

ACT THIRD.

(TIME BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD ACT—TWO YEARS.)

Scene First.—A Chamber in the Castle. Time, Evening.

Enter DIAVOLO *and the Lady* BEATRICE.

Diav. I have come in obedience to your Ladyship's commands, and am anxious to know the business which your messenger informed me was so pressing.

Beat. It is indeed urgent. At my request Chevalier Diavolo, you desisted from pressing the Marquis for the money which he owes you. I have sent to inform you that I withdraw my request, and you are at liberty to put the law in force.

Diav. But I am not in need of money.

Beat. If you do not press the Marquis you will be in danger of losing it.

Diav. Well, I can afford to lose it; and I would like to do the Marquis a favor by letting him have the money as his own. Indeed I contemplated giving him up the bond which stands between us.

Beat. (*Aside.*) I must prevent that, or I shall be foiled. Good chevalier Diavolo, you must press him for the money; you ought not to lose such a sum.

Diav. Ah, I begin to fancy that there is some motive in your desiring me to press the Marquis.

Beat. I have no other motive than good friendship for you.

Diav. Prove to me that you really mean what you say.

Beat. How can I do so?

Diav. By accepting the offer of love which I have long since tendered to you.