

THE COUNTRY BURIAL. 37

you—I'll follow presently—you shall find a hearty welcome, and all the assistance I, or my family can lend you.

TIMOTHY.

With many thanks I accept your kindness.

SCENE IV.

WELFORD AND SILVIA.

WELFORD.

Silvia, your lover tarried late last night—I have not seen you since till now. Nay, never blush, and turn away—he proposed marriage, did he not?

SILVIA.

O father, why did you ever suffer him to talk of love, or me to hear him?

WELFORD.

There is no shame in virtuous love. The most modest virgin may hear, and may return it too, without a blush.

SILVIA.

Oh!

WELFORD.

Why weeps my child? What mean these sighs, and all these agonies of grief, as if thy heart would burst?

SILVIA.

O, I have cause to weep, despair, and die; for I have heard from the man, who swore a thousand times he lov'd me, the man I lov'd, the man you bid me love, such vile proposals. —

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WELFORD.