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member blast, which at that moment whistled around him, told the inadequacy of such a shelter. "A soldier!" he mentally exclaimed, "and perhaps his blood has been shed to secure the rights of those who revel in luxury!"

A few hours afterwards, he knocked at the door of the shattered habitation. If an interest in the father had been already awakened by the son, it was at once confirmed by the appearance of the old man, now he heard slowly from the staff on which he was leaning at the entrance of the stranger, and discovered a countenance where the lines of sorrow and suffering were distinctly traced. Still there was something in his high forehead furrowed brow, that told his affinity with the proud Alvah; and the ravages of infirmity had not yet altogether robbed his wasted form of the dignity of the soldier. "Will you pardon the intrusion of a stranger?" said Mr. Courtney. "I have been led hither merely to chat an hour with a revolutionary veteran." (He who comes to cheer the solitude of darkness must be welcome," said the old man; and Mr. Courtney now perceived that he was utterly blind! The events of the revolution afforded an easy clue to conversation, and they chatted without effort. "I would," said Mr. Courtney, "that every one who assisted in our glorious struggle might individually share the prosperity it has conferred on our nation. I fear, however, there are many whose blood even has emitted the proud fabric of our independence, that are themselves left in want and obscurity." "True," said the old man, "the decayed soldier whose strength was wasted in the conflict, has but little for himself to hope; but I trust his posterity will reap the harvest he has sown."

"You have a son," said Mr. Courtney, "worthy of such a harvest. Is the youth called Alvah your son?" "All that survives of a large family! He alone, the child of my old age, has been spared to save me from public dependence." "Have you been long deprived of light?" asked Mr. Courtney. "Only two years." "And during that period, have you had no resource but the labour of your son?" "None; but the wants of a soldier are few, and the filial piety of my boy renders him cheerful under every privation that affects only himself. He labours incessantly, and I have no regret but that of seeing him thus fettered to servitude." "I would," said Mr. Courtney with enthusiasm, "that I could place him in a sphere more suited to his worth. With the advantage of education, he would become an ornament to society; but this under your peculiar circumstances he cannot have had even an ordinary degree." "But for his taste for learning," said the soldier, "he would have been utterly destitute. There were hours, however, when he could not labour, and as these have been invariably devoted to study, he has gradually acquired its common principles."

The entrance of Alvah himself interrupted the conversation. He had brought some little delicacies for his father, the avails of his day's labour. "I have just been thinking," said Mr. Courtney, "of making some arrangement with the approbation of your father for your future establishment. I grieve to see a boy of promise thus losing the spring time of life." "You forget, sir," said Alvah, respectfully bowing, "that I can embrace no proposal that would separate me from my father, however advantageous." "Certainly not in his present situation; but I have friends here, who will readily assist me in making a suitable provision for his support, and you may then be put to business that will secure you a future competence."

"Impossible, sir! My father can have no claims like those on his son." "It is no claim, sir, only since my weakness a short season ago, and shall now require his support, and shall I now transfer the duties of filial gratitude to the hand of charity?" Mr. Courtney knew not what to reply. "Do not think me ungrateful for your proffered kindness," continued the boy, while his dark eye swam in tears; and every trace of pride suddenly gave place to the liveliest expression of gratitude; "I feel most deeply your benevolent solicitude for my interest; but indeed, sir, I am perfectly happy in my present condition. My father, too, is satisfied with the slender provision my labour

affords, and should it hereafter become insufficient, I will not scruple to ask the aid of benevolence." Mr. Courtney was affected. The soldier had again leant his head over his staff and was probably invoking blessings on the head of his son! A storm had commenced, and the sleet was even then dripping through the broken roof. Mr. Courtney rose to depart—"Must I then go," he exclaimed without rendering you any service? "Will you not even accept," and he put his hand in his pocket—but Alvah drew back with an expression, that answered the unfinished sentence. The old man gave him his hand with a smile of benignity.

"Accept my thanks, sir, and suffer me to erase the name of him who has thus sought the dwelling of poverty." The stranger gave his name and address, and receiving a promise that they would seek him in future need, reluctantly left them.

Mr. Courtney was a man of feeling but he was also a man of pleasure; and with the votaries of dissipation, the soft and holy whisperings of benevolence are too often lost in more seductive strains. The scene he had now witnessed had however awakened all his better principles. The dignified submission of the father—the proud humility of the son, preferring the most servile labour to the shadow of dependence—his deep but quiet tenderness for his unfortunate parent, and his perfect exemption from selfish feeling—all, were vividly impressed on his visitant. If an intercourse with the good influences even cold and turbid hearts (as is beautifully exemplified by the Persian fable of the piece of clay that became an odoriferous substance by the contact of the rose), that influence must be striking indeed on the soul of feeling. The touch of a corrupt world may dim the native gems of the heart, but let the language of pure and elevated sentiment be heard and the chords of responsive feeling will at once awaken like the sleeping tones of a harp attuned by the winds of heaven. For a little time, the paucity of the world lost its power over the mind of the gay Courtney, and the haunts of pleasure were forgotten. He shuddered as he contrasted the elegancies that surrounded him with the destitution he had witnessed. The straw pallet of age and infirmity—the scanty fuel—the precarious supply—the picture that memory drew, seemed even yet more vivid than the reality.

The following day Mr. Courtney had left the city, but a blank cover enclosing two hundred dollars, had been placed by an unknown hand in that of the soldier. — Years passed, and the glow of uncharitable pleasure that the traveller then experienced was gradually forgotten. The blandishments of pleasure resumed their wonted influence—her glittering wave again hurried him onward without the power of reflection; and if a momentary wish would have led him to enquire the further fate of Alvah Hamilton, the bright phantasma, that surrounded him diverted his purpose. Death had deprived him of an amiable wife whose influence might have won him from the sphere of illusion, and his only child early accustomed to the round of fashionable pursuits thought not of opposing them. The exalted sentiments, however, which even in childhood she had imbibed from her mother, preserved her from their contaminating influence; and amid the blights of a gay world, the purity of her character remained stainless as the snows of the unapproachable cliff. Gentle as the tread of summer, she yielded to the impulse of those with whom her lot was cast; but her mind, supported by high and frequent communion with the memory of her sainted parents, escaped the thralldom, which habit might otherwise have secured.

At the age of fifteen, she accompanied an invalid friend to the medicinal springs of Ballston. This Village, at that time, was a place of fashionable resort, and to a mind like Isabel Courtney's, afforded themes of limitless reflection. The buoyancy of health was here contrasted with the languor of disease—the hectic of death with the laugh of revelry—pallid images of mortality mingled with the votaries of pleasure—the listless, who strove to annihilate time, and the dying, who sought to add yet a few days to those they had now to number. Soon after the ar-

rival of Isabel, she was one day struck, on entering the common sitting room, by the appearance of an old man, who sat alone and apparently unnoticed. His sightless eyes, his palsied limbs and the white locks that were thinly scattered over his pallid temples, all at once riveted her attention. Her heart throbbled with pity, but reverence mingled with compassion as she marked the settled and placid expression of his countenance. At no great distance, a group of ladies were indulging in bursts of levity that at this moment struck most discordantly on her heart. She felt that the presence of an unfortunate age should at least inspire respect; and involuntarily approaching the unheeded old man, she was half resolved to address him. Her natural timidity, however, still withheld her, till she was at length called by one of the hoyden groups to partake of some strawberries. The insulate expression of her countenance at once changed to that of pleasure. "I will beg some," she said, unhesitatingly presenting her work basket, "for this old gentleman"—and she now approached him without embarrassment. "Will you accept some strawberries, sir?"—The voice of Isabel was like the low, dying tones of an instrument; it touched every chord of the soul. The old man received them with a smile, that spoke a benediction; while an elegant, tho' youthful stranger, who stood reading a newspaper with his back towards them, suddenly turned round and fixed his eyes on the blushing girl with mingled admiration and surprise. She instinctively retreated and joining the group she had hitherto shunned, mingled in their trifling. Soon after, the youth himself approached with her basket. Presenting it with a look of indescribable import, he said, "accept, Miss, the thanks and blessing of age for your delicate attention." He then disappeared. In a short time he returned and addressed the old man in a tone of respect and tenderness. "I have at length found more quiet lodgings, sir, and will attend you whenever you feel able to walk." The old man rose and leaning on the arms of the youth, they left the apartment. "They are then the temporary sojourners in the village," thought Isabel; and a remembrance of pleasure, of which she was perhaps unconscious, arose from the idea of again meeting them. She was not disappointed. They met the next morning at the spring—and again and again met. Who shall describe the mingling of kindred spirits? Who shall trace the intricate and delicate sources of that mysterious passion which at length sweeps like a torrent over the human soul? Scarcely a word had passed between the youthful strangers—they knew nothing of each other beyond the limits of a few short days; yet the years that had preceded had become to them as a vision dream—the present was their all of existence, and resembled the renovated life of the chrysalis, when it

As yet, however, unconscious of the dangerous source of this new sense of enjoyment. The bluish that died the cheek of Isabel in the presence of the stranger, was that of absence of pleasure—and the light which flashed from his eye at her approach was brilliant as the rays of heaven. The failing health of the blind old man, whom he daily attended to the spring, afforded the only clue even to passing remark. The deep interest which his appearance excited in the bosom of Isabel conquered the scruples of vast reserve, and she frequently ventured a timid enquiry respecting the aged invalid. There were a thousand nameless attentions too trifling for description, that came with a cheering influence over the feeling heart, like the imperceptible breeze that stirs the delicate leaf. Such were the attentions which misfortune invariably elicited from the hand of Isabel, no matter how near her sphere of action. Her voice, her steps were already known to the discriminating ear of the old man, and if his cane was dropped, or a seat was brought him he knew the ready hand that presented them. He was, however, evidently and rapidly failing—and at last Isabel met the interesting stranger no longer. Three days passed and her attendance on her friend became a penance. A walk was proposed and weary of herself she gladly be-

came one of the party. As she passed within view of the village cemetery, her gaze was arrested by a funeral procession. Their duties were finished and they were returning—but there was one who yet lingered, and with folded arms leaned over the new made grave. Could it be yes, it was the youthful stranger—and Isabel at once comprehended the melancholy scene. The party proceeded, and ere their return, the surrounding landscape was flooded with the silver light of a full moon. The feelings of Isabel were rendered yet more intense by the softening influence of the hour, and almost unable to proceed, she leaned on the arm of the friend, whose strength was yet but imperfectly restored; and fell behind her gayer companions. Again her eye was turned to the last asylum of humanity—the solitary mourner had left the spot, and with a melancholy step was slowly returning to the village. Their paths intersected and he was already before her. He bowed and both were for some moments silent. He at length said in a voice of suppressed emotion, "the cause which brought me hither is now terminated in the grave. Leave this place to-morrow. Suffer me then, Miss, even at this moment of sorrow, to thank you for the interest you have evinced in the sufferings of my departed father—for the soothing attentions you have paid him. If the cup of affliction is ever yours, may some spirit, gentle as your own, temper its bitterness—some being, bright and lovely as yourself, hover around your pillow." Isabel could not reply. Her party had now halted, and as she rejoined them the young stranger uttered a stifled farewell, and striking into another path, disappeared. On her return, the subdued Isabel was pressed to the bosom of her father. If any thing at this moment could have given her pleasure, it was his arrival, as she pointed to a spot that was now to her utterly devoid of interest. "The light altitudes of ceremonies were easily concluded, and early the following morning she was equipped for departure.

As her father handed her into the carriage he stopped to speak with a acquaintance, when a young man, who was passing at the moment, suddenly passed and clasping his hands, exclaimed, "Mr. Courtney, my benefactor! I do not understand you sir," said the astonished Courtney—"I know of no one, who can give me so flattering a title." "Al," said the young man, whose countenance and voice were but too familiar to the trembling Isabel, "son I then so changed? I am Alvah Hamilton, the soldier's son, whom seven years ago you rescued from extreme poverty!" Mr. Courtney pressed his hand with emotion. "You mean, my young friend, the sorrowful boy whom I would have rescued, but for his intolerable pride." "Oh, sir, evasion is unavailing. We could not mistake the hand that relieved us. Have you not then some interest in hearing—will you not suffer me to tell you, what have been the fruits of your bounty?" "I shall gladly listen to what in which you are Alvah," said Mr. Courtney, and Alvah proceeded—"Two days after you left us, my poor father was removed to a more comfortable shelter, and I was entered at school. I could yet attend to the personal wants of my father, and incited to exertion by every claim of gratitude and duty I could but progress in my studies. I was soon a ready penman and accepted, and a year afterwards was received into a wealthy mercantile house as an under clerk. My wages enabled me to make immediate provision for my father, and they were yearly augmented. And now," he added, in a subdued tone, "since he is at length called to receive far higher wealth than that of earth, my first exertions shall be to discharge the pecuniary part of that obligation which has so greatly influenced my present destiny." "The obligation which you speak of," said Mr. Courtney, "does not exist. An ample equivalent was at once received in the pleasure of assisting indigent virtue. Do not then wound again by so unjust an allusion—but tell me is your venerable father no more?" "Alvah briefly sketched the late events, and Mr. Courtney now shook him warmly by the hand. "Farewell, dear Alvah. My carriage has been some time waiting; believe that I rejoice in your prosperity, and remember you may

always command my friendship. Alvah looked wistfully after him as he departed, but the form of Isabel was not visible. She had shrunk back in the carriage at his approach, and had thus escaped observation. From her father, who was himself too much excited to notice the agitation of his child, she now heard a description of his first knowledge of Alvah Hamilton. She made no comments, but every word was treasured up in her heart, and though years passed away without a single event to recall his memory, every vision of her fancy, every idea of moral excellence in the imagination of Isabel was identified with his image. This imperishable attachment, however, partook of the high tone of her mind. It was a deep and sacred principle, hidden in the recesses of the heart, and leaving no trace on the surface of her character.

Isabel was far too lovely to remain unsought, and Mr. Courtney was astonished at her decided rejection of repeated and splendid offers. He expostulated, he entreated, he taxed her with perverseness. She deprecated his anger with serene gentleness. She anticipated his every wish, but her firmness remained unshaken. His attention was at length called to objects of yet deeper anxiety. His love of pleasure, his boundless expenditures, his recklessness of gain, had wasted an estate, which, though sufficient for all the chaste elegancies of life, was inadequate to the support of prodigality. He now stood on the verge of ruin, and those who had shared his substance looked coldly and carelessly on its wreck, while the unhappy Courtney, driven almost to madness, could scarcely believe the perfidy of the world he had hitherto implicitly trusted. He was not, however, without a comforter. At this hour of trial, the virtues of his child became more fully developed, as the gem gleams brightest through the shades of darkness. Her affection deepening in its intensity, as its object was deserted by others, her fortitude, her cheerfulness now came over his scorched and withered heart with balmy influence. Their family seat was to be publicly sold, and the fearful day arrived. While it was yet crying, a new purchaser appeared, apparently from a distance. His horse dripped with speed, and his countenance was pale and agitated. "The property, as is frequent in such cases, was going at half its value, and the stranger had bid it off. Mr. Courtney was still the occupant, and the new proprietor called on him immediately. Isabel had at that moment left her father for some domestic calls, and the unfortunate man was musing on their impending expulsion from their present residence, when Alvah Hamilton stood suddenly before him. "Welcome, most welcome to my heret, dearest Alvah," he exclaimed, "I can no longer welcome you to my home. You have come but to witness my removal from all that was once mine. I am here only on sufferance. To-morrow I may have no shelter for my head." "Not so," cried Alvah, "you have yet a shelter; your present home is still yours, and no earthly power can expel you from it." "What mean you?" said the breathless Courtney. "Fourteen years since," he replied, "you presented my father a sum which the preserved him from want, and secured me subsequent wealth. He received it but as a loan, and that debt devolved on me. True, you disclaimed it, but it was yet uncancelled. Reluctant to offend you, I delayed its discharge, though the amount was long since appropriated in my imagination for that purpose. It has not however, bin idle. The profits of the house in which, some years ago, I became a partner, have been considerable. Your little capital has acquired its share, and its amount has this day redeemed your forfeited estate. By a mere accident I had seen it advertised, and I lost no time in hastening hither. And now," he added, taking the hand of Courtney, with a radiant smile; "will you not welcome your Alvah to your home? It is long since you gave me a check on your friendship. I have come to claim it, and surely you can no longer refuse the title of my benefactor, when from your bounty I have derived not merely wealth, but the unutterable pleasure of this moment. Mr. Courtney wept.

The thoughtful man of the world wept at the sacred triumph of virtue, Alvah himself was overcome with the

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son or to their order.
By order of the President &
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June 26

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they were printed in parcels,
and unbound, it may be ascertained
that they, too, must in a few
years be destroyed by the mere
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History of Maryland, during that
interesting and unquiet period. Al-
though they have, in abundance, histories
of Maryland, as connected with the
time formed, for mutual protection
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of power on the part of the Mother
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Esquire, Attorney at Law.

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and twenty five pages, and for
numbers to constitute a volume. The
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possesses advantages which give it
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insures the earlier publication of the
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the expense will not be so sensibly
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TERMS
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Office, the Maryland Gazette Office,
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