

CHEAP TRACTS,

Calculated to promote the Interests of Religion, Virtue, and Humanity.

No. X.

True *Humanity*

USEFULLY EXERTED.
AN AFFECTING STORY.

“By the light of a lamp, that glimmered in the fireless chimney, he saw lying on a bare bedstead, without any other covering than the relics of their own rags, a man, a woman, and two children, shuddering with cold, though huddled together to share the little warmth which exhausted nature still supplied them with.”

To which is added,

THE

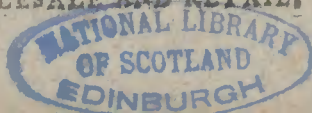
Effects of Gratitude

TIMEOUSLY APPLIED.

DUNBAR :

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,



True Humanity usefully exerted.

*Ah! little think the gay licentious proud,
Whom pleasure, power, and affluence surround;
————— How many drink the cup
Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread
Of misery. Sore pierc'd by wintry winds,
How many sbrink into the sordid hut
Of cheerless poverty.*

AS Benevolus was returning home from the Tavern late one night, he was accosted by a female, who had something in her air and manner so different from those out-casts of humanity, who offer themselves to casual prostitution in the streets, that his curiosity was struck, and he stopped to take more particular notice of her. She appeared to be about fifteen. Her figure was elegant, and her features regular; but want had ficklied o'er their beauty; and all the horrors of despair gloomed through the languid smile she forced when she addressed him.

The sigh of distress, which never struck his ear without affecting his heart, came with double force from such an object. He viewed her with silent compassion for some

moments ; and reaching her a piece of gold, bad her go home, and shelter herself from the inclemencies of the night, at so late an hour. Her surprise and joy at such unexpected charity overpowered her. She dropped upon her knees, in the wet and dirt of the street, and raising her hands and eyes toward heaven, remained in that posture for some moments, unable to give utterance to the gratitude that filled her heart.

Such a sight was more expressive than all the powers of eloquence. He raised her tenderly from the ground, and soothing her with words of comfort, offered to conduct her to some place, where she might get that refreshment of which she appeared to be in so great want. "O! Sir," (said she, pressing the hand that had raised her, with her old trembling lips) "my deliverer, sent by heaven to save me from despair, let me not think of taking refreshment myself, till I have first procured it for those whose greater wants I feel ten thousand times more severely than my own."

"Who can they be?" (interrupted Bevolus with anxious impatience) "Can humanity feel greater wants, than those under which you are sinking?"

"My father" (exclaimed she bursting into tears) "languishing under infirmities, acquired in the service of his country; my mother, worn out with attending on him,

“ and both perishing of want, (heaven
 “ grant they are not already dead!) toge-
 “ ther with two infant brothers, insensible
 “ of the cause of their distress, and crying
 “ to them for a morsel of bread, which it is
 “ not in their power to give.” —

“ Where can such a scene of wretched-
 “ ness be hidden from relief? I’ll go with
 “ you myself directly! but stop! let us
 “ first procure some comfortable nourish-
 “ ment from some of the houses, which are
 “ kept open at this late hour, for a very dif-
 “ ferent purpose. — Come with me! we have
 “ no time to lose.” — With these words, he
 went directly to a tavern, and inquiring
 what victuals were dressed in the house,
 loaded her with as much as she could carry
 of the best, and putting a couple of bottles
 of wine in his own pockets, walked with
 her to her habitation, which was in a blind
 alley, happily for her not very far distant,
 as weakness, together with the conflict of
 passions struggling in her heart, made her
 scarce able to go.

When they came to the door, she would
 have gone up first for a light, but he was
 resolved to accompany her, that he might
 see the whole scene in its genuine colours.
 He therefore followed her up to the top of
 the house, where opening the door of the
 garret, she discovered to him such a scene
 of misery, as struck him with astonishment.

By the light of a lamp, that glimmered in the fireless chimney, he saw lying on a bare bedstead, without any other covering than the relicks of their own rags, a man, a woman, and two children, shuddering with cold, though huddled together to share the little warmth which exhausted nature still supplied them with.

While he stood gazing in horror at such complicated wretchedness, his conductress ran to the bed-side, and falling on her knees, "O! Sir! Madam!" (exclaimed she, in rapture) "Arise! I have got relief from an angel of heaven."

"Take care!" (answered a voice, the hollow trembling of which was sharpened by indignation) "take care it is not from a fiend of hell, who has taken advantage of your distress to tempt you to ruin! for with whom else could you be till this time of night? But know, wretched girl, that I will never eat the earnings of vice and infamy. A few hours will put an end to my miseries, which have received the only possible addition by this your folly."

"He must be such indeed," (interrupted Benevolus, still more struck with sentiments so uncommon in such a situation) "who could think of tempting her in such circumstances to any folly. I will withdraw, while you arise, and then we will consult what can be soonest done to alle-

“viate a distress, of which you appear so
 “undeserving.”—While he said this, he
 took the wine out of his pockets, and giving
 it to the daughter went directly down
 stairs, without waiting for a reply, and walk-
 ing backward and forward, in the streets for
 some time, enjoyed the sublimest pleasure
 the human heart is capable of, in consider-
 ing how he had relieved, and should further
 relieve the sufferings of objects so worthy of
 relief.

By the time he thought they might have
 learned from their daughter the circumstan-
 ces of her meeting with him, and taken some
 nourishment, he returned to them, when
 the moment he entered the room, the whole
 family fell upon their knees to thank him.
 Such humiliation was more than he could
 bear. He raised them, one by one, as fast
 as he could, and taking the father's hand,
 “Gracious God! (said he) can a sense of
 “humanity be such an uncommon thing
 “among creatures, who call themselves hu-
 “man, that so poor an exertion of it should
 “be thought deserving of a return, proper
 “to be made only to heaven? Oppress me
 “not, Sir, I conjure you, with the mention,
 “of what it would have been a crime, I
 “could never have forgiven myself to have
 “known I had not done. It is too late to
 “think of leaving this place before to-mor-
 “row, when I will provide a better, if there

“ is not any to which you chuse particular-
 “ ly to go. I am not rich; but I thank
 “ heaven, that it has blessed me with ability
 “ and inclination to afford such assistance
 “ as may be immediately necessary to you,
 “ till means may be thought of for doing
 “ more.”

“ O, Sir,” (answered the mother) “ well
 “ might my daughter call you an angel of
 “ heaven! You know not from what mis-
 “ ery you have already relieved—

“ Nor will I know more of it at this time,”
 (interrupted Benevolus) “ than that which I
 “ too plainly see. I will leave you now to
 “ your rest, and return as soon as it is
 “ day.—

“ Speak not of leaving us, Sir,” (exclai-
 med the daughter, who was afraid that if
 he should go away, he might not return)
 “ What rest can we take, in so short a time?
 “ Leave us not, I beseech you! leave us
 “ not in this place!”—

“ Cease, my child!” (interposed the fa-
 ther) “ nor press your benefactor to conti-
 “ nue in a scene of misery, that must give
 “ pain to his humane heart.”

“ If my staying will not give you pain,”
 (answered Benevolus) “ I will most willingly
 “ stay; but it must be on condition that
 “ our conversation points entirely forward
 “ to happier days. There will be time
 “ enough hereafter to look back.”—

Saying this, he sat down on the bed-side, (for other seat the apartment afforded none) between the husband and wife, with whom he spent the little remainder of the night, in such discourse, as he thought most likely to divert their attention from their present misery, and inspire their minds with better hopes, while the children, all but the daughter who hung upon his words, comforted at heart with a better meal, than they had long tasted, fell fast asleep as they leaned their heads upon their mother's lap.

As soon as it was day, "Now, madam," (said Benevolus, addressing himself to the mother) "I will go, and provide a place for your reception, as you say all places are alike to you. In the mean time accept of this trifle (giving her ten guineas) to provide such necessaries, as you may indispensibly want before you remove. When you are settled, we will see what further can be done. I shall be back with you within these three hours at most."

For such beneficence there was no possibility of returning thanks; but their hearts spoke through their eyes, in a language sufficiently intelligible to his. Departing directly to save both himself and them the pain of pursuing a conversation that grew too distressful, he went without regard to change

of dress or appearance, to look for a proper lodging for them, where he laid in such provisions of every kind, as he knew they must immediately want. This care employed him till the time he had promised to return, when he found such an alteration in the looks and appearance of them all, as gave his heart delight.

“ You see, Sir,” (said the mother, as soon as he entered) “ the effects of your bounty; but do not think that vanity has made us abuse it. These cloaths, what we could raise on which has for some time been our sole support, were the purchase of happier times; and were now redeemed for much less than we must have given for the worst we could buy.”——

“ Dear, madam,” (interrupted Benevolus, taking her hand respectfully) “ mention not any thing of the kind to me, I beseech you. You will soon see such times again.”——Then turning to her husband, “ I have taken a lodging, Sir; (continued he) it is convenient, but not large, as I imagined would be your choice. I will call a coach to take us to it directly. If there are any demands here, let the people of the house be called up, and they shall be paid. I will be your purse-bearer for the present.”

“ No, Sir,” (replied the husband) “ there are not any. You have enabled us to dis-

“ charge all demands upon us. People in
 “ our circumstances, cannot find credit, be-
 “ cause they want it.”

Benevolus would then have gone for a coach, but the daughter insisted on saving him that trouble; upon which he put the whole family into it, and walked away before them to their new lodging. It is impossible to describe what these poor people felt, when they saw the provision he had made for their reception. The father, in particular, could not bear it, but sinking into a chair, “ This is too much !” (said he, as soon as a flood of tears had given vent to the fullness of his heart) “ This is too much. Support me, gracious Heaven, who has sent this best of men to my relief, support me under the weight of obligations, which the preservation of these, alone (looking round upon his wife and children) could induce me to accept.”—Then addressing himself to Benevolus, “ My heart is not unthankful (continued he) but gratitude in such excess as mine, where there is no prospect of ever making a return, is the severest pain.”

Benevolus, who sought none, attempted often to give the conversation another turn; but finding that they could speak or think of nothing else as yet, he took his leave, promising to come the next day, when their minds should be better settled, to consult

what more was in his power to serve them, having first privately taken an opportunity to slip a couple of guineas into the daughter's hand, to avoid putting the delicacy of her father and mother to farther pain.

Fatigued in mind and body, from the height to which his tenderest passions had been wound up by such a moving scene, Benevolus went directly home, and throwing himself on a bed, slept till next morning, without disturbance from pain or reflection.

As soon as he awoke the next day, he went to visit his new family, where the happiness, that glistened in every grateful eye, at his approach, made him happy. After some general chat, "It is my duty, Sir, (said the father) to give you some account of myself, and of the cause of my falling into that depth of misery, from which your beneficence relieved me, that you should not think it has been lavished on objects altogether unworthy of it.

I am descended from a good family, the fortune of which my father dissipated in supporting a parliamentary interest for the ministry; the only return he received for which, and for his voice upon all occasions, was a small pension for himself, and a pair of colours in the Guards for me, his only son, with promises indeed of farther provision, which were all forgotten when he died, happily for himself, before the end of the

parliament, which as he had no prospect of being returned again, would have left him at the mercy of creditors, whom it was not in his power to pay.

Though I was soon sensible that my best hopes died with him, I was so infatuated to a profession, the most pleasing to youthful idleness and vanity, that I laid out the little fortune of this best of women, whom I had married in my days of better hope, in the purchase of a company, in a marching regiment; at the head of which I flattered myself, that I should meet some opportunity, in the war just then broke out, of meriting further promotion. But I found the vanity of such a thought, when it was unhappily too late.

After several years careful service, in the course of which I had sealed some degree of reputation with my blood, in several warm actions, without advantage to myself, or prospect of any to my family, who now multiplied the cares of life ten thousand fold upon my head, I was driven by despair to exchange my company, which I had bought, and therefore could have sold again, the price of which would at least have kept us from absolute starving, for an higher rank in a younger regiment, just then ordered upon an expedition, the object of which raised, what was thought rational expectation of such profit, as should ease me from the anxieties that made life a burden.

Allured solely by this expectation, I went accordingly. The expedition was successful. I did my duty. I was wounded in the course of it, to the extreme danger of my life. I entirely ruined my constitution by the severity of the climate; and on my return home was reduced to half-pay, without receiving so much prize-money as defrayed the extraordinary expences of the expedition, and of the illness, which I contracted in it; while those above me accumulated such wealth, as if divided in any degree of proportion, would have recompensed the labours of us, who had literally *borne the heat and burden of the day*, and were now pining in discontent and misery, aggravated by a partiality so severely injurious.

In this situation, I resolved to throw myself at the feet of my Sovereign, and implore relief from the known goodness of his heart. But his throne was surrounded by those whose interest it was to keep the cries of his people from coming to his ears; and therefore, as it was necessary for me to make my errand known, I never could obtain access to him.

The distress of this disappointment was still farther heightened by the delays in the discharge of that half pay, which was now my only support; and the draw-backs it was subject to from the fees of office, even when

it should come to be paid, which were such, that when I attempted to mortgage it, the wretch's last resource, to put off starving as long as he can, what I could get from those vultures, who fatten upon the sufferings of a soldier, was scarce sufficient to satisfy our present wants. How then could I look forward for a family, dearer to me than life? What could support resolution, when hope was gone? Mine was unequal to the trial; and I was beginning to meditate on putting an end to a life of such misery, without considering that the sufferings of those, for whom I felt so much more than for myself, must be still made heavier by such a base desertion of them, when heaven in its mercy visited my family with a violent fever, which freed me from farther fears for the future welfare of my three eldest sons, and with difficulty spared two, whom you see before you. O! my poor boys! happy! thrice happier than us whom you left behind! Excuse this weakness, Sir, nature will force the involuntary tear in spite of reason; for were they not the children of my love?

During their illness, I lost every other care in my attendance upon them; nor omitted any possible means to preserve lives, for which my fears foreboded nothing but unhappiness; but though their deaths freed me from a part of those fears, they

left a melancholy void in my heart, which was more painful, if possible, than any fear. But I was not long sensible of that pain. My children were scarce laid in the grave, when the fever seized myself with such violence, that I soon lost my senses, nor recovered them for above a month ; and then only to feel the greatest wretchedness, that was ever heaped upon a human creature.

The expence of my children's, and my own illness, had not only exhausted all the money I had raised on the anticipation of my half-pay, but also obliged my wife to mortgage several of our best effects. Such a resource never escapes the watchful eyes of people who keep lodging-houses. Our landlady no sooner perceived it, than she seized upon the rest, and then turned us out, the moment I could be removed without instant death.

In this situation, I must have perished in the streets, had not a poor woman, whom my wife had been obliged to call in to her assistance when I sickened, shared with us her habitation, in which you found us, as she also did the earnings of her daily labour, till a chairman who was carrying a beau to a ball, threw her down with such violence, for not making haste enough out of his way, that she broke her leg, and was obliged to be taken to an hospital.

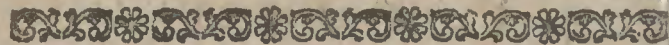
From that time we supported life by mortgaging the few cloaths we had brought upon our backs, without one ray of hope to tempt us to look forward, till they also were all gone, and the misery of cold added to that of hunger. In this condition, we had been two days without tasting bread, or feeling the warmth of fire, calling incessantly upon death to put that end to our distresses, which a sense of religion, made stronger by my wretchedness, now prevented my daring to hasten, when my daughter stole out unknown to us to seek for charity in the streets, where she wandered without meeting any thing but insults, and sollicitations to vice, till heaven directed your steps to her.

Such was the reward of more than twenty years faithful and hard service, in which I had fought the battles of my country, in opposite extremities of the globe, with honour, and been instrumental in making princely fortunes for the several commanders, under whom I served.

This, Sir, is the sum of my story, in which I have been as brief as I could, to avoid giving you pain. We are now your creatures. The lives we enjoy are immediately the gift of your benevolence; a benevolence so critically timed, (for we could not have subsisted many hours longer without it) as to raise a hope, that Providence, which sent you to our relief, will not leave its work

unfinished, but save us from falling again into such misery, by means agreeable to its own wisdom and goodness, though impossible for us in our present situation to foresee."

It was some time before Benevolus, who had listened to the officer's story with sympathetic attention, was able to speak. Recovering himself at length, "fear not;" (said he, in a broken voice) "never was the righteous forsaken; nor—nor—nor—I have some friends, Sir, who may serve—In the meantime take this (reaching him a bank-note for twenty pounds); I will not be refused! business call me for a few hours; but I will see you again in the evening."——Saying this, he hurried away to hide his emotions, without waiting for a reply, which indeed their gratitude left them not the power to make. He immediately applied to a nobleman, who held a distinguished station under the government, and who honoured Benevolus with his particular intimacy; to him he related the melancholy story, which so deeply affected his sympathetic heart, that he instantly gave the father a place of considerable profit under him, which enabled this virtuous sufferer once more to make his family perfectly happy.



THE
EFFECTS of GRATITUDE
TIMEOUSLY APPLIED.

*“ She looks, methinks,
Of old Acasto’s line ; and to my mind
Recalls that patron of my happy life,
From whom my liberal fortune took its rise ;
Now to the dust gone down ; his houses, lands,
And once fair-spreading family, dissolv’d.
Romantic wish ! would this the daughter were !
When, strict enquiring, from herself he found
She was the same, the daughter of his friend,
Of bountiful Acasto ; who can speak
The mingled passions that surpris’d his heart,
And thro’ his nerves in shivering transport ran ?
And art thou then Acasto’s dear remains !
She, whom my restless gratitude has sought
So long in vain ?
Tho’ poverty’s cold wind, and crushing rain,
Beat keen, and heavy, on thy tender years ?
O let me now, into a richer soil,
Transplant thee safe !”*

CLAUDIAN and Curio were two young persons educated in the same house, and brought up to the same business, under the same master ; but with this difference, that Claudian was the son, the other the ser-

vant of the worthy Morillus, and the former had a considerable independant fortune, while the latter had no estate but honest industry.

Some years since, the parent and master dying, the young traders were left to themselves: Curio declined an offer of partnership with his young master, merely because it was more than he could in reason expect: and Claudian generously advanced him a sum of money to engage in trade with for himself, as a reward for his disinterestedness.

Curio, who knew he traded at present with another's stock, and had only industry and frugality for the means to repay the loan, and settle himself in ease and happiness, became the most diligent trader, and greatest slave to a shop that ever kept one.—No debaucheries over night kept him in bed the next morning, and his doors were open two hours before, and at least an hour after any of his neighbours.—Curio lived in his shop, and knew no idle moment there: his constant attendance brought him constant business; his obliging behaviour, and the probity of his dealings made every customer a friend to him, so that whoever once bought of him, never afterwards bought any where else.

The first year's balance gave him power to pay his generous benefactor, which he

did with the warmest thanks; and before another was elapsed, he was become the favourite of every worthy person in the neighbourhood; and the sobriety of his life recommended him so far to the clergyman of the place, one of the worthiest of his function, that he found no obstacle in the way of his addresses to this gentleman's daughter.

His better fortune made no alteration in his temper; he naturally indeed entered on a somewhat more expensive way of living on his having a wife, but she was as frugal and as prudent as himself, and they soon calculated a certain standard of expence, something within what their present profits would afford, and determined to save a little from that till their increase of trade should enable them in the succeeding years to spend more, without being more extravagant. It is easy to conceive that such a family must save money yearly; and, in short, the end of the second year saw them worth more than from such a capital, and from so small beginnings, one would expect.—While this was the life of Curio, his young master, whose easy fortune set him above the necessity of industry, was carrying on the same trade in a very different manner.

It is the most dangerous of all errors, though too common a one, for a man to imagine he can play with business, and do what he pleases when his affairs are easy without it. There is no middle state in the

trading world ; industry will bring riches, idleness beggary, nor is there any settled medium between these.

Claudian seemed indeed to have all the false notions of the generality of our young traders ; and too many in this city are ruined daily by the same, yet that they are still propagated among numbers as the secrets of trading, is a truth as certain as the gospel.

Claudian's affairs began now to run greatly behind-hand, without his knowing it ; but that which others plan out as a last relief when they find themselves just going, was now likely to prove so to our young gentleman trader, without his knowing it. A young lady who accidentally came into his shop one day, when he was present, took away both what she bought, and her tradesman's heart also.

In short, Claudian watched her home. He was prudent enough, before he went any farther, to inform himself whom she was, and found her to be a person of a good family, with ten thousand pounds fortune.

As Claudian was a man of a polite and engaging behaviour, he soon found means of introducing himself into the family ; and as he imagined himself more than an equal match for her, he made it his first step to settle matters with her father. This man had indeed no liking to this sort of gentleman-trading that Claudian carried on ; but

his private fortune made him appear unexceptionable in respect of money, and soon convinced the old gentleman of the advantages of his way of carrying on business. He found less difficulty to get the lady's consent than her father's, and all was harmony and good understanding between them.

When things were in this state, the lady's fortune was enquired more in earnest into, on Claudian's part, and his, on her father's. No mistake appeared about hers; but, alas! the looking into his affairs on this occasion, was the first notice the intended bridegroom had of his approaching ruin. His books were indeed full of long debts, and the current account of cash in trade was something considerable, but his fortune was almost all drawn out of his banker's hands, and though he had much more owing to him than from him, yet his debts to his traders were not small.

The old gentleman, in consequence of all this, now refused his daughter; the distress on her part, as well as Claudian's, was very sincere and affecting, and they parted with the sincerest agonies on both sides, nor could the intreaties of the old people prevent the young lady from engaging herself by a most solemn vow, never to marry any other person.

Claudian now began to new model his affairs, to collect his money and call in his debts; but his servants went off in the night

with a great part of his ready cash. Many
 of his debtors were dead, many more dis-
 pers'd in the prisons abroad.—But his cre-
 ditors were ready enough to make their ap-
 pearance : they had heard that his treaty of
 marriage was broken off ; they had heard
 so on what occasion. The consequence
 was, that they all fell upon him at once, and
 seiz'd both his person and his remaining
 effects. Happily, in this exigence, he re-
 collect'd the man he had once been gen-
 erous to ; he thought on Curio : him he
 sent for immediately, gave him full power
 to act for him, and besought him to endea-
 vour at bringing his affairs to a composition.
 His grateful man engag'd himself without
 hesitation for the whole, relieved his friend,
 took him home, call'd in his debts, and
 made up the remainder of the payment out
 of his own fortune. Nor did he stop here,
 but taking him aside one day, “ My dear
 Claudian,” said he, “ there was a time in
 which you were so generous as to offer me a
 partnership I had no right to expect. My
 business is now as valuable as yours was
 then ; but whereas you owed me nothing, I
 cannot but remember, I owe every thing to
 you : my gratitude therefore prompts me to
 make the same kind of offer at this day, as
 your generosity urg'd you then to do.—Ac-
 cept therefore freely, and without scruple,
 an equal share of all that your goodness has
 enabled me to procure.”

It was not without difficulty, that Claudia was prevailed on to come into the views of his friend. However, being importuned he at last accepted the generous offer; and having so done, resolved to make himself worthy of it. Every one saw the goodness of Curio's heart, and every one was no witness to the change it wrought in his friend, who quickly became more diligent than he had ever been remiss.—Success was the natural consequence of the united efforts of the merchants. Claudius had now nothing to lament but the loss of his love, whose idea was too strongly imprinted in his mind for him ever to forget her. But in this too fortune was now favourable to him.—A relation of his dying, left him a sum twice as large as he had at first possessed. Enraptured with the opportunity of making at once both himself and his lovely mistress happy, he flew directly to her, renewed his addresses, and easily obtained the consent of her parents.—He married this idol of his heart, threw his whole fortune into trade, in which Curio continued his partner; their families were united, and they lived in harmony among themselves, and a bright example to all about them.

F I N I S