BY MISS JANE PORTER.

CHAPTER V. CONTINUED. The countess threw herself upon her sband's neck, and with tears entreated his forgiveness. "Alas! my lord," cried she, "all is madness to me that would plunge you in danger. Think of your

wn safety, of my innocent twins now in heir cradle, should you fall. Think of their cradle, should you fall. Think of our brother's feelings when you send his only son to join one whom, perhaps, he will call a rebel in arms!" "If Earl Bothwell considered himself

sal of Edward's he would not now ment that gallant Highlander retired to Argyleshire, the King of England regarded all his adherents with a suspice ious eye. Bothwell's present visit to Loch-awe, you see, is sufficient offence Loch-awe, you see, is sufficient offence to sanction the plunder of his castle. You saw the opening of those proceedings, which, had not the death of Arthur elrigge prevented from coming to r dreadful issue, where, my dear Joanna, would now be your home, your hus-band, your children? It was the arm of e chief of Ellerslie which saved them from destruction, and our Helen

Lady Mar shuddered. "I admit the truth of what you say; but oh, is it not hard to put my all to the hazard—to see the bloody field on one side of my beloved Donald, and the mortal scaffold on

Hush," cried the earl, "it is justice that beekons me, and victory will re-ceive me to her arms. Let, O power above!" exclaimed he, "let the victorious field for Scotland be Donald Mar's grave, rather than doom him to live a ss of her miseries.

"I cannot hear you," answered the ountess. "I must leave you, I must invoke the Virgin to give me courage to be a patriot's wife; at present your words are daggers to me.

uttered this, she withdrew.

Meanwhile Helen had retired to be own apartments, and Lord Mar's banner being brought to her, she sat down to weave into its silken texture the locks of the Scottish chief. Wondering at their softness and beauty, while her needle flew, she pictured to herself the fine countenance they had once adorned. "Unhappy lady!" sighed she to herself; "what a pang must have rent her heart when so cruel a death tore her from her husband; and how he must have loved her, when, for her sake, he foreswears all those joys which camps and victories may yield! Ay, what would I give to be my cousin Murray, to bear this pennor at his side! What would I give to re concile so admirable a being to happi ness again to weep his griefs, or to smile him into comfort! To be that man's friend would be a higher honour than to

e Edward's queen."

While her heart was thus discoursing with itself, a page opened the door, say-ing that her cousin begged admittance. Helen, having fastened the flowing Helen, having fastened the flowing charge into its azure field, was embroidering the motto when Murray entered. He led in the venerable harper, to repeat to Lady Helen all he had been telling his entertainer. She rose, and showed them her work. Murray approved it, and Halbert with a full heart took the pennon in his head. "Art took the pennon in his hand. "Ah! little did my dear lady think," exclaimed he, "that one of these loved locks would ever be suspended on a staff to lead men What changes have a few days made! she, the gentlest of women laid in a bloody grave; and he, the most nevolent of human beings, wielding an

exterminating sword!" "You speak of her grave, venerable albert," inquired Helen; "had you then an opportunity of performing the rites which were due to her remains?

rites which were due to her remains?

"No, my lady," replied he; "after the to place her precious body in my lord's oratory, I had no opportunity of returning to give her

"Alas!" cried Lady Helen, "then her sacred relics have been consumed in the

burning house!"
"I hope not," rejoined Halbert; "the place I speak of is at some distance from the main building."

"Then we may hope that the oratory has not only escaped the flames, but perhaps the violation of the English soldiers. Would it not comfort your lord to have his lovely wife entombed according to the rites of the church?"

"Surely, my lady; but can that be one? He thinks her remains were lost in the conflagration of Ellerslie; and for fear of precipitating him into the new dangers which might have menaced him had he sought to bring away he body, I did not disprove his mistake."

"But her lady shall be brought away. rejoined Lady Helen; "it shall have holy burial."

"To effect this, command my serv ices," exclaimed Murray. Helen thank ed him. The English soldier as a guide and fifty men, she said must accompan him. "Alas, my young lord," interpose

Halbert, "suppose you should meet the English still loitering there!"

"And what of that, my honest Halbert? Would not I and my trusty band soon make them clear the way? Is it not to give comfort to the deliverer of my uncle, that I seek the glen; and shall anything in mortal shape make Andrew anything in mortal shape make Andrew Murray turn his back? No, Halbert, I was not born on St. Andrew's day for nought; and by his bright cross I swear, either to lay Lady Wallace in the tom of my ancestors, or to leave my bones t

blanch on the grave of hers!' "Your resolution, my brave cousin, i dear to me, and I cannot but expect happy issue; for, when we recollect the panic with which the death of Heselrigge must have possessed the English garri son, and that ruined Ellerslie has nger attractions for rapine, I think there can be no dread of your meeting

there can be no dread of your meeting any enemy in that desolate place; so I will ask my father's permission, while you are calling out the men, and Halbert seeks a few hours repose."

The old man respectfully put her hand to his lips. "Good night," continued she; "ere you see me again, I trust the earthly part of the angel now in paradise will be safe within these towers."

CHIEFS; On entering her father's apartment, Lady Helen found him alone. She re-peated to him the substance of her con-versation with Wallace's faithful servant. "And my wish is," continued she, "to have the murdered lady's re-mains entombed in the cemetery be-

neath the chapel in this castle." The earl approved her request! "Let this be entirely your own deed, my dear Helen; choose from among my vassals Helen; choose from among my vassals whomever you may think deserving the honour of serving you; and let them be sent with my nephew to execute your design."
"May I then, my dear father," return-

ed she, 'have your permission to pay our debt of gratitude to Sir William Wallace, to the utmost of my power; for by such means only can I demonstrate my love for the best of parents, and my homage to that virtue which you first taught me to revere."
"You are at liberty, my noble child;

do as you please; my vassals, my coffers, are all at your command."

Helen kissed his hand. "May I have

Helen Rissed his hand. "May I have what I please from the armoury?"
"Command even there," said the earl;
"for I know Bothwell would think that too much cannot be done for the defender of his country."

Helen threw her arms round he father's neck, and, thanking him tender ly, retired to prosecute her plans. Murray, who met her in the ante-room, informed her, "that fifty of the sturdiest informed her, "that fifty of the sturdies in the glen awaited her orders;" and Helei telling her cousin of the earl's approval took the sacred banner in her hand, and took the sacred banner in her hand, and proceeded to the gallery which ran round the hall. The moment she ap-peared, a shout of joy bade her welcome. She waved her hand, and smiling, "My brave friends," said she, "I thank you for the ardour with which you assist m to pay the everlasting tribute that due to the man who has preserved to me the blessing of so good a father!" "And to us, noble lady," cried they

"the most generous of chiefs!
"With that spirit, then," then," returned she, "I address you with greater confidence. Who amongst you will shrink from following this standard to the field of glory? Who will refuse to mak himself the special guardian of the life of Sir William Wallace and who, in the moment of peril, will not stand by him to the last?"

None are here," cried a tall youth who would not gladly die in his de

"We swear it!" burst from every lip

t once. She bowed her head, and said, "Re turn from Ellerslie to-morrow with the bier of its sainted mistress. I will then bestow upon every man in this band a war-bonnet plumed with my colours lead you to the side of Wallace; and is my will that ye there remain a stout-er wall than that which divides the two kingdoms between him and his foes. In the shock of battle, look at this standard, and remember that God not only armeth the patriot's hand, but shieldet In this faith, be ye the bucklers which heaven sends to guard the life of Wallace; and so honoured, exult in your station, and expect the future gratitude of Scotland.

"Wallace and Lady Helen! to death or liberty!" was the animated response; and smiling and kissing her hand to them, she retired. Murray, ready armed for his expedition, led her back to her apartments, where the English soldier awaited her commands. Lady Helen, with a gentle grace, acknowledged her obligations to the Southern for his acquiescence.

"Lands in Mar shall be yours," added she; "or a post of honour in the little army the earl is now going to raise. Speak but the word, and you shall find worthy Englishman, that neither a Scots-man nor his daughter know what it is

to be ungrateful."

The blood mounted into the soldier cheek: "I thank you, sweetest lady, for this generous offer; but, as I am an Englishman, I dare not accept it. England gave me birth; and with no coun try hostile to her can I unite myself, swore fidelity to Edward; and with n man adverse to him will I lift my swo l left Heselrigge because he dishonour ed the name of my country; and for m to forswear her, would be to make my self infamous. All I ask is that, after have this night obeyed your ladyship' commands, the Earl of Mar will allo

ne to seek my way to the nearest port. Lady Helen replied that she rever his sentiments too sincerely to insul them by any persuasions to the contrary a diamond clasp from her and, taking bosom, she put it into his hand. "Wear that in remembrance of virtue, and of Helen Mar's gratitude.

The man kissed it respectfully, and swore to preserve so distinguishing Helen retired to finish her task, and Murray repaired to the earl's apart-ments to take his orders before he and his troop set out for Ellerslie.

CHAPTER VI. BOTHWELL CASTLE-THE PRIORY OF

As soon as the sun arose, the Earl of Mar was carried out of his chamber, and laid on the couch in the state apart ment. His lady had not left the room of her daughter, by whose side she had lain the whole night, in hopes of infect-ing her with the fears which possessed herself. Helen replied that she could see no reason for apprehensions, if her father, instead of joining Wallace in person, would, when he had sent him suc-cours, retire into the Highlands, and there await the issue of the contest. "It is too late to retreat, my dear mother," continued she. "The first blow against the public enemy was struck in defence of your husband; and would you have my father act so base a part as t abandon his preserver to the generous assistance has provoked?'

"Alas! my child." answered her ladyship "what great service will he have done to me or to your father, if he delivers to me or to your father, if he delivers
him from one danger only to plunge him
into another? Edward's power in this
country is too great to be resisted
Have not most of our barons sworn fealty
to him? How, with such a host against
him, can your father venture, without
despair, to support the man who breaks
the peace with England?"

"Who can despair, my dear madam," returned Helen, "in so just a cause? Were I a man, the justice that leads on the brave Wallace would nerve my arm with the strength of a host. Besides, look at our country. God's gift of freedom is stamped upon it. Plains are the territories of tyranny; but mountains, glens, morasses, and lakes set bounds to conquest; and amidst these is the seat of liberty. To the defiles of Loch Kat-rine, or the heights of Corryarraick, I would have my father retire, and there watch the footsteps of our mountain goddess, till, led by her immortal champion, she plants her standard for ever upon the summit of Scotland's proudest

The complexion of Helen shone with a radiant glow, and she pressed the ban-ner to her breast. Lady Mar looked at her. "It is well for me, romantic girl, that you were not a boy. In such a case, I do not guess wrong in believing that your mad-headed disobedience would have made me rue the day I became your father's wife."

came your father's wife." "Sex, madame," returned Helen, could not have altered my sense of duty. Whether man or woman, I would obey you in all things consistent with my duty to a higher power; but, when it commands, then, by the ordinance of heaven, we must leave father and mother and cleave unto it."

" And what do you call a higher duty than that of a child to a parent, or a husband to his wife?"

" Duty of any kind cannot be trans gressed with innocence. Nor would it gressed with innocence. Nor would it be any relinquishing of duty to you, should my father leave you to take up arms in the assertion of his country's rights. Her rights are your safety; and to wish my father to shrink behind the excuse of family duties, and to abandon Sir William Wallace to the blood-hounds who hunt his life, would be to devote the

"Then my husband, his vassals, your cousins, and the sequestration of the estates of Mar and Bothwell, are all to e put to the hazard, on account of a ntic outlaw!"

prings from us; for was it not for my ather's sake that his wife fell, and that ne himself was driven into the wilds? I do not blush for making his preservation my first prayer: and that he may achieve the freedom of Scotland is my

be answered!" returned Lady Mar. "My aints are perhaps nearer than yours; and before twenty-four hours are over your head, you will have reason to re-pent such extravagant opinions." The countess left the room; and Helen

attended by her page, proceeded to the armoury. The armourer had just given out arms for three hundred men, who, by the earl's orders, were to assemble on Bothwell Moor, and there wait till young Murray should join them. Helen told the man she came for the best suit of armour in his custody—"it must be of excellent proof." He drew from an oaken chest a coat of black mail, studded with gold. Helen admired its strength and beauty.

"It is the richest in all Scotland,"

answered he, "and it was worn by our great King William the Lion in all his

"Then it is worthy its destination. Bring it, with its helmet, target, and sword, to my apartment." The armourer took it up, and accompanied by the page carrying the lighter parts, followed her into the western tower.

When Helen was again alone, she em-

ployed herself in pluming the casque, and in forming the scarf which she meant should adorn her present. Thus time flew till the sand-glass told her was the eighth hour. In a short time, he was roused by the doleful lament of the troop returning from Ellerslie. She dropped the half-formed scarf from her hand, and listening to the deep-toned lamentations, she threw herself on her mees, and leaning her head on the he's

met, wept profusely. Murray entered the room. "Helen! ny sweet cousin!" cried he, surprised at her attitude, and at the armour which lay at her feet. Helen started, and rising, apologised for her tears by owing the truth. He told her that the body of the deceased lady was in the chapel of the castle, and that the priests from the adjacent priory only awaited her pres adjacent priory only awaited her pres-ence to consign it, with all the church's rites, to its tomb. Helen retired for a few minutes to recover herself, and then re-entering, covered with a long black veil, was led by her cousin to the scene.

The bier lay before the altar. The prior of St. Fillan stood at its head, and prior of St. Fillan stood at its head, and bands of monks were ranged on each side. The maids of Lady Helen, in mourning garments, met their mistress at the portal. They had wrapped the corpse in the shroud prepared for it; and having laid it, strewed with flowers, on the bier, they advanced to their trembling lady. Helen bowed to the priests ing lady. Helen bowed to the priests.
One of her women put her hand on the pall to uncover the face of Marion. Lady Helen resisted the woman's motion, by laying her hand upon the pall. The chill of death struck through the velvet to her fineers. She turned pale, and to her fingers. She turned pale, and waving her hand to the prior to begin, the bier was lowered into the tomb. it descended, Helen sunk upon her knees; and the anthem for departed souls was raised. When all was over, Halbert threw himself upon the cold stone, and called on death to lay him low with her. The women of Lady Helen again chanted forth their melancholy wai lings, and her ladyship threw herse into the arms of her cousin, and was carried, almost insensible, to her apart-

Murray, having rewarded his followers with their war-bonnets, and despatched them to the Cartlane Crags, went to Lord Mar to inform him how far he had executed his command, and to hear his future orders. He found the earl surrounded by arms and armed men; fifty brave Scots, who were to officer the three hundred now on Bothwell Moor,

were receiving their weapons from the hands of their lord.

"Bear these stoutly, my gallant countrymen," cried he, "and remember that, although the dragon of England has

He had scarcely uttered these words, when the doors were thrown open, and his eyes were blasted by the sight of Lord Soulis, the sworn partisan of Edward, accompanied by a man in splen-did English armour, and a train of Southron soldiers. The earl started. 'My lord, what is the occasion of this inapprised visit?

The ensign of the liege lord of Scotland is my warrant," replied Soulis;
"you are my prisoner; and, in the name
of King Edward, I take possession of
this castle."
"Never," cried the indignant earl,

"while there is a man's arm within it."
"Men or women," returned Lord Soulis, "they must surrender to Edward; for an army of three thousand English have seized three hundred of your men at arms on Bothwell Moor. The castle Throw down your arms, ye mutinous villains!" cried he, turning to the Scots, or be hanged for rebellion against your

lawful sovereign!"
"Our lawful sovereign," returned a young msn, "must be the enemy of Edward; and to none else will we yield

our swords."
"Traitor!" cried the English commander, and he laid the Scot a corpse at his feet. A cry of revenge proceeded from his comrades. Every sword was drawn, and, before he could utter a word, Mar beheld his brave Scots at one moment victorious, and, in the next, the floor strewed with their dead bodies. A new succession of blood-hounds rushed in; and before the sword was allowed to rest, the whole of his troops

lay around him, wounded and dying. In vain his voice had called upon his men to surrender; in vain he had implored Soulis and Aymer de Valence to stop the havoc. All now lay in blood; and the room, thronged by the victors, became so intolerable, that De Valence ordered the earl to be removed into anther apartment.

Murray, who was present at the er rance of the enemy, no sooner heard that the castle was surrounded than he made his way by a back door to the chamber of his cousin. She lay upon the bed in a deep sleep. "Awake! the bed in a deep sleep. "Awake!" cried he; "for your life awake!"

She opened her eyes, and looked upo him with surprise. He hastily added, "The castle is full of armed men, led hither hither by the English commander. Aymer de Valence, and the execrable Soulis. Unless you fly through the vaulted passage, you will be their orisoner. Helen gazed at him full of terror

What! leave my father? I cannot. "Hesitate not, my dear cousin; fly, in pity to your father. What will be his anguish, should you fall into the bands of a man, whose love you have rejected, and when it will no longer be in the power of even a parent to preserve your person from the outrages of his avenge ful passion? If you had seen Soulis merciless eyes"——He was interrupted by a clamour in the gallery, and the by a clamour in the gattery, and the shrieks of women. Helen grasped his arm: "Alas! my poor damsels! I will go with you: lead me whither you will,

As Murray threw his arm about he waist, his eyes fell on the banner and suit of armour. Helen had ordered the latter to be buckled in a large plaid, ready to be sent away with the clan, when they should begin clan, when they should begin their march. It was meant as a tribute of gratitude to the deliverer of her fathe This banner shall still be mine," ex-claimed Murray, seizing it; "but what is to be done with that armour? I gues you intended it for the brave Wallace.

"I did," replied Helen.
"Then it shall be his yet," was the response of Murray; and, giving her the banner, he threw the plaid and its contents on his shoulder, and making Helen hold by him, hastened with her down the coret down the secret stairs which led to the vaults beneath the castle. On entering the cellar, and raising one of the flags which paved the floor, he assisted his cousin down a flight of steps into the "This." "will carry us to the cell of the prior of St. Fillans. It was constructed in old times for religious as well as warlike purposes. The prior is a Murray: and with him you will be safe."

"But what will become of my father and Lady Mar? This flight from them

I fear to complete it."
"Rather fear the libertine Soulis," returned Murray; "he can only make them prisoners; and even that injury will be of short duration, for I shall soon join the brave Wallace, and then, my sweet cousin, hey for liberty and a happy meeting!

"Alas! his venerable harper!" cried she; "should he be discovered to have belonged to Wallace, he will be put t

death by these merciless men."

Leaving Helen in the passage, Murray went back: and after a conflict with some Southron soldiers in the cellar, he returned with Halbert and Grimsby, and they made their way to the cell of the prior of St. Fillans. The cell was solitary, the holy occupier being at High Mass in the chapel. Murray took Helen, who had fainted, and laid her on the bed. He ventured to throw some of the holy water upon her face, and poured some into her mouth. At last poured some into her mouth. At last, opening her eyes, she recognised her cousin leaning over her. Halbert stood at her feet. "Blessed Virgin! am I yet safe, and with my dear Andrew? O! I feared you were slain!" said she, burst-

ing into tears.

"Thank God, we are both safe," answered he. "Comfort yourself, my beloved cousin! you are now on holy ground; this is the cell of the prior of St. Fillans. None but the hand of a infidel durst tear you from this sanctu ary."
"But my father, my mother, what may

"Your mother, my gracious lady," answered Halbert, "since you could not be found in the castle, is allowed to

castle: they are to be treated with every respect, until De Valence receives further orders from King Edward."

"Wallace! Wallace!" cried she;

burnt up your harvest, and laid your houses in ashes, yet there is a lion in Scotland that withers his power, and will glut you with the spoil of your foe!"

"wallace! wallace! "cried sne; "where then are the succours we were to have sent to thee? And, without succours how canst thou rescue my dear father from this tyranny?"

"Do not despair," replied Murray; "look but at the banner you held fast, even while insensible: your own hands have engraven my answer-God armeth the patriot!" Convinced of that, can you still fear for your father? No, I will join Wallace to-morrow, our own fifty warriors await me at the bottom of Cartlane Craes; and, if treachery should be meditated against my uncle, that mo ment we will raze the towers of Dum-barton to their foundation."

Helen's reply was a deep sigh. Grimsby now appeared with the iron box, and put it into the hands of Lord Murray. "This fatal treasure," said he, " was committed to my care by the earl your uncle, to deliver to the prior of St Fillans or to you."

"What does it contain?" demanded Murray: "I never saw it before." "I know not its contents," returned the soldier: "It belongs to Sir William

"Indeed!" ejaculated Helen; "if it be treasure, why was it not rather sent to him? But how, honest scidier, could you escape with it through these posses-sed walls ?"

He replied that he was obliged to have recourse to stratagem. As soon as the English, and their Scottish parti-sans under Lord Soulis, had surprised the castle, he saw that his only chance and plaid, and to mix amongst the sol diers. His armour and his language showed he was their countryman; and he had no difficulty, after the carnage in the state apartment, to make his way to the chamber where Lord Aymer de Valence had ordered Lord Mar to be car ried. He found the earl alone, and loss in grief. He knew not but that his mephew, and the Lady Helen, and the countess, had fallen beneath the swords of the enemy. Grimbsy told him of the stratagem he had used, and satisfied his anxiety that Lord Andrew Murray had anxiety that Lord Andrew Murray had not been seen since the onset. This in-formation inspired him with a hope that he had escaped; and when the soldier also said that he had seen the countess led by Lord Soulis across the hall towards his daughter's apartments, and had overheard him promising them every re spect, the earl seemed comforted. befallen us? Have you learnt to take up

arms for my country?" "On that head I cannot fully satisfy your lordship," replied he. "I could only gather from the soldiers, that a sealed packet had been delivered to Lord Aymer de Valence late last night at Dunbarton Castle. Soulis was then with him; he immediately set off to Glasgow for the followers he had left there; and, early this morning, he joined De Valence and his legions on Bothwell Moor. The consequences there you know; but they did not end at Bothwell. The gallant Wallace"—
"What of him?" exclaimed Murray.

"What of him ?" exclaimed Murray. "Be not alarmed!" replied Grimsby no personal harm has happened to Si William Wallace; but I understand that, in the same moment De Valence gave orders to his troops to march to Bothwell, he sent others to intercept that persecuted knight's escape from the Cartlane Crags.'

"That accursed sealed packet" cried Murray, "has been the traitor. Some villain in Bothwell Castle must have written it; whence else could have ome the information? and if so, may the curse of slavery ever pursue him and his posterity !

Helen shuddered as the amen to this alediction was echoed by Halbert and the soldier. The latter continued:"When I had informed Lord Mar of the measures of these enemies of Wallace, he expressed his hope that your first dehe expressed his nope that your hist de-tachment to his assistance might, with you perhaps at its head, elude their vig-ilance, and join his friend. This dis-course reminded him of the iron box. 'It is in that closet,' said he pointing at an opposite door; you will find it be-neath the little altar before which I pay my daily duties to the all-wise Dis-poser of the fates of men; take it thence, and buckle it to your side!' " The soland outsite it to your side: I he soldier then narrated Lord Mars disclosure of the secret passage; and his instructions to deliver the box to the prior of St. Fillans. "Tell him," said the earl, "to preserve it for me as he would his life; and never give it up to any one but to myself, my children, or to Sir William Wallace, its rightful

Alas!" cried Halbert, "that he had never been its owner! that he had never brought it to Ellerslie, to draw down misery on his own head! Ill-omened box! whatever it contains, its presence carries blood and sorrow in his train. Wherever it has been deposited, and murder have followed. dear master will never see it more!"

"He may, indeed, never see it more, murmured Helen. "Oh! how am I be reaved! where are now my gay antici-pations of freedom to Scotland? Alas pations of freedom to Scotland. Andrew, I have been too presump uous!
To punish me, my father is a prisoner, and Sir William Wallace is perhapsed and Sir William Wallace is perhapsed. this slain. But why did not my dear father take advantage of this sanc-" I urged the earl to accompany me,

"I urged the eart to accompany me, returned Grimsby, "but he declared his inability, from the weakness attendant on his wounds. And besides were I capable,' said he, 'how could I were I capable,' said he, 'how could I leave my wife and children in unprotected captivity, and perhaps implicate the good brothers of St. Fillans in my calamities? No, I will await my fate; for the God of those who trust in Him knows that I do not fear!' Having received such orders from the earl, I took my leave of him, and the said of the my leave of him; and entering the chapel was surprised to find Halbert. We descended beneath the holy statue and were just emerging into the cellars when you, dear sir, met us at the entrance. It was while we were yet in the chapel that I heard De Soulis at high words in the courtyard. The former gave orders that, as Lady Helen Mar could nowhere be found, the earl and countess, with their two infant children should not be separated, but conveyed as prisoners to Dunbarton

"That's a comfort," cried Helen; "my father will then be consoled by the presence of his wife,"

" But very different would have been the case, madam, had you appeared," re-joined the soldier; "one of Lord Do Valence's men told me that Lord Soulis intended to have taken you and the countess to Dunglass Castle, near Glas-gow, while the earl was to have been carried alone to Dumbarton, and tained in solitary confinement. Lord Soulis was in so dreadful a you could not be found, that he accused the English commander of having leagued with Lady Mar to deceive him, In the midst of this contention, we de

scended into the vaults.'

Helen shuddered as she thought how near she was to falling into the hands of sofierce a spirit. In his character he united every quality which could render power formidable. Combining prodigious bodily strength with cruelty, dis-simulation, and treachery, he was feared by the common people as a sorcerer, and avoided by the virtuous of his own rank, as the enemy of all public law and the violator of every private tie Helen Mar had twice refused his hand first, during the contest for the kingdom when his claim to the crown was disallowed. She was then hardly than fourteen; but she rejected than fourteen; but she rejected min with abborrence. Though stung to the quick at being denied the object of his love and ambition, he did not hes itate, at another period, to renew his offers. At the fall of Dunbar, when he again founded his uprise on the ruins of his country, he hastened to Thirlestane to throw himself at the feet and again he was rejected. "By powers of hell," exclaimed he, when project of surprising Bothwell was imported to him, "if I once get that proud minion 'nto my grasp, she shall kneel as unpitted by me as I have knelt to her. She shall be mine as I will, and learn to beg for even a look from the man who has humbled her."

man who has humbled her!"

Helen knew not h lf the afflictions which his resentful heart had meditated; and therefore, though she shrunk at the sound of a name so infar yet, not aware of all the evils she had escaped, she replied with langour, though with gratitude, to the con-

gratulations of her cousin.

At this period, the door of the cell opened, and the prior entered; he started on seeing his room filled with strangers. Murray took off his helmet and approached him. On recognizing him, the prior inquired his commands and expressed sur, rise that such a com-pany, and above all, a lady, could have passed a convent gate. Murray pointed to the recess behind the altar, and then explained the necessity which had compelled him to seek the protec tion of St. Fillan. "Lady Helen," tinued he, "must share your care until heaven empowers the earl of Mar to reclaim his daughter, and adequately to reward his holy Church." The soldier then presented the iron box, repeating the message that confided it to his kee

The prior listened with sorrowful attention. He had heard the noise of th armed men : but knowing that the earl armed men: but knowing that the ear-was making warlike preparations, he had no suspicions that these were other than the Bothwell soldiers. He other than the Bothwell soldiers. took the box, and laid it on the altar, "The Earl of Mar shall find that fidelity here which his faith in the church merits. That mysterious chest, to which you tell me so terrible a denun-ciation is annexed, shall be preserved, sacred as the relics of Saint Fillan. And for you, virtuous Southron, I will give you a pilgrim's habit. Travel in this privileged garb to Montrose, and there a brother of the church, the prior of Aberbrothic, will, by a letter from me, convey you in a vessel to mandy, whence you may safely find your

way to Guienne. The soldier bowed; and the priest. turning to Lady Helen, told her that a cell should be appointed for her, and some pious women brought from the ad-joining hamlet to pay her due attend-

ance.
"As for this venerable man," continued he, "his silver hairs already pro-claim him near his heavenly country. He had best put on the cowl of the holy brotherhood, and, in the arms of religion, repose securely, till he passes through the sleep of death, to wake in everlasting life.

Tears started into the eyes of Hal-

bert. "I thank you, reverend father.
I have indeed drawn near the end of my pilgrimage; too old to serve my dear Sir William in the fields of blood and hardship, I will devote my last hours in uniting my prayers with his, and all good souls, for the repose of his lady. I accept your invitation with gratitude; and considering it a call from heaven to give me rest, I shall welcome the day that invests the poor harper of Ellerslie with the sacred ton-

TO BE CONTINUED.

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