

his own sword. Having somewhat succeeded in calming the rebellious spirit, which, however, still manifested itself in murmurs, he retired to his tent, secreted the most valuable jewels about his person, and having given the rest of his moveable wealth in charge to a trusty friend, to distribute amongst his brave companions in arms, he disguised himself, and reaching the coast in safety, sailed to Venice.

In the interim the Count of Altendorf died : his heiress was consigned by his last will to her maternal relations in Italy ; and, surrounded by a mercenary and selfish family, who, though her near kindred, were yet strangers in sentiment, Jacqueline languished in the deadly fear of becoming the prey of her cousin Leonardo, who, seeking her wealth, in despite of her expressed aversion was a suitor for her hand.

It was under these circumstances that Osmyn met the fair Austrian at the Venetian Carnival ; and, almost forgetting his country and his creed, she flew to him as the only friend upon whom she could rely. It was not wonderful that, thus situated, the gay pageant around should be disregarded, and that Osmyn and Jacqueline, wholly absorbed in each other, should rejoice in the festival, only as the means of affording them a free opportunity for conversation.

Every hour strengthened the tie which bound them together, and one obstacle alone seemed to oppose a legal union between hearts already entwined as one—the creed of the Moslem. Jacqueline would have relinquished country, fortune, and relatives, but not to one whose faith she held in detestation ; but daring, when the welfare of a soul so dear to her was concerned, she essayed to turn him from those erroneous doctrines in which he had been educated. Osmyn's mother was a Christian ; and though in her, religion was merely nominal, her son dutifully held the opinions which she professed in respect. The devoted lover became a convert. Already had they meditated a retreat to some sweet sequestered spot, where competence and ease would bless a life of peaceful obscurity. These anticipa-