

lowed as many pills and decoctions as might have terrified a hypochondriac.

At last I was one day believed to be dead, and I hoped now to have peace, but I was disappointed. I must, distinguished doctor, make to you, in strict confidence, a confession, without which you could not comprehend the mystery. You must not regard me as the equal of any of the other afflicted ones who have the good fortune to be under your care ; I am a privileged being. When I was yet in baby swathings, a genius came to my cradle, and bestowed on me some whimsical caresses, and placing her hand on my tender forehead, she pronounced nearly these words, which have proved prophetic : " Live, dear child, as long as humanity shall endure, and every individual who shall look upon you, or shall touch the hem of your vestment, or possess a lock of your hair, shall derive something from you, and transmit it to most distant generations. The spirit shall animate every several part of your body, so that, even when detached from all the others, it shall still have sense and consciousness, and by its own proper virtue it shall tend to reunite with them."

If, Doctor, you look closely into these words of *obscure color*, you will find something which was before known to you ; as to the truth of the last part of them, here I now am to prove the truth of them, by relating to you, in length and breadth, all that happened to me whilst I appeared to be dead.

You had just pronounced the fatal word, "*morta*," when I felt the white sheet drawn over my face. A few hours afterwards, two rough hands laid hold of my shoulders, and two others of my feet ; I was laid on a litter, and next placed on a long table, in a row with six or seven other bodies. Having once commenced the fiction, it pleased me to go on with it ; and I wished to see how it would end. They tied a string round my great toe, and attached the other end to a little bell, and I was left in that cold and silent company. I took care not to move a single member, lest somebody might come in ; by and by I turned my head, and peeped at those seven or eight faces, white and motionless, which were my neighbors ; I gave a little smile, hardly enough to show my teeth.

Twenty-four hours passed, and then those two gentlemen returned, and with but little politeness

they denuded me ; they lifted me up, and then let me drop into a box, but not without paying a compliment to my body, which, as a handsome female, I accepted with gratification, though I was obliged to appear dead. I was carried out of this place, and I passed into the hands of a man who was still more rude than the first two ; this fellow was the grave-digger ; with the assistance of another he lifted me out of the box, raised me high up, and let me plump down on a hard cold stone table, that would have made any creature shiver.

Now began a strange exhibition. All around, on the seats of an ampitheatre, were stretched a hundred young fellows, some of whom were near to me, and you, dear Professor, were among these ; the others were higher up and more distant. Oh ! how many eyes were fixed on my members, which I, through all my life had so modestly guarded, excepting on occasions in which I was rather indiscreet. How many complimentary epigrams did I hear !

One long, lean gentleman, with a thin gray beard below the chin, and a pair of spectacles on his nose (he was very like you, Professor), and wearing a long, black, glossy cloak, came near where my head was placed on a wooden pillow. An iron hand squeezed my face and pressed it against the hard cushion ; I then heard a very sharp blade running round my head, from which the hair was removed, and the skin was cut down to the bone ; next I heard the scalp leaving the skull, with a sort of rustle, very like that given by my silk dress when I used to attire myself for a ball.

I did not feel the least pain, and I listened with curiosity to what the Professor was saying to one of those young students, who had come beside me, and from time to time rested his writing board on my abdomen, with very little respect, if I must tell the truth.

They now, with a saw, removed the upper half of the cranium. When the Professor uncovered the brain, there was a general movement of curiosity ; all eyes, armed with magnifying glasses, were turned to this organ, which, being very carefully raised out of its shell, was placed on a weighing scale ; and when the Professor announced the weight of it, there was an exclamation of general astonishment, for it exceeded not only the average of that of the brain of woman, but even that