

At length they passed a soldier on guard, and reaching the lawn before the house, came full upon the gay scene. Advancing towards the portico, the soldiers rested their burden before the open windows, while Zacharie hastened to give information of the condition of his master. The scene that met the eyes of these men was exceedingly brilliant. The long windows which reached to the ground were thrown open, for the night was warm, and displayed the interior lighted up with great splendour. Officers in rich uniforms, and ladies in flowing white robes, glanced before their eyes; it was a reunion of beauty and valour; all was dazzling bright, and gaiety and happiness. How great the contrast between this scene and the rude litter—its insensible burden and rough bearers.

All at once, through a door at which stood Jacques and the servants looking in upon the scene, a dignified clergyman, in the robes of the church of England, entered the room; he was