

check denied the assertion; and much as I regretted it, I was obliged to leave her. I cannot speak of the anguish which rent my soul, as I saw the distance gradually increasing between me and my home. I would not if I could, for even now it is too painful to be recalled. Enough, that I knew that the wife I adored, had learned to love another, and that he might now pour his tale of guilty love into her ear, nor fear that I would know the horrid truth. But why dwell longer on my misery! suffice it that the period of my absence was shortened two days, and I hastened to my house, a gloomy foreboding of coming evil pressing heavily upon my mind. I reached at length the domain of my father, and giving my horse to my servant, I determined to approach the house on foot. I walked onward and entered a grove where I had often strayed with my Olivia. The peaceful scene was in sad contrast to the storm of misery within my bosom, and every object spoke of former joys. Unconsciously I approached a little arbor, the place where first I whispered to Olivia words of love, the spot where she first murmured to me, in faltering accents, that her heart was mine! Suddenly I paused;—for the murmur of voices reached my ear;—and judge of my emotion, when I beheld the form of my beautiful Olivia, clasped to the heart of my brother! Yes, I beheld this,—yea, more; I heard him breathe to her a tale of ardent love, while in the same sweet tones which in that very arbor had thrilled my heart with bliss, she vowed to give to him her whole store of affection, to love but him alone. I could bear no more; but drawing my sword I rushed upon them, and the next moment, both lay at my feet in the fearful agony of death.

"I knew no more, until I found myself stretched upon a bed, in my own chamber, too feeble to move a limb, or even give utterance to one single word; but by degrees I regained my strength, and I learned that when my servant arrived, and told of my having sought the house on foot, some uneasiness was felt that I had not yet arrived, and after some time, finding that I came not, search was made for me, and I was found lying apparently lifeless beside my victims, and bathed in the blood which had flowed from their fatal wounds. Many days had passed, the guilty pair were mouldering in their last abode, and the officers of justice demanded their victim. I was given up, and conveyed to one of the apartments allotted to criminals in a strong tower in the neighboring town, there to await the hour of my execution. But on the night which preceded the fatal day, six of my servants who, guilty though

I was, still loved me well, succeeded in setting me free! They conveyed me with the utmost haste to a boat, and on the following morning we reached the shores of Italy. In that hour of recovered freedom, of rescue from a death of shame, I took a solemn vow, that for me the eye of beauty should sparkle henceforth in vain,—that woman should be the object of my deepest hate, my never-ceasing, my undying aversion; and most faithfully have I kept my vow.

"With my faithful followers, I traversed the most unfrequented parts of Italy, until I found myself beyond its confines. I had as yet no fixed resolve respecting the future, I was reckless of my fate; nor greatly cared what it might be; I had learned to feel the deepest hate for my fellow-men, and wished to rid myself of their sight forever. I reached at length these mountains, when worn out and toilworn, I found myself unable to proceed, and here I remained for some time, watched over with the utmost care by my faithful attendants. Here we were discovered by a band of robbers, who offered no alternative but to join them, or fall beneath their swords; I was in fit mood to accede to their proposal, and we were conducted to their stronghold; and thus the son of a powerful Silician noble, became a robber. Six years have passed since then, and I am now the bandit chief, but never for a moment have I regretted my vow, for never have I looked upon the female face or form but with aversion and disgust! And now, now that I have recounted events, which wring my soul with agony, dost thou absolve me from the charge which thou broughtest against me, of tearing from thee a toy, from which I would shrink in horror!"

"Yes, most fully! And I would pray you to forgive the want of confidence in thee, which could lead me for a moment to doubt thee! but one thing more,—how knowest thou the ruffian hands that committed the deed!"

"Several of my men were out in different directions, and two of them saw the party that captured the lady; they followed them, until they approached the cottage, saw them after a time return, bearing the lady, and determined to learn their purpose, they followed at a distance. Soon were they joined by others, and they moved onward, until they reached the Rhine, when, launching their boats which had been carefully concealed, they heard one who seemed to be the leader, exclaim, 'Now for Mount Jura' and ere long they were landed on the other side! My brave men sought their companions, and some two or three days after, returned to our home! What think you, is not my knowledge well gained?"