

tain, interrupting him; "let me know at once all the matter."

"I am coming to it as fast as possible," answered Gentleman John; "but you must be calm, and hear me, so as to be able to form a cool judgment. I said he was a frequent guest at Sir William's table, and no means were left untried of ingratiating himself into his favour, and that of his daughter. At last he made offers of marriage to the daughter, which were indignantly rejected. He extorted a promise of secrecy from her on the subject, and continued his visits as formerly, on a promise of never renewing the subject. You know his character and morality on such subjects, and his untiring perseverance, when his passions are once enlisted. You know also, that at this time he had two wives alive, and also how many innocent young females have had to repent their confidence in his protestations of love."

"Go on, go on!" exclaimed Captain George, impatiently.

"Some time after he had made proposals of marriage to the daughter, he offered the same through Sir William, with a like reception, and an indignant dismissal from his house followed, on words passing between them. Sir William had never taken the slightest notice of him since that period, until the time, when, by your request, he freed him from the threatened attack. This attack was got up at the Colonel's instigation, in order to lay Sir William under new obligations. All his apologies, all his art, could never regain Sir William's confidence, and a deadly hatred and desire of revenge took possession of his mind, which this expedition is intended to gratify. This has been increased and fanned by his constant companion and friend, Pierre, both from hatred to Sir William and in hopes of plunder."

"Before proceeding to the fulfilment of my mission, I was called to a private conference with Colonel M., to receive farther instructions. Cautiously sounding the confidence he might place in me, he held out great hopes of reward, mingled with artful flattery, so that I soon suspected there was another object than that proposed in the council. Determining to gratify him, I by degrees learned his connection with the family of Sir William, which I have just told you, full confirmation of which and much more I learned from other sources. His conquests with so many females, had been comparatively so easy that he was piqued that not even an offer of his hand could gain him a single hope from Miss Murray, or her father, Sir William. His wounded vanity and pride called for revenge,—his boastings hitherto, put his reputation at stake among his associates, who rallied him on his want of success, and more than hinted that many of his former exploits existed in imagination. His vanity led him still to hope that fair means would be successful, but in the event of their failure, he authorised me to make use of arguments

which I would blush even to repeat. The result of my mission you already know, and that failure makes him hasten to this last resource. With difficulty could I restrain myself from plunging my dagger into his heart as he laid open the foul devilish secrets it concealed. He has now offered Sir William's house as plunder, and in the confusion intends to make himself master of the person of Miss Murray; but, thank God! your bestowal of confidence on me, has not come too late to frustrate his diabolical plan."

Astonishment and horror had seized on Captain George during the recital of Gentleman John, as he exposed the villainy of the Colonel, and the danger touching the being he still deeply loved. It was some moments after Gentleman John had finished before he could utter a word in reply—and with difficulty he mastered the passion raging within so as to clothe his thoughts in language. Gentleman John could scarcely restrain him from rushing to the Colonel's apartment and plunging his dagger into his heart, by assuring him of the utter impossibility of the attempt, and the certain ruin it would bring on those whom he would aid.

"Consider," continued Gentleman John, "that most of your friends have been scattered, on various business or pretences, into different parts—that most of those around him are his own creatures and ready to obey his will. His suspicions are awakened, and extraordinary watchfulness is the result—the least act tending to assure him that you know the real state of the case must bring ruin on us both, as well as on those we would assist; or, at least, will hasten the attack before we can possibly be able to frustrate his aim."

With the greatest difficulty, by such representations, was Gentleman John able to restrain his Captain from endangering their object by a sudden breach with Colonel M. and to obtain a promise that nothing should be attempted until such time as some of the band returned, and immediate action becomes absolutely necessary. Their attempts to cause the abandonment of the expedition were unavailing, and also to delay it for some time longer. The day of starting was appointed, and, Captain George, making a desperate effort to crush it by force, and being foiled, was, by the order of Colonel M. bound and placed in the charge of one of his most faithful adherents, with orders, should any attempt to escape be made, to make sure of his prisoner at all hazards. The last orders of Colonel M. to his keeper or jailer, were: "Keep your prisoner at your peril—alive if you can, dead if you must."

To be continued.

A VIRTUOUS PRINCE.

As the sun disdains not to give light to the smallest worm, so a virtuous prince protects the life of his meanest subject.—*Sir P. Sidney.*