

"Virginia, Manteo has returned successful from his enterprize—a European vessel is on the coast, and it waits to bear us to another hemisphere. If we reach its shores in safety, tell me, if I may dare to claim this priceless hand as mine? or will the stranger, who found you in your solitude, then be spurned for the host of gayer wooers, who shall come to render homage to your charms?"

She raised her lovely eyes with a look of soft reproach to his pleading face, and placing her hand with gentle dignity in his,

"Virginia's is not a heart," she said, "*to change like the ocean's changing waves*, and amid the novelty and glitter of untried scenes, it will beat as warmly and as truly as it now does, for him, who in her isolated home, first stirred its slumbering depths, and woke it to a sense of happiness, unknown before."

"Blessings, a thousand blessings on my sweet forest flower, for those dear words," he said, as with a fond embrace he clasped her to his heart; "and thanks to that overruling Power, who led me here through dangers manifold, to find the crowning joy of my existence, where only I had looked for tortures, and a lingering death."

"It is in these forests, dear Ferdinand, in view of God's greatness and power, as manifested in his works, that we learn to trust Him implicitly," said the gentle voice of Virginia, but before he could reply, they were interrupted by the approach of Rachel.

She failed not to remark the emotion of Virginia, for tears still stood in her eyes, and the flushed, but happy face of Velasquez, indicated unusual excitement. Its cause was quickly explained by him, and that too, without calling forth any serious rebuke from Rachel. With the sober temperament of age, she viewed the expression of their mutual feelings, as ill-timed and premature, but as many indications of failing health, gave her warning that her pilgrimage was nearly ended, and as uncertainty still rested on their prospect of restoration to home, she was not ill-pleased, to know that Virginia had found such a protector for her youth and innocence. She only urged upon them the necessity of concealing their sentiments, for the present, from observation, and deferring, till their destiny was decided, any arrangements for the future. She then spoke of their departure, and had barely time to express the regret that mingled with her joy, at the idea of sailing to the shores of Spain, before she could hope to return to the country of her birth, when Manteo approached them in company with Orinka.

The young chief greeted Ferdinand with grave civility, for his jealousy had been lulled to rest by the cautious behaviour of his rival, since the day of their first interview in the wigwam of Manteo. Advancing towards Virginia, he placed at her feet a collection of rare and beautiful shells, contained in

a basket of curious workmanship, which was furnished with a handle, carved from the tooth of the sea-horse, a substance at that time, as we are informed, held in higher esteem in England, than ivory, which it nearly resembled. Virginia evinced much pleasure at this gift, and speaking in an under tone to Ensenore, who stood beside her, he bounded away, and in a minute returned, bringing with him a belt, wrought in fanciful figures, with small white shells, so exceedingly minute and lustrous, as almost to resemble pearl. Virginia received it from the boy, and extending it towards Orinka,

"The Snow-flake has wrought this for her friend," she said; "will he wear it for the sake of her, who owes him many kindnesses?"

The stern features of the chief relaxed almost to a smile, as with evident satisfaction he received the offered gift.

"It shall be worn," he said, "on the day when the Snow-flake comes to dwell in the wigwam of Orinka—the Raven's-wing shall abide there also, and say to the pale stranger, for he knows not the language of my people, that if he will be content to dwell with the red warriors of the forest, the fairest of their women shall prepare his food, and spread soft skins for his repose, and the nuptial torch that is kindled for Orinka, shall shed its light over the wigwam of his white brother."

Ferdinand could scarcely restrain a smile, when this proposal was interpreted to him, but he affected to be grateful for it, and if one lingering suspicion yet dwelt in the breast of the Indian lover, he lulled it to sleep, by declaring himself ready to take a wife from the tribe, whenever the nuptials of Orinka should be celebrated.

Secure now in the tenderest wishes of his heart, and rejoicing in the glad prospect of freedom and happiness opening before him, it was Ferdinand's anxious desire to hasten his departure with his companions, from the wilderness. Manteo and Ensenore, were to accompany them, for the latter refused to be separated from Virginia, and the former felt that his life would hardly be safe from the anger of his people, if he remained among them, after having been accessory to the flight of the English girl. It was now necessary for Ferdinand to visit the Spanish vessel, in order to complete his arrangements, and learn how far he might depend upon its aid. Accordingly, under pretence of fishing in the waters of a neighbouring bay, he repaired thither, was cordially welcomed on board, and with a joyous heart mingled with his countrymen, who trod its decks. Among them, he found one or two, whom in boyhood he had known, and all heard the story of his adventures with interest, and were zealous to serve him in his purpose of escape, with those, to whom he now felt his own fate indissolubly united. The following night was named for the attempt, when the commander proposed to send a boat, with sails and