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FOREST OF ST. BERNARDO.

A NOVEL,

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

By MISS M. HAMILTON.

VOLUME IV.

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THE
FOREST OF ST. BERNARDO.

CHAP. I.

JULIANA had amused herself with reading till the shades of night had cast a gloom on the surrounding scene, which induced her to quit the temple in search of Matilda and Charles, whose long stay rather surprised her. Having sauntered some time in hopes of meet-

ing them, but in vain, the hemisphere, being suddenly overclouded, threatened an approaching storm, which determined her to return home as fast as possible.

A winding path led to an arm of the sea, which she was obliged to cross in her way to the park. The storm had just begun, and she was involved in total darkness. Juliana, though naturally courageous, felt an unusual awe. Involuntarily she stopped; her feet seemed transfixed to the earth, and she listened with trembling anxiety for the footsteps of her friends. A violent clap of thunder, which seemed to burst over her head, roused her.

“Protect

“Protect me, Heaven!” she exclaimed.

At that instant she heard some one approaching. On turning suddenly round, by the glare of the lightning she perceived two ill-looking fellows rush out of a small inclosure. Fear lent her wings, and she had almost reached the cottage which stood at the entrance of the park when her foot struck against a stone, and she fell. Before she could rise the men seized her. She screamed violently, but the storm prevented her from being heard.

Juliana on her knees implored mercy,

and offered the men her watch and purse. They made no reply ; but tying a handkerchief over her mouth, one of them took her in his arms. Fear deprived her of her senses. On recovering she found herself in bed in a small neat cabin. Two women (one, who seemed the superior, had a very stern aspect) were sitting by her. She endeavoured to rise, but was prevented by a faint sickness occasioned by the motion of the vessel. A violent retching ensued, and for three days she continued so ill that she scarcely had any recollection of what had passed. On the fourth morning she became perfectly collected, but exceedingly weak.

She

She revolved in her mind the strange and unfortunate event that had happened.

The women perceiving Juliana had recovered her senses, brought her a cordial, which she took without hesitation, and found herself somewhat refreshed. On putting some questions to her attendants they shook their heads, and made signs that they did not understand her.

Juliana, as it has been already observed, was endued with a solidity of judgment and penetration far above her years, and blessed with an uncommon fortitude and sweetness of temper which

never forsook her even on the most trying occasion. It struck her that nothing could be obtained by sullenness or resistance, as she was evidently too much in the power of her enemy ; she determined, therefore, to do every thing to restore her health and strength, and by supplication and prayer implore the protection of Divine Providence, and resigning herself to his disposal, with patience wait the solution of her mysterious fate.

This determination calmed, in some measure, the perturbation of her mind, and subdued the poignancy of her grief. No one entered the cabin but the women, who took such good care
of

of her that in a few days she was able to rise. She was amply supplied with every article of dress in the most elegant stile.

The weather being remarkably fine, the attendants made signs for her to go on deck for the benefit of the air. Curiosity induced Juliana to comply with their request. How great was her surprise to find she was on board a Spanish ship! Juliana perfectly understood the language, and spoke it with fluency. Father Edmund had in her childhood taken great pleasure in teaching her Spanish, and often conversed with her in it.

A genteel, well-bred man, who appeared to have the command, approached her, bowed respectfully, and by signs expressed his pleasure at her recovery. She politely returned her thanks, and addressed him in French, it having occurred to her that by concealing her knowledge of the Spanish language she might gain some intelligence relative to her destiny. Felix (so he was called) either did not, or would not, understand her.

On Juliana's retiring to her cabin the circumstance of being on board a Spanish vessel puzzled her extremely.

“Who can be the contriver of this plot?”

plot?" thought she. "No one in Spain knows of my existence, except my father. Surely the secret has not escaped him! If it has, of what consequence could it be to any one to be at the expense and trouble to carry me off? And now they have gained their point, what good can arise to them from it?"

In vain Juliana's imagination wandered in a labyrinth of conjectures, till, perplexed and wearied, she gave up the point; and fervently recommending herself to the care of Heaven, retired to rest, and in a calm sleep for some hours buried her anxiety in oblivion.

Her table was well supplied, and the

attendants continued attentive but silent. The book she had been reading that fatal evening she was torn from her country and friends she had put in her pocket: it was a well-chosen collection of Poems, and had been presented to her by Edward. This rendered it invaluable. His picture, which she wore, proved a melancholy source of amusement. Often for hours she would sit and gaze on it. This brought on a train of reflexion which in spite of her fortitude overpowered her; for though Juliana could support her own distress, the bare idea of the sufferings of her friends overwhelmed her with affliction.

Since

Since Juliana had been able to go on deck her strength gradually returned, and her health visibly mended. Felix regularly once a day visited her, and lent her several books in the French language on entertaining and instructive subjects. This was a real acquisition, as it engaged her attention, and often beguiled her of her fears. It convinced her that Felix spoke French.

Thus passed near a month, when one afternoon, being seated on deck, she found, by the conversation, the sailors were in hopes of making land the following day. Felix gave orders to the attendants to get things in readiness. The next morning the vessel

made the port of ———, on the confines of ———. Some hours after they had cast anchor, Felix, by signs, desired Juliana to go on shore, and with great respect handed her into the boat. The attendants followed.

On their landing she perceived an old-fashioned coach, with six mules and several servants, in waiting. This led her to imagine that Felix had given notice of her arrival. After placing Juliana and the women in the carriage, Felix followed; and seating himself backwards, kept, as usual, a profound silence.

Had our heroine's mind been perfectly
at

at ease, the face of the country would have inspired her with melancholy ideas. It appeared a desert, a few miserable huts excepted. Not an habitation was to be seen, except on a rising ground, almost enveloped with trees, (which seemed coequal with the flood,) the turrets of an antique castle appeared. In less than an hour, though from the unevenness of the roads they moved slowly, they reached the outward gate of this venerable gothic pile. As the porter was opening the massy gate, which creaked on its hinges, Juliana involuntarily shuddered.

“ Ah,” thought she, as they drove into the court, “ how different is this
gloomy

gloomy mansion to the beautiful gothic structure at Upton ! Oh, my beloved friends, what do you not suffer for your Juliana? Shall I, O merciful Heaven, shall I ever be restored to you—ever have the supreme happiness of again beholding you ?”

Tears started in her eyes ; Felix was affected. By signs he endeavoured to quiet her fears. On alighting, they were received by a venerable-looking woman, whose benignity of countenance strongly prepossessed Juliana in her favour, whom with great respect she welcomed, and conducted her into a superb saloon furnished in the ancient style of Spanish magnificence. Felix bowed,

bowed, and took his leave immediately. The two women remained. Refreshments of various sorts were set before her. At dinner the table was spread with every delicacy, and served in plate. Two servants waited. One of them, to her great comfort, spoke tolerable French; so she had the pleasure of being understood when she called for any thing, and of hearing the sound of her own voice, to which she was almost a stranger.

Being rather more composed, she observed that the few domestics she had seen were in deep mourning; and on examining the arms on the plate, she perceived they were the duke's, her

her grandfather. What confirmed her that she did not mistake was the crest springing out of a ducal coronet, and the cypher being the initials of his name. She concluded that he was dead; but if the Márquis, her father, had succeeded to the title, what could induce him to act in so unaccountable a manner? Why not openly demand her of Mrs. Millward, who certainly would not have detained her against his consent? Yet when she considered the character of the Marquis, the fondness he had even from her birth expressed for her, and that her intended union with Edward was at his own particular request, and seemed to be the first wish of his heart, she could not for a moment

ment suppose he even knew of the transaction. Had the Marchioness discovered that she was still in existence, and, fearful of her rivalling Elvira in the affections of the Marquis, had got her into her power, and perhaps meant to seclude her in a convent for life? But if she was the amiable, generous Sophronia described, who had acted so noble, so disinterested by her mother, surely it was impossible that she could be guilty of such an act of cruelty; and she rejected the surmise with disdain.

Strongly was she tempted to interrogate the servant who spoke French, but a moment's consideration determined her to suppress her curiosity, and

and on no account ask any questions. Juliana employed herself some time in looking at the family pictures. One, a beautiful boy of about six years old, attracted her notice. She was looking attentively at it, when Conrad entered to announce that tea and coffee were ready. He seemed by his looks to expect she would ask who it was done for. Finding Juliana prepared to follow him, he said—

“ The picture you were admiring, Donna, was drawn for the Marquis of Vaena, when a child.”

This convinced her that she must be in the power of her family, but did not
in

in the least tend to unravel the mystery that surrounded her. As Conrad was taking away, Juliana asked if she might walk in the garden.

“Certainly, Donna,” he replied. “In the castle, and as far as the grounds extend, you have absolute command.”

She desired him to send one of the women. The youngest made her appearance, and to the great surprise of Juliana asked what were her orders in very good French. She had presence of mind to take no notice of her having found her tongue, but told her, with great mildness, that she wished her to accompany her in her walk.”

“You

“ You do me honour, Donna,” she replied, and withdrew to fetch Juliana’s bonnet and cloak.

After walking above an hour, during which time she conversed with her companion on indifferent subjects relative to France, (of which Mademoiselle Amy was a native,) they returned to the castle, where Juliana found supper ready. As soon as she had finished her unsociable meal she desired to retire for the night. The women attended, and conducted her to a superb apartment. The hangings and bed were blue and gold, which, though rather tarnished, were still in tolerable preservation. The dressing-room corresponded with

with the bed-chamber. The other attendant spoke only Spanish ; she was called Ursula.

Juliana desired Amy to call her by eight in the morning. On bidding Amy good night, she said—

“ If you have no objection, Donna, I am to sleep in the adjoining closet.”

By this it was evident she was strictly watched. A variety of unpleasing reflexions kept Juliana awake the best part of the night. In the morning she rose unrefreshed and languid. Amy attended her toilette, and presented a deep mourning dress elegantly made in
the

the English fashion. Juliana put it on without making the least comment. A sigh escaped her, and a tear trickled down her cheek on viewing her sable garment.

“ For whom,” thought she, “ do I wear this? Not for my brother, for the time is past. If for the Duke St. Ildefonso, why am I not informed of it?”

Amy, who really was attached to Juliana, inquired if shew as unwell. She answered no; and recovering herself, changed the discourse by asking some trifling question in regard to the weather. Ursula coming in, no more was said.

said. Juliana observed that Amy stood in awe of her, and scarcely spoke before her. As soon as breakfast was over, Conrad said,

“ Donna, will you choose to go over the castle? If you do, Ursula, Amy, and the old housekeeper will attend you.”

Juliana replied she should like to see it. Conrad called them, desiring the housekeeper to bring the keys. She respectfully, in Spanish, wished Juliana good morning, and with evident anxiety enquired after her health. Juliana nearly betrayed herself, as she was going to reply in Spanish. Luckily

Amy

Amy instantly repeated in French what Signora Thomasina had been saying. Juliana desired Amy to tell her she was much obliged, and sorry to give her so much trouble.

“Tell Donna Juliana,” said the good old woman, “that if it was not my duty, inclination would lead me to attend her.”

It took some hours to view this ancient fabric. The picture gallery was still in fine preservation, and several of the state apartments in excellent order. The tower in the left wing of the castle seemed in a ruinous state. Juliana, observing the housekeeper passed quickly
by

by the stairs which led to it, desired Amy to say she wished to see the prospect from the turret.

“Heaven forbid!” cried the good woman, crossing herself, and telling her beads with great devotion. “Ah, Donna, that horrid place has not been entered for many years, nor have I the keys of it. The prophecy that is now so fatally accomplished is enclosed in a cabinet which stands in the room on the first landing-place. Strange noises are often heard in it—”

She was proceeding, but a look from Ursula stopped her; and Amy merely said it was unsafe, the stairs being in

many parts broken. It directly occurred to Juliana that she alluded to the prophecy mentioned in her father's letters, and she would have given the world to have known the particulars: yet she had the fortitude to persevere in her resolution not to appear anxious to be informed of any one circumstance.

Thus passed a month in the same dull routine. It was with difficulty that Juliana supported her spirits, as she began to fear she was imprisoned for life. If even she had not been so closely watched it would have been in vain to think of escaping, as the high walls that encompassed the castle and pleasure-grounds precluded the shadow of hope; and if
it

it had been possible to have surmounted these obstacles, many others would intervene to prevent her making the attempt. An entire stranger to every thing but the language, her sex and age would have exposed her to dangers the bear idea of which made her shudder.

She never saw the housekeeper but by chance. Juliana remarked that the worthy creature beheld her with compassion blended with respect, and once she saw her turn aside to conceal her tears.

One night, after Juliana had retired to bed, she heard an unusual noise of

doors opening and different voices. Servants were running backward and forward in the gallery that led to her apartment. She plainly heard some one say—

“Who would have thought of the Duke and Duchess coming so unexpected at this late hour? I wonder what mischief they have got in their heads now!”

“Heaven protect the Lady Juliana!” replied a voice she knew to be Conrad’s. “Had I known what an angel she was, I never would have been concerned in the affair.”

The

The other person said something in so low a tone that it precluded her hearing, and they passed on. Juliana was alarmed. Surely the Duke they mentioned could not be her father : if it was, she had nothing to fear ; yet the few words she had heard were of a strange import. What could they allude to ?

These and similar reflexions prevented Juliana from sleeping, and she counted the tedious hours as the great clock announced them. It was near two before the castle was perfectly quiet. Just as the day began to break she heard a footstep approach the bed, and saw by the feint light a female figure

open the side curtain. She had the courage to lie still. After gazing on her for a minute the figure stooped down, and in a whisper said, in very bad French—

“ Donna Juliana, peruse this letter as soon as possible : take care that no one sees you. Particularly beware of Ursula. The Holy Virgin guard and protect you !”

Juliana took the letter, and was going to reply, but the person made a sign for her to be silent, and instantly glided out of the room. Juliana could scarcely believe her senses.

“ Am

“Am I awake,” thought she, “or is it a dream?” But by the increasing light she plainly saw the letter, and read the direction—“To the Lady Juliana?” Nothing could equal her astonishment and horror on reading the following lines, written in French:

“Wonder not, Madam, at your receiving the intelligence contained in this paper: it comes from one who will, if possible, save you from the threatened danger at the hazard of his life. Let me conjure you to put implicit confidence in what I have to communicate. Sorry I am, Madam, to afflict you, but it is absolutely necessary that you should know that the Duke St. Ildefonso and

the Marquis your father are no more. You are in the power of Don Gusman, (who has succeeded to the title of your grandfather.) He is a most atrocious villain, and an implacable enemy to your family. Donna Triphosa is equally your foe. Their scheme is by a feigned story to prevail on you to marry their only son, a youth of sixteen. The motive is to secure the immense fortune you inherit. I am concerned to add that the Marquis was basely murdered by Gusman and Triphosa. Believe not a word they say, but try every method to gain time; and take care that they do not suspect you are acquainted with their crimes. I was in hopes Pedro would have arrived in England soon
enough

enough to have prevented your falling into their hands. The real will of the Marquis is in the possession of Pedro, whom Gusman supposes dead. There is only one person in this house you may trust, which is the housekeeper, who ventures to deliver this. I have taught her a few words in French, to address you. Would to Heaven you understood Spanish, as Signora Tomasina could impart many things which I dare not commit to paper. Let me beg of you, Madam, for both our sakes, to destroy this as soon as you have read it. Do not give any credit to the prophecy, however authentic it may appear; it is all a fabrication of Father Anthony and Don Gusman's mother,

who was an Italian. I trust it will one day be brought to light. May the Holy Virgin and all good angels watch over you !”

Juliana was thunder-struck. The mystery was indeed unravelled ; but into what an abyss of misery was she plunged ! Her father murdered, herself torn from her country and friends, and entirely in the power of her most inveterate enemy !

“ Surely,” thought Juliana, when recollection returned, “ Gusman’s and Triphosa’s crimes are recorded in fearful characters upon the tablet of retribution !”

Her

Her sensations were too acute for tears ; her heart felt ready to burst. She had the presence of mind to destroy the paper after reading it a second time ; every word was engraven on her memory. The castle clock striking six reminded her that she had only two hours to compose herself, and prepare her mind for the approaching trial. Kneeling, she thus addressed Heaven :

“ O thou awful Superintendant of human affairs ! true thou hast suffered me to be entrapped by the vile arts of Gusman, but I will trust to thy mercy and justice for protection ; and wilt thou not avenge the cause of betrayed innocence ? Pardon, O pardon the presumptuous

interrogatory! pardon a weak, complaining mortal, and teach her submission to thy will! Doubtless to thee, All-wise and Omnipotent, is owing the afflictions of thy servant; but the hand that wounds can cure. Thy goodness has raised me up an unknown friend, (reward him, Heaven!) let me not then despair, but on my part make every effort; and rest fully assured, that whatever trials thy wisdom has destined me to undergo, thy power can redeem me from every evil."

Juliana felt herself more calm; and when Mademoiselle Amy entered the dressing-room she received her as usual. Nothing passed till after breakfast, when

Conrad

Conrad brought a message from the Duke of St. Ildefonso, desiring to see her in the library.

“ He and the Duchess, Donna, only arrived last night ; and fearing they might have disturbed your rest, would not announce themselves sooner.”

Juliana, in spite of every endeavour, was greatly agitated : she thought Conrad viewed her with evident marks of compassion. As soon as she was a little recovered she told Conrad she would attend the Duke immediately.

“ Have courage, Donna ; I trust you have nothing to fear. If you should,
you

you may find friends he little thinks of."

This was uttered in a very low tone. Juliana looked her thanks, but made no reply, and soon found herself in the presence of the man she most dreaded, and the sight of whom filled her with horror: yet supported by conscious innocence, and an innate dignity of mind, she entered the room in a manner that abashed Don Gusman, and for some minutes he viewed her with silent awe. He was struck with the elegance of her deportment, the interesting and bewitching graces of her lovely countenance, which being suffused by a deep blush, added to its natural beauty.

As

As soon as he recovered the confusion the sight of Juliana occasioned, he rose, and addressing her in French, handed her to a chair. His touch almost petrified her, yet she did not withdraw her hand, but curtseying with ineffable grace, seated herself. After a short pause Gusman said—

“ You have no doubt, Donna Juliana, been greatly surprised by my proceedings ; but I flatter myself when I have explained my motives you will not only pardon, but approve of the steps I have taken. Before I enter into particulars, allow me to thank you for the whole of your conduct : it proves to me that the exalted character I heard
of

of you scarcely does you justice, and evinces an uncommon strength of understanding."

Juliana bowed, but was silent. Gusman continued—

"You are doubtless, Donna, no stranger to the loss you have sustained by the death of your father and grandfather. The part I have acted is in consequence of the dying request of the Marquis. He conjured me to send for you to Spain, as he could not reconcile it to his conscience to let you remain an heretic, and appointed me sole guardian to your person and fortune."

Juliana

Juliana could not restrain her tears. Scarcely could she command her temper, on Don Gusman's endeavouring to soothe her. At the instant she was going to reproach him the advice of her unknown friend darted into her mind; and summoning her fortitude to her aid, she replied with calmness, but with great firmness, that the conduct of her lamented father appeared very extraordinary. She had always understood that he had resigned all right in her to Mr. Millward, whom he had invested with full power to act in every respect by her as his own daughter.

“You have been misinformed in many points.”

“May

“ May I, Sir, be permitted to ask why you did not inform Mr. Millward of the change in my father’s sentiments, and openly demand me rather than descend to stratagem ?”

“ Because I was certain Mr. Millward would never have consented to resign you, but would have detained you as a British subject. It was not probable that he would relinquish the large fortune you have in England, beside the immense wealth you will inherit by the Marquis’s will, if you conform to his dying injunctions.”

Juliana involuntarily darted a look at the Duke that in spite of his effrontery
discon-

disconcerted him; and rising very hastily—

“ Donna Juliana,” said he, “ I will not at present urge the subject, but hope, nay expect, that your good sense will lead you to conform in every respect to the will of your deceased parent. Allow me to introduce you to the Duchess, who longs to embrace you.”

Though her heart recoiled at the idea of being obliged to receive the caresses of the murderers of her father and brother, yet prudence prevailed, and she resolved to suppress, as much as possible, the repugnance and detestation she felt for Gusman and Triphosa.

Prepossessed

Prepossessed as she was against the latter, she thought her an exceeding fine woman. The Duchess still retained a great share of beauty, her figure was commanding, her manners soft and polished. She received Juliana with apparent tenderness, but at times a malignant joy sparkled in her eyes that did not escape the penetration of Juliana. She perceived the great attention the Duke paid her displeased Triphosa.

At dinner they were joined by a friar whose countenance disgusted her. He was introduced to her as Father Anthony.

“ Ah,”

“ Ah,” thought Juliana, “ I am not deceived, then ! His face is a true emblem of his mind.”

After the servants had quitted the room, the Duke told Juliana he wished her to have some conversation with the holy father, as he had no doubt of his convincing her of the errors of the protestant faith, and inducing her to embrace the tenets of the Roman catholic church. Juliana begged to be excused, as she did not think herself qualified to enter into theological disputes: perfectly satisfied with the pure and simple mode of worship she had from her infancy been accustomed to, she trusted the Duke would not extend his authority

so far as to insist on her renouncing (at least for the present) principles which were deeply engraven on her mind.

“Certainly, Donna, you shall not be pressed on the subject,” said the Duke.

He then contrived to introduce the prophecy which Father Anthony had expatiated on largely, and concluded by saying it had been nearly accomplished:

“And your grace’s accession to the title and estate fully confirms the truth of it. When time and the inspiration of Heaven have effected the conversion of Donna Juliana, the dangers that threatened

threatened the august family of St. Ildefonso will entirely cease, and she be saved from eternal damnation."

With mingled sensations of contempt and horror did Juliana listen to the pious hypocrite.

"Oh!" exclaimed she, mentally, "how unlike are his doctrines to those of the truly good Father Edmund! He indeed breathes the pure spirit of the Christian faith."

As much as was consistent with politeness Juliana declined conversation; but the little she did say convinced the party they would find it no easy task
to

to impose on her. They were astonished at the solidity of her judgment and her extensive knowledge.

Just as they were taking coffee, Don Frederic and his governor arrived. He was a tall, sickly-looking youth, but seemed good-natured and unaffected. He by no means inherited the abilities of his parents. Happily for himself he was a stranger to their crimes. He was introduced to Juliana as the Marquis Vanena. The idea of his being her destined husband made her smile—he appeared a mere boy.

Music was proposed. Juliana would fain have excused herself from taking a
part

part in the concert, but the Duke would accept of no apology. He told her he was no stranger to her skill and taste both as a vocal and instrumental performer, and that she particularly excelled on the harp.

No instrument could be better calculated to display the various graces of her person to advantage, and she touched it in a style that raised the admiration of her auditors. The melodious tone of her voice enraptured the Duke, who, on Juliana concluding a beautiful Italian air, exclaimed, that she excelled the divine St. Cecilia.

As soon as supper was over, Juliana

was permitted to retire. The Duchess desired her company at breakfast.— Never had our heroine passed so miserable a day. She dismissed her attendants almost immediately, requesting they would leave a light, as she wished to read an hour before she went to bed. Amy asked if she would permit her to sit up. Julian a said—

“ On no account.”

The poor girl seemed, by her manner, to have something to communicate, but the presence of Ursula checked her, and with reluctance she bid Juliana good night. When alone, she gave loose to her feelings, but not to despondency: she

she longed to let the housekeeper know that she spoke Spanish, and entertained a faint hope she would repeat her nocturnal visit ; but in that she was disappointed. She carefully examined every part of the room, in order to discover the private door which she thought might hereafter be of use, but her endeavours proved abortive, and she retired to bed wearied and dispirited.

The morning proving fine, Juliana attended the Duchess in the garden. They were soon joined by the Duke and Frederic. Nothing but general topics were discussed till Father Anthony appeared. The Duke then desired Juliana to favour the holy man with half

an hour's conversation. She knew it would be in vain to refuse, and she was compelled to hear a tedious lecture from lips which profaned the religious tenets he meant to enforce. Juliana listened in silence ; and when Father Anthony had finished his lecture, she made no reply.

“ Will you not deign an answer, Donna ?” said he.

“ I have none, Father, to make. It would be presumptuous in me to endeavour to refute your opinions, or to enter into any controversy, incapable as I am of doing justice to the doctrine I have been educated in ; oblige me, therefore,

therefore, by dropping the subject, and giving me time for reflection."

So saying, she curtsied and left the room. Father Anthony saw plainly that Juliana possessed uncommon strength of mind, and that she could not be either frightened or flattered to act contrary to her judgment. He sought the Duke and Duchess, to whom he communicated his ill success.

"Donna Juliana is the most extraordinary character I ever met with : not all my efforts could draw her into an argument."

"And if you had succeeded, father,"

D 3

said

said the Duke, " I suspect, in spite of all your sophistry, you would have made little impression on Juliana : nay, I am not sure that you would not have been obliged to quit the field. Her conduct and conversation astonish me ; her natural abilities are great, and by education they have been expanded and cultivated to the highest pitch."

" Your observations are just," replied the Duchess, " but she abounds in art."

" I do not think she has the least trait of it in her character. So far from it, I am certain her real disposition is candid and ingenuous ; but situated as she is, she finds it necessary to
oppose

oppose art to art. I am at a loss what method to pursue. I fear she is too well informed in every respect to become our dupe. She certainly knows that her fortune in England is, at eighteen, at her own disposal. If she dies before that period, it centres in Mr. Millward's children. From the Marquis's papers it appears she has been the idol of his affection from her birth; and nothing but the request of her mother, when dying, prevented him from acknowledging his lovely daughter."

"It is rather singular," said the Duchess, "that the Marchioness was not entrusted with the secret, as she

was acquainted with every circumstance of Alonza's first marriage."

"From letters I have found, she certainly was," replied the Duke, "and I am glad I prevented their falling into the hands of Sophronia. If Juliana continues obstinately to refuse complying with our proposals, she must be immured in a convent, and sedulously must we guard the secret of our having forced her from England; for tho' we have powerful friends, we have likewise powerful opponents; and I am certain Don Sebastian and Sophronia view us with suspicion, and only wait a favourable opportunity to accuse us publicly. If Juliana is not produced to
claim

claim her immense property, we shall lose it, as Elvira will be then the sole heiress to her father and grandfather, except the estate annexed to the title, which the late Duke has left much encumbered. Since Lord Alphonso's death he has raised considerable sums on mortgage. Our own fortune is so involved, and I am so deeply in debt, that even with the lucrative post I hold, I cannot support the dukedom."

Father Anthony, who was not only in their confidence, but an abettor of their crimes, strongly urged the necessity of compulsion.

" If Donna Juliana were left entirely

to my care," said he, "I would subdue her haughty spirit, and teach her submission to your grace."

"At present, Father," said Gusman with a frown, "I choose to try gentle means, nor shall my orders be disobeyed."

Juliana did not make her appearance till summoned to dinner. The Duke treated her with great politeness, and endeavoured to draw her into conversation relative to her friends in England, but she evaded every question concerning them, but freely discoursed with him on general subjects. He found she had imbibed strong ideas in favour of
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the privileges English women enjoyed ; and though she politely avoided giving her opinion of the Spanish ladies, he clearly perceived she did not approve of the restraint they lay under ; and even supposing that Juliana had not left her heart in England, Gusman was convinced she would never become the wife of a Spaniard.

This discovery vexed, but did not surprise him : he was conscious of Frederic's being little calculated to make an impression on Juliana ; for though handsome he was childish in his actions, and his education, owing to ill health, had been totally neglected.

Three weeks moved heavily on. Juliana was almost daily obliged to attend to the admonitions of Father Anthony, which had no other effect on her than to render her, if possible, more unhappy. Hardly could Juliana support herself. The constant society of people whom her soul execrated was too severe a trial. At night, free from painful restraint, she indulged in all the luxury of grief. It was then her imagination wandered to her friends at Upton, and past scenes of happiness rose in quick succession to her view: but long she dared not dwell on them.

Vainly had she sought an opportunity of speaking to the housekeeper, who
had

had not renewed her visit, nor had she received the least intimation from her unknown friend. Amy appeared unusually reserved, and Conrad she seldom saw. The Duke and Duchess, attended by Frederic, took frequent airings, but Juliana never accompanied them. In other respects she was treated with great complacency, even by the Duchess.

One day Ursula happening to be absent when Juliana retired to dress, Amy said—

“There is a great bustle below, Donna: an express is just arrived, requiring the immediate attendance of
the

the Duke at Madrid; in consequence of which he and the Duchess set off to-morrow. We are, I find, to be left in this dismal castle, of which I am most heartily sick. I suppose you will hear all about it at dinner."

Juliana made little or no reply. On her going into the saloon the Duke lamented the necessity of being obliged to return to Madrid.

"I trusted," continued he, "that I should have had the pleasure of taking you, my charming Juliana, and introducing you at court in a manner your rank and fortune demand; but you have frustrated my intentions by not
complying

complying with the wishes of your father, who, I must now tell you, left strict orders that you should be secluded from the world if you did not fulfil the conditions of his will. Let me hope on my return I shall find you more acquiescent. During my absence I have no doubt of your acting with the same propriety that has hitherto marked your conduct."

Juliana bowed, and only said she should never give his Grace any real cause to disapprove of either her actions or behaviour. No material conversation passed during the rest of the day. The Duke appeared rather reserved and gloomy; the Duchess was visibly disconcerted.

concerted. From two or three words that Father Anthony said in Spanish to the Duke, some disagreeable event occasioned their sudden departure.

In the evening Juliana, being left alone, strolled into the garden. Insensibly she fell into a train of thoughts on past events, and her present perilous situation. So profound was her meditation, that unknown to herself she had extended her walk beyond its usual bounds; and suddenly recollecting herself, found she was in a grove which she had never before entered. Involuntarily she stopped before a large olive tree. Stooping down to examine a curious shrub, she observed something

thing sparkle. On taking it up, it proved to be a ring richly set with diamonds. Before she could examine it a footstep alarmed her; and she had just time to put it in her pocket when Gusman appeared. On seeing Juliana he started, and, with a look of horror that astonished her, seized her hand, and exclaimed, with the greatest agitation—

“What could induce the Lady Juliana to visit this accursed spot?”

The impetuosity of his manner frightened her, and she trembled excessively. In a faltering voice she replied—

“My

“ My lord, chance alone was my guide.”

“ But why stop at that accursed tree?”

“ A beautiful exotic attracted my notice, Sir.”

“ Well, well, let us leave the grove.”

And kissing her hand with an unusual vehemence, was going to say something, when the voice of the Duchess prevented him.

“ We must join her immediately,” said he.

And

And resuming, in an instant, a calmness in his look and manner, led Juliana, without speaking, to a pavilion, where the Duchess and Frederic were seated.

“ I found this fair lady,” said the Duke, “ employed in examining shrubs in the grove.”

The Duchess seemed disconcerted, but only said—

“ Lady Juliana had better, in future, direct her botanical researches to some other part of these extensive grounds, where she will be secure from danger.”

Frederic



Frederic asked—

“Why, is the grove an interdicted place? Father Anthony the other day forbid me to enter it. I told him I had a great curiosity to explore it, and I was determined to satisfy it. He then in an authoritative tone commanded me, as I valued his friendship, to desist. One would think some dreadful crime had been committed there, and it was haunted.”

The Duke and Duchess were evidently confused. The latter, assuming a smile, said—

“My dear Frederic, the holy man
was

was only fearful of your health, as it is very damp, and the air too much confined."

Not satisfied with this answer, he was proceeding in his inquiries, when the Duke, looking sternly on him, said—

"I beg you will drop this foolish subject, and conduct Lady Juliana to the saloon. Your mother and I will follow immediately."

Very little conversation passed during supper, and the party retired at an early hour. The Duke and Duchess took leave of Juliana, and expressed a wish

wish that at their return they should find her ready to obey, in every respect, the will of her deceased parent.

Juliana had for some time past dismissed her attendants as soon as they had set things in order, and accustomed herself to spend an hour or two in reading, reflecting on the events of the day, and in endeavouring to regulate her conduct for the ensuing one. As soon as she was alone the ring occurred to her. On examining it, she perceived the initials of her mother's name in brilliants, on hair. It was set round with large diamonds of the first water. In pressing it she touched a secret spring. The back part opened, and discovered a
beautiful

beautiful enamel miniature, which she instantly knew to be her mother's. This convinced her the ring had belonged to her father. The truth flashed on her mind, and at once accounted for the Duke's agitation. Kissing the ring with reverential awe, she exclaimed—

“ Too sure my lamented parent was murdered at the foot of that fatal tree! Well might Gusman shake with horror, and call it an accursed spot.—Father of Mercies!” continued she, falling on her knees, “ oh hear thy suppliant's prayer! Grant, O grant that the vile perpetrators of the atrocious deed may be brought to justice, and receive the punishment due to their crimes !”

Rising,

Rising, she again examined the ring. Thought crowded on thought in such quick succession that she heeded not the time. Day-light had already dawned, and Juliana had not retired to bed. A gentle noise awakened her from a painful train of ideas. Turning her head, she saw the worthy old house-keeper, whom she immediately in a low voice addressed in Spanish. The good creature was overjoyed.

“Santa Maria be praised,” said she, “that my dear young lady understands me! I will find an opportunity of conversing with you, Donna : at present I dare not stay. Take this paper, and observe the instructions it contains carefully

fully. The Holy Virgin protect you! Let me show you the secret door by which I gain admittance. In case of necessity fear not to make use of it. I must away, for fear of a discovery, which would ruin us all."

Saying this, she touched a small spring; a pannel flew back. Without speaking the housekeeper pointed to a small winding stair which led to a dark passage. She instantly went through, and on setting her foot on the first stair the pannel closed so nicely, that it was not perceptible to the most accurate observer.

Juliana instantly broke the seal of the packet, and read as follows:

“ You will doubtless, Donna, wonder at my long silence, which has been occasioned by fear of a discovery : but I must now run all hazards, as it is necessary you should receive some instructions relative to your future conduct, and be made acquainted with particular circumstances. You have conducted yourself in such a manner that hitherto you have eluded the arts of your enemies.

“ Be not surprised when I tell you that the Duke loves you to distraction,
which

which has prevented him from treating you with severity : but be assured he is so consummate a villain, that he will find means to accomplish his base design, which aims at both your honour and life. The Duchess is equally depraved, and an assistant in his schemes, which I will lay open to you. A forged will of the late Marquis will be produced : it constitutes Lord Frederic his heir, on condition of his marrying you. The wretch Father Anthony will perform the ceremony, and two or three of his creatures be witnesses to it.

“ Start not, Donna Juliana, at my disclosing crimes that must fill your spotless soul with horror. On that

very night the sacred rites are performed, or rather profaned, Gusman means to gratify his diabolical passion, and you will fall a victim to the malice and revenge of Donna Triphosa.

“ But fear not, lady ; Providence has made me an humble means of your safety. The strictest caution, circumspection, and vigilance are necessary on your part. Signora Tomasina is the best of human creatures, and I have found out that Mademoiselle Amy and Conrad are much attached to you, and secret friends, but as yet I have not entrusted them. The Duke and Duchess are much disconcerted by being sent for to Madrid. Their conscience tells

them they deserve punishment, and therefore they dread it.

“ Should Father Anthony return alone, and Signora Tomasina not think it safe to come to your apartment, the first night that wretch arrives, as soon as all is quiet in the Castle, make use of the concealed door, descend the stairs, and turning to the left, keep straight forward. The passage, though dark, is safe. At the end you will find a door, which fear not to open; ascend the flight of stairs, and enter a small room on the right; you will there be perfectly secure till the good Tomasina can get to you. Be not alarmed at finding yourself in the tower belonging to the left

wing of the Castle, for nothing supernatural infests it.

“ I am forced to break off abruptly. May Heaven guard the Lady Juliana, and restore her to her real friends. I need not request you to destroy this paper.”

Juliana was almost petrified: the blood seemed frozen in her veins.

“ Good Heaven !” thought she, “ can such wicked beings really exist? and are they permitted, with impunity, to destroy the innocent? Oh no! the All-righteous will, when he sees fit, unveil them to the world; and even here they

they will receive the reward due to their unparalleled crimes."

As soon as Juliana regained some degree of composure she destroyed the letter. A trampling of horses and the sound of a carriage roused her attention; and going to the window, she saw the Duke and Duchess, with their suite, depart. Too much discomposed to go to bed, she merely changed her dress for a morning one, and in order to calm her mind, took a book; but finding it impossible to attend to the subject, she threw it aside, and opening a window, stood some time contemplating the first appearance of the sun, which seemed to rise out of the ocean. Its beams en-

E 4 livened

livened the gloomy prospect, and inspired her with a momentary gleam of comfort.

Insensible, her thoughts turned on the pains of sensibility, and the pleasures of indifference.

“ Yet,” exclaimed she mentally, “ sadly as I experience, in my present situation, the former, I would not part with feelings which, though they now render me more miserable, have, under the influence of better days, made me, and those dear friends I was connected with, happier than a temper less susceptible of impressions would have done.”

Scarcely

Scarcely had her reverie ceased when Amy entered. She expressed great surprise at Juliana's being up and dressed.

"Why, Donna, did not you call me? I fear I have over-slept myself."

"No, Amy, you have not," replied Juliana, "but the fineness of the morning induced me to rise earlier than usual, and I have spent an hour in reading."

"You do not look well. I do not wonder at it. I wish I dare tell you all I know: but I am so closely watched, it is impossible. Besides, I do believe the

walls of this haunted Castle has ears, and would betray one. However, I will venture to say two or three words to you, though I fear you will not confide in me. Indeed I cannot expect it, Donna, as you must think very bad of me; yet be assured I am, notwithstanding appearances, most sincerely attached to you, and ere long will give you a most convincing proof of it. But hush, I hear that wicked creature Ursula. She is truly a fit engine in the hands of her employers, and equal to any mischief."

Before Juliana could reply, Ursula entered with a lowering aspect, and was so cross to Amy, that Juliana was fearful she had been listening.

Breakfast

Breakfast was laid in the room she was accustomed to sit in previous to the coming of the Duke and Duchess. She found Conrad in waiting, who seemed cautious of speaking to her, but his looks told her he was her friend. Juliana, if possible, felt the danger of her situation more strongly than ever : her fate seemed approaching to a crisis, but she did not despair, nor did her fortitude forsake her.

“It is true,” thought she, “I am destined to undergo still greater trials, and all relief from my beloved friends is denied me, as they are ignorant of my cruel destiny ; yet thy arm, Omnipotence,

potence, can save a helpless sufferer from the danger which she dreads."

In this composed state of mind we will leave our heroine for the present, and take a view of the measures her friends in England were pursuing to rescue her from the power of Gusman and Triphosa.

CHAP. II.

THE trio arrived in London late on the second evening. The following morning Mr. Millward waited on his Royal Highness the Duke of C——d, who received him in the most gracious manner ; and as soon as he was informed of the business, assured Mr. Millward that every exertion should be made relative to it. He promised to lay the affair before his Majesty, who
he

he was certain would warmly interest himself in it. He desired Mr. Millward would attend the levee the next day, and that he would meet him there.

On hearing Edward was in town, the Duke requested to see him. He then proposed accompanying Mr. Millward to the Spanish ambassador's.

“He is a man,” continued his Highness, “whom I greatly respect, and I am certain will want no inducement to lend his aid in the cause of oppressed innocence; yet knowing that I am particularly anxious about Lady Juliana may accelerate the business.”

Mr.

Mr. Millward expressed his most grateful thanks to the Duke. They set off for the ambassador's, who, as soon as he had heard the whole transaction, and perused the different papers relative to Juliana, with the written account of Pedro concerning the assassination of the Marquis, and his letter containing the account of the murder of Alphonsa and Father Austin, he said it was a most black and wicked affair, and had no doubt of Gusman and Triphosa being the contrivers and perpetrators of the whole business.

“I am sorry to add they have great influence over the prime minister, and we have not sufficient proof of their
guilt

guilt to support our cause : we will, however, rely on the justice of it. Pedro I must see as soon as possible. Depend on it I will make every effort to bring them to trial. The Lady Juliana must be claimed as a British subject by your Court, and we must boldly assert that we are certain of her having been forcibly carried off by the orders of Don Gusman, now Duke of St. Ildefonso, and that she is actually confined by him. As soon as I know his Britannic Majesty's pleasure I will despatch a messenger to the Court of Madrid."

After some further conversation Mr. Millward took his leave, and returned to his lodgings in Pall-Mall, as he was
certain

certain he was impatiently expected by Mr. Smith and Edward. Having informed them of the success of his visits, he asked Mr. Smith if he did not think it proper to send an express for Pedro :

“ Though I am fearful the fatigue will be too much for the poor fellow, and perhaps lay him up.”

Edward, who was all anxiety, and justly thought there was not a moment to lose, told his father in his opinion if Pedro was charged to travel in a post-chaise, and take great care of himself, he would not suffer by the journey. Mr. Smith coincided with Edward ; but while they were arranging matters, to
their

their great joy and surprise Pedro entered. He brought letters from the Hall. The family remained much in the same state.

Pedro informed Mr. Millward that he had been so fortunate as to make a discovery which put it beyond a doubt that Lady Juliana had been forcibly carried off by Gusman's orders.

"This is indeed a great point gained," said Mr. Millward; "but do, Pedro, let us know the particulars."

He replied, that as soon as they set off he determined to examine the wood and temple, and the fishermen who lived

lived on the beach. On entering into conversation with a lad, he by accident let drop there was a Spanish sailor concealed in one of the huts, who had been dangerously ill, but was now on the recovery.

“ I desired the boy to conduct me to him, saying I was his countryman just arrived, and in search of him, and promised to reward him for his trouble. The boy instantly complied, and shewed me a small hut inhabited only by a fisherman and his son, who were out with their boat. He pointed to an inner room, and left me. On entering, I found a man, though in the disguise of a sailor, I instantly knew to be Don Gusman’s

Gusman's footman, and one of his prime agents. I accosted him with 'How do you do, Philip?' He was much confused, and faintly answered he had been very bad. 'I am sorry for it,' I replied, 'but I hope you have had time to reflect on the atrocious act you have been concerned in, and are willing to make every reparation in your power. I will deal candidly with you: I have proof sufficient to hang you; but if you make a full confession of all you know, I will venture to promise not only a pardon, but that you shall be provided for.'—Struck by seeing me, whom he imagined dead, and weakened by his recent illness, he fell on his knees and told me he would faithfully unfold all he knew.

Accordingly

Accordingly I took down his deposition in writing, and here it is, properly signed and witnessed. As soon as I had got it done, and informed the General and Mrs. Millward of the discovery, I set off post directly, and have only stopped to change horses ; so impatient was I to convey intelligence which I hope may be the means of saving my young lady, and of bringing to the scaffold the vile assassins of my revered master and the Lord Alphonso. Mrs. Millward has placed proper persons about Philip, and as soon as he is able to travel, Mr. Henry will bring him to town."

"This is indeed a most fortunate event,"

event," said Mrs. Smith. "Will it not, my dear Sir, be proper to pay the ambassador a second visit this evening?"

"I think," replied Mr. Millward, "I had better write to him, and send Pedro with it. I shall likewise inform the Duke of this important discovery. Edward, you shall be the messenger."

Edward was delighted with the commission; the carriage was ordered to be got ready, and Mr. Millward retired to write his letters.

The ambassador was happy to find he had now a strong proof of the guilt of the Duke and Duchess, for Philip's
confession

confession implicated them both. Pedro underwent a long examination : the ambassador highly commended his zeal and assiduity.

Edward was charmed with the reception the Duke gave him. Mr. Millward returned from the levee in better spirits than he had been since the loss of Juliana. The Duke had strictly kept his word, and every preparatory step had been taken. He had the honour of a private audience, to which the Duke and the ambassador were admitted.

After mature deliberation it was agreed that Mr. Millward should embark for Spain, and take Pedro and Philip.

Philip. Proper instructions were to be sent to the British minister at Madrid: at the same time the Spanish ambassador was to send an extraordinary courier with despatches.

They only waited for Philip. As he was the principal evidence, it was thought necessary that he should be examined before a magistrate, and swear to his deposition, which contained little more than what the reader is already acquainted with, except what relates to the carrying off Juliana.

He says that Don Gusman purchased a small vessel, and manned it with his own myrmidons. They were all sworn
to

to secrecy, and to obey his commands ; they were to be rewarded with a hundred ducats each, except himself, who was to receive double that sum. They did not know the place of their destination till they arrived off Plymouth. He and another man were entrusted to execute the plan, for which purpose they were landed every evening in the disguise of sailors.

He spoke tolerable English, and soon found out that Lady Juliana frequented the Temple, and often alone. They agreed they would seize her the first opportunity. The storm favoured the design. It was his comrade who seized her, and conveyed her on board the

vessel. Owing to the darkness of the night he missed the boat, and fell into the water. Fear of being pursued prevented the crew from endeavouring to save him. Luckily being near the shore, he soon gained it ; but not daring to ask for shelter, he concealed himself in the cavity of a rock, only venturing out at night in search of shell-fish for his support.

Not being able to procure sufficient to satisfy nature, he became so weak, that one night, in trying to crawl out to get some fresh water, he fell on the beach quite exhausted. A poor fisherman found him the next morning, apparently dead. He had the humanity
to

to carry him to his hut, and after repeated efforts restored him to his senses. A violent fever ensued, from which he was recovering when Pedro discovered him.

Mr. Millward wrote to his family, and begged them to keep up their spirits, as he flattered himself their beloved Juliana would soon be restored to them. He mentioned his determination of accompanying the despatches, and that Mr. Smith had the goodness to go with him ; and Edward, he said, had pleaded so hard to be of the party, that he had consented to it.

He had the satisfaction of hearing, by
F 2 return

return of post, that the General and Mrs. Millward approved of all his arrangements; that they were much comforted by the hopes he gave them. She acquainted him that Mrs. Montague and herself had had a long conversation with Philip, who seemed sensible of his crimes, and was become a sincere penitent. She hoped he would be able to travel in the course of a few days.

“Yesterday,” continued she, “he had a conference with our good old hermit, with whom he spent above three hours. To him he made an ample confession, and horrid to relate, he was concerned in the murder of the young Alphonsa and our revered friend the Marquis.

Marquis. In short his proofs are so strong, that I think both the Duke and Duchess will be found guilty. All I fear is, that if they should get the least intimation of the affair, our dear Juliana will fall a sacrifice to their insatiable malice. May Heaven, my dearest husband, direct you for the best, and save our adopted child from the savage grasp of the most blood-thirsty of human beings!"

Philip was guarded to town by Henry and his father. The General had highly gratified the latter by giving him permission to accompany his son. At parting he added much to the favour, by saying—

“I am certain, James, you will take care that Philip does not escape. Henry is too young to be trusted with the care of such a fellow: nothing else could have induced me to let you go, as I shall be quite at a loss till you return.”

“Your Honour may depend on it,” replied James, (making one of his best bows,) “I will not be longer absent than is absolutely necessary. But tho’, thanks to your Honour’s goodness, my boy has had a much better education than his father, yet, as you observe, he is far too young to be entrusted with the charge of such a thorough-paced villain, for such I think him, notwithstanding he cries, and seems so sorry
for

for having committed murder. Lord help me ! I wonder how he can sleep in his bed.

“ Heaven bless your Honour, and all the good family, whom I hope I shall find safe and well at my return. I have given orders to Betty to be doubly attentive. As I can depend on her and Mr. William, and indeed on Mrs. Ward, and all our servants, I shall make myself tolerably easy.”

The General could not suppress uneasy sensations at parting, though for so short a time, with his faithful domestic, who for the last forty years of his life had been scarcely a day from

him. As to poor James, when the moment arrived he perfectly sobbed; and giving Betty a hearty kiss, rushed into the chaise without saying a word.

As soon as they reached town Pedro was sent with Philip to the Spanish ambassador's. Proper officers attended the examination. Philip's detail of circumstances was clear and strong. He earnestly entreated not to be sent to Spain. The ambassador told him his request could not be complied with, as his personal evidence would be indispensably necessary; but he might rest assured no harm should come to him. On the contrary, as he was not a principal in the murder, he would not only
be

be pardoned, but be entitled to the reward offered by the late Duke and Don Sebastian.

In less than a week every thing was ready for their departure. Mr. Millward, Edward, Mr. Smith, and their suite set out for Falmouth, and embarked on board the packet. James and Henry had been previously sent back to Devonshire, charged with letters. The latter, who was a sensible, accomplished young man, was commissioned to relate every particular to the family at Upton.

In less than three weeks Mr. Millward had the satisfaction of anchoring

F 5

in

in the harbour of Madrid. Mr. Smith went ashore with the messenger who had the despatches, one of which was immediately addressed to the King. Mr. Smith had a letter from the ambassador to Don Sebastian, on whom he directly called.

As soon as he found who Mr. Smith was, and that he had a communication to make of great importance from Mr. Millward, he welcomed him in the most friendly manner, and assured him the Marchioness, plunged as she was in the deepest affliction, would pay every attention to friends so much esteemed by her departed husband.

Mr.

Mr. Smith then related every circumstance relative to the existence of Lady Juliana, and of the proofs they had of the guilt of Gusman and Triphosa. He concluded by telling Don Sebastian of the steps Mr. Millward had taken, and that he, Edward, Pedro and Philip were on board the packet, but wished to keep themselves private, as they feared, if Gusman got an intimation of their being in search of Juliana, her life would be in danger.

Don Sebastian was greatly surprised to hear of her being alive, and rejoiced to find Pedro had escaped. On making enquiries for him, he had been told he died suddenly, and concluded he

had been secretly poisoned. He informed Mr. Smith he had strained every nerve to bring Gusman and Triphosa to justice.

“ I cannot,” said this excellent man, “ bear to give them the title which my son should have enjoyed, and which never before was sullied. The Duke of Torcella powerfully supported me. We have so far succeeded as to obtain an order for their immediate appearance. They arrived from the country last night, and I am going to attend the council, where they are to be privately examined.

“ I could wish to see the Mr. Mill-
wards,

wards, and must beg of them to order Pedro and Philip to my house. I have no doubt of Lady Juliana being confined in the Castle of —, as Gusman and Triphosa have passed the last month there. I hope on my return I shall have the pleasure of finding you and your friends with the Marchioness, whom I will inform of this strange event, and who will be prepared for your reception."

At this instant a messenger arrived, requesting the presence of Don Sebastian at the council. A note from the minister informed him his Majesty had sent the Duke of Torcella, with a proper retinue, to escort the Mr. Millwards on shore,

shore, and that the Duke and Duchess were in custody. Don Sebastian desired Mr. Smith to accompany him. On their alighting at the palace they found an extraordinary Council assembled.

In less than an hour the Mr. Millwards appeared, (for whom they waited.) They had been honoured with a private audience; and had met with a most flattering reception from the Spanish monarch. Every thing had been conducted with the greatest secrecy.

The minister, who had so warmly espoused the cause of Gusman and Triphosa, was struck with horror on reading the detail of their crimes, and determined

mined they should be brought to justice.

An officer was sent to conduct them into court. They entered with apparent composure ; Triphosa with her usual air of haughtiness. The several charges alledged against them were just going to be read, when a note was put in to Don Sebastian's hand by one of the attendants, who had received it from a boy, who only said—

“ Deliver this instantly, or it will be too late to save the life of Lady Juliana.”

It contained these few words—

“ Send

“Send to the Castle of ——: Father Anthony and his myrmidons are gone to despatch Lady Juliana. Be as quick as possible; boldly accuse the Duke and Duchess; one will appear on the day of trial who trusts he shall be able to condemn them.”

Don Sebastian gave the note to the minister, who, as soon as he had read it, instantly quitted the room. He gave orders for a guard and a proper officer to set off instantly, and, if possible to overtake Father Anthony; if not, to proceed without delay to the castle of ——, to protect Lady Juliana, and to wait his further orders.

On

On his return to the Council he imparted to Don Sebastian what he had done, and the examination began.— Mr. Millward was desired to enter on his charge against the prisoners, which related solely to Lady Juliana. He addressed the Council in French, saying his friend (pointing to Mr. Smith) would, if more agreeable, be his interpreter, as he perfectly understood the Spanish language.

Mr. Millward entered into a minute detail of every circumstance, produced the papers, the letters of the late Marquis, and his will. Pedro was called to prove the validity of them.

The

The moment he appeared the prisoners seemed ready to sink. Pedro gave his evidence in the clearest manner, and fully established the authenticity of the will and papers.

Don Sebastian and the Duke of Braganza swore to the hand-writing of the late Marquis, as did Mr. Millward; yet Gusman had the effrontery to deny the whole charge, and declared he had never even heard of Lady Juliana; on which Philip was produced. The sight of him acted as an electric shock. Gusman started; his visage assumed a ghastly appearance. He was forced to lean on a chair to support himself.

Philip

Philip was interrogated concerning the carrying off Juliana. He related the whole plan, swore to her being forced on board the vessel, and told the accident which occasioned his being left behind. He added, he was certain she was confined in the Castle of —, belonging to the late Duke, on the confines of —, as they had orders to land at a small port within two miles of it.

In this accusation Triphosa was not implicated; in the next she was—the murder of the young Lord Alphonsa, Father Austin, and the late Marquis.

The farther discussion of this dark affair

fair was postponed for a few days; Gusman and Triphosa were committed to close confinement, and an officer was sent to put a seal on all their effects. Not one word could be extorted from them in regard to Lady Juliana, but they left the apartment with a malicious smile which half distracted the Mr. Millwards and Mr. Smith.

They determined to set off for the Castle of ———. The minister approved of their intentions, and appointed proper persons to attend them, and empowered Mr. Millward to act as he thought proper. They agreed to take Pedro with them. Philip remained in custody, but received a promise of a full
pardon

pardon and a reward. He instructed Pedro where to find the body of the Marquis. It had been put in a vault under the tower of the left wing of the Castle.

Don Sebastian would have accompanied them, but his presence was necessary at Madrid. He insisted that at their return they should take up their abode at his house, which they promised to do.

“I shall,” said Don Sebastian, “inform Sophronia of the existence of Juliana : I am certain she will receive her as a daughter. I long to introduce friends who were so dear to our ever-lamented

lamented Alonza. Our little Elvira too must know her sister."

"Ah, my Lord," exclaimed Edward, "would to Heaven we had my adored Juliana safe!"

"Fear not, my young friend: Providence, who has so wonderfully conducted things for her preservation, will restore her to your arms."

After partaking of some refreshments, they set off. Their party was strengthened by the Duke of Torcella and his retinue, who acquainted them he had been appointed by his sovereign to the escort of Mr. Millward, who
was

was much pleased with this marked attention. They travelled with all the expedition that bad roads would admit. On the close of the third day they reached the Castle, and found the party that had been sent to rescue Juliana had arrived only a few hours before them. Every thing was in the greatest confusion, nor could they obtain an answer to their questions concerning Lady Juliana.

Pedro, who was perfectly acquainted with the Castle, undertook to conduct them over it. They soon found Juliana's apartment, which was empty.—While they were in search of her, the officer who commanded the party had
heard

heard of their arrival, and came to pay his respects.

He informed them that his first inquiry was for Lady Juliana, but she was not to be found ; on which he gave orders that the strictest search should be made for her. As yet their endeavours had been fruitless. Father Anthony and one of Juliana's attendants had been secured. The other, with a man named Conrad, had disappeared. The domestics belonging to the Castle, had declared that Lady Juliana had retired to her apartment about half an hour before the soldiers rang at the gate.

Father Anthony and Ursula were
sent

sent for. They protested they had not seen Lady Juliana since dinner; that she left the saloon to go to her room.—Some questions were put to Father Anthony, who replied he would not answer them, and warned them to take care how they insulted one of his sacred order.

“Hold thy profane tongue,” cried the Duke of Torcella; “thou art a disgrace to the garb you wear. Know you are entirely in that gentleman’s power,” (pointing to Mr. Millward;) “and further, to thy confusion know that thy vile patrons and partners in wickedness are in safe custody, and will soon atone for their crimes on a scaffold, if not on

the rack ; therefore thy best way is to make a full confession of thy guilt, or depend on it the Inquisition will extort it from you."

Father Anthony was completely humbled : he begged for mercy, but solemnly declared he did not know what was become of Lady Juliana. He owned that if she did not comply with the terms he intended to propose, the Duke had ordered her to be confined ; and that he had received a private intimation from the Duchess to get her to sign the necessary papers, and then to administer poison, which he meant to do that night at supper.

" Take

“Take him to a dungeon till Lady Juliana is found,” exclaimed the Duke, “and let this woman, another instrument of their cruelty, be confined also.”

Ursula fell on her knees, promising to declare all she knew; but the Duke refused to attend to her, and commanded the soldiers to take her away.

Pedro entered from an unsuccessful search. He had enquired for the house-keeper, but she could not be found. He was fearful that she too might be murdered. Mr. Millward, Mr. Smith, and Edward were almost bereft of their senses; the Duke therefore took the active part.

For many hours they continued in this dreadful state of suspense. Pedro asked if the turret in the left wing had been searched. The soldiers replied they had vainly endeavoured to force the locks. It struck him that Father Anthony had the keys. With some difficulty Pedro obtained them from him.

On entering the turret, they found the apartments in tolerable order, which convinced him they at times had been inhabited for some secret purpose. In a small room stood a cabinet which contained the supposed prophecy. Every room and closet was examined, but no trace of Juliana could be found. Pedro,

dro, anxious to find the body of his adored master, proposed descending to the vault. There on the ground, as described by Philip, lay the remains of the Marquis.

The place being dry, and the air excluded, the body was still perfect. The sight of the mangled form was too much for Pedro, and he fell senseless on the earth. On his recovery he intreated to be permitted once more to behold the Marquis. A flood of tears relieved his honest and affectionate heart. As he suspected, his pockets had been rifled, and every thing taken. The picture of Lady Juliana and the ring were gone.

On quitting the vault they heard a footstep, and on reaching the top of the stairs, some one asked—

“Is it Lady Juliana?”

It proved to be the housekeeper.

“Thank Heaven!” said Pedro, “you are safe. Can you tell me aught of my young lady?”

“Oh, no,” replied Tomasina, wringing her hands; “I was in hopes to find her here.—But the Holy Virgin protect me, Pedro, I thought you dead. How did you escape? and where have you been?”

“At

“ At some other time I will tell you all : suffice it at present to say that the Duke and Duchess are in the hands of justice, that Father Anthony and Ursula are secured, and the Castle is full of Lady Juliana’s friends, though I fear they have come too late to save her.”

“ Where is the Duke’s valet ?” asked Tomasina. “ I trust he has not played us false. I relied on him as a sure friend. By his order I showed my young lady the private door in her apartment, and directed her to use it in case of danger. I was to meet her here, and convey her by a subterraneous passage to the Convent of Capuchins, and place her under the protection of the

pious Father Francis. I have waited here some hours, and was afraid to go in search of her, as I know I am suspected."

Pedro thought it adviseable to return and inform the gentlemen, who, on hearing the accout, entertained some faint hopes that Juliana had escaped through the means of Conrad and Amy. They determined to send to the Convent, and request to see Father Francis. They gave orders to search every place near the Castle, to offer a large reward, and to publish the disgrace of the Duke and Duchess.

As speedily as possible Father Francis
made

made his appearance. On his entering, the Duke of Torcella made himself known. The venerable aspect of this worthy man impressed every one with the most favourable sentiments. Never were real benevolence and unaffected piety more strongly depicted in any countenance, which was a true index of his mind.

“ We sent for you, holy father,” said the Duke, “ in hopes you might give us some intelligence of Lady Juliana. If she is under your care we shall be truly happy. You need not fear to trust us; all here are friends; nor have you any thing to dread from the Duke or Duchess; no longer have
 G 5 they

they power to exercise their infamous tyranny."

"Give me leave, my Lord, to ask where is Father Anthony?"

"In close confinement."

"Then," replied Father Francis, "I may with safety acknowledge that Lady Juliana is secure from danger, and well."

Edward could not bear with any degree of composure this sudden transition from grief to joy. He ran and embraced the friar, exclaiming—

"Oh,

“ Oh, holy father! let me conjure you to conduct me instantly to her : let me once more embrace the lovely Juliana—once more clasp her to my heart.”

Mr. Smith apologised to the friar, begging him to excuse the wild impetuosity of youth, saying—

“ This young gentleman is indeed interested in the fate of Lady Juliana.”

“ Have I the honour of beholding the Mr. Millwards ?”

“ You have,” said Mr. Smith.

“ Then I do not wonder at these emo-
tions.

tions. But be calm, my son, nor let the vicissitudes of life unman you.—Happy man am I, in having been the humble instrument of Providence in protecting the life and honour of a daughter of the illustrious house of St. Ildefonsa ! But to Conrad and Amy is in a great measure owing the preservation of Lady Juliana. As the information I received is true, I will resign my sacred charge into the hands of the friend deputed by her noble father to be her guardian, and who has ever been a parent to her.”

The good friar was despatched to prepare Juliana for an interview with
her

her friends, and a carriage sent to convey her to the Castle.

Words can give but an imperfect idea of the ecstatic feelings of Edward, on beholding Juliana. With fervency he pressed her in his arms; his transports were too big for utterance, nor were her's less animated, though restrained by innate delicacy and genuine modesty.

As soon as possible she disengaged herself from Edward to embrace Mr. Millward, whose arms and heart were open to receive her. It was some minutes before either could articulate.—When they could—“My child”—“My
more

more than father"—burst from their lips.

The scene was truly an affecting one. Juliana soon regained her accustomed fortitude, and moderated the joyful sensations this unexpected meeting occasioned, which, from their excess, became painful to a degree. Perceiving her perfectly composed, Mr. Smith advanced, saying—

“Suffer me, my highly-esteemed pupil, to congratulate you on having escaped all danger, and on your happy restoration to your friends.”

“Thanks, my revered monitor,” replied

plied Juliana, taking his hand with respectful tenderness; "I need not say how happy your presence makes me."

Mr. Millward introduced the Duke of Torcella as a particular friend of her father. Tears started in Juliana's eyes as she received and returned the Duke's compliments, who was charmed with the uncommon loveliness of her person, the unaffected dignity, and elegance of manners, which so eminently distinguished every look and every motion of Juliana.

The Duke, in a low voice, told Mr. Millward that he thought her a paragon of beauty.

Had

“Had my dear friend lived to have been blessed with a sight of his charming daughter, he would indeed have been proud of her.”

“Will your Grace permit me,” asked Mr. Millward, “to gratify poor Pedro, who is impatient to pay his duty to his young mistress?”

“By all means,” replied the Duke. “No one values Pedro more than I do. I know his worth, and highly respect him.”

Edward, whose noble way of thinking soared far above the meanness of false pride, went directly in search of Pedro.

Pedro. On his entering the saloon, Mr. Millward said—

“ My dear Juliana, this is the long-tried, faithful attendant of the late Marquis your father, who esteemed him as an humble friend, and ever found him worthy of his confidence. To him we are indebted for your restoration.”

Juliana with ineffable sweetness expressed her gratitude, and assured him she was happy to see him, and would do all in her power to render his future life comfortable.

Poor Pedro's tears flowed in spite of his endeavours to suppress them. His expressions

expressions of joy and of respectful affection influenced all present.

Edward, anxiously impatient to hear every circumstance that had befallen his beloved Juliana, begged her to inform him.

“I perceive, my dear Edward,” said she, smiling, “you are determined to make me a heroine of romance, and wish me to recite my adventures since I have been in this enchanted Castle; but I think it will be more in stile for my attendant, so I will appoint Amy: though, on reflexion, as she is not acquainted with the whole, I will give you
my

my journal to peruse, which I have regularly kept."

"May I presume, Madam," said the Duke, "to solicit the honour of reading it?"

"Certainly, Sir," replied Juliana; "but it is written in English."

"Thanks, Madam. I shall, I flatter myself, prevail on Mr. Smith to read it in French to me."

Juliana entreated Mr. Millward to take Conrad and Amy under his protection, they having proved themselves sincere friends."

"They

“ They shall, my dear child, be amply rewarded, and I will take care they shall not be implicated in the guilt of Ursula.”

Breakfast was brought in by Pedro. It was a welcome refreshment, the whole party having been up all night; yet no one had thought of ordering it. As soon as it was finished, Juliana proposed to Edward a walk in the pleasure-grounds, as she had a thousand enquiries to make relative to her valued friends at Upton. The gentlemen entered on business. They determined to send Father Anthony and Ursula under a strong guard to Madrid, and likewise to despatch a messenger with letters to the

the prime minister and Don Sebastian, acquainting them with every particular. Mr. Millward requested the latter to inform him where the body of the Marquis was to be deposited. If, as he imagined, in the family vault, the Duke and himself would be happy to execute his orders; and as soon as the last sad solemnities were over they would set off for Madrid, as they thought Lady Juliana's presence would be necessary on several accounts. He assured Don Sebastian that she longed to pay her respects to him and the Marchioness, and was impatient to embrace her sister, the Lady Elvira.

Mr. Millward was anxious to find a
vessel

vessel going to England, as he had only written a few lines to Mrs. Millward, to acquaint her of his safe arrival. He now wished to give a particular account of all that had happened, especially what related to Juliana. Pedro at a great expence procured a sloop, the captain of which engaged to sail for Plymouth the first fair wind. The remainder of the day was spent in preparing letters. Juliana inclosed her journal to Mrs. Millward; she wrote also to Matilda, and in the most affectionate terms expressed her concern for what she had suffered on her account.

The next morning Juliana had quite recovered from her fatigue; a good
night

night and a tranquil mind had restored the wonted brilliancy to her eyes, and the bloom to her complexion. Nor were Edward's looks less improved: he now appeared the elegant, sprightly young man of fashion. His manners were highly polished; his conversation convinced every one that his understanding was of the superior kind, and that it had been most assiduously cultivated by a skilful hand, which had carefully pruned the too luxuriant branches. The Duke expressed his admiration of Edward and Juliana in terms which gratified the feelings of Mr. Millward and Mr. Smith. His Grace entreated to have the honour of their company a few weeks at the Castle of

——, as he wished much to introduce his son to their acquaintance. He assured them they would meet with a kind reception from his Duchess, who much wished to embrace Lady Juliana.

Mr. Millward thanked the Duke for his polite invitation, which he said they would certainly avail themselves of, but could not promise to stay more than a few days.

After dinner Mr. Millward informed Juliana that the body of her father had been found, and that the Duke, Mr. Smith, Edward, and himself intended to view it before it was removed, lest its being exposed to the air might injure

jure it. Juliana struggled with her feelings, and requested permission to accompany them in the mournful visit.

“ I grant your request, my dear, as I think it right for you to behold your parent, though dead ; and I am sufficiently acquainted with the strength of your mind to be certain you are able to bear the trial.”

At six in the evening the party entered the left wing of the Castle, attended by Father Francis, Pedro, the housekeeper, and the domestics, who wished to pay their respects to the remains of their revered master. The Duke of Braganza and Mr. Millward

were sensibly affected at the sight of the mangled body of their friend, nor were any of the party insensible to the awfulness of the scene. Juliana stood for some minutes like a statue : every faculty of her soul seemed suspended. At length she raised her eyes to Heaven, and kneeling by the corse, bathed it with filial tears, but not a word escaped her.

Edward, who had been a mute, tho' not unmoved spectator, knelt by her, and taking her hand, exclaimed with fervency—

“ Permit me, my dearest Juliana, on this sacred spot, and o'er this inanimate
form,

form, to repeat my vows of constancy and love. Oh ! would it had pleased Omnipotence to have prolonged his valued life, that I might from his hand have received this precious gift !”

He was proceeding, but Mr. Smith observing that Juliana was absorbed in grief, stopped him : and raising her—

“ Allow me,” said he, “ to conduct you hence. This scene is too much even for the strongest mind to support for any length of time.”

These words roused Mr. Millward, who was wrapped in deep reflexions. Addressing the Duke, he said—

“ Mr. Smith is perfectly right : it is indeed too great an effort to dwell on this heart-rending sight. My friends, let us quit this dreary vault ; our stay can avail nothing to the dead.—Inhuman villain !” cried he, as he left the vault, and cast a look on his lifeless friend, “ could not thy malice end with his life ? No, thy insatiate revenge pursued him after death, by treating with indignity his dear remains. Pedro, be it thy care to see the Marquis’s body removed to a proper place. I need not add, let every mark of respect be paid to it.”

In silence they reached the saloon. Mr. Smith desired Juliana to indulge him

him with an hour's conversation, which she readily complied with. In the most fatherly manner he soothed her grief, and poured in to her afflicted bosom the balm of true Christian philosophy.

“ Oh, how different is your doctrine, my ever-esteemed friend, to that of the vile Father Anthony ! You, my dear Sir, breathe the mild spirit of the Gospel, and while you alleviate my sorrow, strengthen my faith. Teach me to bear with patience the ills of life, and to be thankful for the numberless blessings which surround me.”

Juliana was able to join the company at supper. Edward saw with pleasure

that her mind had regained its natural tone. She was serious, but perfectly composed.

As speedily as possible Mr. Millward received answers to his letters. Don Sebastian in the warmest terms congratulated Mr. Millward on Juliana's safety, in which the Marchioness and Lady Elvira sincerely joined. Inclosed were letters from them to Lady Juliana, written in the most affectionate stile. Don Sebastian requested Mr. Millward to take charge of the funeral of the Marquis, and begged he might lie in state.

“As to the rest, my dear Sir,” continued Don Sebastian, “I leave it to the
Duke

Duke and you, certain that every mark of respect will be paid to his remains, and due honour shown to his memory."

He then entered into the following particulars concerning Gusman's valet, whose name was Felix. He had come forward and discovered every circumstance relative to the murders, and the forcibly carrying off Juliana, but had not the least concern in them, nor had even an idea how deeply the Duke and Duchess were immersed in guilt, till one of the accomplices, in his dying moments, had made a full confession to him. He was obliged to see the man by stealth. Father Anthony was the only one allowed to go near him, and

of course gave him absolution: but this not satisfying the poor fellow's conscience, he had sent privately for Felix, and desired him to commit to writing what he had to relate. With his last breath he begged him to bring, if possible, the Duke, the Duchess, and Father Anthony to justice. He intreated him to warn Pedro of his danger, and to inform him of the scheme relative to Juliana. In short, he laid all Gusman's plots open, and instructed Felix how to get possession of the late Marquis's will. He likewise acquainted him with the fabrication of the supposed prophecy.

The late Duke, though a sensible man, was rather superstitious; and
Father

Father Anthony had so worked on his feelings, that he firmly believed it, and had prevailed on him to take a most solemn oath never to reveal it.

Felix had been induced to accept of the command of the vessel that brought Lady Juliana to Spain in hopes of being able to prevent her being forced away. He was fearful that Pedro would not arrive in time, and flattered himself he should be able to inform the family at Upton of the design, and so prevent its being put in execution; but he was so strictly watched, that it was impossible for him to get ashore, and he had no one he dare trust with a letter. This being the case, he resolved to do every

H 5

thing

thing in his power to render Lady Juliana's situation comfortable. He dared not speak to her, as they had all taken an oath to preserve a rigid silence. He determined to inform Father Francis of the Duke's schemes, whom he contrived to see immediately on his leaving Lady Juliana at the Castle. Father Francis applauded his conduct, and advised him what steps to pursue in future. He told him he might put implicit confidence in the housekeeper, and on no account to hazard another interview with him.

Mr. Millward immediately gave directions for preparations for the funeral. In two days every thing was ready.—

After

After lying in state, the remains of the Marquis were deposited by the side of his father and son. The gentlemen, the domestics, and vassals attended the procession, which was joined by the friars of Father Francis's convent, the abbot of which read the burial service in the most impressive manner.

CHAP. III.

JULIANA made the housekeeper a handsome present, and promised to provide for her most amply before she left Spain. Conrad and Amy were ordered to attend them to Madrid. The evening before they left the Castle the circumstance of the ring occurred to Juliana. On showing it to Pedro, he instantly knew it, and affirmed that the Marquis constantly wore it. She then mentioned

tioned the spot where she found it, and the behaviour of Gusman.

“ Well, Madam, might his black soul shrink appalled, for on that spot I saw my master weltering in his blood.”

The Duke advised that Lady Juliana's finding the ring should be kept secret, lest she should be obliged to appear in court, which would, he thought, be highly disagreeable to her.

The Duke and Mr. Millward travelled together. Mr. Smith, Edward, and Juliana never had a journey that appeared so delightful. Blest in his Juliana's society, the time past rapidly on, notwith-

notwithstanding bad roads, and worse accommodation.

On their arrival at Madrid they were received with every testimony of respect and affection by Don Sebastian and the Marchioness, who embraced Juliana with the tenderness of a mother. The young Elvira was delighted with her sister. Juliana pressed her to her heart. All parties were sensibly affected. A silence of some minutes succeeded. The Marchioness, with that inherent politeness so natural to her, exerted herself, and entered into conversation. During the pause Juliana had involuntarily fixed her eyes on a remarkably fine picture, containing the whole length portraits of
the

the late Duke, Don Sebastian, the Marquis and Marchioness, Alphonsa, and Elvira. Sophronia observing Juliana attentively examining it, said—

“My dear girl, that is a most striking resemblance of your father and brother. Your grandfather too is almost speaking to you. It was done only a few months before we were so cruelly deprived of our dear boy.”

Tears prevented the Marchioness from saying more. Juliana apologized for calling to remembrance her sorrows.

“There needs none, my dear, for it is a subject I love to dwell on.”

“Will

“ Will you excuse me, Madam,” said Mr. Smith, “ if, scarcely having the honour of being known to you, I intrude my advice. My profession must plead my excuse. It is incumbent on me to soothe afflictions. Yours, I grant, are heavy, yet let me intreat you not to indulge them. Suffer me, when we are more acquainted, to have a little discourse with you on this head.”

“ Most willingly, Sir. I am no stranger to your character : the Marquis spoke of you in the highest terms at the time he mentioned to me that he expected the pleasure of yours and that young gentleman’s company (bowing to

to Edward) to spend a few months with us."

Don Sebastian, who had been sent for on business, returned, and informed Mr. Millward the trial of Gusman and Triphosa was fixed for the next day.

"However painful the task, I am resolved to attend it."

Mr. Millward asked if he might be permitted to be present, and if leave could be obtained for Mr. Smith and Edward.

"Certainly, Sir," replied Don Sebastian ;



bastian; “ you have an undoubted right, being a party concerned on account of the will; and I will take care these gentlemen shall be accommodated with places.”

Mr. Millward found Don Sebastian and his daughter all that the Marquis had so frequently described in his letters. Sophronia was still a most lovely woman; a settled melancholy was perceptible in her once-animated countenance, but she retained the same sweetness of temper, and the native benevolence of her heart shone in every word and action.

The gentlemen early in the morning attended

attended the trial ; the ladies passed the day alone. The Marchioness's conversation with Juliana was most truly interesting. Often were their feelings relieved by the playful liveliness of Elvira, who, young as she was, suppressed her own grief to dissipate that of her mother, whom she perfectly idolized.

The gentlemen were detained till a late hour. Gusman, Triphosa, and Father Anthony, not only for their designs on Juliana, but also of the murder of the Marquis, Lord Alphonsa, and Father Austin. The evidence of Philip, which was strong and clear, was corroborated by the dying confession of the principal accomplice, made to Felix. It was

was proved that Triphosa gave the fatal stab to the Marquis, saying, with a malicious smile—

“ At last I am revenged for the affront I sustained by the refusal of my proffered hand. Though years have elapsed, I have not forgot it.”

Father Anthony had been the contriver of the plan of both the assassinations, and assisted in person. Gusman headed the party that murdered Alphonso and Father Austin. The way they eluded the vigilant search made after them was by a trap door in the forest, which concealed a large cave that led by a subterraneous passage to a ruined castle,

castle, where they continued till the soldiers had returned to Madrid. They then travelled by night, taking the least frequented paths, till they reached the Castle of —, the left wing of which Gusman had long been master of, whence he embarked for France, where he staid only a few weeks, and then returned privately with his family, and took up his abode in the turret of the Castle. Father Anthony supplied them with necessaries. Here they kept concealed till they heard of the Duke of St. Ildefonso being dangerously ill. They then secretly set off for Madrid, where they arrived the day he died, and, as has been before mentioned, took possession of his house and effects.

In

In short, the whole life of this detestable man and woman had been a continued scene of wickedness and infamy. Things appeared on the trial too shocking to relate.

When called on for their defence, neither Gusman nor Triphosa would speak; they remained sullenly silent, nor did their countenances alter when the following sentence was pronounced: That the title and estate were forfeited, and themselves condemned to suffer on the block that day se'nnight. Father Anthony was to be degraded, and executed with them.

He in the most abject terms implored
mercy

mercy of the court, but was told by the judge that his crimes were of too black a dye to expect it in this world, though he sincerely trusted repentance would entitle him to hope for it in the next. He admonished the prisoners to prepare for the awful moment, and trusted they would make a proper use of the short time allowed them for that purpose.— They were remanded to close confinement.

Philip received his promised pardon. Of the four accomplices that remained, two were sentenced to be hanged; the others were condemned to perpetual imprisonment. Ursula, who proved to be a bad character, was sent to the Black Penitents,

Penitents, a house appropriated for the reception of criminals. Nothing appearing against Conrad or Amy, they were only reprimanded for entering into the schemes of so bad a man; but their repentance, and subsequent conduct in consequence of it, were highly commended by the judge, and they were dismissed with a strict charge to be careful of their future behaviour.

Don Sebastian proposed to his daughter and the gentlemen their going out of town till after the execution of Gusman and Triphosa, to which they readily assented. While they were arranging matters, the Duke of Torcella called to pay his respects; and on hearing of their
their

their intentions, begged they would favour him with their company.

“ We shall be quite retired,” said he, at the Castle of ———, and the Marchioness will fulfil a promise she has long made the Duchess of spending a few days with her. On the Mr. Millwards, Mr. Smith, and Lady Juliana I have a claim, as they allowed me to expect the pleasure of a visit.”

This polite invitation was complied with, and the next morning the party set out for ———, a delightful village fifty miles from Madrid, where stood the family mansion of the Duke of ———. The description of gothic castles

has been so often given, that it is needless to say more than that it was in the style of the old Castalian magnificence. The present Duke had modernised some of the apartments, which he had furnished in the English style, and contrived to unite splendour with comfort.

Every attention dictated by politeness and urbanity was strictly shown. The Duke and Duchess of Torcella had travelled a great deal, and spent a considerable time in England, for which the retained a predilection. Mr. Millward and Mr. Smith were particularly pleased with Don Ferdinand. He was their only child, yet he had not been spoiled. His education had been attended to in
every

every point that tended to form the scholar and the gentleman. From infancy he had been the chosen friend of Alphonsa, and on that account Don Sebastian and the Marchioness beheld him with partial eyes. Indeed the merits of this charming boy claimed their affections.

Mr. Smith had had the promised conversation with the Marchioness, which at her request had been daily renewed. This worthy and enlightened divine, without touching on the different tenets of their faith, had used such consoling arguments as convinced her understanding it was incompatible with the duty of a Christian to suffer a rooted melan-

choly to take place. At the conclusion of one of these conversations he said—

“ To preserve, my dear Madam, a tender remembrance of the dead is certainly both allowable and commendable, when time has mellowed our grief. To dwell on their various perfections, to point them out to the surviving offspring, is not only a pleasing task, but highly incumbent on us, till the period arrives that your mind, fortified by the aid of the Supreme Being, can look back with calmness on the late tragical events. Let me, my dear lady, persuade you by change of scene to endeavour to obliterate them from your memory : reflect seriously on the blessings you have

have still left—the best of fathers, who leans on you for support—a lovely girl, who even in childhood is all the fondest parent can desire—a princely fortune, which gives you possession of every elegant comfort of life, and enables you to know and feel the greatest luxury on earth, by giving you the power to relieve the distressed, to place them in present ease, and secure them from future want. To a heart like your's this must be ecstatic happiness.”

Don Sebastian saw with pleasure a visible improvement in the health and spirits of Sophronia. The society of Juliana proved of infinite service to the Marchioness, whose affection for her

increased hourly ; nor was she less a favourite with Don Sebastian or the Duke and Duchess. Had not Juliana been proof against that most dangerous passion Vanity, the admiration she excited might have been injurious to her ; but it had no other effect than to enlarge her gratitude and esteem for the guardians and instructors of her youth, and an ardent desire to render herself worthy the praises bestowed on her.

A messenger arrived at the Castle with despatches to the Duke, Don Sebastian, and Mr. Millward, to acquaint them that Gusman and Triphosa had expiated their crimes on the scaffold. They heard with pleasure that prior to their

their execution they had made a full confession of their guilt, and had died seemingly very penitent. They desired not to see their son, whom they solemnly declared was entirely innocent and ignorant of their crimes. They earnestly intreated the minister to take him under his protection, and, if possible, to obtain for him the pardon of the king.

Father Anthony had been preceptor to Gusman, which rendered his wickedness more enormous: he had led him step by step in the paths of vice, till he rendered him a most accomplished villain. Anthony died as he had lived, a hardened sinner, execrated by the populace,

pulace, who were with difficulty prevented from tearing him to pieces.

The letter added, that Frederic was so ill that his life was despaired of. The shock occasioned by hearing of his parent's crimes, and their ignominious end, had been too much for his weak frame, though it had been broke to him with the greatest caution by his preceptor, who had removed him into the country.

It was reluctantly the party quitted the Castle of ———, where they had spent ten days in a most agreeable manner. The Duke of Torcella, his Duchess and son returned with their friends to Madrid.

Madrid. Business of importance made the presence of Don Sebastian and Mr. Millward indispensably necessary. Don Sebastian and the Marchioness supported Juliana's claim as heiress to the estate pertaining to the Castle of——, and publicly acknowledged her as the eldest and legitimate daughter of the late Marquis of Vaena, whose will they wished to be fulfilled in every respect.

Mr. Millward in the course of a week had settled Juliana's affairs entirely to his satisfaction. He appointed Don Sebastian trustee to her property in Spain. The ready money, jewels, and plate belonging to her he meant to take with him to England.

It was thought proper for Juliana to be presented at court, as the Marchioness, on account of her being in close mourning, could not with propriety make her appearance. The Duchess of Torcella took Juliana under her protection; the Mr. Millwards and Mr. Smith were presented by the Duke.—Juliana put on a slighter mourning on the occasion, but could not be prevailed on to wear colours, as she thought it disrespectful to her father's memory.

Never had Edward and Juliana appeared to such advantage. The court rung with their praises. Mr. Millward and Mr. Smith viewed with pleasure the youthful

youthful pair, and felt highly gratified by the encomiums passed on them.

Frederic, contrary to expectation, recovered slowly. Every one pitied this unfortunate youth, who, by the crimes of his parents, was rendered miserable. He took a resolution, from which nothing could dissuade him, to enter the monastery of La Trappe, and, as soon as his probation was finished, to take the vows of that austere Order, and for ever seclude himself from the world.

Mr. Millward began to make preparations for their embarking for England. Juliana sincerely rejoiced at it, as she longed to return to the friends of

her infancy, and to her beloved Matilda; yet the idea of being separated from the charming Marchioness and family gave her real concern, nor was the thought less painful to them. The little Elvira was inconsolable. Fain would Don Sebastian have prevailed on Mr. Millward to defer his departure a few months, but vain was every argument: he knew though the certainty of Juliana's safety would in some measure tranquillize the mind of his Emma and family, yet their happiness would not be complete till he restored their darling Juliana to them. This reason he gave Don Sebastian for not complying with his request, who allowed it a sufficient one.

“ But,”

“ But,” continued Mr. Millward, “ why, my dear Sir, must we separate? Cannot you, the Marchioness, and Lady Elvira join our party, and accompany us to England? It may be the means of restoring the health and spirits of your daughter. You are both accustomed to and fond of travelling; Upton Hall is large enough to accommodate you and your suite; and I may venture to assure you the General and Mrs. Millward will be highly flattered in having the honour of being personally known by, and cultivating a friendship with persons whose characters they have long held in veneration and esteem; permit me to add, you will be equally pleased with them.”

The

The ladies entering the saloon, Don Sebastian told them the polite proposition Mr. Millward had just made.

“What, my good, my dear Sophronia, shall we avail ourselves of this friendly offer?”

“I have no objection, my dear Sir, except my repugnance at entering into company.”

“That, my dear Madam, I can easily obviate,” replied Mr. Millward. “Your apartment shall be sacred from intruders, nor shall you even be requested to join the family circle but when perfectly agreeable.”

Before

Before the Marchioness could answer, Juliana and Elvira had each seized a hand, and earnestly intreated her to make them happy by consenting. Fondly pressing them to her heart, she said—

“Yes, my dear children, I will accept the truly flattering invitation of Mr. Millward. Elvira, you shall not lose the advantage you will reap by the society of your accomplished sister.”

Don Sebastian asked Mr. Millward, smiling, how long he would allow him to arrange matters, preparatory to his voyage, who politely answered he would on no account hurry him.

“Nor

“Nor will I, my dear friend, detain you long. I have an excellent steward, and my affairs are in perfect order. If Sophronia approves of it, I will venture to promise to be ready to attend you in less than a month.”

Matters being adjusted, nothing remained but to reward those who had been instrumental to the safety of Juliana. The good old housekeeper, born and bred in the Castle of ———, chose to continue there. A handsome pension was settled on her, and a person hired to do the business, and act under her direction. Felix, for his integrity, had a thousand pistoles presented him, and two hundred yearly. Conrad and
Amy

Amy, who had long been attached to each other, agreed to be united. On their wedding-day Juliana gave them five hundred pistoles each, and they were comfortably settled on the estate belonging to Juliana. On Philip Don Sebastian settled twenty pistoles a year. Pedro had been so amply provided for by the Duke St. Ildefonso, and had saved so much money in the service of his late master, that scarcely could they prevail on him to accept of any gratuity. He only begged to be retained in the family, as he declared he should never enjoy a moment's happiness if he left it. His desire was complied with, and he was appointed secretary to Don Sebastian. Highly was the worthy man gratified.

gratified by the Marchioness presenting him with the watch of the late Marquis. Bending his knees, he respectfully kissed her hand—

“ You have indeed, Madam, rewarded me. This is an invaluable gift, nor will I ever part with it but with life.”

The Marchioness informed him of their intention of accompanying Mr. Millward to England, and of spending twelve months at Upton Hall—

“ So, Pedro, you will have the satisfaction of not being separated from Lady Juliana.”

Pedro

Pedro had not felt so happy since the loss of his master. He set about making the necessary preparations for the voyage with alacrity ; the packet was engaged to convey the party and suite to England, the captain of which promised to sail at the appointed time. The interval was spent in showing Edward and Juliana every thing worthy of observation in Madrid and its environs. Frequent excursions were made to the principal seats of the nobility, who outvied each other in paying respect and attention to Juliana and her friends.—The Duke and Duchess of Torcella were of all the parties. Mr. Millward pressed them to revisit England, and to make Upton Hall at least for some time their place

place of residence. The Duke and Duchess assured him they with pleasure accepted his invitation, and that he might depend on seeing them the ensuing year.

“ I anticipate, my dear Sir,” said his Grace, “ the many advantages I shall receive by your enlightened conversation and thorough knowledge of the British constitution. Ferdinand will be of an age to share with me the benefit and pleasure.”

Don Sebastian, the Mr. Millwards, Mr. Smith, and Juliana attended the drawing-room, to take leave, and to return thanks for the many favours conferred

ferred on them both by the sovereign and the minister.

The day they embarked Mr. Millward received a large packet from England, and had the satisfaction of hearing that the certainty of Juliana's safety, and the prospect of soon seeing her, had diffused a general joy, not only at Upton Hall, but to all that had the pleasure of knowing her.

After a very pleasant passage they anchored in Plymouth Harbour. Mr. Millward immediately despatched a messenger to Upton, to inform the family of their safe arrival, and of their having augmented their party. He requested
their

their return might not be mentioned, on the Marchioness's account, who wished to be in private.

Though every precaution had been taken to keep their arrival secret, and they even travelled in hired carriages, vain was every endeavour. Mr. Millward and Edward were too well known and respected to pass unnoticed. Miles before they entered their own domain they were recognized, as was Juliana, by the grateful rustics, who surrounded the carriage, and greeted them with heartfelt huzzas. By the time they reached Upton the whole village was assembled. The acclamations were heard at the Hall. James, as usual, without ceremony

ceremony rushed into the drawing-room, where the family were sitting, exclaiming with joy—

“ They are come—they will be here in a minute—Lady Juliana and all!—Heaven bless her, how I long to see her!—Will your Honour have your crutch-stick and my arm? Do let us go and meet them.”

Without waiting for the General's answer, James, on hearing the trampling of horses, ran as fast as he could toward the park, crying—

“ Follow me, Betty, and tell Mrs. Evans to be ready to pay her duty.”

Mrs.

Mrs. Millward, Mrs. Owen, and Matilda started up, and were following James, when the General said—

“ Pray not so fast—do take compassion on me, for James has left me to shift for myself. But as I wish to receive Don Sebastian with marked attention, do, Emma—do, Mrs. Owen, lend me your assistance.”

So saying, he seized an arm of each. They just reached the saloon as the carriages stopped at the grand entrance. James, to his great joy, had already shook hands with Juliana. In the space of a moment Mrs. Millward had the happiness of folding to her heart
her

her husband, son, and equally beloved Juliana. Tears spoke forcibly the feelings of Juliana.

“My more than mother, am I indeed restored to your protection once more under this parental roof—again behold the friends of my infancy, the dear companions of my youth—my sister, my ever-dear Mrs. Owen?” embracing them both—“my revered grandfather!” throwing herself into the General’s arms, which were extended to receive her, while his eyes overflowed as he fondly kissed her.

“Thank Heaven!” cried he, “I have lived to press once more my darling

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ling to my heart!—But we forget our noble guests.—Forgive,” said he, presenting his hand to Don Sebastian and the Marchioness, “this seeming inattention, and receive a sincere and hearty welcome to Upton Hall, which I hope you will consider as your home. Long have we been ambitious to rank in the number of your friends.”

Mrs. Millward expressed, in the most polite terms, the pleasure their unexpected visit gave her. Don Sebastian and the Marchioness were delighted with her fascinating manners, and with the frankness and affability of the General. The Marchioness, presenting Elvira, said, with a deep sigh—

“Permit

“Permit me to introduce my daughter. As the sister of Juliana, and the child of my lamented husband, I flatter myself that you will allow her a place in your esteem.”

This was promised, and the compliments really due passed on Elvira, whose innocent vivacity highly entertained the General. Juliana eagerly enquired after the good hermit and the worthy Evans. She had the satisfaction to hear they were well.

“I will,” said she, “step and see her.”

“Shall I attend you?” said Edward,

“ as we must see the rest of the household ; and we will beg permission to pay a short visit to Father Edmund, who I am certain is impatient to embrace you.”

It is needless to dwell on the reception Juliana met with from the faithful Evans, and from all the domestics.— Father Edmund was overjoyed to see them : most fervently did he offer his thanks to Providence for the safe return of Juliana. It seemed to inspire him with new life. After spending an hour with the good old man they took their leave, promising to renew their visit the next morning, and to introduce their noble friends.

At

At their return to the Hall they found Mrs. Carre and Charles, who had been spending a few days at the Cottage, having had some business to transact. The bells at Upton and Thorpe were rang, and open house kept for all who chose to partake.

The following day the Hall was crowded with visitors, to congratulate the family on Lady Juliana's restoration. The rector and family dined at the Hall. Louisa was more lively than ever. Mr. and Mrs. E. Montague, who had sincerely sympathised in their afflictions, shared the joy every one evinced on this happy occasion. Even the Marchioness appeared chearful. She had spent several

ral hours at the Hermitage. Father Edmund had in that short period gained her esteem and confidence. She consented to join the dinner party ; and in the course of a week her health was re-established, and her spirits sufficiently recovered to enter into society, and to enjoy the beauties of Upton and Thorpe. A grand entertainment was given to the neighbouring families. It being early in May, and the weather remarkably fine, the grounds were most splendidly illuminated. Nor were the tenants or cottagers forgot : they partook of the amusements, and were liberally regaled.

Happiness being once more restored to Upton, the accustomed avocations
were

were resumed. Don Sebastian often accompanied the General in his airings. His youth had been devoted to arms, and he took great delight in recounting the dangers he had escaped, and in listening to the different engagements the General had fought.

In a few weeks Mr. Millward proposed to Edward that he and Mr. Smith should visit Italy and France.

“I know, my dear boy,” said he, you will reluctantly leave Juliana, but I think it absolutely necessary you should make the tour. Consider, you will only be absent a few months, as you must return prior to your coming of age. On

that day I intend you shall conduct Juliana to the altar."

Edward assured his father of his chearful acquiescence.

"I knew, Sir, it was your wish; and being certain of the advantages I should reap in travelling under the guidance of my kind monitor, I have already prepared Juliana for our separation, nor has she the least objection to it. The pangs of absence will be alleviated by the hopes of rendering myself more worthy of her hand."

It gave Mr. Millward great pleasure to find the young folks approved of his
arrange-

arrangements. July was fixed for the departure of Edward, who requested that his friend Charles might accompany him. Mrs. Carre at first objected, but could not resist the joint solicitations of her son and Edward, especially as she found it was the wish of the General and Mr. Millward. The former told Mrs. Carre that it should not be attended with any expense to her.

“ You know, my dear Madam, Charles is my adopted son, and will share my fortune with Matilda.”

“ You have, my dear Sir, already proved yourself a father, and have a
R 5 right

right to dispose of him as you think proper."

Matters being adjusted to the satisfaction of all parties, the young men prepared for their departure. Mr. Millward accompanied them to London, as he meant Edward, previous to his leaving England, to pay his respects at St. James's, and to the Duke of C——. The parting was less distressing than was expected. Even Matilda supported it with firmness. The Marchioness regretted the absence of Mr. Smith, as his admonitions, united to those of Father Edmund, had tranquillized her mind, and enabled her to bear the loss she

she had sustained with a magnanimity that astonished all her friends, though it gave them the most heartfelt satisfaction.

The autumn proving fine, it was spent in various rural diversions. The harvest-home was celebrated with every demonstration of joy, and in the true style of old English hospitality. The novelty of the scene surprised and delighted Don Sebastian, the Marchioness, and Elvira. They every day found something new to admire: the peace and plenty that reigned in the poorest cottage astonished them. They beheld in the owners of this happy domain magnificence without pride, liberality

without ostentation, and religion without enthusiasm.

Frequent letters from the travellers, containing entertaining remarks on what they saw, enlivened, and in some measure compensated for their absence.—Mrs. Carre had given her little history to Mrs. Millward: it was short and melancholy.—She was the only child of a gentleman of large fortune, who left her sole mistress of it at eighteen, her mother having died some years before.—Shortly after the decease of her father she became acquainted with the Earl of Greenock, an elegant and accomplished young man just returned from making the tour of Europe. He had not long
entered

entered his twenty-second year, and had come to the title and estate at an early period. A mutual affection took place, and having no one to consult, they were married as soon as Miss Carre's mourning for her father expired. For near thirty years they enjoyed domestic felicity in its full extent ; the Earl was the best of husbands and fathers—she the happiest of wives and mothers. They were blest with three sons, who were every thing they could wish. Two of them had attained manhood. Charles, the younger, had reached his fourteenth year when the rebellion broke out in Scotland. To the Countess's grief and astonishment the Earl determined to espouse the cause of the Pretender.

Accompanied

Accompanied by his two eldest sons and all his clan he joined the rebel army, and supplied it with arms, ammunition, and money. In the battle of Culloden the regiment he commanded was cut to pieces, and himself and sons left dead upon the field.

Unfortunately their estate lay contiguous to the scene of action; and scarcely had the fatal news arrived, when the royal party, enraged at the active part the Earl had taken, set fire to the house. The Countess and Charles, with two faithful domestics, had just time to escape the flames, leaving every thing of value behind them. They sheltered in a miserable cottage, where,
for

for six weeks, they suffered incredible hardships.

When things were a littled settled, and the rage of party subsided, the Earl of A——, who, though a strong loyalist, had ever lived in habits of intimacy with the Earl of Greenock, traced them out, and supplied them with necessaries. He advised her to assume her maiden name, and to leave Scotland immediately. He told her if she had no objection to settle in Devonshire he would recommend her to a most worthy family, who he was well assured would at his request take her under their protection. He added—

“ Mr.

“ Mr. Millward will have the goodness to direct you what steps to pursue in regard to the finishing of Charles’s education.”

The Earl of A—— in the most delicate manner presented the Countess with a sum of money to bear her expenses, and begged she would consider him as her banker, and allow him to remit her fifty pounds every quarter, promising hereafter to use his interest with government in favour of herself and Charles.

These were the heads of Mrs. Carre’s story.—The Earl of A—— had been in constant correspondence with Mr.

“ Millward,

Millward, and they had determined to present a petition to his Majesty in behalf of Charles.

When Mr. Millward returned from London, he acquainted Mrs. Carre that her affairs were in a good train. The day he attended the levee with Edward he met the Earl of A—— at court, and was much pleased at so unexpectedly renewing the acquaintance.

“ I was happy,” said Mr. Millward, “ in having an opportunity of introducing Charles. The Earl agreed to spend the day with us, and expressed his approbation of Charles in very strong terms. He paid his acknowledgments

ledgements to Mr. Smith for his care
 and attention to his young friend. We
 determined jointly to solicit the Duke
 of C——d's interest in regard to
 Charles, which we happily obtained.—
 His Highness desired Edward to bring
 his friend with him. On conversing
 with Charles, and hearing his sentiments
 relative to political matters, the Duke
 promised to undertake his cause, and
 to do every thing in his power to serve
 him. When the young men took leave
 of his Highness, he told Charles he had
 some hopes he should get the attainder
 revoked, and that the estate would be
 restored to him. So, my dear Madam,
 I hope I shall soon have the pleasure of
 congratu-

congratulating you on the restoration of your fortune."

Mrs. Carre expressed her most grateful thanks. The winter passed imperceptibly. Christmas was celebrated with every mark of festivity, and a succession of country amusements. The approach of spring added to the gaiety that presided at the Hall, as a few weeks would render the party perfectly happy by the presence of Mr. Smith and his pupils. Their last letters were dated from Paris. The young men anticipated the pleasure of meeting.

Preparations were already begun for celebrating Edward's coming of age
and

and his nuptials. As they were sitting one evening on the terrace which commanded an extensive view of the road, they were agreeably surprised by the arrival of the travellers, who had returned a week sooner than was expected. It is needless to describe the meeting. Suffice it to say they were received with the warmest affection ; and as Edward held in his arms his adored Juliana, he exultingly exclaimed—

“ I trust, my love, we meet to part no more.”

Mr. Smith gave the most flattering account of the conduct of his pupils, and their unremitted attention to whatever

ever

ever could embellish their minds or add to their knowledge.

“In short,” said this worthy man, “ours has been a tour of instruction more than pleasure. We have studied men and manners, and obtained an insight into the laws, religion, customs, and manufactures of the different countries we passed through. Our letters of recommendation gained us a gracious reception at every court; and I am proud to boast that my pupils have left a character behind that does honour to their country.”

Early the next morning Edward and Charles, accompanied by Juliana and
Matilda,

Matilda, paid their respects to the hermit, who received them with a thousand blessings. He still retained his faculties, and was able to cultivate his little garden. He had just finished his morning devotion, and was going to breakfast, of which he invited them to partake. They with pleasure consented to share his little repast. It consisted of new milk, bread, and various dried fruits. Before they had finished they were joined by Mr. Smith, and they passed two hours in a most pleasant manner.

On their return to the Hall they found the family at breakfast, which was scarcely over before visitors arrived
to

to pay their compliments to the gentlemen on their return from the continent. The morning was dedicated to ceremony, the rest of the day to friendship and real enjoyment. Every one was busy in arranging matters for the approaching festival.

James had full employment. For some days the General perceived he had something to communicate. At last, after a long preamble, he said—

“Will your Honour have the goodness to permit Henry to consult you on an affair he has set his heart on—that is, if it meets your Honour’s approbation?”

“Let

“ Let him make his propositions,” said the General, smiling ; “ my concurrence will never be wanting to any thing that is likely to promote his happiness. Tell him to come to me in about an hour.”

The General received Henry with his accustomed kindness, who, after an apology, acquainted the General that he had attached himself to the daughter of farmer Dawson, and, with his leave, wished to offer her his hand.

“ I have not the least objection, my dear Henry, to your settling in life, and I approve of your choice. Eleanor is a pretty brunette, very amiable, and has
received

received a good education; I have no doubt of her rendering you happy. I will speak to Mr. Millward about it, who shall settle the affair with her father. I suppose you have already gained Eleanor's consent."

Henry answered in the affirmative, and expressed his most grateful thanks.

The General related the conversation he had had with Henry to Mr. Millward, who promised to call on Mr. Dawson in a few days. Every thing was instantly concluded. Mr. Dawson highly approved of the match. Eleanor was his only daughter, and he was proud and happy at her being united to Henry.

“ I can, Sir, thanks to Providence and your indulgent kindness, give my girl a thousand pounds down, and two more at my death, without injuring my sons, for whom I can amply provide. In regard to any settlement on my girl, I leave it entirely to your Honour.”

“ Be assured, Mr. Dawson, I will take care of Eleanor.”

The General was pleased at Mr. Millward's account of his embassy, and requested that the three weddings might be solemnized on the same day.

“ With all my heart, my dear Sir ; I
highly

highly approve of celebrating the weddings together, as I am certain it will be an addition to the happiness of the young folks, as Eleanor was always the favourite playmate of Juliana and Matilda."

When James heard of this arrangement his joy knew no bounds ; he cried and laughed in a breath, and, scarcely knowing what he did, ran into the room where the family was sitting, exclaiming—

" Your Honours are too good, indeed you are. This unexpected favour to my poor boy is too much to bear.— Betty and I cannot express our thanks.

I trust that Henry will strive to deserve it."

Tears of gratitude stopped the utterance of this faithful veteran.

"Compose yourself, my good James," said Mr. Millward; "you and Henry merit all we can do for you."

Edward rose, and shaking him by the hand, assured him it added to his felicity that the friend and companion of his infancy would share the happiness of the day.

To complete the joy of this truly amiable circle, a messenger arrived from
the

the Duke of C——d informing Mr. Millward that the estate of the misguided Earl of Greenock would be restored to the widow and son.

“The title,” added his Highness, “might have been reassumed, had not the young gentleman expressly declined it; therefore permission is granted to him and his descendents to bear the name and arms of his mother’s family.”

Don Sebastian expressed his surprise at Charles having refused the title.

“He acted, my dear Sir, by my advice,” said Mr. Millward. “My reason for wishing him to decline it is this:

his father was only the second earl, and having forfeited the newly-acquired honours, I thought it best to consign them to oblivion. I intend both Charles and Edward to take an active part in the legislative department, and hope they will prove real patriots. No word is less understood, or more abused : every one who opposes government, and excites sedition, is honoured with the appellation by the misguided and deluded people. The duty of a patriot is certainly, as far as lies in his power, to prevent every species of oppression, and with a watchful eye to guard the liberties and privileges of the country at large, and their constituents in particular ; but it consists not in endeavouring

to

to subvert our laws, in destroying subordination, or inspiring the multitude with ideas of their being oppressed, if the exigence of the times require government to levy taxes that bear hard upon them."

The settlements were soon arranged. Lady Juliana's fortune was upward of two hundred thousand pounds, beside her estate in Spain; her jewels were of immense value. Mr. Millward made Edward independent. Charles's estate was seven thousand a-year; his mother's jointure two thousand, which reverted to him at his death. The General gave Matilda fifty thousand pounds, and Mr. Millward presented her with a very

fine

fine set of diamonds, and added twenty thousand pounds more. It was proposed for the young people to have separate establishments, but to the great joy of the General they declined it. They were each to have an elegant house in London, but their country residence was still to be Upton Hall, which was large enough to accommodate the respective families and their retinues.

Mr. Smith and Mrs. Owen were requested to continue inmates of Upton Hall. They were too sincerely attached to every branch of the family, and their situation was too pleasant to decline the friendly offer.

At

At length the ardently wished-for day arrived that was to tie the indissoluble bands. The three brides were habited exactly alike—plain, simple, yet elegant. Never was the Poet's observation of beauty being, "when unadorned, adorned the most," more fully exemplified than in these lovely girls. The bridegrooms beheld them with rapture. The ceremony was performed early in the morning by the good rector: the whole family attended. The church was crowded with the tenants and cottagers, who, with blessings and sincere exclamations of joy, followed the carriages to the Hall, where a most sumptuous breakfast was prepared for all the guests. The General gave Henry a thou-

sand pounds ; Mr. and Mrs. Millward made him a handsome present, and furnished him a house contiguous to the park. Henry now acted as land-steward, (under the direction of Mr. Berry,) for which he was allowed two hundred a-year. Previous to the ceremony, Edward presented Henry with an elegant pocket-book, containing notes to the amount of five hundred pounds. Juliana and Matilda had not been less liberal to Eleanor.

As soon as breakfast was over, the new-married pairs paid a visit to the hermit, who with tears of joy exclaimed—

“ Receive,

“ Receive, my children, my most fervent blessing. May Almighty Providence protect and guide you through the rugged paths of life ! May you long be blessed in each other, and, following the steps of your parents, prove the protectors of the distressed, and ornaments of the human race ! ”

The villages of Upton and Thorpe were most liberally regaled ; the charitable institutions were included in the general festivity. Mirth and hilarity appeared in every countenance. Never did two people enjoy more happiness than James and his wife. As usual they presided over the rustic feast. Three days were entirely devoted to the te-

L 6

nants,

nants, household, and peasantry : open house was kept, and different diversions occupied each day. The week following was dedicated to receiving and paying visits of ceremony. Entertainments were given to the surrounding families, for which art and nature were ransacked to render them splendid.—Fancy balls, superb suppers, and brilliant fireworks formed part of the amusements. Never had Upton Hall displayed such continued scenes of magnificence. The young people entered into all the diversions with a gaiety natural to youth, yet they returned with double pleasure to the calm enjoyments of their domestic circle, and to the select society of friends.

A ge-

A general election took place in about three months after their marriage, which obliged Edward and Charles to enter on a new scene of life. The constituents of the principal borough belonging to Mr. Millward waited on him to claim a promise he had long made them that his son, when of age, should represent them in the senate. The offer was accepted, and Edward elected without a dissenting voice. When all was concluded, contrary to the usual mode the electors gave a ball and supper to their new member and family. Charles obtained a seat in the same honourable manner.

Two houses had been taken in St.

James's

James's-Square for the reception of the new-married pairs, and most elegantly furnished, and a set of servants were hired. Mr. Millward accompanied them to London, to be present at their first appearance at court. Mrs. Millward and the Marchioness declined being of the party. The latter consented that Elvira should spend the winter with her sister.

Never had there been a more splendid appearance at St. James's than on the presentation of the bridegrooms and brides. Their dress, their equipages, were the subject of general conversation. It is impossible to delineate the admiration excited by the beauty
and

and uncommon loveliness of Lady Juliana and Matilda : suffice it to say, the court rang with their praises, in which Edward and Charles had a liberal share. Their reception by the monarch was flattering to a degree, and from every branch of the royal family.

Mr. Millward continued in town till the young men made their debut in Parliament, which they did with great éclat ; he then returned to Devonshire. Lady Juliana and Mrs. Carre entered the *grande monde* with moderation.— Their routs and suppers were splendid, but they gave as few as possible. They had a box at the Opera, but the theatre was their favourite amusement ; and they

they were so unfashionable as never to appear in public without their husbands.

When the Christmas recess released Mr. Edward Millward and Mr. Carre from their attendance on Parliament, they with real pleasure rejoined their friends at Upton Hall. At the latter end of the ensuing summer their happiness experienced some alloy by the departure of Don Sebastian, the Marchioness, and Lady Elvira for Spain.

In less than twelve months Lady Juliana presented the family with a fine boy, and three months after, Mrs. Charles Carre was delivered of a daughter.—

Neither

Neither Mrs. Carre nor her son could bear the idea of revisiting Scotland, and they thought it unjust to draw large sums from a country they never intended to reside in ; they obtained an act of parliament to empower them to dispose of their property to a distant branch of the late Earl's family, and Mr. Carre purchased an estate about ten miles distant from Upton Hall, called Prior Lodge. Mrs. Carre resided with her son and daughter, though she frequently spent a month at the Hall.

The good hermit lived three years after the marriage of his young favourites, and died with a strong reliance on the mercy of Heaven, and a firm hope
that

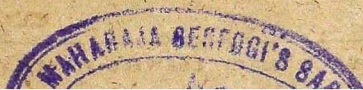
that he had atoned for the crimes of his youth. He was sincerely regretted by the family at Upton, and was interred, by his desire, in the chapel belonging to the Hermitage. Mr. Millward had a neat monument erected to his memory with a suitable inscription.

The General lived to see a numerous progeny of his third generation approach maturity. Like the patriarchs of old, he expired in the bosom of his family, lamented by all that knew him. His relatives were inconsolable, and his faithful domestics never recovered his loss. James survived his master only a few months. His widow (Welch Betty), who was amply provided for, at Henry's earnest

earnest

earnest request consented to live with him. He had a large family, and was completely happy in his marriage. On the death of Mr. Berry, (the old steward,) he succeeded him. His conduct merited the approbation of his patrons, and repaid them for their care and protection of his youth.

Don Sebastian lived to see Elvira united to Don Ferdinand, who shortly after became, by the death of his father, Duke of Torcella. The Marchioness, on the decease of her father, retired to a convent. The lively Louisa Montague continued single, and devoted her time to smooth the latter days of her parents. The worthy rector was grown so infirm, that



that with Mr. Millward's consent he resigned the living of Upton to his son. Mr. and Mrs. Millward had the felicity of beholding their sons and daughters fulfil their warmest expectations, universally beloved and admired ; and had the pleasing prospect, that their rising generation would emulate the virtues of their parents.

THE END.

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