

the dark branches he could see, in the misty light, an open space which seemed a garden, and further off a ruined building. In this old grove they stored a portion of the harvest which death reaped on the 15th June, 1815, and where the traveller crossed the wall there stood, under the shadow, a square block of masonry which was a tomb. Aloft in the trees, some birds seemed to keep watch over the dead; the sounds of footsteps beneath startled them, and they flew away into the outer light, flapping noisily against the branches.

To the man who, standing under the shadow of these trees at midnight, saw here Hougomont for the first time, it seemed as if night had forever wrapt its shroud over the ruins and the weed-grown garden. He did not ask himself what was this place like by day? Day would have here been as great an anomaly as a corpse with staring eyes. The actual gloom of night seemed to stretch forth its phantom hand to grasp the ideal gloom of the vanished past, and where light failed to show more than a mere outline of things, the shadow, and the darkness, and the moonlight, and the night wind revealed strange glimpses of that terrible twilight, when the glare of the burning chateau showed a stiffened corpse or mangled wretch under every hedge and in every hollow. Here, at least, there was no disappointment.

There are times when the mind takes no heed of time and a minute becomes an hour, and an hour a minute. This was such a time. When the traveller emerged again upon the open field, leaving behind him the rustling trees of Hougomont, the moon had risen high in the heavens, and its now yellow light showed distinctly the undulations of the ground—over stubble, where a covey of partridges rose from his feet and vanished into the gloom, through patches of clover which sparkled in the moonlight, the traveller wandered along that valley, which has on one side Mont St. Jean and on the other La Belle Alliance. This valley repre-

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