

Every thing was accordingly prepared for Lindan to make a formal proposal to her father. He thought with trepidation of the important day : not that he had any cause to apprehend a refusal, against which his rank, his fortune, and his faith in the Roman Catholic religion, protected him, but he dreaded the ceremonies of a court presentation, and all that follows such a step. Poor Lindan, thou wast spared all these formalities, but in a far, far different way from what thou hadst anticipated or wished! Some time had elapsed since a young Frenchman had been introduced to Violante's father. We at first overlooked him in his commonplace courtliness ; but he soon succeeded, by means of some pretty canzonettes, and some stale jokes, the emptiness of which constituted their most prominent quality, to raise himself into notoriety. Lindan met this new apparition with friendly affection, his cheerful and unassuming disposition reflecting every new formation of the human mind to its best advantage. Nevertheless, the foreign youth soon became troublesome to us. The commonplace courtliness, which had at first modestly stood back, raised itself to higher and more assuming positions, until it gained, no one could tell how, the highest place in the assembly, and circumscribed and suppressed every expression of genius as well as originality, under the pretence of gratifying all, whilst it, in reality, gratified but its own spokesman. Lindan grew silent and reserved in company ; a song from Violante, a solitary walk with her, recompensed him for many a tiresome hour spent in the now monotonous circle. He scarcely noticed the young Frenchman's wish to gain Violante's love, and when he did, he merely smiled at it, as an extravagant undertaking. I felt differently. I saw but too clearly how much the stranger gained in Violante's eyes, and how much the sweet plants, which Lindan fostered in her mind,

lost thereby. Daily one of the tender blossoms faded, and at last there sprung up so many Parisian tulips, that a German forget-me-not, and a proud Italian rose, could but seldom raise their heads. Lindan, for a long time, shut his eyes, as if intentionally, to this melancholy change. One evening, however, he sought me after leaving the circle, and his eyes were filled with tears. 'I fear, Bernwald,' said he in a low voice, 'I have lost her!' I was silent, but a deep sigh escaped my troubled breast. 'And yet,' continued he, 'I must strive for her as long as I am able. Such a paradise is not so easily resigned.'

"After this, Lindan's behaviour towards the Frenchman grew serious, nay, almost hostile. He openly attacked his pitiful shallowness, but the adversary always effected his escape. The circumstance, that most of the phrases which the smatterer uttered, passed his lips without being understood, and left his heart without being felt, was as great an advantage to him, as oil to smooth the body is useful to the wrestler, while it prevents his antagonist from obtaining any where a secure hold of him. We lived melancholy, annihilating days!

"One fine mild evening assembled us all on the terrace in front of the Villa. The night rose so majestically out of the sea, spreading slowly over the yet faintly illuminated earth, while a few stars were smiling down upon us from the azure sky, that we all, wrapped up in deep admiration, unconsciously grew silent ; even the Frenchman's indefatigable tongue ceased for a moment its exertions. Lindan was seated next to Violante ; an ardent desire after the love he had lost, and the happy days that had gone by, coming over him, he asked the beautiful girl for a German song, which she formerly was wont to sing with great emotion.

"The general silence caused the Frenchman to overhear his words ; and, without waiting for Violante's