

but those hardships and sufferings must fall heavier on a delicate female, who had never known any thing but comfort. No—Maria had superior expectations. But, supposing I considered you a fit match for her, in every other respect, still your religion would be an insurmountable barrier—to enter into the bonds of matrimony with a heretic, she might as well ally herself to the devil! I have no objection to your character, and feel a friendship for you, but I can never encourage you in your present designs—nor give my consent to a marriage that would be productive of misery, to at least one, if not to both parties.”

The calm and decided tone in which she spoke, convinced Henry that he had nothing to hope for from her, and his heart grew too big for utterance. He tried to suppress his feelings, but they were too strong for him, and he was only relieved from their suffocating effect by a flood of tears. The Donna's heart softened to see his distress. Yet she still remained inflexible to her purpose.

Maria, who had seen Henry enter the house, having followed him to the door of her aunt's apartment, had overheard the conversation, and now seeing her aunt's back turned towards the door, she watched him until he raised his eyes, when giving him a sign, which infused new hope into his mind, she retired. Henry now took his leave, without enforcing his suit any farther. I had been waiting his return, and when he told me the result of his visit, I encouraged him to hope that all might yet be well.

During the day he received a message by a Portuguese boy, who was servant with one of our officers, informing him that she was so closely watched, that there was no hope of her being able to see him, unless he could manage to get over the garden wall, which was exceedingly high; if so, that she would meet him at 11 o'clock that night. Having returned an answer that she might expect him, he called upon me, we reconnoitred the garden wall, and having noted where there was a ladder, and procured

a rope which was intended for our descent, after waiting anxiously until within half an hour of the appointed time, we proceeded to the place where we intended to effect our escalade; the inhabitants having retired to rest, and the village silent, we got over without difficulty. We had waited for some time at the head of one of the side walks (the place appointed) concealed by the bushes, when we heard the gentle sound of footsteps. We did not move from our hiding place until the appointed signal was given, when, in an instant, they were in each others arms.

Where the heart is pure, I am led to believe that the zest of love is the higher, the lower the station of the lovers. No fictitious refinement interferes to check the cup of joy; so it was in the present instance. Still, however, our situation was perilous, and I urged the necessity of forming some plan to bring about the desired purpose; but their hearts were too much fluttered with joy and hope, uncertainty and fear, to make the necessary arrangements, and they parted hur-

riedly without doing more than appointing a second meeting. The appointed time again arrived, and we reached the garden as easily as before, but Maria did not come for nearly an hour after the time agreed on, and we were beginning to think some accident had befallen her, when we heard her steps coming up the walk. She seemed much disturbed, "You would wonder at my delay," said she, "but I am afraid they suspect me. My aunt did not retire to rest at the usual hour, and before she did, she came into my apartment and held the candle close to my face, but I pretended to sleep soundly; she then retired, and I embraced the opportunity of slipping out—but I cannot stay—she may return to my apartment, and if she does, I am undone." "But can we come to no conclusion with regard to what should be done?" said I, "you have no reason to hope that your aunt will ever consent to your marriage, therefore your only plan is to escape with Henry, and get married by the chaplain of the division, before your friends can prevent it; then

when they find that no better can be done, there is every reason to believe they will be reconciled to you. "O it is impossible!" said she, "I know them too well." "Certainly," said I, "the sacrifice is great, but the alternative is to bid each other adieu for ever. You must now decide, or we may never have another opportunity." "I cannot make up my mind to night," said she, "I will meet you here to morrow night at this hour, determined and ready prepared either to remain, or make my escape. Now farewell, for I am afraid that I am discovered." So saying, she parted hastily from us, and returned into the house, leaving poor Henry in no enviable state; his fate hung upon her decision, she had spoken with uncertainty, and he looked forward to the next meeting as the die that would determine his future happiness or misery.

During next day, Henry's mind was in such a state of uneasiness and suspense, that I could, with great difficulty, bring him to make the necessary arrangements in the event of her escaping



with him. It was necessary that he should apply to his commanding officer for permission to marry; and I advised him to disclose the whole matter to him, well knowing that such a character as he was, would take an interest in his fate. Henry took my advice, and having called on colonel L. disclosed every circumstance connected with the affair. Colonel L. listened with attention, and seemed much interested. The story in part was not new to him, he had heard it from some of the principal inhabitants. He reasoned the matter with Henry like a father; represented the difficulty which would lye in his path—marrying a foreigner of a different religion—the hardships she would have to endure—and the many difficulties which two people marrying so young, would have to encounter. “But,” said he, “I suppose all those things appear as trifles to you at present.” Henry owned that his affection was too deeply rooted, to be moved by these considerations. “Well,” said colonel L., “if you are determined on trying the experiment, and that she

is agreeable, I have no objection to giving you permission to marry, but I cannot say you have my approbation." Henry, however, it may be easily imagined, was not to be moved by sober reasoning.

The time of meeting arrived, and Henry, trembling with suspence and apprehension, accompanied me to the garden. We were not long there, when Maria arrived with a few articles of wearing apparel, which she had hurriedly collected. "Well, Maria," said I, "have you decided—are you ready to accompany us?" "I don't know," said she, "I am so filled with apprehension, that I cannot think or speak." "Say the word," said I, "all is ready." "Oh, I don't know," said she. "Either let me return into the house, or let us leave this, or I will die with fear; I am sure I have been observed. Oh Jesu, Maria! there they come—I am lost." So saying, she fled down the opposite path, where she was immediately seized by some of the domestics, who had been mustered for the purpose of surprising

us. There was no time to lose, for resistance would have been useless; and we too well knew the nature of the Portuguese, to depend much on their mercy. Hurrying, therefore, towards the wall; and having assisted Henry, who was rendered nearly powerless by the effect of his feelings, I made a spring and seized the top of the wall; Henry was ready to lend me assistance, but before I could get myself raised to the summit, a sword aimed for my body, struck the wall so close to my side, that it cut out a piece of my jacket and shirt. Ere the blow could be repeated, I had fallen over on the opposite side, carrying Henry with me in my fall. I was severely hurt—but there was no time to lose, and we knew the alarm would soon be raised; therefore, having conveyed the ladder to where we had found it, we hurried to our quarters. Next day the Portuguese boy brought information to Henry that early that morning two mules had been brought into the courtyard; that Maria was brought out weeping, and mounted on one, her aunt on



the other, and that two servants, armed, had accompanied them; he was not allowed to follow them, and therefore could not tell what direction they had taken, but Maria had whispered to him, to give Henry her last farewell, for she never expected to see him again, as she was ignorant of where they were taking her. When Henry received this information, distracted with a thousand contending emotions, among which, despair was predominant, he seized a bayonet, and rushed bare-headed from his quarters, traversed one road after another in search of her, making inquiry at every person whom he met, if they had seen her, but she had been some hours gone. After travelling about from one place to another in this distracted state, and being taken for a madman by all who met him, worn out by the violence of his feelings, he became calm, and returned home in the dusk of the evening: but it was a calm produced by one master feeling having swallowed up the rest; despair had now taken possession of his mind, “The stricken bosom

that can sigh, no mortal arrow bears." He walked into his apartment, and having taken up a musket, and loaded it, he placed the muzzle against his head, and was in the act of putting his foot on the trigger, when a soldier happened to enter, and seizing him, arrested the rash deed.

I had been placed on guard that morning, nor did I know any thing of what had occurred, until Henry was brought to the guard-house, where he was ordered to be particularly watched. I went over to speak to him, but he looked at me with a vacant stare, nor did he seem conscious of what I said. Sitting down in a corner, he remained with his eyes fixed on the floor for some time, then rising, he walked about with a hurried pace, while his countenance showed the burning fever of his mind; a fit of tenderness succeeded, and he raved of all that happened, which I only could understand; to me it was a most affecting scene, for I had no hope that his reason would return, and I contemplated the wreck of his mind, as one

would do the destruction of all that was dear to them. I watched him attentively during the night, and towards morning nature became so far exhausted, that he fell into a confused slumber; when he awoke, the naked reality of his situation struck him intensely, he perceived me, and stretching out his hand, he burst into tears; in broken accents he informed me of the death of all his hopes—but his mind was unstrung—he could not think connectedly.

At this time he was sent for to attend at the colonel's lodgings; the noble character of our commanding officer, was particularly shown in the sympathy and concern which he evinced for the unfortunate Henry; he entered into all his feelings, and alternately soothed and reasoned with him, until he had brought him to a calmer state of mind, then after expressing the kindest solicitude for his welfare, he dismissed him to his quarters, telling him at the same time, that he would use his interest to gain the consent of her relations to the match, and that nothing should be wanting on his part to bring

the affair to a happy conclusion. This, in some measure, restored the balm of hope to Henry's mind, but, alas! it was only a temporary relief, for although colonel L—— faithfully kept his promise, and several of the officers who were on good terms with the family, used their utmost endeavours in his behalf, it was all to no purpose, the more they pressed, the more obstinate they became.

Things were in this state, when he unexpectedly received a message from Maria, informing him that she was closely confined in the house of a gentleman, (who was a relative of her aunt,) about nine miles from the town; from the manner in which she was guarded, she had no hope of being able to make her escape, for there were people employed to watch the avenues to the house, with orders if he approached it to show him no mercy—that she saw little use in giving him this information, but she could not resist the opportunity which had presented itself, of letting him know where she was. Henry gave

way to the most entrancing anticipations on receiving this information; but when he communicated it to me, I considered the subject in a different light, I saw that it was more likely to keep alive the commotion of a passion which there was little hope of ever arriving at its object; I knew the attempt to go to the house would be pregnant with danger, still I felt inclined to assist him in another determinate effort to carry off the prize.

Henry called on colonel L—— for the purpose of procuring a pass; when he communicated his intention, he not only gave him the pass, but also a letter to the gentleman of the house where Maria was, (with whom he was well acquainted,) to serve as an introduction. Thus prepared, Henry and I, in company with the boy already mentioned, set forward after it was dark towards the place, taking a bye-road. When we reached the house, we left the boy outside, as he was known to the family, and entering, presented the letter from colonel L——. We were kindly received; and as it was late, the gentleman insist-

ed on us stopping all night—so far all was well. We had been about an hour in the house when Maria happened to come down stairs, she knew us immediately, but concealed her emotions, and coming near the fire, she watched an opportunity until the servants were engaged about the house, and then whispering to us, asked our motive in coming there. “If they know you,” said she, “your lives are not safe.” I told her that our motive was by some means to endeavour to effect her escape; she replied, it was utterly impossible, she was too well guarded. “Farewell, Henry,” said she, “farewell for ever, for I believe I will never see you again; it would have been happy for us both if we had never seen each other.”

At this moment, a female servant of Donna Anna's, who had accompanied Maria, came to speak to her, and recognizing Henry, she flew up stairs. Maria saw that we were discovered, and she cried to us, “Fly for your lives!” The whole family collected, were now descending the stairs, and Maria was

hurried up to her room. The old lady of the house assailed us with the most abusive epithets, the men-servants gathered in, and every thing wore a hostile appearance. The gentleman, however, to whom the letter was addressed, commanded silence, and addressing us, "I do not presume to say what your intentions may be towards my ward, but being convinced of the identity of the individual who has already caused us so much trouble, I am forced, even against the laws of hospitality, to retract my request of you to remain here to-night, and for the safety of those committed to my charge, I must insist on you returning immediately to your quarters. If you have come here for the purpose of decoying Maria from this house, I can tell you that whatever inclination she once might have felt for this foolish young man, she is now better advised, and does not wish to be troubled with him any more."

"Let me hear that from her own lips," cried Henry in a frenzied tone, "and I will give my word that I will

never trouble her again." A short consultation was held by the family, and after some minutes delay, Maria was brought down stairs, trembling and weeping. But all their endeavours could not force her to repeat the words which they wished her to say. At length, Henry, as if inspired with more than his natural energy, exclaimed, "I find that every fresh effort of mine only causes you additional restraint and mortification. I must now cease to hope, and take a last farewell of her I value more than any being on earth. I long cherished the idea that we might be united—I loved her with no common love—and I had the more than mortal happiness to say, that that love was returned—but adverse fortune has torn us asunder, and dooms me to wretchedness. They have cruelly parted us in this world, Maria, but we may yet meet. Suffer me," said he, "to take a last farewell, and I will trouble you no more." This was spoken with such an impassioned voice and gesture, that it had a visible effect on those around. Maria



who had been restrained by the lady of the house, now broke from her, and fell into Henry's arms;—while he pressed her to his bosom, a new spirit seemed to animate him—his eyes brightened—and putting his hand into his breast, where he had a pistol concealed, “Let us carry her off, James,” (said he to me in English) “or die in the attempt.” “Then you will die before you reach the door,” said I; for the house was now filled with the retainers of the family; and as if they suspected his purpose, Maria was torn shrieking from his arms.

Afraid that he might be induced to commit some rash act, I hurried him out of the house, and we returned home. I endeavoured to lead him into conversation, but he appeared not to hear me, nor did he speak a word during the journey; he evinced no feeling of any kind—his mind seemed to be in a state of the utmost confusion.

Next morning the Portuguese boy brought him intelligence that Maria had passed through the village very

early, escorted by her relations, on her way to a nunnery, about three leagues distant, where she was destined to remain, until our army advanced.

This took place in a few days after, and they never met again. Henry's mind had been strained far beyond its pitch—it was now unnerved—and he fell into a state of listless melancholy, from which he did not recover for many months.

## CHAPTER VII.

ADVANCE THROUGH SPAIN—BATTLE OF VITTO-  
RIA—PAMPELUNA—BATTLE OF THE PYRENEES  
—RONCESVALLES—MAYA HEIGHTS—ZAGGA-  
RAMUNDI—NEVILLE.

DURING the time the army were in winter quarters, great preparations were made for the campaign which was about to open, and we could now muster an army of about 130,000 men, viz. 40,000 British; 20,000 Portuguese; and 70,000 Spaniards. The two former in the highest state of discipline, well clothed, and provided with stores of every description. The old camp-kettles, that were formerly carried on mules, were exchanged for lighter ones, which the men could carry on the top of their knapsacks; and the mules now carried tents, which we had not been provided with, prior to this period. In fact, the whole arrangements made, reflected the highest honour on lord Wellington.

The army commenced its advance on the 13th May, 1813, in three columns. The 2d division commanded by general Hill, formed the right, which was destined to advance along the line of the Tagus. The centre column, consisting of the 4th, 6th, 7th, and light divisions, under the immediate command of lord Wellington, to advance by Salamanca. The left, consisting of the 1st, 3d and 5th divisions, under the command of general Graham, to advance direct through Portugal, taking the line of Benevente for Burgos, and to be supported on the left, by the Gallician army. The centre column came up with the French on the 26th May, and in a skirmish with their rear guard, took 200 prisoners; a junction was here formed with general Hill, extending the line from the Tormes to the Duero. The left, to which our division belonged, passed the Elsa at Miranda de Duero on the 31st May, lord Wellington being present, and advanced upon Zamora, when the French fell back upon Toro. Passing Valladolid, we continued

our march upon Burgos, which the enemy evacuated on the 13th of June, having first blown up the works, 30 of the garrison perished by the explosion. The retreat of the French had been so rapid, during this time, that our marches often had been severe, which, with the heat of the weather, and occasional scarcity of water, caused many to get fatigued, and unable to keep up with their regiments. Here again colonel Lloyd was remarkable. By every means in his power he encouraged and assisted those who were weakly, taking their knapsacks from them, and carrying them on his own horse; sometimes having half a dozen on it, and a man sitting above all, while he walked on foot at the head of his regiment, in the most difficult parts of the road—at the same time, inducing the other officers to follow his example; and often when he saw an individual failing, through want of strength, he has taken off his liquor flask and given it to the poor fellow to drink, saying, at the same time, “Don’t let your spirits down, my man; you will

soon get strength, and be able to keep up with the best of them; none of them shall have to say that you fell to the rear."

He had a most extensive and thorough knowledge of his profession, added to a knowledge of most of the European languages. When he came into camp he was never a moment idle, either reconnoitering the enemy's position, or drawing charts of the road, &c. He scarcely allowed himself time to rest, and was always up an hour or two before the bugle sounded, but he would never allow the men to be disturbed before the proper time. "No," said he, "let the poor fellows get all the rest they can," But *then*, he expected them to be alert; officers and men, without distinction, were obliged to be in their respective places, at once, without delay—all his motions were double-quick—and he detested nothing so much as laziness.

General Picton who had joined from England a considerable time before, again commanded the division. To

judge from appearance, no one would have suspected him of humour, yet he often indulged in it, his wit was generally, however, of the satirical kind. On this advance, a man belonging to one of the regiments of the brigade, who was remarkable for his mean pilfering disposition, had lingered behind his regiment on some pretence, when they marched out to the assembling ground, and was prowling about from one house to another in search of plunder. General Picton who was passing through, happened to cast his eye upon him, and called out, "What are you doing there, Sir? Why are you behind your regiment?" The man who did not expect to see the general in the village, had not an answer very ready, but he stammered out an excuse, saying, "I came back to the house where I was quartered to look for my gallowses." (suspenders.) "Aye, I see how it is," replied the general, "get along, Sir, to your division, and take my advice, always keep the word gallows in your mind."

Having crossed the Ebro on the 16th, lord Wellington took up his quarters a few leagues from Vittoria, and on the 19th we came up with the French, who had taken up a position in front of that town, their left posted on a range of heights. Our army having closed up on 20th, on the morning of the 21st, general Hill's division commenced the battle, by attacking their left on the heights of Puebla, and succeeded, after a most desperate and sanguinary contest, in gaining possession of them. When we descended the hill towards the river, the 2d division was warmly engaged, and the French commenced cannonading us from a small white village in front of Vittoria, where they had part of their army stationed. There was a brigade of our guns directing their fire towards this place when we were crossing the river along with the 7th division. Our attention was drawn to a young artillery officer who was with them, and who seemed to be very much frightened, for every time that either our own or the French guns fired, he *ducked* to the