

seizing her by the arm; "it was for thee that so many brave adventurers have been sacrificed! But the treacherous deed shall not save thee."

Donna Carmen had lost all power of speech, or look, or thought; she listened to the words of the implacable buccaneer, without in the least understanding them. In the mean time, the sailor who had been charged to watch over her, and who had gone a minute or two before to assist in the conflict, was recalled by the cry she had uttered. He rushed forward, much surprised at the sight of a buccaneer still alive, in that part of the vessel, but as he advanced, a pistol shot from the Leopard stretched him lifeless on the deck.

The buccaneer drew from his belt a long keen knife, and was about to plunge it in the bosom of the hapless girl, when a cry of horror from a well-known voice fell on his ear and arrested his arm. It was followed by these words, pronounced in heart-rending accents—

"Spare her! oh! spare her!"

The Leopard cast a rapid glance on the sea, and saw the fourth boat almost alongside the vessel, with his nephew Joachim standing at the stern beside Pitrians.

He had reached Porto de la Paen only in time to leap on board this boat, as it was shoving off from the shore.

"Joachim! must he too perish?" he exclaimed with a gesture of rage and despair. "Oh! Margaret! could you not have spared him? Keep off! keep off!" he cried, "we are lost here and you can do no good."

"We will rescue or perish with you!" answered Pitrians, while Joachim, with an eager gesture, made ready to leap on board.

"There is but one way," thought the Leopard, "to hinder his coming hither and to save him in spite of himself."

"He raised high the young Spaniard in his nervous arms, exclaiming—

"Look, Joachim! Behold the fair one for whom thou becamest the attendant of Michel le Basque!"

"Spare her! spare her!" murmured Joachim.

"Behold the Spaniard for whom the bravest Brethren of the Coast have been led into this trap!" And he launched her slight form into the waves, adding, "Be this an expiation!" But he thought within himself, "The sea will save them both, whilst in a few moments the planks of this vessel shall be scattered like dust before the wind."

A hasty look showed him that Joachim, as he anticipated, had plunged after Donna Carmen, and throwing himself down the ladder, he cast a lighted match on some powder that lay on the

floor of the magazine. He then rushed on deck and shouted—

"Look to yourselves, ye Spanish scoundrels! The magazine is on fire!"

Scarcely had he finished, when a thundering noise was heard, and the broken fragments of the vessel were scattered high in the air, amid the crashing of timber, the seething of the agitated water, the despairing cries of scorched and wounded men.

At present we have only to do with the Leopard, whose extraordinary escape might be regarded as impossible, did we not find it so positively stated by Gexmelin, in his "History of the Adventurers."

The buccaneer chief was carried so high by the explosion as to be oven above the fragments of the timber, and thus alone, by his own account, to escape the fate of those who were crushed to atoms amid the wreck. He fell almost senseless into the sea, where instinctively striking out, he caught hold of a plank that floated near. Supporting himself on this, he recovered sufficiently in a few minutes to look around him. Several Spaniards were clinging to various portions of the wreck, among whom he recognized Don Esteban, who, although both his legs had been blown off, had still managed to clutch convulsively a fragment of the mast. As the buccaneer gazed, however, the nerves of the Spanish captain gradually relaxed, and after a last effort to maintain his grasp, he sank slowly beneath the blood-tinged waves.

In a short time the Leopard was able to paddle himself slowly towards the shore, which at length he reached, faint and exhausted. His first thought was of his nephew, and he cast an anxious look over the sea. He then for the first time noticed a large Spanish barque that had followed the canoe at some little distance, in case of assistance being required, and was soon satisfied that Donna Carmen and Joachim, as well as some of the adventurers from Pitrians' boat, had been picked up by this vessel, and were safe on board.

"Now, then, for the Seigneuresse!" he exclaimed, as he disappeared among the mango trees. "We must have some explanation of this fatal adventure."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

#### ON A FLOWER-PIECE BY VARELOT.

When fumed Varelot this little wonder drew;  
Flora vouchsafed the glowing work to view:  
Finding the painter's sentence at a stand,  
The goddess snatch'd the pencil from his hand;  
And finishing the piece, she smiling said,  
Behold one work of mine, that ne'er shall fade.