

misfortunes, I had not to combat with straightened means, and I never felt money of so much value as at the present time. Soon were my plans arranged, and with the assistance of Mr. Martyn, I engaged a most valuable person to act as courier. With hearts full of hope, we commenced our long journey. It is unnecessary to enter into the details of this period; I have already, I fear, intruded on your Lordship's time. We engaged no fixed residence, but travelled about, while at every principal town in the neighbourhood of the Duke's possessions, our attendant Gasper—(here again the Earl started,) made vague enquiries. As months rolled away, however, our pleasing anticipations of success became less sanguine, and you will allow that when nearly five years were thus spent fruitlessly, we had a right to relinquish hope; but it pleases the Almighty to frequently make us wait our answers to fervent prayers, that we may the better appreciate the blessing when it comes. We were at Venice, at an hotel, from the balcony of which we were looking on the gay gondolas as they passed in quick succession. We noticed one particularly splendid in its appearance; four persons were sitting under the rich awning—in the men, Ursula instantly recognised the Duke de Manfredonia and Father Anselm—and in one of the females we both discovered our lovely Amy, altered from years—but it would seem far more from sorrow—for her cheek was very pale—yet it was impossible to mistake her, from the peculiar beauty nature had endowed her with. Another youthful female, apparently some years older, sat beside her, on whose shoulder rested the lovely head of our child. We stood mute; transfixed to the spot. We desired Gasper to watch the party and see where they landed. He did so, and returned with the pleasing intelligence that they were residing in one of the superb edifices within our view. This intelligent man had formed a plan for obtaining an entrance, which that very evening he put into execution. He attired himself as a wandering mountebank or gypsy, and through the influence of many clever tricks, he gained admittance to the Duke's servants, amongst whom he quickly became an object of delighted attention; old and young all flocked round him to hear their fortunes. Presently a young female entered, who he instantly recognised as the one he had remarked in the gondola with Lady Amanda. His attention was instantly given to her—and with the gaiety of a young French girl, (which she was,) she soon became amused.

"I wish my dear young lady could see you," she said, "it would afford her a good laugh, which she never enjoys."

"Can you not bring me to your lady," asked Gasper.

"I should get into fine trouble, if I was seen doing that," said the girl; "no, no, I dare not."

"Perhaps you will show your lady these," said

Gasper, drawing from his bosom a small casket of jewels, with which I had intrusted him for the purpose.

"She is too young to care for such things," replied Annetta, "but I will take them to her to oblige you."

She remained some time absent, during which Gasper continued to keep the attention of the domestics fixed on himself. On her return she said, though with some agitation:

"My young lady is so pleased with your casket, that she wishes to see yourself, that she may select some. Follow me."

No suspicion was awakened by what appeared a natural circumstance, and Gasper followed Annetta to a remote plantation in the grounds. The light childish figure of Lady Amanda was soon seen approaching, for she was at this time only eleven years old. At the sight of the stranger, in his grotesque garb, she shrank back alarmed—but when he spoke to her gently in English, she became rivetted to the spot.

"Oh, my own mamma, has she sent for me at last," exclaimed the innocent being, clasping her hands. "Are you come to take me from Father Anselm?" Gasper quickly told her that he had.

Amy then addressed her attendant in Italian, who seemed joyfully to assent. No time was to be lost—in another half hour the Duke and Father Anselm would have left the chapel, where they now were. Gasper produced two cloaks, which he threw around them; Annetta guided them through the plantation. A gondola was in waiting at some distance, into which they hurried, and in a few more minutes, which had seemed hours to me, Amy was clasped in the arms of Ursula and myself. Here we did not dare remain one moment. We had previously engaged horses, and we now proceeded with all rapidity on our journey. It is merely necessary to tell you that we reached England in safety, where we lost Gasper, who was engaged to attend a nobleman abroad, while we proceeded to Scotland, and fixed our residence among its Highland wilds. During our stay in this retreat, I had time to listen to my beloved Amy's account of all she had felt and suffered since she had been torn from me—the cruel manner in which Father Anselm had worked upon her youthful mind—terrifying her by supposed miracles—raising up false appearances in the form of demons, until her nerves were completely shattered.

"But," said the sweet child, "I contrived to conceal my Bible from his knowledge, and in its study, when alone, I found my only comfort."

Her father had never been positively unkind; but the unlimited power he suffered Father Anselm to exercise over her was as sinful.

Annetta, the kind hearted French girl, they had engaged to attend her, proved a great treasure, and soon became most strongly attached to her. They