

PREFACE.

THE misfortunes and trials of Mademoiselle de Bourke are not imaginary. At the early age of fourteen, this interesting and high-born young lady was captured, with her mother, the Countess de Bourke, and her brother, by an Algerine rover, within sight of Spain; the Count de Bourke, her father, being then Ambassador from the French Court to that of Madrid.

A second disaster befel this unfortunate family, still more calamitous than the first. They were shipwrecked near Algiers. The Countess, her son, and all her suite, but her daughter, the steward, and her waiting woman, were unfortunately drowned; these individuals and four Turks being the only persons that survived the storm which they encountered. The three Christians were seized by the Caybalot, or revolted Moors,