



The New York Public Library  
Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle

Guide to the

**Reverses of fortune, or Various occurrences in private life in a  
correspondence between friends [manuscript novel]**

1796

Pforz Ms

## Summary

**Title:** Reverses of fortune, or Various occurrences in private life in a correspondence between friends [manuscript novel]

**Date:** 1796

**Size:** 1 volume (title page + 134 numbered manuscript pages; 69 total leaves)

**Abstract:** An anonymous epistolary novel, presumably incomplete but apparently otherwise unknown and unpublished. The story focuses on the Purcell family: Mr. and Mrs., and their daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. After Mrs. Purcell dies, the family leaves London for their ancestral mansion, Northcolme Grove. After the family fortune is lost, Mary and Elizabeth start a boarding school for twelve girls. The nineteen letters that make up the novel are dated between July 6th and October 4th of 1796.

**Preferred citation:** Reverses of fortune, or Various occurrences in private life in a correspondence between friends [manuscript novel], Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

## Scope and Content Note

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## Key Terms

### Subjects

Anonymous writings, English -- 18th century -- Manuscripts -- Specimens  
Boarding schools -- Fiction

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Epistolary fiction