

character of Earl Percy in the "woeful hunting," made so strong an impression on her mind, that when the eldest hope of the Montague's was born, he received the name of Earl Percy, at the font of the parish church. The young Earl in spite of the buffets of pinching poverty, grew a strong and handsome boy;—his beauty attracted the notice of a rich and childless lady, who bought the boy and his mother's good will, by a present of "three guineas," and brought him up as a gentleman, intending to make him her heir. He received a liberal education; but the lady dying suddenly without a will, left him without provision at the age of twenty-one; a small sum of pocket money which he chanced to possess, gave him an opportunity of trying a country, offering a wider field for exertion than his native land. He had but just arrived in America when he first saw Adelaide; and although the native honor of his mind might have made him shrink from offering himself to the rich heiress; yet he had used no deception, and he read Adelaide's feelings in her face; he felt he could love her for herself alone, and gratitude for her disinterested affection, bound her more closely to him. Adelaide's star must have been in the ascendant when she wedded Montague; for his heart was noble and generous as his mind was accomplished and intelligent. Scarcely had Montague ceased speaking, and Adelaide yet remained with her face covered with blushes, and ashamed of the folly she had betrayed, when the door was suddenly burst open, and Montague taken prisoner. The house was surrounded by police.—Among them was the jeweller from whom Adelaide had purchased the glittering bauble which had put her husband's life in peril. The notes with which she had paid him, were partly forgeries, and some that had been taken in a daring robbery and murder. The perpetrators had long escaped the hands of justice; and Montague was now taken as an accomplice, if not the principal. The house was searched and the remainder of the notes discovered,

with a number of unfinished forgeries and counterfeit gold. Circumstances were strongly against him, and the unfortunate Montague was condemned to death.

Faint hopes of mercy were held out to his agonized wife. The crime with which he was charged was so atrocious, that an appeal for pardon would be of little avail. That hope, faint as it was, Adelaide embraced, and she hastened to present a petition. It was the anniversary of some joyous event to the nation; the King and Queen were arrayed in their robes of state, attended by the nobility, with all the glittering insignia of loyalty. They proceeded in grand procession along a path covered with velvet, and strewn with roses, from the chapel where high mass had been said. Chaplets of flowers were flung amidst the rejoicing throng from the crowded balconies. Beautiful boys, and white robed girls, raised their tuneful voices in a hymn of triumph;—it was in honour of the accession of their beloved monarch to the throne, that the glad nation were rejoicing, and all the bells of Paris rung out a loud and merry peal,—when a woman, robed in black, threw herself at the King's feet; the monarch took the paper from her hand—as he read it, his brow grew dark and gloomy, and he would have passed on, but again she screamed for mercy. The King looked at the petition; her face was partly covered by her veil, and her hands were clasped beseechingly before him. A small pearl ring on her finger attracted his notice; regardless of the wondering crowd, the monarch stood gazing on her kneeling figure; for a moment he paused, and the name of Adelaide Belmore escaped his lips. Adelaide hastily threw back her veil; it was not the mighty monarch of the French nation met her eye; it was the despised, neglected De Valmont, the humble teacher who she had treated with contempt and rudeness for daring to love. Now he stood before her a sovereign, on whose will depended the life of one ten thousand times dearer than her own. Overcome by