



THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS.
 "A Palace and a Prison on each hand."

in their waters when they wished to land on the shore of Illyria. They treated with all the sovereigns of Europe as equals, constituted themselves the purveyors of the world, and on their commercial wealth laid the foundation of their political power.

Twice the arbiters of the world vowed the destruction of Venice, and leagued themselves together against her; but her people, by dint of suppleness and agility,

by turns firm and wily, baffled all combinations, and came safely out of the most appalling dilemmas. At one moment all nations were in a manner tributary to them, because they were the greatest merchants, the bravest sailors, the most skilful builders, and the richest ship-owners in the world. When France, already beginning to move the world, had raised the cry of "Dieu le veult," she had to beg of the Venetians a passage on