

ing her the fruit of his labours, pressed her to grant him her daughter, now that he was in a way to make a fortune.

Tonia joined her prayers to those of her lover, but the wicked old woman was inexorable, she pretended this money would all vanish like smoke the first days of their marriage, and that he must earn at least as much more before he could hope to obtain the hand of his mistress.

The two young people retired very sorrowful. The day was spent in tears and lamentations. At length Renzo finding strength in the very excess of his grief, resolved to double his ardour and activity to gather the required sum. Heaven at first seemed willing to crown his efforts with success ; his draughts were abundant and in a short time he found himself master of a small capital. Ambition then took possession of him, he would not expose himself to a fresh refusal from Peppa, and finding himself on the road to fortune, he resolved not to appear before the mother of his mistress till he was sure his proposals would be no longer repulsed. Uniting all his savings together he bought a boat and nets, and commenced fishing on his own account.

Still Tonia felt great anxiety ; for a long time she had not seen Renzo, and had merely learnt indirectly that he had bought a boat and nets.

— If he becomes rich, said she, he will no longer want me. Oh ! my mother, my mother, why did you not give him to me when he was poor ?

While she spoke thus her beautiful eyes were overflowed with tears.

— Silence, fool, the old woman would answer, Renzo is a young man of sense ; he will come to us when his affairs are in good train. You will soon see him, depend on my experience.

— Alas ! mother, I cannot help feeling dreadful presentiments of evil.

One night of fatal memory, the wind blew with excessive violence. Peppa's cabin was horridly shaken. Tonia, deaf to