

**PERSEVERANCE;
OR, WALTER AND
HIS LITTLE SCHOOL**

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Perseverance; Or, Walter and His Little School by Charlotte Elizabeth

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CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH

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PERSEVERANCE;

OR,

WALTER AND HIS LITTLE SCHOOL.

BY

CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH,

AUTHOR OF "OSRIC," "KADOC," "IZRAM,"
&c. &c.

The quality of mercy is not strained ;
It droppeth as the gentle dew from heaven
Upon the earth beneath. It is twice blessed ;
It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes.
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest ; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown.

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1826.

TO

LADY D'URBAN,

UNDER WHOSE PATRONAGE AND AUSPICES

THE WORK OF EDUCATION HAS SO HAPPILY PROSPERED,

IN

THE ISLANDS OF ANTIGUA, MONTSERRAT,
AND DEMERARA,

THIS LITTLE WORK IS INSCRIBED,

WITH EVERY SENTIMENT OF AFFECTIONATE RESPECT

AND GRATITUDE,

BY

THE AUTHOR.



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PERSEVERANCE;

OR,

WALTER AND HIS LITTLE SCHOOL.



THE oppressive heat of the day had subsided, and a refreshing breeze gradually cooled the soil, parched by such powerful rays as are unknown in our temperate climate. Mr. Shirley, a wealthy planter in one of our West India islands, accompanied by his family, now ventured forth from the apartments where they had reposed all day in listless languor. Shaded by large hats, and fanned by female slaves, they reclined on rustic chairs under the plantain trees, and watched the distant movements of the



negroes, who were leaving the sugar plantation, and proceeding in close bodies to their huts. Many birds of brilliant plumage fluttered among the tall branches, now and then pouring forth their various notes, from the shrill tuneless scream of the paroquet, to the mellow and varied harmony of the mocking-bird—the nightingale of the South American woods. The air was perfumed with spices, over which the breeze passed; and while the most delicious fruits lay heaped before the party, every sense found its gratification.

Mr. Shirley was an Englishman, but long settled in the West Indies; he had married a creole, or native, lady; and her sister, a widow, resided with them. The two sons of the latter had just returned from England, where they had passed five years. Joseph was fourteen, and Henry about a year younger. They were fine boys, and

in danger of becoming vain of the improvements made in their person and manners; for their mother continually noticed them in their presence—a very dangerous habit, in which too many indulge. Older people cannot be too cautious in the remarks they make before children: indiscriminate praise is injudicious; flattering is mean and cruel; to extol a child for personal beauty is to lay a foundation of vanity, and neglect of what is far more important, the cultivation of the mind: to censure for natural deformity, or defect, is to nurture an envious discontented spirit. Exclaiming upon the elegance of a young person's manner is an inducement to foppery, conceit, and affectation; while severe observations on the want of it, often drive their object beyond the hope of improvement, confirming a careless, clownish, and dogged habit, which might have been softened by gentle reproof and occasional

encouragement. When children hear themselves thus made the subject of remark, they should always remember that man can but judge after the outward appearance, while the Lord looketh upon the heart; and, feeling this, they should secretly pray for grace to profit by what is spoken, recollecting that the most beautiful person must in a few years lose all its attractions, the most graceful manner sink into the decrepitude of age, and the brightest wit be lost in the weakness of second childhood, unless the soul be earlier summoned before the judgment-seat, to give account, not of the former appearance of the body, then mouldering in the grave, but of what things were done in that body; not merely to say what degree of talent was possessed, but to deliver up proof of having dedicated it to the glory of God, and the real benefit of man. A few such reflections would, with the divine bless-