

because the sight would have torn my bosom : because I feared to appear too barbarous in refusing what he required, and that I should be too unhappy if I granted it. These, Madame, were the motives of my conduct ; and I flatter myself that I shall not incur blame for what I have done."

"To blame you," the lady replied, "would be an injustice : a sacrifice could only be expected from oaths, from ties of blood, or from obligations ; and on this latter point it is not you, I know, who stand in this situation. I can assure you that his soul was penetrated with what he owed to you ; but his passion consumed him, and your last refusal hastened his death. He counted every minute, when, at half-past ten, his servant came to announce decidedly that you would not come. After a few moments' silence, he took my hand, and, with a force of despair which terrified me, 'The barbarian !' he exclaimed, 'she shall gain nothing by her cruelty ; I will pursue her even after my death, as I have persecuted her during my life !' I attempted to calm him ;—but he was no more."

After Mademoiselle Clairon had found that all her endeavours to undermine me in the affections of the Margrave were ineffectual, and that her object had been totally defeated, she determined to make a merit of necessity,—to arm herself, as she said, with reason, and to console herself for her sufferings by calling to her mind those comforts which she still possessed.