

him myself, they yielded to it most willingly, and seemed to think that I did so as an atonement for the unkindness I had evinced towards him since our marriage.

“ I announced that he grew worse ; and towards the second night I declared him to be dead. I would not permit any of my people, as I said, to incur the danger of infection. I washed the blood from the body,—covered it completely with a shroud and all this I did to the stark and bloody corse of that man, from whose touch, while living, I recoiled as from the sting of an adder.

“ Night came, and with it the pest carts and their bells, and the cry of ‘ bring out your dead ; ’—and the Count was carried out by his men, with stopped mouths and averted faces ; and he was placed among the dead,—and I was free !

“ Yes, free ! for detection did not reach me : no shadow of suspicion fell on my name.

“ In six months I was Laurentio’s bride ! But ah ! how different were my feelings from what they would have been had I been married to him in my years of innocence ! Now guilt,—the guilt of blood,—was upon my soul. Its weight was as lead ; its heat was as fire.

“ When we had been some time married, Laurentio could not but perceive the cloud which at times passed over me. He questioned me concerning it in vain. He thought, I believe, that it was occasioned by the shock my young heart had received as Count Braschi’s wife. He strove

by every means in his power to comfort and cheer me. Alas ! the wound was deep hidden from the leech’s eye. How then could he heal it ? yet he often probed it to the quick.

“ One day he asked me what had become of the golden bodkin he had given me in his first courtship ? He said he had never seen it since we had been married, and smiling, added, he supposed I had given it to the Count. My agitation was so extreme, that he could not but observe it ; he gently chided me for suffering my spirits to give way so much ; and changed the conversation.

“ About a week afterwards, I chanced to be suddenly called away, and left my *escrutoire* open. Laurentio, seeking some paper, or a pen, I know not which, found the bodkin, discoloured to the head with the indelible stain of human blood :—A terrible suspicion flashed across his brain !—He rushed to me,—questioned me,—and discovered all !

“ I cannot dwell upon the agony of this period ! After the first burst of indignation, his anger subsided into a deep—a sorrowful strain of condemnation, more dreadful to me than all the violence of passion which had preceded it. He would not he said, he could not betray me ; but neither would he ever again take a foul and spotted murderess to his bosom and his bed. I need not say what my agonies of entreaty were. His determination was irrevocable. We parted never to meet again. He fell in his first battle. I am still here ; but I feel I shall not be so long.”

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FOR THE ACADIAN MAGAZINE.

THE FIRE FLY.

“ A description of fly common in Guiana of which there are two species. The largest is more than an inch in length, having a very large head connected with the body by a joint of a particular structure, with which at times it makes a loud knock,

particularly when laid on its back.—The fly has two feelers or horns, two wings, and six legs under its belly in a circular patch ; which in the dark shines like a candle, and on each side of the head near the eyes is a prominent globular luminous body, in size