

dark abyss of futurity, and her busy fancy began again to dream of happiness and pleasure yet in store, as a reward for the bitter troubles she had experienced, when her attention was called back to the world, to which she still belonged, by a gentle tapping at her parlour door. The invitation to come in, scarce escaped her lips, when Reginald stood before her astonished sight. Ere she recovered from the surprise of recognition, he was at her feet, and embracing her hand, exclaimed :

Charlotte, my long-loved Charlotte, behold thy Reginald again before thee—wearied of his wanderings, and sick of a world, a barren desert without thee, he returns to lay once more at thy disposal, his faithful, unwavering love, I've wandered far, far away, and have not been without friends, among strangers, but wanting thee, the loneliness of the tomb was around me. Oh ! in pity, reject not my love—in mercy send me not again from thee”—and he gazed intensely on her, who all the while he was speaking, busied herself abstractedly, burying her beautiful hand within the thick ringlets of his long hair, unconscious of his earnestness, and when she at length spoke, 'twas as if she were but thinking aloud : “ How changed ! and yet so young, surely men are not wont to become grey in their youth—but so it is, all things have changed since *then*—even I who thought ——” A faint convulsive shriek here interrupted her for the moment, the hair through which her tapering fingers were wandering, was suddenly grasped with increased firmness, and as she rivetted her eyes firmly on his upraised countenance, and after having made various efforts to speak, she gave utterance to the following words interruptedly.

“ Oh ! no Reginald, it cannot be—I am unworthy—undeserving—thy constancy—but Reginald,” and her beautiful eyes filled with large tears, her grasp suddenly relaxed as she spoke, “ Reginald, though I always loved thee, my heart is not now worth thy acceptance, that heart is—broke !” and, as she concluded, a tremulous quivering, ran through her delicate frame, a deep hectic shot across her pale cheek, her bright blue eye sparkled, for a moment with increased animation, then became fixed and glazed, a faint gurgling arose in her throat, and like