

In the midst of these entanglements her dreaded aunt, the lady abbess, arrives ; her stately manners, her enlightened conversation, and a certain indescribable something that argued toleration of true love matters in her looks, won the heart of Juliet ; she related the romantic story of her affection for the nameless cavalier, and the abbess rewarded her confidence by revealing the secret of her faith—that though the abbess of a convent, she was in all respects a Protestant. These communications are made in rather an interesting way, but we suspect some of our readers will prefer to hear the conversation which passed among the nuns who accompanied the abbess, Olive, and one of the servants of the Count's household.

"She had every reason to believe that her kind attentions were not displeasing to any of the holy ladies, who not only partook freely of what she set before them, but entered with great affability into conversation with her.

" 'It is really a pity,' said the venerable sister Martha, sipping the cup which Olive had presented to her, from the cheering composition on the lamp, 'It is indeed, a pity and a sorrow that such a slightly damsel as you are, should be affronted every day you live, by having the bold eyes of ungodly men cast upon you.—How well she would look in a bandeau and hood, sister Clara, wouldn't she ?'

" 'She would be a perfect picture,' replied the nun she addressed ; there is certainly no headgear in all Italy, that sets off fine eyes, like the bandeau of the White Dominicans.'

" 'But perhaps, daughter,' observed another, 'you may have formed some earthly attachment, that would make it inconvenient for you to become the spouse of Christ ?'

" 'You need not be afraid to speak before sister Martha,' said a third ; she is very good natured. Come tell us all your history—will you ?'

"Olive, who perhaps had some doubts whether her own history would be sufficiently edifying for so select an audience, varied the subject by saying, 'Oh, dear ladies ! if you like to hear stories of true love, you ought to be told that which belongs, as I