

concealment, on which so much depended for the accomplishment of my purpose. These thoughts brought my mind back to the poor victim, and I considered what I should do, if I contrived to get her safely from the village; for I had no palanquin in which to enclose her, or any other means of conveying her away in secret. Hour after hour passed away. I took out my watch and traced the hands with my fingers; it was half-past twelve. Surely, I thought, the old woman would not deceive me, nor keep me thus to prevent me from interfering at all. I started up at the bare idea of such a design, which was, on consideration, very probable; it wanted but four hours to the commencement of the horrid sacrifice. I loosened my horse from the place where he was tied, and was determined to try myself to get into the house, or to do something, (I hardly knew what), when I heard a slight noise at a little distance. I again secured my poor horse and went to the door, when Betha made her appearance. "I have kept you long," said she, "But I have succeeded. Come with me." I followed her, and by a round-about way we gained the back part of the house I had seen the procession enter. "Now," said Betha, "Mynah is on the other side of this wall. I have been into the house and have spoken to her; she is now praying for blessings on your head, and declares she will be your slave for life. She cannot pass the outer gate, but if you can get her over that wall, she may be saved. She is out of the house, and now sheltered under those trees." I seized the old woman's hand, and having thanked her for her kind exertions, I began to reconnoitre the wall that was to be scaled. I saw that I could easily accomplish it, but how to get her over I scarcely knew, for it was about fifteen feet high. I had on my sling-belt, and my sash, which tied together might make about seven feet in length. Betha understood in a moment the purpose for which I was measuring the wall, and immediately untwined from her body the long cloth which encircles the native women, as a kind of petticoat: this was about a yard in width, and more than two yards long; this might do, I thought. The wall was built of stones, and these roughly put together; the edges might to a man be a pretty secure footing, but to a frightened girl would be likely to prove treacherous, and offered little or no security. I felt about, and fancied I discovered some parts which projected more than the others; these I tried, and after a few attempts at length reached the top, when I fearlessly sprang into the court or back

garden. I had scarcely gained my perpendicular, when Mynah, the beautiful victim, bounded to my feet, and clasping my knees, "Save me, save me!" cried she, "from this horrid death! I will be your slave! My life shall be devoted to you. Oh! save me, in mercy save me, Englishman."

I raised her up. "Trust to me," I replied, "and I will do all I can for you; be firm, compose yourself, for we have no time to lose."

I fastened my sling-belt tightly round her waist; at the end of the belt was tied my sash and Betha's garment. I then felt about for the largest edges of the stones in the wall, and by guiding her foot from one to the other to the height of about four feet, she managed to keep her hold, for despair gave her double strength. With one end of the cloth tied to my ankle to make it as long as possible, I quickly mounted the wall, on which I strode across, and untied the cloth from my foot, which was then at full stretch. I begged Mynah to protect her body from the wall with her hands, while I trusted to my strength to pull her up to the top.—This I happily effected, and had the satisfaction of seating her on the top of the wall for a single moment. I next wound the woman's cloth and my own sash round my arm, and then gradually unwound it till she was within a few paces of the bottom, when I told her to jump when she had found a projecting point where she could place one foot, and I would let go my hold: the next moment she was safe on the ground. I soon descended myself.—Mynah flung herself into my arms, kissed my hands and feet, and her emotion was so great that words were denied her. "This is no time or place to give way to these emotions," said I, "we are still surrounded with dangers, our very breathing may be heard in this still hour of night. Lead on, Betha, to the hut by as near a way and as quick a pace as possible; we can now only look to my horse for safety."

We wound our way through several narrow streets: it was quite dark, for the moon had long since set; and as we passed silently along, the poor natives on all sides were asleep, being in groups of three or four, wrapped round with a large cloth or sheet, to prevent the mosquitoes or other insects from annoying them.—Most of the common people sleep in this manner; some indeed who have good houses, repose on the terraced roofs. We soon reached the shed that sheltered my horse; brought him out, and tied Mynah on him, and then paying the ten pagodas to the old woman, I led him