

THE LINWOODS.

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THE LINWOODS;

OR,

“SIXTY YEARS SINCE” IN AMERICA.

BY

MISS SEDGWICK,

AUTHOR OF “HOPE LESLIE,” “REDWOOD,” &c.



The Eternal Power
Lodged in the will of man the hallowed names
Of freedom and of country.

MISS MITFORD.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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1835.

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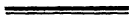


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THE LINWOODS.



CHAPTER XXVI.

The wonder, or a woman keeps a secret !

ISABELLA moulded and arranged every thing to profit by Sir Henry's boon. She persuaded her father (one is easily led the way the heart inclines), in consideration of Herbert's past sufferings and uncertain future, to acquiesce in a present oblivion of his offences. She exacted a promise from Herbert that he would hear her father laud King George, his ministers, and all

their acts, without interposing a disqualifying word, or even a glance ; and, what was a greater feat for him, that he would sit quietly and hear the names of Washington, Franklin, Jay, Hamilton, La Fayette—all that he most honoured, coupled with the most offensive epithets. This vituperation she knew was a sort of safety-valve, by which her father let off the passion that might otherwise burst on poor Herbert's head. She felt that no sacrifice, short of that of principle, was too great to obtain affectionate intercourse between the father and son ; that, between those thus related, there never could be a “ good war, nor a bad peace.”

As Sir Henry had exacted a strict secrecy as to his indulgence, Isabella congratulated herself that she had long before this persuaded her father to dismiss Jupiter (an irreclaimable gossip), on the ground that he was a useless