

cloak, is lying on the table. Taking her seat in the large, old-fashioned armchair, she anxiously looks towards the door, seemingly expecting some one. Soon there is heard a gentle rap at the door : the lady answered the call, and requested the visitor to enter. The door opened, and a man made his appearance, dressed as a livery servant, holding over his left arm what appeared to be an old, soiled, and ragged coat, and a pair of pantaloons of the same character ; and he held an old misshapen hat in his right hand. On his entrance into the room he stood at a respectful distance from the lady, who soon opened the conversation by saying—

“ Well, Thomas, how do you consider the thing was carried out ? I hope you acted all through according to my instructions.”

“ Yes, my lady, in every particular,” was the answer the man made.

“ Are you sure that she got the small package safe ?”

“ Yes ; in the hurry and confusion of the moment she let the package fall to the ground, with something else that she had in her hand, a small bundle, both of which I picked up and handed to her, for she seemed scarcely to know what she was doing ; but I kept my eye on the package, and saw her put it in her pocket. In a rambling way she asked me who that person was, and where she was gone ; but I said just what you told me to say, and then left her. That is all that I know or saw of her.”

“ Well done, Thomas !” said the lady. “ That was all right. I must give you a little praise for your adroitness. I suppose, Thomas,” said the lady, “ that you sometimes consider my conduct and proceedings a