

of beauty which you worldlings prize so highly ; it is also said that her character was of an amiable and mild cast. A few years since this young girl, called Tonia, had the misfortune to meet with a wild young man, some years older than herself, and to take pleasure in listening to his declarations of love. Renzo Majuri was a handsome fellow, he had little trouble in causing himself to be beloved by Tonia. Each day our two lovers met near the ruins of a casino which I will point out to you as we pass. There, they mutually confided to each other, their griefs and their hopes : Renzo, an orphan from infancy, exercised the painful and little lucrative trade of wood-chopper ; what he had earned after a day of hard labour scarcely sufficed to keep him ; consequently each time he had expressed to Peppa, his desire to obtain the hand of her daughter, he had been repulsed with brutality. At length he determined to change his profession ; he sold his hatchet and other tools, and joined himself to some fishermen who possessed a boat and nets among them in common. The extraordinary zeal he brought caused him soon to surmount all difficulties, and in a short time he became a very tolerable sailor. Not that at the bottom of his heart he did not regret his old trade, for he preferred a thousand times the solitude of the dark and silent forests to the impetuous motions of the sea, but he had an end in view which he wished to attain, and there, were concentrated all the faculties of his soul ; his ambition was to amass a few ducats wherewith to seduce old Peppa and induce her to grant him the hand of her daughter, of the amiable Tonia. She, each time that her lover embarked on a fishing voyage spent the day watching the state of the sky and of the waters ; at night she slept little but repeated her rosary in spite of the scolding of Peppa who told her to cease her prayers and go to her bed.

However, the fears of Tonia were unfounded ; Renzo ever returned safe and sound from his jaunts. Love gave him so much zeal and activity that in a short time he had succeeded in laying past a small sum, about forty ducats. Renzo after consulting with his mistress presented himself to Peppa, and show-