

AURELIA;

THE JEWS OF CAPEÑA GATE.

"On the head of this child," said he, addressing Cecelia, "I swear that what I have said has not been to deceive you, but was dictated by my desire to serve your interests!"

CHAPTER VI.

When Cecelia returned home, it was night. The unfortunate man could not have said where he had been since morning. He had wandered about, with sinking heart and absent mind, trying vainly to think how he could save himself from the terrible dilemma in which he was placed.

"Oh! father, father!" cried the young girl, "this again? you then have not understood me?"

"That's it, you cannot. And I shall be sold into slavery, and you will sell you also! We shall both be the prey of the pontiffs and of Parmenton!"

"That is not you alone! Do you not understand me?" cried Cecelia, with sudden exasperation; "it is you and I! They have told me so, and I know it to be true! Well! I will not, no, I do not want to be a slave again! And I will not be!"

"Oh!" he said with fearful bitterness, "I am nothing for that child! She will be sold to Parmenton, can come now, have wherewith to pay him!"

"I tell you," cried Cecelia, completely beside herself, "that this girl has betrayed her father and her gods! I am shocked, and I am not alone! I tell you she is no longer my child, and you can take her away. Do you hear me, Parmenton?"

CHAPTER VII.

THE SLAVE DEALER AS A LAWYER. The events we have just described were the sequence of the conversation between Gurgas and Estrapelas. They had occurred within a very small number of days.

Parmenton was situated, with the determination not to return home until he should have ascertained what had become of Cecelia.

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He withdrew, followed by Gurgas, who shook his fist at Parmenton, and swore that he would avenge Cecelia.

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There are not a few people in the world, of greater or less intelligence, who try to satisfy the cravings of their nature for some kind of religion, by professing their belief in a God.

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JUNE 9, 1900.

SPARED!

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