

and I fell into some nervous fit, and remained for several hours insensible.

"I recovered consciousness, the morning was far advanced—the sun shining gaily down through the skylight, and gilding with joyous radiance, even the forbidding walls and furniture of that loathsome chamber.

"The other pupil had awakened and finding me laid senseless on the floor, had adopted some professional means to restore me, which were successful.

"I went home to my rooms, and all that day gave myself up to a deep and refreshing slumber. But time was not to be lost, so next night I was again at my work, alone.

"I now proceeded to arrange and disarrange my apparatus as formerly, convinced as I was that it had some influence in calling before my vision the remarkable spectacle I had that evening been witness to. My efforts were perfectly successful. Shortly before midnight I had again the spectral masquerade moving round me.

"I was now less under the influence of awe or alarm, and finding they had really no power to harm my body, I got familiar with them, and went on to experiment upon them night after night.

"At length I struck upon a plan whereby I could render these beings palpable to the sense of hearing as well as to that of sight. This was the crisis, the hinge upon which the whole of my after discoveries turned. A while and I could call to my presence not only them, but spiritual essences of all degrees and descriptions; for it the classes and orders of earthly things are numerous, upon those of spirits the process of mind we call numeration cannot be brought to bear so vast is the stupendous theme.

"It was not long before I could discourse with them, and to this nocturnal converse I devoted myself with my whole energy and enthusiasm. Things now all went on smoothly with me, and from one vast view to another, I leaped with lightning celerity.

"Was it not a proud, a maddening thought, that I had rent up the curtain that veils the world of spirits from the eye of sense—that the abyss which sinks between mortality and immortality, matter and pure mind, was spanned by an arch of my construction, and that I could now snatch unbounded knowledge: for time and space had no more power to check the excursions of my intellect?

"I now found not only that my former blind surmises and conclusions were all real, but that other facts existed, to the statement of which, in the wildest dreams of my unenlightened state, I could never have given credence. But the aphorism, "Know thyself," clung to me, and one of the first and most exciting of my investigations, was the inquiry into the nature and history of my own soul. With a delight beyond the conception of one whose spirit is not etherialized, I ascertained its origin, its migrations, and its destiny, and learned to at almost all the noblest deeds which have been consummated in this world, have been by bodies which it has animated; but my delight was increased to the wildest rapture, when I knew that the spirit now sojourning in my brain was that which had fixed to their high deeds, Sobieski,

the bulwark of Christendom, and Kosciuszko the—"

"Hillo!" cried I, starting as the poor Pole had got thus far in rhapsody. The thought struck me instantaneously. Was this the way to follow the instructions I had received with regard to his treatment—to fulfil my duty to my absent friend, and to him, too, my unfortunate patient, to whose ravings I was now listening with all interest and attention?"

"Up I sprang, covered with confusion, and unable to frame a pretence to break off the conference without exciting the suspicion or rousing the passion of the maniac.

"Excuse me for one moment," said I, "the recollection has just struck me, I left a taper burning in the midst of some papers down in the doctor's room."

"Away I ran but in place of returning sent one of the keepers to watch him. This man on entering, found him leaning forward upon the table, weeping piteously.

"Next day one of his fits of despondency seized him, nor did he recover his former cheerfulness while I remained at the asylum. He hardly ever spoke to me, appearing much chagrined and embarrassed in my company, as a person does in that of any one before whom he has committed himself unwarily.

"For my part I looked upon him now with far different thoughts from what I had entertained before this singular disclosure. The narrative had riveted my attention whilst he delivered it, by its originality, its interest, and the absolute belief he appeared to feel in every incident. I was struck with the linking together of accurate reasoning, extravagance, and preposterous absurdity it evinced—at the many instances it displayed of a wildly exuberant and lawless fancy, breaking up and confounding the more sober faculties, till sort of chaotic whole was produced, in which fantastic conception, beauty and vigour of description, richness and power of creative imagination, scientific acquirement and research, were all blended together in an incongruous tissue of delirium. I could not help thinking, was not this a mind, if properly regulated, and placed in suitable circumstances, to have conducted the most laborious investigations with adequate ability and success, and to have communicated the result, in a manner equal to the importance of the subject,—a mind whose graces would have been as ornamental to society as its labours would have been useful. And now misfortune, haply mismanagement, had rendered it a melancholy though by no means ridiculous satire upon the class of intellects to which it belonged.

"Shortly after quitting the asylum I went to travel, and did not return for eighteen months. The friend whose place I had thus temporarily filled was one of the first I sought on my arrival in England, and one of my earliest inquiries was with regard to what had become of my former patient, the Pole.

"Not long after my departure, Maryanski was removed by his relations, with the view of being placed under the care of a practitioner in France. Hereafter he disappeared from the notice of my friend for about three or four months, till he was vividly brought before it by the following circumstances:

"One night a young lady, an actress, was travelling by one of the coaches that run between London