

**THE HISTORY OF A
MERCHANT'S WIDOW
AND HER YOUNG FAMILY**

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The History of a Merchant's Widow and Her Young Family by Mrs. Hofland

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MRS. HOFLAND

**THE HISTORY OF A
MERCHANT'S WIDOW
AND HER YOUNG FAMILY**



THE DEPARTURE.

PLATE 18.



THE HISTORY
OF A
MERCHANT'S WIDOW,
And Her Young Family.

By MRS. HOFLAND.



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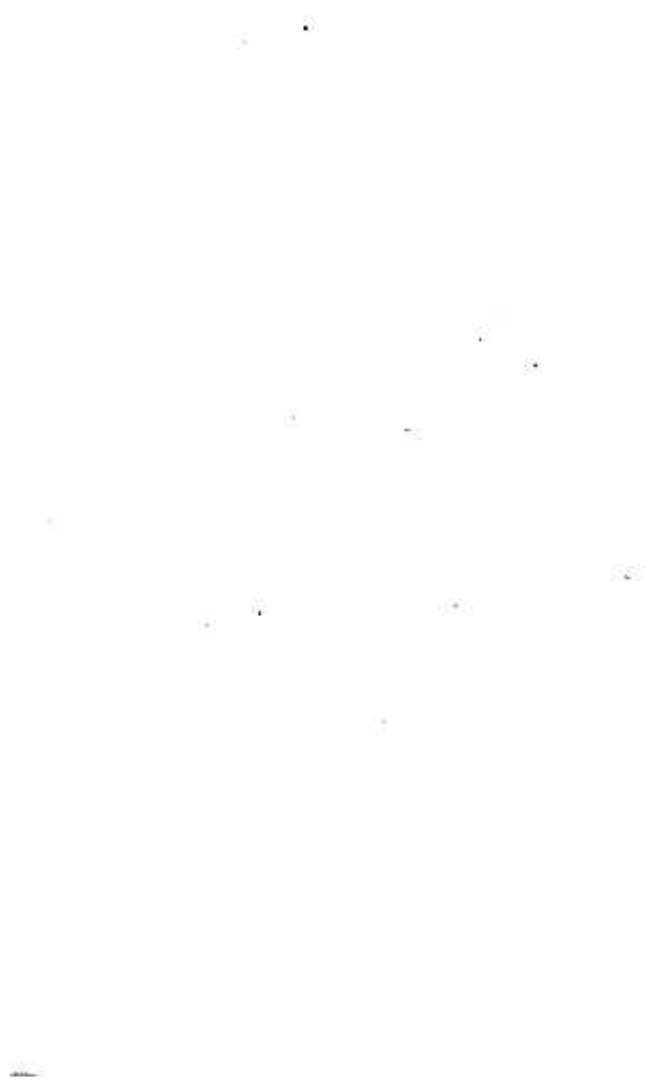
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THE MERCHANT'S WIDOW.

L

Death and Ruin.

MR. DAVENTREE was a merchant in a very extensive line of business, in which he justly enjoyed a high character for probity, regularity, and activity. He had succeeded his father in the concern, so that his whole life had been passed in the enjoyment of wealth, but under such restrictions as taught him its proper use and just value. He had not to contend with those difficulties which arise from narrow means and unformed connections. He had never experienced the necessity of small savings and perpetual self-denials, such as his good parent had felt before him. But he had been taught by that parent justly to estimate his own advantages, and to know

that every business, however well-established, requires the eye of a master; and that the most splendid income calls for the boundaries of economy, and the hand of management. His own excellent understanding and education enabled him to see the propriety of dispensing a large income with dignified liberality without affecting the pageantry of rank on the one hand, or stooping to petty detail on the other. As he regarded the character of a British merchant to be justly one of sufficient importance to satisfy all proper ambition, he did not seek to embellish it with ornaments to which it had no pretension. Thus he never sought to intrude into those walks of life which he conceived appropriate to nobility; and while his hospitable board was open to all, and frequently surrounded by men of the first talents and highest offices in the country, he yet neither sought celebrity, nor awakened satire, by the splendour of his fetes, or the crowding of his routs; but blending the plenty of past times with the elegance of the present, obtained good-will from all, and envy from none.

Mr. Daventree was enabled to pursue a line of life agreeable to his situation, his judgment, and his principles, by being united to a lady whose disposition and opinions entirely coincided with his own. Her affections were so entirely given to him and to her