

body constrained him ! His eye of light, enclosed in an orbit of nerves, became weak and veiled, his thoughts so immense and rapid, balanced themselves with effort within the ossified enclosure of a brain. The vaporous and resplendant atmosphere which reigned about him, like an eternal spring, became dry and dark : all his sensations became more confused, but at the same time, more tumultuous ; they were connected with his whole being, and they seemed to him a simple instinct, in like manner as the thoughts of animals appear to us ; hunger goaded him with its stings, thirst devoured him, pain caused him to feel its rendings, his chest bathed in blood, rose with trouble, and his first aspiration was a sigh towards that heaven he had just quitted ! “ Is this the death of man ? ” He asked himself, but as he did not feel the sign of death that had been promised, or see the angels or radiant sky, he found it was only life.

At night the angel lost his terrestrial strength, the earth seemed to whirl under him for sleep was sending his messengers.—The interior images lost their light, and were enlarged like shades, and a confused and unruly world unfolded itself to him, the spirit of dreams was now decending. At length sleep covered him with his dark drapery, and he remained plunged in darkness, alone and immoveable, like us poor men. But then celestial visions, you extended over him your wings, his soul reflected itself in your magic mirrors, where he saw the circle of angels and the radiant sky ; his terrestrial body seemed to detach itself from all its bonds : “ Ah ! said he, in his ravishment, that sleep was then my departure ! ” But when he awoke, with a heart swollen with heavy human blood, when he saw the earth and the night, he exclaimed weeping, “ this was not death, it was but its image, insomuch as I saw the stars of heaven and the angels ! ”

The betrothed of the departed warrior, perceived not that there remained but an angel in the breast of her beloved ; she still loved the monument of a soul that had disappeared, and in the intoxication of joy she pressed the hand of him who was so far from her. But the angel in his turn, loved this deceived heart with a human one, jealous of the body which he animated, and he desired not to die before her, in order to love her until she