

pitated himself upon me; evading my blow, he clutched with his long fingers at my throat, burying his talons in my flesh, and writhing his little body around mine, strove to bear me to earth.

I summoned my whole strength, and endeavoured to shake him off; but, possessing the proverbial power of the dwarf, increased by his drunken mania to an immense degree, I found all my efforts unavailing, and oh! horrors of horrors, what awful anguish was mine, when I found him bearing me slowly to earth, and his piercing talons buried in my throat, cutting off my breath! My eyes met his with a more horrid gleam than that he glared upon me? his was the fire of brutal nature, aroused by desire to intense malignancy; and mine the gaze of despair and death. Closer and firmer his gripe closed upon my throat, barring out the breath. I strove to shriek for help, but could not. How shall I describe the racking agony that tortured me. All kinds of colours first floated before my eyes, and then every thing wore a settled, intensely fiery red. I felt my jaw slowly dropping, and my tongue protruding, till it rested on the fangs that encircled my throat. I could hear distinctly every pulsation of even the minutest artery in my frame.