

with him after the play at some of the *Restorateurs*; which invitation was graciously accepted. Our gallant began to find the play long, and his present seat uneasy, so that he at last saw with the greatest pleasure the curtain dropping. He then eagerly seized the beautiful hand of his fair companion to help her down the narrow stairs, but again his patience was put to the trial by the obstruction occasioned by the crowd that preceded them, and which the fair one seemed not to wish to mix with, so that she kept him back almost to the last of all. Arrived at the door they were met by four tall fellows, in the richest liveries, carrying each of them a lighted torch, and who no sooner perceived the young lady than they with stentorian voice called *la voiture de madame la Duchesse d'Orleans!* Surprised at such a sight and at such a call, our hero looked around and around to discover the person to whom these flambeau bearers belonged, but he looked in vain, for there was no other woman within sight besides that pretty one who hung so lovingly on his arm. The Dutchess, enjoyed for a while the truly comic scene, and then desired him to proceed, which having done his surprise rose to its climax when he saw the same men opening the door of the coach and disposing themselves to assist his fair companion in. He soon however recovered his presence of mind, and on the princess asking him why he did not take his seat near her, he answered her Madam, "*In Paradise all are on a par*, but now that we are returned on earth, I know too well the respect due to a person of your rank, not to apologize for the liberty which I have taken with your Royal Highness!" "No, no, sir," replied the princess, who had been highly entertained by the wit and the manners of the young man; "I did accept of your invitation to partake of a roast fowl with you, and I insist on your keeping your engagement, the sole difference will be that, instead of eating it at a *restorateur*, we shall enjoy it at the table of *Monsieur le Duc d'Orleans*." Our young man no longer hesitated, took his seat near the dutchess and was rattled along to the Palais Royal. On his entrance into the magnificent Palace, his courage began to cool and he asked many times leave to depart, but the princess persisted on his keeping the as-