

THE

Historical Tragedy,

OF

Young BEATEMAN'S,

G H O S T,

OR THE

PERJURED MAID,

JUSTLY REWARDED.





I N T R O D U C T I O N .

WE find that solemn vows and promises are of very great weight, and strictly binding, by the severest notice God hath taken of those that have violated any of them, in punishing, the dishonour done his name, by various judgements; and that people may be more careful for the future, not to make any vows and promises they do not intend to keep, we shall instantly shew you one example of God's anger in this kind, which all England has heard with astonishment. therefore,

Be cautious of the words you speak,
And let them all be truth;
Your oaths and promises ne'er break.
In old age or in youth.

THE
H I S T O R Y
OF
YOUNG BEATMAN.

C H A P. I.

Of Young Beatman, accidentally e'pying fair Isabella, a rich Farmer's Daughter. And of his falling in love with her.

JAMES BEATEAN, son of a gentleman in Nottingham-shire, a person well educated; but by his father's too great liberality, possessed of no great fortune riding one day through Clifton, a few miles from Nottingham, he happened to cast his eyes on a comely maid standing at the door of a finer seemly house, with those innocent and comely features he
wa

was on a sudden so taken that he could
not but make a full stop to gaze at her.



The maid no sooner perceived his eyes
fixed on her, that coulering her cheeks
with a rosy blush, she modestly retired,
so lets surpris'd with his personage than
as with her beauty. However this be-
ing the first time they had seen each o-
ther he had not the courage to make any
advances, but posted to town about fif-
teen miles beyond that, but in a man-
ner without a heart, for he left that with
his fair mistress.

All

All the way he rode, his thoughts were strangely confused, so that he laboured to compose them, but in vain.

He found now, though he had formerly made a jest of love, and laughed at his companions for declaring their passions; that he was taken in who had so often perswaded others of their folly; but now he found that the more he struggled the more he was entangled. The business he went on was not minded, yet he cunningly concealed the cause from them; but finding the contrivion had seized his mind more than his body, they concluded it was from the decay of his fortune; and that he might not be dejected, they professed their assistance in any thing he would command them. While these things passed he was urgent to return home, and did so enquiring by the way who this fair maid was, and the condition of her parents; he found that she was the daughter of a covetous rich old miser, who had refused several very considerable matches, in hopes of advancing her by her beauty and so saving his numberless bags of treasure. And

And upon this account he keeps a strick hand over her, to prevent her being stolen away. This struck him almost dead with the horror of despair, yet something he resolved to do, but what at present he could not frame in his heart. And so home he went to consider how to manage this love affair, that at first he might not by an over rash address dash all his future hopes of happiness to pieces in the contriving of which we shall leave him for a time, to consider the condition he left Isabel in.

C H A P. II.

Isabella falls sick for Beate-man, and is given over; he comes in the habit of a Physician, and discovers himself to her, by which she recovers, to the great joy for her Parents.

THIS beauteous maid who though often courted, and stood proof against the sighs tears and entreaties of many young handsome batchelors. Found now she stood in need of pity herself. Beate-man's ideas were fixed in her mind, that
sleeping

sleeping or waking she fancied him always in her sight. So made private enquiries, by the description she gave, but could not inform her in that respect. Some guessing this, and some that. So that for blowing the hidden fire, she grew regardless of the domestick affairs of which her father made her overseer; then her appetite failed her, and after this she fell into a sickness, which caused a great heaviness throughout the family. Physicians were sent for to advise with, but their skill proved in vain; for according to the old proverb,

Where Love is the cause,
The Doctor's an Ass.

So that her father and mother, fearing to lose their daughter, whom they so much doated on, were at their wits end shedding many tears.

While they were in this plight, and the sighing maid concealed the inward flame which consumed her heart, one in the habit of a physician, mounted upon a stately horse, came riding up to the gate and desired to speak with Mr Gifford,

ford, for such was her father's name. The old man quickly came to him, with a heavy countenance, demanding his business. Truly fir said he, I came out of compassion to your family; for being at an Inn in this town, I heard your daughter who is your darling, was sick, whose death would send you to the grave, as divers physicians have used their skill, but all in vain; If you will accept of my advice and she be willing to take what I shall direct, I doubt not but by the blessing of God, upon my many years' study in physick, and travels in divers countries, so to order all things as to recover her health to its former vigour and sprightliness.

The old man upon this unexpected visit of a stranger, concluded it some angel sent to him by providence, he could hardly refrain from falling on his knee; but after some recovery from this transport he invited him in a friendly manner, and as this new doctor had ordered, they all left the room. The love-sick maid no sooner fix'd her eyes on him,

him, but she knew him, and quite fainted away. But he revived her with cordials that he had brought. So that recovering her senses, her blushes overcame her paleness, and strangely altered her whole countenance.

To be brief, he having before guessed, and now being assured of the cause of her distemper, told her the end of his coming in that disguise, desiring her to cheer up, and pouring out his love expressions mixed with tears, to see her in such a low condition, that at last they



understanding each others minds so well
that he having visited her four or five
times,

times, and ordered her things necessary to restore decayed nature, and at this her father was so overjoyed, that he offered him a handful of gold, which he refused, and so they parted, to the mutual satisfaction of all parties, especially the young couple.

C H A P. III.

He being invited to her Father's House, walks abroad with her, and discovers his Passion: of his Encouragement, and the great prospect there was of a happy Marriage.

YOUNG BEATMAN having thus as he imagined, made a thorough step towards his happiness, went home filled with joy, but delayed not long to revisit his patient in the same habit; taking an opportunity after dinner to walk with her in the garden, and after two or three turns sitting in a shady bower, they began to talk of love, devouring each other as it were with their eyes, with all the modesty love could desire; and after some time thus spent, he spoke in the following manner: Ah! lovely Isabella, how

how blessed am I to get an opportunity to tell you how much I love you. You are the only jewel in the world I prize, and could I but possess you, I should think myself the happiest of all mankind,

At this turning her eyes, she said, that since he had preserved her life she could not do less than recompense him in some manner; for though divers courted her, she was engaged to none.

On this encouragement he pressed her farther, and vowed eternal love, and she by her glances gave consent, but told him as it was the first time of his addresses, he must grant her room to consult her parents, and if he could gain their consent, he might be assured of hers.

This so overjoyed Beate-man, as he immediately would have gone to her parents, and asked that jewel from them whose precious life they could not but conclude he next to heaven had preserved and continued to them. But she opposed saying, she would prepare the way herself. So rising from their seats they went into the house, where a grand din-

nor

nor was provided, and they sat over against each other at the table, feeding on love with their eyes, with greater contentment than on the dainties. Supper being ended, and night coming on Beate-man took his leave, when at parting the farmer invited him to an entertainment which was to be at his house on the third day following; which he accepted of most humbly, and for that time they parted.

C H A P. IV.

He comes in his proper Dress, and asks her fathers consent; but is refused for want of an Estate, and of his wounding one German his rival.

I SHALL not trouble you with the impatience of the two lovers during the interval, but tell you this feast was made principally to entertain a gentleman whose grandfather dying, had left him a vast estate, and his affections was very strongly fixed on this virgin; but she did not regard his addresses. However, her parents being pleased with the thoughts

thoughts of a rich match for their daughter, listened to it, by persuasions and beseechings desired to be excused, protesting her like to a single life, and entreating him he would not compel her to any thing against her will.

The day being come, the guests met and young Beate-man resolved to push on his suit in a proper garb.—The entertainment was very splendid, the sea, earth and air, contributing their stores to furnish the table with all manner of dainties, nor was any music wanting; but what dashed all their merriment was the fair Isabella sat opposite to Beate-man.

The other lover, whose name was German understanding the language of their eyes, by their frequent gazings, the coming and going blushes of his mistress's face, his fancy hit upon the truth, viz. They were most deeply in love with each other.—So that his countenance changed and throwing by what was before him, very abruptly retired from the table ordering his servants to get ready his horses, that he might be gone.

Her

Her parents were startled at this and not knowing what could be the occasion of so sudden an alteration in a person who had professed such love to their daughter, followed him into a private room, to be informed of the reason of his discontent, and soon found the occasion of it; whereupon calling his daughter aside, he told her what German had suggested. To which she modestly replied, seeing the gentleman had saved her life, when others had failed, she thought, she could do no less in requital than to give him her love, and was resolved if ever she married to be his wife. This startled the old man more and more and Beate man mistrusting what had happened, came in the interim, and being demanded by her father, if he made love to his daughter, boldly owned it; desiring his consent to have her in marriage. How said the old man, you that are a stranger, make love to my daughter, and without my knowledge, you may be a beggar for ought I know. I intend to
give

(15)
give her a good fortune, and therefore I
pray what estate have you.

Truly said Beate-man I am rich in love
to her, but cannot boast of a vast estate
I was born a gentleman, but without any
fortune, for my parents were unfortuna-
te and died poor; yet I hope providence
will make me happy, that by your con-
sent I may marry this fair creature your
daughter.



Upon this he was going to take her by
the hand, and seal his love with a kiss
but her old dad stepped in an angry
manner, crying, Pho, pho, pray stand
off; A gentleman without an estate,

like a pudding without fat, you have indeed done my daughter a kindness in recovering her health, but I'll never consent she shall be your wife

This enraged Beate-man, who upbraided the old man. Mean time in rushes German with his drawn sword, and made a pass at him, but he put it aside and wounded him in the breast, so that



he fell as dead to the ground, whereupon Beate-man made his escape, to consider what was best to be done.

CHAP.

C H A P. V.

He is banished her father's house; he sends her a letter and she meets him in disguise in a neighbouring Grove, where they seal their Vows and Loves, by breaking a piece of gold.

FAIR ISABELLA, upon this accident, being left in tears, as well as the rest of the family in fear and confusion, surgeons were sent for, who on searching the wound gave hopes of their patient's recovery. Yet Beate man fearing the worst, absented from his dwelling, and got a travelling pedlar for a great reward, to deliver a letter unto his Love, which he did, under colour of coming to her fathers house, and proffering his wares. Which was to entreat her, if she had any pity for the sufferings of an unfortunate man not only to forgive what he had done in his own defence, but meet him in a neighbouring grove.

She no sooner read it, but resolved to answer his desires, so escaped in disguise of a Milk-maid. When they met, it is in vain to describe the raptures which passed

passed. She gave him an account of all that happened, and how German was like to recover. But they dwelt not long upon this theme, before they began to discourse of old love, renewing their vows of eternal constancy, so that nothing but death should be able to divide them; and to bind it he broke a piece of gold, giving her one half, and reserving the other for himself, and then with tears and kisses they parted. She at the farewell which proved a sad one, begged him to travel a few weeks, and give her notice where he was, and she would inform him of the recovery, or danger of his rival: To which he agreed with much heartfulness.

C H A P. VI.

Upon her return she is discovered, and confined to her room; German courts her with tears, presents, and a proffer of a large estate; at last by desire of her Parents. she consents, renounces her vows, sends back the piece of gold, and marries German; upon which poor Beate-man hangs himself.

THE Beauteous virgin, during her absence, having been missed, and much enquired

enquired after, by reason of the unreasonableness of the time, was suspected of what had happened, and though she modestly denied it she was confined to her room, and an old nurse set over her; so that all Beateman's letters were seized, and she could not answer them. In the mean time German was recovered, and admitted to court her whose addresses she for a long time refused, but at last O the inconstancy of woman! notwithstanding her vows to be Beateman's alive or dead, and many protestations, the miser's gold and the persuasions and threats of her parents, together with many rich presents, prevailing on her to change her mind, and by their instigation she wrote a letter to Beateman, who who was hunting many miles off, when upon reading it his sport was dashed, and a kind of chill struck to his heart. However, although her hand, he flattered himself in believing she was compelled to do it. However, learning the worst he hastened the next morning to Clifton, and hearing the bells ring, his heart misgave

misgave him, but he had not the courage to enquire into the cause,

That morning he was informed she was married to his rival. Then in a rage he began to curse his stars, and all women kind. Often he resolved to fall on his sword, but a desire of revenge interposed, not to fall alone, but to sacrifice the bridegroom, and then himself.

After some milder resolutions came into his mind, that in this he should give great cause grief to his mistress. Yet to let her know his resentment, he sent back the half piece of gold in a letter, which found her at dinner, and made her be taken sick from the table. However, she was comforted with cordials, and the joy of a bridal night, riding in coach, and a great estate, passed it over, and so to bed they went.

Beateman receiving no answer, took this as a farther slight, and so entering upon a very desperate resolution, he stolē into the house privately, as being acquainted with the way, and hiding himself in a closet by the bridal chamber, he

hanged

hanged himself before the door, when he was found to their great horror and amazement, on opening the door next morning with the following lines pinned on his breast.

False woman of the Vows and Oaths have dread
For thou art mine by them, alive or dead.

C H A P. VII.

Of Beate-man's hanging himself, she grows melancholy and after being delivered of a child is carried away by a Spirit.

THIS not only discomposed the mirth of the wedding, but the ensuing night dreadful shrieks were heard as if hell had broke loose, by blazing light often flashing in the face of the new married couple, and followed with these dreadful words; Thou art mine alive or dead this made them remove to the husband's house which was at some miles distance but the very same haunting, pursued her and wherever she went she thought the spirit of Beate-man appeared to her. The curtains was often drawn violently when they

1
ey were in bed, and the former cry
ntinued; until at last, she proving
th child, he bidding her prepare to go
th him as soon as she was delivered.

which time being weary of her life
atching out her arms she cried, I am
ne by right, and I am ready to go a-
g with thee.

No replied he the innocent babe in thy
omb protects thee: so I cannot have
ee till thou art delivered.

Thus she continued in sorrow and in
r having many divines to pray with
, but it availed not. For the time of
delivery being come, which she de-
d might be prolonged, though in
a, her mother and divers other wo-
n watched with her, whom she ear-
tly desired to pray, and not by any
ans to fall asleep, However, a sudden
owfiness about mid-night, in spite of
they could do, overcame them, till
ked by a dreadful cry, they found all
candles out, and feeling for the child-
l woman, she was missing, the case-
nt being burst in pieces, and a strong
smell

smell of sulphur left in the room. The towns people affirmed they heard great cries and shrieks, which filled the air accompanied with a great clap of thunder, and flashes of lightening about the time. However, she was never after heard, of though much sought for.