LUCILLA; OR, THE RECONCILIATION, IN TWO VOLUMES, VOL. I

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LUCILLA;

OR,

THE RECONCILIATION.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LUCILLA;

OR,

THE RECONCILIATION.

BY THE AUTHOR

OF THE TWIN SISTERS, ADOPTED DAUGHTER, WILLIAM SELWYN,

&c. &c. &c.

"With inward view
Thence on the ideal kingdom, swift she turns
Her eye, and instant at her powerful glance
Th' obedient phantoms vanish or appear,
Compound, divide, and into order shift,
Each to his rank; from plain perception
To the fair forms of fancy's fleeting train."

THOMSON.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

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No. 20, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1819.

PREFACE.

AS a Mother fondly regards her offspring, just entering the world, and anticipates the admiration it may meet: so the hopes of Authors generally exceed their fears, or they could not venture on a path in which so many have before appeared to advantage.

The Author of the present work fears to anticipate its reception. It may be said, there is nothing new in it. In the repository of her brain, it would be difficult to find what has not been

delineated by an abler hand. Numerous and fleeting are the images of her fancy, and did she stop to enquire if she had seen them before, or where, ere she committed them to paper, they would vanish without allowing her to discover their origin.

Some may ask, is not this a proof of her folly?—Of the fickleness of her imagination, it certainly is—yet her mind is fixed to reject every thing injurious to the morals of her readers.

"On my strain
Perhaps e'en now some cold fastidious judge
Casts a disdainful eye, and calls my toil,
And calls the love and beauty which I sing,
The dream of folly."

In the character of "Lucilla" she has endeavoured to shew the best preparatives for an exalted station, are modesty and humility.

The picture may have been drawn before, and in colours far more bright and durable.

Lady Newton's history is not without a parallel, even in real life. Excess of friendship has often been attributed to females, and has produced much evil.

Enthusiasm, however directed, can produce no good. Our relative duties are so connected, that no one can overstep its appointed bounds, without interfering with another, which has equal claims on our attention.