

flat stone; and the three being placed round her, after she had done some violence to herself in restraining the tears, that came into her eyes, she began the history of her life, with a clear and sedate voice, in this manner :

“ There is a place in this country of Andalusia, from which a Duke takes a title, which makes him one of those they call Grandees of Spain. This Duke has two sons; the elder, heir to his estate, and in appearance, to his virtues; and the younger, heir to, I know not what, unless it be to the treachery of Vellido¹, and the deceitfulness of Galalon². My parents are vassals to this nobleman: it is true, they are of low extraction, but so rich, that, if the advantages of their birth had equalled those of their fortune, neither would they have had any thing more to wish for, nor should I have had any reason to fear being exposed to the misfortunes, I am now involved in; for, it is probable, my misfortunes arise from their not being nobly born. It is true, indeed, they are not so low, that they need to be ashamed of their condition, nor so high, as to hinder me from thinking, that their meanness is the cause of my unhappiness. In a word, they are farmers, plain people, without mixture of bad blood, and, as they usually say, old rusty Christians³; but so rusty, that their wealth, and handsome way of living, is, by degrees, acquiring them the name of gentlemen, and even of cavaliers; though the

riches and nobility they valued themselves most upon, were, their having me for their daughter: and, as they had no other child to inherit, what they possessed, and were besides very affectionate parents, I was one of the most indulged girls, that ever father or mother fondled. I was the mirror, in which they beheld themselves, the staff of their old age, and she, whose happiness was the sole object of all their wishes, under the guidance of Heaven: to which, being so good, mine were always entirely conformable. And, as I was mistress of their affections, so was I of all, they possessed. As I pleased, servants were hired and discharged; through my hands passed the account and management of what was sowed and reaped. The oil-mills, the wine-presses, the number of herds, flocks, and bee-hives; in a word, all that so rich a farmer as my father has, or can be supposed to have, was intrusted to my care: I was both steward and mistress, with so much diligence on my part, and satisfaction on theirs, that I cannot easily enhance it to you. The hours of the day that remained, after giving directions, and assigning proper tasks to the head-servants, overseers, and day-labourers, I employed in such exercises as are not only allowable, but necessary to young maidens, such as, in handling the needle, making lace, and sometimes spinning: and if now and then, to recreate my mind, I quitted these exercises, I entertained

myself with reading some book of devotion, or touching the harp; for experience showed me, that music composes the mind, when it is disordered, and relieves the spirits after labour. Such was the life I led in my father's house; and, if I have been so particular in recounting it, it was not out of ostentation, nor to give you to understand, that I am rich, but that you may be apprized how little I deserved to fall from that state into the unhappy one I am now in. While I passed my time in so many occupations, and in a retirement, which might be compared to that of a nunnery, without being seen, as I imagined, by any one besides our own servants (because, when I went to mass, it was very early in the morning, and always in company with my mother, and some of the maid-servants, and I was so closely veiled and reserved, that my eyes scarcely saw more ground than the space I set my foot upon); it fell out, I say, notwithstanding all this, that the eyes of love, or rather of idleness, to which those of a lynx are not to be compared, discovered me through the industrious curiosity of Don Fernando; for that is the name of the Duke's younger son, whom I told you of."

She had no sooner named Don Fernando, than Cardenio's colour changed, and he began to sweat with such violent perturbation, that the Priest and the Barber, who perceived it, were afraid he was falling into one of the mad fits, to

which they had heard he was now and then subject. But Cardenio did nothing but sweat, and sat still, fixing his eyes most attentively on the country-maid, imagining, who she must be: she, taking no notice of the emotions of Cardenio, continued her story, saying:

“Scarcely had he seen me, when, as he afterwards declared, he fell desperately in love with me, as the proofs he then gave of it sufficiently evinced. But to shorten the account of my misfortunes, which are endless, I pass over in silence the diligence Don Fernando used in getting an opportunity to declare his passion to me. He bribed our whole family; he gave and offered presents, and did favours to several of my relations. Every day was a festival and day of rejoicing in our street: nobody could sleep in the night for serenades. Infinite were the billets-doux that came, I knew not how, to my hands, filled with amorous expressions, and offers of kindness, with more promises and oaths in them than letters. All which was so far from softening me, that I grew the more obdurate, as if he had been my mortal enemy, and all the measures, he took to bring me to his lure, had been designed for a quite contrary purpose; not that I disliked the gallantry of Don Fernando, or thought him too importunate; for it gave me, I know not what, secret satisfaction to see myself thus courted and respected by so considerable a cavalier, and

it was not disagreeable to me to find my own praises in his letters : for let us women be never so ill-favoured, I take it, we are always pleased to hear ourselves called handsome. But all this was opposed by my own virtue, together with the repeated good advice of my parents, who plainly saw through Don Fernando's design ; for, indeed, he took no pains to hide it from the world. My parents told me, that they reposed their credit and reputation in my virtue and integrity alone : they bid me consider the disproportion between me and Don Fernando, from whence I ought to conclude, that his thoughts, whatever he might say to the contrary, were more intent upon his own pleasure, than upon my good : and if I had a mind to throw an obstacle in the way of his designs, in order to make him desist from his unjust pretensions, they would marry me, they said, out of hand, to whomsoever I pleased, either of the chief of our town, or of the whole neighbourhood around us ; since their considerable wealth, and my good character, put it in their power easily to provide a suitable match for me. With this promise, and the truth of what they said, I fortified my virtue, and would never answer Don Fernando the least word, that might afford him the most distant hope of succeeding in his design. All this reserve of mine, which he ought to have taken for disdain, served rather to quicken his lascivious appetite ; for I cannot give a better

name to the passion he showed for me, which, had it been such as it ought, you would not now have known it, since there would have been no occasion for my giving you this account of it.

“At length Don Fernando discovered, that my parents were looking out for a match for me, in order to deprive him of all hope of gaining me, or at least were resolved to have me more narrowly watched. And this news, or suspicion, put him upon doing what you shall presently hear: which was, that, one night, as I was in my chamber, attended only by a maid, that waited upon me, the doors being fast locked, lest by any neglect my virtue might be endangered, without my knowing or imagining how, in the midst of all this care and precaution, and the solitude of this silence and recluseness, he stood before me; at seeing him I was struck blind and dumb, and had not power to cry out; nor do I believe he would have suffered me to have done it: for he instantly ran to me, and, taking me in his arms, for, as I said, I had no power to struggle, being in such confusion, he began to say such things, that one would think it impossible that falsehood should be able to frame them with such an appearance of truth. The traitor made his tears give credit to his words, and his sighs to his designs. I, an innocent girl, bred always at home, and not at all versed in affairs of this nature, began, I know

not how, to deem for true so many and so great falsities : not that his tears or sighs could move me to any criminal compassion. And so my first surprise being over, I began a little to recover my lost spirits ; and, with more courage than I thought I could have had, said : ‘ If, Sir, as I am between your arms, I were between the paws of a fierce lion, and my deliverance depended upon my doing or saying any thing to the prejudice of my virtue, it would be as impossible for me to do or say it, as it is impossible for that, which has been, not to have been : so that, though you hold my body confined between your arms, I hold my mind restrained within the bounds of virtuous inclinations, very different from yours, as you will see, if you proceed to use violence. I am your vassal, but not your slave : the nobility of your blood neither has, nor ought to have, the privilege to dishonour and insult the meanness of mine ; and though a country girl, and a farmer’s daughter, my reputation is as dear to me, as yours can be to you, who are a noble Cavalier. Your employing force will do little with me ; I set no value upon your riches ; your words cannot deceive me, nor can your sighs and tears mollify me. If I saw any of these things in a person, whom my parents should assign me for a husband, my will should conform itself to theirs, and not transgress the bounds, which they prescribed it. And therefore,

Sir, with the safety of my honour, though I sacrificed my private satisfaction, I might freely bestow on you, what you are now endeavouring to obtain by force. I have said all this, because I would not have you think, that any one, who is not my lawful husband, shall ever prevail on me.'

“ ‘ If that be all you require, most beautiful Dorothea’ (for that is the name of this unhappy woman), said the treacherous Cavalier, ‘ I here give you my hand to be yours, and let the Heavens, from which nothing is hidden, and this image of our Lady, you have here, be witnesses to this truth.’ ” When Cardenio heard her call herself Dorothea, he fell again into his disorder, and was thoroughly confirmed in his first opinion : but he would not interrupt the story, being desirous to hear the event of what he partly knew already ; only he said : “ What ! Madam, is your name Dorothea ? I have heard of one of the same name, whose misfortunes very much resemble yours. But proceed ; for some time or other I may tell you things, that will equally move your wonder and compassion.” Dorothea took notice of Cardenio’s words, and of his strange and tattered dress ; and desired him, if he knew any thing of her affairs, to tell it presently ; for if fortune had left her any thing, that was good, it was the courage she had to bear any disaster whatever, that might befall her, secure in this,

that none could possibly happen, that could in the least add to those she already endured. "Madam," replied Cardenio, "I would not be the means of destroying that courage in you, by telling you what I think, if what I imagine should be true; and hitherto there is no opportunity lost, nor is it of any importance, that you should know it as yet."—"Be that as it will," answered Dorothea; "I go on with my story. Don Fernando, taking the image that stood in the room, and placing it for a witness of our espousals, with all the solemnity of vows and oaths, gave me his word to be my husband; although I warned him, before he had done, to consider well what he was about, and the uneasiness it must needs give his father to see him married to a farmer's daughter, and his own vassal; and therefore he ought to beware, lest my beauty, such as it was, should blind him, since that would not be a sufficient excuse for his fault; and, if he intended me any good, I conjured him, by the love he bore me, that he would suffer my lot to fall equal to what my rank could pretend to; for such disproportionate matches are seldom happy, or continue long in that state of pleasure, with which they set out.

"All these reasons here recited, and many more, which I do not remember, I then urged to him; but they availed nothing towards making him desist from prosecuting his design; just as he,

who never intends to pay, hesitates at nothing in making a bargain. Upon that occasion I briefly reasoned thus with myself: 'Well! I shall not be the first, who, by the way of marriage, has risen from a low to an high condition, nor will Don Fernando be the first, whom beauty, or rather blind affection, has induced to take a wife beneath his quality. Since, then, I neither make a new world, nor a new custom, surely I may be allowed to accept this honour, which fortune throws in my way, even though the inclination he shows for me should last no longer than the accomplishment of his will; for, in short, in the sight of God, I shall be his wife. Besides, should I reject him with disdain, I see him prepared to set aside all sense of duty, and to have recourse to violence; and so I shall remain dishonoured, and without excuse, when I am censured by those, who do not know how innocently I came into this strait. For what reasons can be sufficient to persuade my parents, and others, that this Cavalier got into my apartment without my consent?' All these questions and answers I revolved in my imagination in an instant. But what principally inclined and drew me, thoughtless as I was, to my ruin, was, Don Fernando's oaths, the witnesses by which he swore, the tears he shed, and, in short, his genteel carriage and address, which, together with the many tokens he gave me of unfeigned love, might have capti-

vated any heart, though before as much disengaged, and as reserved, as mine. I called in my waiting-maid, to be a joint witness on earth with those in Heaven. Don Fernando repeated and confirmed his oaths. He attested new saints, and imprecated a thousand curses on himself, if he failed in the performance of his promise. The tears came again into his eyes; he redoubled his sighs, and pressed me closer between his arms, from which he had never once loosed me. And with this, and my maid's going again out of the room, I ceased to be one, and he became a traitor and perjured.

“The day, that succeeded the night of my misfortune, came on, but not so fast as, I believe, Don Fernando wished. For, after the accomplishment of our desires, the greatest pleasure is to get away from the place of enjoyment. I say this, because Don Fernando made haste to leave me; and by the diligence of the same maid, who had betrayed me, he got into the street before break of day. And, at parting, he said, though not with the same warmth and vehemency as at his coming, I might entirely depend upon his honour, and the truth and sincerity of his oaths: and, as a confirmation of his promise, he drew a ring of great value from his finger, and put it on mine. In short, he went away, and I remained, I know not whether sad or joyful: this I can truly say, that I remained con-

fused and thoughtful, and almost distracted at what had passed; and either I had no heart, or I forgot to chide my maid for the treachery she had been guilty of in conveying Don Fernando into my chamber; for, indeed, I had not yet determined with myself, whether what had befallen me was to my good or harm. I told Don Fernando, at parting, he might, if he pleased, since I was now his own, see me on other nights by the same method he had now taken, until he should be pleased to publish what was done to the world. But he came no more after the following night, nor could I get a sight of him in the street, or at church, in above a month, though I tired myself with looking after him in vain; and though I knew he was in the town, and that he went almost every day to hunt, an exercise he was very fond of. Those days and those hours, I too well remember, were sad and dismal ones to me; for in them I began to doubt, and at last to disbelieve, the fidelity of Don Fernando. I remember too, that I, then, made my damsel hear those reproofs for her presumption, which she had escaped before. I was forced to set a watch over my tears, and the air of my countenance, that I might avoid giving my parents occasion to inquire into the cause of my discontent, and laying myself under the necessity of inventing lies to deceive them. But all this was soon put an end to by an accident, which bore down

all respect and regard to my reputation, which deprived me of all patience, and exposed my most secret thoughts on the public stage of the world: it was this. Some few days after, a report was spread in the town, that Don Fernando was married, in a neighbouring city, to a young lady of extreme beauty, and whose parents were of considerable quality, but not so rich, that her dowry might make her aspire to so noble an alliance. Her name, it was said, was Lucinda, and many strange things were reported to have happened at their wedding."

Cardenio heard the name of Lucinda, but did nothing more than shrug up his shoulders, bite his lips, arch his brows, and soon after let fall two streams of tears from his eyes. Dorothea did not, however, discontinue her story, but went on, saying: "This sad news soon reached my ears; and my heart, instead of being chilled at hearing it, was so incensed and inflamed with rage and anger, that I could scarcely forbear running out into the streets, crying out and publishing aloud, how basely and treacherously I had been used. But this fury was moderated, for the present, by a resolution I took, and executed that very night; which was, to put myself into this garb, which was given me by one of those, who, in farmers' houses, are called swains, to whom I discovered my whole misfortune, and begged of him to accompany me to the city, where I was

informed my enemy then was. He, finding me bent upon my design, after he had condemned the rashness of my undertaking, and blamed my resolution, offered himself to bear me company, as he expressed it, to the end of the world. I immediately put up in a pillow-case, a woman's dress, with some jewels and money, to provide against whatever might happen: and in the dead of that very night, without letting my treacherous maid into the secret, I left our house accompanied only by my servant, and a thousand anxious thoughts, and took the way, that led to the town, on foot; the desire of getting thither adding wings to my flight, that, if I could not prevent what I concluded was already done, I might at least demand of Don Fernando, with what conscience he had done it. In two days and a half I arrived at the place, and, going into the town, I inquired where Lucinda's father lived; and the first person I addressed myself to answered me more than I desired to hear. He told me, where I might find the house, and related to me the whole story of what had happened at the young lady's wedding; all which was so public in the town, that the people assembled in every street to talk of it. He told me, that on the night Don Fernando was married to Lucinda, after she had pronounced the *Yes*, by which she became his wedded wife, she fell into a swoon; and the bridegroom, in unclasping her bosom to give her air, found a

paper written with Lucinda's own hand, in which she affirmed and declared, that she could not be wife to Don Fernando, because she was already Cardenio's, who, as the man told me, was a very considerable Cavalier of the same town, and that she had given her consent to Don Fernando, merely in obedience to her parents. In short, the paper gave them to understand, that she designed killing herself as soon as the ceremony was over, and contained likewise her reasons for so doing : all which, they say, was confirmed by a poignard, they found about her, in some part of her clothes. Don Fernando, seeing all this, and concluding himself deluded, mocked, and despised by Lucinda, made at her, before she recovered from her fainting fit, and, with the same poignard that was found, endeavoured to stab her ; and had certainly done it, if her parents and the rest of the company had not prevented him. They said farther, that Don Fernando immediately absented himself, and that Lucinda did not come to herself, until the next day, when she confessed to her parents, that she was really wife to the Cavalier aforesaid. I learned, moreover, it was rumoured, that Cardenio was present at the ceremony, and on seeing her married, which he could never have thought, he went out of the town in despair, leaving behind him a written paper, in which he set forth at large the wrong Lucinda had done him, and

his resolution of going, where human eyes should never more behold him. All this was public and notorious over the town, and in every body's mouth; but the talk increased, when it was known, that Lucinda also was missing from her father's house; at which her parents were almost distracted, not knowing what means to use, in order to find her. This news rallied my scattered hopes, and I was better pleased not to find Don Fernando, than to have found him married, flattering himself, that the door to my relief was not quite shut; and hoping that, possibly, Heaven might have laid this impediment in the way of his second marriage, to reduce him to a sense of what he owed to the first; and to make him reflect, that he was a Christian, and obliged to have more regard to his soul, than to any worldly considerations. All these things I revolved in my imagination, and, having no real consolation, comforted myself with framing some faint and distant hopes, in order to support a life I now abhor.

“ Being, then, in the town, without knowing what to do with myself, since I did not find Don Fernando, I heard a public crier promising a great reward to any one, who should find me, describing my age and the very dress I wore. And, as I heard, it was reported, that I was run away from my father's house with the young fellow, that attended me: a thing, which struck me to the very soul, to see how low my credit was

sunk ; as if it was not enough to say, that I was gone off, but it must be added with whom, and he too a person so much below me, and so unworthy of my better inclinations. At the instant I heard the crier, I went out of the town with my servant, who already began to discover some signs of staggering in his promised fidelity ; and that night we got into the thickest of this mountain, for fear of being found. But, as it is commonly said, that one evil calls upon another, and that the end of one disaster is the beginning of a greater, so it befell me ; for my good servant, until then faithful and trusty, seeing me in this desert place, and incited by his own baseness rather than by any beauty of mine, resolved to lay hold of the opportunity this solitude seemed to afford him ; and, with little shame, and less fear of God, or respect to his mistress, began to make love to me : but, finding that I answered him with such language as the impudence of his attempt deserved, he laid aside entreaties, by which, at first, he hoped to succeed, and began to use force. But just Heaven, that seldom or never fails to regard and favour righteous intentions, favoured mine in such a manner, that, with the little strength I had, and without much difficulty, I pushed him down a precipice, where I left him, I know not whether alive or dead. And then, with more nimbleness than could be expected from my surprise and weariness, I en-

tered into this desert mountain, without any other thought or design than to hide myself here from my father, and others, who, by his order, were in search after me. It is I know not how many months since, with this design, I came hither, where I met with a shepherd, who took me for his servant to a place in the very midst of these rocks. I served him, all this time, as a shepherd's boy, endeavouring to be always abroad in the field, the better to conceal my hair, which has now so unexpectedly discovered me. But all my care and solitude were to no purpose; for my master at length discovered that I was not a man, and the same wicked thoughts sprung up in his breast, that had possessed my servant. But, as fortune does not always with the difficulty present the remedy, and as I had now no rock nor precipice to rid me of the master, as before of the servant, I thought it more advisable to leave him, and hide myself once more among these brakes and cliffs, than to venture a trial of my strength or dissuasions with him. I say then, I again betook myself to these deserts, where, without molestation, I might beseech Heaven, with sighs and tears, to have pity on my disconsolate state, and either to assist me with ability to struggle through it, or to put an end to my life among these solitudes, where no memory might remain of this wretched creature, who, without any fault of

hers, has ministered matter to be talked of, and censured, in her own and in other countries.

CHAP. XXIX.

WHICH TREATS OF THE BEAUTIFUL DOROTHEA'S DISCRETION, WITH OTHER VERY INCENIOUS AND ENTERTAINING PARTICULARS.

“**T**HIS, Gentlemen, is the true history of my tragedy: see now, and judge, whether you might not reasonably have expected more sighs than those you have listened to, more words than those you have heard, and more tears than have yet flowed from my eyes: and, the quality of my misfortune considered, you will perceive, that all counsel is in vain, since a remedy is no where to be found. All I desire of you is, what with ease you can and ought to do, that you would advise me, where I may pass my life, without the continual dread and apprehension of being discovered by those, who are searching after me; for, though I know I may depend upon the great love of my parents toward me for a kind reception, yet so great is the shame, that overwhelms me, at the bare thought of appearing before them not such as they expected, that I choose rather to banish myself for ever from their sight, than to behold their face under the thought, that they see mine estranged from that integrity they had good reason to promise themselves from me.”

Here she held her peace, and her face was overspread with such a colour, as plainly discovered the concern and shame of her soul. The hearers felt in theirs no less pity than admiration at her misfortune. The Priest was just going to administer to her some present comfort and counsel: but Cardenio prevented him, saying: "It seems then, Madam, you are the beautiful Dorothea, only daughter of the rich Clenardo." Dorothea was surprised at hearing her father's name, and to see what a sorry figure he made, who named him; for we have already taken notice how poorly Cardenio was apparelled: and she said to him: "Pray, Sir, who are you, that are so well acquainted with my father's name; for, to this minute, if I remember right, I have not mentioned his name in the whole series of the account of my misfortune?"—"I am," answered Cardenio, "that unfortunate person, whom, according to your relation, Lucinda owned to be her husband. I am the unhappy Cardenio, whom the base actions of him, who has reduced you to the state you are in, have brought to the pass you see, to be thus ragged, naked, destitute of all human comfort, and, what is worst of all, deprived of reason; for I enjoy it only, when Heaven is pleased to bestow it on me for some short interval. I, Dorothea, am he, who was an eye-witness of the wrong Don Fernando did me; he, who waited to hear the fatal *Yes*, by which Lu-

Lucinda confirmed herself his wife. I am he, who had not the courage to stay, and see what would be the consequence of her swooning, nor what followed the discovery of the paper in her bosom: for my soul could not bear such accumulated misfortunes: and therefore I abandoned the house and my patience together; and, leaving a letter with my host, whom I entreated to deliver it into Lucinda's own hands, I betook myself to these solitudes, with a resolution of ending here my life, which, from that moment, I abhorred as my mortal enemy. But fate would not deprive me of it, contenting itself with depriving me of my senses, perhaps to preserve me for the good fortune I have had in meeting with you; and, as I have no reason to doubt of the truth of what you have related, Heaven, perhaps, may have reserved us both for a better issue out of our misfortunes than we think. For, since Lucinda cannot marry Don Fernando, because she is mine, as she has publicly declared, nor Don Fernando Lucinda, because he is yours, there is still room for us to hope, that Heaven will restore to each of us our own, since it is not yet alienated, nor past recovery. And, since we have this consolation, not arising from very distant hopes, nor founded in extravagant conceits, I entreat you, Madam, to entertain other resolutions in your honourable thoughts, as I intend to do in mine, preparing yourself to expect better fortune. For

I swear to you upon the faith of a Cavalier and a Christian, not to forsake you, until I see you in possession of Don Fernando, and if I cannot, by fair means, persuade him to acknowledge, what he owes to you, then to take the liberty, allowed me as a gentleman, of calling him to an account with my sword for the wrong, he has done you; without reflecting on the injuries done to myself, the revenge of which I leave to Heaven, that I may the sooner redress yours on earth."

Dorothea was quite amazed at what Cardenio said; and, not knowing what thanks to return him for such great and generous offers, she would have thrown herself at his feet, to have kissed them; but Cardenio would by no means suffer her. The Licentiate answered for them both, and approved of Cardenio's generous resolution, and, above all things, besought and advised them to go with him to his village, where they might furnish themselves with whatever they wanted, and there consult how to find Don Fernando, or to carry back Dorothea to her parents, or do whatever they thought most expedient. Cardenio and Dorothea thanked him, and accepted of the favour he offered them. The Barber, who all this time had stood silent and in suspense, paid also his compliment, and, with no less good will than the Priest, made them an offer of whatever was in his power for their service,

He told them also, briefly, the cause that brought them thither, with the strange madness of Don Quixote, and that they were then waiting for his Squire, who was gone to seek him. Cardenio hereupon remembered, as if it had been a dream, the quarrel he had with Don Quixote, which he related to the company, but could not recollect whence it arose.

At this instant they heard a voice, and, knowing it to be Sancho Panza's, who, not finding them where he had left them, was calling as loud as he could to them; they went forward to meet him, and asking him after Don Quixote, he told them, that he had found him naked to his shirt, feeble, wan, and half dead with hunger, and sighing for his Lady Dulcinea; and though he had told him, that she laid her commands on him to come out from that place, and repair to Toboso, where she expected him, his answer was, that he was determined not to appear before her beauty, until he had performed exploits, that might render him worthy of her favour: and, if his master persisted in that humour, he would run a risk of never becoming an Emperor, as he was in honour bound to be, nor even an Archbishop, which was the least he could be: therefore they should consider, what was to be done to get him from that place. The Licentiate bid him be in no pain about that matter; for they would get him away, whether he would or no.

He then recounted to Cardenio and Dorothea what they had contrived for Don Quixote's cure, or at least for decoying him to his own house. Upon which Dorothea said, she would undertake to act the distressed damsel better than the Barber, especially since she had there a woman's apparel, with which she could do it to the life; and they might leave it to her to perform what was necessary for carrying on their design, she having read many books of chivalry, and being well acquainted with the style the distressed damsels were wont to use, when they begged their boons of their Knights-errant. "Then there needs no more," said the Priest, "to put the design immediately in execution: for, doubtless, fortune declares in our favour, since she has begun so unexpectedly to open a door for your relief, and furnished us so easily with what we stood in need of." Dorothea presently took out of her bundle a petticoat of very rich stuff, and a mantle of fine green silk; and out of a casket, a necklace, and other jewels, with which, in an instant, she adorned herself in such a manner, that she had all the appearance of a rich and great lady. All these, and more, she said, she had brought from home, to provide against what might happen; but until then she had had no occasion to make use of them. They were all highly delighted with the gracefulness of her person, the gaiety of her disposition, and her beauty; and they

agreed, that Don Fernando must be a man of little judgment or taste, who could slight so much excellence. But he, who admired most, was Sancho Panza, who thought, and it was really so, that in all the days of his life, he had never seen so beautiful a creature; and therefore he earnestly desired the Priest to tell him, who that extraordinary beautiful Lady was, and what she was looking for in those parts. "This beautiful Lady, friend Sancho," answered the Priest, "is, to say the least of her, heiress in the direct male line of the great kingdom of Micomicon; and she comes in quest of your Master, to beg a boon of him, which is, to redress her a wrong or injury done her by a wicked giant: for it is the fame of your Master's prowess, which is spread all over Guinea, that has brought this Princess to seek him."—"Now, a happy seeking, and a happy finding," quoth Sancho Panza, "and especially if my Master prove so fortunate as to redress that injury, and right that wrong, by killing that whoreson giant you mention; and kill him he certainly will, if he encounters him, unless he be a goblin; for my Master has no power at all over goblins. But one thing, among others, I would beg of your Worship, Signor Licentiate, which is, that you would not let my Master take it into his head to be an Archbishop, which is what I fear, but that you would advise him to marry this Princess out of hand, and then

he will be disqualified to receive archiepiscopal orders; and so he will come with ease to his kingdom, and I to the end of my wishes: for I have considered the matter well, and find, by my account, it will not be convenient for me, that my Master should be an Archbishop; for I am unfit for the church, as being a married man: and for me to be now going about to procure dispensations for holding church-livings, having, as I have, a wife and children, would be an endless piece of work. So that, Sir, the whole business rests upon my Master's marrying this lady out of hand. I do not yet know her Grace, and therefore do not call her by her name."—"She is called," replied the Priest, "the Princess Micomicona: for her kingdom being called Micomicon, it is clear she must be called so."—"There is no doubt of that," answered Sancho; "for I have known many take their title and surname from the place of their birth, as, Pedro de Alcala, John de Ubeda, Diego de Valladolid; and, for aught I know, it may be the custom, yonder in Guinea, for Queens to take the names of their kingdoms."—"It is certainly so," said the Priest; "and, as to your Master's marrying, I will promote it to the utmost of my power." With which assurance Sancho rested as well satisfied, as the Priest was amazed at his simplicity; and to see how strongly the same absurdities were riveted in his fancy as in his Master's,

since he could so firmly persuade himself, that Don Quixote would, one time or other, come to be an Emperor.

By this time Dorothea had got upon the Priest's mule, and the Barber had fitted on the ox-tail beard; and they bid Sancho conduct them to the place, where Don Quixote was, cautioning him not to say he knew the Licentiate or the Barber, for that the whole stress of his Master's coming to be an Emperor depended upon his not seeming to know them. Neither the Priest nor Cardenio would go with them; the latter, that he might not put Don Quixote in mind of the quarrel he had with him; and the Priest, because his presence was not then necessary: and therefore they let the others go on before, and followed them fair and softly on foot. The Priest would have instructed Dorothea in her part; who said, they need give themselves no trouble about that, for she would perform all to a tittle, according to the rules and precepts of the books of chivalry.

They had gone about three quarters of a league, when, among some intricate rocks, they discovered Don Quixote, by this time clothed, but not armed: and as soon as Dorothea espied him, and was informed by Sancho that was his Master, she whipped on her palfrey, being attended by the well-bearded Barber; and, when she was come up to Don Quixote, the Squire threw himself

off his mule, and went to take down Dorothea in his arms, who, alighting briskly, went and kneeled at Don Quixote's feet: and, though he strove to raise her up, she, without getting up, addressed him in this manner:

“ I will never arise from this place, O valorous and redoubted Knight, until your goodness and courtesy vouchsafe me a boon, which will redound to the honour and glory of your person, and to the weal of the most disconsolate and aggrieved damsel the sun has ever beheld. And if it be so, that the valour of your puissant arm be correspondent to the voice of your immortal fame, you are obliged to protect an unhappy wight, who is come from regions so remote, led by the odour of your renowned name, to seek at your hands a remedy for her misfortunes.”—“ I will not answer you a word, fair Lady,” replied Don Quixote, “ nor will I hear a jot more of your business, until you arise from the ground.”—“ I will not arise, Signor,” answered the afflicted damsel, “ if, by your courtesy, the boon I beg be not first vouchsafed me.”—“ I do vouchsafe, and grant it you,” answered Don Quixote, “ provided my compliance therewith be of no detriment or disservice to my King, my country, or her, who keeps the key of my heart and liberty.”—“ It will not be to the prejudice or disservice of any of these, dear Sir,” replied the doleful damsel. And, as she was saying this, Sancho

Panza approached his Master's ear, and said to him softly: "Your Worship, Sir, may very safely grant the boon she asks; for it is a mere trifle; only to kill a great lubberly giant: and she, who begs it, is the mighty Princess Micomicona, Queen of the great kingdom of Micomicon in Æthiopia."—"Let her be who she will," answered Don Quixote, "I shall do what is my duty, and what my conscience dictates, in conformity to the rules of my profession." And, turning himself to the damsel, he said: "Fair-est Lady, arise; for I vouchsafe you, whatever boon you ask."—"Then what I ask," said the damsel, "is, that your magnanimous person will go with me, whither I will conduct you; and that you will promise me not to engage in any other adventure, or comply with any other demand whatever, until you have avenged me on a traitor, who, against all right, human and divine, has usurped my kingdom."—"I repeat it, that I grant your request," answered Don Quixote; "and therefore, Lady, from this day forward, shake off the melancholy, that disturbs you, and let your fainting hopes recover fresh force and spirits: for, by the help of God, and of my arm, you shall soon see yourself restored to your kingdom, and seated on the throne of your ancient and high estate, in despite of all the miscreants, that shall oppose it: and therefore all hands to the work; for the danger, they say, lies in the

delay." The distressed damsel would fain have kissed his hands; but Don Quixote, who was in every thing a most gallant and courteous Knight, would by no means consent to it, but, making her arise, embraced her with much politeness and respect, and ordered Sancho to get Rozinante ready, and to help him on with his armour instantly. Sancho took down the arms, which were hung like a trophy on a tree, and, having got Rozinante ready, helped his master on with his armour in an instant; who, finding himself armed, said: "Let us go hence, in God's name, to succour this great Lady." The Barber was still kneeling, and had enough to do to forbear laughing, and to keep his beard from falling, which, had it happened, would probably have occasioned the miscarriage of their ingenious device: and seeing that the boon was already granted, and with what alacrity Don Quixote prepared himself to accomplish it, he got up, and took his Lady by the other hand; and thus, between them both, they set her upon the mule. Don Quixote immediately mounted Rozinante, and the Barber settled himself upon his beast, Sancho remaining on foot; which renewed his grief for the loss of his Dapple: but he bore it cheerfully, because he thought, that his Master was now in the right road, and just upon the point, of being an Emperor: for he made no doubt, that he was to marry that Princess, and be at least