

sex, the truth trembled on his tongue, and he was on the point of declaring his rank and the reasons which had induced him to adopt such a disguise, but used from infancy to great self control, his firmness returned, and he remained constant to his purpose, amidst a war of passions. Ill could the cast down eye and dejected mien pourtray a grief which he did not feel, as he replied :

"Dear and beyond all price, is the happiness you have offered me, lovely Eleonora—but even this inestimable pledge of your love," he cried, pressing her hand to his lips ; "cannot bribe me to become a traitor to my king."

"What have I done?" exclaimed the princess, bursting from his arms, and casting upon him a look of mingled scorn and pity ; "have I exposed the weakness of my heart to one, who makes his rejection of a daughter of the house of Brandenburg a trial of duty, and triumphs in overcoming a passion he never felt. Farewell, Count Dahl—when next we meet, it will be on very different terms !"

"I trust it will," returned the king, trying to intercept her path as she turned haughtily from him, and bent her steps towards her own apartment.—She waved him back with an air of strong displeasure ; but he succeeded in detaining her by her garments.

"Leave me not thus, Eleonora," he cried ; "tell me with the same beautiful sincerity which has ever marked our intercourse from the first auspicious moment when we met. Could you love a dishonourable character?"

The princess only struggled more vehemently to free herself from his grasp.

"A traitor to his country?"

She turned her head weeping away.

"The base and selfish supplanter of his generous friend and master? Oh, Eleonora, the sacrifice I make is indeed great—the trial may cost me many a bitter pang, but could you for a moment wish it undone?"

The princess turned her tearful eyes on the fine countenance of her lover, and her noble and independent spirit for a moment subdued all other feelings, and she said in a firm tone :

"You have proved yourself worthy of possessing a more generous and exalted heart, than I had in my power to bestow. Mine will never own a second passion, nor will I ever acknowledge any man for my husband, whom I cannot regard with reverence and love. Farewell, brave Dahl! I absolve you from your vows forever, and sincerely hope that while pursuing the paths of glory, and enjoying the favour and esteem of your heroic king, you will forget that such a being as Eleonora of Brandenburg ever crossed your path."

"May I perish when I do!" exclaimed the delighted Gustavus, as she vanished from his view, leaving him lost in a train of pleasing reflections,

and eagerly anticipating the hour that would enable him to throw off the mask and appear once more in his own character.

But what language shall describe the state of Eleonora's feelings, or pourtray the bitter reproaches of wounded pride. She would have sacrificed all for him—would have braved the displeasure of her father, and rejected a crown to follow the fortunes of a subject, and for his sake would have consented to become a voluntary exile from her native land—and what had he offered in return for her warm and disinterested affections. He had deemed the possession of those charms, which a monarch had considered worthy to share his throne, could not compensate for a single breach of duty towards his sovereign.

During the first burst of resentful feeling, the princess determined to accept the King of Sweden, and mortify the count by her prompt obedience to his master's wishes. But love is not so easily subdued, and she had scarcely resolved on this plan of revenge, when it was as quickly abandoned, and she was ashamed of having for a moment entertained sentiments so unworthy ; and she once more determined never to give her hand to another, while her heart was solely his. "You are a loyal subject, Count Dahl," she sighed ; "but a cold wooer. There is not a knight or squire in my father's court, who would have acted with the mortifying consciousness which you have displayed tonight."

The next morning the king was so remarkably fastidious in choosing his dress, that the page, after robing and unrobing him several times, fairly lost all patience, and exclaimed in his usual facetious manner :

"Your majesty will never be able to face the enemy again."

"How, Eric," returned the king, with a smile ; "do you think my last night's exploit proved me such a very coward?"

"Alas, my liege! your valour would not have saved your head, if it had not been for my heels—but that adventure happened a full hour before you gave away your own brave heart in exchange for a woman's. Now, saving your august presence, I think your majesty has profited very little by the barter, seeing you have altered your mind as often as a young maid on the morning of her bridal."

"Know you not, young squire," returned the royal Swede, after indulging in a hearty laugh ; "that I am the first monarch that ever filled the place of proxy to his bride, and surely some privileges ought to be allowed to such a bold undertaking."

"I would have wooed and won a dozen brides," said the arch boy, "in half the time your majesty has been employed in contemplating your royal person in the mirror, and have been better satisfied with my undertaking, than your majesty is with