

into fashion. Of this kind was the other armour. Not yet, however, was it brought to such absolute perfection as is exhibited by the work of later artisans, wherein every limb and joint was secured by plates of polished steel, so flexible in the mode of their attachment each to the other, that they gave full scope to the play of the body, and at the same time so strong and well tempered as to resist the heaviest dint of mace or battle-axe, the sheerest and most cleaving sweep of the two-handed broadsword, to all of which the yielding mail was pervious. This had the cumbrous flat-topped helmet, peculiar to the earlier crusaders, with its vizor covering the whole face, the breastplate and backpiece, cuishes and greaves for the legs, and gloves of plate for the hands; but these were only introduced as additions to the chain mail, which formed the basis of the dress. To each panoply was appended a small triangular shield of azure steel, bearing upon it the already famous cognizance of the three leopards passant, while mace and battle-axe, two-handed sword and *dudgeon* dagger hung beside it, offensive weapons of a weight and size duly proportioned to the strength of the defences. A small round table stood in the centre of the room, with a large manuscript folio on the art of war lying upon it, open, just as it had been left a short time previously by the occupant of the apartment—a rude map, such as the best engineers of that early day could lay out only with great toil and application, was stretched out beside it, pretending to elucidate the topography of Palestine, with the Dead Sea, or *Lacus Asphaltites*, the Sea of Tiberius, the course of the Jordan, and the site of the Holy City, indicated by strange and uncouth devices. A silver standish, with a pen or two, a roll of parchment, a golden crucifix, splendidly chased and jewelled, and a short dagger of Damascus steel, the hilt and sheath of which, covered with emeralds and diamonds, exceeded even the brilliance of that emblem of the blessed faith, to re-establish which in the plains where it was first propagated had cost already so much lifeblood. Upon a silken couch, under a canopy decked with the armorial bearings of the far seagirt island, reclined a young man, strong and well shaped and handsome, with fire and energy blended with thoughtfulness and mental power in his fine lineaments, but looking somewhat languid and enfeebled by the unhealthy climate, more dreadful far to the stout sons of Western Europe, than the most fearful weapons of their Saracen anta-

gonists. His height was very great, and as he lay at length upon the couch, his lower limbs, though muscular and powerful, seemed almost disproportionately long, although they had not as yet gained for him the soubriquet by which he is known in history. His large gray eye was full of a clear steady light, calm now and meditative, but capable at times of flashing with almost intolerable lustre, when the soul was agitated by those bursts of sudden passion to which his frank and open temper was occasionally liable. His hair, which had been cut short that it might not interfere with the fastenings of his helmet, was of a rich deep auburn, curled closely over all his head, as was the short crisped beard which fringed his sunburnt cheeks, and covered his chin, leaving only a small space bare below the nether lip. His shoulders were extremely broad and muscular, his chest deep and round, and his hands, though well formed and unusually white, large, sinewy and bony. There was not, however, any thing coarse, or ponderous or fleshy in his make, which was spare though large framed, and as well-suited for deeds of agility as for feats of arms. He wore a bonnet of brown silk buttoned with a single pearl of great size and value, which held a tuft of heron's feathers; his surcoat open at the breast, and displaying a plaited shirt of white sendal, slightly embroidered, was of the same hue and material as the cap, faced and lined with deep azure, of which colour were the close fitting hose that covered all his shapely limbs from the hip downward. His girdle of blue velvet with many clasps and bosses of rich goldsmith work set with rare emeralds and brilliants, was evidently of the same pattern with the eastern poniard, which lay on the table, and was the only ornament he wore, his feet were covered for the moment by a pair of Turkish slippers of embroidered velvet, although a pair of fantastic shoes of the day, with their upturned toes, full half a yard in length, twist'd like the horns of a ram and gaily gilded, stood close beside the couch upon the matted floor, in readiness, if he should wish to go abroad. On a light chair, not far removed from the Prince's couch, there hung a lady's mantle of rich crimson lined everywhere with cloth of gold and decked with clasps and chainwork of the same costly metal; and on it lay a lute, which had apparently been just laid down, while on the floor were scattered several sheets of written music, not written as is now the case, by musical notation, but by words, or *mots*, as they were then termed,