

dom, before the first wife preferred a complaint to the patriarch of the Greek church against the Tartar woman for the abduction of her husband. They were summoned before the synod, where the Tartar woman defended herself with so much ability that the ecclesiastics were struck silent; but she again took up the word, and pronounced her own sentence saying. "If my husband whom I right dearly love, and so dearly that, rather than he should suffer uneasiness, I shared his person with his first wife, who, by the bye, is not, like me, spotless to all but him, but has been a victim to the lust of almost numberless Tartars; if he, I say, clings so much to her, as to prefer her by herself, to her and me together, let it be so. For the sake of the love I bear him, and the two children I have by him,—and he has none by her—I will forego all claim to reimbursement of the large sum of money I paid for his ransom, when he was an abject and miserable slave to tyrannical and barbarous taskmasters. Gladly too would I do the same for his sake by this ungrateful woman, whom I redeemed from a state still worse, a state of daily and nightly compulsive prostitution to the meanest soldiers of the camp, but my reduced means forbid me. I am a stranger in a foreign land, with two young children; let her therefore repay me the amount I paid for her ransom, and she is free. May they be happy together!" It is needless to describe the impression which this woman's exalted generosity produced. But fate decreed that she should not be separated from the man whom she thus disinterestedly loved; for his other wife going into Thrace, to procure money from her relations to make up her ransom, was again seized upon by a band of predatory Tartars, and car-