

‘ of my two highest Wishes. If I have not  
 ‘ therefore importuned you on this Head, you  
 ‘ will impute it only to my Fear of offending  
 ‘ the Lady, by endeavouring to hurry on so blef-  
 ‘ sed an Event, faster than a strict Compliance  
 ‘ with all the Rules of Decency and Decorum  
 ‘ will permit. But if by your Interest, Sir, she  
 ‘ might be induced to dispense with any Forma-  
 ‘ lities’—

‘ Formalities ! with a Pox !’ answered the  
 Squire, ‘ Pooh, all Stuff and Nonsense. I tell  
 ‘ thee, she shall ha’ thee To-Morrow ; you will  
 ‘ know the World better hereafter, when you  
 ‘ come to my Age. Women never gi’ their  
 ‘ Consent, Man, if they can help it, ’tis not  
 ‘ the Fashion. If I had staid for her Mother’s  
 ‘ Consent, I might have been a Batchelor to this  
 ‘ Day.—To her, to her, co to her, that’s it,  
 ‘ you jolly Dog. I tell thee that ha’ her To-  
 ‘ morrow Morning.’

*Bliss* suffered himself to be overpowered by the forcible Rhetoric of the Squire ; and it being agreed that *Western* should close with *Allworthy* that very Afternoon, the Lover departed home, having first earnestly begged that no Violence might be offered to the Lady by this Haste, in the same Manner as a Popish Inquisitor begs the Lay Power to do no Violence to the Heretic, delivered over to it, and against whom the Church hath passed Sentence.

And to say the Truth, *Bliss* had passed Sentence against *Sophia* ; for however pleased he had declared himself to *Western*, with his Reception, he was by no means satisfied, unless it was that he was convinced of the Hatred and Scorn of his Mistress ; and this had produced no less reciproc-