

THE letter signed *Elifmonda*, with the *lady's revenge*, is just come to hand, with which we are extremely delighted, and promise it shall not fail being inserted in our next, time not permitting us to give it a place in this.

End of the THIRTEENTH BOOK.



B O O K XIV.



ACCORDING to the assurance given in our twelfth book, we shall begin the entertainment for this month with the letter from *Claribella*.

To the Authors of the FEMALE SPECTATOR.

LADIES,

YOU cannot be insensible how little compassion the woes, occasioned by love, find from this iron-hearted age; nor how ready every one is, on the least breach of decorum, to censure and condemn, without considering either the force of that passion, which those who are most upon their guard against, have not always the power of restraining, or what particular circumstances may have concurred to ensnare a young creature into a forgetfulness of what she owes herself: — her *fault* alone engrosses the discourse and attention of the town, and few there are will take the pains to enquire if any excuses may be made for it; all the misfortunes her inadvertency brings upon her are unpitied, and looked upon as a just punishment; all her former merit is no more remem-

bered ; and people no longer allow her to be possessed of any virtues, if once detected in transgressing one.

I AM sure you are too just not to condemn such a proceeding as highly cruel, and also too generous, not to make some allowances for heedless youth, when hurried on by an excess of passion to things which cooler reason disproves.

IN this confidence I take the liberty to give you the narrative of an adventure, which, tho' exactly true in every circumstance, has in it something equally surprizing with any that the most celebrated romance has presented to us.

THE heroine of it, whom I shall distinguish by the name of *Aliena*, is the daughter of a gentleman descended of a very antient family, who, from father to son, had, for a long succession of ages, enjoyed an estate, not inferior to some of the nobility ; but by an unhappy attachment, in his immediate predecessor, to the race of the *Steuarts*, was deprived of the greatest part of it ; and as he had several children besides this *Aliena*, none of them, excepting the eldest son, could expect any other fortunes than their education, which he indeed took care should be very liberal.

BUT though his paternal tenderness seemed equally divided among them all, and *Aliena* had no more opportunities of improvement than her other sisters, yet did she make a much greater progress in every thing she was instructed in than any of them ; and as nature had bestowed on her a much larger share of beauty,

so

‘ so was also her genius more extensive than that
 ‘ which either one who was elder, and another
 ‘ a year younger than herself, had to boast of.

‘ IN fine, dear ladies, she was at fourteen one
 ‘ of the most charming creatures in the world.—
 ‘ As her father lived in *London*, she went fre-
 ‘ quently to public places, and those diversions
 ‘ which were too expensive for the narrowness
 ‘ of her circumstances were, however, not de-
 ‘ nied her : — she was never without tickets, for
 ‘ the masquerades, ridottoes, operas, concerts,
 ‘ and plays, presented to her by her friends; none
 ‘ of whom but thought themselves happy in her
 ‘ accompanying them to those entertainments.

‘ I WAS intimately acquainted with her, and
 ‘ have often thought her one of the happiest of
 ‘ our sex; because, whether it was owing to her
 ‘ good conduct or good fortune, she lived with-
 ‘ out making any enemies; — the sweetness of
 ‘ her behaviour charmed all who were witnesses
 ‘ of it; and though there are many equally inno-
 ‘ cent with herself, yet some have a certain sour-
 ‘ ness or haughtiness in their deportment which
 ‘ renders people industrious to find out something
 ‘ to condemn them; and those who think them-
 ‘ selves insulted by any airs of that kind are apt
 ‘ enough to construe to themselves, or at least
 ‘ represent to others, the most harmless actions
 ‘ as highly criminal.

‘ BUT *Aliena* was the darling of all that knew
 ‘ her, — wherever she came a general and un-
 ‘ feigned pleasure diffused itself in every face
 ‘ through the whole company. It is scarce pos-
 ‘ sible to say whether she was more admired by
 ‘ the men, or loved by the women : — a thing

‘ wonderful you will own, and what some people take upon them to say is incompatible, yet so in reality it was. — Dear, sweet, agreeable, entertaining *Aliena*, how I lament the sad reverse of thy condition !

‘ BUT, ladies, I detain you too long from the promised narrative ; compelled by the resistless impulse of my commiseration for this unfortunate creature, I have, perhaps, too much encroached upon your patience, and that of your readers, for which I ask pardon of both, and will now come to the point.

‘ AMONG the number of *Aliena*’s admirers, there was a commander of one of his majesty’s ships, a gentleman of good family, agreeable person, and handsome fortune, exclusive of his commission : — whether he had more the art of persuasion than any of his rivals, I will not pretend to say ; but it is certain, that either his merit or good fortune rendered every thing he said to her more acceptable than the most courtly addresses of any other person.

‘ To be brief, she loved him : — his manner, whatever it was, ensnared her young heart, and the society of her dear captain was preferable to her to any other joy the world could give.

‘ I AM very well assured his pretensions were on an honourable foot, otherwise they had been rejected at the first ; all her acquaintance expected every day to hear of the completion of their wishes by a happy marriage ; when contrary to her, and it may be to his expectations, he was ordered to sail for the *West-Indies*, and to be stationed there for three years.

‘ How

' How terrible a rebuff this was to her dearest
 ' hopes any one may judge, and the more so as
 ' he did not press her to complete the marriage
 ' before his departure :—she thought with rea-
 ' son, that if his passion had been equal to his pre-
 ' tensions, he would have rejoiced to have secured
 ' her to himself; but instead of that, he seemed
 ' rather less assiduous than he had been, and much
 ' more taken up with the vexation of being obli-
 ' ged to be so long absent from his native country,
 ' than from that person, whom he had a thousand
 ' times sworn was infinitely more valuable to
 ' him than any thing besides, either in that or
 ' the whole world.

' I WILL not pretend to be so well acquainted
 ' with his thoughts, as to say positively he had
 ' never loved her; but, I believe, you will be
 ' of opinion with me, that this behaviour was
 ' far from being the indication of a sincere and
 ' ardent passion.

' SHE had too much wit not to perceive this
 ' slight, but too much tenderness to resent it as she
 ' ought to have done; and when he told her, as he
 ' sometimes vouchsafed to do, that he depended
 ' on her constancy, and that he should find her at
 ' his return with the same inclinations he left her
 ' possessed of in his favour, she always answered,
 ' that it was impossible for time, absence, or any
 ' other sollicitations, ever to prevail on her to call
 ' back that heart she had given him; and con-
 ' firmed the promise of preserving herself entirely
 ' for him with all the imprecations the most vio-
 ' lent and faithful passion could suggest.

' HAD there been no possibility for him to
 ' have

' have implored, nor she to have granted stronger
 ' assurances for his future happiness, he doubtless
 ' might, and ought to have been content with
 ' these; but as there were consent of friends,
 ' licenses, and wedding rings easy to be had, and
 ' churches, chapels, and clergymen plenty, no
 ' impediment to prevent their being joined
 ' for ever, how could the dull insensible entertain
 ' one thought of going away without having first
 ' settled so material a point!

' BUT in all the tender interviews that passed
 ' between them, after the arrival of those orders,
 ' which were to separate them for so long a time,
 ' he never once asked her to marry him; and as
 ' he made no offers that way, her modesty would
 ' not suffer her to be the first proposer.

' AT length the cruel day of taking leave was
 ' come; — never parting had more the shew of
 ' mournful: I say the *shew*, because I cannot
 ' think the captain had any real grief at heart:
 ' but on the side of *Aliena* it was truly so; yet
 ' did not all she expressed in his presence come
 ' in any competition with what she suffered after
 ' he was gone. — No description can any way
 ' equal the distraction she was in; I shall there-
 ' fore not attempt it, but leave you to judge the
 ' cause by the consequence.

' FOR some days she shut herself up, gave a
 ' loose to tears and to complainings, and scarce
 ' could be prevailed upon to take needful nourish-
 ' ment: — her father's commands, however, and
 ' remonstrances, how much this conduct would
 ' incur the ridicule of the world, at last made
 ' her assume a more cheerful countenance, and
 ' she consented to see company, and appear abroad

' as usual; but while we all thought her grief was
 ' abated, it preyed with greater violence by being
 ' restrained, and inspired her with a resolution
 ' to sacrifice every thing she had once valued her-
 ' self upon, rather than continue in the condi-
 ' tion she was.

' IN fine, one day when she was thought to
 ' be gone on a visit to one of her acquaintance,
 ' she went to a sale-shop, equipt herself in the
 ' habit of a man, or rather boy, for being very
 ' short, she seemed in that dress not to exceed
 ' twelve or thirteen years of age at most.

' THINKING herself not sufficiently disguised
 ' even by this, she made her fine flaxen hair be
 ' shaved, and covered her head with a little brown
 ' wig; which wrought so great a change in her,
 ' that had her own father happened to have met
 ' her, he would not have known her after this
 ' transformation.

' BUT it was not her intention to run that
 ' hazard, nor had she taken all this pains to live
 ' concealed in *London*;— she always knew she
 ' loved the captain, but knew not till now with
 ' how much violence she did so; or that for the
 ' sake of being near him, she could forego all
 ' that ever had or ought to have been dear to
 ' her.

' I WILL not detain your attention with any
 ' repetition of those conflicts which must neces-
 ' sarily rend her bosom, while going about the
 ' execution of a design, the most daring sure that
 ' ever woman formed:— you will naturally con-
 ' ceive them, when I acquaint you what it was.

‘ NOT able to support life without the presence of him who had her heart, she seemed with her habit to have thrown off all the fears and modesty of womanhood : — the fatal softness of our sex alone remained ; and that, guided by the dictates of an ungovernable passion, made her despise all dangers, hardships, infamy, and even death itself.

‘ SHE went directly to *Gravesend*, where her lover’s ship lay yet at anchor, waiting his arrival, who was gone into the country to take leave of some relations. This she knew, and resolved, if possible, to get herself entered on board before he came, being unwilling he should see her till they were under sail : not that, as she has since declared, she had any thoughts of discovering herself to him in case he knew her not, but that if he should happen to do so, she might avoid any arguments he might make use of to dissuade her from an enterprize she was determined to pursue at all events, and even against the inclination of him for whose sake she undertook it.

‘ SHE was a great admirer of an old play of *Beaumont and Fletcher’s*, called *Philaster* ; or, *Love lies a bleeding* : — the character of *Bellarie*, who, disguised like a page, followed and waited on her beloved prince in all his adventures, strangely charmed her ; and she thought, as her passion was equal to that of any woman in the world, it would become her to attest it by actions equally extravagant ; and in the midst of all those shocks, with which reason and modesty at some time shook her heart, felt a pleasure in the thoughts of attending her dear captain, being always about him, doing little services for him,
‘ and

‘ and having an opportunity of observing his be-
 ‘ haviour on all occasions.

‘ As she had often heard the captain talk of his
 ‘ first lieutenant with a great deal of friendship,
 ‘ she thought him the most proper person to ad-
 ‘ dress; accordingly she waited till he came on
 ‘ shore, and went to his lodgings, where being
 ‘ easily admitted, she told him she had a great in-
 ‘ clination to the sea; but as her age and want
 ‘ of skill in the art of navigation rendered her un-
 ‘ fit as yet for any service, except that of attend-
 ‘ ing some or other of the officers, she begged to
 ‘ be received in the station of a cabin-boy: —
 ‘ she added, that she had heard such extraordinary
 ‘ praises of the captain’s humanity and gentleness
 ‘ to all belonging to him, that she had an ex-
 ‘ treme ambition to attend on him, if such a
 ‘ favour might be granted her.

‘ THE lieutenant eyed her attentively all the
 ‘ time she was speaking, and was seized with a
 ‘ something which he had never felt before, and
 ‘ at that time was far from being able to account
 ‘ for; and this secret impulse it was that made
 ‘ him unable to refuse her request, tho’ he knew
 ‘ very well that a sufficient number of boys had
 ‘ been already entered: he told her, however,
 ‘ that he could not give her any assurance of be-
 ‘ ing employed about the captain’s person, till he
 ‘ had spoke to him concerning it; but that since
 ‘ she seemed so desirous of it, he would use all
 ‘ his interest with him on that score; and added,
 ‘ what she knew as well as himself, that he was
 ‘ absent at that time, but was expected to arrive
 ‘ the same day.

‘ *ALIENA* was highly content with the pro-
 ‘ mise

' mise he made her, and not doubted but when
 ' she was once in the ship with him, she should
 ' find out some stratagem or other to make him
 ' take notice of her, and also to ingratiate herself
 ' so much with him, as to occasion him to take
 ' her under his own care, even though it should
 ' be her fate at first to be placed with any of the
 ' inferior officers.

' SHE thanked the lieutenant a thousand times
 ' over, and was ready to fall at his feet in token
 ' of her gratitude; but intreated he would con-
 ' tinue his goodness so far as to order her to be
 ' put on board, lest he should in the hurry of his
 ' affairs, forget the promise he had made, and
 ' they should sail without her. To which he an-
 ' swered, that she had no need to be under any
 ' apprehensions of that sort, for he should send his
 ' servant with her to a house where there were
 ' several boys of the same station, and he believed
 ' much of the same age, and that the long-boat
 ' would put them all on board that evening.

' THIS intirely eased all her scruples, and she
 ' was beginning afresh to testify the sense she had
 ' of the favour he did her, when some company
 ' coming in to visit the lieutenant, he called his
 ' man, and sent him to conduct her to the house
 ' he had mentioned.

' THERE she found several youths ready e-
 ' quipt for their voyage, and whose rough athletic
 ' countenances and robust behaviour became well
 ' enough the vocation they had taken upon them,
 ' but rendered them very unfit companions for
 ' the gentle, the delicate *Aliena*.

' THE discourse they had with each other, the
 ' oaths

oaths they swore, and the tricks they played by
 way of diverting themselves, frightened her almost
 out of her intention ; but she was much more
 so when they began to lay their hands on her
 to make one in their boisterous exercises : the
 more abashed and terrified she looked, the more
 rude they grew, and pinching her on the ribs,
 as boys frequently do to one another, one of
 them found she had breasts, and cried with a
 great oath, that they had got a girl among them :
 — on this they were all for being satisfied,
 and had doubtless treated her with the most
 shocking indecency, had not her cries brought
 up the woman of the house, who being in-
 formed of the occasion of the uproar, took *Ali-*
ena from them, and was going to carry her into
 another room, in order to learn the truth of this
 adventure, when the lieutenant entered, and
 found his new sailor all in tears, and the rest in
 a loud laugh.

THE cause of all this was soon explained to
 him, but the greatest mystery was still behind,
 nor did he find it very easy to come at ; for tho'
Aliena confessed to him, and to the landlady,
 after they had taken her into a private room,
 that she was a woman, yet who she was, and
 the motive which had induced her to disguise
 herself in this manner, she seemed determined
 to keep from their knowledge, and only begged,
 that as her design had miscarried, by her sex be-
 ing so unfortunately discovered, they would
 permit her to go without making any further
 inquiry concerning her.

BUT this request the lieutenant would by no
 means comply with ; — he now no longer won-
 dered at those secret emotions which had worked
 about

‘ about his heart at first sight of her, and avowed
 ‘ the force of nature, which is not to be deceiv-
 ‘ ed tho’ the senses may, and frequently are.

‘ HE now indulged the admiration of her beau-
 ‘ ty, much more than he would give himself the
 ‘ liberty of doing while he thought her what her
 ‘ habit spoke her, and looked so long till he in-
 ‘ tirely looked away his heart: — he was really
 ‘ in love with her, but was either ashamed of be-
 ‘ ing so for a young creature, whose virtue and
 ‘ discretion he had no reason to have a very high
 ‘ idea of, or was awed by that respect which is
 ‘ inseparable from a true affection, from declaring
 ‘ himself. To which ever of these motives it was,
 ‘ I will not take upon me to determine, but he
 ‘ was intirely silent on that head, and only told
 ‘ her in a gay manner, that as he had entered her
 ‘ on her earnest desire, he could not consent to
 ‘ discharge her, without knowing something more
 ‘ of her than that she was a woman: — *nay*, added
 ‘ he, *even of that I am not quite assured: — I have*
 ‘ *only the testimony of two or three boys, who, in*
 ‘ *such a case, are not to be depended upon: — I*
 ‘ *think that I ought, at least, to satisfy myself in*
 ‘ *that point.*

‘ IN speaking these words he offered to pluck
 ‘ her towards him, and the vile woman of the
 ‘ house, who had no regard for any thing but her
 ‘ own interest, in obliging her customers, guessing
 ‘ the lieutenant’s designs, and perhaps thinking
 ‘ them worse than they were in reality, went out
 ‘ of the room, and left them together.

‘ THIS, indeed, quite overcome all the reso-
 ‘ lution of *Aliena*; she thought she saw something
 ‘ in the eyes of the lieutenant that, even more
 ‘ than

' than his words, threatened her with all a maid
 ' of honour and condition had to dread; and after
 ' having struggled with all her might to get loose
 ' of the hold he had taken of her, threw herself
 ' at his feet, and with a flood of tears, and broken
 ' trembling voice, conjured him to have pity on
 ' her, and suffer her to depart. — *If ever, said*
 ' *she, you were taught to revere virtue in another,*
 ' *or love the practice of it yourself; if you have any*
 ' *kindred whose chastity is dear to you, for their*
 ' *sakes, and for your own, commiserate a wretched*
 ' *maid, whom chance and her own folly alone have*
 ' *thrown into your power.*

' THESE words, the emphasis with which they
 ' were delivered, and the action that accompanied
 ' them, made the lieutenant, who as it luckily
 ' proved for her, was really a man of honour,
 ' shudder as she spoke them: — he raised her
 ' from the posture she had been in, with more re-
 ' spect than indeed, considering all things, she
 ' could in reason have expected; desired she would
 ' not be under any apprehensions of his behaving
 ' to her in a manner she could not be brought to
 ' approve; but in return for that self-denial, he
 ' still insisted she should make him the confidant
 ' of the motive which had obliged her to expose
 ' herself to the dangers she had done.

' *ALAS, sir, answered she, still weeping, as*
 ' *for the danger you mention, and which I have*
 ' *but too cruelly experienced, I never had once a*
 ' *thought of them; and as for any I might encoun-*
 ' *ter from the inclemency of the winds and waves, I*
 ' *despised them: — whatever hardships I should*
 ' *have sustained in the prosecution of my intended*
 ' *enterprize, would have afforded me more pleasure*
 ' *than pain, had fate permitted me to have under-*
 ' *gone*

' gone them concealed; — nay, death itself had been
 ' welcome, had it seized me on board that ship my
 ' heart was bent to live or die in: — but endless
 ' grief and misery is now my doom, since denied the
 ' last, the only satisfaction this wide world could
 ' give me.

' YET pardon me, continued she, if I cannot
 ' let you into the secret of who I am, or what in-
 ' duced me to this strange ramble: — let it there-
 ' fore content you to know I am not of the lowest
 ' rank of people; that my reputation is not alto-
 ' gether my own, since my family will be sufferers
 ' by my fault if known; and also, that how much
 ' soever my disguising myself in this manner may
 ' subject me to your censure, yet my very soul shrinks
 ' at dishonour; and that this action, which alone can
 ' be alledged against me, is a greater disguise to my
 ' real principles, than my habit has been to my
 ' sex.

' THE lieutenant listened with all the atten-
 ' tion she wished; every syllable she uttered sunk
 ' into his soul: — his love, his admiration, his
 ' astonishment, increased every moment; but
 ' though he began to feel more pure flames for
 ' her, than those he testified at his first informa-
 ' tion she was a woman, yet they were too ardent
 ' to permit him to let her go from him without
 ' giving him some probable hopes of ever seeing
 ' her more: he gave a turn indeed to his manner
 ' of treating her, yet still gave her to understand,
 ' he would not part from her, without being made
 ' privy to every thing he wished to know.

' To this poor *Aliena* answered little but with
 ' tears; and while he continued pressing, she eva-
 ' ding, a sailor came in to acquaint him the cap-
 ' tain

tain was arrived ; on which he haiftly took leave, but before he left the houfe, charged the landlady, as ſhe valued his friendship, not to let the ſeeming boy ftir out of the room.

THIS *Aliena* was ignorant of, till imagining herſelf at liberty, ſhe was going down ſtairs, in order to quit a place where ſhe had nothing but ruin to expect, ſhe was met by the woman of the houfe, who obliged her to turn back, and then locked her into a room, telling her ſhe muſt ſtay till the return of the lieutenant.

Now had this unfortunate creature full liberty to reflect on the miſchiefs ſhe had brought upon herſelf : — night came on, and every moment came loaded with new horrors : — the lieutenant returned not, but as ſhe was in continual apprehenſions of him, ſhe reſolved not to pluck off her cloaths, nor even venture to lie down on the bed, leſt ſhe ſhould fall into aſleep, and by that means be rendered incapable of reſiſting any violence that might be offered to her.

ALL night long did ſhe walk about the chamber, in an agony of mind which ſtands in need of no deſcription, nor can be reached by any : — had the window looked into the ſtreet, ſhe would certainly have jumped out, but being backwards her eſcape would have been no farther than the yard of the ſame houſe, which, as ſhe was wholly ignorant of the paſſages, left her no room to hope ſhe could get through without diſcovery.

A THOUSAND different ideas roſe in her almoſt diſtracted brain : — ſhe feared the lieutenant, and ſaw no way to avoid him, but by
the

' the protection of the captain, and how to ac-
 ' quaint him with any thing of what had passed
 ' she knew not; — at last she bethought herself
 ' of attempting to do it even by the lieutenant
 ' himself; and accordingly when he came, as he
 ' did pretty early in the morning, she said to him
 ' with all the courage she could assume,

' *SIR, you insist on knowing who I am, which I*
 ' *am determined to die rather than comply with :*
 ' *there is but one way, by which you have a chance*
 ' *of gratifying your curiosity: — be the bearer of a*
 ' *letter from me to your captain: — he knows me, and*
 ' *if he thinks fit, will inform you of every thing.*

' THE lieutenant on this began to guess some-
 ' what of the truth, and agreed to do as she
 ' desired, and immediately called for pen, ink,
 ' and paper for her; which being brought, she
 ' was not long writing these lines:

To Captain —

' *UNABLE to support your absence, I fol-*
 ' *lowed you in disguise, desirous of no other*
 ' *happiness than to enjoy concealed your sight: an*
 ' *unlucky accident has discovered me: — your first*
 ' *lieutenant, whose prisoner I now am, can tell you*
 ' *by what means: — for heaven's sake deliver me*
 ' *from his power, that I may either return to my*
 ' *father, if he will receive me after this adventure,*
 ' *or die with shame of it in some obscure corner of*
 ' *the world.*

' SHE subscribed no name, nor was there in-
 ' deed any occasion for doing it to one so well
 ' acquainted with the characters of her hand-wri-
 ' ting; the lieutenant suffered her to seal it with-
 ' out once asking to see the contents, and gave
 ' his

‘ his word and honour to deliver it the same hour
 ‘ into the captain’s hands, and bring whatever
 ‘ answer should be returned.

‘ HE now, it is certain, began to see a good
 ‘ deal into this extraordinary affair: —he no lon-
 ‘ ger doubted but love of the captain had been
 ‘ the cause; but, it is highly probable, imagined
 ‘ also that more had passed between that gentle-
 ‘ man and his fair charge, than they in reality
 ‘ were guilty of.

‘ THE generous concern he had for her youth
 ‘ and beauty, however, made him impatient to
 ‘ see in what manner her lover would receive this
 ‘ billet; he therefore hurried away to his lodg-
 ‘ ings, where he was strangely surprized to find a
 ‘ great croud of officers, and other people, about
 ‘ the door, and on his going up stairs saw the
 ‘ captain, and three gentlemen, whom he knew
 ‘ not, engaged in a very warm dispute. — The
 ‘ cause of it was this:

‘ THE family of *Aliena* had no sooner missed
 ‘ her, than strict search was made for her all over
 ‘ the town: — accident at last discovered where
 ‘ she had exchanged her habit, and the disguise
 ‘ she had made choice of, made them naturally
 ‘ conjecture on what design she was gone; but
 ‘ not being able to imagine that so young and art-
 ‘ less a maid should have undertaken an enterprize
 ‘ of this bold kind, concluded she must have her
 ‘ advisers and excitors to it: and who but the cap-
 ‘ tain could they suspect of being so: —they were
 ‘ therefore assured in their own minds, that some
 ‘ private correspondence had been carried on be-
 ‘ tween them since his pretended taking leave. —
 ‘ Incensed against him, as, had their thoughts been

true, they would have had the highest reason,
 they complained of the insult, and obtained an
 order to search the ship, and force her from this
 betrayer of her honour : — to this end, they
 brought proper officers with them to *Gravesend*,
 and had the assistance of others belonging to
 that place.

BEFORE they proceeded to extremities, how-
 ever, they went to the captain's lodgings, being
 told on their arrival he was not yet gone on
 board. — At first, the father, an uncle, and a
 cousin of *Aliena's*, who all came down together,
 remonstrated to him, in terms tolerably mild,
 how ungentleman-like an action it was, to de-
 lude a young girl of family, and to whom he
 had made an honourable courtship, to quit her
 friends, and accompany him in so shameful a
 manner ; but finding he denied all they accused
 him of, as well he might, they began to grow
 extremely rough : — the uncle, who had some
 interest at the board of admiralty, told him he
 would shake his commission, and many such-
 like menaces : — which the captain, knowing
 his innocence, was little able to endure, and
 their mutual rage was expressing itself in the
 highest terms, when the lieutenant entered.

THIS gentleman listened for some moments
 to what was said, without speaking, and easily
 perceiving, by the repartees on both sides, the
 meaning of what at his first entrance seemed so
 astonishing, — *Hold, gentlemen*, cried he to the
 kindered of *Aliena*, *your passion has transported*
you too far, and I dare say you will hereafter
own being guilty of an injustice you will be ashamed
of, when once the truth comes to be revealed : — I
believe, continued he, *I am the only person capable*
 of

‘ of clearing up this mystery; but before I do so,
 ‘ beg leave to give a letter to my captain, put into
 ‘ my hands this morning, for the safe delivery of
 ‘ which I have pawned my honour.

‘ NOT only the captain, but those who come
 ‘ to accuse him, were surprized at what he said ;
 ‘ but the former taking the letter hastily out of
 ‘ his hands, and having read it with a great deal
 ‘ of real amazement, which I have heard them
 ‘ all allow was very visible in his countenance,
 ‘ walked several times about the room with a
 ‘ confused emotion ; — then paused, then walk-
 ‘ ed and paused again, as if uncertain how he
 ‘ should behave in an exigence, which, it must be
 ‘ owned, demanded some deliberation; the father
 ‘ and the uncle of *Aliena* still crying out he must
 ‘ produce the girl, and growing clamorous, spleen,
 ‘ pettishness, or a value for his own character,
 ‘ more than for that of the woman he had once
 ‘ pretended to adore, made him throw the
 ‘ letter upon the table in an abrupt manner, and at
 ‘ the same time bad them go in search of the per-
 ‘ son they came in quest of; adding, that what was
 ‘ wanting in the young lady, was owing to her
 ‘ want of proper education, rather than to any
 ‘ insinuations or crafts he had practised on her.

‘ THE father, finding it his daughter’s hand,
 ‘ read it with a shock which is not to be expres-
 ‘ sed, and having given it to his brother, cried,
 ‘ *Where, — who is the lieutenant, into whose*
 ‘ *power my poor unhappy girl has fallen ?*

‘ *I am the person,* said the lieutenant, *and but*
 ‘ *to clear my captain from any imputation of a base*
 ‘ *design, should not have spoke what I now find my-*
 ‘ *self obliged to do.*

‘ HE then related in what manner *Aliena* came
‘ to him, the earnestness with which she begged
‘ to be entered on board ; and in fine, neither
‘ omitted nor added to any thing of the truth.

‘ THIS struck the kindred of *Aliena* into the
‘ utmost confusion :— every thing proved the
‘ innocence, and as even I, dear ladies, who am
‘ her friend, must own the folly of this unhappy
‘ girl ; all blushed and hung down their heads,
‘ oppressed with conscious shame :— the captain
‘ pitied the consternation they were in, and his
‘ heart, I cannot but think, throbb’d for the con-
‘ dition of *Aliena* :— *Come*, said he to his lieute-
‘ nant, in as gay a manner as the circumstance
‘ would admit, *let us go visit the lady who it seems*
‘ *is your prisoner, and see what ransom will be de-*
‘ *manded for her.*

‘ THE lieutenant made no other answer than
‘ a low bow, and immediately conducted them
‘ where they found the unfortunate *Aliena* walk-
‘ ing about the room in her boy’s cloaths, distract-
‘ ed in her mind at what reception her letter
‘ would find from the captain, but little thinking
‘ of the new guests who entered her chamber.

‘ OH, dear *Spectator*, think and judge what
‘ this poor soul must feel, at the sight of her lover,
‘ her father, and the nearest of her kindred thus
‘ at once presented to her :— what might have
‘ excused her to the one, rendered her criminal
‘ to the other ; nor could the soft impulse of love
‘ coincide with what she owed to duty, and the
‘ decorum of reputation.

‘ AT seeing them thus all together, she fell into
‘ faintings, from which she was recovered but to
‘ relapse

' relapse again, and the first words she spoke were,
 ' *I am ruined for ever.*—*You, sir,* said she to her
 ' father, *can never, I am sure, forgive the dis-*
 ' *honour I have brought upon your family:— and*
 ' *you,* pursued she, turning to the captain, *what*
 ' *can you think of the wretched Aliena! This very*
 ' *proof I have given you of my love, the extremest,*
 ' *the tenderest love that ever heart was capable of*
 ' *feeling, even you may censure, as not consistent*
 ' *with the prudence and decorum of my sex:— oh*
 ' *wretched!— wretched am I every way, by all*
 ' *deservedly abandoned.*

' THE condition they saw her in disarmed
 ' her kindred of great part of the indignation
 ' they before had been full of, and hearing the
 ' captain testify abundance of tender concern for
 ' the hazards to which she had exposed herself for
 ' his sake, they withdrew to a window, and after
 ' a short consultation, desired the captain to go
 ' with them into another room; which request
 ' he readily complying with, the father of *Aliena*
 ' told him, that as he had courted his daughter,
 ' and so far engaged her affections as to be indu-
 ' ced by them to take a step so contrary to duty
 ' and reputation, he thought it would become him
 ' to silence the reproaches of the world by mar-
 ' rying her before he embarked.

' THE captain not returning an immediate
 ' answer to this proposal, gave opportunity to the
 ' uncle and cousin of *Aliena* to second what the
 ' father had said; and they made use of many ar-
 ' guments to convince him, that in honour and
 ' conscience he ought not to depart and leave her
 ' to be exposed to calumny for an action of
 ' which he had been the sole cause.

' To all which, as soon as they had done
 ' speaking, the captain replied, that he desired no
 ' greater happiness in life than being the husband
 ' of *Aliena*, provided the duties of his post had
 ' not called him so suddenly away; but as he
 ' must not only immediately be snatched from
 ' her arms, but also be absent thence for so long
 ' a time, he thought it inconsistent, either with
 ' love or reason, to leave her a wife under such
 ' circumstances: — that if her affection was as
 ' well rooted as she said it was, she would
 ' doubtless have the patience to wait his return;
 ' and that if he heard nothing on her part, which
 ' should oblige him to change the sentiments he
 ' at present had, he should then himself be a pe-
 ' titioner for her hand.

' ON this they told him, he had no reason to
 ' suspect the sincerity of her love, she had given
 ' but too substantial a proof of it, by the mad
 ' exploit she had undertaken.

' *DO not think me ungrateful*, answered he,
 ' hastily, *if I say it is a proof of the violence of*
 ' *it, which I see with more grief than satisfaction;*
 ' *because actions of this kind are judged by those*
 ' *who view them with different eyes, as somewhat*
 ' *romantic, and occasion a good deal of idle ridicule*
 ' *among the laughing part of the world: — but,*
 ' continued he, *as constancy more than vehemence*
 ' *of affection is requisite to render the conjugal*
 ' *state a happy one, it is time alone can assure me*
 ' *of felicity with the lady in question: — for*
 ' *which reason I must not think of entering into any*
 ' *bonds of the nature you mention till after my re-*
 ' *turn.*

' THIS answer, determinate as it was, did not
 ' make

' make them give over ; but all they urged was
 ' preaching to the wind, and the more they
 ' seemed to resent his refusal, the more obstinate-
 ' ly he persisted in it ; and they were obliged to
 ' leave *Gravesend*, taking with them the discon-
 ' solate *Aliena*, no less dissatisfied in their minds
 ' than when they came into it.

' How changed is now the fate of this young
 ' lady ! — The idol once of her acquaintance, the
 ' pity now of some, and the contempt of others.
 ' — The search made for her in town after her
 ' elopement made the affair no secret : — every
 ' one talks and judges of it according to their dif-
 ' ferent humours ; but few there are who put the
 ' best construction. — Sensible of this, she rarely
 ' stirs abroad, and at home is treated in a manner
 ' quite the reverse of what she was accustomed
 ' to before this accident : — her father and bro-
 ' thers look on her as a blemish to their family,
 ' and her sisters take every opportunity to re-
 ' proach her. — The captain has never wrote to
 ' her since he went, tho' several letters from him
 ' have been received by others. — In fine, it is im-
 ' possible to paint her situation so truly miserable
 ' as it is : — all I can say gives but a faint idea of
 ' it ; yet such as it is, I flatter myself, will be
 ' sufficient to induce you to make her innocence
 ' as public as possible, by inserting this faithful
 ' account of the whole affair.

' I AM also pretty confident that the good-
 ' nature which seems to sparkle through all your
 ' writings, besides the common interest of our
 ' sex, will make you a little expatiate on the un-
 ' generous proceeding of the captain : — the more
 ' honour he may have in other respects, the less
 ' he is to be excused in regard to *Aliena* ; since it

‘ was that very honour which betrayed her into
 ‘ a fatal confidence of his love and sincerity, .

‘ HAD he been possessed of a much less share
 ‘ of passion for her than he had professed, or had
 ‘ she even been indifferent to him, gratitude, me-
 ‘ thinks, should have made him marry her, since
 ‘ there was no other way to heal the wounds she
 ‘ had given her reputation for his sake.

‘ BUT I will not anticipate your judgments on
 ‘ this head, and after begging pardon for this long
 ‘ letter, conclude with assuring you that

I am, LADIES,

Your sincere well-wisher,

Red-Lyon-Square,
 March 29, 1745.

And most humble servant,

CLARIBELLA, ♀

OF all the letters with which the *Female Spectator* has been favoured, none gave us a greater mixture of pain and pleasure than this: — it is difficult to say whether the unhappy story it contains, or the agreeable manner in which it is related, most engages our attention; but while we do justice to the historian, and pity the unfortunate lady, in whose cause she has employed her pen, we must be wary how we excuse her faults, so far as to hinder others from being upon their guard not to fall into the same.

EUPHROSINE, whose strict adherence to filial duty, has been taken notice of in one of our former lucubrations, cannot tell how to forgive *Aliena* for so palpable a breach of that, as well as of modesty, in quitting her father's house, in a manner which, indeed, one would imagine, the bare thought of would strike too much of horror into