

And lastly, on each side were two great basins of gold, full of double ducats, with many strings of pearls, rings, girdles, and other things too tedious to mention, which were laid all round him. When this was done, he kissed Torello once more, as he lay upon his bed, commanding the necromancer then to use all possible expedition. Instantly the bed, with Torello upon it, was carried away in presence of them all, leaving them in discourse about it, and set in the church of San Pietro di Pavia, according to his own request, where he was found by the sacrist, fast asleep, with all these jewels and other ornaments, in the morning when it rung to matins; who, coming into the church with a light in his hand, and seeing that rich bed, was frightened out of his wits, and ran out. When the abbot and monks saw him in this confusion, they were greatly surprised, and inquired the reason, which the monk told them. "How!" quoth the abbot, "thou art no child or stranger here, to be so easily terrified; let us go and see this bugbear." They then took more lights, and went altogether into the church, where they saw this wonderful rich bed, and the knight lying upon it fast asleep. And as they stood gazing at a distance, and fearful of taking a nearer view, it happened, the virtue of the draught being gone, that Torello awoke, and fetched a deep sigh; at which the monks and abbot cried out, "Lord, have mercy upon us!" and away they ran. Torello now opened his eyes, and looking all around him, saw he was where he had desired Saladin to have him conveyed, at which he was extremely satisfied; so raising himself up, and beholding the treasure he had with him, whatever Saladin's generosity seemed to him before, he now thought it greater than ever, as having had more knowledge of it. Nevertheless, without stirring from the place, seeing the monks all run away in that manner, and imagining the reason, he began to call the abbot by name, and to beg of him to entertain no doubts in the affair, for that he was Torello, his nephew. The abbot, at hearing this, was still more afraid, as he supposed him dead many months before: till being assured, by good and sufficient reasons, and hearing himself again called upon, he made the sign of the cross, and went to him. When Torello