

lived together in the utmost harmony and mutual confidence. It will be immediately seen how the devoted affection of the wife was tried in endeavors to soothe the misfortunes of the persecuted husband. Grotius lived in an evil time, when society was unhappily distracted by furious religious and political disputes. Mankind were mad with theological controversy, and Christian charity, amidst the tumult of parties, was entirely forgotten. Grotius was an Armenian and a republican; and his professional pursuits soon involved him in a strife which it was next to impossible to avoid. Barneveldt, his early patron, who possessed similar sentiments, was seized and brought to trial, and Grotius supported him by his pen and his influence. But his efforts were useless. In 1619, Barneveldt, on the charge of rebellion, was brought to the scaffold and beheaded, and his friend Grotius was sentenced to imprisonment for life in the fortress of Louvestein, in South Holland. After this very rigorous and unfair proceeding, his estates were confiscated. Previously to his trial, he had a dangerous sickness, during which his anxious wife could not by any means obtain access to him; but after he was sentenced, she presented a petition, earnestly entreating to be his fellow-prisoner; and her prayer was granted. In one of his Latin poems, he speaks of her with deep feeling, and compares her presence to a sunbeam amid the gloom of his prison. The States offered to do something for his support, but, with becoming pride, she answered that she could maintain him out of her own fortune. She indulged in no useless regrets, but employed all her energies to make him happy. Literature added its powerful charm to these domestic consolations; and he who has a good wife, and is surrounded by good books, may defy the world. Accordingly, we find Grotius pursuing his studies with cheerful contentment, in the fortress where he was condemned to remain during life. But his faithful wife was resolved to procure his free-

dom. Those who trusted her with him must have had small knowledge of the ingenuity and activity of woman's affection. Her mind never for a moment lost sight of this favorite project, and every circumstance that might favor it was watched with intense interest. Grotius had been permitted to borrow books of his friends in a neighboring town, and when they had been perused, they were sent back in a chest which conveyed his clothes to the washerwoman. At first, his guards had been very particular to search the chest; but never finding anything suspicious, they grew careless. Upon this negligence, Mrs. Grotius founded hopes of having her husband conveyed away in the chest. Holes were bored in it to admit the air, and she persuaded him to try how long he could remain in such a cramped and confined situation. The commandant of the fortress was absent when she took occasion to inform his wife that she wished to send away a large load of books because the prisoner was destroying his health by too much study. At the appointed time Grotius entered the chest, and was with difficulty carried down a ladder by two soldiers. Finding it very heavy one of them said jestingly: "There must be an Armenian in it." She answered very coolly, that there were indeed some Armenian books in it. The soldier thought proper to inform the commandant's wife of the extraordinary weight of the chest; but she replied that it was filled with a load of books, which Mrs. Grotius had asked her permission to send away, on account of the health of her husband. A maid, who was in the secret, accompanied the chest to the house of one of her master's friends. Grotius came out uninjured, and, dressed like a mason, with trowel in hand, he proceeded through the market-place to a boat, which conveyed him to Brabant, whence he took a carriage to Antwerp. This fortunate escape was effected in March 1621. His courageous partner managed to keep up a belief that he was very ill in his bed, until she was