

to the empress, as an ardent heretic, who never would be faithful to the house of Austria, and only endeavoured to obtain the inheritance of Trenck, that he might devote himself to Prussia.

Incensed by his refusal and conduct, Frederic at length contrived to catch him, and he was confined in a narrow dungeon, with scarcely sufficient mouldy bread to satisfy the ravenous cravings of hunger, which became so pressing and intolerable, that whenever he closed his eyes, and sought forgetfulness in sleep, luxurious tables appeared before him, and seemed to mock his wretched misery. In this state he continued eleven months, undermining his cell, and contriving to interest an old grenadier and a Jewess in his fate; but his well concerted scheme proved abortive, through the treachery of a concealed spy; the assistants, who were traced, fell a sacrifice, as did his sister ultimately.

We cannot help digressing a moment to animadvert on Frederic's cruelty, whose vengeance extended to Schall's brother, and Trenck's relations; the innocent were confounded with the guilty; indiscriminate anger overwhelmed all in one common ruin.

The natural consequence of his rash efforts, was closer confinement: The difficulty of keeping him in a cage only tended to stimulate the king, who himself gave orders for a new cell to be constructed, and irons forged. The new dungeon at the Star-fort, was sooner finished than Trenck had reason to expect; and he was removed to it the very night he had fixed on to fly and swim across the Elbe, to gain the Saxon frontiers.

At night, when I was preparing to fly, I heard a carriage stop before my prison. Oh, God! what was my terror, what were the horrors of this moment of despair! The locks and bolts resounded, the doors flew open, and the last of my poor remaining resources was to conceal my knife. The town-major, the major of the day, and a captain entered; I saw them by the light of their two lanterns. The only words they spoke were, 'dress yourself;' which was immediately done. I still wore the uniform of the regiment of Cordova. Irons were given me, which I was obliged myself to fasten on my wrists and ankles: The town-major tied a bandage over my eyes, and, taking me under the arm, they thus conducted me to the carriage. The carriage, at length stopped, and I was brought into my new cell. The bandage was taken from my eyes. The dungeon was lighted by a few torches. God of heaven!—what were my feelings, when I beheld the whole floor

covered with chains, a fire-pan, and two grim men standing with their smith-hammers!

* * * * *

'To work went these engines of despotism!—Enormous chains were fixed on my ankle at one end, and at the other to a ring, which was incorporated in the wall. This ring was three feet from the ground, and only allowed me to move about two or three feet to the right and left. They next rivetted another huge iron ring, of a hand's breadth, round my naked body, to which hung a chain, fixed into an iron bar, as thick as a man's arm. This bar was two feet in length, and at each end of it was a hand-cuff. The iron collar round my neck was not added until the year 1756.

* * * * *

'No soul bade me good-night!—All retired in dreadful silence;—and I heard the horrible grating of four doors, that were successively locked and bolted upon me.

'Thus does man act by his fellow, knowing him to be innocent, having received the commands of another man so to act.

'Day at length returned.—But where was its splendor? Fleed!—I beheld it not.—Yet was its glimmering obscurity, sufficient to shew me what was my dungeon.

'In breadth it was about eight feet; in length, ten. Near me once more stood a night table; in a corner was a seat, four bricks broad, on which I might sit, and recline against the wall. Opposite the ring to which I was fastened, the light was admitted through a semicircular aperture one foot high, and two in diameter. This aperture ascended to the centre of the wall, which was six feet thick, and at this central part was a close iron grating, from which, outward, the aperture descended, and its two extremities were again secured by strong iron bars. My dungeon was built in the ditch of the fortification; and the aperture, by which the light entered, was to be covered by the wall of the rampart, that, instead of finding immediate passage, the light only gained admission by reflection. This, considering the smallness of the aperture, and the impediments of grating and iron bars, must needs make the obscurity great; yet my eyes, in time, became so accustomed to this glimmering, that I could see a mouse run. In winter, however, when the sun did not shine into the ditch, it was eternal night with me. Between the bars and the grating was a glass window, which might be opened to admit air. My night table was daily removed, and beside me stood a jug of water. The name of TRENCK was built in the wall, in