

THE
GLASS;
OR,
THE TRIALS OF HELEN MORE.
A THRILLING TEMPERANCE TALE.

EDITED BY MARIA LAMAS.



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THE GLASS

OR, THE TRIALS OF HELEN MORE.

From that slow drop,
Which ceaseless trickles on our shrinking head,
Small though it seem to be, our anguish comes;
We smile when first it falls; soon chafe and fret;
Then frown, then rage—and, when it still goes on,
Howl in our agony intense, and say
Such fearful things, that devils at us stare
And then repeat our curses, as surpassing
Their own invention.

ZOE—a Rhapsody.

CHAPTER I.

THE morning of my life began without a cloud ever its sunlight. The atmosphere around might be redolent of noxious effects, but it was not perceptible to human eye. Beauty and joy perched upon the limbs of green and stately trees, in the landscape of my young existence, or fluttered over blossoms whose beauty and fragrance gratified the mental senses. The serpent who lay hidden had not yet trailed over the beauties, and defiled the purity of the spot. Yet oh! what a stormy noon, and desolate evening was to come over the day of Helen More! I was cradled in all that was soothing to the sense; clad in all that was pleasant to the eye; and fed upon all that was agreeable to the palate. The known heir-ess to large possessions—the child of promise—the hope, the pride and the delight of connexions. Such indeed, I was, in the early time. Yet you now see me in a position which accords none with my early years. You behold me deprived of all unnecessary luxury. True, I do not want—I have

a sufficiency of means to live—I am not ground down to the dust, as many poor daughters of toil, and condemned to work by day and night, for a pitiful pittance which yields bare sustenance and no more. My person, my dress, the scene around me, all speak, if not of poverty, at least of a situation that is comparatively poor, when compared with the past. And to trace the gradual details of my fall is a task as painful to me, as it may be to instructive to you. Yet this you ask me to do. Something about my manner and language, or some trace of my earlier wealth and comfort, has rendered you curious to know my history. Were it only to gratify curiosity, I should refuse to comply. But I believe that the plain record of my life—the plain recital of my follies, my temptations, my sorrows, and my guilt, may serve a good purpose. A statement of all that I have undergone, and something of what I have suffered, may touch the heart and alarm the judgment of others who

death! Pen cannot tell the mental and physical sufferings of the wife, the daughter and the mother. Yet we find many, ah! very many thoughtless, heedless, well-meaning women, who encourage by their presence if not by their example, the drinking of wine. How long is this to last!

If the publication of the plain narrative which we have revised and edited

will awaken the young, the beautiful and the gifted, to a sense of their duty we will indeed reap a rich reward. And if but one human being, moved by these thrilling facts, should pause in a career whose termination must be fatal, we shall never cease to thank the kind Providence that so happily directed our labor, to at least a partially successful end.

THE END.

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