

ried to an hospital, there to be properly attended till his reason should return.

### THE CAVE OF DEATH.

IN the early part of the French Revolution, the prisons of Lyon were filled with thousands of unhappy victims. Seventy two prisoners who were condemned, were thrown into the Cave of Death on the 9th of December, there to wait the execution of their sentence. This could not be the next day, because it was the Decadi. One of the prisoners, of the name of Porral, only 22 years of age, of a bold and ardent spirit, profited of this interval to devise a plan of escape. His sisters having by means of very large bribe, obtained access to this abode of horror, began to weep around him. "It is not now a time to weep," said he, "It is the moment to arm ourselves with resolution and activity, and endeavour to find some way by which we can elude our menaced fate. Bring me files, a chissel, a turn-screw, and other instruments; bring wine in abundance; bring a poignard, that if reduced to extremity, we may not perish without the means of defence. By this grate, which looks into the *Rue Lafond*, you can give me these things; I will be in waiting there the whole day to receive them."

The sisters retired; and in the course of the day, at different visits, brought a variety of tools, twelve fowls, and about sixty bottles of wine. Porral communicated his project to four others, bold and active like himself, and the whole business was arranged. The evening arrived; a general supper was proposed; the last they thought they should ever eat. The prisoners supped well, and exhorted each other to meet their fate the next morning with heroism. The wine was briskly circulated, till the company were laid fast asleep.

At eleven o'clock the associates began their labours; one of them was placed as a sentinel next the door of the cave, armed with a poignard, ready to despatch the turnkey, if at his visit at two o'clock in the morning, he should appear to suspect any thing; the others pulling off their coats, began to make their researches.

At the extremity of the second cave they found a huge door, and on this they began their operations. It was of oak and double barred; by degrees the hinges gave way to the file, and the door was no longer held by them; but still they could not force it open, it was held by something on the other side. A hole was made in it with the chissel, and looking through, they perceived it was tied by a very strong rope to a post at a distance. This was a terrible moment! They endeavoured in vain to cut the rope with the chissel or file, but they could not reach it. A piece of wax candle, however, was procured; and being lighted, and tied to a stick, they thrust it through the hole of the door, and burnt the cord asunder. The door was then opened, and the adventurers proceeded forward.

They now found themselves in another vault, in the midst of which was a large slab of stone, which seemed laid there for some particular purpose. They struck upon it and found it was hol-