

her mother's remonstrances, watched in all the agonies of despair ; more than once she opened the door of the cabin to assure herself of the state of the weather : the sky was clear, not a cloud was to be seen ; the stars shone most brightly ; but the violence of the wind was extreme, the trees shook their vast heads and the cracking of large branches with which the hurricane was strewing the ground was heard. The gulf also sent forth a deafening noise.

Tonia listened in the greatest anxiety ; she fancied she distinguished in the midst of all this fracas, the voice of Renzo imploring succour. Alas ! what could this weak girl do ? Weep and pray. Towards morning, overcome with weariness she closed her eyes and dozed for a few minutes on a chair. Her sick imagination then offered the most fantastic visions to her view : She saw on the beach, the remains of a wreck, and, stretched close by, the corpse of Renzo, cold and inanimate. It appeared to her that at the moment when she leaned over these dear remains, the body of her lover disappeared suddenly, and she saw nothing but a carpet of verdure and wild flowers, At the same moment a strain of celestial music was heard, and Tonia saw descending towards her a young woman, the mirror of candour and beauty, carried on a golden cloud ; it was the holy mother of God who took Tonia by the hand and led her away with her to the celestial regions, saying : Come, it is here that he will be returned to thee, and nothing can separate you more ! The young girl, filled with devotion and love, cast a look around, and beheld Renzo hastening joyously to her, and she heard him distinctly say :—Mine ! mine forever ! Here the dream vanished.

The young girl, finding that the day had dawned, reproached herself for sleeping, she hesitates not to go out, and softly drawing the door after her, the poor child ran to Amalfi to learn news of her lover. The town was in a tumult in consequence of the disasters of the preceding night. Tonia, timid and modest knew not whom to address ; she wandered, silent and sorrowful through the noisy crowd, hoping that chance would enable her