Represented.

M E N.

COUNT ROQUELAURE. Mr. *Kynaston*.
 GRAMONT, his younger Son. } Mr. *Betterton*.
 CASTALIO, GRAMONT's Friend. Mr. *Verbruggen*.
 BELLGARD, Brother to FELICIA. Mr. *Tburmond*.
 BERNARDO, a *Neapolitan*, an Officer under CASTALIO. } Mr. *Arnold*.

W O M E N.

LAMIRA, a young Widow. Mrs. *Barry*.
 FELICIA, privately married to GRAMONT. } Mrs. *Bracegirdle*.
 MARIAN, Woman to LAMIRA. Mrs. *Martin*.
 A Soldier, and Servants.

THE Fatal Friendship.

A C T I. S C E N E I.

Enter Bellgard and Felicia.

Bell. **F***elicia*, you are young and full of hopes,
 Unknowing how the world will disappoint 'em:
 But I have seen such strange unlook'd for chances,
 Such fatal blasts to blooming expectations,
 As teaches me judiciously to fear,
 And cautiously advise. Can I remember
 Our noble family in dazzling splendors,
 As rich as ancient, made the mark of envy,
 Now, by an enemy's successful faction
 Maliciously unjust, without regard,
 Reduc'd so low, that I (the only left,
 To keep our name from falling with our fortune),
 Have but sufficient means, with thrifty care,
 Just to preserve you, and your infant sisters,
 From asking help at charitable hands;
 Can I consider this,

And

And not use all a brother's interest in you
To move you to imbrace a happy offer,
To place you sure in that exalted rank,
Which both by birth and merit is your due?

Fel. You have so dear an interest in my heart,
That tho' you had not all authority,
Yet ever where I could controul my self,
You still should govern me. But O! my brother,
There is a strong reluctance in my soul,
Which to myself denies me my consent,
For this unequal match.

Bell. 'Tis true the count *Roquelaure* has not the
charms of youth;
But then consider, he's without their faults.
I've weigh'd it for you with a brother's love,
And find the youthful balance far the lighter.
Marriage requires a steady, ripen'd virtue;
Judgment to chuse, solidity to fix,
Prudence to govern; all by experience perfected.

Fel. 'Tis not the count's grave years makes me
abhor the match,
But some more secret cause, yet to myself unknown.

Bell. Sister, I fear you know the cause too well;
He's father to *Gramont*. Ha! that conscious blush
Confesses I have guess'd it,
A shameful witness of your childish passion.
Is it not time to throw away the toys
You cry'd for when a girl?

Fel. Forgive me an involuntary fault:
Love took possession of my infant heart;
Grew up with me, a dear, familiar guest,
And now refuses to remove his seat.

Bell. Reason must dispossess him.

Fel. Could reason tell me, I had plac'd my love
On a vile object, half the work were done:
But you have own'd he merits all your friendship.
Nay, 'twas your fondness for him first rais'd mine;
And all, that can be offer'd now against him,

Amounts

Amounts to this, that he's a younger brother,
Whose fortune is injurious to his worth.

Bell. Could your's repair the wrong his fortune
does him,

I would with joy bestow you to your wishes;
But am too fond, too tender of you both,
To give consent, that you should starve together:
For shame, *Felicia*, let not passion sway you
Thus to your ruin.

I have till now giv'n way to all your folly,
In hopes, that time and absence wou'd destroy it;
Nor ever pres'd you to a second choice,
These full two years since first I knew your loves,
And made *Gramont* forbear to visit you;
But must no longer thus indulge your weakness.

Fel. If for two years I have forborn to see him,
Is not that sacrifice sufficient from a sister?

Must I be made the next to one I hate?
You cannot be so cruel; do but defer it,
Who knows the turns of fortune?

You have seen, you say, a fatal one in ours.
Why may not those, who now are at the lowest,
By some more happy chance be rais'd as high?

Bell. There's not a ground to hope for young
Gramont.

He meant to raise his fortune as a soldier,
And might have reach'd the noblest height in war,
Had not that fatal quarrel, in which he kill'd
The general's only son, soon stop'd his progress,
In whose revengeful father he will find
An enemy, as powerful at court,
As in the army.

Fel. 'Twas well he 'scap'd with life.

Bell. For the security of the survivor,
They would not fight in *France*;
And yet the General at his return,
By arbitrary law, condemn'd, and would have shot
him,

Had not his noble friend, the brave *Castalio*,
Charg'd

Charg'd on his guard, freed him, and kept the fight,
Till he escap'd in safety.

Fel. For which may he, or never need, or always
find a friend. [*Aside.*]

Bell. You see the desperate state of his affairs;
Therefore be wife, and tempt not your ill fate;
Either resolve to marry Count *Roquelaure*;
Or share a beggar's fortune with his son.

Fel. Why would you force me to a wretched
choice?

You have been hitherto a parent to me:
How am I grown so burthensome a charge;
That you would cast me from you, tho' to ruin?

Bell. I would prevent your ruin and my own;
And if you'd have me still a parent to you,
I shall expect th' obedience of a daughter;
Or else by heav'n, I'll turn you to your lover.

[*Exit. Bellgard.*]

Fel. Then I must perish with him. Alas! my
brother,

Thou little think'st to what thou do'st perswade me.
My husband's father? O my barbarous stars!

For sure love could not shoot so crofs a dart.

What's to be done? should I confess our marriage?

O no, his fiery temper could not brook it!

And how would my *Gramont's* harsh father use him.

Enter Gramont.

O! he is sent by heav'n to my relief!

My dear *Gramont*!

Gra. My dearest wife, what sadness hangs upon
thee?

Am I not welcome to those weeping eyes?

Fel. More than the light; but they have cause to
weep.

For you, and me, and for our helpless infant.
My brother has been pleading for your father;
Threatens, if I refuse to marry him,
To throw me as a stranger, from his care.

Gra.

Gra. My poor *Felicia*, what thou bearest for me?
How shall I recompence thy suffering virtue?

O what a line of woes I fix'd thee to,

When Hymen drew the knot!

Fel. Do you repent that knot?

Gra. By heav'n, my love, I cannot.

Fel. Then I am happy.

Gra. Nothing is so, that's plac'd within my fate;
A wretch but born to scatter miseries

On all, whom love brings near enough to reach
'em.

Fel. Have you receiv'd no news yet of our child?

Gra. None for this full three weeks, which much
concerns me;

But I have sent a messenger express

To learn its health, who will return this day.

Fel. Heav'n guard the tender babe.

Gra. O! my heart bleeds for that dear part of
me.

Now I am lost to all my hopes of fortune,

Precariously depending on my father,

How may it be expos'd to wants, and cares!

Farewel, my dear, I must not stay with thee;

To-morrow we will give some hours to love:

Where shall I see you?

Fel. Here, if you please; my brother will be early
out.

Gra. I will not fail.

Fel. Let it be early then; you bring me joy,
And I have need of it.

Gra. Impatient wishes,

Eager as in our first soft stealths of love,

Will keep me waking till the long'd for hour.

Fel. But how, my dearest, durst you venture now?

Gra. I met your brother going to *Lamira's*,
And took the advantage just to steal a look,
And beg the dear appointment for to-morrow.
He expects me there, where he imagines I design

To

To make addressess, being a young rich widow :
But thou art all the treasure I can covet.

Fel. My life, you'll not forget to morrow early.

Gra. Can I forget my only happiness?

[*Exeunt several ways.*]

SCENE II. *Lamira's house.*

Enter Bellgard, and Lamira.

Lam. You've counsel'd like that friend I ever thought you,

A friend both to my honour, and my interest.

Bell. Not my own honour can be dearer to me.
With pain I see your hours of rest disturb'd
By jealous spies, or crowds of hoping lovers,
Regardless of your fame, for their own interest.

Lam. O how much happier, and to be envied,
Is she, whose humble fortune enough supplying
Nature's wants,

Has not expos'd her to the treacherous arts,
And false pretences of designing men!

Bell. The hard condition, by which you possess
So large a fortune, gives you equal means
To free yourself from those designing lovers.

Lam. For which I have intended to declare
The secret of my husband's jealous bounty.

Bell. You've prudently resolv'd; but why, *Lamira,*

Are you regardless of *Castalio's* vows?

He loves and seeks you for yourself alone;

Nay, when I told him, you refus'd all offers,

Forfeiting, if you wed, your best possessions,

With eager words, and eyes that sparkl'd joy,

Pressing me in his arms, he said, O friend,

How much more dear to me would such a sacrifice

Make the ador'd *Lamira*! cou'd I hope

She would for me abandon all her glittering fortune,

To

To reward my love with nobler treasure:

How would I then improve your King's regard
for me,

How welcome all his bounty, and his honours,

To doubly recompence what she can lose,

And make her great beyond my own ambition.

Lam. 'Twas generously spoke,
Deserving all esteem, and gratitude:

That, as a debt his merit claims, I pay;

But 'twere to tempt ill fate, to strip myself

Of what I now possess secure from hazard,

To run th' uncertain fortunes of a stranger,

Depending on the breath of a king's favour,

Which should he lose, he'll ne'er return to *Naples*.

Bell. You've urg'd as an objection that, which
most

Should recommend him: where can he be a stranger?

What monarch would not cherish such a subject?

What nation not be proud t' adopt a son so worthy?

He, that to the last of a large fortune

Supply'd the public wants, whilst there was hopes

To free his country from th' invading *Spaniard*;

Then courted by the conqueror, disdains

All obligations from his country's tyrant;

But banishing himself seeks nobler refuge

In a foreign court;

Still let me speak him, for he's brave in all.

With what a modest greatness he refus'd

All honours, which our king prest his accepting,

But what were in the army;

Seeming to scorn the lazy gifts of favour,

As if all glories were below his virtue,

But what in arms he forc'd from unbrib'd fame.

Lam. We have cause to bless the choice, for he
is said

To have done important service in the war.

Bell. The court have styl'd him *France's* better
genius;

The soldiers idolize him; and as admired,

Vol. II.

I i

He's

He's lov'd by all, unless the general,
Who looks with envy on his rising fortune.

Lam. A dangerous enemy.

Bell. He has indeed, with all a soldier's heart,
The closer malice of a subtle statesman:
And the contempt of his authority

Castalio shew'd in forcing from the guards
His friend *Gramont*, by him unjustly sentenc'd,
I fear, may rouse his hatred to revenge.

Lam. It was a godlike action; his friendship
For *Gramont* shews, he not only knows himself
To merit, but value it in others.

Bell. The choice his heart here makes is the best
proof of that;

But let what you admire give softer thoughts,
And whisper to your heart, if for *Gramont*
He could do thus, what would not love inspire!

Lam. I prize it to its height; but when you'd
plead

Castalio's cause with me, name not *Gramont*.

Bell. Not name him! Why is that an obstacle?

Lam. No matter, nothing; 'twas a half form'd
thought,

I know not what it meant, you may speak of him.

Bell. Let me by any argument prevail
At least to know, if he has leave to hope.

Lam. Then think not, that I wrong *Castalio's*
worth,

When I declare, he has not, cannot have
An interest in my heart. I value him;
But 'twere unjust to give him hopes of more:
Love is not in our power.

Bell. Madam, I've done; tho' griev'd at my
success,

Since 'tis in vain, I'll touch this theme no more.
You've reason now, deliver'd from the tyrant
Your parents forc'd upon your tender years,
To let your heart direct your second choice.

Lam.

Lam. O! I fear the heedless partial guide
Would blindly lead me on some fatal ruin.

Bell. Unjustly you distrust it; tell me whither,
Where would it direct you?
And I may better judge how faithfully.

Lam. Perhaps I have not ventur'd to consult it;
'Tis safest not to ask, or hear advice,
When 'tis as pleasing, as 'tis dangerous.

Bell. True, if we can avoid it;
But Inclination's an officious counsellor,
That waits not to be ask'd, and will be heard.
Tell me, *Lamira*, what has yours been saying?

Lam. Nothing.

Bell. Is this your friendship? (for I would not
plead

Our kindred blood, but a more near alliance)
Is this your boasted truth, and trust in me?

Lam. I would not hide from you,
But what I would conceal from my own heart.
Let me, *Bellgard*, yet O! I fear, I fear,
It speaks too much, and loud, not to be heard,
And plain enough for you to understand.

Bell. If I have leave to guess, I think I could.
May I interpret what your eyes have spoke,
And some late words confirm?

Lam. O my shame! in such a fruitful harvest
Of voluntary growth, untill'd for hearts,
'Tave cast my own upon a barren soil,
That yields me no return.

Bell. You know not that; *Gramont* may love in
secret,

Not daring to reveal it; or hope success,
Where he beholds the noblest offers scorn'd;
Sees mighty fortunes every day rejected.
Does not his late assiduous visits speak
All, that a fortune, low as his, should dare?

Lam. Suppose it did; what though our hearts
were one,
If we must live at an eternal distance?

I: 2

Bell.

Bell. What hinders you to be for ever joined?

Lam. Are not the obstacles invincible?

Bell. Is any such to love?

Lam. My husband's will;

And yet I could submit to his severity,

Throw all my titles, and my treasure from me,

And think *Gramont* too full a recompence.

But then to see him miserably poor,

Wretched for me, my love could never bear it.

Bell. Generous and tender, all, I see, that's left

For friendship now to undertake, or hope,

Is not to cure, but satisfy her love.

There may be found a way both to secure

Your happiness, and fortune.

Lam. How, whilst my husband's sister lives?

You know

I forfeit all to her, upon a second marriage.

Bell. But if you keep it secret, who shall claim the forfeit?

Lam. How kindly you indulge my fondest wishes!

How carefully contrive my happiness!

But alas! vainly my busy, pleas'd imagination

Has leap'd at once o'er all difficulties,

When yet the first and greatest is unpas'd:

He does not, and perhaps will never love me.

Bell. Not love you! Those eyes, that with their native fires

Scorch'd so many, now love has added his,

What heart so frozen not to feel their heat!

Gramont, I think, will presently be here,

For so he promis'd; will you for a while

Leave us together, and permit me to sound his thoughts?

Lam. What court him for me!

Bell. You have not us'd to doubt

The safety of your honour in my hands.

Enter Marian.

Mar. Here's a gentleman without to wait upon your ladyship.

Lam.

Lam. Admit him. If 'tis *Gramont*,

I am too much disorder'd yet to see him;

Make my excuse, and, my best friend, remember,

I trust you with the nicest dearest parts of me,

My love and honour. [*Exit Lamira.*]

Bell. Both shall be my care.

Her satisfaction chiefly I regard;

But since she's resolute against *Castalio*,

This new design, which way so e'er I view it,

Gives me a pleasing prospect. *Gramont* I love,

And for his interest with it; next for *Felicia's*:

Her little rest of hopes, eluded thus,

May turn her thoughts on search of certainties,

And make *Roquelaure* appear a happy refuge.

Enter Gramont.

Gra. Alone, *Belgard*? Where's the fair *Lamira*?

Bell. Some small affairs detain her for the present;

She'll not be long.

Gra. 'Tis pity we should bear the weight of bu-

siness;

Her youth and charms would fit more soft employ-

ments.

Bell. That youth and charms will well reward the

man,

Who frees her from that weight. What think you

of it?

Could you not bear the toil, for such a prize?

Gra. Nothing would seem a toil, or difficult,

To one, that could have hopes of gaining it.

Bell. Prithee, attempt it.

Gra. What vanity can make me hope success,

When those, who much excel me every way,

In merit as in fortune, yet are slighted?

I could have no pretence for such presumption.

Bell. Your noble birth forbids that imputation;

And the alliance of so great a family,

As yours, may well be coveted.

Lamira values you, and such esteem;

I i 3

When

When love and youth like yours together plead,
Is quickly rais'd to passion and desire.

Gra. If so, why are those more deserving lovers,
Who have with youth charms, that I want, refus'd?

Bell. You know my interest in her; perhaps the
friendship,

I've express'd for you, may've turn'd the balance,
Where merit was but equal. Howe'r it be,
Not one of those, who long have languish'd for her,
Does she receive with half that complaisance,
Or speak of in such terms of admiration,
As I have heard her, when your name was men-
tioned.

Gra. She fears to give encouragement to her
adorers.
Should I commence the lover, like them I should
be us'd.

Bell. Is it a prize of such low consequence,
Not worth the hazarding of a refusal?
Unless your faith already is bestowed,
Let me engage you to it, on our friendship.

Gra. My faith! I must not leave him that sus-
picion: [Aside.]

There needs not sure so dear a conjuration,
To make me aim at what all *France* contests for,
An ample fortune, with so bright a beauty.

Enter Lamira.

Lam. My blushes own me guilty of a rudeness,
Tho', Sir, I hope my cousin has excus'd me.

Bell. I'll leave you now to make your own apo-
logy. [Exit. Bell.]

Gra. We have been lamenting, Madam, that so
long

You have condemn'd yourself to bear alone
The painful load of business.

Lam. I had rather much sustain that load for ever,
Than seeking ease, only to change my burthen
For a much worse and heavier?

Gra.

Gra. Among the many would be proud to bear it,
Can you not find out one, on whom to throw it
Upon easier terms? or may I ask,
Why you, who can dispose of thousand hearts,
Let all alike be wretched?

Lam. Had high ambition been my darling passion,
I had been tempted to exalt my fate;
But my own honours bound my largest wishes,
And fortune has not been a niggard to me.
Therefore all pleas, but merit, unconsider'd,
My heart bestows me freely on the man,
Whom it shall speak most worthy.

Gra. What vain presumer dare pretend, or think
To merit such a wonder? This resolution known,
What forward lover would not cease his suit;
In just despair of ever gaining it?

Lam. Either you flatter me, or are too modest.
Whither was I going? I have observ'd
The most deserving ever most distrustful
Of their own worth; which if it be fault,
It is the only I've remarked in you.
But all that diffidence, and modesty,
Speak louder for you, than the boasts of others.

Gra. Then it must speak, for you have silenc'd
me.

Henceforward I shall only dare to wish,
That you were less divine, or I more worthy.

Lam. You're worthy all, that you can dare to ask.

Gra. I ne'er shall dare to ask a prize too noble
For any mortal aim. [Exit bowing.]

Lam. So cold!

Or is it the character of awful love?

If so, my words were kind, and plain enough
To chase away his fears.

'Tis now too late that humble way to move;
Respect is rudeness, when we offer love.

[Exit Lam.]

ACT II. SCENE I.

Roquelaure's House.

Enter Bellgard, and a Servant of the Count's.

Serv. **B**E pleas'd to stay here, Sir;
My lord will wait upon you instantly.

Bell. You have told him I am here?

Serv. I did, and hear him coming. *[Exit Serv.]*

Enter Roquelaure.

Roq. You're welcome, my *Bellgard*, the only man,
That can give comfort to my tortur'd heart.

Bell. None can be prouder, or more joy'd to serve
you.

Count. I'm just return'd from visiting your sister,
Whom I have seen in such a graceful sorrow.
As heightened all her charms, and my desire
More than it mov'd my pity.

Bell. And how, my lord,
Has she receiv'd the honour you design her?

Count. With such aversion, as she'd meet her fate.
At first I found her in a solemn sadness;
Her eyes all languishing, fix'd on the ground:
But rous'd at my approach, the flowing blood
Flush'd to her cheeks, yet soon again forsook 'em.
Thus pale, and trembling, we met alike disorder'd,
Tho' with such different passions; hate in her
Produc'd the same effect as love in me.

Bell. Hate, my lord?
Can you suspect her of so great injustice?

Count. What else can make her so inexorable?
Upon her knees she fell, and grasping mine,
She weeping beg'd me to desist my suit,
With such engaging action, and words so moving,
As whilst they made me wish I could obey her,
Depriv'd me of the power.

Bell. Stubborn girl!

Count

Count. Finding me more inflam'd, and still per-
sisting,

She said, I might expose her to your anger,
And all the ruin you had lately threatn'd;
But there was such an obstacle in nature,
As never would permit her to be mine.

Bell. So positive, my lord? I'll make her find
There's not an obstacle but I can vanquish.

Count. I fear her early kindness for my son,
Which we too long neglected.
Tho' they seem parted now, their rooted loves
May join, and still produce fresh springing hopes.

Bell. Then we must strive to blast 'em. I could
wish,

Gramont were married to your's and his own liking,
What think you of *Lamira* for a daughter?

Count. So well, I must not think of it.

Bell. My lord, I've a relation's interest in her,
And more, that of a friend; on which relying,
I have propos'd it to her, and may tell you,
She much esteems your son, and would be proud
Of your alliance; which, if desir'd by you,
I know she'll not refuse.

Count. 'Tis generously offer'd, and here he comes
Enter Gramont.

To join with me in thanks. Your looks are sad,
My son: is there a cause?

Gra. There is, my lord, if I have any sense
Of honour, gratitude, or friendship. *Castalio*
Is this day brought here, a prisoner to the castle,
Where he is kept in chains, as he were guilty
Of some flagitious action.

Count. For what is he so us'd?

Gra. For me; you know, my Lord,
He sav'd my life with hazard of his own;
For which the general committed him,
And representing to the absent King
The case, as he thought fit, next had him sin'd

Three

Three thousand crowns, and keeps him thus secur'd,
Till 'tis discharg'd.

Bell. Some such mean vengeance,
I apprehended from his barbarous nature.

Gra. Castilio, of a generous soul,
Knowing no use of wealth but to bestow
On other wants, scarce mindful of his own,
I know must needs be unprepared for this.
Tho' his great services and merit plead,
Malice in power will be heard against 'em;
And his reward be there to starve neglected.

Count. Honour forbid!

Gra. Honour, justice, gratitude, and friendship,
All forbid! yet I, th' unhappy cause,
Look on, and suffer it, unable to assist him.

Count. He must, he shall be aided, and by you,
For whom he suffers all.

Gra. O my honour'd father, more than father
now,
'Tis more than life you've given, like that un-
ask'd;

Restor'd a friend to me, preserv'd my honour.
How shall I pay my thanks!

Count. To save you that, be all the act your
own.

Gra. Would heav'n but give the power!

Count. Give it yourself, and lose no time in wish-
ing.

A friend and father point you out the way;
You know, *Lamira*.

Gra. Ha! what of her, my lord?

Count. She may be your's.

Gra. Mine, my lord.

Bell. One thing, 'tis fit you know e'er you deter-
mine;

Her deceas'd husband, by nature jealous, and severe,
Left the considerablest part of her estate
Conditional, that she remain unmarried.
The terms to one so young unreasonable

And

And unjust; therefore I think 'em not in honour
Obligatory; only to keep the marriage secret,
Whilst her sister lives, to whom she forsakes,
If so you can approve it.

Gra. Far be it from me, t' expose *Lamira*
To such a hazard of her ruin;
'Twill be impossible to keep it secret.

Bell. Her long refusal of the greatest matches
Has rais'd in many different conjectures;
All which to end, she'll suddenly declare
The true conditions of her husband's will,
That will prevent all prying or suspicions
Of her marriage.

Count. Especially to him; a younger brother
Will ne'er be thought an object for her choice;
And prudence must direct the management
Of future accidents that may occur.

Bell. My Lord, I'll leave you to consult together.
[Exit Bell.]

Count. You seem not much to relish this propo-
sal,

Could you expect a match so advantageous?

Gra. Marriage, my Lord, I hold a sacred bond,
Which should be made for nobler ends than interest;
Hearts should first be join'd.

Count. And who deserves your heart more than
Lamira?

Gra. It is not merit only gives us love;
Else every heart wou'd take the same impression.
But each, we see, receives a different image,
As it were fitted for that stamp alone.
Her's is perhaps of too refin'd a nature
To strike this grosser mold. I cannot mend it,
And hope you will not press a monstrous union
Of things by nature not agreeing.

Count. By heav'n, a mere rebellious spirit moves
thee

To this refusal: had it not been offer'd,
Thy own desires would have prevented us.

Gra.

Gra. Can I so far forget my filial duty!
My Lord, I honour you, and your commands,
Equal almost to heav'n's; but you have told me,
A state so lasting should be well consider'd,
E'er resolv'd on; and that marriage-bonds
Were of too pond'rous weight for youth to bear.

Count. Are you still a boy? I have consider'd for you;

Your part is to obey.

Gra. I have yet too large a stock of coming years,
To be laid out upon one hasty purchase.

Count. Go satisfy your friend thus; tell him the last

Of that fine fancied stock shall be laid out
For his relief.

Gra. O *Castalio*!

Count. You love him well indeed, ingrateful
wretch!

Insensible of every benefit!

What an indulgent father have I been!

When thy extravagance had left thee friendless,

Pursu'd by many, by the rest abandon'd,

I took thee to my bosom, shelter'd thee

Ev'n from royal anger; us'd all my interest

With vast expence to gain thy pardon;

And this day resolv'd to pay th' exacted sum,

For which 'twas granted: but, ungracious boy!

I'll not so dearly buy thy liberty,

Till thou can'st find a better way to use it,

Than disobeying me.

Gra. I know, I don't deserve it; give me up

To death, to banishment, or slavery;

I'll own your justice: but let not poor *Castalio*

Suffer for my fault:

His freedom will not cost you half so dear,

Nor he be so ingrateful.

Count. Impudent request! What friendship do I
owe him,

For sending me such a rebellious son?

You

You may go to him,
And rot for me together in a dungeon.
Hence from my house, and till thou art obedient,
By heav'n, if thou wert starving at my gates,
I'd send thee no relief. The first I do,
May it become to both eternal ruin.
Now, foolish boy, go seek a better fortune.

[*Exit Count.*]

Gra. Cast from the field, the court, and my own
father,

Where should I fly! to poor *Felicia's* arms;
She's kind, and will be fond to share my misery.

Alas! too soon she must; thus she'll be us'd,
For so her brother threaten'd, cruel thought!

Must I behold that tender part of me,

Expos'd to all th' extremities of want,

My helpless infant asking food in vain!

O fate! O heaven! you cannot mean it.

They're innocent: how, how have we deserv'd your
anger?

If there be a guilt, it must be mine.

Why then, ye powers,

Must she b' involv'd in my unhappiness?

O! you are just, and cannot suffer it.

Thus prostrate I implore, O spare her, heav'n;

Wreck, wreck on me your vengeance; but she is
part of me,

And so must share it.

O! let me fly from thought, or from the world,

E'er this impetuous ruin overwhelm

My sinking reason. O! I shall grow mad! [*Exit.*]

SCENE II. A Prison.

Castalio solus.

Cas. No, proud insulting *Spain*! not ev'n thus
Can I repent my leaving conquer'd *Naples*.

Thy pageant freedom, and precarious honors

Were

Were heavier baser slavery than these chains.
 And I am less ashamed of them, tho' here
 Perhaps the object of *Lamira's* scorn.
 Ha! what of that? by heav'n, I cannot form
 One thought for glory, since I knew that woman,
 But still 'tis mix'd with love, with passion stain'd;
 And makes the best and bravest of my actions
 But glittering frailties. — She is strangely charming:

Well, is it not enough to think her so?
 Or say, I wish her mine?
 But why thus fix my soul upon a woman?
 Why these tumultuous ravings, hopes, and fears?

Enter Gramont.

Gramont! I blush, as if I thought he saw my heart,
 Ashamed to own myself for what I am.
 Stifling my passion may extinguish it:
 No more of this. — My friend, this welcome

fight

Makes all my wrongs and pains insensible:
 That thou art free, and safe, is to *Cassio*
 Ease and liberty.

Gra. Dearer than either, how do I enjoy 'em,
 Whilst purchas'd at the sad expence of your's!
 How can I look upon a friend thus ruin'd,
 By saving me at his extremest peril,
 Whilst I but mourn for him, with idle pity

Cas. No, my *Gramont*;

'Tis not for freeing thee, that I am thus:
 Occasions had been found, tho' this not giv'n,
 To exert the general's malice: but do not grieve,
 His triumph is but short; I shall be free.

Gra. You hide a truth you fear to afflict me with:
 I know that public spirit, which at *Naples*
 Made you in favour of the common interest
 Neglect your own, has mov'd you here as nobly,
 Your frequent bounties to the murmuring soldiers
 Must have disabled you for the discharge
 Of such a sum.

Cas.

Cas. I could no less than give to your king's
 service

What he so frankly had bestowed on me;
 And being just upon the point of battle,
 'Twas then the only way to quell the mutiny.
 But can I doubt to find him grateful now,
 Whose generosity, when undeserv'd,
 I have so far experienc'd?

I ev'ry hour expect *Bernardo's* coming,
 And doubt not but he brings me liberty.
 That faithful follower of my fortunes hearing
 The general had left the camp, and order'd
 My removal hither, hastned to court,
 That he might there in person answer ought
 Alleg'd against me, in confidence the king,
 When well inform'd of the injustice done me,
 Will soon command my freedom.

Gra. You'll find you have a subtle enemy,
 Tho' in his hate bare-fac'd, close in revenge,
 Which having fail'd, when against me directed,
 I fear will now be bent with furer aim,
 And fall with double force on you.

Cas. He should indeed have made my ruin sure,
 Or not have dar'd so much.

Gra. What can his motive be of sending you
 from th' army?

Cas. He durst not in his absence trust me to
 The soldiers love, which he had found, when present,

Scarce his authority could balance. That chiefly,
 But in part he serves his malice; pleas'd,
 Whilst he can, to make me bear the hardships
 And inconvenience of a common prison;
 He has intended me the vilest usage,
 Allotting me a dark and noisome dungeon,
 Tho' I'm by stealth allowed the freedom of this air.

Enter Bernardo.

Bernardo return'd already? what news from court?

Eern. That you have been too honest.

Cas. I shan't repent it.

Bern. By heav'n, I'd rather seen you led in triumph

A slave to *Spain*; they might have show'd you
As an enemy, but had not call'd you traitor.

Cas. Ha! but thou talk'st with rage; speak to my understanding.

Bern. My lord, your pardon; 'tis my hearty love
Makes me forget all method and respect.

I've been at court, where sure no honest man
Can keep his temper.

Cas. Why, what reception found you there?

Bern. Such as they'd give a man the plague had seiz'd:

All shun'd me as I pass'd, and those in office,
When I desir'd admittance to the presence,
Would not know me.

Cas. Deny'd to see the king?

Bern. I would not be denied.

Cas. Be brief to your success with him.

Bern. He ask'd me coldly, if I came to speak
In your defence. I said, I hop'd, 'twas needless
To defend an act, which all brave men,
And friends to justice, must admire.

Cas. What did the king return?

Bern. He own'd *Gramont* had been unjustly sentenc'd,

And therefore had his pardon:

But 'twas of ill example to oppose

In such a hostile way a general's orders,

And might encourage others, if your fine

Should be remitted. I urg'd your services;

And lastly, that you had not ask'd for favour;

But that to keep his soldiers in their duty,

Who mutiny'd for pay, you had strip'd yourself

Of what might now discharge you. He said, you'd
been

Too zealous in his service; so abruptly left me.

Cas.

Cas. By heav'n, I think he's in the right, if zeal
Be thus rewarded.

Barn. My lord, the king's abus'd.
The treacherous general has found a spring,
That will supply his malice: whilst you have any
virtues,

He makes 'em all appear, as arts put on
T' ingratiate with the soldiers, on design
To serve the *Spanish* interest.

Cas. How, tax'd with treason! the basest too,
Made blacker by th' ingratitude! he dares not say it,
Nor would the king believe it.

Barn. Somewhat that way his last words seem
t' import;

But what I further learn'd was from an officer,
That honours you, and whom the general trusts.
A correspondence held with *Spain* is talk'd of,
With hints of proofs to be produc'd against you.

Cas. Impossible! my words, my heart, and
actions,

Have been open; there's such unartful plainness
In my nature, as cannot be suspected.

Gra. There's no security against such malice,
As makes your highest virtues seem your crimes;
And princes, ever in jealousy of power,
Give easy credit to reports of danger.

Barn. Doubtless he will not fail of evidence
To back his accusation. In short, my lord,
Unless you know, or find some speedy way
To free yourself, and face your base detractors,
I would not answer for your life.

Gra. O fate!

All this t' oppress a wretch already loaded!
Ruin on ruin heap'd!

Is't not enough to have determin'd mine,
But I must put all, that surround me, down,
To crush me in my fall; and with my own,
Bring all the weight of their destruction on me?
It is not to be born. What, to be made

Ill fate's curst instrument, distributor
Of direst miseries, and bane of virtue!
I am all this, I, I, *Castalio*, am.
The baleful planet, whose malignant influence
Ruins your fortunes, blasts your spreading glories,
And all your kinder stars had purpos'd you, de-
feats.

Cas. You share too much my wrongs, but have
not caus'd 'em.

Let your resentment strike, where justice bids;
I must not see you rashly lose your passion
Against a man I love, my only friend.

Gra. Alas! you do not know, with how much
reason

My passion spoke; nor what a wretch I am,
Abandon'd by my father, banish'd his house,
And with his curse, if ever I return.

Cas. For ever?

Gra. It must be ever; the only terms
Of my admittance ne'er can be perform'd.

Cas. 'Tis cruel; what cause can you have giv'n
him to proceed
To such extremities?

Gra. You know the dearest secret of my life,
My long conceal'd, and unsuspected marriage.

Cas. 'Tis then discover'd?

Gra. Not that, nor dare I own it.

My father loves *Felicia*, not knowing her
My wife; and has commanded me to accept
Another; whom fortune, birth, and nature
Have left without objection; which my refusing
Has thus irreconcilably incens'd him.

Cas. Your case indeed is hard.

Gra. Yet there is worse behind;
I've not disclos'd the wound, that grieves me most,
Not spoke how you're involv'd in my undoing.
My father was dispos'd in gratitude,
For a son's life and liberty receiv'd,
To have perform'd the terms of gaining yours;

But

But thus offended at my disobedience,
Your saving me appears an injury.
His hate extends to you, and now he's fix'd
Not to relieve, tho' he should see you perish.
Heav'ns! should the fate of such a man,
By which the world's might rather be determin'd,
Itself be influenc'd by any other's?
But why must I be made his destiny?

Yes, yes, trace back through all the windings of
your fortune,

And you will find, that I alone have been
Your evil genius; that you have cause to curse
Your fatal friendship, the unlucky hour
You sav'd my life, or that, which gave me birth.
O that it ne'er had been! I want the patience
To support this load of wretched life,
That growing heavier, as it wastes, leaves not
A hope of ease. Tell me, *Castalio*, friend,
Through all this gloom of endless miseries,
Is there a dawn of any comfort left me?

Cas. Nor endless, my *Gramont*, nor comfortless:
No man can be to that degree unhappy,
That has on any terms his fortune in his power;
For his rejecting that, when virtue bids,
Shews there's a good in her, that would not fix,
Unless it could reward his choice.

Enter a Soldier.

Sold. My lord, I beg you'll retire to your cham-
ber;

The governor will be return'd this minute,
And must not know you have had this liberty.

Cas. I thank thee, honest soldier. Farewel, my
friend,

Remember death's the worst we have to fear,
And that, whilst we unmov'd preserve our virtue,
Rather to be desir'd.

[*Castalio goes within the scene, Gramont advances;
a scene shuts, representing the outside of the castle.
Manet Gramont.*]

K k 2

Gra.

Gra. To be desir'd, indeed, since virtue here
Is ever thus oppress'd, without relief,
But in its future prospect.

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Sir, I am sent with an unwelcome message
From my lord, your father: the time you took,
For payment of your fine being now expir'd,
'Tis rigorously demanded, and by my lord refus'd.
He says, he would advise you so to act,
That it may be discharg'd; if not, you must
Deliver up your person; for he vows
He never will assist you.

Gra. Tell him, I will obey him. This alone were
light,

But added to the rest completes the weight.

Enter another Servant.

What news hast thou? how does my little son?
Thy looks forbode me ill: if my child is dead,
Smile when thou tell'st me, for he is happy.

Serv. Sir, he lives, but in a wretched state;
The place you sent him to being near the sea,
His nurse walked often with him on the shore,
But most unhappily, some weeks ago,
Was by our famous pirate seen, and seiz'd,
And with her infant charge carry'd on board.

Gra. O fatal accident; a strange one too!
What can the villain gain by such a prize?
Methinks it should be more a burthen to him,
Than advantage.

Serv. They say he does it, Sir,
In hopes of a considerable ransom,
If his young captives prove of quality;
But if he finds they will not be redeem'd,
He throws 'em to the mercy of the waves.

Gra. Ha! what pains the fates are at to make a
villain of me!

Must it be so? shall I give up my honour,
To save myself, and all I love from ruin?
No, that's in my own power; the rest in fate's,
And

And spite of fate I'll keep my honesty;
Tho' my best friend must be for me undone,
In fame, in fortune, and perhaps his life
A sacrifice to treacherous revenge;
My infant by inhuman pirates murder'd,
The dearest fruit of my *Felicia's* love;
My wife too, O my wife! she'll be thrown out
To wander through the world, poor, and distress'd,
To curse her fatal love, to curse her husband,
The wretched source of bitterest miseries,
Who sees her starving, and can give no succour?
I cannot bear the thought, it shall not be;
I'd pluck those eyes out, rather than behold it,
So dear I hold her; I could cut off these limbs
To let her piece-meal feed upon my flesh;
I must, I must prevent at any rate
This dismal scene of misery, and ruin;
Turn villain, any thing, when she's at stake;
My child too, and my friend: I could, by heav'n,
Suffer a thousand racking deaths for each;
And should I sacrifice 'em all, to keep
A little peace of mind, the pride of never straying?
Walk on by rules, and calmly let 'em perish,
Rather than tread one step beyond to save 'em?
Forbid it nature! no, I'll leap o'er all:
Castalia, my suffering babe, and lov'd *Felicia*
See how dear you're to me, how strong my love,
When it can turn the scale against my virtue.
Nay now 'tis plain, not I, but fate resolves it,

Enter Bellgard.

He's surely sent just at this very point,
To keep me warm, and firm for villainy.
Welcome *Bellgard*; where's *Lamira*? where my
father;

Tell him, I will be his, and her's, and your's;
Mold me as you please, but take me quickly,
For now I grow impatient: when shall it be done?

K k 3

Bell.

Bell. Gramont, I love you, and am much rejoic'd
To see you fond of your own happiness;
But yet must wonder at this new impatience.

Gra. I dare not trust delays; they're dangerous,
May hinder or reveal the fatal secret,
That, you know, would ruin us.
But let us not confide in our best friends,
Or near relations; shall we swear to it?
You'll not discover it, where you most could trust
Your sister, or if any one is dearer.

Bell. On my honour; but there needs no oath:
My friendship to you both will tie me stricter.
I was just going to my lord your father;
Shall I tell him? but we'll go together;
Since you are for dispatch, he best can forward it.

Gra. I'll wait on you; 'tis done, I'm enter'd
now,
And to plunge through, must leave all thought be-
hind me.

No happiness I for myself expect,
But would preserve my friends from ruin,
Let me without a partner be unfortunate;
'Tis all the privilege I beg from fate. [*Exeunt.*]

ACT III. SCENE I.

Enter Count Roquelaure, and Lamira.

Lam. **T**IS I, my lord, am honour'd in your
choice,
To make me sharer of your noble blood.

Count. We shall esteem our house with greater
cause,
When it can boast of such an ornament.
But as the happiness is most my son's,

He

He best can pay you our acknowledgments,
For what he wanted confidence to ask.

Lam. He seems to want no virtue for perfection,
But a just sense of his exalted worth.
He comes, and now that fortune joins with it,

Enter Gramont and Bellgard.

My heart grows bold, and tells me he has charms,
Which it must love, and will not be controul'd.

Count. Bellgard, your fair relation has consented
To all our wishes, tho' beyond our hopes.

Bell. She has oblig'd us all; but you, *Gramont*
Will have the greatest sense, as well as share
Of the good fortune.

Gra. 'Tis so above what I can say, or think;
I could not hope, nor ought to have aim'd at it.

Count. You must not wonder, Madam, if my son
Is eager to secure a happiness,
Which want of merit makes him fear to lose.
He press'd me e'er I came, if I prevail'd,
To beg you'd not delay to crown his wishes.

Lam. So small a prize would not be worth the
price
Of a long expectation.

Gra. It might reward an age of expectation.

Count. But happiness can never come too soon.
May not th' account of his begin to-morrow?

Lam. Nay, now you are too hasty.

Count. Bellgard, you'll join in intercession with us.

Bell. If but to avoid suspicion, it were best
To use dispatch.

Gra. O *Felicia*? [*Aside.*]

Count. Ha! methought he nam'd *Felicia*;
We must not let him cool; since all's agreed,
What hinders that it be to-night?

Lam. To-night.

Gra. Why not to-night? it cannot be too soon,
Since it must be. [*Aside.*]

Lam. Why must our sex seem shy of what they
wish? [*Aside.*]

Bell.

K k 4

Bell. Dare you trust your chaplain with the secret?

Lam. I know none fitter.

Bell. Then all is ready for the ceremony.

Come, *Lamira*, you should be above

This little affection, this maiden coyness:

Away with it, you must not now deny;

There's no pretence for it.

Lam. You have an absolute command of me,
But methinks this is too sudden.

Count. O the more unexpected, the more pleasing.

Bell. I had design'd before an entertainment
Of music here to night, most fortunately
On this occasion.

'Twere best to have it in this antichamber,
Whilst we within conclude the happy union.

Come, *Gramont*, you'll lead your bride.

Count. Haste, you lose time; the night is almost spent.

Lam. How pleas'd we are with importunity,
That makes our own desires seem condescension?
Who pleads a cause like this, can never fail;
If not their arguments, love will prevail. [*Exeunt.*]

After a concert of music, the scene draws, and discovers Gramont, sitting alone.

Gra. It must not be; 'twere base to wrong her so.
Ha, base? why what's the part I have already acted?
Am I not now initiated villain?

Have I the smallest claim to honour left?

Or can it be possess'd by halves? No,

Indivisible, it, like the soul,

Must animate intire, in every part;

But one base act completes that character,

Stamps villain on the whole: be then a villain.

—Ha! *Felicia*, my love! how could I think it?

How once imagine, it were possible

For one possessing all thy heav'n of beauties,

To take another to his loathing arms!

No,

No, in this shipwreck of my honour, virtue,
I'll save the treasure of my faith to thee;
'Tis all I have left of good, my darling store,
And I will hug myself, and pride in that.

Enter Lamira.

Lam. Is it not time, *Gramont*, to think of rest?
The morning breaks upon your night's devotions.

Gra. Perhaps I have some cares, that keep me waking,

With which I would not load your peaceful breast.

Lam. O can you think, that I behold you thus,
And keep my peace? Thus giv'n up to sadness,
And for untimely thought, neglecting me?

What is it? Speak your griefs, what cause so pressing
To allow no respite upon a time like this?

Which for the wretched'st pair, that fate e'er join'd,
Us'd to put on at least a form of joy.

Gra. Mine is indeed a most uncommon cause;
But do not seek to know it.

Lam. No, I need not;
Now it speaks itself, you do not love me;
That, that alone could keep you from me thus.

Gra. Suppose th' idea of a suffering friend,
For me this instant bearing cruel hardships,
Had check'd me from indulgent thoughts of ease;
Would that excuse me to you?

How clasp'd in those soft arms could I be call'd
The friend, the other half of poor *Castalia*,
Whose fainting limbs rude circling irons load?

Lam. I know your friend's misfortune, and his worth;

I know you owe him much,
And will not tax you of too nice a gratitude.
Be such a lover, as you are a friend.

This cause of sadness shall be soon remov'd:
Three thousand crowns will give *Castalia* freedom,
Which shall be sent him instantly. Within there,

Marian,

[*She talks aside with Mar.*]

Gra.

Gra. Down, down, proud swelling heart; why shouldst thou mount.
Above my groveling fate?
Thou canst not raise it to thy height; yield then,
Be vile as that.

Lam. Bid him hast, and say *Gramont* has sent him:
[*To Mar. who goes out.*]
Let him not mention me. Still are you sad?

[*Advancing.*]

Gra. I'm but correcting a proud rebel here,
That would not be obliged: I shall have peace,
When I have taught it to be as ingrateful,
As I must be.

Lam. To whom?

Gra. Madam, to you.

Lam. Why to me? Why must you be ungrateful?
Can you not love me?

Gra. You know not what a bankrupt you have trusted,

So poor, so ruin'd, that for all he owes you,
The kindest, best return, that he can make,
Is thus to shun your bed.

Lam. Am I then your aversion?

Gra. Believe me, 'tis the highest mark of value,
That neither your resentment can provoke,
Nor all your beauties tempt me to abuse you.

Lam. Abuse? Is that a husband's language?
How?

What mean you? Speak the cause of this behaviour.

Gra. It is not to be told; let it suffice,
That as the present circumstances are,
If I should take a husband's privilege,
The consequence would be to you most fatal.
Ask not the cause, I cannot tell you more.

Lam. Say, only say, it is not want of love,
And I will seek no further.

Gra. Were all the fire of every heart you have
enflam'd,

Raging at once in mine, this were the greatest proof,
That

That I could give you, of true affection.

Lam. O! could I be convinced of that, *Gramont*,
I should not envy the most happy bride.

I have no thought, no wish beyond your love;
Make me secure of that, and I am blest.

Why art thou thus unmov'd, thou cruel savage?

Hast thou no sensibility, no fire in thy soul?

Or have not I the art to blow the flame?

Instruct me then, if 'tis not yet too late,

If 'tis not kindled at another's charms.

That was an injurious thought, chide it away.

Tell me you could not be so false, so base.

You do not answer!

Nay then I fear, I am abus'd indeed:

Speak quickly, swear I am not; the very fear's

Distracting, not to be born; swear you are thus by
nature,

Thus cold, insensible to all the sex,

As you are now to me; swear that,

And I'll complain no more of your indifference;

But with submissive duty, tenderest care,

And most unwearied love, still strive to move

Thy cold, obdurate heart. Is there a hope to
gain it?

Gra. Madam, You set it at too high a rate;
It is not worth your least concern or thought.

Lam. Why, why inhuman dost thou answer thus?

Regardless of the doubts, that rack my soul?

O! speak; reply to them, e'er they distract me.

'Tis enough, enough thy silence speaks;

The dumb confession of a guilty mind:

Ay, there it is, thou false, perfidious man!

'Tis to a rival I am sacrific'd.

But think'st thou, I will tamely bear my wrongs,

And let her triumph in 'em? Dare not to see her,

For, if thou dost, I'll find the strumpet out:

Confusion! Slighted, for another too!

O how I'll be reveng'd! I'll know this sorceress,

Make her most infamous;

I'll be your plague, anticipate your hell.

Gra. Why all this for a bare imagination?

Lam. Is it no more? Then you may join with me

To curse this creature of my fancy.

Let all united mischiefs light upon her;

Diseases make her loathsome to your arms;

Deformity, a horror to your eyes;

May pinching wants bring her to beggary,

And infamy divert all pity from her.

L. Gra. O hold! You stab my soul: if you must curse,

On me let all your imprecations fall;

For I alone am guilty.

Lam. Why thus concern'd for one, that has no being,

But in a bare imagination? Dissembling,

Vilest wretch! thou thing below my anger!

There have been glorious villains, that may look

With scorn on thee, disdaining thy low ends;

A paltry bait of fortune, poor spirited,

Mean traitor; what indigent abandon'd creature

Is this, that hopes to vaunt it in my spoils;

Yet must be purchased at no less a rate

Than such an insolent disdain of me?

What are your terms? what she? And what her charms?

Let's know the state and reason of this preference—
Stubborn and dumb! am I not worth an answer?

Gra. What, Madam, can I answer to your rage?

Lam. My wrongs, thy own upbraiding guilt
thou canst not answer.

I do not rage, nor is there any rage
For injuries like this.

All that has had the name of passion, fury,

Ev'n to madness, here is highest reason.

So basely us'd! a rival's property!

Unvalued, thus despis'd for her, tormenting!

What easy fool didst think thou hast secur'd?

Mistaken

Mistaken man! thou hast rous'd a woman's rage;

In spite of all thy hard'n'd villainy,

Thou shalt repent thou didst provoke me thus.

I'll haunt your steps, and interrupt your joys,

Fright you with curses from your minion's arms;

Pursue you with reproaches; blast her fame:

I'll be the constant bane of all your pleasures;

A jarring, clamorous, very wife to thee,

To her a greater plague, than thou to me.

[Exit Lam.]

Gra. Let my *Felicia* 'scape her jealous fury,
And with whatever force her vengeance strike,

It is not worth my fear: she must be yet

Too much transported with her rage to observe me;

I'll take the occasion, and somewhere near *Bellgard's*

Remain unseen, till I may have admittance

To my love.

Her nature's calm, by no rough passions tost,

A harbour from this tempest; upon her gentle
bosom

All the disorders of my soul will cease,

Or I despair ever to find my peace. [Exit]

SCENE II. *Bellgard's house.*

Felicia sola.

'Tis yet too soon to expect him; the sprightly day
Cannot move swift enough for love's impatience.

Doubtless my kind *Gramont* is wishing too

For the blest minute, waiting, as he's wont,

Like a fond lover, ready to seize the first,

That gives us liberty. O that dear man!

Who, that were so lov'd, would grudge to bear
More than I suffer for him? That kind, that faithful

Partner of my griefs.

Enter Bellgard.

Bell. So early up, sister?

Feli.

Feli. I was not much disposed for sleep this morning.

Bell. Perhaps my coming home so late disturb'd you.

Feli. 'Twas late indeed.

Bell. Th' occasion may excuse it.

Feli. Am I to know th' occasion?

Bell. Only a friend's marriage. 'Twill be fit to let *Felicia* know *Gramont* is married, but not to whom; whilst that is unsuspected, the secret's safe.

Feli. May I ask what friend? Or is't a secret, brother? *[Aside.]*

Bell. 'Tis indeed a secret, sister; but you should know it, if I were sure 'twould not disturb you.

Feli. That I dare promise you; it is not in the power of any one, to raise the least concern in me that way.

Bell. Then I may safely tell you, (but with charge not to reveal it) *Gramont* last night was married.

Feli. *Gramont*! You jest with me.

Bell. On my faith, I'm serious.

Feli. What can he mean? To whom, brother?

Bell. For that you must excuse me; I've given my honour

Not to disclose it to my dearest friend.

Feli. Unless you tell me that, I shall believe you said it but to try me.

Bell. Were it not a secret of importance, or if my own, I would not hide it from you: None but his father, and myself were trusted; My faith, my honour, friendship, are engag'd.

Feli. With what concern he speaks! and yet it cannot be.

Bell. I conjure you, sister, not to mention this.

Feli. Why such a secret? But you're not in earnest.

Bell.

Bell. Why should you doubt, when I affirm it thus

Not from report, but my own certain knowledge? Myself was present at the nuptial tye, A witness of their vows.

Feli. If there is faith in man, this can't be truth. I fancy, brother, this is but design'd, To try how I could bear it.

Bell. Those are women's arts; I understand 'em not; Heav'n knows no greater truth than what I've told you.

Feli. Swear by that heav'n, you're sure *Gramont* is married, And I will doubt no longer.

Bell. Am I not worth your credit? Why all this doubting? By every name that's good, *Gramont* is married, I saw him married.

Feli. Wretched woman!

Bell. How *Felicia*!

Feli. O I must not think it; He can't be guilty of so base an action.

Bell. What foolish passion's this?

Feli. And yet my brother swears it, swears he saw it.

O *Gramont*! Is all my love and faith rewarded thus?

Bell. For shame at least conceal your folly; This fondness for a man, who cares not for you, Perhaps scarce thinks of you.

Feli. O, to be so abus'd!

Bell. What said you? So abus'd?

Feli. He has wrong'd me basely.

Bell. Ha! Hast thou not wrong'd thyself, giv'n up Thy honour to him?

Feli. O forgive me, brother——

Bell. Dar'st thou own thy infamy, yet hope to be forgiv'n?

Feli.

Feli. I am married.

Bell. No trumpet, he but serv'd his lust with thee,

And now has paid thee, as thou dost deserve ;
Too wise to marry, where he found not virtue.

Feli. Can you suspect me of a thing so vile !
No, by all goodness, I am not dishonest ;
But by all lawful bonds his real wife.

Bell. O curse ! What do I hear ? What have I done ?

Base dog, so to betray, abuse my friendship ;
Whither does all this lead ? Where can it end ?

'Tis misery, dishonour without end,
And I the instrument of all this ruin.

Villain, perfidious villain ! Ay, traitress, weep,
Weep for thy shame, thy sin, thy disobedience,
Rebellious girl, pollution of my blood !

Feli. O I deserve all this, that could deceive
And disobey the best of brothers.

Bell. You've met a just return of your ingratitude
To all my love and tender care of you.

Feli. I have indeed : I have no husband now ;
And where, alas ! where will my little son
Now find a father !

Bell. A son ! Is then this curse
Unhappy marriage of so long a date ?

Feli. Two years I've been his wife, and brought
in secret

A wretched infant to partake our sorrows ;
And now they are completed. O ! my brother,
Tread me to the earth ;

Double your anger on me ; 'tis but just,
That I may fall a load of miseries,
And never, never rise.

Bell. Alas ! she moves my soul — prithee no more ;

Thy fault was great, but now thy punishment
Has so exceeded it, I must forgive thee.
Rise, *Felicia* ; I am still a brother ;

Wipe

Wipe off these tears ; thou shalt have justice done
thee ;

Trust me, thou shalt.

Feli. O you are too good. But, my dear brother,

For whom am I so treacherously abandon'd ?

Bell. O that gives double edge to my resentment !
The other innocent, and more abused,
Shares in our blood as well as injuries.

What ? Did the villain think our family
Were women all, whom he might poorly wrong,
Safe from th' avenging hand of manly justice ?

Feli. Is she a relation ? What, *Lamira* ?
Now I reflect on it, he spoke last night
Of some addresses there.

Bell. Sister, be satisfy'd ; my honour is
Too nearly touch'd to let you be abus'd ;
With that compose yourself. But, poor *Lamira* !
Who can bear this fatal story to her !

I, who have been th' unlucky instrument,
Dare not speak it, till with the villain's blood
I've wash'd off the dishonour. [*Exit Bell.*]

Feli. Is this the joy, the long'd-for morning
promis'd !

Are all those tender, charming extasies,
And soft embraces, which my love expected,
Now giv'n to another ! O 'tis death !
This very minute she holds him in her arms ;
Thinks him all hers ; he lies transported too,
With perjur'd breath gives all my vows away.
Can I endure it ! O *Gramont* !

He must be mine : I'll pierce his faithless heart
With my Upbraidings. O she shall not have him ;
I'll tear him from her ; I will, I will ;
She shall not, must not have him. Ha !

[*As she is going out, Lamira meets her.*]

Lam. Why start you ? Is there ought in me to
fright ?

Feli. *Lamira* here !

Vol. II.

L I

Lam.

Lam. Is that so strange? I come to seek your brother:

The hour's indeed unusual; but my business will well excuse to him this early visit.

Feli. Early indeed for lovers so newly join'd to part.

Lam. Ha, does she know it? (*Aside*) What lovers do you speak of?

Feli. Too well you know; would I had dy'd ere known it:

Why must I live to speak his infamy!
Faithless and perjurd, he is still *Gramont*,
Once so belov'd, so kind, and seeming true.

Lam. Is't then *Felicia*? She, whom nature meant
A friend, my rival, cause of all my unhappiness!
But how am I betray'd to her!
How this curst secret known!
If once so kind, who tells you he is false?

Feli. Heav'n would not leave such baseness undetected;

The sacred vows he made last night to you,
Were mine before;
And O! how oft in extasies of love repeated!
How pressing me in his fond arms, he has sworn
They never should embrace another!

Lam. Too faithful villain! (*Aside*)
What of this? Suppose he lik'd you once,
Does that oblige him not to mend his choice?
Is he to blame, if you want charms to fix him?

Feli. Madam, I'll not dispute with you my charms,
But urge my right in him; that plea's sufficient,
Whate'er I am, to make your loves a crime.

Lam. Because he swore to you, think you, that men

Remember oaths in their loose pleasures made?
What can you hope for from so vain a plea?
'Tis wife in one, who sees herself abandon'd,

To

To mourn in silence: pursuits, reproaches, or complaints,

May lose her fame, but ne'er retrieve the lover.
Had you beheld last night what wond'rous love he shew'd,

You'd be convinc'd his heart's too deeply fix'd
E'er to be mov'd, and cease your vain lamenting.

Feli. Such wond'rous love! O I know too well
How many tender ways he has to charm,
And make himself believ'd:

But could he be all that for any other,
So soft, so nice, so passionately fond,
So much transported, as I've seen the charmer?

Lam. Poor credulous creature! when he seem'd so fond,

You should have been less kind to have secur'd him;

Or made him more than swear.

Feli. What means all this?
You speak, as if you thought me not his wife.

Lam. His wife?

Feli. Why with that scorn? His wife, his lawful wife,

As firmly, as the holy priest could make me.

Lam. *Felicia*, 'tis too much; if he is false,
He has gone too far to leave you that pretence,
Nor will it be believ'd.

Feli. I have sufficient witness, and every legal proof

Of what I say. But let himself appear,
Let him look on me, and try, if he has courage
To disown his first, his only wife.

Lam. Then what am I?

If this is truth, is it your part to rail?
Am not I most abus'd, dishonour'd, ruin'd?
But it cannot be. What, by a priest?
Legally married, said you?

Feli. Heav'n witness, that I am.

But yesterday I saw him too,

All love, all tenderness, and full of me.
Sure some curst arts must have been practis'd on him;

Some philter he has drunk; no other way
You could have charm'd him from me.

Lam. Are there such arts?

Indeed the mighty fondness you so boast of,
May make it out of doubt.

Feli. Alas, my arts

Have been of little force; for I have lost him:
O have I lost for ever all the joys

I found in him! The solid happiness

Of minds united! Must we ne'er again

With equal wishes, equal transports, meet?

Lam. Never, never; I henceforth forbid it.

Feli. What right can you pretend to of forbid-
ding?

Lam. The right, which one, that's injur'd, has
to vengeance.

Th' ungrateful traitor, that abus'd my love,

Shall give, nor know no joy in any others.

Think you, I'd patiently behold the villain

Possessing, and possess'd, by a lov'd rival?

Feli. Madam, I think you neither have the right,
Nor power to hinder it, if we agree.

Lam. You dare not; my wrongs shall rise and
check the very wish,

Strike him with shame, and you with jealousy,

That shall prevent, or poison all your joys.

But if thou art so poorly spirited,

T' accept and yield t' adulterated love,

I'll disappoint your wishes, when they're highest:

Fir'd with full hope, and nearer expectation,

When all thy eager senses are at once

Crowding to feast on his delusive charms,

Ere thou can'st taste, I'll stab him in thy arms.

[*Exit Lam.*]

Feli. Alas, we ne'er can meet in joy again:

Nay, now perhaps he means no more to see me:

I would

I would but once, but live to see him once,
Take my last leave of him, and then the world;
For when I'm his no more, I would be nothing.
[*Exit Felicia.*]

ACT IV. SCENE I.

The Scene opens, Felicia alone, Gramont enters to her.

Gra. I Waited long, my love, to find you free,
And had almost despair'd of seeing you.

Feli. A sight you could have been most willingly
Dispens'd from.

Gra. Why dost thou say so? 'Tis unkind; thou
know'st

I ever thought the hours I pass'd with thee,
The happiest of my life.

Feli. Perhaps you did;

Perhaps you lov'd me once.

Gra. And do not still?

Feli. O! Gramont, would you had never said
you lov'd,

Or I had ne'er believed you.

Gra. Not love? If I have any good in me,

'Tis the sincere affection, which I bear thee.

What means my dear?

Feli. Have I not been a fond, a faithful wife?

Gra. Not malice can deny it.

Feli. Why am I then forsaken for another?

Gra. Forsaken?

Feli. You, who a thousand times

Have sworn our marriage was the weakest bond,

That held you to me; you to break them all!

Gra. Ha!

L 1 3

Feli.

Feli. Or tho' you had not lov'd me, could you do
So base a thing?

Gra. O don't upbraid me; that thou know'st
my shame,

Is punishment enough.

Feli. Could you be false to me, that doted on
you?

Ungrateful man! How can I live without him!

Gra. Thou break'st my heart.

Feli. You've broke my heart, and may I not
complain?

Unkind *Gramont*!

Gra. O turn thy eyes away,
For their reproaches sting me to the quick.

Feli. Nay, then I'll fix 'em till your heart relent
With pity, for the miseries you've caus'd:
Look on me, look upon your wretched wife!

Gra. A wretch like me should be excluded ever
From the blest vision! I dare not look on thee.

Feli. Then tell me, if I e'er deserv'd your love,
What have I done to lose it?

Gra. Lose it! If I had not lov'd thee tenderly,
I had not been a villain.

Feli. For love of me?

Gra. For thee! 't' avert the miseries,
Which threaten'd thee, and our unhappy infant,
I sacrific'd my honour.

Feli. What miseries would not I share with you,
Rather than share yourself with any other!
I would have starv'd first, or have begg'd your
food,

To have kept you mine: but now you are *Lamira's*.

Gra. I am unworthy to be thine, *Felicia*:
All I can ask thee now, is to forgive me.

Feli. Alas, what's my forgiveness! My brother
and *Lamira*

Will pursue you: she does not love like me.

Gra. No matter; their resentment I can bear,
But not *Felicia's*. See, thy wretched husband

Kneels

Kneels at thy feet, to beg compassion of thee;
Intreats thee, when he falls beneath his griefs,
Or by thy brother's vengeance, to bestow
Some pity on him; think, remember still
'Twas love of thee made him unworthy of thee—
But if she can forgive, she must be good;
And then must hate me too, despise, condemn me.
O curse!

Let me grow here, become one piece with earth,
Lost to myself, all eyes, and all remembrance.

Feli. O I can't bear to see you thus; O rise!
What would you have me to do for you?

Gra. For me! use me like what I am, a dog,
Fit to be spurn'd, kick'd from you like a cur.

Feli. Don't distract yourself.

Gra. What, outlive my honesty, and not be
mad!

Lose thy esteem, lose my *Felicia's* heart,
Deserve to lose 'em too; and not be mad!

Feli. O *Gramont*!

If you had lov'd but half so faithfully,
As your *Felicia* does, she had not lost you.

Gra. Thou didst; but now you cannot, must
not love me.

Feli. O! I never knew till now, how much I
love you!

Be what you will, or use me how you will,
You've fix'd yourself so firmly to my heart,
I can't divide it from you.

'Tis full; 'tis breaking now with fears for you.

Gra. Thou dear example of fidelity, [*Rising.*
What dost thou fear? Come to my arms, and
tell me.

Feli. O fly to mine, and then I can fear nothing;
I'll hold thee here, and fate shall never reach thee.

Gra. Not, if thou lov'st me. O! I see thou
do'st;

And circled thus, I'm happy once again.

L 1 4

Feli.

Feli. How have you sworn no other e'er should thus embrace you!

Gra. I swear again, none ever did, or shall.

Feli. Tell me not that. Last night—think on last night.

Gra. Base as I was last night, I could not break that vow.

Feli. O *Gramont*! do not deceive me more;

Lamira boasts the wond'rous love you shew'd.

Gra. To her? If it were love, not once to touch her,

Or ev'n approach her bed:—by heav'n I did it not.

Feli. I will believe you.

Gra. Thou may'st, my love. I think thou dost forgive me too.

O let me keep thee then for ever thus!

For whilst I am posses'd of so much goodness,

I shall believe I'm honest. Am I not, *Felicia*?

No, thou know'st I am not:

Why dost thou touch me then? Fly, fly away,

Or thou art lost; not innocence can save thee.

Feli. Alas, what mean you?

Gra. 'Tis dangerous to be near me.

If fate should now be hurling vengeance on me,

Might it not strike thee too?

Feli. Heav'n avert it ever! I would fain

Hope all may yet be well.

Gra. Well! Canst thou redeem my honour, clear my fame?

I shall be pointed at; a noted villain,

Where can I fly from the reproaching sight

Of all, that once esteem'd me? Or how endure it,

When the very thought strikes such confusion?

Better I might have borne the worst of miseries,

That threaten'd me; which not the meanest wretch,

That begs, or toils for bread, but can support,

And does not truck his honesty for fortune:

Thou, coward! durst not. Now how wilt thou bear

The infamy thy baseness loads thee with?

Feli.

Feli. Alas, 'tis I have caus'd your infamy;

My inconsiderate passion has expos'd you,

What madness mov'd me to reveal the fatal secret!

Was that a remedy! What could I intend,

What consequence expect, but your destruction!

O! I can ne'er enough revenge it on myself,

Nor you enough reproach me!

Gra. Thou'rt not to blame.

Feli. Indeed I am; it was my duty, as your wife,

Whate'er I suffer'd, not to have accus'd you;

And as I lov'd, I should have had no thought

Of my own misery, whilst you were happy.

Gra. How can'st thou speak so kindly to a man,
That has undone thee! Thou do'st not sure look forward

On thy ruin, or thou could'st ne'er forgive me:

Nay, by heav'n's! it stains thy virtue, as I am now,

To use me with such tenderness.

Feli. Would you not have me love you?

Gra. It is not for thy honour to shew affection

For one thou must despise: I will not let thee

Wrong thyself so much, but leave thee to reflect;

And thou wilt meet me next, as I deserve,

With coldness, anger, and disdain.

Feli. Impossible—you are not going thus!

Gra. I should, and thou shouldst not retain me.

Feli. I would retain thee ever.

Gra. O *Felicia*!—

Yet I will go—look not so killing soft;

Think on thy honour; think I am a villain;

Learn to despise me; struggle with thy heart;

Strive thy ill-plac'd affection to remove,

As I now tear myself from all I love. [*Ex. Gra.*

Feli. Is it a fault to love him? If it be,

In punishing impute his crime to me:

I'll pay for both a double penalty,

However cruel heaven intends his share,

Beyond what life, all, all that love can bear. [*Ex. Feli.*

Scene

S C E N E *Lamira's House. Lamira and Marian.*

Lam. When will these struggling passions cease to rage,

Anger and love, pity and jealousy?
Whilst each are striving to possess me wholly,
They rend my soul among 'em.

Mar. Neither must now have any share in it.
Since, Madam, you're resolv'd to leave the world,
Heav'n claims your heart entire.

Lam. Yes, *Marian*; I have vow'd myself to heav'n,

The safe retreat from fears and vain desires.
But something must be done to satisfy
The discontent of my disorder'd thoughts,
That no unruly one may there disturb me.

Mar. The place will be your sanctuary from 'em,
A holy cloister's gates shut with the world
All human passions and reflections out.

Lam. What? can I there
Think tamely on my injuries,
And be pleas'd the villain 'scap'd unpunish'd?

Mar. Do you imagine, Madam, then *Belgard*
Will not revenge you?

Lam. Ha! *Belgard*!
Good heav'n forbid; his way would be too fatal;
Not clear my spotted honour.

But stain it worse with blood. A wicked justice
To punish his, by a more horrid crime.

I dread to think it! *Belgard* is violent,
And may do sudden mischief, if not hinder'd.

Mar. *Felicia* may perhaps have power to calm
Her brother's fierce resentments; she's mild enough,
Soon to forgive, and plead for him, that wrong'd her.

Lam. *Felicia* plead! *Felicia* save his life;
And he be her reward blest in each other!

O what

O what a torturing thought! can I endure it?
Nor love nor honour can.

Mar. You're neither pleas'd, that he should die,
or live:

What way would you dispose him?

Lam. Rather to death, than her. But there is yet

Something I would be at, I know not how,
Scarce what. Ha, is it *Gramont*!

Enter Gramont.

Com'st thou t' insult o'er one, whom thou hast
ruin'd?

Or think'st thou yet thy baseness undiscover'd?

Gram. Not to conceal, but to confess my crime;
Not to insult, but to implore forgiveness,
I thus approach you.

Lam. How dar'st thou hope I can forgive such
wrongs?

Gram. Unless your goodness, Madam, I must own
My hope has no foundation.

I've nought to plead but what must more incense
you.

If I say *Castalio's* sufferings mov'd me,
Should I, to serve a friend, abuse your love?

Or if I urge *Felicia's* dearer interest,
Th' excuse can but enflame your hatred to me.

Lam. Is it then so? Let me hear thee speak
Thy self a villain: Is she your wife?

Gra. To her misfortune, and my shame, she is.
Fool! not to think her happiness enough.

Whilst she was mine, how could I fear to want it?

Lam. Tortures and death! What brutal insolence!

Gramont, it seems you came not to incite
My pity, but my vengeance.

Gra. Neither, Madam;

I am too guilty to deserve your pity,
And need not urge revenge, since you can have
No greater than I mean to give you soon.

I only

I only beg your anger mayn't survive me,
Or curse pursue me farther than the grave.

Lam. Is it to hinder that, you take such pains
To let me know, to whom I owe my ruin,
That I may turn my curses on *Felicia*?

Gra. Heav'n forbid! She's innocent, and wrong'd
As much as you.

Lam. What are her wrongs? How offer'd to be
nam'd with mine?

No, traitor, thou may'st know mine are unequal'd,
When even thy baseness could not make 'em
greater.

Gra. Madam, I think I had the power to wrong
you more;

Which my not using may, I hope, in part
Attone for what I did.

Lam. I know, 'twas nor respect for me, nor ho-
nour

Stopp'd thee in thy course of mischief.
Thy inclination lagg'd ere it was complete,
Or thy firm villany would ne'er have fail'd thee.

Gra. Can there be such stupidity in nature,
To be insensible to so much beauty?

Lam. Ay, now thou hast it. Fawn and flatter
well;

Daub o'er my injuries with soothing words,
And make me take 'em all for obligations:
Say how you love; say with how much regret
You sacrific'd your wishes: Is it not thus?
Have not my charms done wondrous execution?

Gra. Had not *Felicia* first——

Lam. No more; thou wilt not suffer me one mo-
ment

To forget that hated name, lest thou
Should'st be alone the object of my rage;
But fear not, she shall share it.

Gra. Or rather double it on me.

Lam. Fond, doating fool!

Thou dost but shew me, in thy care for her,

The

The near and surest way to thy destruction;
And I will strike where I may wound thee deepest;
Add all the fury of a slighted rival
To the calm justice of revenge on thee.

Gra. Madam, I find whatever I can say,
But more foment your anger; therefore leave you.
I go to satisfy your just resentment;
But if my death's too little to appease it,
Rather than punish others for my crime,
Still hate me; let your rage, without controul,
Load me with curses, till they sink my soul.

[Exit Gramont.]

Lam. Perdition seize it; despair
And all the racks I feel, revenge me on thee!
No fears, no tenderness, but for *Felicia*?
Is this the way t' appease my just resentment,
To tell me, 'twas for love of her he wrong'd me?
There's then no other way to punish him,
But by the loss of her. They must be parted——

Enter Castalio.

Did I not order none should be admitted?

Mar. I did not hear you, Madam.

Lam. No matter, you might have thought it was
not proper:

Cas. With all the awe of one, that fears t' offend,
And knows not whether he offends or not,
I pay this duty; impatient, and yet more
In dread to know my fate
From her, that's mistress of it.

Lam. Unseasonable importunity!

My lord, I cannot think this meant to me;
I have no power, alas! not of my own,
Much less another's fate.

Cas. Your fate is heaven's care; and O! that
mine

Were your's as much, as it is in your power.

Lam. You know not what you wish; but let it
end;

'Tis a discourse I'm not dispos'd to hear;

And

And if, my lord, you value my repose,
You'll not pursue it further.

Caf. Then I am doom'd, doom'd to despair for
ever,

Since but to hear of love from me offends you.

Lam. From you, or any other, I hate the name;
And fly from all, that wear a form of kindness;
For 'tis in that alone men can deceive.

Caf. 'Tis oft indeed put on for a disguise,
Yet must be worn by those, who would be known
For what they really are.

Lam. There's no reality, no truth in man;
But where it most appears, and seems least feign'd,
'Tis there the master-piece of villain lies.

Caf. You speak as if some one, whom you had
trusted,
Had deceiv'd you.

Lam. Yes, I have been deceiv'd.

Caf. Who durst attempt it?

Lam. One, in whom you and all mankind have
been

Deceiv'd. O traitor! Who could have suspected
That modest shew of honesty and honour?
Exquisite, finish'd, O ingrateful villain!

Caf. The thought disorders you; it must be sure
Somewhat of weight, that can transport you thus.

Lam. I had forgot myself—
'Tis true, I have some cause to be disturb'd:
But pardon me, that I so ill acquit myself
Of the respect I owe you, thus to expose it.

Caf. Madam, I'll take my leave, if I constrain
you;

But wish you could esteem me worth your trust,
As one, by whom all your concerns are held
More than in equal balance with his own.

Lam. What use of friendship, trust, or to com-
plain

Of injuries, for which there's no redress?

Caf. There's then revenge.

Lam. But that you cannot give.

Caf. I think I shall not boast to say, there's no one
In your cause shall dare beyond me.

Speak who the traitor is, that has abus'd you;
And if to do you justice

There be an obstacle or danger I refuse
T' encounter, let me be branded for a coward.

Lam. There is an obstacle has greater force
Than any danger can; 'tis one you love,
Whom if I nam'd, you would not credit me;
One you esteem your friend, your nearest friend.

Caf. My friend! Who durst usurp that sacred
name,

And injure me, where I'm most sensible?
This gives me double right to seek revenge:
You must not, will not now conceal him from me.

Lam. Ere long the public rumour will inform
you;

This curs'd adventure will be blaz'd among 'em.
I shall be made the common theme and mirth;
My honour lie at every whisperer's mercy,
That's pleas'd to pass his censure on my conduct.

Caf. Permit me then to ask it from yourself,
That if I hear rash tongues too bold with it,
I may with more assurance vindicate you.

Lam. 'Tis the most strange unhappy story; so
full

Of baseness, heightned with all the aggravations
Of vilest treachery and ingratitude;
For he had such endearing obligations,
I hazarded my ruin, all for him,

O'er-rul'd by a destructive passion; nay, 'twas mad-
ness,

The blot of life, and stain of all my glory.

Caf. Was he below'd, and yet could injure you?
How? In what nature? 'Twas impossible
For one so blest, not to return affection.

Lam. Would that were all his crime; but he has
basely

Deceiv'd, abus'd, wrong'd me in such a nature,
I cannot speak it——Conscious of my folly,
(For I have been as weak, as he perfidious.)
Prets me no further to declare my shame.

Caf. Then name the traitor to me, and I will tear
The secret from his heart; with life extort it.

Lam. A villain's life's too mean a sacrifice;
No, let me think—Somewhat I had design'd
Of lasting torment suited to his crime—
That first I'll try; but if without success,
May use your friendship;
Till when, I beg you'll enquire no further.

Caf. Madam, I must obey, and will no longer
Trouble you in this disorder; but when you are
pleas'd

To let me know the man you have been deceiv'd in,
You shall have proof,
My soul disdains all friendship with a traitor.

[Exit Castalio.]

Lam. Yes, thou shalt live, to see thy self abandon'd,

And taste with me the pangs of hopeless love.
That one, who could be guilty of this baseness,
Should know to love with such fidelity!
O what a happiness to possess that heart,
So fond, so true! Could it have first been mine!
What full delights has not *Felicia* known?
Eternal woes succeed 'em; be they remember'd
But to encrease the curse of deprivation.
The stings of shame and causeless jealousy
Sharpen the pains of everlasting absence
That I decree 'em; *Bellgard* must be advis'd with,
And won, if I have any power with him,
To set his rage the bounds I have giv'n mine.
I'd not be cruel, nor too tamely bear;
Both, the extremes are shun'd in this design;
And therefore 'tis but just to hope success.
What can revenge, honour, and love, have less?

[Exit.]

ACT

ACT V. SCENE I.

Felicia alone.

Distracted with some dismal apprehension,
In vain I seek, for ease, to change the prospect:

Whatever way I turn my roving thoughts,
'Tis still but a new scene of misery.
Were my *Gramont* safe from my brother's rage,
And the world's censure, 'twere yet impossible
Ever to reconcile him to himself.

Enter Bellmont and Lamira.

Lam. What'er can satisfy my injur'd honour,
May well, *Bellgard*, be thought for your's sufficient.

Bell. I don't dispute it, Madam.

Lam. Nor do you grant it.

Bell. Honour gives different laws to different
sexes;

Mine says this sword alone can do me justice.

[Apart.]

Feli. What can this unexpected visit mean?

Lam. You seem to take me for an enemy:
Perhaps you look on me with rival eyes;
But I am come in friendship.

Feli. 'Tis what, indeed, I did not hope, and scarce
dare credit.

Lam. You're innocent to me, as I to you.
Tho' both each other's chief unhappiness.
But there's another guilty cause of that;
Him only we should hate, let us be friends.
Disgusted with the world, I have resolv'd,
The short remainder of this wretched life,
To be a strict recluse by holy vows,
And leave to you, *Felicia*, the possession
Of all that fortune I am mistress of.

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M m

Feli.

Feli. This is amazing, Madam! How have I Deserv'd from you such kindness?

Lam. Your merit is unquestion'd, and to me You are a near relation.

My gift is only charg'd with one condition,
The same I have impos'd upon myself,
That you shall never see *Gramont* again,
In which I have consulted both our honours.

Feli. It were not much, indeed, for yours to see him.

But what in you is virtue, would in me,
Who am his wife, be impious.

Lam. Not since he first has broke his faith with you.

By that you are absolv'd.

Fel. The marriage vows are not conditional;
The tie's as strong, my duty still the same,
Howe'er he fail in his.

Lam. It can't oblige you to depend on one,
Who wants assistance to support himself.

Feli. Yes, Madam, I must share my husband's fate;

However wretched.

When he's depriv'd of every other comfort,
In that extremity he'll need me most.

Bell. And think'st thou he shall keep thee? Be advis'd,

Felicia; you may lose him on worse terms.

Feli. To me all terms in losing him are equal.

Lam. She dotes upon him.

Bell. Infamously dotes.

I tell thee, by my honour, thou shalt lose
Both him, and me; wander where-e'er thou can'st;
I will not know thee in the last distress:
And for thy villain husband——

Feli. Let him but wander with me, I ask no more;

And we will take our weary steps somewhere remote,

Where

Where we can ne'er be more a burthen to you;
Nor shall you ever hear, that there is such
A wretched pair in being.

Bell. Do not hope it; for by my life I'll wear,
If thou dar'st now refuse to abandon him,
Where'er you think to fly from my resentment,
There's not a place so distant can contain you,
But I'll pursue you to, and tear thee from him.

Fel. Do you grudge us ev'n misery together?

Lam. Together! 'Tis a word, tho' join'd with death,

I cannot hear thee name. Madam, accept
My offer'd friendship, or you shall find
I can resent the slight; and, if provok'd,
Am not a despicable enemy.

Feli. Your hate can execute no worse
Than what in friendship's name you have propos'd;

For 'tis the utmost fate can do against me.

Bell. Shameless creature! to confess this fondness
For a man thou know'st to be a villain.

Feli. Alas! what fondness? Have I ask'd ought
for him,

But what the worst of enemies in malice
Would condemn him to?

To taste the bitterness of poverty,
Roving like vagabonds about the world;
For ever banish'd from our country, friends,
And all we hold most dear.

Lam. But one another; there you expect to find
An ample recompence for all you lose,
And be instead of all the world to him.

Is that a state for such a criminal?

What satisfaction to my injur'd love?

No, he shall share the torments he has caus'd;
Languish in fruitless wishes, curst with despair,
Eternally depriv'd of all he loves.

O! I have felt, and know 'tis death, 'tis hell.

That, that's a vengeance fit for me take;

M m 2

Tho'

Tho' much too gentle for the traitor's crime.

Feli. How has he merited such cruelty?
Had he last night, when all was in his power,
Taken advantage of consenting love
On your unguarded honour, this repentment
Would well become you then, and were but just.
You know how far he was from such a thought.

Lam. Then he boasts, and makes a merit of it
To my rival.

Feli. I thought it one to you;
It seems you do not.

Lam. No, since 'twas meant a sacrifice to thee,
Ev'n honour is my scorn, when I must owe it
To that blind dotage, which I see thee proud of.
But tho' thou triumph'st now, know, rival, know,
That stupid constancy in ill-plac'd love,
E'er long, to both the greatest curse shall prove.

Bell. I'll attend you, Madam, to the count *Raque-laure's*.

Now hear, inglorious girl! mark my last words;
Thy obstinacy but confirms my hate,
Undoes thy self, and wings thy husband's fate.

[*Going.*]

Feli. O do not go thus cruelly resolved!
Stay, brother, on my bended knees I beg you.
Cannot these trembling hands a while retain you?
Give but some days to a poor sister's tears,
But till the fierceness of your rage abate;
Till you can calmly weigh the wrong he has done,
With all the miseries, that led him to it.
O! think what would become of you yourself,
If heav'n were thus severe for every fault com-
mitted;

And, as you hope for mercy from above,
Now shew it to a brother's first offence.

Bell. To one, that heav'n detests! No, may I
ne'er
Find mercy there, if ever I forgive him!

Exit with Lam.
Feli.

Feli. He's bent on death, and nothing can avert it.
I've done, and here will lye to wait the wound,
That through *Gramont's* will shortly pierce this
heart:

I shall behold him soon, stabb'd, mangled, mur-
der'd.

O barbarous brother! O *Gramont* — He's lost!
I shall ne'er see him more, but cold and ghastly;
Breathing his last, and weltring in his blood.
Then there's an end of all my miseries,
For that I can't out-live: O must I live to see it!

[*Weeps.*]

Enter Gramont.

Gra. Upon the floor! O most afflicting sight!
Thither the weight of woes I've heap'd upon thee
Has press'd thee down: this is a scene of sadness
More expressive, than the most moving words.
Why art thou thus, *Felicia*? Thou should'st not so
Indulge thy griefs; be calm, and well consider,
As now thy circumstances are, what way
May best be thought to make thee least unhappy:

Feli. There's not a medium:
I can have no misfortunes, if I've you;
Nor ever think of happiness without you.

Gra. Alas, *Felicia*!

Feli. You pity me, as if
You knew how cruelly I have been us'd;
How deaf my brother is to all my prayers.

Gra. Do not offend him; there is hope, my love;
When I am gone, he'll still be careful of thee.

Feli. Gone! Then you can think of going from
me?

Of leaving your *Felicia*?

Gra. In life I ne'er can leave thee;
And there's not a pain in death, but that.

Feli. You speak, methinks, as one resolv'd on
death!

Must you conspire too with those, that hate me?

M m 3

Gra.

Gra. Thou'lt cause to wish, I had dy'd before thou knew'st me.

Feli. I could not then have felt the loss; But now the very fear is insupportable. 'Twas that had fill'd my bursting heart o'erwhelm'd, And laid me on the earth, as now you found me: And 'tis the only blow of fate I have not strength to bear.

Gra. How can I hear thee speak so tenderly, And think I have undone thee! O *Felicia*! Thy love gives double weight to my afflictions: What is there should induce me then to live?

Feli. If you have any love for me, the thought How miserable I shall be without you.

Gra. I know too well thy tenderness of nature; Know I am too much lov'd; but thou may'st learn By thy unhappy husband, there's not a state So miserable, but may with greater ease Be suffer'd, than dishonour. Would'st thou not blush

To live with one distrust'd, shunn'd and look'd on As a knave by all mankind? Can I, Or would'st thou have me, bear it?

Feli. I could for you: The world's opinion would not weigh with me Against your least disturbance.

Gra. Why will you plead so earnestly a cause, In which if you believ'd you could prevail, You would yourself despise me?

Feli. There was a time, When I might be assur'd I should prevail; When the least shew of discontent from me Had power to shake your firmest resolution; But then you lov'd me.

Gra. Do I not love you?

Feli. You see me drown'd in tears, o'erwhelm'd in grief,

Hear me implore; and bear it all unmov'd!

Gra.

Gra. Unmov'd! You know not what a war you've rais'd within me: There's not a word you speak, but would o'ercome me.

But when I think thou'lt share in my disgrace— For that I know thy love would make thee do,—

Feli. No, no, *Gramont*, were your concern for me, 'Twould most be shewn, where I am most concern'd.

But there you are insensible; or think not, Or care not, what I shall suffer.

Gra. O! 'tis a thought divides me from myself, Staggers my resolution, makes me wish The greatest curse, that thou could'st hate thy husband.

Every, every way, I must undo thee: 'Tis only left me now to chuse the noblest, And that should be endur'd with least affliction.

Feli. You've found the way indeed to shorten mine.

Already your unkindness breaks my heart!

Gra. Thou art unkind to use such wounding words,

That know'st my heart too tender to endure it. What would'st thou have me do?

Feli. O what indeed? For what should I intreat, Now all that soft, that dear affection's lost, That once could have deny'd *Felicia* nothing? What have I more to lose?

Gra. I can deny thee nothing: where wilt thou lead me?

Ev'ry tear thou shed'st draws with it my heart's blood.

Rather than see thee thus, I'd bear with life, With infamy. Must I, *Felicia*? shall I?

Feli. Nothing for me; I am not worth your care, And death will quickly free me from my woes.

M m 4

Gra.

Gra. Thou art my only care; take, take me to
to thy bosom;
There hide me from my shame, and from myself;
Do with me what thou wilt, but let me never
think——

Feli. Would you forsake these arms,
That tremble with delight, whilst they embrace
thee?

Gra. Talk on, and let me gaze on thee for ever,
Till I forget there's ought on earth besides;
And thou art goodness all, all joy and blessings.

Feli. Would you forget there's ought on earth but
me?

Then sure you could for me forsake the rest.
Could you for ever leave the busy world,
To seek with me some unknown, distant refuge,
Whither the ills we fear can ne'er pursue us?

Gra. Alas! thou talk'st but as thy love would
have it;

Thou know'st too well it is not in my power.

Feli. Had I not thought it was, I should not
have propos'd it.

Gra. Could I provide thee even but the bare
Necessities of nature, what's beyond
I know thy generous kindness well could spare.
But can I take thee hence, to see thee perish,
Under the extremities of griping wants
Thou hast not felt, and can'st not apprehend?
The smallest of those hardships, to which thou
would'st expose

Thy tender body, does far surpass thy strength.

Fel. Love will supply my strength; and as I can,
I'll labour for our food, or beg an alms;
And we shall find some friendly barn to shelter us
At night, whilst we repose our weary limbs.
But could you, my *Gramont*, endure your share?
And if the product of our toils falls short,
Take cheerfully the scraps of charity?

Sometimes perhaps your sleep may be disturb'd

By a poor hungry infant's cries; could you
With patience bear it? Could you in such a state
Find any joy in me? Would you not leave me,
Leave me, and my poor condition?——*My love*,
Why this? The tears are starting at your eyes!

Gra. Is this thy fate at last? and must I see thee
Suffer all the miseries, which, when
I did but fear for thee, o'ercame my virtue!
'Twas this idea, and have I brought 'em on thee!
Made thy ruin more inevitable!
Give me patience, heav'n! that I should force thee
To this wretched state!

Feli. 'Tis my choice;
I have preferr'd it to a splendid fortune,
Which now is offer'd me.

Gra. What fortune? Or how offer'd?

Feli. *Lamira's*; she leaves the world, and would
have brib'd me

With her trifling gift to part with you.

Gra. Did you refuse it?

Feli. Could I do otherwise?

Gra. 'Twas reproaching me: Did you not then
think?

(By heav'n! I know you did) with scorn you
thought,

This was the bait, this bait, which I despise,
'Twas that seduc'd my husband.

Feli. Not from your faith to me; that you pre-
serv'd;

Tho', by provoking her, you hazarded
The loss ev'n of the bait, that tempted you.
Have I done more for you?

Gra. Yet there's a cause,
That will induce you to accept the offer;
Your son, *Felicia*, he must perish else.

Feli. He must submit to share his wretched pa-
rents fate,

Gra.

Gra. His fate is yet more cruel! I durst not tell thee,

Loth to encrease the sorrows, that too deeply pierc'd thee;

But since 'tis in thy power to redeem him——

Feli. Redeem him!

Gra. From pirates hands: But yesterday. The fatal news was brought me.

Feli. O 'tis too much!

Gra. Weep not, but think how thou may'st ransom him.

Feli. Alas! have I the means?

Gra. Thou may'st: But I, I always am an obstacle,

Where any good's propos'd. Turn, turn, *Felicia*,

All thy tenderness upon that dear

Innocent part of me; thou dost misplace it here.

Feli. At any other rate I would preserve him; But in exchange for you, he's only dear to me,

As he is yours.

Gra. Then as he is mine, I beg thee to relieve him.

Feli. O 'tis the strongest trial! But to part with you,

That, that's the hard condition! Impossible!

Is there no other hope? no way to free him?

Somewhat I must endeavour; perhaps your father

May compassionate his innocence,

Tho' his unhappy parents have offended.

Gra. Try, my *Felicia*; if there's any mixture

Of the least tenderness in his hard nature,

Thou hast power to extract it.

Feli. Ere this he knows our marriage:

Thither *Lamira* going hence intended.

Gra. Then haste, my love, before th' impression

ta'en

From her resentment strike too deep for thee t' escape.

Feli.

Feli. I will: but dare I leave you? Will you promise,

Till my return, to shun my brother's sight?

Gra. What need of promises? thou know'st thy power.

Feli. May I rely upon your love?

Gra. Thou would'st, if thou could'st know with what reluctance

I now part with thee; scarce could it be more sensible, if we were ne'er to meet again.

Feli. Perhaps we never may.

Gra. Why said'st thou that?

Thy sad foreboding words stuck to my heart, As if fate had pronounc'd 'em.

Feli. Then I fear,

Fate has indeed pronounc'd 'em.

Gra. We'll disappoint it,

Cling to each other thus, and never part.

Feli. We shall not at this rate: unless you throw me

From your arms, I have not power to leave 'em.

Gra. No, thou shalt not.

Feli. Is then your son forgot?

Gra. Alas, my child! it will be so; 'tis vain To strive, for destiny's irrevocable.

Feli. And we must part.

Gra. But must I lose thee too!

Feli. If destiny will have it.

Gra. Thou'rt gone!

Feli. O my *Gramont*!

Gra. Farewel.

Feli. I fear for ever.

[Exit *Feli.*

Gra. For ever! Never see thee! O *Felicia*!

Enter *Castalio*.

Castalio! the man I most would shun:

How shall I look on him, or how receive him!

Caf. This is beyond my hope: I came to ask, Where I might find my friend, and I have met thee.

Let

Let me embrace thee, give thee thy *Castalio*,
Thine, my *Gramont*; for 'tis from thee I hold
My freedom, life, and honour; I've nothing, that's
my own,

Nothing of worth, but what I owe to thee.

Gra. My lord, you owe me nothing.

Caf. Is this the way to meet my clasping arms?
You answer too with an unusual strangeness,
And wrong me with a title less than friend,
The only one I glory in.

Gra. Yet 'tis the only one dishonours you.

Caf. To be call'd your friend?

Gra. When you know me, you will disdain the
name.

Caf. 'Tis therefore I am fond of it, because I
know you.

Gra. For what I seem'd; but till this day I never
Rightly knew myself.

Caf. I know you better than you do yourself.

Gra. Do you know me for a vile, a coward
wretch,

That dares not look ill fortune in the face,
And only sides with honour, 'till interest clashes
with it?

Caf. You give me the reverse of what you are.

Gra. I said, you did not know me.

Caf. Not in that character:

I know you firm to honour; have seen you dare
The worst of fortune's malice. Is it not for honour
You have now incurr'd a father's anger,
And expos'd yourself to all the ruin,
That must follow it?

Gra. Perhaps that was my mind of yesterday;
I may have chang'd it since: rely on no man;
He, that this hour is honest, the next may be a
villain.

Caf. I think you're chang'd indeed; your words
are wild,

Your looks disorder'd; heav'n preserve your reason!

Gra.

Gra. Heav'n rather take it from me! 'Tis the
best wish

For me, unless I could recall the past.
There's nothing now in future fate but madness
Can give me any ease.

Caf. It grieves my soul to hear you! Have bet-
ter hopes,

I may have power to serve you. Why thus re-
serv'd?

We've us'd with friendship to beguile our griefs,
Whilst we discharg'd 'em on each other's breast.

Gra. Let me forget I ever had your friendship;
'Tis now the greatest torment of my thoughts,
When you no more can cheer or pity me,
Can be that friend no more.

Caf. Not less a friend, for being more unhappy;
I'm still the same to you.

Gra. O! O *Castalio*! were I still the same!
But now——

Caf. What now?

Gra. Spare me this, heav'n! drive me where I
may ne'er

Behold this man; and let me be expos'd
The publick scorn, mark'd out for infamy,
And hooted by the gaping multitude.
Not all the ignominy th' united world
Could heap on me, would half so much confound
me,

As but to look on him, and think what once
I was in his esteem, and O what now I am!

Caf. Am I so dreadful! trust me I'll use you
gentlier,

Than you would yourself. What is't you labour
with?

Shall I assist you in the pang of birth?
Somewhat you've done amiss, which you repent of.

Let me be judge, for you are too severe.

I know you ever would condemn yourself
With strictest rigour for the smallest frailties.

Gra.

Gra. Is't me you speak of?

Caf. I've chid you oft, and yet I lov'd you for it.

Gra. And would you then have thought I could commit

The basest, meanest, the most treacherous action?

Caf. Impossible.

Gra. I thought so too; it seems we were mistaken.

Caf. What have you done? I have a friend's concern,

And ought to know it.

Gra. Indeed I don't deserve your least concern:

But for your peace of mind inquire no further;

Believe I am unworthy of your friendship,

And think of me no more: but if you hear my name,

Avoid the story, that must follow it;

For you would hate yourself, if you should know

How ill you had plac'd your kindness.

Caf. You make me still

More eager to enquire: by our past friendship

I conjure you tell me; your heart seems bursting

With the fatal secret, and yet you will not vent it.

Gra. Can you not guess?

Caf. I cannot; nor let me longer

Importune to learn it from yourself.

Gra. Have you not some remembrance what yesterday

I said my father had propos'd?

Caf. Which you refus'd?

Gra. Perhaps I did not.

Caf. Did not what?

I mean what was not in your power t'accept.

Gra. What's that?

Caf. The marriage.

Gra. Why not in my power?

Caf. Because it would have been the highest baseness.

Gra. Are base things never done?

Caf.

Caf. You could not do it.

Gra. O friend!

Caf. I'll not believe it.

Gra. You think too well of me.

Caf. I'm sorry for't.

Gra. Now then you know me rightly.

Caf. Could you——

Gra. Urge not my crime against me; it needs not;

Your awful virtue checks, and strikes me deeper Than your reproaches can.

Caf. I've thought too far; it can't be yet completed;

You've only giv'n hopes you would comply, Perhaps a promise.

Gra. 'Tis done; less had not gain'd my end, Which partly is accomplish'd: you are free; I had no other means of serving you.

Caf. And did you think I priz'd my honour less Than liberty, that I would have it purchas'd On dishonest terms? You know *Castalio* As little, as I have hitherto known you.

Gra. In what I did, I gratify'd myself, Nor aim'd I at acknowledgments from you.

Caf. You might have made your own advantage then:

But what had I to do with your mean tricks? Was't not enough I suffer'd in my friendship, But you must undermine my honour too, And draw me for the prize of villainy? I'll not endure it.

Gra. All the dishonour's mine.

Caf. Can I share the profit, and not the infamy? Who is there seeing me enjoy this freedom, That will not think I'm pleas'd, nay, was accomplice

In the guilt, that wrought it? The air I breathe, The every step I tread reproaches me

The

The terms, on which 'twas gain'd; 'twas basely done.

Gra. There's not a term, that's vile enough for me;

But 'twas a villany too much my own
To reach your fame. How could you be accomplice?

Nor is it known what means was used to free you:
It can't reflect on you.

Caf. It shall not;

I disdain t'accept inglorious liberty.

Take back the shameful ransom; I'll to prison,
And resume my chains; bestow the purchase
Of your treachery on knaves, I'll none of it.

Gra. Stay, stay, my lord; there's yet a surer way

To clear your fame, the blood of him, that stain'd it.
Take, take my life, 'tis a just sacrifice;
You owe it to yourself, to honour,
And the name of friend so long abus'd.

Caf. Is this the man

I call'd my friend! and was I thus deceiv'd!
I find indeed *Lamira* well observ'd,
There's the least truth, where most it does appear.
Ha! that thought has rous'd one, that alarms my heart;

She said 'twas one esteem'd my friend, that wrong'd her.

Is't possible, that he, the man, whom I
Preferr'd to all the world, should be ordain'd
The ruin of the only thing besides,
That could be dear to me!

Gra. What said you? Do you love her?

Caf. Whom, what her? 'Tis not *Lamira* thou'st abus'd.

Gra. Nothing but this could aggravate my crime,
Or my remorse; and was it wanting, heav'n!
Must every blow, which I or fate strikes for me,
Fall heavier still on him! Why, why is this!

Caf.

Caf. That I alone may have the right of vengeance,

Which now my injuries are ripe for. Traitor,
Defend thy life.

Gra. A traitor's is not worth defending.
Freely I resign it; 'tis a burthen,
Which I would bless the hand, that frees me from.

Caf. Coward! thou wou'dst preserve it; thou know'st I scorn

To take it thus unguarded.

Gra. You ought to take it as a criminal's;
Nor dare I lift my hand against a man,
Whom I have so much wrong'd, as if I meant
To justify my baseness.

Caf. 'Tis all the satisfaction thou canst make,
And I demand it of thee.

Gra. My life I offer;

I open to your point, and stand your justice.

Caf. Is't thus you should maintain a lady's favours?

Not with this coldness you receiv'd her kindness,
Whilst in her arms you revell'd. Death and hell!
That such a villain should, tho' but one moment,
Be possessor of all that bliss! O 'tis a heav'n to think!
And 'twas all his; all the transporting beauties
In his power! Curst, torturing thought!

Gra. You causelessly torment yourself: I've not possessor.

Caf. How's that? You said you had marry'd her.

Gra. 'Tis true; last night.

Caf. And not possessor! Come, doubly damn thyself;

For swear the wickedness thou hast committed;
Swear thou hast not enjoy'd her.

Gra. I swear by all things sacred.

Caf. Thou art perjur'd.

Gra. May then the perjury be ne'er forgiv'n,
If I have falsely sworn.

Caf. What could prevent it?

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N n

'Tis

'Tis unusual to leave a bride
Upon the wedding-night. Where were you then?
For I must know the truth.

Gra. With her.

Caf. Do you trifle with me?

Gra. No; what I have sworn, is truth.

Caf. Could she be so reserved not to consent,
When it might bear the colour of a duty?
Impossible!

Gra. I did not ask.

Caf. That's more impossible.

Do not abuse me

With a soothing tale:

I am too much concern'd to be impos'd on,
And be assur'd will clear to the least doubt.
Answer me then, what hinder'd you to ask?

Gra. My guilt already hung too heavy on me.

Caf. But how? On what pretence? How would
she bear the slight?

Once more I say, I will not be deceiv'd;
Therefore 'twere vain to attempt it——
But now I will be calm, and, as a friend,
Conjure you tell me punctually what past.

Gra. I made some weak excuses, which, at first,
She seem'd to take; till having further prov'd
With little arts the temper of my heart,
She imputed it to indifference for her:
Then grew suspicious of some prepossession,
To which she thought herself a sacrifice.
Some words, that slip'd from me, confirm'd her in it,
And work'd her to a rage, in which she left me.

Caf. And did you calmly, firmly, stand all this?
Th' insinuations of her softer passion,
Her pangs in jealousy, and her resentment?
What man could have the force!

Gra. 'Twas your good genius, doubtless, gave
it me;

I have nothing of my own, but weakness, baseness.

Caf. This were enough to cancel yet a greater.

To

To see her in the height of all her charms,
Loosened to love, and languishing desire,
And not be tempted! By heav'n, I think I had
Myself been lost; not all my honour could
Have guarded me against so strong a trial.
Instead of the reproaches I design'd,
I must confess an awful admiration,
Amaz'd and conscious of superior virtue.

Gra. What virtue was't in me? I look'd not
on her

With a lover's eyes. O! that I had known you
did;

But I was never worthy of your trust!

Caf. Fearful of my success, I would have hid
My weakness from myself. Yet in the hopes
Bellgard might influence her, to him alone
I ventur'd to disclose it.

Gra. To *Bellgard*!

Caf. He promis'd to assist me with his interest.

Gra. To assist you!

Caf. You know his power with her.

Gra. Too well I know it; 'twas he propos'd,
nay urg'd

This fatal marriage; which but for him
Would never have been thought on.

Caf. Is't possible?

Gra. Most true.

Caf. Perfidious! *Bellgard*, you have betray'd
me basely.

Enter Bellgard.

Bell. Betray'd you!

Caf. Basely I said, and thus maintain it: draw.

Bell. I scorn a baseness: you tax me most un-
justly.

Caf. Then right yourself.

Bell. My sword would be employ'd

Much better to my choice, against that villain.

Caf. If villain be the mark, mine is as well di-
rected.

Bell. Ha!

Caf. Were you not instrumental in his marriage? You press'd it on; nay, were the first proposer.

Bell. I was; but knew I then——

Caf. You knew enough
To make it a base injury to me.
If you dare vindicate the treachery,
Guard well your life, for that must answer it.

Bell. What I have done, will bear a calmer test;
I would be justified, for yet I'm tame.

Caf. Say rather, thou'rt a coward.

Bell. Provoke me not.

Or to your cost you'll find I am no coward.

Caf. I've found you to my cost a viler thing;
Dissembling, false, and faithless to your trust.

Bell. As free from either as yourself, *Castalio*.

Caf. He, that dares say it, lies.

Bell. Nay then——

[*Bell. draws. They fight. Gra. interposes.*

Gra. Bellgard!

Castalio! What means this rashness? Am not I
The cause of your debate; the fittest object
Of your rage? On me your points should turn;
Or hear at least what each has to alledge.
My lord, I beg you hold.

Caf. You have your wish.

[*Gra. accidentally wounds Caf.*

Gra. By all my crimes, this cursed hand has
struck him!

Caf. Methinks I feel 'tis too the hand of fate;
It seems to have reach'd at life.

Gra. Heav'n forbid!

But is it to be doubted? Did I e'er
Endeavour the prevention of an ill,
But I became the cause, and made it surer?

Bell. A curse attends the best designs of wicked
men;

And didst thou hope to prosper?

Gra.

Gra. Castalio! I have killed him; my blood is
chill'd

With horror of the deed.

Now is it time

To sink me to th' abyss? Or have I yet
More mischiefs to perform?

Bell. No, 'tis thy last;

But I must clear myself to you, *Castalio*;
Then for revenge. Be witness for me heav'n!

That I not only did acquit myself
With honour of the trust reposed in me,
But with the zeal of a most hearty friend;
Nor ceas'd I, till *Lamira* had declar'd
She never could return your love, and own'd
Her folly there.

Caf. Gramont has every way been my destruction.

Gra. What a heart-breaking sound! Was it for
this

You sav'd my life? Is this the best return
A friend could make? Happy for both you had
Been less a friend; then you had liv'd to bless
Mankind, and I had dy'd without their curse,
And all this weight of guilt upon my head.
But blood atones for blood; it shall be so.
O 'tis too sure! Life staggers in his eyes!
Yet, yet support it, one moment to behold
A justice done you.

Bell. 'Tis well thought on; haste then to give it
him.

[*Offering to fight.*

Gra. No more of that; you said I had done al-
ready

My last mischief; now for the first good action
Of my life, this to *Castalio's* wrongs. [*Stabs himself*
just as Roquelaure, Lamira, and Felicia enter.

Caf. 'Tis too much.

Feli. O heav'n!

Lam. Desperate remorse!

Roq. O my son!

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Feli.

Feli. Now you are satisfy'd, now you have kill'd him ;

Inhuman brother, tygers, murderers, devils !

Gra. O my dear ! thy grief's my sharpest wound.

Feli. Is this the promise you in parting made me !

Gra. Look there, and tell thyself, if I could keep it.

Feli. *Castilio* dying !

Gra. Murder'd by this hand.

Caf. An accidental blow.

Roq. Unhappy son of a more wretched father !

Gra. My lord, a dying son dares ask forgiveness—

[Enter Bern.

Bernardo ! Thou art come to imp my ascending prayers

With juster imprecations : behold what I have done.

Bern. O my dear lord !

Caf. If thou hast lov'd me, express it not in grieving,

But in endeavouring to defend my fame
Against the malice of my enemies.

Bern. It needs not ; the general's treachery is detected

By those he had suborn'd, and he disgrac'd.

A messenger is from the king arriv'd,

Inviting both *Gramont* and you to court,

With high expressions of his royal favour ;

And offers of what satisfaction you demand

For all your injuries.

Caf. Bear him my dying thanks ; now I am ready :

'Tis enough my honour will survive me,

And I was born to die. [Dies.

Gra. O what a wretch was I, that could not wait
Heav'n's time ; the providence, that never fails
Those, who dare trust it. Durst I have been honest,

One

One day had chang'd the scene, and made me happy.

But O your son, *Felicia* !

Roq. I'll take him to my care.

I've been to blame in using thee so harshly ;
But all that's thine shall find my kindness doubled ;
Felicia's now my daughter, as thy wife,
She shall be dearest to me.

Gra. Then all my cares are ended. Be happy,
my *Felicia*,

If thou wouldst have thy husband's spirit rest. [Dies.

Roq. He's gone for ever !

Feli. O ! O !

Roq. 'Tis heav'n's will, my child——Some help ;
she swoons. [*Felicia swoons upon the body ;*
women attendants come about her.

Lam. How tenderly she lov'd him ! poor *Felicia* !

Roq. Pity from one, who needs it more herself !

What reparation can be made, *Lamira* ?

Lam. The world can make me none ; there's nothing here

But a vicissitude of miseries.

If there is any joy, that's permanent,

It must be in that calm, that heav'nly state,

To which my future days are dedicated.

Bell. 'Tis the best asylum for human frailty,
Of which *Gramont* is a most strange example.

He was by nature honest, just, and brave ;

In many trials shew'd a steady virtue ;

Yet by one sharp assault at last was vanquish'd.

None know their strength ; let the most resolute

Learn from this story to distrust themselves,

Nor think by fear the victory less sure ;

Our greatest danger's, when we're most secure.

EPILOGUE,

Spoke by Mrs. BARRY.

FIRST, ladies, I am sent to you, from whom
 Our author hopes a favourable doom,
 As friends to virtue; since 't has been her end
 Vice to discourage, virtue recommend.
 You've seen reveng'd an injur'd woman's cause,
 And to such justice can't deny applause.
 Felicia too expects you should approve
 A wife's fidelity, and tender love.
 Protect her character, as you'd be thought
 The bright originals, from which 'twas wrought.
 Next to the men I come, but cannot plead
 Your likeness as a motive to succeed.
 We rather hope none here will be offended,
 Because none here could think himself intended.
 Not one of you so sullenly would slight
 A yielding fair, at least not the first night.
 You could not have the hearts, nor I believe
 Would you to such a height as he deceive.
 'Twould startle you no doubt; for, not to wrong ye,
 One wife is thought too much by most among ye.
 Since I have done you justice, be this day
 As just to us in censuring our play,
 Not with grimace, and words all noise, and buff,
 Damn it, a woman's! that must needs be stuff.

At

*At reason's great tribunal she'd appear,
 Tho' she has most from her decree to fear;
 But so condemn'd, conscious of justice done,
 Perhaps she'll mend, at least her faults she'll own.
 If they are such, as care may well correct,
 No pains, to please you better, she'll neglect.
 But if what she believes poetic rage,
 Is found th' infection of a scribbling age,
 For ever she'll forsake the darling stage.*

POEMS.