

of returning animation. She moved—her bosom gently heaved and fell ; and raising one arm, she placed it round her father's neck, and smiling, drew him gently towards her—with what an ecstasy of joy he watched the signals of returning life ! and as he knelt to kiss her, he poured forth his delight in almost incoherent terms. As consciousness gradually returned, he told her of her long trance, and of his parental fears. He told her of his determination that she should mix in the gaieties of the capital on her recovery, and said, that if she had been strong enough, that very evening she should accompany him to a grand masked ball given by the emperor to his subjects. Her face, which had hitherto been pale as marble, now suddenly became suffused with an unnatural glow—a half-suppressed shriek escaped her—the smile faded from her lips—her eyes gradually closed, and the pallid hite of death again resumed its dominion. It was put a transient gleam. The hopes of the fond father were crushed to the earth, and the house became a scene of wailing and lamentation.

Since the review, Vienna continued the scene of every species of gaiety and dissipation. The emperor was constantly on foot or horseback throughout the city, and nothing was wanting on his part to court popularity among all classes of his subjects ; and with this intention, a masquerade was to be given at the palace, at which all ranks were eligible ; and great was the rejoicing in Vienna, at a mark of such royal condescension and favour. The long-wished-for evening at length arrived, and nothing could equal the splendour of the scene. The magnificent saloon of the palace, lighted by its myriads of coloured lamps, shone like a fairy palace, while no costume, from the rude garb of the wanderer through the plains of Norway, to the gorgeous display of oriental grandeur, were wanting to so delightful a spectacle. Here stood a proud Hungarian, in all the glitter of his embroidered pelisse and gold-tasseled boots ; and here a simply clad hunter from the Tyrol, with his garland of newly-plucked flowers in his bonnet ; while, ever and anon, the tall, melancholy, and dark-visaged Pole, strode by with all the proud bearing and lofty port, for which his countrymen are celebrated. There were bands of dancers from Upper Austria, and musicians from the land of song, Bohemia. The court had also, on this occasion, adopted the costume of various foreign nations. All beheld the sovereign, and could address him, as he, in compliance with etiquette, was obliged to remain unmasked.

As the evening advanced, he seized a moment to leave the dais, and habit himself in a domino ;

under which disguise, after many ludicrous rencontres with his friends, he was leaning listlessly against a pillar near where a number of Hungarian peasants were dancing. Their black velvet bodices so tightly laced with bright chains of silver, and blood-red calpacks, reminded him of having seen such before. The train of thoughts thus excited, banished all recollection of the scene around him : the music and the dance he no longer minded. All passed unheeded before his eyes ; and, lost in reverie, he stood in complete abstraction. A vision of his early days came over him ; and not last, but mingling with his dream of all beside, the image of one once dearly loved ! He heaved a deep-drawn sigh, and was about to leave the spot, and drown all recollection in the dissipation of the moment, when he was accosted by one whom he had not before seen. Considering her, perhaps, as one of the many who were indulging in the badinage and gaiety of the place, he wished to pass on ; but there was that in the low plaintive tone in which she spoke, that chained him to the spot. The figure was dressed in deep black ; the heavy folds of which concealed the form of the wearer as perfectly as did the black hood and mask her face and features. She stood for a moment silently, and then said, "Can the heart of him whom thousands rejoice to call their own, be sad amid a scene like this ?"

"What mean you?" cried he. "How knew you me?"

"How knew I *thee*?" she repeated in a low melancholy tone.

There was something in the way these few words were uttered which chilled his very life's blood ; and yet he knew not wherefore. Wishing, however, to rally his spirits, he observed, with an assumed carelessness :

"My thoughts had rambled far from hence, and I was thinking of—"

"Of those you had long forgotten—is it not?" said the mask.

"How!" cried he: "what means this? You have roused me to a state of frightful uncertainty, and I must know more of you ere we part."

"That shall you do," said the mask ; "but my moments are few, and I would speak with you alone." Saying which, she led the way, and he followed, to a small cabinet, which, leading off one angle of the saloon, descended into a secluded court-yard of the palace. A single carriage now stood at the entrance, and as the emperor entered a small remote apartment, the thought of some deception being practiced on him, made him resolve not to leave the palace. The mask was now standing beside a marble table, a small lamp tho