

And I said, "It is well : God rest her !"
 And I looked with a yearning prayer
 Into heaven so blue and so distant—
 And I thought, may we yet meet there ?

C. PELHAM MULVANY.

TALLEYRAND.

A CONTEMPORARY SKETCH.

From the German of Gutzkow.

PART I.

MADAME GRANDT may be better informed how often Charles Maurice Talleyrand de Perigord has perjured himself; but history says he has done so six times. She, however, loves him and does not moralise, for Talleyrand's constancy was unquestionable. He limps on his left foot and never runs or hurries himself in the least. Did any one ever accommodate himself to circumstances more gracefully ? Talleyrand made no noise about his broken oaths ; he sounded no trumpet before him when he left the camp of his party, but went without adherents, bearing no marshal's baton, but accompanied only by the Abbé Desrenaudes, who did his reading for him, and the Count d'Hauterive who wrote his speeches. Talleyrand did his best to soften down the rude contrasts of history, he sprang gaily into his new saddle and could not bear bloodshed. In short, I find much sympathy prevails in Europe for his graceful perjuries, and the fact is easily explained.

There are some people who regard the old priest as an unappreciated prophet. He has been compared to Socrates who in addition to his own good demon had a special one who plied him with warning and advice, and gave him an insight into the future. Talleyrand's prophetic genius is called sometimes an instinct, sometimes a revelation. We do not know what to think of it, and must therefore look to his life for a solution. Had Talleyrand a rule for his own guidance, to paint his cockade sometimes white and sometimes in colours ? Or was his life the suggestion of his peculiar demon who had made a favourite of him ? Or, again, did he possess an unchangeable idea, a *pensée immuable* like Louis Philippe ? We shall see. It was still some years before the meeting of the Constituent Assembly that the young Bishop of Autun was to be seen alter-