

belonging to Maria. On opening it, he found lying upon a soft bed of beautifully white cotton, the very ring which he had given to his betrothed ; accompanied by a writing, stamped with the arms of Poland, in the following terms :

"The National Government to Ensign Stanislas.—For a month's pay due, the ensign shall receive this ring, presented to the public treasury by the citizen Maria \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* Minister of Finance.'

"The government had not yet had time to send to the mint the patriotic gifts of the ladies of Warsaw.

"Stanislas recovered in a moment ; he rose from his bed, and was in a short time in Maria's presence,—but trembling, agitated, and ashamed to look her in the face. Gently taking her left hand, he said.

"What have you done with my ring ? Do you recognize me ? I am Stanislas !"

"Oh ! he is just as he appeared last night. It is the reality of my dream !"

"But this time Stanislas spoke mildly, and his look was tender ;—neither was his hand so strong and rough. His wound, however, was still bleeding, and this was in the dream ; but it was now divested of the fear and horror that had accompanied the circumstance on the previous night.

"Maria, forgive me my mad fury ; idiot that I was, to accuse thee so wrongfully !"

"She did not comprehend him.

"Will you believe that I thought you had given my ring to Michel Linski ?"

"Still she did not comprehend his meaning. She wanted to talk to him about the war, the danger of Praga, his own wounds, and the general in chief, as if this was the first time she had met him since his return. He, on the other hand, would speak of nothing but his ring and his anger on the previous night.

"Oh ! we have already met," he said ; "it was in this very apartment, and here is evidence of the fact. Behold this blood upon the carpet !"

"The truth flashed upon Maria.

"It was not then a dream ? I have it," she cried, after a moment's reflection ; "you were asking me for my ring."

"I cursed you," he exclaimed.

"Oh, no ! I did not hear it,

"You were asleep then. So much the better. As for the ring, I have it here, and I thus restore it to you.