

to the effect that, although plunder was allowed, yet no excesses were to be committed; and that if they did not instantly desist, I would most certainly let their conduct be known in the proper quarter.' This had the desired effect, and the trio immediately departed. I then loosed the rope from the unfortunate old man's neck, and had the exquisite satisfaction to restore him to his daughter, who, seizing my hand, covered it with kisses. He then related to me the cause which led to my having found him in the state which I have described. 'Having been pillaged,' said he, 'in the morning of all I possessed, I was preparing with a heavy heart to leave the town. Fearful that the beauty of Lisette—whom I had hidden from the soldiers—might attract their gaze, I was about to reconnoitre the premises, hoping to get her away unseen, when those three men entering the house demanded money; I told them that I had already been plundered, and that in consequence I had not any left, when they commenced in the most cruel manner to break every article in the house. See,' he added, pointing to the floor, which was covered with pieces of glass, china, &c., some of which were ground fine as powder, 'see with what cruelty they have acted. Being still unsuccessful in finding money, they threatened to put me to death;—this brought poor Lisette from her hiding place, who clung to me in the manner you saw. But they most probably would not only have put their horrible threats upon my life into execution, but have violated my child, had not your timely interference prevented it. You have saved my life, signior,' he continued, 'you have done more—you have saved the honour of my child; may God reward you, I cannot, for I am now penniless, but, wherever you go, may the blessing of the heart-broken attend you.' He turned away to hide his emotion, and seizing the opportunity, I slipped twenty dollars into the hands of his daughter, and hastily brushing away a tear which started to my eyes, I left the house, and having seen them safe out of the town, I returned to my quarters.

"Early on the third morning, the order arrived for us to march, and having left a few troops to form a garrison, we bid adieu to the town of Badajos.

"Numerous were the scenes of hardship and fatigue which I went through for nearly two years after the above occurrence, but I minded them not; I knew I was suffering for my country, and it little mattered what became of one who felt himself as I did, alone in the world, by the loss of all he held dear.

CHAPTER IV.

"What dire offence from am'rous causes springs
What mighty contests rise from trivial things."
POPE.

"The golden hues of a setting sun were rapidly giving way to the soft grey of twilight, as I entered the small but beautiful town of — at the head of my company—(I had just been promoted to the rank of captain)—we were on the march for the field of WATERLOO. An unusual bustle took place among the inhabitants at the arrival of so many soldiers. When all had been told off to their respective billets, I walked out to enjoy the delights of a summer's evening. I had not proceeded far when I observed a very respectably attired old man, gazing on me with a deep expression of interest. The face was not entirely unknown to me, yet I could not tax my memory, as to the place where I had beheld it. Observing him to continue gazing upon my countenance, I accosted him, saying, 'you seem to know me my friend?' He had scarce heard the sound of my voice, when he clasped me in his arms, exclaiming, 'know you! yes, signior, I do know you;—why should I not recollect the saviour of my life, and, of my daughter's honour; but it is not meet that you should stand thus in the street.' So saying, he seized me by the arm, and having hurried me onward, I was soon snugly seated in the parlour of one of the principal inns. A handsome young woman, whom I instantly recognized as the daughter of him whose life I had saved two years before,—sat in one corner, plying her needle while a cherry-checked infant lay in a wicker cradle, and a good looking young man occupied a chair in another part of the room.—Scarce had the young woman's eyes rested on my countenance, when she arose and welcomed me in the most rapturous manner, then running to the cradle, she held up her infant, saying, 'here is one whose smile will be more eloquent than words, he shall thank thee for his mother.' The little fellow crowed with delight, and oh! what a pang shot across my bosom, as I recalled the infantile smiles of my own lovely Charles, and his never-to-be forgotten mother. I was then introduced to the young man, who was the husband of Lisette, as 'the man whom he had often heard them speak about,' and was obliged to receive his thanks also. Indeed this worthy family treated me as if I were an angel, calling me their deliverer and loading me with blessings, and I felt a sensation of delight, at having seen those worthy people so apparently happy, and the