

high road. The lodge gate was wide open, and at its entrance stood a carriage, several saddle horses, and a group of individuals, consisting of elegant women, attended by well-dressed men and a host of liveried menials. The diligence stopped in the middle of the group, from which two servants advanced, the one carrying a large travelling trunk, the other a carpet bag, which the conductor stowed away upon the roof. While this was being attended to, a fine-looking young man was taking leave of the party. Two ladies and an old gentleman, who stood at a little distance from the rest, seemed to occupy the greatest share of his attention. The ladies were evidently mother and daughter; the young traveller held a hand of each, which he kissed alternately. At length that of the young lady received the last kiss, and the old gentleman gently pushed the youth towards the door of the diligence, which the latter entered, and seated himself without paying any attention to its previous occupants; then thrusting his body half through the window, he seemed desirous not to lose a word addressed to him.

—“ A pleasant journey !” repeated several voices.

—“ In a week, at Beaupréau” said the mother.

—“ Adieu, Maurice !” was added by a youthful, and timid voice, more calculated to touch the heart than the ear. The traveller also repeated the word “ Adieu !” waving his hand and agitating his body, without seeming to care the least for the inconvenience to which he put his unhappy fellow-passengers. At length the diligence began once more to move, and, as there was a bend in the road, all further signals of leaving soon became impossible. M. Maurice now seated himself, and began to look at his fellow-travellers, who examined him in their turn, and seemed flattered by the elegance of his appearance. His figure was symmetry itself, and nothing could be more strikingly handsome than his features; but there was an expression of recklessness in his dark eye, and he smiled too often to be of my taste; in short, there was a light-hearted joyousness in his countenance which vexed me, for I had begun