PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE; OR, THE MODERN GRISELDA. A DOMESTIC TALE, IN FOUR VOLUMES, VOL. IV

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Patience and Perseverance; Or, the Modern Griselda. A Domestic Tale, in Four Volumes, Vol. IV by Barbara Hofland

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OR,

THE MODERN GRISELDA.

A Domestic Tale.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

SAYS SHE TO HER NEIGHBOUR, WHAT? &c.

Well-order'd home, man's best delight to make;
And by submissive wisdom, modest skill,
To raise the virtues, animate the bliss,
And sweeten all the toils of human life—
This be the female dignity and praise.

THOMSON.

VOL. IV.

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LEADENHALL-STREET.
1813.

Patience and Perseverance.

CHAP. I.

SIR Edward's disorder at length yielded to the excellence of his constitution, so far as regarded the more immediate danger; but it left behind it considerable debility, and, what was still worse, a violent rheumatic affection in his limbs, which appeared so obstinate, that there was no hope of removing it during the winter, by any remedy that it was possible to apply; and there was but too much reason to fear it might embitter even all the rest of his life: the violence of his pain affected principally the leg which had been injured by the

 fall,

fall, but the least perception of cold, or change of climate, rendered him subject to it in every part of his body.

The relief, however, this partial amendment gave to Griselda, by rescuing her mind from its severest fear, taught her to be more sensible of the decline in her own health, owing to the incessant uneasiness she had experienced, and the severe cold she had taken, on the night when (as she believed) Providence had directed her to the relief of her husband. She endeavoured therefore now to take that rest sorrow had banished from her eyes, and to regain that strength so peculiarly necessary for her at this period: but, alas! the situation of sir Edward was now infinitely more intolerable to himself than it had been; for the degree of liberty he had gained only served to make the confinement under which he laboured still more insupportable to him; and he sighed for ease, in proportion to his sense of its privation. It will be generally found, in cases of sickness, that men have

most

most resolution, and women most patience in bearing pain. Many a man will submit to amputation, with the firmness of a stoic, who will prove fretful, querulous, and impatient, over a fit of the toothache: it is one thing to bear a great suffering, and another to endure a petty torment: where we can praise our minds for magnanimity, and our hearts for firmness, there is a pleasure that consoles us for our pain, arising even from self-love; but to acquire fortitude to endure that which produces neither honour nor reward, which is always corroding and never exhibiting, is a lesson taught only by *one* philosopher, and is not one of the *earliest* lessons of even our *divine master*.

In this, at least, our baronet was manifestly deficient; he had courage that might have rendered him a hero; resolution that might have endured martyrdom; but to be tied to the house all the day long with a lame leg; to have a perpetual ache in those limbs, so lately renowned for their agility;

neither to run, fence, dance, leap, or even ride, when every one of these exercises had been from very infancy as natural, and from habit as necessary, apparently, as sleeping, breathing, and eating, was a state of being so new, so tormenting, so out of all the common routine of suffering, that it might be allowed to make a man cross, without any reflection on the general excellency of his temper. 'Tis true, this was not the first time the baronet had been confined; but his wound was a very different affair; the great loss of blood he then sustained, produced a physical mildness favourable to placidity of temper; his affairs were in a state of mortifying and depressing confusion, and confinement in an apartment which shut him from the eye of the world, was rather a blessing than a curse. He had recently learned to despise the friendship of that world in which he had moved till then, and found a consolation in despising it; while he learned, for the first time, to estimate, in all its purity, the

sweetness

sweetness of that attachment which has been happily termed "the friendship of marriage." At the present moment *all* was changed; a life of active and useful exertion, improving prospects, agreeable though confined society, were all cut off, or suspended by this cruel confinement; and though it took place at a period of the year when the country afforded the fewest inducements for regret, yet the gloom of the season added to that of the mind; and sir Edward continually declared, "that at any other time of the year, he should not have minded it at all."

When he was able to leave his chamber, Griselda fondly hoped that the society of Miss Templeman, or the prattle of little Charles, would tend to amuse him; but the sight of the child only increased that extreme solicitude to become himself a father, which in the beginning of his illness had affected his mind so strongly; and his anxiety for her welfare on that account again led him to adopt a line of conduct, in