

gained its wonted serenity and health. Yet, alone, without guides, and on foot, how could they ever surmount the dangers of that fearful pass—how dare he expose a life still dearer than his own, to perils before which the stoutest hearts quailed with fear? But Eurota's wild vagaries had turned into that channel, and he could not restrain her eagerness to indulge them. She pressed on towards the entrance of the Giel, and fearing to oppose her, Rodolph walked slowly by her side, with one arm encircling and sustaining her delicate form, and striving, by his own laggard step to restrain the impatience of hers, irresolute and uncertain where their course might end.

As they proceeded onwards, the features of the landscape gradually changed, giving certain indications, at every step, that they were fast exchanging the smiles of nature for her most fearful and terrific frowns. Rodolph's heart sank within him, as he looked upon the frail being whom he was, perhaps, conducting to certain death, and drawing her aside from the rocky path, he sat down with her beneath the deep shelter of the trees. She raised her face enquiringly to his, and with a gladsome smile pronounced his name, but when he answered by pressing his lips to her's, she blushed with instinctive modesty, and shrinking away, hid her face in his bosom. He clasped her silently in his arms, and never before had his heart glowed with emotions so pure and deep as those which at that moment found birth within it, surrounded as he was with the most wild and wondrous scenery, and with that beautiful and helpless being lying with such trusting confidence upon his breast. It seemed to him that the Deity addressed him from the midst of his most marvellous works,—warning him to guard with holy faith the innocent creature thus thrown, in her unconsciousness, upon his protecting love. Solemnly he pledged himself to obey that low mysterious voice, and a prayer silently arose from the heart of the worldly man, the first it is feared, that ever ascended from that impure altar, for those blessed influences which could alone avail to purify and renovate his soul; and reared as he was in the crooked ways of the world—and stained, perchance, with crime—he felt, as he looked abroad upon the varied and glorious works of the Divine Architect, and then down on the lovely head of Eurota, the rich curls shading the transparent cheek, and the deep blue eye raised so lovingly to his, that if ever he learned to love virtue, and worship in sincerity the Father of his Spirit, it must be among such scenes, and in the companionship of that fair and gentle creature, who had first taught him to hate the errors of the past, and aspire after that purity and goodness, of which she seemed to him the very incarnation.

While he thus sat, now lost in thought, and now striving by tender word and tone, to calm the excitement of Eurota, which was continually bursting

forth in wild snatches of song, and wilder sayings, the clattering of horses' hoofs was heard along the rocky road, and in another instant two men appeared in view, mounted on the small light horses of the country, and preceded by a guide carrying an axe, for the purpose of cutting away the ice, should any obstruct their path. Uzendal immediately addressed them, and learned that they were the inhabitants of a distant province, and relatives of the family at the farm of Jelde, whom they were now on their way to visit. They readily agreed to relinquish one of their horses for Eurota's use, and promised to give up both, together with the guide, who was in truth an inhabitant of Vettie, in case they could there procure others for their return. These arrangements being completed, they resumed their progress, accompanied by the lovers. Rodolph placed Eurota on the back of one of the gentle little animals, and holding her bridle rein, proceeded with increased confidence over a road that was every instant becoming more toilsome and dangerous. For a time she seemed pleased with her new mode of conveyance, but suddenly, as if longing for change, she sprang from the saddle, and went gaily bounding along the uneven way. Rodolph, dismayed, caught her arm, but he could not prevail on her to remount. She appeared still to know him, and to derive happiness from his presence, and she hung upon him with a look so touching, so full of fond beseeching love, that even for her comfort, he could not force her from him—so making a signal to the man to resume his horse, he gently supported her steps, and they walked along together.

Narrow and narrower now became the dale, contracting itself almost to a ribbon's breadth, through which rushed the foaming Uledal, with a swiftness that astonished and dismayed, and higher and higher towered the black precipices on either side, over which their path led. As they climbed the steep granite hill of Jelde, its sides bending inward from the river, and its summit literally overhanging the fathomless abyss beneath, Rodolph began almost to repent his temerity in yielding to the wild fancy of Eurota. But she, radiant with delirious joy, laughed madly at his fears, and accustomed to thread the intricate glens, and traverse the mountain paths of her country, trod the narrow and perilous way, with as light and firm a step as though she were tripping over the smooth velvet of some sunny green-sward,—breaking out continually into wild songs, and pausing to hurl the gray lichens, that she plucked from the rocks, over the beetling brow of the steep and giddy precipice.

At the farm of Jelde, the two travellers bade them farewell, and Rodolph was half inclined to envy them, as they turned aside to the comfortable looking farm-house, that wore such an inviting air of quiet, in the midst of surrounding terrors, leaving him to traverse the unknown Giel with his solitary