

ing, but at my pleasure. [*Mar. starts to go out.*] Marcius! [*He turns.*] A letter, Marcius—I will write it. [*Sits at table and writes.*]

*Vir.*—[*Aside.*] I was wrong.

*Reg.*—This to my mother. [*Hands him letter and writes again.*]

*Vir.*—[*Aside.*] My husband is right.

*Reg.*—This to the consul. [*Hands him another letter.*] Send them at once. [*Exit Marcius.*]

*Vir.*—[*Aside.*] He should—return. Oh! [*Going towards him.*] Regulus, I did you wrong. Forgive me. [*He kisses her. She raises her hand, which he takes.*]

*Reg.*—Virginia, my love for honour proves my love for you. Let this ring [*putting it on*] be more than a pledge to you now. Let it be a sign that my love is eternal as the northern star.

*Vir.*—It will be this, Regulus, from this hour.

*Reg.*—For I love you more than any words can tell.

*Vir.*—As I do you, my noble husband.

[*Enter Marcius.*]

*Mar.*—My lord, the Carthaginian ambassadors bid me say they will wait no longer.

*Reg.*—Tell them I am coming now. [*Exit Marcius.*] Virginia, I must go. So—farewell.

*Vir.*—Farewell, my husband. [*They embrace.*]

*Reg.*—Farewell, forever. [*Kisses her and goes.*]

*Vir.*—A moment, Regulus, a moment! [*They speak together.*]

*Reg.*—I hear them calling for me. Farewell, Virginia, farewell. [*Goes.*]

*Vir.*—[*Aside.*] Oh, I cannot live without him! I'll follow him. Yes, follow him! [*Quickly takes dagger from armour standing in room, and conceals it in her robes.*] A moment, Regulus, a moment more!

*Reg.*—Virginia—

*Vir.*—Will follow her husband.

*Reg.*—How! What do you mean?

*Vir.*—Regulus dies for the honour of Rome. [*Raises her head for him to kiss her.*] Farewell.

*Reg.*—[*Kisses her.*] Farewell.