

We had scarcely time in the commencement of this story to say a word of this new personage. He was one of those men whom Robespierre placed as an arm at the extremity of his own to reach into the provinces,—who thought they understood his system of regeneration, because he had said to them : We *must* regenerate—and in whose hands the guillotine was more active than intelligent.

This sinister apparition made Blanche tremble, even before she knew who the intruder was. Ah ! ah ! said he to Marceau, you wish to leave us already, *Citizen Général* ; but you have behaved so well last night that I have nought to refuse you.—I am rather piqued at you however for having allowed the Marquis of Beaulieu to escape. I had promised the Convention to send them his head. Blanche, meanwhile, was standing pale and cold as the statue of terror. Marceau stepped before her. But what is deferred is not lost continued he, the republican, blood-hounds have a keen scent and good teeth, and we are on his track. There is the permission, added he, it is in due form, and you may go when you wish. But first, I ask breakfast of you, for I would not leave such a brave fellow as you without previously drinking to the republick, and to the extermination of the brigands.

In the present position of the two generals this mark of esteem was any thing but agreeable to them ; Blanche was seated again and began to take fresh courage. All were placed at the table, and the girl, in order not to face Delmar, was obliged to seat herself at his side. She sat at a certain distance so that she might not touch him, and her fears were, in a great measure, removed when she perceived the representative of the people more engrossed with the repast than with those who shared it with him. Now and then however one or two words of blood would fall from his lips and make the blood run cold in the maiden's veins ; but no real danger seemed to menace her and the generals were in hopes that he would leave them without having directly addressed word to her. Of his wish to