

to Croatoan, and Rachel and Virginia departed to their own more quiet dwelling.

On the following day the design of Velasquez, to depart with Manteo in search of the English vessel, was prevented by the irritation of his wounded arm, which, combined with the excessive fatigue and excitement he had endured for the last few days, to reduce him to a state, which required rest and careful nursing. This he experienced from the motherly care of Rachel; but though removed to her dwelling, where he felt as if in the fellowship of Christian beings, he chafed sorely under the necessity of delay, and was constantly racked by the fear, that all chance of escape from his present forlorn situation, might be cut off, by the departure of the vessel from the American coast. Rachel shared his apprehensions, but she felt that the young man's life might fall a sacrifice to exposure and exertion, in his present state, and she would not hear of his undertaking the enterprize. It was finally proposed, that Manteo should depart alone on the search, and in case he found the vessel, he was immediately to communicate with these on board, to make known the condition, and wishes of Velasquez, and arrange with them the means of rescuing the exiles from the wilderness. This plan settled, Manteo lost no time in launching his canoe for his solitary expedition, and sanguine in the hope of his success, the minds of those whose fate depended on the intelligence he should bring back, became comparatively easy and resigned.

A few days of repose restored health and vigour to the frame of Ferdinand, while the kindness with which he was treated by all around him, wrought an entire change in the unfavourable impressions he had entertained of the Indian character. It was, however, a matter of constant wonder to him, how Rachel could so long have existed cheerful, and but for the thought of her early home, not unhappy, among the rude and untaught people, whose habits and customs were so utterly at variance with those of civilized life—but when he looked at the young and gentle girl who had grown up into exceeding beauty among such influences, and such companions, it was a source of still deeper marvel to his mind. For himself, the bare idea of passing the remainder of his life in that wilderness, was fraught with unutterable horror. Even with Virginia, to shed light and love over his forest home, the thought was insupportable. Nay, he began to feel, that for her sake, a restoration to the world, was most ardently to be desired,—she seemed to him a beautiful personification of all that his fancy had pictured as most lovely and exquisite in woman. Such a rare blending of maiden majesty, with the sportive grace and sweet simplicity of childhood, he had never before witnessed, and as he coned over her singular history, and dwelt with romantic enthusiasm on every circumstance connected with it, his heart glowed with the

fervour of new-born passion, and thrilled with rapture at the thought of bearing from the wilderness, this exquisite blossom, to deck the gay bowers of his own fair land. As day by day glided on, these feelings gained strength and maturity in the breast of Velasquez, till a bright vision of love and happiness, blended with his fond hopes of restoration to home and country.

In the meantime, nearly a week passed away, and Manteo did not return. Ferdinand drew a propitious omen from his continued absence, but Rachel entertained many fears, lest he might have fallen into the power of that vindictive tribe, who identifying him with the colony of Roanoke, which they destroyed, had vowed inextinguishable vengeance against him. Ferdinand could not avoid sharing her anxiety, and one evening went forth to look for their emissary, and to try his recovered strength, in a stroll along the sea-shore. As he stood looking over the wide waste of waters, filled with strange thoughts and emotions, at the singularity of his position, he espied a small speck at a distance, which as it came nearer, proved to be the canoe of some lonely mariner, and with intense interest he watched it, till its glittering keel touched the beach, and Manteo leaped lightly on shore. Warm was the greeting he encountered from Velasquez, who poured forth his brief and hurried questions with the impatience of unassured hope, and received in return, the following statement from the Indian.

After quitting Croatoan, he paddled along the coast, examining every creek and cove till he came to Roanoke, without discovering either the pinnacle, or the vessel of the English—in that vicinity, having gone on shore in search of water, he had met a friendly Indian, who told him, that for several days a large ship had been seen coasting about the mouths of the great bays to the north, and that a party of Iroquois had banded themselves together, and were lying in wait to entrap any of the crew, who might attempt to land. Manteo affected to receive this intelligence with indifference, but on returning to his canoe, immediately directed its course to the bay of Chesapeake, at whose entrance, he saw the vessel named, lying at anchor. He approached her with friendly signals, and was received on board, but when he attempted to make known his mission, in his imperfect English, he found there were none who understood him. The vessel was in fact, a Spanish galleon, which in her passage from Florida, had, during a storm, lost her course, and been driven on the Virginian coast. Manteo soon discovered that she was not the one he sought, and his sagacity shortly enabled him still farther to learn, that those who manned, her were countrymen of Velasquez. He at length succeeded, however, by the aid of one of the officers, to whom the language in which he attempted to express himself, was not entirely un-