

to choose in the noose of matrimony, although poor Caroline has the best claims ; but the very strength and nature of her claim makes it all the weaker. I have broken the vessel, it is true, but it does not, therefore, follow that I should content myself with the pieces. Caroline, in losing her own self-respect, has forfeited mine. No ! she who would be my mistress shall never become my wife. Isabel Ney will never do ! I should need with her the philosophy of a Socrates. If either, it shall be Eugenie ; and, if I cannot possess her without, she shall be mine *in vinculo matrimonii*. Isabel Ney I will leave to fortune and to circumstances, and at present think only of Eugenie, blooming in all her virgin loveliness. Aid me, Cupid, and I will build a temple to thee ! You appear much better, Miss Germaine," he said, suddenly stopping in his walk, and approaching her with an air of respectful sympathy ; " I trust the lively society of Miss de Lisle will renovate your spirits, and in a few days you will look more like the rose than the lily, of which you are now the emblem."

Caroline looked up to him with a melancholy