

her ability to walk, yet the men at once set about constructing a litter for her conveyance, and on this she was borne onward with the utmost care by four of the strongest of the band. She thought how different was the conduct of these men from that of the ruffians from whom Gustavus had rescued her, and whom she now believed had been the creatures of his will, employed to bear her from her home, and she felt truly grateful that she was rescued from his power, even though her rescuers were a band of robbers.

Throughout the day they pursued their way, and as the darkness of the night drew on, they sought for a place of rest. Here every measure in their power was taken to ensure the comfort of their charge, and weary and exhausted, the lady Isabella threw herself on the rude couch prepared for her, and with the utmost confidence in the fidelity of her guards, she slept long and sweetly. The sun was shining brightly when she awoke on the following morning, and all things were in readiness for the continuance of their route, but with true humanity of soul they had forbore to disturb the tranquil slumber of the gentle girl, so dependant on them for the small degree of support which her wretched lot might know; but when she awoke, they kindly urged her to partake of some refreshment, and then again set forward on their toilsome journey, amid the rough, wild and romantic scenery of Mount Jura.

Throughout the day they continued to pursue their way, but as night came on, now they halted not, but still advanced amid the thickening darkness. They had not, however, proceeded far, ere they were challenged by a rough voice; a password was given, and the stranger hailed them as returning friends. A few hurried questions were asked, and answered, and leaving the trusty sentinel to his solitary guard, they again moved onward. But now a solemn stillness pervaded the little phalanx, broken only by whispered murmurs, and Isabella knew that they had received intelligence of an unpleasant nature, but what it might be, she was wholly at a loss to know. Another, and another guard was passed, and then they began to descend a deep ravine, but although to the eye, this looked almost impassible, yet the practised feet of the fearless banditti went boldly and firmly on, nor tarried in their way until they reached the bottom. Here for a moment they held a whispered consultation, and then began more cautiously to ascend. They had climbed up about one half of the height of the frowning eminences, when again they paused, one of the party pressed his hand against the side of a huge rock; a door

opened beneath his touch and they entered the aperture. The place was brilliantly lighted up, the passage neatly arched, and the stone floor was smoothly polished. They here encountered some of their comrades, with whom they held a hurried consultation, and then one of the band, taking Isabella by the hand conducted her along the passage for a short distance, and opening the door, they entered a neat and comfortable chamber, elegantly fitted up, and presenting an inviting aspect to the weary and toilworn girl. "Here," said the conductor, as he trimmed the large silver lamp that stood upon a small table, "here for the present you must remain. The females of the band shall attend your every wish, and although they may want the courtly polish of refinement, they have feeling hearts! with them at times should you desire it, you may roam the mountain side, and if you have a want you have but to name it, to have it gratified!" "Then give to me my freedom!" she cried, "restore me to my father's home, and my warmest thanks shall be thine!" "Nay lady, that is beyond our power! without the mandate of our chief, we dare not give to thee thy liberty! thy future fate depends on his will alone!"

"Then lead me to him even now, that I may know my destiny! for I can but ill endure this torturing uncertainty!"

"Even this must be denied thee! for he is lying dangerously wounded, and deprived of reason, in his own apartment, and until he regains his reason, your fate must remain undecided! Nor could we if we would, now restore thee to thy friends, for our enemies are abroad, and we dare not go forth from our mountain fortress, until the soldiers, who now guard the mountain passes are withdrawn; and fairest lady much as we might wish to serve thee, our own safety must be our first care! but rest thee now in peace, secure in the honor of our hardy band! and now lady farewell! I go to send thee a more gentle attendant!"

He left the apartment, and Isabella sunk into a seat exclaiming: "The honor of a bandit power, good heaven is it to this that I at last am come! my safety depending on murderous robbers! but yet they have, since they tore me from my cottage home, been kind to me! Nay even in that there was much of kindness, for did they not rescue me from the power of a more heartless ruffian than the most ferocious of this robber band! yes I owe them much, and I will resign myself to the stern necessity of awaiting the recovery of their chief, I have much to hope, for