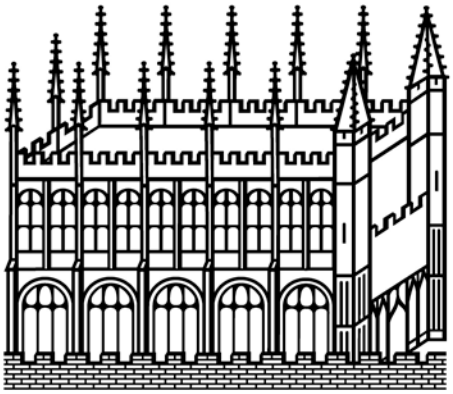

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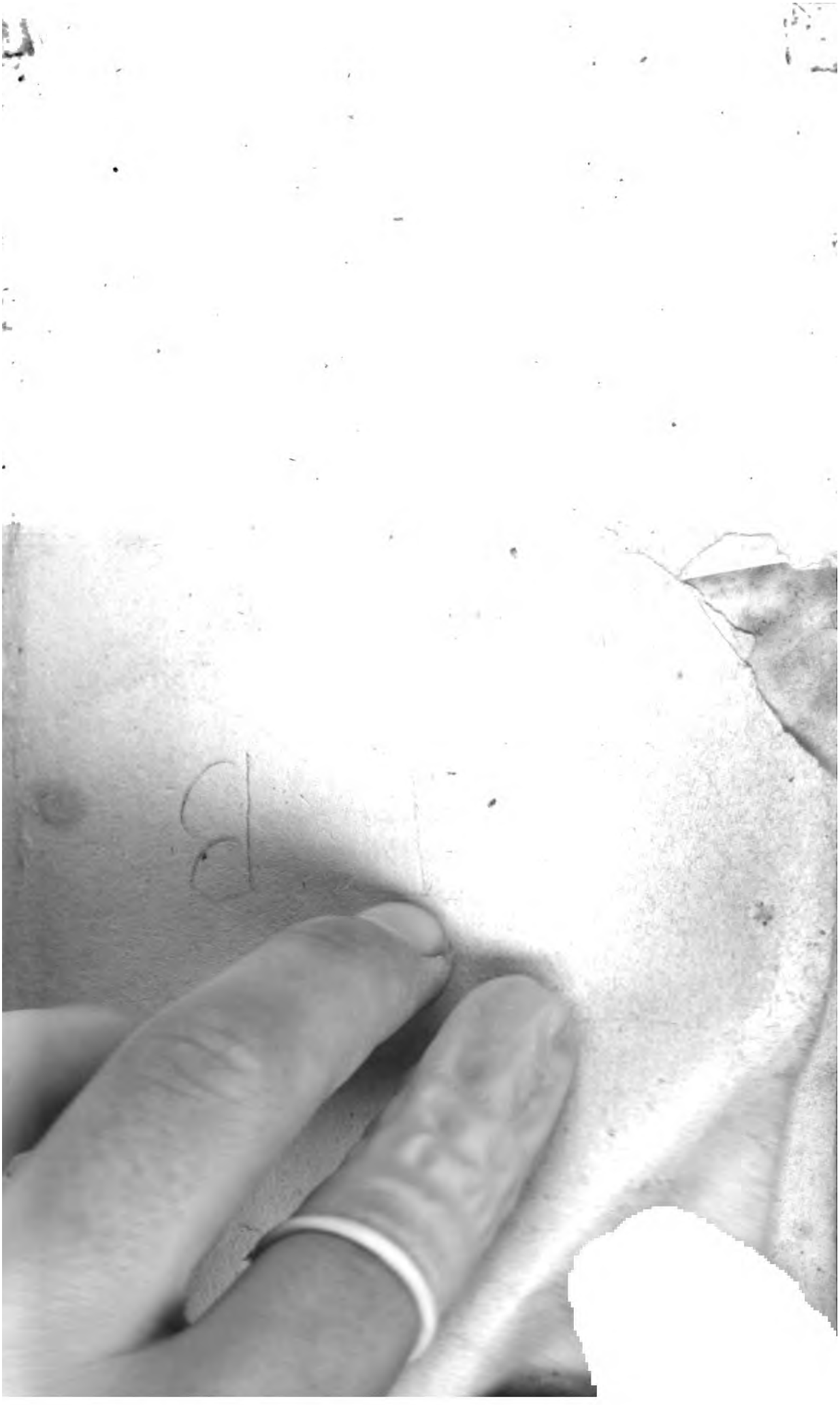

THE

HAUNTED PALACE,

OR THE

Horrors of Ventoliene;

A ROMANCE,

By Mrs. YORKE,

AUTHOR OF

Valley of Collares, Romance of Smyrna, &c. &c. &c.

Fra cento affanni e cento
Palpito, tremo, e sento
Che freddo dalle vene
Fugge il mio sangue al cor.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
Printed by C. Stower, King Street Covent Garden,
FOR EARLE AND HEMET, ALBEMARLE-STREET,
PICCADILLY.

1801.

249. f. 341.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE

JOSHUA ALLEN,

VISCOUNT ALLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF KILDARE, AND BARON ALLEN, OF STILLORGAN, IN THE COUNTY OF DUBLIN,

THESE VOLUMES

ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

HIS LORDSHIP'S

MOST OBEDIENT,

AND MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

May 31st. 1801.

THE

HAUNTED PALACE,

OR

The Horrors of Ventoliene.

"RISE, Michael, I conjure thee; reassume the man, and follow me; for, though worlds were opposed to worlds, and yonder fiery gulph were to enwrap me in its burning folds, I would go on. Conscious of the justness of my cause and the rectitude of my heart, I will pursue the wretch to the confines of Hell itself."

"Ah! Sir," said Michael, "we are arrived there already, I'm sure; therefore do not, for the holy virgin's sake, attempt to go any further. Oh! holy saints, and heavenly martyrs, protect and save us; see how the flames are pouring out; aye, there they come, thicker and faster; why should your honor wish to go on, when, I am sure, if he took the road your honor says, he must go into Hell itself: for, is not that the mouth of it? I have been told so a thousand times."

"Peace, fool!" exclaimed the impatient Edward; "rise without more delay, and follow me; I tell thee again, it is nothing more than a weak eruption of Mount Vesuvius. By these cursed groundless fears, I shall lose the only opportunity I may ever have, of avenging the cause of injured innocence, and saving a suffering sister,

and

and her helpless children, from misery, worse than death."

So saying, he raised Michael, and dragged the fainting fellow after him up the mountain. They had scarcely ascended a hundred paces, when the object they were in pursuit of repassed them, followed by three others, and descended with rapidity towards the plain. The suddenness of his return, and the swiftness of his flight, not only surprised the wondering Edward and his companion, but put it out of his power to follow them with equal speed.

"By the holy virgin," said Michael, "he is come out of Hell again, and, as I hope to be saved, there are three imps of the devil, flogging him along.—Bravo! let us run, your honor, and overtake them, that we may see how

those black gentlemen exercise his worship. I'm not afraid to go down, though I was most confoundedly, to go up."

Saying this, Michael, in his turn, pulled his master after him. It was but at intervals they could distinguish any thing. For some minutes, they would be involved in total darkness, owing to the frequent showers of ashes, thrown out of the mountain; then, columns of light would appear, and the dismal roar of the volcano, resembling nothing but the fabled howlings of the damned, would assault their ears, and appal even the heart of Edward; but, as revenge urged him, he threw off every enervating thought, and rushed on with all the speed he could make.

They had descended about twenty minutes,

minutes, in as near a direction as they could suppose the others had taken, when they were alarmed by the sound of several voices near them, uttering, in Italian, the most horrid imprecations. Edward paused; Michael, though brave, clung close to his master.

"You are but poorly armed, your honor, as well as me," said he. Edward regarded not the observation of his servant, but exclaimed: "Curse on this untimely interruption; the villain will escape me; I may traverse the whole continent, from Italy to Cochinchina, and not meet with him again." Hardly had he pronounced this, when seven men, whose countenances bespoke them the perpetrators of every horrid deed, surrounded them; and what added to their astonishment was, to perceive, among the group, the very man they had pursued. His face, tho' horribly

horribly besmeared with blood, and lacerated in several places, was in an instant recognised by Edward, who advanced towards him, saying: "Avenging heaven has, at length, begun the work of justice. Gentlemen," continued he, addressing the other six, one of whom held a torch to his face, "permit me to render you my sincere and ardent thanks, for thus unexpectedly placing in my power a man, who has trampled on all laws, divine and human, and has even bid defiance to heaven itself; and one, whom I have, with the most unremitting diligence, pursued; but he ever found means to escape from me, and, not till within these two hours, have I been able to keep him in sight for one moment.

"And who are you? and what are you?" said one of the men.

"I am

"I am Edward Fitzallan, of the kingdom of Ireland," replied he, "and that monster is my brother-in-law.—Condemned by the laws of his country to suffer death, he fled, and, till this night, has eluded every search. By mere accident, I, this evening, discovered a servant of his, and from him extorted a confession of where his master then was. I followed the direction; it was at a vine dresser's, on the mountain; but, before I reached the spot, I saw the villain pass me; I hastened after him, but he was too rapid in his motions, for I was obliged to halt, owing to my servant's terrors at the eruption.

"You have a milksop with you, then," said a short fellow; "we will soon teach him otherwise, I warrant you."

Saying this, without making any remark on what Edward had said, they closed round him and his servant in a moment, wrested the pistols from them, and bound their hands with thongs, bidding them be silent, as the least noise should be instantly followed by death. Edward was resigned, while Michael, in visible trepidation, ventured to beg his master not to go with them.

"Your master," said they, "has no choice; therefore, come along."

They turned and descended, two of them guarding Edward, while the other four surrounded the bleeding man and Michael. The bellowing of the mountain encreased; showers of ashes fell in all directions; the air seemed nothing but burning sulphur; respiration became difficult, and Edward was about to desire them to stop, and indulge him

with

with a drop of water, when a large company of men, amounting to near forty, hailed them in a language he was unacquainted with; which was answered in the same. Their conversation lasted for about ten minutes, when a more violent eruption than any that had preceded took place, and in a moment, torrents of liquid fire were seen to issue from the volcano, and take a course near to the spot where they then stood. By the lights carried in the hands of those who had quitted their houses, and were flying for shelter to Naples, they discovered, at a small distance from them, a young lady apparently lifeless. She lay on her face, with one hand clasped to her mouth. Edward sprang forward, and earnestly entreated some one would raise her, as she possibly might not be dead: one of the men, whose air bespoke him different from the rest, raised her up, and

the young man before mentioned caused several frieze wrappers to be stretched along on some large boxes, on which they laid the Lady, who appeared to be about twenty; they then pushed from shore and stood for the bay. Scarce a word was spoken by the whole company; at last, the young man turning to Edward, asked him, Whether he thought the lady was really dead, as the appearance of her countenance seemed to indicate.

"I would try if there is any pulse," said Edward; "if you will permit my hands to be at liberty."

The young man immediately untied the thongs, which, by being drawn tight, had cut his wrists.

"You bleed! what means this?" said he, looking sternly on the men who had

had seized Edward; "this is some of your work, Francesco, I suppose; take some brandy out, and wash the wounds."

The manner in which he spoke, and the alacrity with which he was obeyed, convinced Fitzallan that he was the superior. His wrists were immediately chafed; he then requested the liberation of poor Michael, who had sunk to the bottom of the vessel; it was done, and a glass of brandy given him to drink. This roused him and he ventured to look around. Seeing his master safe, he begged to assist him in holding up the Lady, whilst Fitzallan endeavoured by chafing her temples, and pouring some liquor into her mouth, to restore her; but her teeth being clenched, prevented any descending to her stomach.

"Life

"Life is not wholly fled," said he; "there is a pulsation still remains at the heart: her insensibility is occasioned by the mofete; she has inhaled the mephitic vapour, and, unless something can be done to counteract its effects, she will awake no more. Suppose we were to immerge her in the sea; we can fasten her in one of these wrapping coats, and gently lift her over the side of the vessel; if any thing will restore her, that will."

The young man agreed; they fastened the coat, and, with the assistance of Michael and one of the men, hoisted her over. Four times had they plunged her, when they perceived a slight convulsion round the mouth.

"It will do, I think," said Edward, "and, had I any instrument to open a vein, she would soon recover."

"I have

"I have that," said the young man, and immediately drew out of his pocket a case of instruments. Fitzallan opened a vein, but no blood came; the arm was violently rubbed for some time; at length, the convulsions became strong, and life seemed to return rapidly. In a few seconds, the blood began to drop, and soon after, she opened her eyes, fetched a deep sigh, and endeavoured to speak, but could not,—she fell back into the arms of Michael, who supported her.

During the whole of this transaction, the brother of Fitzallan regarded, with a scowling grin, the different efforts made to restore her, and when Fitzallan said 'she would recover,' he darted at him a look of fury mingled with contempt. Edward could not guess the meaning of this, unless it was, that his savage nature could not bear to see another employed

employed in an act of humanity. He cast upon him a look of reproach and triumph, which said, soon I hope to see thy malignant spirit humbled in the dust, and the sufferings of my sister be avenged. The boat now stood round the bay, towards the Gulph of Gaeta: Michael, Edward, and the superior, with one of the men, were busied in attending on the Lady; whilst the rest were regarding with stoic apathy the dreadful scene behind them; but, at times, in spite of their assumed indifference, a peaceful observer might have read in their countenances the sudden sting of a guilty conscience, harrowing their souls. Soon after, they reached the gulph, and landed in a creek of the Island of Ventoliene. The lady had not yet spoken, and death and nature seemed contending for victory. She was borne on shore by four men, stretched at length in one of the frieze coats;

the

the captain, for such the young man was, ordered them to carry her to his abode; he then gave some directions respecting the little vessel, and turning to Edward, bade him follow him, and fear nothing. He obeyed, and Michael, encouraged by his behaviour, assumed more confidence. Several of the men, whom the lightning made more visible than before, now appeared a set of ruthless villains, accustomed to every species of murder, rapine, and plunder. Edward's heart, as well as Michael's, sunk within him, on taking a nearer view of his associates; but he turned with confidence to the captain, whose look and manners, neither spoke him an Italian, nor one familiar in the ways of blood. Four torches were carried before him, and they appeared to enter a kind of wood. The path was narrow, and hardly admitted two to go abreast,—so that it was with difficulty the lady

was

was carried along. They passed near a mile in this manner, when they all stopped, and, upon the same signal being given, as was done before, two men appeared, who advanced with great submission to the captain.—They talked together for about a minute in the same strange language, and then, lifting up with a lever a part of the stern of an old galley, a door strongly grated with iron appeared, but apparently covered with leaves. Edward and Michael involuntarily shrunk back; the captain observed it, and slapping them on the shoulder, said They were gone too far to recede now, as they must perforce descend with them, for they should want his assistance in restoring the lady. Edward, whose faculties had been for a few moments dormant, now recollected the unfortunate female, and instantly descended a flight of steps, down which

she

she had been carried. Michael seeing there was no alternative, and fancying the scene within could not exceed the scene without, followed his master.

"You will soon see," said the captain, "that you are in the company of a man of honor; and, if you have been injured by that scoundrel," pointing to Fitzallan's brother, "you shall have ample justice."

He bid defiance to the captain with his looks, and growled a horrid curse on Edward—the rest of the men were silent.

The passage they entered, when at the bottom, was wide, and lighted up with several torches. As they advanced, Edward thought he heard the sound of music, but it died away and nothing was heard but their footsteps along

along the vaulted roof. It was near half a mile, as well as he could guess, before they arrived at another flight of steps, similar to those they had descended; these they now ascended, and entered a kind of courtyard paved in mosaic. Some broken pieces of marble columns, and parts of mutilated statues, lay scattered in all directions, while before them appeared the remains of a noble edifice, which seemed to have been destroyed more by the violence of man, or a convulsion of nature, than the hand of time. They turned to the left of this court, and entered what had once been a most magnificent saloon, but now was a heap of ruins. Here, on a large slab of beautiful porphyry, they rested the Lady, as the men who carried her were sinking with fatigue.—She was uncovered; they found her alive, but quite insensible. The captain said, He thought she had better

be

be placed on a bed; Edward coincided, and some others of the men were bid to carry her to Novi's room. Edward, Michael, the captain, and two more, followed; he having first given directions to his men respecting Fitzallan's brother. They passed through the remains of several elegant apartments, and at length reached the extremity of a gallery, when a door opened, and they entered a habitable room. In it was an old green velvet bed, which had been ornamented with gold, but very little of it remained. The Lady was laid on it—Edward said, He wished some female was there to undress her, as the wet clothes she had on might retard her recovery.

"I have ordered one to attend," said the captain.

As he uttered this, a middle aged woman, of no prepossessing appearance, entered.

"You must undress this Lady, Vashti," said he; "wrap her in something warm, and when she is ready to be lifted into bed, let me know."

He left the room and paced the gallery. He made no remarks, but seemed wholly lost in thought, and Edward imagined he could at times observe him sigh deeply. They continued thus for some time, when the woman came out, and said, She was ready. They then entered and lifted the Lady into bed. The captain asked Vashti What was most proper to give her, as she had been found by his people nearly dead, and, to recover her, they had dipt her in the sea. Vashti answered She thought rest the most

necessary

necessary; but, if she came to herself, she would call him, and some cordial should be administered to her. This satisfied the captain and he left her.—On his quitting the room, he did not return by the way he came, but opened a door on one side of the gallery, descended about twenty steps, then passed along a dark passage, and crossed a large room, from whence they heard the sound of many voices.

"Be not alarmed," said he, "I shall soon restore order when I get among them. You appear a gentleman, and whatever you may think of me, I will treat you as such; I have only to observe that I expect you to make no remark on any thing you see; how long you will continue here I cannot tell, but that will depend on what you have to relate, about that miscreant, whom you call brother-in-law. He is a villain,

lain, and shall meet his deserts before you leave this place; for, he has offended against the laws of this community and will suffer for his temerity. Nothing will be done this day, or to-morrow; my people stand in need of rest, and, before the other party returns, they must obtain it: be silent and circumspect, and you need not fear any thing."

Edward bowed, and thanking him, said, He should venture to make two requests, which were, that his servant might not be taken from him, and that he might be permitted to attend the Lady, whenever he might in any way be useful to her. These were consented to. They then entered a large lofty room, which was surrounded on all sides with military stores. A company of about fifty men were seated at a long table, on which were placed large

large quantities of wines, brandy, and fruit—each man was armed. When the Captain approached to take his seat, they all rose up, and drank to him. Edward was ordered to sit near him, as well as Michael; they were then desired to take off a bumper of brandy, to their better acquaintance, and the Captain did the same. Edward looked round, to see whether he could perceive among the group the man who caused his being brought there, but he was not present. To describe their different personages, would be impossible; they seemed to be composed of all nations and languages. The Captain appeared about twenty-five, of a sanguine complexion, florid, open countenance, quick, piercing eye, and the whole contour of his person at once striking and majestic. His look, though mild, awed the most ferocious into silence, and the loud clamor which filled the

room, when they entered, at once subsided. The Captain bade one of them order the victuals to be served; the man left the room, and soon after returned, saying They should shortly have it. In about ten minutes, meats of different sorts were set upon the table, to which they all helped themselves as their fancy chose. As soon as the eatables were removed, the Captain asked Fitzallan, If he would go to rest, to which he consented, but first wished to know, How the Lady was; a man was sent, who returned saying, She was still asleep. He then, with Michael, left them; and he was shown to a room, in which, though literally in ruins, he found a bed that would not have disgraced the repose of royalty itself.

Edward and his servant immediately laid themselves down in their clothes,

not

not being altogether divested of fear; however, they soon fell asleep, and continued so for some time, when Edward was waked by Vashti, who desired him to come to the Lady, as she had waked in violent convulsions. He ran to the chamber, and found her nearly exhausted by the struggles she had made. He was at a loss what to do, for she became more and more faint, and he concluded her dying; he asked for the Captain; Vashti said, He was gone to bed, and they did not dare to disturb him. The Lady sinking again into a kind of stupor, Edward thought it best not to send to him, but stay beside her, with Vashti. He sat down; she spoke not; he wished to ask some questions respecting Where they were, and to whom the place belonged; but, as she was not disposed to talk, he contented himself with contemplating in silence the magnificent ruins. Whe-

ther he was above ground or below, he could not guess, as there did not appear to be any window, and he was certain in his own mind, though he did not know exactly how many hours he had been there, that it must be day; but he forbore to ask. He ran over in his mind a thousand conjectures, of what these people might be. That there was another company of them, the Captain had said; but, whether equal in number to those he was with, he was likely to remain ignorant; and how so many men could exist in such a state, was to him incomprehensible: however, he, at last, comforted himself with the hope that the Captain would, when he had obtained some refreshment, inform him where he was. He ventured to say to Vashti at last, That he should be happy, if some medical aid could be procured for the Lady, as she appeared too ill for him to render

her

her that assistance she stood in need of.

"As the Captain," said she, "has thought proper to have her brought here, no doubt, but when he gets up, he will procure what is necessary for her; till then, we have nothing to do, but watch her."

Fitzallan nodded assent, and, as she was disposed to be taciturn, he continued so likewise. For near an hour and half, the Lady remained motionless; she appeared alive, and that was all. Edward had risen from his seat, and approached the bed-side, watching with anxious solicitude for any change that might take place, when he perceived her lips moving gently. He whispered Vashti, If she had a cordial of any kind? Yes, she had several. She then put into his hand a glass of what

she said, would instantly be of service, if she could be brought to swallow it. He took it, and, gently raising her in his arms, put it to her lips; she opened her eyes, drank it, and again fell lifeless on his bosom. Vashti asked, If she had drank or not; he assured her, She had. "Tis well" said she; "it will immediately have its effect, and, in a few hours, she will be well enough to speak, I dare say. You need not now stay any longer; can you find your way to your room? Take that light, if you think you cannot," pointing to one on the table. He took it up, and desiring, if she wanted him, that she would instantly awake him, should he be asleep, he returned to his room, which was at a small distance.

Michael remained fast asleep. Edward surveyed, for some minutes, the many curious things that lay in wild confusion

confusion over the room; they were very beautiful. "'Tis pity," said he, "they are not taken more care of; but I will endeavour to get some more rest." So saying, he laid himself down again, by the side of his servant; he courted rest, but found it not. All appeared in dead silence arround him, only at times he thought he could discern the dreadful thunder that rent the air, and, at intervals, the horrid howling of the mountain. Again he imagined he felt the shower of ashes descending in burning torrents: again he seemed to feel the sulphurous atmosphere, and every breath he drew, he thought he inhaled the mephitic vapor. He arose, traversed the room with hasty strides, unwilling to awake Michael, who enjoyed an undisturbed repose. He had continued for a considerable time in this state of anxiety, when his door opened, and two grim-

looking figures entered, with pistols in their belts, and short swords. He involuntarily started, but recovering himself, asked them sternly what they wanted.

"*We* want nothing of ye," said one; "'tis the Captain says you must come to him directly, and we are to show you the way."

Edward immediately roused Michael to go with him.

"We had no orders for his attendance," said the man; "'tis only you he wants."

"You will excuse me," said Edward, "but I cannot go without him."

Michael shuddered, when he opened his eyes, and saw the two men, who, he con-

concluded, were come to dispatch him and his master. He, therefore, crossed himself most devoutly, and began to supplicate them to let him have a few minutes to pray; but his entreaties were disregarded, as they understood him not. Michael, in his confusion, implored them in English, or rather Irish; for, it was always his misfortune, whether in a fright or passion, to jumble the two languages in such a manner, that it was absolutely impossible for a stander-by to make out either. The men regarded him with contempt, and Edward, finding they did not understand English, begged him in it, to be pacified and come along with him, as the Captain had sent for him. The men bid Fitzallan make haste; for, they were not used to let the Captain wait.

"Go on then," said he, "I will follow you."

Michael, with trembling steps, trode after his master; they passed by the door of the Lady, but all was silent; he, therefore, concluded her asleep. They crossed the gallery, and descended several stairs, which seemed to run round a column; one of the men carried a torch. At the bottom of the stairs, they opened a door, and went across the same court-yard they had entered at. It appeared still dark; but, whether that arose from night, or the eruption, he could not tell. They went over vast heaps of ruins, and entered another yard, on the opposite side of which they discovered a large lighted room, which they entered. The Captain was seated at the upper end of a long table; several benches were placed near, and at the bottom,

manacled

manacled with a very heavy chain, and surrounded by ten of the company armed, sat Edward's brother. The moment Fitzallan perceived him in that situation, in spite of all the injuries himself and family had suffered through him, he could not help reflecting that he was once dear to him and that he was the father of his sister's children. Edward threw on him a glance of pity and hove a sigh; Michael eyed him with pity likewise, but it was pity mingled with a secret satisfaction that a wicked man was at length secured. The Captain beckoned Edward to approach—he did.

"I think," said he, "that you told me, the man you now see our prisoner, was once your brother-in-law, and that you had charges of a criminal nature to adduce against him."

"I did, sir," said Edward.

"He has likewise," said the Captain, "offended against the laws of our community; and by those laws he is now to be tried; his acquittal, or condemnation, as to what relates to us, will soon be known; you shall then be at liberty to make good your charges against him. Here you shall meet with justice, and here the criminal will receive equitable judgment. Thus much I thought necessary to inform you of; we are now going to enter on our charges. Follow your conductor for some refreshment, and, when our trial is over, you shall be informed.

He then bowed with great politeness to Edward, and made him a sign to depart. They left the room and were conducted to one much smaller; here they found meat and wine, which they were

were desired to partake of, with the man who led them. Edward ventured to ask how the young lady was; he answered, He knew not, but supposed she was well, as Vashti had said, She was going to take her something to eat. This account pleased him, as he felt a strong interest in her fate. They continued in this room for a considerable time, their companions frequently urging them to drink freely of the wine, but this Edward declined, as his mind was agitated respecting the man whom he was to accuse; the recollection of his crimes filled his heart with horror, and he involuntarily started up. At that instant, an order was brought for him to attend; he did, though not without trembling. When he entered, the countenance of the prisoner underwent a considerable change; he turned from red to pale, and from pale to red, alternately.

"Come

"Come hither," said the Captain; "it is now your turn to prefer your charge against the criminal; our trial is over; but, whether he is condemned or acquitted, is not for you to know, as yet. You must pledge yourself by every tie that is sacred to you, and by your God, if you worship any, that you will not say any thing against this man, but what is strictly true: you will find that each party shall have ample justice.

Fitzallan bowed assent; the oath was then administered in their form.

"I fear," said Fitzallan, "I must be rather prolix in my account of our family connexion, in order to explain some particulars, which it will perhaps be necessary for you to know."

"Be it so," said the Captain.

"I am,"

"I am," said Fitzallan, "the last surviving branch of the house of Fitzallan, of the kingdom of Ireland. My father married young an English lady of considerable distinction, and, soon after my birth, went to reside in England. I had an only sister, whose birth occasioned the death of my mother—and my father survived but a short time. Previous to his marriage, he had been introduced to a Mr. Owen, a near relation of the Lady: this gentleman married, soon after my father, a Welsh lady, of an ancient family, by whom he had one son and two daughters, the eldest of which children is now before you. His father, Mr. Owen, was thought to be a man of strict honor and unblemished character; my father thinking him so, appointed him one of our guardians, which trust I believe he performed with honor; and, as our fortunes were nearly equal, a match was

projected

projected between my sister and his son. My sister gave her hand to the gentleman present, with a satisfaction, that plainly showed the preference she had for him: the establishment made for them was such, as spoke the opulence of both families. My sister's fortune was considerably augmented, soon after her marriage, by the bequest of an aunt, who left the whole of her fortune to her, independent of her husband, and, in case of her death, it was to descend to her daughters, if she had any; if not, to her husband during his life, and then to revert to a distant relation, at that time residing on the Continent.

"Mr. Owen behaved towards my sister with great propriety for some time, and she appeared to enjoy a great share of happiness. She was brought to bed, the first year of her marriage, of a daughter, and the second year was blessed

blessed with another. A short time previous to her confinement, Mr. Owen informed her he meant to spend a couple of months at his father's, as one of his sisters was to be united to an English gentleman, a colonel in the army; and that he should expect her to join them in Wales, as soon as her recovery would admit. This being arranged, he set out, and wrote several affectionate letters to her, for a month after his departure. 'His eldest sister,' he said in one of them, 'was not then at home, but was daily expected—she had been in France for education. This girl had never been a favourite of my sister's; she was proud, vindictive, and a consummate hypocrite; she possessed a pleasing person, which she studied to display to the greatest advantage, and every one who possessed charms superior to her own, she would endeavour to defame. Her mother saw and tried

to

to correct her unhappy temper, but in vain. She returned from France, and brought over with her a young lady, whom she introduced as her very particular friend, and to whom, she said, she was under great obligations.

"Soon after my sister's recovery, she prepared to leave town for Wales, though, for some weeks, her husband had forborne to press her on the subject, his letters being cold, short, and formal; however, thinking she should please and surprise him by her sudden appearance, she set out for her father-in-law's, and took her children and the nurses with her. They arrived in safety; but, instead of being received with pleasure by her husband, he was scarcely civil to her: said, 'He thought she had done wrong to venture out so soon; more especially as she was so recently recovered; and, as the house

was so full of company, the children's being there would be altogether very disagreeable.' His manner, the tone of his voice, his air, all seemed to have undergone a total revolution. His unkindness hurt her, and she offered to return immediately, if it was agreeable to him. 'Yes,' he said, 'he thought that best.' Surprised, but not at all guessing the reason of this determination of her husband, she only desired to stay two days, as she thought she was incapable of going back so soon. Her father and mother-in-law were the only ones who seemed happy to see her; and, when she mentioned that her stay would not exceed two days, they were amazed, and asked Whether it was owing to any of the company being disagreeable to her. 'By no means,' she said; 'it was the wish of her husband, and she had made it a rule, in all things, to obey him.' 'If that were

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the only reason,' her mother said, 'she should not return, and she would see herself that the children should be accommodated in a wing of the house, detached from the visitors,' and undertook to reconcile her son to this arrangement. Her husband reluctantly consented to her stay. From that hour, he behaved to her with the most mortifying coldness; he paid not the least regard to his children, nor ever expressed a wish to see them; the whole of his time was taken up in attending Miss Owen and her French companion.

About a fortnight before my sister went into Wales, a French gentleman, had arrived, called the Count St. Prie, who passed for the brother of the Lady. This man was one of the most depraved characters in France. Nearly allied by marriage to a noble family, he had run into every excess incident to such a con-

connexion, though his fortune was inadequate to it; and he was on the brink of ruin when he became acquainted with an English gentleman, and, through him, with Miss Owen.—An intimacy commenced, and he ingratiated himself so far as to be permitted to pay his addresses. When he had, as he thought, secured her affections, he persuaded her to admit him to every familiarity. That being accomplished, he advised her to return to England, and take with her the Lady in question, who was a woman he had long kept, and who had been the principal means of ruining his fortune. He knew that he could not long continue at Paris, and therefore, solemnly assured Miss Owen, That, as soon as he heard of her safe arrival at her father's, he would prepare to follow. This being all done agreeable to his wishes, he had arrived,

as I said before, about a fortnight before my sister.

"Mr. Owen, the elder, had ever entertained a contemptible opinion of the French; this, Miss Owen concluded, would be an effectual bar to her union with the Count, and she found it would be necessary to have a friend, to support her. She well knew that her brother's disposition was similar to her own, and that his attention to my sister had ever been directed by sinister designs. He had kept a mistress in the environs of London, and all the regard he had shown was with no other view but to draw from my sister the income left her by my aunt. When he went down to Wales, he did not mean any other, than to have his wife with him, for the above purposes; but, when he beheld Mademoiselle St. Prie, he saw, or imagined he saw, something superior to

to either his wife or his mistress. Miss Owen soon read his thoughts, and rallied him upon it. He had been privy to some intrigues of her's, when quite a girl, that would have prevented her being honorably united; and her journey to France, though ostensibly for education, was in reality for a more secret reason, of which circumstance, through the management of her brother, her father was kept in absolute ignorance. Her mother's heart felt many pangs upon the occasion, but she was obliged to be silent. Thus the brother and sister continued to assist each other reciprocally in vice, and my poor sister became the victim. Miss Owen soon came to an explanation with her brother; she saw he was taken with the fascinating charms of Miss St. Prie, and was determined to profit by it; she, therefore, took an opportunity of praising, in the warmest manner,

ner, the accomplishments of her friend; and insinuated, how much happier he would have been with such a woman, than with my sister. He owned his predilection, and said, He should never be happy, unless he possessed her; but, to accomplish that, was more than he could devise. She undertook to do it for him, if he would bring about her marriage with the Count. This he promised to do, and every thing was in train for that purpose, when my sister arrived. Miss Owen hated her—the rectitude of Mrs. Owen's conduct appeared every moment to condemn her own; she, therefore, was a check upon all her actions, and it was for this reason she had persuaded her brother to send back his wife, immediately on her arrival; but, for once, he was obliged to agree to his father's commands, who saw that he neglected his wife, and remon-

remonstrated with him on the subject; but he paid no attention to his advice.

"I had then been gone about six months on my travels; my brother was at college, and, when from there, was at my other guardian's. My sister had been there a month, when Owen came in one morning, in a violent hurry, and bid her prepare to go to London, as he meant to set off for that place in the evening. She was much suprised at it, but said She would obey him. As soon as it was known in the family, they endeavoured to dissuade him from it; but he said, He had letters that obliged him to go on the most pressing business. The letter he received, was from his mistress, intimating that, unless he directly sent her a certain sum, she would immediately come down and disclose the whole of the connexion to his wife and father. The sum she wrote

for was much too large for him to answer, as the Count had made free to borrow from him to a considerable amount; and the brother of Miss St. Prie, was not to be denied. He was afraid likewise that a discovery of such a nature would entirely preclude him from pursuing his addresses; for, though Miss St. Prie was the counterpart of her pretended brother, yet, before those, whom it was their interest to deceive, they appeared models of perfection. The Count strove, by every means in his power to render himself agreeable to the elder Mr. Owen and his wife, and Miss to the son; it was agreed by Miss Owen and him, previous to their departure, that if her father could not be brought to consent to her marriage with the Count, she would privately quit the house, accompanied by her friends, and come to one he would provide for them in London; and then

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some method should be devised for Mr. Owen's living with Miss St. Pric. At that period, she said, She could not bring her friend to think of any thing short of marriage; but, as that could not be, something else must, she said, be thought of, and nothing appeared so feasible, as to affix some crime to Mrs. Owen, on which they might ground a divorce; but, in that case, supposing they succeeded, she would enjoy her fortune, and that was of more consequence than any thing; as he should not be able to support Miss St. Prie in any degree of splendor without it; but they parted with a full determination to accomplish both, no matter how.

"They had been about three weeks in town, when my sister was one morning alarmed by a servant's entering and saying, He wished she would step

to his master's library; for, there was a lady there, that seemed to threaten his life: She had come, he said, while his master was out, and insisted on waiting for him. She staid to hear no more, but ran to the room, which she found locked; she requested to be admitted; he bade her begone, and mind her children—she had no business there. 'She *has* business here, and I will let her in,' said a female voice, almost choaked with passion, and saying this, she tried to open the door. A scuffle ensued, when his foot slipt, and he fell. The door was instantly opened, and a woman very well dressed, advanced towards her. 'I am come, said she, 'madam, to demand of this villain, your husband, my half year's annuity, which he knows was due three weeks before he left Wales. He wants to shuffle me off, as he has done before, but he sha'n't think

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to bamboozle me. I know him well, and 'tis pity but you knew him too.'

"My sister thought she was some poor maniac, who had broke from her confinement, and mistook her husband for some other gentleman. Under this impression, she turned to leave the room, to get assistance, and have her taken away; when the woman darted between her and the door, and exclaimed; 'You shall hear me; perhaps I can tell you more than you are aware of, about that French woman and her pretended brother, Mounseer Prie—but it shall out now.' 'At your peril, advance one word more,' said he. 'I don't mind your threats a rush,' said she, 'I will tell all I know, and that's not a little, and so you and ————.' He advanced towards her, pale, and trembling with passion, holding in his hand a small pistol; he

pointed it at her head, and fired; the ball missed her, and passed through the neck of my sister. 'Tis well,' said the woman, 'there, you villain, you have killed your wife instead of me; and I shall have the satisfaction of seeing thee hanged; my evidence will do that.' 'Take the other then,' said he, and fired a second. This likewise missed, but slightly wounded the servant, who had run to the assist ance of my sister. They carried her into the next room; the servants, thinking their mistress killed, surrounded their master, and prevented him from doing any more mischief. The woman ran instantly out of the house, and in a short time returned with some officers of justice; he was instantly secured, and surgeons were sent for.

"Though the ball had passed through the

the neck of my sister, and shattered the collar-bone, yet it was not deemed mortal. She had fainted, and continued so, till the torture she was put to in setting the bone, brought her to recollection. She was desired to be calm, and, upon wishing that her husband might escape, she was informed, That she was not wounded mortally, and, if she would but keep herself quiet, he would have no occasion to leave her; this she promised. The gentleman who first came, was a man of great humanity, and thought it was best, for many reasons, to keep the affair as private as possible; the officers were, therefore, desired to stay in the house with their prisoner, the servants were bribed to silence, and the woman was detained in the house, with a promise of having her annuity, whatever it might be, punctually paid; thus every thing was kept secret, and my sister

rapidly recovered; but her peace of mind was wrecked for ever. His father had been sent for; the accounts he received induced him to have recourse to the woman for an explanation of what she wanted to tell Mrs. Owen. The information she gave shocked the father so much, that it threw him on a bed of sickness, which had nearly proved fatal; but he recovered, to feel still greater sorrows. My sister became well, her husband was released, the woman was satisfied, and discharged, and the contrition which his son manifested for his past conduct, induced the old gentleman to think, that happiness would again be restored to the family; and he ventured to quit them.

"Three months had elapsed under this delusion, as his attentions to my sister and her children seemed hourly to increase. She had been for some days

days ill, as were the children, when they received a letter from his father, saying, That the family had been thrown into the greatest disorder, by the elopement of Miss Owen, with the Count and his sister. She had taken with her every thing of value she could pack up; leaving a short note on the toilette, intimating, That, as her father had thought proper to refuse the Count for a son-in-law, she had pursued her own inclinations, and that it was not her intention ever to see any of the family more, till they chose to receive the Count as her husband. On receiving this letter, Mr. Owen lamented the misfortune of his father, and reprobated in the strongest terms the conduct of his sister; he seemed to redouble his attentions to his wife, whose illness, and that of the girls, encreased; it was supposed they were drooping for the small-pox, as the complaint was

attended with slight sickness and frequent reaching. This the faculty gave as their opinion, but one of them being in the room, during a reaching fit, more violent than any she had before experienced, alarmed him, and from some circumstances, he was led to think that their illness arose from some other cause than he at first imagined: the symptoms were alike in all, and as the time was elapsed for the small pox to make its appearance, he enquired How long they had been indisposed before he was called in? Mr. Owen, to whom this question was addressed, appeared much confused, hesitated, and stammered an answer; this behavior alarmed the gentleman, and he plied his questions more closely; his confusion encreased, and on his asking the gentleman Why he put such strange questions? he answered, 'To be plain with you, sir, I think Mrs. Owen

Owen and the children have been poisoned; and if my conjecture is right, I can tell by whom.' He started, and turning, 'Good God, sir,' said he, 'what do you mean?' 'My meaning is obvious, and you are not ignorant of it,' said the doctor. Remorse for a moment glided across his countenance, and, in a feigned accent of despair, asked, Whether there was any thing could be given to counteract its effects?' 'None, sir, I fear,' said he; 'it has been administered too long. Poor unhappy victims!—But, whether it is, or it is not, too late, it shall be my business, if I cannot save their lives, to have this horrid transaction brought to light, and the perpetrator to that death he well deserves;' and he fixed his eyes directly on Owen. 'You seem as though you suspected me to be guilty of so black a deed.' 'Time,' said the doctor, 'will discover that; at

present it will be my care to defeat the design.' So saying, he quitted the room, and ordered the servants not to leave their mistress or the children, for a moment, till his return.

"Though the doctor had only presumptive evidence to go on, yet he was satisfied, in his own mind, they were poisoned, and that by the hand of Owen. He was led to think, that it had been given in small quantities, in order to elude suspicion, and, therefore, hoped he might be able to preserve their lives, though, at times, he almost despaired. He took and administered the necessary medicines, when his suspicions were fully verified, as the vomited matter spoke at once. He immediately wrote into Wales, desiring the father's attendance, as Mrs. Owen and the children were in the most alarming danger. The poor old man came ex-

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press, and found the lives of all three seemed to hang upon a thread. The physician, though he kept his knowledge of the real source of their illness to himself, caused a strict watch to be kept over the actions of Owen; the persons he employed for that purpose, were such as could be depended on. Near ten days elapsed, before the least favourable symptoms appeared; but, from that time, he gave hopes of their recovery.

"As soon as they were out of danger, he thought it best to inform the elder Mr. Owen of his opinion respecting the illness of his daughter-in-law and grand-children, and proved, past a doubt, that white arsenic had been given them by his son. He pointed out the danger they were in, if they continued under the same roof with a man possessing such diabolical principles,

ciples, and said he would advise him to have them, under pretence of change of air, conveyed to a place of safety, and till that was done, to keep the occasion of their removal a secret from Mrs. Owen, lest the knowledge of her husband's wickedness should be the means of accelerating that death he so much wished to obtain. Shocked as the father was at this account, he yet had reason enough left to see the necessity of the doctor's advice being directly put into practice. He therefore, without betraying the least suspicion of what had been imparted to him, sent for his son, and told him That he had been advised by his physician to remove Mrs. Owen and the children into the country, for the change of air, and asked him where he thought the most agreeable place to take them to. He answered, It was immaterial to him; wherever Mr. Owen chose to go, would meet

meet with his approbation. He seemed happy at the idea of her going, saying He hoped that the country air would soon restore them to perfect health. Their departure was fixed for the Thursday following, and a place a short distance from town for their residence.

"Owen appeared the whole of the day absorbed in thought, and when any rap came to the door, started as if alarmed; this behavior did not pass unobserved by his father, who watched his every motion. About nine at night, a violent scuffle was heard in the hall, and a woman's voice exclaiming 'I will go up—unhand me,' and a carriage was heard to draw up close to the door. Mrs. Owen, weak as she was, rose to go to the stair head; her father did the same, when a woman rushed past them and entered the room where Owen was. My sister had just time to say,

say, 'Oh God! that is she who came to kill my husband.' Her exclamation was not attended to by the father; but one of the servants that followed her, said, 'It is the same woman that was here when my master shot mistress and me.' He bade the servants take care of his daughter, and followed the woman. She was in the room alone, and the first words she could distinctly utter, were: 'Oh, sir, he has robbed me of my jewels, and given them to that French drab, to whom he was yesterday married by a special licence.' 'You mistake the person, madam,' said his Father. 'No,' said she, crying bitterly, 'I do not mistake; it is Andrew Owen, the owner of this house, that I want, and he has, not only taken my jewels, but my annuity bond also, and I will not stir from this place till I have them restored.

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"As it was impossible for the father to understand all this, he opened the door of the library and desired his son, to come out. 'I will not,' said he sternly. 'If you can listen to the fabricated tale of a mad woman, I cannot, nor will not.' So saying, he pushed his father aside and attempted to make his escape; but the old man, with unusual strength, caught old of him, whilst the woman held him by the collar. 'Unhand me this instant,' said he to his father. 'I will not,' answered the poor old man; 'You shall explain the meaning of this person's accusation. 'That I never will,' said Owen, and, with a violent spring, broke from their grasp and attempted to leap down the stairs. One of the men-servants endeavouring to prevent him, he drew a pistol from his pocket and fired it. The ball missed the servant, but entered the heart of his father, who

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sprung up, as it entered his breast, then fell instantly and expired without a groan. The confusion this occasioned he took advantage of, and whilst all ran eagerly to assist his dying parent, the abandoned parricide made his escape.

"The dreadful scenes my sister witnessed brought on an abortion, and, for several months, deprived her of reason. Her children had been taken by her mother-in-law into Wales; *she* still supported herself under these accumulated miseries, and, with tender concern, watched over my sister, and, through her's and the physician's care, who was the same that saved her life before, she began to recover and show signs of returning reason. She was perfectly calm and resigned, but never, without shuddering, heard her father-in-law mentioned.

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"When she recovered, it was her constant custom to ride out in the coach, accompanied by her children. One day, they were stopt by three men, who bade the coachman stay, and let them deliver a letter to his Lady. The servant complied, they put the letter into her hand, and, as she was going to open it, another carriage came up, into which they immediately forced her, and the children, whom they dragged from the nurse, and drove off full gallop. One of the scoundrels fired a pistol at the coachman, but happily did him no harm.

"I was at that time hourly expected in England, illness, through the misfortunes of my family, having retarded my return before every search was made after my sister and the children, but all in vain; not the least tidings could be gained of them for seven months. One evening

evening, as I was walking a short distance from the house, a letter was put into my hands by a stranger, who disappeared directly. The contents informed me, That my sister and her children were alive, but in confinement at a miserable village in Normandy, and, if I would go to a certain place, I should hear more and be informed where to find them. They were detained there by order of my brother-in-law, who was then at Versailles. I lost not a moment in going to the place appointed, but, when I came, I found the person mentioned in the letter had that day been killed by a fall from his horse. Torn by a thousand afflicting passions, I hastened to Versailles, in hopes of meeting with the scoundrel. I had applied to Paris for a *lettre de cachet* and obtained it, but he was gone from thence, before I reached it. From a servant whom he had discharged the day

day before I arrived, I learnt that he had taken the name of Volpone, and, that he had, previous to his leaving England, been married to Miss St. Prie. He had contrived to get from Mrs. Maynard, which was the name of the woman he had kept for several years, all the jewels that he had given her, and those which she had received as presents from others; likewise, all her papers, and every thing of value he could put up in a small compass. This was done, while she was engaged on a party to Richmond, where she was to have staid three days; but one of the company, being taken suddenly ill, and obliged to be brought to town, broke up the rest. She became frantic on discovering her loss, and that had occasioned the fatal affair at my sister's. He said, Miss Owen was the mistress of Count St. Prie, and they were hated and despised by every one.

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He could not tell any thing about Mrs. Owen and the children; but he believed she was some where in Normandy, and nearly starving, as he was certain there was but a very trifle allowed for their support; for, Mrs. Owen's confidential servant had told him that she had refused to sign something, which her husband wanted her to do, and that was the reason she had been confined ever since, but he never could get out of him whereabouts it was; and that Mr. Owen, otherwise Volpone, never staid long any where, as they gambled much, and were always afraid of a lettre de cachet.

"This was all the intelligence I could receive, and with this, I was determined to continue on the Continent. I caused advertisements to be published, describing my sister, and the children; and offered a considerable reward to any

any person that could give me information respecting them, but I received none. I went to Paris; I had him minutely described there, likewise offering a still greater reward; but the information I received was always such as served rather to mislead than direct me right. However, I, at last, obtained certain intelligence that he was in Italy. I pursued him from place to place, but he always had the start of me. I followed his steps to Naples, where I was positively assured I should find him. Under this impression, I arrived there, but my search was vain, till the night your company met me, and you, sir, know the rest."

"This, then, is the whole of your evidence against the prisoner?" said the Captain.

"It is, sir," said Fitzallan. "I have,

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in the relation, strictly abided by the truth you enjoined me, and I trust you will find, upon examination, the whole to be just."

"I need not remind you," said the Captain, turning to Owen, "of the oaths you took, when you entered our society, and the laws by which we are bound. I therefore call upon you to say, Whether the whole of what has been adduced against you be true or false?"

"True," said he, "in every particular, and, as I must die, I demand your immediate sentence."

"Know then," said the Captain, "that, by the laws and establishments of this community, whole and undivided, you, Andrew Owen, subject of the King of Great Britain, have been

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found guilty of various crimes, which militate against the good order and well-being of the said community, and are likewise further charged with sundry crimes of the blackest dye, committed by you previous to your becoming a member here, of the whole of which charges you have acknowledged yourself guilty. You are, therefore, condemned to forfeit that life you knew not how to keep with honor. Twenty-four hours is the extent of the time you have to live; make the most of it, apply to your God for mercy; for, here, there is no reprieve."

So saying, he arose and left the room, bidding Fitzallan and his servant follow him. Fitzallan and Michael cast a look of pity on the criminal, and could not help feeling for the fate of a man, whose vices had plunged

him into his then miserable situation. They walked silently to the room, where the refreshments were placed. A thousand distressing thoughts crowded on the brain of Fitzallan.

"Ah! my sister," said he, "what art thou now suffering, and what mayest thou not be doomed to suffer more, if still alive?"

"That sister's fate you shall soon know," answered the Captain: "though silent to Owen on the subject, I had not forgot that your present grand object was to have her's and the children's situation known to you. It shall be so, and I shall deem myself happy in being the means of restoring an innocent suffering woman to her family. I have known, sir, the blessing of innocence and the happiness of living among those, whose actions would

would ever meet the face of day, and who lived the blessed ornaments of society, from the pleasing scenes of which I am now for ever, I fear, shut out. One false step led imperceptibly on to more, and, before my soul was awakened to a sense of guilt, I became what you now see me. But a truce to those reflections—you shall know my whole history before you leave this place; but rest assured, however appearances may make against us, you will find us all, without distinction, men of the strictest principles."

He heaved a deep sigh, as he spoke this, and Edward thought he saw him dash the startling tear indignantly from his eye.

"You have promised me," said Edward, "the restoration of my sister and her children; that thought cheers

me and induces me to conclude you are acquainted with their fate."

"I am so," replied he; "and if you will sit down, I will inform you in what manner I became known to Owen, whose death you must not regret, as it will be much better, for your own sake and that of your sister, that he died by our laws, than by those of yours, as, in that case, it would be public, and, of course, your family would be involved in his disgrace, as you must inevitably have given him up to justice. Yet, before I relate these particulars, it will be necessary for us to enquire after the lady, whose illness alarms me. Besides, I wish to know by what means she came to be alone."

Edward followed him to her apartment; still every where was dark; a light was placed in the rooms they passed

ed through; which were very different from any they had seen before; and, though they did not go through either of the courts they had crossed to the great room, yet they found themselves in five minutes at the door of that which contained the lady. The Captain entered.

"How is she?" said he to Vashti.

"She is much better," she answered, "and will be able to speak to you in a few minutes."

"Tell her We are here," said he. She went to the bed, and told her, The gentlemen were come. She was incapable of sitting up, but desired them to come near—they did. "If," said she, "you are the gentlemen that so humanely saved my life, I should be happy to know of you, Where

I am, and whether you can add another blessing, by restoring me to my friends, if they are still alive, that they may make you those acknowledgments your generous conduct merits."

"Where you are now," answered the Captain, "is of no consequence for you to know—That you are safe from every danger I can assure you of, and who we are, further than we are men of honor, belongs not to me to inform you; and, to convince you of it, I shall observe, That, if you will say, Who you are, and to whom we shall restore you, it shall be done, as soon as you are able to be moved."

"I thank you, sir," said she; "I will obey you.

"I am from Scotland, and came with my mother to Naples, to join my brother

brother, who had been making the Grand Tour. We had been about a month there, when my brother, one evening, introduced an English gentleman, and his two friends, with whom he had formed an intimacy. I knew not what was the reason, but I could not regard either of the party with any degree of complacency. My brother was offended; but my mother being of the same opinion as myself, he seldom brought them, after the first month. My mother had expressed a wish to reside at, or near, Torre del Greco, in preference to Naples; we, therefore, quitted that city, and went thither; our villa was situated about a mile east of the town; and we had been resident there about a fortnight, when my mother ordered a barge for an excursion on the water, and desired my brother to make one of the party. He excused himself, by saying, He was

under prior engagements with some English friends at Naples; but, if he could quit them at an early hour, he would join us. He left us; and we, soon after, sailed.

"We had been out several hours, and my brother came not! my mother was uneasy. She spoke of it to a gentleman in our party; he asked, With whom Mr. Macdonald was engaged at Naples? She said, She knew not: 'If it is the party that I saw him with at the opera,' said he, 'he is not in very good hands; they are reported to be professed gamblers, and the ladies of their acquaintance, such as are shut out from all societies but their own.' While my mother was requesting the gentleman to make it a point of seeing him, and talk to him about it, a boat was seen rowing hastily towards the barge. Thinking it was my brother,

we lay too, to receive him; but we were surprised to see his man only, besides the watermen. His face expressed the greatest terror. My mother, alarmed, asked Where his master was? 'At home,' answered he, 'just brought in.' She heard no more, but fainted away. The company instantly interrogated him, as to what he meant. I was too much affected at the illness of my mother, to attend to what the man said; but I found we stood in towards the shore, which we soon reached. My mother recovered on landing.

"When we came home, the servants seemed in the greatest confusion—at length, I learnt, That, not long after we had left the house, two gentlemen had come, and enquired for my brother, and on being informed he was gone to Naples, they had set out after him. In about four hours, they were astonished

to see my brother brought home in a litter, wounded in several places, and to all appearance dead. Those who brought him, informed them, That he had quarrelled with some Frenchmen about a debt of honor, or dice, they did not know which, and that a fight had ensued, in which two of the party had been killed, and several wounded; that the officers of justice had recognised my brother, and, thinking him mortally wounded, had ordered him to be sent home; that several of the party had made their escape, by leaping from the window, but two were taken; and in the room were found two women, one dead, and the other dangerously wounded. Every assistance that could be procured for him, was got; for some days, his life was despaired of, and when a gleam of reason appeared, he begged to know, By what means he had been brought home, and whether any of the

party,

party he was with, had been taken. The doctors desired him to make himself easy on that head, and to ask no questions, as he was not well enough to talk. 'Take care of my sister then,' said he, 'and let her not be out of the sight of my mother.' They promised, and he became quiet.

"He had been a week upon the recovery, when an order came to give an account of my brother's health; it was sent. We had caused every enquiry to be made respecting the quarrel, and we gathered, from the evidence of the woman in custody, That my brother and seven others had met to decide a wager, made between him and one of the French gentlemen, and that it had been given against him by a Monsieur Volpone, who was arbitrator. My brother, not being satisfied with it, had expostulated; a scuffle ensued, in

which my brother was knocked down, when two of the company took his part, and they instantly drew. The consequence was, two were killed, besides the woman, and the whole of the party, more or less wounded, as it was a very small room they were in. Two were taken, the rest made their escape. We learnt since, That one of the Frenchmen, whom my mother and myself had objected to see, was among them, and the very person who gave it against my brother; the woman who was killed, and the other that was wounded, were, one his wife, and the other his sister."

Edward started.—

"Gracious God!" exclaimed he; "pray, madam, what is become of the woman that survived?"

"I do not know," said the lady; she

"she was confined in a prison at Naples, but, whether tried, or not, I cannot tell.

"My brother, seemed, at times, very uneasy about me, but for what reason, we could never learn. It was near three months before he could leave his room, and that but for a very short time. The day after he had first walked out a short way, we were alarmed by the appearance of an eruption from the mountain. This greatly terrified my mother, and her first care was for my brother, whom she ordered to be carried to Naples; but he refused to go, saying He saw no danger, and chose to stay where he was; and not all her remonstrances could persuade him to be removed; in consequence of which we continued at the villa, till that dreadful night, when the eruption became so violent. My brother

ther was removed by force, and we were about to follow; my mother, in the greatest consternation, was giving some order respecting me, when a large party of men entered the portico, threatening destruction on all around, if they met with the least opposition. The house was instantly ransacked of every portable of value; my mother, in wild distraction, knew not what to do; the domestics struck with horror, ran different ways, leaving us at the mercy of the banditti, or to be buried under the showers of burning ashes, which descended in torrents from the mountain. Every one seemed eager for his own preservation, and totally regardless of that of others. The thunder burst over us in violent peals, while the lightning gleamed around with ten-fold horrors. I screamed aloud and earnestly implored the pity of those, who were busy in plundering

us of every thing they could carry away, absolutely dead to the dangers that opened around them, and wholly unappalled by the terrific horrors that reigned on every side: they regarded me not; at last, a storm of thunder, more violent than any of the former, seemed to awaken them to some sense of their danger; they ran with precipitation out of the house; I endeavoured to support my poor mother down the steps of the portico, when three men seized us; two of them bore my mother from me; while a third dragged me, with velocity, down the slope of the vineyard. We reached the plain, and, as I was supplicating him to take me to my mother, a flash of lightning darted across us, and I discovered him to be the Frenchman, called Volpone. At that instant, I heard a violent cry of Here he is, and we were instantly surrounded. He broke from them,

and

and ran precipitately up the side of the mountain, and I was left alone. I shrieked with terror, and raved, with frantic wildness, the name of my mother; but the tumult of the different elements was too great for me to distinguish whether I was answered or not; agony overcame me, I fell senseless to the ground, and to your goodness I have been led to understand I owe the preservation of my life, as my senses quite forsook me when I dropped."

Here the lady stopped; the Captain politely thanked her for the relation she had given, and said:

"You must make yourself easy, madam, where you are at present; and, as it will contribute to your recovery to hear that your mother is safe, be assured that she is so, and with your brother, and it shall be my business to inform

inform her that you are safe also, and in the hands of those that will protect you from every danger, till you can be restored to her. You must, therefore, endeavour to write a few lines, to assure her of your safety, and I will undertake to have them delivered to her in a short time. She is now at Naples, as the whole of the town of Torre del Greco is destroyed, and the adjacent country round, and it may, in one sense, be very fortunate that you fell into the hands of those men, as, in all probability, you would have perished, had you taken any other way."

The pleasure that was diffused over the face of the lady, on hearing this account, seemed to have the same effect on that of the Captain, and he cheerfully requested her to get the letter ready, the apparatus for which should be immediately brought her. He said

Circum-

Circumstances of a singular nature would prevent him from having her conveyed home as soon as he could wish, but that every attention should be paid her that their situation would admit, and Vashti should continue with her. He lamented they had not a proper change of clothes to offer her, but her own should be got ready for her to put on, as soon as she was able to sit up. She thanked him in an affectionate manner for his care and politeness; he then bowed and left her, having first ordered Vashti to get the writing-desk.

"As soon as they got to a room at the end of the gallery, the Captain said:

"Here is another instance of your brother-in-law's depravity, which confirms the information we had received,

and

and for which, by our laws, he is condemned. You must now come with me; I think it necessary to inform you of some particulars respecting myself, and the society you are now in."

They passed on through another short gallery, and entered a large room, where a brisk fire was burning, and candles in two large silver candlesticks placed upon the table.

"Sit down," said he, turning to Fitzallan and Michael; "I know the English always love to be near the fire, whether in winter or summer, and, as chance as brought us together, we will be as merry as we can under our troubles."

Thus saying, he placed a large flask of Muscadine wine upon the table, poured out a goblet to each, and they drank

drank to "Friendship without deceit." That done, the Captain began:

"However painful it may be to a mind of any feeling to relate the errors of a past life, yet an ingenuous confession of them to a generous heart will always meet with more or less degree of pity, and, where they cannot approve, they will not too harshly condemn. Such a man I think I have found in you; I shall, therefore, without any disguise, inform you of what you may perhaps deem better concealed than avowed.

"I am the second son of a nobleman of very high rank, but of what kingdom you must excuse me naming at present. I was brought up under the immediate care of my father, and a divine of great abilities, and greater virtues, was the preceptor his diligent care procured for us. My brother and myself

myself were the only children my parents were blessed with, as they often emphatically termed it; and, as our fortunes were large, we received a suitable education. At the age of seventeen, the different masters that had attended us were discharged, and, as there was but one year difference in the ages of my brother and myself, we were to make the Tour together. Our heavenly preceptor, for by that appellation he deserves to be distinguished, attended us on our travels. We were to be absent four years; a suitable establishment was provided for us, and we set out.

"My brother, though a young man of sound sense and quick perception, had at times given our tutor some pains, to inculcate into his breast the necessity of complying with the moral duties of his character; but, proud of that consequence

sequence to which he was born, and naturally attached to the freedom of the world, he entered into the pleasures of it, with more avidity than prudence, and, in a short time after our arrival at Paris, became involved in several very disagreeable situations. There are never wanting in every city, women ever ready to take advantage of any young man, who is known to possess a liberal income and large expectations. It was not long before he was engaged in an amour with a married woman, whose husband winked at the crimes of his wife, and never appeared so happy, as when she was surrounded by a train of unexperienced youths, whose passions she excited, and whose credulity she played on. The young, the gay, the charming, were all forsaken for this insidious woman. It had been the rage in England, some time, to adore none but those already joined in the bands

bands of wedlock. Various were the stratagems made use of to entangle me in a similar passion. 'No one,' they said, 'could possibly be thought a young man of fashion without entering *a l'anglaise*, into the mode.' Our preceptor saw with pain the encouragement given to such pursuits by all anks and conditions. He endeavoured to detach my brother from the parties he had formed, by requesting him to join in those composed of young people of ages similar to his own, but nought availed. He would, in compliance with his wishes, stay a short time among them; then, under one pretext or another, contrive to quit them, and hasten to the assemblies of this woman. In a short time, it was evident he was firmly attached to her, as she had art enough to make him believe, that she breathed for him alone. She was above double his age, and the mother of several

veral children; two of them as old as my brother. All this was represented to him in the mildest terms, by Doctor L'Antoine, and all the folly attending such a connexion; but he was deaf to all that could be said. TheDoctor, finding all remonstrance vain, forbore to urge him further, leaving it to time, and his own good sense, to see his error.

"One day, I went with the Doctor, on a visit to a fellow-student's of his, whom the good old man represented as one of the most amiable and deserving characters in existence; but, at the same time, the most unhappy. He had married, early in life, an amiable woman, some years older than himself. By her he had three children, one son, and two daughters; the youngest had beed married several years to an officer of marines, and lived, though

poor,

poor, tolerably content; the eldest, then about thirty-six, one of the most accomplished and deserving women of the age, was married to a gentleman, when she was about twenty; and, as she had but little fortune, it was thought that marrying her from liking only, they would be completely happy. He was some few years older than herself. At first, he took great pains to introduce his wife every-where, and boasted of her charms and accomplishments; but, as soon as the novelty ceased, he unmasked, and shewed himself the tyrant. For some years she bore his cruelty without a murmur, and endeavoured to hide her sufferings in her own bosom; but her health being injured by them, she was obliged to be removed to her father's; where, in the delirium attending the fever she had, she told what she had undergone for twelve or fourteen years. This

induced her father to make those enquiries that before he had no idea of doing; and, from all the circumstances, he was convinced, that if his daughter returned to the brute, her husband, her life would most certainly become the sacrifice. He therefore objected to her return, and insisted upon her residing with him; when her husband found this resolution about to be adopted by his wife, he made use of coercive measures to enforce her return to his house, though, at the same time, he had a mistress in it, who reigned with the same despotic sway over him, as he did over his helpless wife.

"Mr. Brisac, for that was the name of this tyrant, was one day in company with my brother and a large party of young noblemen, being what is called a man of the world, and his fortune enabling

enabling him to mix with the first families. The insinuating manners he could put on, whenever he had any prospect in view, rendered him an acceptable companion; he was ever ready to forward any scheme, so others paid for it; and having a ready invention and a consummate knowledge of the world, he never failed to have his company courted. The manner in which he treated his wife, was not unknown; but, as she was never seen in public, she was not thought of, and her sufferings passed on unregarded. Though all affected to blame is conduct, yet none was so much the friend of injured innocence, as to point out to him the wickedness of his behaviour to an amiable and lovely woman, for such all allowed her to be. From the time my brother became acquainted, an intimacy commenced, and, in a few days, he was invited to a large dinner

party at his house. I was included in the number, and, as my curiosity had been excited by what I had heard from the doctor, I resolved to go; we went, but, instead of finding, as I expected, Mrs. Brisac at the head of the table, I found a coarse vulgar female, dressed in the most extravagant manner, and totally devoid of every accomplishment, either mental or personal. I felt an awkward embarrassment, and ventured to ask the doctor, who was of the party, Whether that was Mrs. Brisac?

"No," said he; "that is the woman who has so long usurped her place. Mrs. Brisac never appears; she eats her solitary dinner in her own apartment, sent up from the table of her husband; you will see it presently: I consented to dine here, for the purpose of being convinced."

Some time after the company were seated at table, I observed a small cover sent away by a servant—the doctor saw it likewise. Dinner passed, but my mind was so much occupied by the thoughts of Mrs. B's sufferings, that I could not eat. Toasts went round—it came to the doctor's turn; he gave, with an air that spoke to the heart, "Mrs. Brisac." The woman darted a look of fury at the doctor, and a threatening one to B. This did not pass unobserved by the company; they rose with pleasure, and gave in bumpers, "Mrs. Brisac." The woman got up, and left the table.

"Come with me, this instant," said she, turning to Brisac.

"Not till the glass is drunk," said they.

"Let him do it at his peril," said she, and quitted the room. They insisted on his drinking; he did, though with visible trepidation. A servant came in, who desired Brisac's company in the breakfast-parlour; he got up, made a slight apology, and left us. We looked at each other in silence, for some time, when we unanimously agreed to leave the house; the carriages and servants were ordered, and, in a few minutes, we departed.

"This circumstance was the talk for several days; and, though all pitied the wife, yet there was not one but laughed at the husband, as a weak, pusillanimous wretch; his company was shunned by every body, and, soon after, it was reported that he was gone to a distant province, and had taken his wife and mistress with him.

"About

"About this time, a young man from England became the topic of every conversation. He was the Adonis of that nation, and every lady, whether married or single, set her cap at him—among the rest, the mistress of my brother, who succeeded in drawing him into her snares. She had, for some time, shewn a coldness towards my brother, which he had mentioned to me several times; within the last fortnight, he had taken up large sums to gratify her avarice; but, as they fell short of her expectations, and he had drained every resource for that purpose, she thought it high time to look out for another lover—in this young man she found one.

"My brother had been sincerely attached to this infamous woman, and, therefore, now felt her treachery in a most poignant manner. In the height

of his resentment, he swore to be revenged, not only upon the lady, but also upon the young man that had supplanted him. Alarmed at his threats, I hastened to the doctor, and earnestly entreated him to devise some means to take my brother from Paris, telling him the reason of my fears. The poor old man, in a moment, saw the necessity of it, and we set about ruminating upon what was best to be done.

"Put him," said I, "upon rescuing Mrs. Brisac; pretend that you have heard where she is immured, and that you want some assistance in restoring her to her father: this will divert his mind from its present pursuits, and, as I know Mrs. Brisac is hated by this friend of my brother's, he will look upon this as a step towards his revenge on the lady, by openly espousing the cause of a woman of virtue.

"He

"He agreed, and I hastened to my brother—he was just returned from the hotel of Madame, where he had been denied admittance. Frantic with rage and disappointed love, he would sally forth and meet his rival, determined to sacrifice him to his vengeance. I endeavoured to reason with him, but all reasoning was vain; fortunately, the doctor entered. He pretended ignorance of his pupil's attachment, appeared absolutely regardless of his agitation, and seemed in a violent hurry.

"I am come," said he, "to request you to do for me what my old arm is incapable of performing."

"What is that?" said I.

"To rescue a beautiful and unhappy young woman from the hands of a brutal husband. I am too old to turn

errant myself, and, therefore, I entreat you to do it for me."

"What say you, Charles," said I, "to this adventure? I must own it appears a singular one, and what I think will just do for you to begin your plan of revenge."

"How!—revenge!—what?" said he, with impatience.

"Why, revenge yourself on Madame, who, you know, hates Mrs. Brisac. That lady has been carried away by her husband, who is, at the instigation of the woman he keeps, about to immure her in a convent in Italy. Now, if we could overtake them, and by some stratagem, get her out of his hands, it would be a glorious exploit, and something for the world to talk about, as it would be quite a novel thing for a young man

man to espouse the cause of a virtuous woman, in defiance to the frowns of an impure, who leaves every man she is connected with for the next wealthier offer. Rouse your spirit, Charles, and, if we atchieve this adventure, it will sting her more than all you can do against either."

"But you must set out directly," said the doctor, "if you mean to serve her, as they are already a day in advance, and we shall not be long before we return again to Paris, if we hasten after them immediately."

"My brother paused for a moment.

"I will go," said he; "it will be the means of showing her that I value her as little as she does me. But as to that puppy, I am determined to [illegible] him as soon as I return. I

serve you, sir," continued he, turning to the doctor; "and, if we succeed, the merit of the enterprize must be yours, for I should never have thought of such a thing."

"The carriage was ordered to be ready in two hours, and the doctor gave directions that no one should be acquainted with our departure, nor the route we meant to take; for even he himself was undetermined on that head; but, as we had mentioned Italy, thought it best to go thither, especially as that was the place of our next destination, as soon as my brother could be prevailed on to leave Paris; but, as we did not expect to stay long, it was thought advisable to order our luggage to remain there, and likewise two of the servants, till they heard from the doctor. thing [illegible] settled, we set out. would be

We

We travelled at a great rate, under pretence of overtaking the fugitives, and enquired at every post for those we were sure we should not hear of. We had reached Moulins, before we appeared to have the least glimpse of them, when the doctor entered with seeming pleasure, and said, He had, at last, discovered their route. They were gone to Lyons, and from thence meant to go down the Rhone, and stop at Aix, where, in all probability, we might come up with them. My brother reluctantly went on, after asking the doctor, Whether he was certain of meeting with them there?

"I am led to hope so," said he; "you will, Charles, gain more honor by such a humane action as this, than by being possessed of all the courtezans in Paris."

"I was

"I was continually reminding him of the mortification Madame would experience when she found he so little valued her good opinion of him, as to dare to become the champion of a virtuous woman—one whom she hated. This idea seemed to dwell upon his mind, and he pursued the journey with apparent pleasure: we reached Avignon, and meant immediately to set off for Aix. I had given orders for the carriage to be ready, and we were crossing a passage for the purpose of reaching it, when we met a gentleman, who was one of the party at Brisac's. After the first salutations, he informed us, he was on his return to Paris, which place he would have reached before, had not an accident retarded him. This was no other than having encountered the Brisac family, on their route to Barjols, where they meant to make a stay. He himself had

had been there a fortnight, but was now on his return. I ventured to enquire after Mrs. Brisac, and whether he had seen her or not? He said, He had not, but had been informed she was in a convent, at her own request; but where, he could not tell.

"This intelligence not only confirmed what the doctor had said, but made him really earnest in restoring her to her father, who was in continual fear of hearing the death of his favorite child. My brother, rejoiced at the rencontre, was about to inform the young man of our ostensible reason for being there; when, fortunately, I checked him, and turned the discourse, by saying, It was our intention to visit Italy, now we were so near the Alps. The young man soon left us, and we set out for Barjols, in hopes to gain some intelligence as to what

what place Mrs. Brisac had been taken; we thought it best not to be seen, but to get our news from the people of the house we should stop at.

"We arrived in the evening, and, under pretence of enquiring after a servant that lived with Mr. Brisac at Paris, we gained the information we wanted, but it was totally different from that we had received before; we were now told, that Mrs. Brisac was still in the house, though confined; that she had attempted the life of her husband, and was in every respect, a very bad woman; for, though Mr. Brisac had married her without a fortune, yet she had never loved him.' This was the purport of what we heard from the hostess: we asked, What part of the house she was confined in, and whether the servant we wanted was still with her, as we wished to get him.

The

The woman could not tell, but she believed, in a room at the top of the house, as they had often heard music come from there, when they went to a convent of the order of Mercy, not far distant, and she would endeavour to learn something about the servant; as to the lady, we told her, We did not want to know any thing about her.

"After the woman had left the room, we began to cast about in our minds how we could convey intelligence to Mrs. B. of our intentions to serve her. Our preceptor thought it would be the most advisable method to go to the convent, and, under a pretence of seeing it, get one of the sisters to be our friend: in this we had the good fortune to succeed, and a good nun, who had six patients to attend daily, undertook to deliver a letter

letter frem the doctor. It contained an account of our accidentally becoming acquainted with her situation, and our desire to restore her to her father, if it was her wish to be liberated.

"Three days passed before any answer came, and it was hastily written with a pin upon a laurel leaf, merely to say, She had received the letter, and that she was totally without the means of answering it; but, in a few days, she hoped she should. The strange idea of writing on a leaf, evinced at once the situation she was in, and we determined not to quit the place, till we had effected her escape. The doctor and myself were happy, in one sense, that it could not immediately be put into execution, as he hoped to inform her father of the particulars, and devise some means

of

of getting my brother on to Italy, which this unexpected meeting with the lady prevented.

"We spent near a week, before the good nun again made her appearance at our little hotel. She brought the doctor a long letter from Mrs. Brisac, which stated such particulars of her situation, as made us determine, at all events, not to quit the place without her; but, she said in her letter, That she would not have him run any risk on her account, but begged him to send to her father, and request him to apply for the necessary warrants to have her delivered to him; this would prevent her husband from having any real plea for confining her; for, if our attempt should fail, he would then be able to substantiate his charges against her, which the woman who was in the house, and her creatures,

creatures, would not fail to confirm; as they had already given out that she wanted to elope with a young gentleman at Paris, with whom, they said, she had an intrigue, and that was the reason they deprived her of liberty, to prevent her from bringing disgrace upon her family. Those cruel calumnies, she said, would be confirmed, if she went from thence with any other person than her father, and that in a legal way, as, otherwise, she should be ever liable to be brought back to Mr. Brisac again. She, therefore, earnestly entreated him to take no further steps till her father's arrival, when she should be happy if, by their joint endeavours, she could get liberated and be once more restored to peace, to which she had for so many years been a stranger.

"We all agreed to the justness of her reasoning,

reasoning, and resolved to wait the arrival of her father. My brother seemed to enter into the spirit of the enterprize, and only at intervals thought of *Madame*. This gave us hopes that he would relinquish Paris altogether, and think no more of returning thither.

"We had been at Barjols near three weeks, when the father of Mrs. Brisac arrived. He informed us, That, when the doctor's letter came, it found him confined to his bed, through illness occasioned by grief for the uncertain fate of his daughter, as the slanderous report had reached him, That she had attempted to elope with a young man of fashion, but had been detected by her husband, and he had confined her in consequence of it, in some place known only to himself; and, as all enquiries which he had made tended only

only to confirm this report, it had been more than his strength could support, and he had sunk under it; though he could never bring himself to believe she had ever meant to go off with any gentleman, whatever attempts she might otherwise have made to escape from her husband. But it was impossible to describe the joy he felt on receiving the doctor's letter; he got up immediately, regardless of his illness, and hastened to get the proper warrant for her release, which he obtained on producing the letter, and, his own character being so well known, it was granted him without hesitation. He had travelled night and day ever since, and hoped he should be at peace, now that he had his dear child once more under his protection. He took some slight refreshment, and lest, by any unforseen accident, he should be discovered to be at Barjols, it was thought

most

most proper to send for the necessary officer, and go immediately to the house and demand Mrs. Brisac.

" Accordingly they set out, and it was thought best for my brother and myself, together with our servants, to wait at a small distance from the house, with two carriages, in one of which Mrs. Brisac, her father, and the doctor, were to travel, and, in the other, ourselves; for we meant to leave Barjols and go on to Frejus or Nice, Mr. Danville, Mrs. Brisac's father, having a sister in Piedmont, with whom he hoped to place his daughter, as he should not think her safe if she went back to Paris with him.

" Every thing being ready, and having been previously assured that Brisac was at home, they proceeded to the house, and we took our station as agreed.

agreed. They entered, and it was near an hour before any person appeared. To describe my anxiety would be impossible, though I knew not why I dreaded every thing. My brother began also to be interested; but, to our great joy, we at last saw the doctor and Mr. Danville supporting a lady, who appeared to be so extremely weak, that she was incapable of walking without assistance; the carriage drew up, and she was placed in it; ours immediately followed, and we drove off full speed towards Frejus. We were anxious to see a lady, of whom we had heard so much, and whom we had, though undesignedly, in the first part of our journey, been the means of liberating. We equally partook in the satisfaction of the parent; our carriage kept close to that of Mrs. Brisac, and entered the hotel together. We hastened to pay our respects to the lady,

lady, but were greatly shocked, when we came to the door of the carriage, to perceive her in the arms of her father, to all appearance dead. We lifted her out, and had her immediately conveyed to bed. The father hung over her in speechless agony; medical assistance was sent for; the doctors came, and pronounced the lady in a high fever; but, if proper care was taken of her, and she could be composed, they did not doubt but she would do well. They begged Mr. Dainville to be comforted, and to take that repose which he stood so much in need of; he with difficulty acquiesced, and Mrs. Brisac was consigned to the care of a nurse, with strict orders to watch her in the most attentive manner, and, if she wished to see any one, to immediately send for the doctor.

We retired with him, and were solicitous to know in what manner they had been received by Brisac. He informed us, that, On their enquiring at the house for him, they were shewn into the library, and the servant went to inform him that some gentlemen wanted to see him. In a short time, he entered, but appeared greatly confused, on seeing who they were. The officer directly made known his business, and produced his warrant. Brisac hesitated, stammered, and made as though he did not understand them, saying, that He must certainly be mistaken in their application, as Mrs. Brisac could not possibly have any thing to complain of, and he was sure no wife could be so happy as under the protection of her husband. 'True,' said her father, 'if the husband discharges the duties of one; but, when he

he tramples on every solemn vow made at the altar, it is time for the wife to seek another protector.' Mr. Brisac was going to reply, when the officer stopped him, by observing, That he was not come there to ask who was right, or who was wrong; his orders were, to demand the body of Ella Brisac, and to have her delivered into the hands of her father, John Francis Dainville, and in case of resistance to those orders, to arrest Henry Brisac, or any of his aidors and abettors. Brisac demanded a sight of the warrant; it was shewn him, and, looking out at the window, he perceived the attendant of the officer in waiting, and instantly concluded it would be more for his advantage to yield her quietly, than to refuse; he then, with a great deal of feigned concern, said, that Whatever pain it might be to him to give up a wife he had ever fondly loved, yet he could not resist

the orders of his Majesty; he should, therefore, give the proper directions for Mrs. Brisac to be delivered up; but she was so much indisposed, that he feared, she could not travel. He then went to the door, to leave the room, but the officer prevented him by saying, 'You are not, Sir, to leave this room, till Mrs. Brisac is delivered.' He then ordered a servant to go to Mrs. Brisac's room, and inform her, that her father was arrived, and wished to see her directly. They waited near half an hour, before she came; and, when she did, she was supported into the room by two servants. On seeing her father, she fainted away, and remained a considerable time without sense or motion; but, at length, she revived, and found herself upon the bosom of her parent. He briefly informed her of his intentions to take her from thence, and wished to know if it met with her approbation.

She

She assured him, it did; he now ordered the carriage to draw up; she was placed in it, and they drove off.

It was some time before they could speak; surprise and joy had so far overcome her, that she fainted several times; but, at last, recovered so much as to tell him that She had been very ill, for above a week before he came, much worse than she had been for some time, though she had not been well since they left Paris. The letter she received from the doctor had raised her spirits, and she began to hope she should be at last restored to her parent. She had suffered every indignity that a weak and malicious mind could inflict, and it had been his intention to confine her in a convent; but, fearing that intelligence might be conveyed to her father of where she was, he had altered his resolution and confined her in a

room at the top of the house. What they chose to send for her support, was brought by the woman that he kept, and another, her relation. No conversation whatever passed between them; they placed what she wanted in her room, and left her for the day, and she saw not any person till the next. In this manner she continued, till they came to demand her.

We began to congratulate him on the happy termination of this adventure; when he stopped us, by saying, He owed the fortunate result of it to the sensible advice of Mrs. Brisac. 'We shall see her soon, I hope, able to display those talents, that so liberally adorn her, and you will feel yourselves happy in her friendship.' We soon after retired to rest, and, the next day, had the happiness of hearing Mrs. Brisac was much better. In about a fortnight,

night, she was able to leave her room, and, for the first time, I had a distinct view of her face. It was that kind, which, though not regularly handsome, had something so heavenly in it, that you could not behold it without admiration and respect. Time, illness, and grief, had made ravages on her complexion, and thrown over it a sickly hue, but that she appeared to lose daily. She was about the middle size; her person exquisitely formed, and, when she spoke, your attention was instantly fixed. I know not what possessed me, but from the first moment I beheld her, young as I was, I became her slave, unknown to myself. Before I had been with her a week, I would have freely parted with life, to have made her happy; and what astonished me more was the visible alteration in my brother. We heard no more of his return to Paris; Madame was no longer thought

of, or mentioned, unless to draw a contrast between her and Mrs. Brisac. 'Had I loved such an amiable woman as Mrs. Brisac,' said he to me one day, 'I should not have to regret my folly; she would have loved me, for myself, not for my fortune;—oh! what a damned infatuated fool I have been! how just are the doctor's observations! Should she be made acquainted with my amours, and my headstrong folly in pursuing them, what idea will she form of my morals? certainly she will regard me as another Brisac. Ah! Frederic, I conjure thee, keep my folly a secret from her; and entreat the doctor to do so likewise; for, I declare solemnly, I would rather possess the esteem of such a woman as this, than all the fulsome love of those, whose blandishments deluded my better reason, and lulled my senses in delirium. I fly those wretches for ever, and will

endeavour

endeavour to find in the company of good women, that pleasure I sought for, but sought in vain. How vicious and depraved must that man be, who could slight such virtues, much more defame them! for, I am certain that she deserves not the smallest censure to be thrown upon her actions; her soul appears the seat of purity itself. Ah! why did Omnipotence permit an union, with souls so opposite—with one congenial to her own, the bliss of angels would have been their lot.'

In this manner he would talk, not only to me, but to the doctor, who often smiled at his sallies, and seemed happy, that the pursuits of his pupil had taken so laudable a turn, as he was certain there was nothing to fear from Mrs. Brisac; he knew her principles, and did not doubt but, when the grand aim was answered, of weaning

him from the destructive company he had kept, and the vices he had been plunged in through them, he would imperceptibly become attached to virtue, and return to my father every thing his fond heart could wish.

We continued at Frejus a month, after Mrs. Brisac's recovery; and then proceeded to Nice, her father having taken the proper measures against his son-in-law. He was informed by his notary, that his complaint against Brisac had been exhibited in due form, and every thing should be done, that was necessary to forward the divorce. With this assurance we reached Nice, Mr. Dainville meaning to stay there with his daughter, till their presence should be necessary at Paris. The doctor then proposed we should take our leave, and continue our route through Italy. The thoughts of part-

ing

ing with Mrs. Brisac wrung me to the heart; but I was obliged to comply, and hide my uneasiness within my own breast, as I did not dare to make a confident of my brother, and to the doctor I could not communicate my sorrows. I loved my brother with the most tender friendship; yet, I could not, at times, help regretting that he was older than myself: for, if Mrs. Brisac should obtain a divorce, she would then be at liberty to marry again; and, as he had the advantage over me both in age and fortune, I had not the least doubt but he would make an offer of his hand to her, which would most assuredly be accepted. I tried all I could to conquer my unhappy passion; but, the more I struggled, the more entangled I became, and my brother, who made no secret of his attachment, appeared equally uneasy as myself; but the doctor, who saw

the necessity of separating us, insisted on our compliance. I became perfectly passive, and determined to wait my fate with patience.

We left Nice, and our folly, I had reason to believe, had not in the slightest degree been suspected by Mrs. Brisac. Our intentions respecting her, on our arrival at Barjols, were gratefully remembered by her, and she assured us, at our departure, that she should never lose sight of the obligations she held herself under to us. We reluctantly left the place, which contained the only object, I was certain, I should ever wish to live for. My brother became shortly the most eccentric character perhaps in existence; in the different assemblies which we resorted to, the ladies named him the Proud Insensible; and the same epithet was bestowed on me. In vain

vain were all their charms displayed; and we would often return to the doctor, who seldom accompanied us, disgusted and fatigued; tired with the impertinences of those whom we despised, and mutually contrasting the affected airs, and superficial acquirements of the ladies we had been among, with those of Mrs. Brisac.

We had been about a year and half in Italy, visiting the various places, and the doctor had regularly corresponded with Mr. Dainville, when he was informed, that the long expected divorce was, at length, compleated, and that himself and daughter were now happy, in being totally free from her infamous partner; he had likewise received a letter from his son, stating he was about to return from the East Indies, where he had been for many years, and had acquired a fortune far above his expectations

tations. We sincerely rejoiced at the happiness of those worthy people, but my brother's joy knew no bounds; he told the doctor, that, as Mrs. Brisac was now at liberty to make another choice, he should not hesitate a moment, when he came of age, which would be in about three months, to make her an offer of his hand, and earnestly entreated the doctor to apprise her of his intentions, and to make use of his interest, both with the father and daughter, to insure his happiness. The good old man was amazed; at length he asked my brother, Whether he knew what he had been saying? 'Certainly,' said he, 'and I hope you will indulge me in complying with it.'—The doctor was now more confounded than before. He pointed out to him the absurdity of his request, and the utter impossibility of its being complied with. 'Why

sir?'

sir?' said my brother, 'what is there to object to in this lady? she is not like that I was engaged with at Paris; have you not allowed her, yourself, to possess every shining virtue?' 'True,' said he, 'I have; but that does not argue I should in any shape contribute to your attachment to Mrs. Brisac; besides, her good sense and rectitude of heart will ever show her the impossibility of such an union. In the first place, she is many years older than yourself; and in the second, the difference of rank and fortune: therefore lay aside, I beseech you, every idea of the kind, and let me have the satisfaction of returning you to your father, the same amiable and deserving young men you both were when you left him.'

"My brother sullenly assented to what our preceptor said, though I evidently saw, by his looks, that he was determined

determined that Mrs. Brisac should not remain in ignorance of his love for her; and, though he gave his consent to the proposed return to my father, in about a fortnight, yet I was convinced that he either meditated a visit to Mrs. Brisac, or else would devise some means to prolong our stay in Italy. What he said to the doctor alarmed him; and, as he knew my father's intentions respecting the establishment of his sons, he wrote home, to request him to appoint a time for our return, as he only waited his commands for that purpose. The letter was immediately sent; but, before it had been gone three days, he received one from my father, ordering our return, as my mother lay dangerously ill. This circumstance the doctor thought lucky, and he hastened to communicate it to us.

"I loved my parents tenderly, and attached

attached as I was to Mrs. Brisac, and unwilling to leave a spot near which she resided, yet the idea of my mother's danger struck me forcibly, and I determined to let my secret remain within my own bosom, and to return, without the least reluctance, to my parents; though I made a secret vow never to marry any other woman; and, although many reasons concurred to convince me that I never should have that happiness, yet I was resolved to remain single, let my father's intentions be what they would. I knew my brother's inflexible disposition, and trembled at the idea of his, probably by that means, becoming the husband of Mrs. Brisac. The bare idea drove me to madness; I had no one to whom I could impart my folly; for, if known to my brother, it might lead him on to some act of violence, and I loved him too well to give him any uneasiness.

"When

" When he was informed of the contents of my father's letter, he appeared much hurt at the intelligence; but, whether it arose from the danger of my mother, or the suddenness with which he was summoned, I could not find out, as he had been for some days much on the reserve with me. However, he agreed to what the doctor said respecting our immediate return, and gave orders accordingly. He said, He should hasten to pay a few visits in the neighbourhood, before his departure, and be ready in a few hours.

" The doctor, as soon as he was gone, said, He was happy to think we were summoned, as it would make it appear that no constraint was put upon my brother's inclinations, and be the means of detaining him from a lady, whom he never could possess, and whose character was too sacred to

be

be trifled with. She was the daughter of his most early friend; a woman, whose past sufferings entitled her to respect and veneration, and one whose good sense should preclude every hope that his addresses would be acceptable to her, much more meet with the concurrence of her father. I heard all, and sighed involuntarily. If there is no chance for my brother, thought I, what can there possibly be for me? Yet, still, I hugged the fond delusion.

" He returned in about three hours, and, soon after, we set out for home; but, before we arrived, my poor mother had breathed her last, and my father's life was thought in danger, from the anxiety he had suffered respecting her. He received us with every mark of pleasure and satisfaction, and we had the happiness of seeing him recover his health and serenity. He shortly after

proposed

proposed a journey to one of his seats, which lay at a small distance from that at which we then were. My brother came of age; but, on account of our recent loss, it was not kept. He was attentive to my father, but appeared to be under considerable restraint, and studiously avoided the company of every one. My father, who had at first noticed his reserve, thought it arose from the loss we had sustained; but, when he observed it daily increase, he sent for the doctor, who had left us about a month, on a visit to his relations. When he arrived, my father related the melancholy of his son, and asked his opinion of the cause of it. Though the doctor guessed the reason, yet he did not choose to avow it, but said, It would be most advisable for my father to have some conversation, himself, with my brother on the subject, and to propose his uniting himself

with

with a lady, whom my father had often said, he should like to see his daughter-in-law.

" Agreeably to this advice, my brother was sent for to my father, who asked him a vast number of questions, to all of which he gave sullen and evasive answers; and, when the lady was proposed to him, he rose up, and, in an agitated manner, told my father, that, As to his marrying, it was a subject very foreign to his present intentions; but, if he ever did unite himself to any lady, it would not be any one that could be proposed to him, as his heart was already pre-engaged. My father's pride was alarmed, and he sternly demanded To whom? My brother, without the least hesitation, related every particular of his intimacy with the lady, and concluded by observing, that, if not united to Mrs. Brisac, otherwise

wise Miss Dainville, he was resolutely determined never to marry at all. My father and the doctor both admired his candor, but condemned him, for indulging such a preposterous attachment; but all arguments were vain, and he continued in his resolution.

" I have often thought since, that, had I been interrogated, at the same time, on the same subject, what would have been my father's surprise, to have heard his other son make a similar declaration, that, if not united to Mrs. Brisac, he would never marry any other, and that the very lady, for whom we were making those resolutions, was totally ignorant of our affections for her; at least, I was certain, she was unacquainted with mine.

" My father ordered him from his presence, with a strict injunction to think

think no more of Miss Dainville. The doctor and he had a long conversation about my brother. What they resolved on I knew not. My brother did not appear at dinner, but ordered something to be served up in his own apartment, where no one was permitted to see him, but his confidential servant, who said his master was indisposed.

"Three days passed thus, without my seeing him, even at breakfast. On the fourth, my father sent his man to enquire after him. He returned in a few minutes, with astonishment on his countenance, saying, that, neither my brother, nor his servant, were there, and all his travelling equipage was gone. Instant search was made, and we found it true. A note lay on the table, in his dressing room, which said, that, Unwilling to give pain, by an obstinate resistance, to a father whom he revered,

revered, being of age, and of course at liberty to make a choice for himself, he thought it most prudent to withdraw from a place, which the frowns of a parent could not fail to make too disagreeable for him. The amiable woman whom he loved had taught him the value of money, and the fortune he already possessed was sufficient to enable him to support the dignity of his character, if he avoided those quicksands which had nearly proved fatal to him at Paris. He should always, he said, pray for the happiness of his parent, and hoped, that, in time, he would forgive him for the step he had taken.

" My father stood for some moments lost in thought; at last, turning to the doctor, he said:—'I will pursue this head-strong boy, and you, my friend, must be my guide. Frederic shall

shall go with us, lest, during our absence, he should do the same.' To describe what I suffered would be impossible; my heart felt an agony I cannot express. I saw Mrs. Brisac lost to me for ever, as I had not the least doubt but he was gone to Piedmont, where, I understood by the doctor's discourse, she still was. By some further conversation between him and my father, I was certain my brother had made known his pretentions to Mrs. Brisac's father, as the last letter the doctor had received had intimated as much; but what Mr. Dainville's opinion was I could not learn. However, I could not help rejoicing in the thought, that my inclination was unknown, as, by that means, I should, with my father, have the happiness of again visiting a spot, the most dear to me on earth, though I were to find, on my arrival there, the

object of my affections, the wife of my brother.

"Orders were given to have every thing got ready directly for our departure. The confusion occasioned by them kept my mind in a state, that admitted not of reflection, and I found myself in an hotel at Paris, before I recollected clearly the nature of our journey. My brother had been traced to that place; he staid but one night there, and then set off; but what route he had taken, was not known. My father and the doctor concluded he was gone to Piedmont, and we immediately followed. No intelligence could we get of him, till our arrival at Aix, where he had been about a week previous to our coming; but whether he was gone to Nice, or Turin, they could not tell. We proceeded on to Nice. There we

learnt,

learnt, that Mr. Dainville and family had left that place for Turin; my brother had not been heard of; we therefore concluded he was gone thither also. We could not learn in what part of Turin they had taken up their residence; but my father was determined to follow.

"We had been there above a fortnight, without obtaining the least information. My brain, through anxiety, dread, and I know not what, became like one in delirium. I talked incoherently, and formed a thousand projects, which vanished as soon as made. One moment I would fly to the window, and watch with earnestness every passing female, in hopes to discover Mrs. Brisac.

"I was one morning amusing myself in this manner, when I thought I

heard a voice I knew. I leaned over the balcony; it rained. I saw two ladies and a gentleman who were waiting for a carriage. The same voice spoke again to the servant, and bid him draw up there. What was my surprise and joy, when I recognized Mr. Dainville! I was before him in a moment. The astonishment of Mr. Dainville was equal to my own; but I felt a severe disappointment, in not finding in either of the ladies the object of my heart. I enquired after Miss Dainville. He said She was well, but at present some distance from Turin. The ladies had got into the coach; Mr. Dainville desired me to step in also, and if it was agreeable to accompany him home—he had much to say to me.

"Overjoyed that I had made a discovery, and could now be certain where they resided, I stepped in with alacrity.

alacrity. When we were seated, Mr. Dainville introduced me to the ladies. One, I found, was his son's wife; the other his youngest daughter, married to an officer. They were both amiable lovely women; but their charms, I thought, fell short of those of Mrs. Brisac. I was anxious to learn the cause of her absence from the capital, especially as she had so many inducements to be in it. He said, he could not suppose me ignorant of the reason. I told him indeed I was, as we did not come to Turin with my brother, but to seek him. 'Is my old friend with you?' said he. I answered in the affirmative. 'Then he has not received my letter,' returned Mr. Dainville, 'apprising him of this circumstance.' I said I would convince him, if he would give us leave, that not only the doctor and myself, but also my father, would be happy to see him. 'Then, till I have

that pleasure,' said he, 'I will be silent; you shall see that none of my family can be ungrateful for the services yourself and your brother have rendered it.'

"As he said this, the coach stopped at an elegant house, near the grand square. As we ascended the steps, a young man advanced to the ladies. Mr. Dainville introduced him as his son, and me to them as the gentleman Mrs. Brisac had so often mentioned. He accosted me with heartfelt gratitude, and said, He longed to pay his respects to the doctor, to whom he owed many obligations, and that respecting his sister not the least.

"After some general conversation, I requested them to accompany me to our hotel. Apologizing to the ladies, they drove with me thither. I found my

my father uneasy at my absence; but when I told them whom I had brought, they were satisfied. After the first compliments, my father made some enquiries respecting my brother, not in the least doubting but they knew where he was. Mr. Dainville briefly related, That my brother had made overtures to him and his daughter; but, though they were greatly honored by those offers, yet they could not think of accepting them for several reasons. The first was, the disparity of their ages; the next, Mrs. Brisac's want of fortune, and her inferior birth: That my brother had received their answer, had endeavoured by arguments to set aside every objection, and seemed determined, at all events, to persevere in his intentions; in consequence of which, Mrs. Brisac had left Turin, and gone to spend some time at

a friend's, till she should hear of his departure from thence.

"With this account all my hopes fled, and I instantly became dejected. 'I must see this daughter of your's,' said my father; 'when will you permit me to pay my respects to her?'—'Tomorrow, sir,' if agreeable.' 'Is my son at present in Turin?' said he. Mr. Dainville could not tell—he had not seen him lately. Was it known where he resided? Mr. D. gave his directions; a servant was immediately sent. My father thanked him for the just and honorable manner in which he had acted, and begged to have the honor of seeing his daughter, to thank her also. They then departed with the doctor.

"My father spoke but little on the subject to me, and, in about an hour, the

the servant returned, saying, The gentleman had left the hotel three weeks; but they fancied he meant to return, as his luggage was still there, and the apartments kept. My father sent a letter, informing him of our arrival, and requesting to see him, as soon as he returned. This was ordered to be delivered to him the moment he came back. This done, my father left me to my own reflections.

" I wanted seven months of being of age. I was led to hope that my father would stay in Piedmont till that period, when I was determined, if Mrs. Brisac was still unengaged, to make her an offer of my hand; and, if she refused it, I was resolved to quit my native country for ever. With these thoughts I passed the hours that intervened, before we were to go to Mr. Dainville's. At

length, the time came; my heart beat high, and as I approached the room, I almost wished I might not see her. However, I entered; she arose with her sisters to receive us. My father, with a politeness natural to him, paid his compliments to all; but his attention seemed riveted to Mrs. Brisac; she took my hand in the most friendly manner, and turning to my father, said, 'To this gentleman, my lord, and your other amiable son, and the good doctor, I owe the happiness I at present enjoy, and shall regard myself bound to them by the strictest ties of gratitude.' She looked more lovely than ever, and I could not help thinking, she regarded me with peculiar tenderness.

"The visit passed, my father returned, and, in observation on the visit, said, that he did not wonder at his son's partiality; for, if he had not been informed

informed of her age, he should not have supposed her more than twenty. He thought that she received his thanks, in a manner that made him half in love with her hismelf. The doctor smiled, and remarked, she was a woman of real good sense, 'and those women,' said he, 'never get old; their mental charms make them appear ever blooming, as affectation of every kind is banished from their bosoms; but they are very rare; I must confess I am an admirer of them myself, when they fall in my way, old as I am.' This sally made us laugh, and I spent the evening in better spirits than I had known for some time past.

"We had been five weeks at Turin, after I first saw Mr. Dainville, and no news had been received of my brother —his luggage was still there. My father had made several visits to Mr.

Dainville's; but, being in mourning, did not appear in public. He seemed to be as anxious to pay his respects there as myself. Every day increased my passion, and I began to think the lady was not indifferent to him. This idea no sooner entered my head, than I found various reasons to confirm it. This was more than I could support, and I concluded, that, if my father made her an offer, she certainly would not reject him, as he was more suitable to her in point of age, and as his person was remarkably fine.

"I visited as usual, and every day served more to confirm my conjectures; though I frequently thought that her looks to me expressed the most bewitching kindness, but tempered with a reserve, that seemed at times to check every aspiring hope. My father made no mention of leaving Turin, but seemed

seemed as if he meant to take up his residence there altogether. At length, my suspicions were realized. I was sitting in deep thought reflecting on what my brother would say, were he to form the same conjectures, when the doctor entered the room, and with, as I thought, a more than usually grave countenance. 'I am come,' said he, 'my dear pupil, to inform you of the intentions of your father.' 'Good God,' said I, 'he does not mean to go from here, does he?'

"Whether the doctor suspected my attachment or not, I cannot tell; but the eager manner in which I spoke alarmed him, and, after a short pause, he said: 'No, it is not his intention to leave this place, but.....' and he stopped. 'But what?' cried I, 'for God's sake, relieve my mind from this suspense.'—'You must promise me not to be affected at what

what I shall say then.' 'I will,' said I, 'let it be whatever it may, so 'tis not to say that any accident has happened to those that are dear to me. Are my father, brother, and Mrs. Brisac well?' 'They are all so, I hope,' said he: 'your brother, you know, we have not heard of, and your father and Mrs. Brisac I left very well just now.' 'What! are they together?' said I. 'Your father is at my friend's now,' said he, 'and I believe means to make an offer of his hand to....' He stopped. 'To Mrs. Brisac, is it not?' said I. 'It is,' said he. 'Tis enough,' cried I; 'and now, farewell to every hope...'

"I was about to say more, but my senses forsook me. The good man recovered me, but it was only to feel my wretchedness, without the power of alleviation. I rose up and traversed the room in a phrenzy. I cursed my existence,

existence, and the moment I first drew breath; the next, would pray for blessings on my father. Oh! how I pitied my brother! At length, overcome with distracting passions, I dropped into a kind of stupor. The good man took advantage of my passiveness, and had me conveyed to bed. Before morning, I was in a raging fever. I raved incessantly on Mrs. Brisac, then on my father, and begged earnestly to see my brother. From those ravings, my father was made acquainted with the state of my heart; that state I had so anxiously kept from every one. Oh! my God! what were my sufferings!

"At length, my reason returned; but I had lain above three weeks insensible to every thing. Then a gleam of recollection darted across my mind, and the thought of seeing Mrs. Brisac the wife of my father, rushed like a torrent

to

to my remembrance. Convinced that I was unable to bear this, I determined, as soon as an opportunity presented itself, and I had strength to accomplish it, to leave the residence of my father for ever; and, like my brother, keep the place of my abode a secret from every one. This resolution formed, in order to accelerate my recovery, I took every thing they offered me, and, at last, found I had strength to sit up, and, in a few days, to pass from room to room. I had not ventured to ask a single question; and, when my good preceptor came, which he did daily, I remained obstinately silent. He saw my distress, and pitied it. He was convinced I dreaded to hear a confirmation of my fears; those fears, he seemed, by his looks, to dissipate; my mind could admit but of one idea, and every other was absorbed in that. I waited a favorable moment, and, with

about

about a hundred pounds sterling in my pocket, quitted Turin.

"I would not venture near the house of Mr. Dainville, but went out at an opposite gate. It was the great post road to Genoa. I reached it, and, after a few hours stay, proceeded to Florence. I was now near the states of the church. A thought struck me; 'I will embrace the religion of my ancestors,' said I, 'and become a recluse. What have I further to do with the world?'

"At that instant, a mendicant priest approached, and earnestly intreated my charity. He was tall, and rather stoutly made, with mild pleasing features, that bore the marks of recent sorrow. 'I will give thee,' said I, 'the whole of what little I possess, if thou canst procure, for a wretch like me, a place of rest.' He started, bowed, crossed himself,

himself, advanced a few steps, then drew back, looking earnestly in my face. 'Be not alarmed, father,' said I, 'I mean what I say; find me a place of rest; and, as far as my means will go, I will reward you! 'Come with me,' said he, 'thou, son of sorrow; I will take thee where those clouds that overhang thy brow shall be chased away.'

"He walked slowly on; I followed, my weakness not permitting me to go fast. We left the city, entered the fields, and walked through three of them. He then struck to the left, and began to ascend a hill. He assisted me to walk. 'You are very weak,' said he; 'you shall stop here,' pointing to a little cot in the middle of an olive grove; 'I have a friend here, from whom you can receive assistance; 'tis not the place I meant to take you to, but

but I see you cannot go farther.' Thus saying, we entered the house. A woman and a child were employed in reeling silk. She arose at our entrance: 'you must get something for this young man, Zephirine,' said he, 'for, he stands in need of rest and refreshment.' 'Ah! father,' said the woman, 'mine is but a poor bed; but, if he can make shift to lay down on it, he is very welcome.' 'Any where will do,' said I.

"She led me to a room, in which was a small bed, and a few other necessary articles, all poor, but very clean. On this bed I laid myself down, and, in a few minutes, she returned with some wine, a bunch of grapes, and some biscuit; I took some, and felt revived. Totally regardless of where I was, I endeavoured to compose myself to sleep, and soon obtained it. I lay some

some hours in a profound repose, and, when I awoke, I found myself much refreshed. I went into the outer room. 'My mother will come again presently,' said the little girl I saw at my entrance; 'she is gone to get something for you.'

"Whilst I stood admiring some work the little one was employed in, the mother entered. She seemed glad to see me look better, and hastened to set before me several articles which she thought would be of use to me. I asked for the father, and was informed he would be there in about an hour. It was then near dark; I took some wine, which she urged me to drink, saying, It would rouse my spirits. The honest simplicity that appeared in her countenance charmed me. I asked several questions respecting her situation in life. She said, Her husband

was

was a domestic of the Cardinal Gerini; that a nephew of the Cardinal resided at a palace, a short distance from thence, to which place father Theodore was gone.

"Near two hours passed before he came. When he saw me up, and so much better, he appeared pleased. 'Are you able,' said he, 'to proceed about a league further? if you can, I will take you, and I think there you will find accommodations that you cannot have here.' I thanked him, and said, I was certain I could walk it. I satisfied my kind hostess, and we set forward.

"As we walked, he informed me, that he was going to take me to the Bononi Palace, where resided a young nobleman, nephew to Cardinal Gerini, whose only fault was that of being too gay. He loved pleasure, let it come arrayed

arrayed in what garb it might. His grand wish was to make others as gay and volatile as himself. The domestic chaplain of this young nobleman was the particular friend of father Theodore; and, as I seemed to be oppressed by sorrow, a thought struck him, that he could not do me a greater service, than by desiring the chaplain to permit me to be with him for a few days, till the nature of my griefs could be known. I did not appear to be altogether unworthy of his notice; my appearance, he had told him, bespoke me the gentleman.

"However benevolent your intentions might be, father, towards me,' said I, 'by thus procuring me an hospitable roof, yet I must beg leave to decline going thither. I am wholly incapable of making a proper return for so much goodness, and absolutely

averse

averse to all kind of company. I wish only to hide me from the world, and, in my own breast, to repose my sorrows.' 'You are wrong, young man,' said he, 'your unhappiness, let it arise from what cause it may, ought to be dissipated, not indulged. It will be time enough, twenty years hence, to seek retirement, when you can no longer find solace in society, or honesty among mankind. When you have read the great volume of nature, with more precision than you have already done, and when time has taught you not to draw too hasty conclusions from any one circumstance, then will be the time to quit the world, and then the hour to reconcile you to your fate. You have now a just and good heart; be careful to keep it so, and you will, at last, enjoy that happiness, which you think you have lost. Suffer not yourself to be contaminated by vice, by wilfully

wilfully running into errors, which your better judgment will condemn; but keep in the medium way; and, when temptations too rudely assail you, think of father Theodore, and avoid them.' —I had not time to reply; for, as he concluded the last words, the stately porticos of Bononi Palace appeared in view. We entered; my conductor led me to the apartments of father Peter; he received us with great politeness. 'This is the youth,' said father Theodore, 'whom I met to day in the city, and for whose griefs I feel respect.' 'You are welcome, sir,' said father Peter, 'to the house of my lord; and, what little services I can render you, command them. You are at present unhappy, and the nature of your uneasiness I am not acquainted with. This evening you must spend with me, and to-morrow, I will introduce you to my lord; he is now from home.'

"I

"I bowed my thanks, for I was unable to speak. I regarded both the fathers with wonder and amazement. The nature of your uneasiness is not unknown to me! 'My God!' said I, 'father,' what can this mean? surely I have not been deranged again, while I was at the cot; I thought I was there but a few hours.' 'You were not,' said he, 'above six hours there.' 'Then, how could you be acquainted with my story?' 'Of that,' said the father, 'you must remain ignorant; you have nothing to do, but to make yourself easy where you now are, and endeavour to be happy.' I thought it best to say no more, but sat down, and partook of what was set before me.

"Elegance and splendor shone conspicuous in every thing around us. Father Peter bade me be cheerful, and in the morning he would amuse me by

viewing the sculpture and paintings, so famous in this palace. My gloom began to wear off; and, after a refreshing sleep, I found myself much better. The prince did not return as was expected, and I found ample pleasure in seeing every thing in this terrestrial paradise.

" I had been there a week, and had not seen father Theodore. I began to reflect what place I should direct my steps to next, when father Peter informed me it was his wish I should continue with him for some time. 'I am certain,' said he, 'that all places are alike to you; your time for happiness is not yet come; you must again see your brother; neither your father nor he are happier than yourself; stay here, and, at a proper time, you shall know more. I consented, though I knew not why.

" The

"The next morning, before I had left my apartment, the prince was announced. Father Peter came to inform me of it, and desired me to follow him. I did, and was introduced. The prince received me with all the warmth of youthful friendship, and bade me regard his house as my home, as long as I chose to stay. 'I know your story,' said he, 'and must confess love is a sad malady.' The manner in which he spoke brought the blood into my face, and, for the first time, I condemned my own folly; but the prince allowed me no time for reflection; 'Come with me,' said he, 'I must introduce you to my friends.'

"So saying, he walked on to a suite of rooms on the left—father Peter and myself followed. The folding doors were thrown open, and he entered amidst a large company of gentlemen

of different ages, to all of whom he presented me, as a young man, who would shortly, he hoped, become a member of their society. They received me with great apparent pleasure, and the day flew swiftly on; but I will not tire you by repeating the different scenes we were engaged in. You that know Italy, can guess what they were. I felt a repugnance to many of them, but had not resolution to withstand their different temptations.

"Three months passed; I never saw father Theodore, and the continued round of dissipation I was involved in, gave me no time to think. One evening, the prince said, he should expect me to accompany him that night, to the inauguration of a new member of their select society. I was become now so familiar with vice and folly, that I could enter with spirit into

any

any scheme whatever. I regarded Mrs. Brisac as the property of my father, and forgot, in the vortex of pleasure, that she was in existence. Even father Theodore was thought of no more; if by chance his words recurred to my remembrance, 'Think of father Theodore, and avoid them,' my heart would shudder at vice for a moment, and the next, all would be forgot.

"The night came; the prince and sixteen others, including myself, left the palace for the place of meeting. It was about four leagues from thence, and we did not reach it till midnight. We stopped at a large and elegant edifice. A number of servants were in waiting. We entered; an air of solemnity reigned on all around; horror pervaded me; I would have retreated, but dared not, my heart sunk within

me. Mrs. Brisac, and father Theodore, rushed like lightning on my memory. 'What can all this mean?' I said to myself; 'surely something that ought not to be;' and I made a resolution to think of the words of the father, and abide by them.

"We were conducted into a very large room, which was completely hung with black, but lighted with a profusion of wax candles. The whole of the company arranged themselves round a kind of altar, raised seven steps from the floor. As they took their stations, the prince, who had watched my looks, approached. 'You have gone too far to recede,' said he, 'you must now show yourself a man, and shrink not from any thing that you may see; you will only be a spectator, but you must prepare yourself to take the oaths enjoined by this society.'

'I

'I will,' said I, 'if they are not repugnant to honor.' 'Of that be assured,' said he. We then drew nearer to the altar; a signal was made; several men entered, bearing candles; next came one, in the habit of a priest; then two more dressed similar, each bearing a large book; then came six more, carrying instruments like those used by surgeons for dissecting; then three more dressed in long loose robes, like those of the druids, one bearing a *cat*, another a *dog*, and the third a *hen*, each in a silver dish, decorated with ribbons and flowers. Then followed three more, with silver bowls; three with large wax tapers, and the whole procession closed with twenty-one choristers. They passed three times round the altar; the first priest then advanced in front, the other two on each side. A fire was lighted on the altar, and incense was burnt, while the priest knelt

down and prayed. At the end of the prayer all rose, and the choristers sung a kind of hymn, but in a language I was totally unacquainted with.

"That done, they passed again three times round the altar, and advanced towards one of the company, that was placed near it, and threw over him a long black robe. They then conducted him to the priest, before whom he knelt; another prayer followed, and was finished by a response in full chorus. The dog was then laid upon the altar; the priest ascended; and, with some formal incantations, cut its throat. The blood was caught in one of the bowls. I felt a cold shivering seize me, but I rallied my courage, and stood, while the cat and hen were sacrificed in the same manner. The blood was caught in different bowls, and the remains were burnt. The man who had

had knelt before the altar, was now presented by the priest with one of the bowls. He drank of them in succession; then several ceremonies took place, after which the company formed a larger circle. The three priests then began to administer the oaths. The purport of them was at once terrific and sublime; one particular passage stated, That, whether dead or living, every member then present, should, on that day twelve-month, appear between the hours of twelve and three in the morning, before the then officiating priest, and the whole of the community, to render up an account of all the services he had done, and to bring with him such as he should think worthy to be made a member; and to the strict fulfilment of those conditions, pledge himself by every tie divine and human.

" My heart sunk within me, as I took the oath; and, when the bowl of blood was placed to my lips, I nearly fainted; however, I took it. When the prince, myself, and two others, were sworn, the priests knelt again, and each offered up a prayer. The names of the community were then called over, when each presented himself, holding in his hand a sealed paper, which he laid with seeming devotion on the altar. A book was then presented to each of the novices, wherein, with some of the blood, they wrote their names. Another paper was then delivered to them, with a strict injunction to remember their oath. This done, a blessing was pronounced by the priests, and the whole procession departed as they entered, taking with them the inaugurated member.

" As soon as the train closed, the

persons

persons present congratulated each other, on not losing one member that year. Soon after, they all departed, and I returned with the prince to the palace, and prepared to go to rest. Not a word was spoke of any thing that had passed, and I was more disposed to be silent, than I had been for some time. I was anxious to see what the sealed paper contained. When I retired to my apartment, I looked at it, and was about to break the seal, when I saw, written on the outside, '*Not to be opened till it had been three days in my possession.*' I laid it down, and went to rest. My sleep was broken and disturbed. I began, when I awoke, to reflect on my present vicious pursuits. What would Mrs. Brisac think of me, was she acquainted with my follies? Oh! how would she pity, and despise me. I had taken oaths, that night, which I must keep, or for-

feit everlasting happiness. And for what? Why, to be thought a man of spirit. Would to God, that I had embraced a life of seclusion; I had not then errred, as I have done, and sinned, perhaps, past redemption.

"I tried to compose myself, but sleep I sought in vain, and I got up, with a determined resolution to withstand every temptation. This set my mind a little at ease, and I met the prince and his companions as usual. He then asked me what I thought of our last night's adventure? I said, I knew not what to think of it. I had entered into an engagement, the consequences of which I was not aware of; but I trusted, that he would not have taken me to any place, that would, in any shape, militate against honor or religion. He smiled at my observation, and bade me read my credentials, as soon

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as the allotted time was expired; this was anxiously expected by me, and as soon as that time arrived, I broke the seal. To enter into a detail of what was enjoined me, I dare not do. I can only say, that I had become a member of a society, that could, by their incantations and spells, discover the most hidden secrets of the heart. I now began seriously to think of leaving Bononi. The prince read my thoughts, but would not admit of my going. The jubilee approached, and he insisted on my accompanying him to Rome, as the whole of the company then at Bononi meant to be there. I reluctantly consented.

"A few days before we departed, I was surprised by the appearance of father Theodore. He addressed me with the kindness of a parent. 'You are now going,' said he, 'to leave Bononi; remem-

remember the instructions you have received from me, and never lose sight of the engagements you have entered into.' 'Are you acquainted with them?' I asked. 'Most certainly,' returned he; 'myself and father Peter were two of the officiating priests.' 'Then I am content to abide by it,' said I, 'as I think you are both of you good men.' 'You must now,' said he, 'make it your study to become familiar with the rules laid down in the instructions you have received; and, when the hour of inauguration comes, I shall inform you; therefore, prepare yourself for that time; the sooner you are ready the better; and I flatter myself, if you persist in your present good intentions, that you will not only be restored to your family, but be happier than you can possibly form an idea of; but a single deviation from honor, will mar all your future prospects, and in all probability

probability, destroy for ever every opening scene of felicity. I shall not fail to offer up my prayers, with those of my brethren, that you may be worthy of being a partaker in all our undertakings, for the good of mankind. It was the spirit led me to observe you first, and your answer to my request confirmed my suspicions. Had I not fortunately met you at that moment, you would have been a wanderer and an outcast from society. You would have embraced vice with avidity, and been plunged into crimes that would have damned your peace for ever. The follies you have run into here have been such, as, three months ago, you would have thought yourself incapable of committing. You are now convinced, how destructive example is to those who have not resolution to withstand temptation. Persevere in your present laudable intentions, and you will

will be happy. You will have need of very great fortitude in the place to which you are going; and you will likewise stand in need of good council; when you receive it, be sure you abide by it. The frolics of youth are frequently attended with disastrous consequences; but, whatever scenes you may be precipitated into, through the folly of others, in all things remember to decide with the strictest justice, and never forget your engagements.' This said, he blessed, and left me.

" His discourse sunk deep into my heart; I could not form the most distant idea what he alluded to. I fully resolved to adhere to my intentions of leaving the prince, as soon as I got to Rome. I revolved the whole of it in my mind a thousand times; I was conscious of my inability to resist any allurement, that tended to draw me

from

from myself. Mrs. Brisac, my brother, and my father, now passed in array against me. Alas! said I, they are happy. I am forgotten by them, and it is necessary that I should forget them too; but, I surely can do that, without running into vice. A very short time now, only a few weeks, and I shall be able to command a sufficiency for my wants. I will retire to some remote corner of the earth, where I can no longer hear any thing that relates to my family, and live in peaceful obscurity. But my brother, where is he? perhaps as unhappy as myself. I will follow his example, and let no one know where I take up my abode.

"At the time appointed, we set off for Rome. When we arrived there, it wanted some days to the commencement of the jubilee. The city was already thronged with strangers; and the

the day after our arrival, the prince's palace was full of visitors of all descriptions, whom his munificence had drawn thither, in order to partake of the solemnity. Grand preparations were made to do honor to the approaching festival. The Romans are temperate, and I was happy to see far less inclination for wine shown there than at Bononi. Numbers of the noble Romans joined the guests; and, while reason bore the sway, I was content.

"This continued for some time; but, one day, the prince was informed, that a large party of English and German nobility were anxious to pay their respects. The name of a certain nobleman was mentioned, as the principal of the former nation. Orders were immediately given for their admission, and the party entered. They were received with that hospitality, which marks

marks the character of a Roman, and they appeared highly pleased with their reception. Before they departed, various parties were formed, among the whole of which, I was included.

"In one of them, at a masquerade, I thought I discovered the form of my brother, in a black domino. I wanted to accost him, but he studiously avoided me. I enquired of every one, who I thought could inform me, but none knew him. I sought every where, but he was not to be found. I was anxious and uneasy; the prince saw it, and endeavoured to divert it. I told him of the person I had seen, and that I was sure it was my brother. The prince ordered diligent search to be made, but no such person could be met with; but my dormant feelings had been roused. The scenes, the pageantry of Rome, all began to tire, and I wished

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to leave it. I told the prince so. 'Not yet,' said he;' 'we are going with our English friends to-morrow on a frolic, and you must join us.' I tried to excuse myself, but he would not admit of it. Six of the party had been pillaged at a gaming-table, a few evenings before, by a set of sharpers, and they resolved to have revenge. They had found out where the party resorted to, to divide the spoil.

"Full of this exploit, they set out for the place appointed; but, when arrived, they found, to their disappointment, that the whole of the gang were fled, and gone for Naples. An idea was started by one of the company for pursuing them; it was no sooner suggested than adopted, and we all set out for Naples. This wild-goose chase, as it appeared to me, I followed with the rest. Nothing occurred worthy of our notice,

notice, till we had been there three days; those we sought had eluded our search; but the prince, and two others, who were members of the society at Bononi, were determined to pursue them. Every public place had been ransacked by us, but without effect; when the prince proposed to us to watch the motions of some men, who had constantly kept us in sight, whenever we appeared in the street; but it was evident they were not the men we sought. They had followed us, as before, and we saw them take their stations, in such a manner, that neither of us could go out without being observed. They were three, and it was agreed that three of our party should go out in the same cloaths they entered in, and the others disguised, were to follow in a short time, to a place appointed. The prince, myself, and

and a young Italian, were first to go.

" We had not gone far before we perceived them close behind us ; and at a small distance, the remainder of our company. The prince took towards the beach, and, under the walls of a garden, we stopped. The moon shone bright ; a kind of seat made of stones was at a short distance; to that we went, and sat down. The men passed us several times ; at length, they were joined by five others ; our company appeared not, though I thought they were so situated, they could see all that passed. As soon as those men came up, they stood opposite to us. The prince started up, and we followed. He advanced towards them, and asked By what authority they dared to watch his motions? They made no answer, but instantly surrounded us, and one

of

of the foremost advanced, and, with a sudden spring, threw me down, and two others immediately began to tie my hands and legs. The prince and his campanions drew their swords. I struggled to obtain my liberty, and had nearly effected it, when one of the villains struck me a violent blow on my head, which stunned me. I saw no more, and when I came to myself, found me stretched on a bed, surrounded by at least fifty men. They were deliberating about the disposal of something, which one of them claimed as his exclusive property. They seemed not to regard me, and I had leisure to remark their several faces, and was surprised to see among them several who had been of the prince's parties at Rome; but the language they made use of, and the place I was in, soon convinced me I was among a gang of sharpers, or free-booters. In a few minutes

minutes I was assured of it, as I heard the prince's name made use of, in terms that proved them to be the very party we had come to Naples in pursuit of; but how I could get among them, I was at a loss to guess. Several of the men insisted that they had a right to some particular jewel, as they only were present at the time it was taken. At last, it was decided to draw lots for it, and this restored peace. They then turned to me; I ventured to ask where I was; they answered, Among gentlemen; and, if I was disposed to be pleased with my situation, I should be treated well. I asked about the prince, and my companions—'They are all safe enough,' said they.

"But, not to tire you, let it be sufficient to say, that I found myself in the society of those very people who brought you here. Among them I found

found your brother-in-law. He was one of the sharpers, who had stript the prince's party of several thousands. They consist of men of desperate fortunes, who having spent the whole of their patrimony, fly to the gaming table as a resource; and, if they are detected, join a set of desperadoes, who have for several years, subsisted in this island, and bid defiance to the civil power. When any great festival is at hand, the most genteel of them are equipped like gentlemen, and frequent all places of resort, whose large companies are assembled, and, by making use of one particular gentleman's name, are admitted without scruple. That gentleman receives from the society, a regular income. Another division, more desperate, have recourse, whenever there is an eruption, to stripping the houses of every thing valuable; sorry I am this number far exceeds the other, and

they never go out upon an expedition, but they return laden with plunder.

" There can no calamity happen in Naples or its vicinity, but they immediately profit by it. Their laws are many, and punish by death every one who is discovered embezzling any of the general property, or who attempts to leave the society, without the general consent. For these Owen is condemned; he was first charged with having secreted several jewels, and pieces of plate, and a large quantity of bills on the Bank of Venice, which were taken out of a house at Naples, during a late commotion. This property he had hid in the hollow of a rock, and meant to go off with; and had sent an offer to government to discover the retreat of the community. He had brought over a young man to be of his party, and the night we found

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you, his design was to have been put in execution. He meant to convey away with him the young lady whom we found on the beach, whose mother's house he had assisted to plunder, as he was second in command, and always went on those expeditions.

"The captain was killed by accident that day, and I was fetched to supply his place, as they had appointed me to the command, soon after I came among them, if any accident should happen to their commander. I went, as I observed, for that purpose, when the young man whom Owen had seduced, made a confession. I hastened to the spot he pointed out, and found every thing, as reported; likewise some letters, which confirmed his intentions of delivering up the society. This was a piece of villainy I thought not fit to be pardoned, as any member who chose

to leave them, had only to make known his intentions, and say in what manner he meant to dispose of himself; and, if money was wanted, an equal division was made of whatever property they possessed, and his part delivered to him. The oaths that enjoined secrecy were administered, and he was permitted to leave the place, with the good wishes of all: And so religiously has this been kept, that among a vast number who have left us, not one has been found to betray it.

" I hastened to the other side of the bay, to give the necessary orders, respecting Owen. You saw in what manner I was obliged to act; and you, I think, see the justice of the law that condemns him. This day is allowed him for repentance; I hope he will be a penitent, who has many lives to answer for. The women that were found

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at the house which the young lady mentioned, were, the one Miss St. Prie, and the other Miss Owen. The former was killed, the latter wounded. Owen was one of them that escaped; St. Prie himself was taken. He had been a member of this society about six months previous to this adventure. St. Prie will die by the hands of justice, and Owen by ours.

"I have continued here, with a hope that I might be able to gain over several of them, to become again good members of society. Six of them are to go out, as soon as a proper division can be made of the plunder they have taken. This dreadful calamity that has befallen Torre del Greco, will be the means of furnishing them out handsomely. The part belonging to Owen will, I think, be sent to Naples for charitable uses. This is one means by

which they purchase the inattention of the police. The prince, I found, was the cause of my being sent here. He had conceived a jealousy against me, respecting a young lady at Rome, whom he fancied; but thought that her eye oftener reverted towards me, than towards him; and, as he was acquainted with, and a member, of this society, he thought it the most advantageous way of disposing of me.

" I had been put on board the boat belonging to the party, while I lay insensible from the blow, and did not recover, till I had been at this place near half an hour. I was then informed of my situation, and the perfidy of the prince. As all places were alike to me, I made no scruple of remaining with them, for the purpose I mentioned. I have often thought of father Theodore, and never lose sight of his precepts,

cepts, which I hope will, one day or other, turn to my advantage. Were I sure that Mrs. Brisac was happy with my father, I think I could be content; but, as I must remain in ignorance of that, I will try to make myself as useful as I can, where I now am, till the time comes, when I shall be called upon to make my appearance at Bononi; then I shall again see the prince, and the two fathers.

"As soon as the execution of Owen is over, I shall have the lady sent to her friends; you, I fear, will not be permitted to leave this place for some days; there are forms, that you will be obliged to comply with, and I much doubt but you will be compelled to become a member, not only of this community, but that of Bononi."

Michael, who had listened with pro-

found attention to the whole of the captain's story, now exclaimed:— "Holy St. Patrick! and must my master and myself stay here? Oh! blessed Virgin, then who will find out Mrs. Owen, and the dear little honies of children?" "Well remembered," said Fitzallan; "you said, I think, sir, that you could inform me where my poor unhappy sister and her children are confined. I shall thank you to send some person to liberate them and have them conveyed to England. Let no expence be spared for those dear unhappy sufferers, if I am not permitted to go myself." "Every thing that can be done," said the captain, "be assured shall be; and, when the young lady goes from hence, an express will be sent to Normandy."

Fitzallan thanked him, and said, he should repose a confidence in him

to

to have it completed. He thanked him likewise for the relation he had given him, and requested him to regard himself through life, as his brother; they pledged reciprocal friendship.

Michael had risen up, and was traversing the room with hasty strides, every now and then crossing himself devoutly, (for he was a good catholic,) then turning to the captain, he said: "Might I presume to ask your honor one favor?" "Certainly," said he. "Why then, please you, as this mister Owen must be hanged, and your honor says he has got some property, for the love of the Holy Mary and St. Patrick, let it be sent to some good priests, to sing masses for the repose of his soul; and, if it is not enough, I am sure my master will give something, and I will give all I have; and if it pleases his

honor, I will add what remains of my year's wages." "Thou art a good fellow," said the captain, "and deservest to have more than a year's wages given thee for thy generous offer. But, if money will purchase the repose of the unhappy man's soul, his lot is sufficient to redeem it, and I will see it sent to a good father, who will have it properly applied."

This pleased Michael. The captain then asked Fitzallan Whether he wished to see Owen before he suffered? He said, Yes, he did. "And, pray, let me go too," said Michael; "for, I would fain tell him, that I forgive him all the wrong he has done every body, and I hope the Holy Father in God will forgive him." The captain said: "The priest that attends our society is with him now: I was to have notice given me when he left him; he will be shot

shot at the head of the whole community." "Then he is not to be hanged?" said Michael: "that is a good thing; for, I should not like any person to say to our young ladies, when they grow up, that their father was hanged; though for matter of that, he may deserve it. All, that have once lived like gentlemen, should die as such."

Some other discourse passed, when a man came and said, father Gregory had left his penitent. "I will now go to Owen," said the captain, "and tell him, you wish to see and grant him your forgiveness." "Do, sir," said Edward; "for, I would not have him die without it. I feel for him much;" "And so do I too," said Michael. "I don't want any body to die, especially when they ben't over good. Oh! if I

was a good priest, how I would pray for him !"

The Captain left them ; Michael beat a tattoo on the table. " I wish our good father was here, that christened my little brother Joey ; I warrant he would pray for his poor soul, that it might not go into purgatory."

Fitzallan remained lost in thought, and heeded not what the poor fellow had said. The Captain entered. " Come with me," said he ; " Owen sullenly consents to see you. However, I would have you shew that you hold no resentment against him." " No, indeed," said Michael, " and so we do not." They were conducted to that side of the building, where the trial had been, and found the unhappy man in a room adjoining. Fitzallan advanced towards him. " I am come,

Mr.

Mr. Owen," said he, "to assure you of my sincere forgiveness, for all the injuries you have done my family; and do most earnestly pray, that the God of Mercy will pardon you with the same readiness that I do; and I am certain Mrs. Owen will likewise." "And so do I too," said Michael, "forgive your honor, and pray most earnestly that we may sit down in Paradise together for all this, and so the blessed saints take you to their bosom."

This honest effusion of poor Michael's seemed to touch the heart of Owen; he looked eagerly towards him. "I thank thee, thou good fellow," said he, "and I hope thy prayer will be heard. I thank you, Mr. Fitzallan, also, for your good wishes; for, I think, you do not come here to insult a wretch like me. Your looks bespeak the feelings

ings of a christian. I dare not ask forgiveness of my wife, but tell her, when you see her, that I now wish I had been a better husband. As to my mother, I dare not cast a thought that way:—ah! you infernal vipers, that led me on to do those cursed deeds, where are you now? what part of Hell is your portion? and is it among those wretches that I am to howl out an eternity?—oh! where, where shall I turn?"

He looked wildly round the room; his eyes glared, and his whole person appeared convulsed. He lifted his hands in agony to Heaven. "And canst thou, just God, forgive a wretch like me? Ah! no, it is impossible; I am lost, and doomed to everlasting tortures, with the fiends that have deceived me. Oh! horrid, horrid thought! —but God is just."

At

At that moment, he darted a look of terrific madness round; and, fixing his eyes on the sword of Edward, who had advanced to endeavour to calm his mind, "This will do," said he, and, in an instant, he snatched it from the sheath, and plunged it into his heart!

The thought, the action and the catastrophe were so rapid, that, before Edward could well discover that his sword was gone, the miserable man fell lifeless at his feet. He fixed his eye on him, faintly uttered the word "Pardon," and, as the Captain drew the sword from his breast, his soul took his flight for ever.

This sight was too much for Michael; he sunk at the feet of his master. The Captain and Edward were transfixed to the spot. An exclamatton from Michael, as he fell, was heard by father Gregory,

Gregory, and one of the people, who were passing the door. They entered; but, to describe *their* astonishment would be impossible;—two, to all appearance, dead on the floor, and the other two standing speechless, with countenances that bespoke death, as palpably as those of the others!

The whole community was instantly alarmed, and they thronged to the spot, all enquiring what it meant; but none could tell. The blood that had flowed from the breast of Owen had run in streams and nearly dyed the face and cloaths of Michael, who had fallen near him. They raised up both; life, they found, was fled for ever from one; but the other, by proper applications, was soon restored. The recollection of the scene overcame him, and he fainted again. Every thing appeared mystery; the men could hardly suppose,

pose that the Captain would take the enemy of the condemned man into the room where he was, on purpose to stab him; and yet, what could they think, when Fitzallan's sword was found drenched in blood? At last, the Captain spoke, and, in a few words, told them what had happened; but Edward, whom they had placed in a chair, was so much overpowered by the dreadful catastrophe, that he remained in a state of stupefaction, regardless of every one.

Michael was at length restored to life, but not to reason; the poor fellow had been ill of a nervous fever, for some time previous to his master's coming to Italy. The events he had recently witnessed served only to aggravate his complaints: as soon, therefore, as he came to himself, every symptom of derangement appeared.

He

He laughed, sang, and cried, in succession; then prayed most earnestly for the repose of poor Owen's soul, whom he would, one minute, fancy he saw going into purgatory—the next, he would imagine close by him, and again about to plunge the sword into his breast—when he would start and catch at something as if to hold it. The men who were present, believing him mad, past recovery, proposed confining him; but his master, who had been roused from his lethargy by something Michael said, now recollected himself, and intreated that the poor fellow might be left to him; and if they would indulge him with a bed, he should be thankful.

The Captain ordered them to be conducted back to their apartment, and he would follow in a few minutes. They were shewn there, where, as soon as

as they were alone, in spite of manly fortitude, the tears flowed from Edward's eyes in torrents. The horrid exit of Owen sunk deep into his heart; and, the more he reflected on his end, the more he dreaded his everlasting damnation. Michael's dread of purgatory for the miserable sinner exceeded every thought. At length, his master reasoned him into a little composure.

It was some time before the Captain came; he had staid, he said, to give some orders for the interment of Owen, which would take place on the next day early; and, as he was a catholic, he had given orders to father Gregory to get every thing that was necessary. That done, they should think about removing the lady, and sending an express to Normandy; and, when the lady was sent to Naples, enquiries

should

should be made after St. Prie and Miss Owen. "For the Holy Mary's sake!" said Michael, "let the good father pray for the redemption of his poor soul; 'tis pity, though he was a bad man, that it should remain in purgatory." The Captain strongly assured him that every thing should be done: this quieted him, and the Captain desired Edward to take some wine and try to go to rest, and, in the morning, he would order him to be called, if he had a wish to see the body interred—"But I think," said he, "that you had better not. Make yourself as comfortable as you can, and try to compose this honest fellow, who shall not want for any thing that I can do for him.

Fitzallan with thanks acceded to his proposal, persuaded Michael to go to bed, and prepared to follow. The captain

captain then left him. Sleep, at length, closed their eyes, and they did not awake till the remains of the unhappy man had been laid in the dust for some hours. The captain had been twice to Edward's room, but finding him at rest, forbore to disturb him. He came in a third time, soon after Fitzallan awoke—Michael was still asleep. "If you are well enough," said the captain, "I would wish you to give the necessary directions, in what manner the messenger is to proceed, if, on his arrival at your sister's present place of residence, he should find her incapable to direct herself; as it is impossible to say in what state she may be. The lady is much better, and will be ready to go this evening. I am anxious to have her restored to her mother, who, I find, is distracted for her loss. The father is in the East Indies, but shortly expected home; I therefore beg of you

to

to write what you would have done, as fast as possible; then I will have you to see her before she goes."

Fitzallan dressed himself immediately, and hastened to give every instruction for the messenger. That done, the captain took him to the chamber of the lady. She was up; and now, that sleep had restored her, she appeared an interesting and lovely woman. She thanked them in an affectionate manner, for the kind treatment she had received, and earnestly intreated that they would permit her to inform her brother and mother where they might wait upon them, to return, in some measure, the many obligations she was under. At present, the captain said, circumstances, of which he was not at liberty to inform her, would prevent their having the honor of being known to her family; but, at some future

future period, he hoped they should be able to profit by her polite offers. He was very sorry to add, that his people would be under the necessity of taking her, wrapped in a thick veil, from the place she was then at; but that every respect she could wish for should be paid, until she was received by her mother. He said he should make one request before she went, which was, That they might have from her some small token, whereby himself and friend (meaning Edward) might be recognized by her, at some future time, when the cloud, that at present enveloped them, was cleared away.

She looked at each arm; she had no bracelets or ring to give them; but, recollecting a pocket-book of curious work, she had then about her, but which had been injured by the sea-water, she took it out, and, from the pocket

pocket of it, drew a minature of her brother, which she gave to Fitzallan, and the pocket-book to the captain. "Those two trifles," said she, "I will beg you to keep, till I can make you a present more worthy of your acceptance, and I sincerely lament that I have it not in my power to offer better."

They both received it with pleasure, and, in return, Fitzallan desired her acceptance of his ring, and the captain presented her with a very valuable gem, from the antiquities of Pompeii. He then informed her, That the man who had made the attempt to convey her away, had died by his own hand, and she would have nothing in future to fear from that quarter. She hove a heartfelt sigh at the thoughts of his being his own murderer, and earnestly prayed that Heaven might forgive him. She gave to Vashti what she had of value,

value, beside, in her pockets, and said, That her kindness she never should forget.

Soon after, the men came and said they were ready. The packet was delivered to one of them, and the lady, attended by the captain and Fitzallan, left the house; but, before she quitted the room, a long veil of thick black cloth was thrown over her, and, between the two gentlemen, she was led down stairs, and along the dark passages by which they entered, then through the wood, at the end of which, on the beach, they found a large boat with ten men in it. The lady was lifted in by the two gentlemen, who then took leave of her, and the boat hove off from shore.

When it was out of sight, they turned back. The captain, taking the arm

of Fitzallan, said, "I have reposed a confidence in your honor, that I think you will not abuse, by making you acquainted with the approach to our abode. I have pledged my faith to the community for you, and I must now inform you, That no person can leave our society, until he has been with us three months. However anxious you may be to return to England, it is not in my power to permit your going, till that time is expired. To-morrow, you will see the whole of the community, and you must then submit to be sworn in a member, as must your servant. In the morning, I will shew you the extent of this dwelling, and, as far as I am informed myself, will give you the history of it. Some particulars I do not clearly know, but Vashti can explain them. She has lived here ever since she was born; her father and mother

took

took refuge from some calamity, I don't know what, and here died."

"The avenues," said Edward, "and the ruins that lay around, bespeak it to have been a mansion of the first consequence." "It was," said the captain, "one of the grandest palaces in the environs of Naples.

As they advanced, the man who lighted them said, that father Gregory, he did believe, knew Vashti's father, and he was acquainted with the Neapolitan nobleman who owned the domain.

"Then we will refer to him," said the captain, "to-morrow." They then descended the steps from the wood, under the gallery, and walked along the passage that led to the other stairs. As they came to one particular spot,

Fitzallan remarked the same sound of soft music, as he had heard the first night of his entering it. "There is music," said he, and stopped to listen. "That is frequently heard," said the captain, "and our people think nothing about it; for, we know not where it comes from."

"Good God!" said Fitzallan, "that is very strange: there is a female voice accompanying it." "Yes," said he, "I have stood here for an hour together, listening to it, in hopes that the sound would direct me to the musician; but I have been foiled in all my attempts, and I cannot form the most distant idea of where it can proceed from. I have at times imagined myself in fairy land. 'Tis not at any particular hour of the night, or any stated period, but comes at all hours and seasons; but 'tis not thought any thing

of

of by the community, as few of them have souls attuned to harmony, and those that have, as they cannot discover the invisible musician, think no more about it, than just to listen for a few minutes, and then pass on. I have myself searched every place I could get at, and cannot conjecture what it can be. However, before we go, I will try once more."

As he said this, the strains ceased and they went on. "The instrument, whatever it be," said Fitzallan," does not resemble any thing I have ever heard, and with you I am inclined to think it something supernatural."

As they entered the great court, several of the company met them, saying supper was ready, and desired them to hasten to it. Michael was fetched; he was composed, and sat down with

his master, but was unable to eat. However, before they went to bed, which was not till towards morning, he became better reconciled to his situation, he having been assured that the soul of the unhappy Owen was at rest.

"The next day, it was late before the captain came to Fitzallan, and the intricacies of the place prevented him from leaving his apartment; besides, the doors, he had observed, were locked after them, whenever they were on that side of the house. He and Michael descended with the captain, and were conducted, as he thought, to the room they were in, the night of the trial, but now, for the first time, he saw daylight. The captain presented him and Michael to each one severally; they then ranged themselves in, a line, and all remained standing, but the captain, who then addressed them in the

the language he had heard on the beach, near Vesuvius, and was answered in the same.

The company present consisted of seventy-three persons, including Fitzallan and Michael. They were all unarmed, and appeared very genteel men, the greater part of whom were Italians, some French, and three English. When this ceremony was over, the captain communicated to Fitzallan the nature of the oath he was to take, and desired him to explain it to Michael, the principal trait of which was, That no temptation whatever should induce them to discover the residence of the society; and, if after three months, he should chuse to become an active member, he should then declare it; if not, he should leave it by the consent of all; but, previous to their departure, they were to become

members of the society at Bononi, to which place they would be conducted by a select number pointed out by the captain. There they would renew the oaths then taken, and bind themselves by that institution to become the faithful friends of the community at large, and strictly adhere to every law enjoined them.

There were many other particulars, all of which Fitzallan and Michael bound themselves to perform, though Edward trembled at the idea of becoming a member at Bononi; but, as they could not recede from their engagements, he thought it best to make no comments.

As soon as the oaths were taken, a large goblet of wine was handed round to each. The company then divided into two parties, and Fitzallan was given

given to understand that those on the left were to go to Naples that day, then to Rome, and were not to return for a month or five weeks; the others remained there, to take advantage of any circumstance that might occur for the good of the whole. The first mentioned party took leave and departed. The captain and the remainder then sat down to breakfast, and father Gregory joined them. The discourse turned on Owen. A thousand instances of his depravity of heart were related by several of them, and his death did not seem to be regretted by any one; they said, that when their companions returned who had taken home the lady, they should know how St. Prie and Miss Owen were disposed of, as they were to be tried that week.

"Ah!" said father Gregory, "we must leave them to their fate: sooner

or later, every one that is unjust meets his full reward." This is strange reasoning, thought Michael, for a priest who lives among thieves; but, no matter for that.

After some farther discourse, the captain asked father Gregory, Whether he had not been acquainted with Vashti's father. "Yes," said he, "and a worthy good man he was, and deserved a better fate than he met with. He was an officer of distinguished rank in the service of his Sardinian Majesty; his birth was noble, but his fortune mean; and, at an early period of life, he married a young Neapolitan, whose birth and circumstances were similar to his own. She was gay, volatile, and fond of intrigue, and, within a twelvemonth after their marriage, the world talked loudly of her amours; but he was for a considerable time blind to her

her follies. She brought him one daughter, and, after the birth of that, became totally regardless of her husband, though they still continued together.

"He was soon ordered to join his regiment, as war was on the eve of breaking out. He left Cagliari, where he then was, and repaired to Piedmont, where he was ordered to wait the commands of his sovereign. To this place his wife refused to accompany him. She had contracted an intimacy with a young nobleman, nearly allied to the King of Naples. This young man was, without exception, one of the weakest and most dissolute young men of the age. His luxurious way of life exceeded all belief, and, as soon as the different mistresses he kept ceased to please, they were dismissed and heard of no more. Vashti's mother became

the avowed mistress of this weak prince. Her intrigues surpassed his own, and she was one of those who were accused of drawing together the young nobility, who had planned a regular system of popular commotion, in order to place her keeper on the throne of Naples.

"They principally resided at this mansion, which, at that period, was one of the most magnificent palaces in Europe; but, before the schemes of these misled unhappy young men could be put in practice, the whole was discovered to the court; proper measures were taken, to secure the different parties, and amongst them Vashti's mother. On her examination, she produced something to implicate her husband, but of what nature was never known; though it was generally thought, that she to planned to get him criminated, previous herself and the others being discovered.

Some

Some have asserted, that the prince had assured her, If her husband was dead, and he placed upon the throne, if he could not raise her to it with him, that she should be the first woman at his court.—However futile these promises were, yet she was weak enough to believe them, and entered into the design with all the presumption of success, which weak minds are ever prone to indulge.

" The plot was no sooner discovered, than proper measures were taken to secure them all. They were seized at this palace, and the whole was given up to be pillaged by the soldiers. It was left in ruins, and Vashti's mother was heard of no more. I never could learn the particulars of what her father was accused of; but, be it what it may, it was sufficient to get him dismissed from the king of Sardinia's service, and declared

declared incapable of ever holding any commission under his sovereign again. His family disowned him; his friends deserted him; yet, wicked as his wife had been, he could not help lamenting that he had been denied the satisfaction of again seeing her. Loaded with disgrace, bereft of friends and fortune, he gathered together what he could from the wreck of all, and, with his child and her nurse, came here to close his eyes. He assumed the dress of a peasant; the nurse passed for his wife, and Vashti was reared as a peasant's child. He made a friend of the man who had been placed by government to take charge of the land around the palace, and, amidst those ruins, he lived five years, when Heaven, in mercy, took him to itself. The little he had he left to the nurse for his child, and here she remained, till death closed her life also.

"Vashti

" Vashti was then sixteen: a son of the man who resided on the domain married her, and in this place they have continued ever since. He is one of this society, and, I think, a very good man. These lands have been given by the crown of Naples to cardinal Gerini, and he has passed them to his nephew, the Prince of Bononi. You all know his character; therefore, I need not say any thing respecting it.

" There are many stories reported, of strange things being seen on that part of the building which leads to the wood. Many of our company have asserted that they have frequently seen a lady pass through the wall; but of this I am not certain myself. All I know of a report (which was much talked of when I first came here), was, that Vashti's mother, when she first

came

came to this place, caused a lovely young woman to be made away with in some manner or other, as she was jealous of her influence over the prince. In whatever manner she was disposed of, this much is certain, that she was never heard of after Vashti's mother came here. Several times I have thought of writing to father Theodore about it; once in particular, when a gentleman came and made several enquiries of Joseph, Vashti's husband, Whether he ever heard of any young lady being there, some years back, who was like a picture he shewed him: but Joseph told him, That his father was dead, who was there at the same time as the prince, and that, since he grew up, he had not heard any thing at all about any one, who formerly lived in the palace. I was from home when this gentleman called, and I cannot say but I was sorry I did not see him,

as

as that might have given me some clue to discover what became of her. However, sir, said he, turning to Edward, "Suppose you, the captain, and myself, when we hear the music again, endeavour to find out where the sounds proceed from, and try whether we can see the lady the men have so often talked about."

"I should be happy indeed," said the captain, "to be assured of what I have so often wanted to know. Go," said he, "Antonio, and hear whether the music is playing now or not."

"Antonio went, but soon returned, saying all was silent. They then, after some more trifling conversation, agreed to take Fitzallan round to that side of the dwelling, by which father Gregory and Vashti's husband usually entered The company all rose, and the father, the captain,

captain, Fitzallan, and Michael left them, and ascended a flight of marble stairs, that opened into a long and splendid room, the ornaments of which were falling in all directions, so that it was dangerous to stay for any time in it, lest the motion of the feet should occasion the loosened friezes, or the tottering pilasters to fall and crush them. They, therefore, hastened from it and entered a court yard; this they crossed, and went into another of greater extent, round the whole of which ran a colonnade of corinthian pillars. The floor was of white marble, intersticed with porphyry; the architrave curiously decorated with vine twigs and myrtle entwined. In the middle of the court stood part of a pedestal, which, upon examination, proved to have been a fountain, round the base of which were the remains of a large marble bason. From this area they

they entered a magnificent portico, which reached the whole length of the south front of the palace. The arches were richly ornamented in basso relievo, the flooring similar to that of the colonnade. A flight of marble steps descended from the center of the portico to a park, that spoke at once the grandeur and the boldness of the design. In its primeval beauty, it must have surpassed even many of the far-famed villas of ancient Rome.

They traversed the grand surrounding scene, ever and anon casting back a look towards the pompous ruins. In one spot they viewed a large lake choaked with weeds; here, mutilated statues, there, fountains that had long since forborn to play; and then again, the ruins of the costly fabric would strike the eye. From this Fitzallan would turn and heave a sigh to the mutability

mutability of human greatness. "I cannot bear to see this ruin," said he, turning to the captain; "it appals the senses and gives too striking a memento of the frailty of human nature. Surely, father," said he, "the man who can boast of a conscience void of remorse, must be much happier in a cottage, than a prince in the possession of such an edifice as this was, when in all its splendor, who could not boast of being good as well as great; but this plainly proves that the wishes of man are never gratified, or his desires ever satiated." "True, son," said father Gregory; "and let the scene before thee teach thee how little dependance is to be put on the goods of this world, and completely prove to thee what our blessed preceptor said:—"That riches make themselves wings and fly away."

As the father said this, they were ascending a slope that led to the ruins of a small banqueting room. They had paused to admire the elegance and simplicity of the design, contrasted with the bold grandeur of the tottering palace, when the soft music that had awakened their curiosity in the gallery, now seemed to float in air before them, and presently, a voice of more than mortal sweetness, chaunted the following lines:

What is beauty but a flower,
Fading at the evening hour,
Blooming gay in morning pride,
Closed in death ere even tide?
What is riches but a toy,
Many have, but none enjoy?
What is glory, what is fame?
Nothing but an empty name.
Rank and power, can they save
The dying noble from the grave?
Health and comfort, can they give,
Or bid the titled sinner live?——

Ah!

Ah! wretched man! confess thy state
Is not more happy for being great.
The slave, who has a conscience free
From guilt, is far more blest than thee.
Tho' poor his lot—by virtue led,
He heeds not where he lays his head;
The mossy couch, or bed of stone,
Alike to him are ——

Here the music ceased abruptly, but the melting strains seemed still to vibrate upon the ear, and hold the senses wrapt in heavenly extacy. They appeared to ascend above their heads, until the dying melody was lost in gentle whispers. They all stood lost in wonder and amazement, eagerly looking upwards, as if to discover the angelic harmonist, but nought was visible.

"These are no human sounds," exclaimed Fitzallan; "would to Heaven the divine moralist had continued its

its seraphic strains a little longer! The music far surpassed the touch of mortals, and the moral that the voice conveyed spoke more real truths than the most elaborate productions of our learned divines. Would to God it had continued! I wished to hear more. Ah! when, celestial visitant, wilt thou return, and charm us with thy song?"

While Fitzallan was uttering this, the captain was still watching with eager eye the wide expanse of Heaven. Father Gregory was praying most devoutly. Michael had dropped upon his knees, and, with all the fervency of a saint, was ejaculating his paternoster. At last, turning to his master, he exclaimed, while his face glowed with transport:—"Now, by the Holy Saint Patrick, and all the blessed saints, we have been brought here to go to Heaven,

Heaven, and Paradise, and all that. Ah! little did I think that the Holy Heaven and the blessed saints were so near to Hell, or that, when we fell among a den of thieves, we were at the gates of glory. Oh! I hope we shall not be long in passing through. Oh! that the dear lady, Mrs. Owen, and the sweet honies, were here with us, and then we should all go together. Ah! Holy Saint Patrick! how happy we should be!"

"We should, indeed, Michael," said Fitzallan, "could thy wishes be realized; but that hope, at present, is, I fear, too far distant. But, come with me; we are going," said he, observing the captain and father Gregory moving towards the banqueting room. With reluctance he quitted his posture, and followed his master. They entered a saloon; the paintings that still decorated

rated the ceiling struck the eye with amazement. In the center, was pourtrayed, in the most exquisite stile, the decision of Paris—in the compartments round, the travels of Ulysses. The music gallery was destroyed, and but little remained of the grand banqueting room.

"I have been thinking," said the captain, who had not as yet spoke, "what would have been the effect of the music we just now heard, on a voluptuous and profligate company, such as those who last assembled in this room, in all the pride of greatness."

"I have had the same thought," answered father Gregory; "but I fear the conclusion I have drawn would not much redound to their credit; as the mind sunk in luxury and dissipation is ever dead to the finer feelings of the heart,

so the sound of such strains as those we have heard, instead of affecting them with an idea of a superior order of beings, the ministering angels of a God, superior in wisdom and greatness, would only be execrated for daring to disturb their boisterous revels. Such are men, when sin and folly get the dominion, and women are still more vicious.

"I have heard, that Claudina, which was the name of Vashti's mother, confined a lovely and charming girl somewhere in this place, or near it. She had been procured for the pleasure of the prince; but Claudina, dreading the effect of her charms, had her privately secreted before he saw her, and many people have asserted that she was poisoned; but, as there were various reports circulated of those she had destroyed, and others she had confined,

I paid

I paid but very little attention to it, till about six months since, when I was returning with Joseph, one evening, about sun-set, from visiting a poor woman who was dying. I thought, as we crossed the park, I saw the figure of a woman just before me. I looked earnestly at it, and saw it enter a short walk that led to the great lake, and, about the middle of it, stop, take a handkerchief out of her bosom, and bind it over her eyes. I beckoned Joseph to look that way, at the same time asking him Whether he knew who it was? 'Indeed, I do not,' said he, 'but probably it is some foreigner come to view the ruins; for, you see, her dress is not like the Italian.' 'True,' said I; 'but how could she get here, without some guide or attendants? Her dress is not mean; she is of no common rank.' 'Ah, my God!' said he, looking earnestly at her

again, 'that is the very lady I have seen twice before, and she always goes into the lake.' 'Into the lake!' said I; 'what dost thou mean, Joseph?' 'You will see presently,' said he, 'and hear too;' and he kept his eye full upon the lady, whom I also gazed at attentively. We advanced towards her. 'I must go up to her,' said I, 'and I will ask her what occasions her standing in that strange posture;' for, she appeared to be pausing on the brink of the water, with her hands clasped in each other, and the bandage over her eyes. 'It certainly,' said I, 'is some poor being, disordered in her brain; she will plunge in, before I can come up with her, I fear.' 'Aye, that she will,' said Joseph, 'I'll be bound for it; for, I went to catch her, and she flounced straight into the water; so, don't go any nearer to her; for, how she got out, I can't think; I'm sure we searched long enough

enough for her, and could not find her, and she screeched dreadfully, as she jumped in; and I am sure she did not rise again; for, Leon and myself both plunged after her, in hopes to pull her up—but we could not find her; and we watched her rising the ninth day; but her body never floated, and so we told of it; but we got laughed at by our companions, and we said no more, especially as it hurted poor Vashti. But though I said nothing about it, I saw her do the same thing again since. However, I thought it best to be silent, and, from that time, I have avoided this part of the park.'

"All this did not hinder me from advancing towards the spot, and I was got within twenty feet of her, when a violent shriek assailed my ears, and I saw her plunge. I ran instantly to the spot, as near as my eye could guess;

but not the least ruffle appeared on the water; it was as smooth as glass, and the weeds were in the same erect posture as those that grew every where around. 'Now,' said Joseph, 'did I not tell you that she would throw herself in, as soon as she had done praying? Lord have mercy upon us! this surely is the ghost of one of those fine ladies, that used to be up at the palace with the prince; but, why she should drown herself, God only knows.'

"I turned from the spot, but had not gone far before I heard music something similar to that we heard just now; but it lasted not above two minutes. My mind has frequently dwelt upon the circumstance, but I have never had an opportunity to satisfy my doubts. I have frequently wandered down that walk, in hopes of again seeing it, but never have."

"Aye,"

"Aye," said Joseph, who had joined them in the park, but had not as yet spoke, "but you may stand a chance of seeing her, now the music is come again; for, she never appears without it; and, when Leon and I heard it first, we thought it was that in the palace, and so did not mind it, for we don't trouble ourselves about that."

"That is the music," said the captain, turning to Fitzallan, "which you heard last evening, and which I have so anxiously sought to find out. However, we will try again; for, there is certainly something more than ordinary meant by its coming so frequent. Did the lady always appear at the same hour?" said he, turning to Joseph." "Yes," he answered, "each time I have seen it was at sunset, the same time as the father saw it, and I really think, if you would come down here

to-morrow evening, or any evening before the vintage is gathered in, you will see it ; for, I have heard our friends say, they don't hear the sounds quite so often sometimes, as they do at others; though it has been heard all times of the year for the matter of that. But," continued Joseph, " whatever discoveries you may make, don't let Vashti be informed of it, as it makes her uneasy, and she, poor thing, can't help the faults of her mother."

" You say true," replied father Gregory ;" — a good heart will ever reason so." " We will most certainly," said the captain, " keep the secret, but we must have your attendance in our search, as you know the different avenues to the palace, and can better guide us than any other person." " Oh my God ! your honor," said Michael, who had not spoke one word since

since he rose from his knees, "where do you mean to go to? Ah! do not, I beseech you, seek after dead folks. I'm sure the live ones here have frightened me enough; and, though I take them all to be very good sort of people, yet I think you had better let these happy gentle-folks live as they do; for, I'm sure they must be happy, or they would not play and sing so, like angels."

"We shall disturb no one," said Fitzallan;" make thyself easy, Michael; whatever we may do, it will most certainly be productive of good." Michael crossed himself and bowed, saying: "The holy Mary preserve your honors!"

"They then descended, and proceeded towards the mansion. As they passed on, they agreed to watch the

next evening, and in the mean time, if the captain was not called another way by any unforeseen event, they agreed to traverse the whole of that side of the building that lay contiguous to the the long passage; but it was thought too late to do any thing that day, as they had the gardens to view after they had dined. This settled, they returned by the same grand entrance to the portico, as they had descended from.

As soon as they were in the room they used to eat in, they were informed that the men who took the lady to Naples were returned. They were pleased to find that she had been delivered in safety to her friends, by two of the members who were at Naples to receive her; that her mother and brother were so happy at again seeing her, and to find she had met with such humane

humane treatment, that they made a very valuable present to the two gentlemen, who delivered her to them, which they insisted upon their receiving, and earnestly intreated they might be permitted to rank them in the number of their friends. They brought an account likewise of the trial of St. Prie and Miss Owen ; the former had been condemned to die upon the wheel, the latter to be placed in the Order of Penitents, there to spend the remainder of a life, which had been a continual curse to all she had been in the least connected with. The order she was consigned to was of the severest kind, and punished with the greatest rigor those unhappy wretches, whose crimes had occasioned them to be immured by the State within its walls.

The rest of the day was spent in viewing the gardens, which, though

the ravages time had made had nearly obliterated the whole of their former beauties, still retained enough to speak its original grandeur. The evening was passed by Fitzallan, in company with the captain, father Gregory, Joseph, and six others. The rest were out, in separate parties, and would not come home till the latter part of the next day, or probably the day after.

When they retired to their rooms, the captain accompanied Fitzallan, saying, "It was his turn to sleep on that side of the house. They went together to Edward's apartment, when the captain said:—"I would wish you to remind Michael of the nature of his oath, as some little circumstances might be taken notice of by the community, which would induce them to detain him after you are gone, as many of them are tenacious of the least sentence

tence, that might lead in any shape to imagine he would betray them by an indiscreet word. You must, therefore, explain every thing to him in a more explicit manner than I have already done." Fitzallan promised, and the captain bidding him good night, said "He should be with him early, that they might begin their search immediately after breakfast."

As soon as he was gone, Edward explained to Michael the nature of the oath he had taken, the sort of people he was among, and the danger he ran of being detained there after him, if he was not in every word he said, extremely circumspect; he, therefore, desired, and commanded him, that whatever he might see, or hear, when with him, not to take the least notice, lest they should insist on his remaining there. Michael promised the most implicit

implicit observance, and they went to rest.

The next morning, as soon as breakfast was over, they began their search over that side of the ruins which led immediately to the vaulted passage. The whole of the upper part of the building was in ruins, the roof having been demolished at the time of its being destroyed by the soldiers. Finding it impossible to gather, from these dismembered apartments, what they had consisted of, they thought it best to descend to the passage underneath, which was the only subterranean one they had discovered; but, in spite of all their researches, they found it impossible to get at the entrance to some rooms, that still existed directly over where they stood. They went back to the ruins; various were the means they tried to remove the remains of some marble

marble columns, that seemed to have been huddled together in one great mass, to make room for other materials.

"I think," said Joseph, "I have heard my father say, This was the side of the palace, where the prince used to keep his ladies, and there was a music room, and a great number of bed rooms, but only one state apartment. Now, if we could remove some of these pillars, 'tis ten to one but we might be able to see the lower rooms, and there it is, I'm sure, the music comes from; suppose we all try with a handspike or two." "That's well thought of," said the captain; prithee, go and get some: I must own my curiosity is excited, and whatever labour it may cost, I don't mind, so I have it gratified."

Father Gregory was of the same opinion;

opinion; Joseph and Michael went and returned presently, with a lever and two handspikes. They set to work immediately, but had toiled near half an hour, without benefiting in the least; for, as fast as they raised one end, the other would fall down, when the music began its heavenly strains, but no voice accompanied it. "It comes from this part of the room," said Fitzallan; "the sounds are more distinct here, than where you now stand. There certainly must be a room underneath, but, being blocked up in such a manner with this rubbish, we cannot see where the door was." They then placed the lever under a block of marble that had fallen from the side, and lifted it with ease. They then put it between two columns, and, raising the whole by a sudden jerk of the handspike, it fell with violence, and precipitated

pitated them, ruins and all, into a room below!

The violence of the crash, and the dread of asking who was hurt, kept all silent. At last, Michael, who had in his fall got astride a marble sphinx, began to roar most horribly for his master, whom he did not see, as the dust that arose from the fall of the rubbish, hid him from his sight. "Thank God!" said Fitzallan, "thou art not killed, nor yet much hurt, I hope." Oh Lord! no, your honor; only my head is broke a bit, by that cursed great bunch of flowers falling so devilish near." This exclamation of Michael's set them all in a roar, and convinced each that neither was harmed. "Well! God be praised!" said father Gregory, "that we are not hurt, at least not materially."

They

They all answered they were safe, but poor Michael; clasping both hands round the neck of the sphinx, he cried: "For the Holy Mary's sake! take me away from this dead horse; I'm sure some evil spirit that has a spite against me, put me upon it. Oh! and by Holy St. Patrick! 'tis a woman too, as well as a horse. Oh Lord! oh Lord! we are got into hell again!"

As soon as they could stop laughing, they tried to get the poor fellow, whom they found it difficult to disengage from his situation, as he was literally enveloped in great bunches of sculptured flowers. However, they at length succeeded in getting him from his awkward situation. They examined his head, and fortunately found it not much hurt. When they began to look about them, they endeavoured to find out what place they were in; and, from what

what they could judge from appearances, they concluded it must have been the music room spoke of by Joseph's father. They then searched for the other rooms he mentioned; and, after a deal of labour, discovered a door, which they opened, and found it led to the bed chambers. They entered several rooms; some of them had furniture, others not.

They had been examining these for near an hour, and were about to return, when they heard the footsteps of a woman. "There now," said Joseph, "as I am alive, if here isn't Vashti coming. She has heard the fine rouse we made, and is come to see what is the matter. But how she could get down, or how we are to get up to go back again, God only knows; for, the whole of the ceiling fell in with us."

As he said this, the door opened, and a young lady, about twenty years of age, entered. She appeared in a night dress, tied loosely round the waist with a blue sash. Her face was beautiful, though strongly impressed with sorrow. She made to the other side of the room, opened a door, and passed into the next. They followed—She paused about the middle of it—turned round, and fixed her eye stedfastly upon Joseph, with a look of mingled anguish and despair—then waved her hand—pointed towards a particular part of the wall—and vanished in an instant! "What can this mean?" said Fitzallan. "Is there any lady, Joseph, you know of, that is like this we have seen? 'Tis evident she addressed herself to you." Joseph said, "No, I know no one that bears the least resemblance to her; though Vashti has got a picture like her, and I have

I have heard her say it was her mother's: surely this can't be her apparition? If so, there is more apparitions than one; for, that is not the lady who goes into the lake; it is not a bit like her." "No," said father Gregory, "this is much taller, and, if I recollect right, it is, as you say, like Vashti's mother. What can bring the wretched woman upon this earth again?"

Whilst they were talking, they heard the soft music again. It drew nearer and nearer, till, at last, it seemed to be in the room with them. They listened with the most profound silence. It ceased. Again they heard some one approaching. They turned, and saw a lady, whom father Gregory instantly recognized as the vision he saw in the park. She seemed to swim round the room, rather than walk, and, when she came opposite the wall, she pointed to the

the same part as the former had done, and then glided swiftly to the outer room again. Her dress was very different from that worn by the first, and her face far surpassed the others in beauty, though they seemed near of an age. The music again sounded, but not long.

"This is accounted for now," said father Gregory; "there is certainly some mystery couched under these appearances, and it must be our business to find it out. If it is agreeable, we will come here again to-morrow, at this time, and then determine to speak to them both; but we must try to find out what that part of the wall means, which, you may be certain, contains something necessary for us to be made acquainted with, or they would not both point to it."

They

They then searched the wall, to see if it was hollow, but they found it was not, as far as they could sound. They examined the floor; nothing was there. They looked over every part of the room, but nothing could be found. They then concluded that it was best to depart, and watch the next day for their coming. They therefore prepared to leave it; but, when they came back to the music room, they were surprised to find that it was impossible to get out, without some kind of ladder, as the whole of the ceiling had fallen in together, and left the walls perfectly bare on all sides. How to ascend they knew not, and to get assistance was impossible, as all that were in the secret of visiting that part of the palace were there together, and to make any one hear was impracticable.

"Oh Lord!" said Michael, "what will

will your honors do now? we must, sure enough, stay here, and see them ladies again. Oh! that I was in dear Derry again! I would never be after a seeking for dead folks. Holy Mary! what strange things have I not seen, since I set my foots in this here country! Ah! the cursed great flower pot! and that abominable great woman horse! Ah! by my soul, and St. Patrick, there is not such kickshaws in my dear country, to frighten people out of their wits. I am sure I will never be after coming here again, to get hold of such hubbery bubberies. Why, it is enough to frighten all the blessed saints in the calendar, much more such a poor honey as me."

Whilst Michael was making this oration, Joseph and Fitzallan were busy in trying to find the handspikes, or the lever; but they laboured in vain,

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it being too deeply buried in the ruins. They next tried to get some of the pieces of marble together, and pile them one upon the other, in order to make a kind of steps; but they were so unskilful in this sort of work, that, before they could put up a third stone, that which was placed as the base gave way, and down came their masonry.

"What, in the name of God! shall we do?" said Fitzallan; "the wall is so cursedly high, and those confounded pieces so devilishly big, that it is impossible to lift them; and that poor simple fellow will be mad if he stays here." "Aye, marry, your honor, and so I should for the matter of that, and so, please you, we must try to get out: not but that I like the music, and all that; but I don't much like ladies that don't speak, and pretty ones too, such as those seem to be that

saw anon. Now, if that devilish queer horse could be made to come over here, I think we could get something upon his back, that would stand firm."

"What! you want to get astride it again, do you?" said Joseph; "you were so well pleased with your other journey, that you would willingly mount again." "Ah! the Devil mount it," said Michael; "I'm sure I will never get on his back again: but you know we must do something to get out from here. Oh! I wish all the spirits had been in Lough Neagh, before his honor had thought of running after music of this sort, when we might have heard it outside that wall, as well as knocking down the house to get at it."

Whilst Joseph and Michael were talking, father Gregory, the captain,

and

and Fitzallan, had fortunately raised a part of the column that lay over the handspikes, and got one out. They then endeavoured to find, with this, the way into the passage below, but in vain. They then agreed to turn back to the bed-rooms, and try to get a passage that way into the other wing of the house, naturally concluding there must have been some kind of communication with the other wing of the building. They turned back, though much against Michael's will, and entered again the deserted chambers, not one of which could they discover ever to have had the least opening on that side. They therefore concluded, that the entrance must have been on that side they come in at. They were of course constrained to go back again, and once more attempt to leave it by the way they came, to adopt Michael's scheme of placing something

upon the sphinx's back, and, by that means, climb up. This they immediately set about doing, and, in about half an hour, had so far accomplished their design, as to bring the sphinx close to the wall.

After a good deal of deliberation, it was agreed, that one of them should get upon the sphinx, and then another get upon his shoulders, and endeavour to jump from thence to the floor above. Michael said, If Joseph would jump, he would stand upon the horse, as he called it, and support him; but Fitzallan said He thought, as he was the lightest, he had best jump. Michael did not much relish that, for fear his master should miss the leap, and fall back again, and he thought it much better for Joseph to get a fall than his master. Fitzallan, however, persisted

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in it; up he mounted, and in an instant, his feet touched the floor above.

"I'll soon get you all out," said he, "if I can find the way to the park, to get a ladder." "That you will find," said Joseph, "in the first court you entered, close to the one we passed. Keep to the right of the ruins."

Away ran Fitzallan to get it; but, in his hurry to return, instead of turning to the left, he turned to the right, and did not discover his mistake, till he found himself opposite to the portico. He hastened back, and, soon gaining the upper part of the tottering fabrick, let down the ladder, and got them all up in safety. Michael crossed himself; father Gregory thanked God, and the rest laughed, to think what a queer hobble they had been in, and what a pretty piece of work it would

have been, if they could not have got out.

As soon as they had collected their thoughts sufficiently to look about them, they were assured that the room they had been in was the music room, and, going round to examine that part which joined the bed rooms, they thought they saw two walls, which ran parallel with them. What two walls could do there, they could not imagine, but were determined to find out. The captain, by the help of the ladder, gained the top, and, looking down, found it to be walls about three feet asunder, closed in on every side, apparently about fifteen feet long, but no visible entrance to it.

They were lost in conjecturing what it could be built for, when Joseph said —"Perhaps that is the very wall the lady

lady pointed to, and I am determined to go there and make a hole in it, exactly where she pointed, and that will, in all probability, enable us to discover what she meant. But the others thought it best not to stay any longer then, lest Vashti should be alarmed at their absence. They therefore returned, and, as soon as she saw them, she said, She was very glad they were come, as there had been a gentleman there, to enquire Whether any person was hurt at the falling of the rooms on the south side of the palace. She said She had heard a great noise, as she went round to seek a stray fowl, that had gone that way, and thought she heard several voices, but did not know where it came from, and the gentleman being a stranger, she did not ask him to see any part of the house, as she expected them to return every minute. "But

he

he has been gone now," said she, " these two hours."

They concluded he must have passed when the floor fell in. The captain said He had not seen any one—but there was nobody hurt. Who this gentleman could be they could not imagine, or how he got into the park, Joseph being with them. They thought it best to send round the different walks, to see if he was still there; but the man returned in about an hour, saying, There was no sign of a person any where. They therefore concluded he had seen as much as he chose, and was gone.

Dinner was immediately got for them, and, as soon as it was over, they seemed all inclined to go to the lake again; but a violent storm of thunder and lightning coming on, they were pre-

prevented. The lightning was extremely vivid, and the thunder seemed to shake the remains of the building to its foundation. They were afraid to continue in it, and one and all got up to go into the park. They reached the saloon and crossed it; but had not passed the whole of the colonnade, before one wing of the palace appeared in a blaze. The lightning, as they thought, had struck it, and it burnt with violence; but a most violent storm of rain coming on, deadened the flames, and, in a short time, it appeared extinguished. Yet the storm abated not; it returned after the rain, with ten-fold violence; peal succeeded peal, and lightning glared around them in all directions. Even the heart of Fitzallan sunk within him.

"Almighty being!" said father Gregory, lifting up his hands to Heaven, "slay

"slay us not in thy wrath, but in thy punishments remember mercy."

The whole group, consisting of seventeen persons, as they had been collected through fear from all parts of the building, surrounded the father, and earnestly intreated him to pray for them, that they might not perish in their crimes. "I know not what," said he, "to do for you, my friends; I am a sinner as well as you, but you must, all of you, join me in prayer. Suppose we venture to the pavilion on the left, there will not be so much danger there, as the building being small, we shall not be so liable to be buried in its ruins, should it be struck by lightning."

They all hastened towards it, but had not entered it above a minute, before they perceived the palace again blazing,

ing, and with such fury, as seemed to threaten its total dissolution; and yet, they thought that the flames came only from the wing which they had been that day exploring. "Now," said the father, "all hopes are fled; we can do neither the dead, nor living, any service by our researches; it will all be buried in one general ruin." This observation was understood but by part of the company, when the father forgetting himself, resumed: Ah! what a providential escape we have had! If we had not left those ruins when we did, we should all have perished together. It is evident that is the very part now burning—Still it seems as if it did not proceed altogether from that which has been so long unroofed, but to the south-west of it, which, though joined to it, yet the flames did not actually blaze from it. "God of mercies, what can it mean?"

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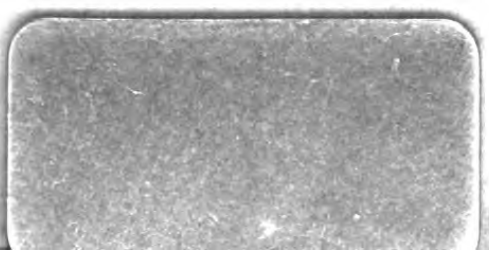
"Another clap of thunder burst over them; the lightning rolled in ten thousand fantastic shapes, along the enamelled green, and appeared burning up the verdure, and transfixing every living animal that came within the reach of its malevolence. The lake appeared one sheet of rolling fire, and, as they viewed it from the pavilion, they thought it emitted from amidst the sulphureous flames several hideous phantoms, whose dreadful howlings sounded on the ear, and struck each trembling hearer with more than mortal horror. The frightful fiends quitted the lake, and approached towards the pavilion, when, overcome by their fears, the whole assembly sunk upon their knees, earnestly imploring the protection of Heaven."

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

C. Stower, Printer,
King-Street, Covent-Garden.