

“ pines, and assuring me of his entire
 “ and cheerful concurrence with my
 “ wishes. He concluded with desiring
 “ me to hasten my departure as soon as
 “ possible after the celebration of my
 “ nuptials, as he was desirous of pro-
 “ nouncing his benediction on us both
 “ before his death, which from his
 “ declining state, and from several
 “ symptoms in his case, he said, he
 “ was inclined to believe was at no
 “ great distance.

“ The information I had received
 “ of my father’s dangerous state of
 “ health alarmed and affected me ex-
 “ ceedingly; and the remembrance of
 “ his condescending indulgence, his
 “ paternal affection, and his earnest
 “ solicitude for my happiness, awakened
 “ at once all my tenderness and grief
 “ at

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“ at the thoughts of losing a parent
 “ who was so justly dear to me. I imme-
 “ diately communicated the letter I had
 “ received to Selima, who participated
 “ in my sorrow, and we agreed to defer
 “ the celebration of our marriage till after
 “ our arrival at Kerman, for which in
 “ two days we set out, accompanied with
 “ Mortiza Cauli, the brother of Selima,
 “ who agreed to accompany us on our
 “ journey. We travelled for several days
 “ with great expedition, and without
 “ meeting with any remarkable accident;
 “ but when we were within two days
 “ journey of Kerman, I received the
 “ melancholy account of my father’s
 “ death. This intimation renewed my
 “ grief for the loss of so kind and so
 “ worthy a parent; which however
 “ was greatly mitigated by the tender
 “ and soothing sympathy of Selima,
 “ whole

“ whose endearing society could alone
“ comfort me under the affliction I had
“ sustained. After receiving this
“ melancholy news, I hastened along
“ with Selima and her brother to Ker-
“ man, in order to pay the last duty to
“ the memory of the deceased, whose
“ urn I bedewed with the tears of un-
“ feigned sorrow. Having spent the
“ usual time in mourning, and having
“ given vent to the emotions of nature
“ in the genuine expressions of heart-
“ felt grief, for the loss of a parent whom
“ I equally revered and loved, I
“ recovered by degrees my former
“ tranquillity, and began to think
“ of accomplishing that union with
“ Selima, the prospect of which con-
“ stituted the chief happiness of my
“ life. But let those in whose memories
“ is registered the series of my misfor-
“ tunes,

“tunes, learn from these the instability
“of human happiness, which, though
“heedless mortals fancy to be solid
“and permanent as the strong based
“promontory of the Hellespont, that
“stands unshaken amidst the roar
“and dashing of the waves of the
“Archipelago, is tottering as the broken
“fragment of a tower which falls
“from the ruined domes of Palmyra
“on the head of the unhappy traveller,
“and instantly crushes him to pieces.
“I was just upon the point of effectuating this long-desired union, when
“an accident fell out, which blasted
“the blossoms of my hope, and involved us all in a train of misfortunes which were equally severe and
“irremediable.

“Savi

“ Savi Mustapha, the father of Abbaf-
“ fah, having heard that I brought a
“ young lady along with me, and pro-
“ bably having heard that I intended
“ to marry her as soon as the time of
“ mourning for my father was expired,
“ wrote me a letter, intimating that my
“ father had entered into a treaty of
“ marriage betwixt his daughter and
“ me, and had engaged that it should
“ be fulfilled on my part upon my re-
“ turn to my native country; that he
“ supposed I had been acquainted of,
“ and had concurred with the views of
“ the deceased, and that he hoped to
“ find me as ardently desirous as my
“ father had been, of contracting an
“ alliance which was equally creditable
“ and advantageous to both parties,
“ and which would unite their families
“ in

“ in the bonds of consanguinity and
 “ friendship.

“ This proposal, it may easily be
 “ imagined, could make no impression
 “ on the mind of one who was wholly
 “ devoted to Selima, and whom all the
 “ gold of Golconda and the diadem of
 “ Persia could not have tempted to
 “ have relinquished the object of his
 “ choice. I had a curiosity however
 “ to try its effect on Selima, and taking
 “ her aside, put the letter into her
 “ hand, desiring her to read it. After
 “ perusing the letter she returned it,
 “ casting upon me at the same time
 “ a tender, pensive, and dejected look ;
 “ which at once expressed affection,
 “ timidity, and a sense of dependence
 “ accompanied with a certain delicacy
 “ of sentiment which seemed to restrain
 “ her

“ her from exerting the influence she
“ possessed to secure the empire of
“ my heart. I felt myself thrilled with
“ her look; but desirous of trying her
“ still farther, “ What, said, I does
“ my Selima think of this letter?”
“ The question seemed to surprize her
“ a good deal, and threw her into the
“ most lovely confusion and embarrass-
“ ment; recovering herself however
“ a little; “ What, replies she, is
“ Rehedi’s own opinion of it? The
“ proposed match appears to me,
“ added she, to be too advantageous
“ to be rejected by an ambitious young
“ man, who, by such an alliance, has
“ it in his power to increase his for-
“ tune and aggrandize his family at
“ once.” “ And does Selima wish,
“ said I, that I should pursue the path
“ of ambition by the means she has
“ sug-

“ suggested?” Selima rejoined, “ The
“ lovely maid forms no other wish
“ with respect to Rhedi, but that
“ he may follow the bent of his own
“ inclinations, and consult his own
“ happiness without any regard to her,
“ who, if he is happier in the possession
“ of Abbassah than of Selima, will
“ return with her brother to her native
“ country, putting up her ardent vows
“ to heaven for a continuance of hap-
“ piness to one whom she once tenderly
“ loved, and whom, alas! perhaps she
“ may never be able to forget:” At these
“ words the tear started into her eye,
“ and trickled down her cheek. I
“ was unable to contain myself longer;
“ clasping her therefore to my bosom
“ in an ecstasy of tenderness and rapture,
“ forgive, said I, dearest creature, the
“ artifice I made use of to try the
“ strength

“ strength and delicacy of thy affection,
“ which was not suggested by any
“ doubt of its reality, but by a curiosity
“ I felt to explore its effects. Be assured
“ of it, thou sole unrivalled mistress
“ of my heart, that were all the treasures
“ and kingdoms of the world laid at
“ my feet, and all the beauties of the
“ universe ranged before me for my
“ selection, the possession of all these
“ could never alienate my constant
“ heart from thee, in whom all my
“ wishes center and in whom alone my
“ felicity is complete.

“ After we had both given vent for
“ sometime to the most pleasing emotions
“ that the human heart is susceptible
“ of, Selima expressed her apprehen-
“ sions, lest I should shock and offend
“ the pride of one of the most potent
“ beglerbegs

“ beglerbegs of Persia, by declining a
 “ match which had been under delibe-
 “ ration betwixt him and my father,
 “ and was now proposed by Savi
 “ Mustapha himself. In order to
 “ remove her apprehensions therefore
 “ as much as possible, I promised to
 “ write to him in the most prudent and
 “ respectful manner ; for though I had
 “ reason to believe that he could scarce
 “ expect that I should conclude a
 “ match which, he himself knew, I
 “ was brought under no obligation
 “ to from any engagement of my
 “ father, and which, *considering the
 “ attachment I was known to have to
 “ Selima, he must have been convinced
 “ I ~~w~~ould be utterly averse to ; and
 “ though I had likewise reason to
 “ believe, that in these circumstances
 “ the principal motive of Savi Musta-
 “ pha

“ pha, in proposing the match, could
“ only be to obtain from my refusal a
“ pretext for quarrelling with me; yet
“ I thought it was in every respect
“ the wisest course to avoid, if possi-
“ ble, exasperating a man, who might,
“ in the friendless and unsupported
“ state I was now in, have it in his
“ power to subject me to the severest
“ hardships. I wrote him therefore that
“ I was extremely sensible of the
“ honour he intended me by the alliance
“ he proposed, of which I should ever
“ retain the most grateful remembrance;
“ but that I should be utterly unwor-
“ thy of his esteem and friendship, if
“ I accepted of his proposal by giving
“ my hand where it was not possible
“ for me to bestow my heart. I ob-
“ served that our affections were not
“ in our own power, that mine were

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already

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“ already unalterably fixed on a lady
 “ whom I had brought with me from
 “ her native country, and that I could
 “ not violate these engagements with-
 “ out being guilty at the same time of
 “ a breach of the most sacred ties of
 “ love, honour, and gratitude. I con-
 “ cluded with wishing his daughter a
 “ husband more worthy of her, and
 “ who could return her affection with
 “ equal sincerity and ardour; begging
 “ he would excuse me for declining a
 “ match, which I was perfectly consci-
 “ ous would have been equally credit-
 “ able and advantageous, could I have
 “ accepted of his generous offer con-
 “ sistently with the dictates of fidelity
 “ and honour. This answer, though
 “ sufficiently soothing and respectful,
 “ greatly shocked the pride and in-
 “ flamed the resentment of the haughty
 “ beg-

“ beglerbeg, who, as I have already
 “ observed, seemed only to want a
 “ pretext for quarrelling with me;
 “ and indeed he soon made me feel
 “ the weight of his resentment, by
 “ bringing upon me a series of calami-
 “ ties, that were as unexpected as they
 “ were severe.

“ The grand Vizier Aman Ola,
 “ who was the friend and patron of
 “ Savi Mustapha, was at that time on
 “ a tour through the southern depart-
 “ ment of Persia, under a pretence of
 “ redressing the grievances which had
 “ been complained of, and settling the
 “ commotions that had been raised,
 “ though in fact the sole intent of his
 “ expedition was to discover the authors
 “ of the opposition that had been
 “ made to his own tyrannical admini-
 “ stration,

“ stration, that he might contrive the
“ means of cutting them off while
“ Aman Ola was at Kerman: he lodged
“ in the house of Savi Mustapha,
“ who took that opportunity of repre-
“ senting me to the Vizier as disaffected
“ to his administration, informing him
“ at the same time that my father had
“ left me an opulent fortune, which
“ might easily be confiscated and appli-
“ ed to his own use, upon a pretence
“ of its being acquired by fraud and
“ oppression. Nothing more was
“ wanting to make the Vizier enter into
“ this scheme, than to hear that, by
“ the success of it, he could not fail
“ very considerably to increase his over-
“ grown fortune; accordingly, actuated
“ as he was at once by two of the
“ most powerful springs of human con-
“ duct, avarice and revenge, he instantly
“ commenced

“ commenced a suit in the name of
“ the emperor his master against me,
“ upon an allegation of my father’s
“ fortune being acquired by injustice;
“ and having suborned witnesses in
“ concert with Savi Mustapha to prove
“ the facts he alledged, I was instantly
“ bereaved of my paternal estate
“ under the colour of law, though
“ that estate was the reward of honest
“ industry and frugality, and was
“ earned by my father with the
“ general esteem and good-will of the
“ inhabitants of the province in which
“ he resided.

“ Merciful Allah! exclaimed Amur,
“ how long wilt thou suffer that mon-
“ ster of wickedness to triumph in his
“ crimes? Is not the measure of his
“ iniquities yet full? Surely thou hast

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“ destined him, as thou dost plagues
 “ and earthquakes, to be thine instru-
 “ ment for inflicting punishment on
 “ the children of men? But why dost
 “ thou permit the innocent to suffer
 “ with the guilty? Why should the
 “ worthy and the good be subjected
 “ to the persecution of a wretch whom
 “ his flagitiousness has rendered an
 “ object of general detestation and
 “ abhorrence?

“ What you have heard,” resumed
 Rhedi, “ is but a small part of that
 “ series of calamity which I have been
 “ doomed to endure; the remaining
 “ part will draw the tear of pity from
 “ the humid eye, and make the sym-
 “ pathetic bosom heave with the sigh
 “ of sorrow.—The malicious Savi
 “ Mustapha, and his cruel accomplice
 “ in

“ in villainy, not contented with strip-
“ ping me of all my paternal inheri-
“ tance, meditated a much severer
“ blow against me than poverty or
“ death itself, by ravishing from me
“ the sole delight of my heart, my
“ dear Selima, for whom alone I
“ wished to live; which was effec-
“ tuated with such violence and out-
“ rage as I yet shudder to relate. I
“ was so aware of the danger of di-
“ vulging a report concerning Selima’s
“ beauty while we were unmarried, and
“ so much afraid of her being gazed
“ at with the eye of desire, that I had
“ prevailed with her to continue veiled,
“ both in the presence of our sex and
“ of her own. It happened however
“ unfortunately, that a maid, whom
“ Selima had brought along with her
“ from Georgia, having one day taken

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“ occasion, without any design, to cele-
 “ brate the charms of her mistress be-
 “ fore some of the servants of Savi
 “ Mustapha, with whom she had got
 “ acquainted, one of them repeated to
 “ his master the report he had heard
 “ of Selima’s beauty. Mustapha took
 “ an opportunity of mentioning to the
 “ Vizier what he had heard; and both
 “ of them, stimulated partly by curio-
 “ sity, and partly by resentment, con-
 “ curred in a resolution, without any
 “ ceremony, of tearing off her veil by
 “ violence; and if she answered to the
 “ description which had been given of
 “ her, of carrying her off by force.
 “ In order to gratify their brutal cu-
 “ riosity, of obtaining a sight of Selima,
 “ they bribed a maid-servant who
 “ came along with her from Teflis,
 “ but who was ignorant of their real
 “ design,

“ design, to admit them, by a private
 “ door, into a garden at the back of
 “ my father’s house, at a certain
 “ hour, when they knew she usually
 “ walked there; and having observed
 “ her from an eminence at some dis-
 “ tance, which overlooked the garden,
 “ reposing herself on a sloping bank
 — “ near the door at which they were to
 “ enter, along with the maid who
 “ usually attended her, they repaired
 “ immediately to the door, and turning
 “ the bolt softly, entered without ob-
 “ servation, leaving a guard to rescue
 “ them in case of danger, or to assist
 “ them in carrying off their prize; then
 “ tripping up quickly, but with as
 “ little noise as possible, to Selima,
 “ whose back happened to be turned
 “ towards them, Mustapha tore the
 “ veil from her face, before she sus-
 “ pected any danger; and the unhappy

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“ fair one, whose mind was thrown
“ into a wild flutter of astonishment
“ and terror by the indignity that had
“ been shewn her, giving a loud shriek,
“ which was heard by her brother and
“ me from the house, we both started
“ up in an instant, and snatching our
“ swords hastily, ran to the place
“ where we heard the voice. You
“ may judge of the emotion I felt (for
“ it is impossible to describe it) when,
“ upon my coming up to the spot, to
“ which we were directed by the pier-
“ cing screams of Selima and her
“ maid, whose voices by this time we
“ began to recognize, I saw the dear
“ object of my affections in the arms
“ of my greatest enemy, and violently
“ dragged away by the Vizier and
“ Savi Mustapha, who were protected
“ in their infamous enterprize by the
“ guard

“ guard which had been posted at the
“ door, but which had now entered
“ the garden, in consequence of a con-
“ certed signal that had been given
“ them, in order to assist in carrying
“ off Selima, and to defend them from
“ any assault that might be made
“ upon them while they were exe-
“ cuting their design. Roused to the
“ utmost pitch of resentment and fury,
“ I sprung upon the wretches who had
“ committed this outrage, like a bear
“ robbed of her whelps, and directing
“ my vengeance in the first place against
“ Mustapha, whom I considered as the
“ author of it, I plunged my sword in
“ an instant into his heart, and laid
“ him dead at my feet. Mortiza
“ Couli, actuated by the same passions
“ of grief and rage with which I was
“ agitated, rushed at once into the
D 6 “ midst

“ midst of the guard ; two of whom
 “ he dispatched with his sword ; but
 “ alas ! the brave unhappy youth, in
 “ attempting to save his sister’s honour,
 “ lost his own life ; for as he was aim-
 “ ing a blow at the Vizier, he re-
 “ ceived a mortal wound in the breast
 “ from one of his attendants, and ex-
 “ pired in a few minutes upon the
 “ spot. The Vizier seeing Mortiza
 “ Couli fall by the wound he had re-
 “ ceived, called to the rest of his
 “ guard to take and disarm me, if pos-
 “ sible ; and two of them having, be-
 “ fore I was aware, got hold of both
 “ my arms, they all immediately
 “ closed upon me, and having dis-
 “ armed and bound me, I was sent
 “ without delay to a strong prison,
 “ where the Vizier ordered I should be
 “ confined till his further pleasure
 “ should

“ should be known. When I perceived
 “ myself in the power of my enemies,
 “ and that I was going instantly to be
 “ separated from Selima, and probably
 “ for ever, all the passions which can
 “ agitate and tear the human heart
 “ arose in my mind at once.--Love, rage,
 “ jealousy, hatred, terror, and despair
 “ alternately reigned and mingled with
 “ each other in my soul, in their utmost
 “ fury, and produced a conflict, whose
 “ violence roused me to phrenzy, and
 “ almost terminated in my dissolution.
 “ I roared with the intolerable anguish
 “ which wrung my heart; I exclaimed,
 “ I adjured, I implored, I threatened,
 “ I imprecated the vengeance of hea-
 “ ven on the barbarous wretch who
 “ was the cause of this cruel separation;
 “ but all was in vain; I was carried
 “ away violently to prison; and as I
 “ was

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“ was dragged along, I continued
 “ looking behind me, and calling upon
 “ the name of Selima, till my cries
 “ could no more be heard. I was
 “ thrown into a dungeon, dark and
 “ dismal as the mansions of the grave,
 “ where I lay in an agony of grief, that
 “ tortured my soul, and consumed my
 “ life. For some time I continued
 “ abandoned to the most dreadful and
 “ cruel despair, arraigning the justice
 “ of Providence, upon account of the
 “ calamities to which I was subjected ;
 “ but at last reason returned, and reli-
 “ gion began to dawn upon my
 “ gloomy and troubled mind, shedding
 “ an effulgence, mild as the appearance
 “ of the vernal sun after the ravages
 “ of a storm, and chasing away the
 “ horrors of despair, as the fogs which
 “ blast the blossoms of the spring are
 “ scat-

“ scattered by the splendor of the orb
“ of day. Along with religion, for-
“ titude and hope, her invariable at-
“ tendants, possessed my breast; and
“ actuated as I was on the one hand by
“ an intrepid resolution of braving
“ every danger, and on the other by a
“ steadfast trust in Providence for ac-
“ complishing my deliverance; at the
“ same time that I was animated with
“ the strongest desires of once more
“ seeing Selima, desires which were
“ now inspirited with the ardor of
“ hope, I was determined to attempt
“ every expedient for my release which
“ my imagination could suggest; tho’
“ I had as yet fixed upon none which
“ seemed at once safe and practicable.
“ But the ever merciful Allah, to
“ whose care and protection I resigned
“ myself and all my interests, and
“ whose

“ whose reinvigorating influence I felt
“ upon my mind, condescended, by an
“ intimation which seemed to be the
“ effect of accident, to point out the
“ means of accomplishing my escape
“ from that horrible prison in which I
“ was confined.

“ As I was one day lying stretched
“ on a coarse mattraß which served for
“ my bed, and revolving in my mind
“ every scheme that I could think of for
“ effectuating my deliverance, I happen-
“ ed to cast my eye on a square stone in
“ the floor of the prison, by the side of
“ which stone there seemed to be a small
“ aperture, and what both astonished
“ and delighted me was, that I thought
“ I perceived a faint glimmering of
“ light through the interstice. Insti-
“ gated by curiosity, and elated with
“ joyful

“joyful expectation of making some
“discovery that might facilitate my
“escape, I sprung from my bed with
“eager impatience, and having dug
“up with a knife which I had in my
“pocket a good deal of earth from
“the side of the stone, till I had made
“room to admit my hands below it,
“I at last raised it with some diffi-
“culty, and observed that the removal
“of the stone opened a passage into
“a dark and narrow cave, which had
“been scooped out of the earth with
“incredible labour, by a person who
“had been confined a few weeks be-
“fore in the dungeon in which I was,
“for a capital crime, but had by this
“stratagem eluded the sword of justice.
“I entered the cave with a kind of un-
“usual dread, mixed with joy, at the
“possibility of finding an outlet from

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“ my doleful prison, and groping my
 “ way in the dark, in the best manner
 “ I was able, I at length discovered a
 “ ray of light issuing through a cre-
 “ vice betwixt two stones in the street;
 “ but as it was now mid-day, I had
 “ presence of mind enough to recol-
 “ lect, that if I should immediately
 “ attempt to force my passage, by re-
 “ moving the stones which covered the
 “ outlet of the cave, I should inevitably
 “ be discovered, and preclude all hopes
 “ of my release. As the hour there-
 “ fore of my being visited by the
 “ keeper of the prison, when he brought
 “ me my scanty pittance of provisions,
 “ was near at hand, I hastened back
 “ to my⁶ dungeon, and having re-
 “ placed the stone exactly in the situa-
 “ tion in which it had been before my
 “ discovery of this subterraneous pas-
 “ sage,

“ sage, and trampled down the earth
“ around the sides of it, I waited for
“ the approach of evening with an im-
“ patience proportionable to my ardent
“ desires of being released from the
“ most cruel and dreadful captivity.
“ At last night spread her dark robe
“ over the earth, the inhabitants of
“ Kerman were lulled in slumber, and
“ echo herself slept in her cell. I haf-
“ tily removed the stone in the prison
“ which was laid over the entrance of
“ the cave; I once more entered this
“ dismal passage, with less dread in-
“ deed than formerly, but with a pal-
“ pitation of heart that made my knees
“ smite each other, and having groped
“ my way as before, though with more
“ difficulty, as there was not the least
“ ray of light to be seen, I arrived at
“ the end of the passage, and pushing
“ the

“ the stones which were above my
 “ head with my utmost strength, I
 “ removed one of them, and having
 “ with some difficulty pressed through
 “ the hole, I found myself all at once
 “ in the open street.

“ You may easily imagine the trans-
 “ port I was in upon this unexpected
 “ recovery of my liberty; my heart
 “ bounded with joy, and I offered up
 “ my grateful and ardent vows to Al-
 “ lah, for thus condescending to
 “ point out the means of my deliver-
 “ ance. But when that ecstasy of plea-
 “ sure which had for a moment wrap-
 “ ped my senses in the most enchant-
 “ ing delirium, and suspended the
 “ exercise of reason, had at last sub-
 “ sided, and given place to the dictates
 “ of sober reflexion, my anxiety for the
 “ honour

“ honour and safety of Selima recurred
“ upon my mind with redoubled sen-
“ sibility; and the dangers to which
“ my imagination represented her as
“ exposed, as well as the improbability
“ of recovering her again, in the situa-
“ tion in which I now was, rendered
“ me totally insensible of the happiness
“ which I should otherwise have expe-
“ rienced in my being released from
“ my deplorable captivity. Selima was
“ the constant object of my thoughts,
“ all my desires and wishes centered in
“ her, and yet I could see no rational
“ foundation for the hope of her being
“ ever restored to my arms. Almost
“ despairing of being ever blest with a
“ sight of her who was dearer to me
“ than life, I wandered with a slow and
“ melancholy step through the streets
“ of Kerman, abandoned to the most
“ excess-

“ excessive grief, without knowing
 “ whither I went, till the approach of
 “ dawn roused me from my reverie,
 “ and made me sensible that it was ne-
 “ cessary to take some precaution for
 “ my own safety. For this purpose I
 “ hastened out of the city as fast as
 “ possible, and directing my course by
 “ the least-frequented road, I arrived
 “ at a village about ten miles distance
 “ from the city, where I thought I
 “ was in little danger of being known,
 “ especially after some years absence
 “ from my native country.

“ In order however more effectually
 “ to guard against a detection, I pur-
 “ chased some coarse cloaths with a
 “ part of the little money I still had in
 “ my pocket, and arraying myself in
 “ the habit of a peasant, I proceeded
 “ on

“ on my journey towards Ispahan,
“ where my father had several friends
“ of rank and credit, to whom I pro-
“ posed to make myself known, and
“ whose advice and assistance I hoped
“ to obtain in the present unfortunate
“ situation of my affairs. What deter-
“ mined me to take this course was,
“ that I had learnt in the village which
“ I had left, that the Vizier, after
“ shutting me up in prison, set out im-
“ mediately with Selima for the ca-
“ pital, intending, as I was fully per-
“ suaded, to present her to the em-
“ peror. As I was informed in some
“ villages through which I passed, that
“ the Vizier having heard of my escape,
“ had set a price upon my head, I took
“ all the precautions which prudence
“ could suggest for my own safety, by
“ travelling the most unfrequented
“ roads,

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“ roads, and often taking shelter in the
 “ woods and mountains, where I ap-
 “ prehended the least danger of being
 “ discovered, till at last I arrived at
 “ Isfahan, without any suspicion;
 “ where I waited upon two of my fa-
 “ ther’s friends, and acquainted them of
 “ my situation and errand at the court
 “ of Persia. But both of them, afraid
 “ to engage in an affair, the issue of
 “ which, to say the truth, was ex-
 “ tremely dangerous and doubtful,
 “ since no redress could be obtained
 “ without arraigning the prime Vizier
 “ himself, and charging him with the
 “ most enormous crimes, advised me
 “ to desist from an attempt which,
 “ however just, was attended with so
 “ much hazard as indeed could scarce
 “ fail to bring accumulated vengeance
 “ upon my own head, and upon those
 “ of

“ of my friends. They urged me to
“ think no more of Selima, whom I
“ could have no prospect of recovering,
“ and gave it as their opinion that I
“ should assume the habit and character
“ of a travelling merchant, generously
“ proposing to supply me with money,
“ and support me with their credit in
“ the pursuit of this new occupation.

“ Though this advice seemed to be
“ rational, and was doubtless well
“ meant, yet the conduct it prescribed
“ was too phlegmatic and indifferent
“ to suit the ardor of my passion for
“ Selima; for the hopes of regaining
“ whom I determined to suffer every
“ hardship, and run every risk that I
“ could possibly be exposed to. Per-
“ ceiving, however, that the profession
“ of a merchant would, by procuring

E

“ me

“ me access to several persons who at-
 “ tended the court, afford me a better
 “ chance of seeing Selima, at least of
 “ obtaining intelligence of her, than
 “ any other profession I could assume,
 “ I readily acquiesced in their senti-
 “ ments, though with very different
 “ views from those of my friends;
 “ and having once more changed my
 “ garb, I appeared in the dress of a
 “ merchant; and, supported as I was by
 “ the interest of those who had proposed
 “ that I should try my fortune, this
 “ way, I exposed some of the richest
 “ silks and jewels that could be pro-
 “ cured, in the usual place of sale,
 “ carefully avoiding every opportunity
 “ of being seen by the Vizier, by re-
 “ tiring under some pretence when he
 “ happened to appear, and giving
 “ orders to a person to whose care I
 “ com-

" committed my commodities to ma-
 " nage the sale till my return. While
 " I was one day unfolding a bale of
 " silk at the desire of a purchaser, I
 " observed a person eyeing me as he
 " passed with a steadfastness and atten-
 " tion that greatly disconcerted me.
 " Upon enquiry, I found that the per-
 " son who had viewed me so particu-
 " larly was Obeyd, chief eunuch to the
 " Sophy; a discovery that increased
 " my embarrassment and confusion.
 " Obeyd, observing my countenance
 " overspread with blushes, came up to
 " me immediately, and whispered in
 " a low voice, " Be not afraid," said
 " he, " of any evil from me. My
 " name is Obeyd, and my office is to
 " superintend the women and eunuchs
 " in the haram. Your father Abufaid
 " was one of my best friends: I am

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“ not ignorant of your situation and
 “ circumstances : I will be happy to
 “ have it in my power to show my gra-
 “ titude to the father, by good offices
 “ to the son.—Come this evening, at
 “ the usual hour of supper, to my
 “ house in the habit which you now
 “ wear, without any fear of a disco-
 “ very, and perhaps I may contribute
 “ to the success of your wishes.” At
 “ these words I experienced a sudden
 “ transition from the most alarming
 “ fear to the most unbounded confi-
 “ dence and most exquisite joy I had
 “ ever felt, and I could only just so
 “ far recollect myself, as to be able to
 “ reply, in the same low tone of voice,
 “ that I was inexpressibly obliged to
 “ his friendship, that he should ever
 “ find me grateful, and that I would
 “ be

“ be sure to wait upon him at the hour
 “ appointed.

“ After his departure, I began to call
 “ to remembrance a slave, of the name
 “ of Obeyd, whom my father had pur-
 “ chased, and whom, on account of
 “ his faithful services, he had restored
 “ to liberty; and in the countenance
 “ of the person who had just left me, I
 “ recognized the features of the honest
 “ slave. I remembered likewise that
 “ I had heard that Obeyd had entered
 “ into the service of the Sophy, though
 “ by reason of my absence from my
 “ native country for some years I had
 “ not heard of the dignity to which he
 “ was raised; and if any thing had
 “ been wanting to remove my fears,
 “ and increase my confidence, the cha-
 “ racter of Obeyd was sufficient to do

“ it; for I reflected that I had often
 “ heard my father speak of his invio-
 “ lable fidelity, and I knew that he
 “ gave him the strongest recommenda-
 “ tions on his leaving his service.

“ I waited for the hour appointed
 “ for our interview with almost as
 “ much impatience as if I had expected
 “ to see Selima herself; for I flattered
 “ myself that this interview would af-
 “ ford me the prospect of being once
 “ more blessed with a sight of the dear
 “ object of my affections; and when it
 “ expired, I hurried away with the ut-
 “ most eagerness to the house of Obeyd.
 “ I was not obliged to wait long for
 “ the appearance of my friendly host:
 “ upon hearing that I was in the par-
 “ lour below, he hastened immediately
 “ into the room, and embracing me
 “ with

“ with the most cordial joy, “ I am
 “ happy, my dear Rhedi,” said he, “ in
 “ this opportunity of seeing the son of
 “ my worthy friend and benefactor
 “ Abusaid, and I should be still hap-
 “ pier to be able to repay you the many
 “ kindnesses I have received from him.
 “ I am but too well acquainted with
 “ your misfortunes, and I most sin-
 “ cerely sympathize with you under
 “ them : I know not whether it will be
 “ in my power to relieve you from
 “ their pressure, but I will at least at-
 “ tempt it, dangerous as I am sensible
 “ the undertaking must be to myself.
 “ In the mean time be assured, that
 “ Selima, though she continues aban-
 “ doned to the most excessive grief,
 “ upon account of the separation from
 “ her lover, has preserved her honour
 “ inviolate : to-morrow you shall enjoy

“ the happiness of seeing her, and I will
“ let you know in proper time the hour
“ and place of the destined interview.”

“ I attempted to repeat my acknowledgments for the very friendly intentions he expressed, and for the strong interest he took in the sufferings of two such unfortunate lovers ;
“ but he prevented me from going on,
“ by telling me, that there was no
“ occasion for making any professions
“ of gratitude to him, since he would
“ think himself completely rewarded,
“ if he should be happy enough to be
“ the instrument of accomplishing
“ the release of Selima, and of restoring her to one who was worthy of
“ her, and who, by being the sole object
“ of her affections, had the only title
“ to possess them. Besides, though
“ your

“ your own merit and sufferings, added
“ he, had not interested me in your
“ fate, the remembrance I have of the
“ obligations I owe to your father’s
“ service determined me to exert my
“ utmost endeavours to gratify your
“ desires. While I continued in your
“ father’s service, I was treated rather
“ with the kindness and indulgence
“ shewn to a child, than with the
“ haughtiness and severity usually ex-
“ ercised towards a slave, and at last,
“ as a reward for my faithful services,
“ he not only gave me my freedom,
“ but recommended me to the Sophy,
“ by whose favour I rose to several
“ posts of considerable trust and dignity.
“ Happy had it been for myself, that I
“ had prescribed bounds to my ambi-
“ tion; or at least that I had taught
“ it to flow in the channel marked out

“ by your father. I have had great rea-
“ son to repent my not having followed
“ his advice; for though in the path
“ chalked out by myself, I have attained
“ an envied pre-eminence, I have found
“ it a very dangerous one; since my
“ office not only obliges me to be often
“ under the eye of a master whose
“ temper is suspicious and whose power
“ is absolute, but my situation furnishes
“ me with almost perpetual incentives
“ to desires which I cannot restrain,
“ and yet am unable to gratify, at
“ the same time that I am subjected
“ to the caprices of female tyranny,
“ which I can only revenge by a stricter
“ vigilance, and by that rigid severity
“ which will always be disagreeable to
“ a generous mind. Be assured of it
“ however, my dear Rhedi, that how-
“ ever strictly I may watch over the
“ conduct of many of the ladies of
“ the

“ the haram, whose infamous amours
“ deserve detection and punishment,
“ I will do all in my power to contribute
“ to the success of your passion for
“ Selima, which, as it meets with such
“ a fervent return upon her part, it
“ were a pity it should not be rewarded
“ with the mutual possession of each
“ other. As you wish to obtain this
“ happiness, take care that you be
“ not seen by the Vizier, or any whom
“ you have reason to suspect to be
“ his emissaries; if this should hap-
“ pen, you are undone. In order there-
“ fore to prevent your being known
“ or distinguished, you must for the
“ present resolve to give up your
“ mercantile profession, and never stir
“ abroad without the utmost caution,
“ and when I have concerted measures
“ for your seeing Selima, I will call

“ for you at your lodgings, in order
 “ to acquaint you of the time.”

“ I thanked Obeyd for his prudent
 “ advice, which I promised invariably
 “ to follow; then taking an oppor-
 “ tunity of introducing a conversation,
 “ which to me was peculiarly interest-
 “ ing, Obeyd, said I, since you have
 “ condescended to favour with your
 “ protection and friendship, one who,
 “ till he saw you, was the unhappiest of
 “ mortals, will you excuse my desire to
 “ know the particulars of Selima’s fate,
 “ and how she has been able in the
 “ place where she now is, to preserve
 “ her virtue inviolate from the assaults
 “ of ungovernable passion armed with
 “ absolute power.” “ I readily excuse
 “ your anxiety,” replied he, “ and will
 “ gratify it immediately.”

“ When

“ When Selima was brought into
“ the presence of the **Sophy** and her veil
“ was **unmov’d**, she appeared drowned
“ in tears; but her tears, instead of
“ diminishing, seem’d to increase the
“ lustre of her beauty, which shone
“ through the pearly drops that trickled
“ down her cheeks, as the sun shines
“ forth after the showers of spring.
“ The emperor, dazzled by the splendor
“ of her charms, and at once overcome
“ by the power of love, resign’d him-
“ self wholly to the empire of this plea-
“ sing but tormenting passion, making it
“ his sole study to conciliate those affec-
“ tions, which he perceiv’d to be placed
“ on another object. He has never
“ intermitted his addresses, however,
“ but urges his suit with the most
“ fervent importunity. While he was
“ yesterday pleading for a return to his
“ passion with all the respect and ardour

“ of

“ of an enraptured lover, Selima,
 “ prostrating herself at his feet, ex-
 “ claimed with the utmost earnestness,”
 “ —Let not the successor of Ali, and
 “ the sovereign of the faithful, on
 “ whose nod depends the fate of
 “ nations, and for whose smiles the
 “ greatest beauties of the universe
 “ languish with desire, look with such
 “ complacency on a reptile of the dust,
 “ or throw away his regard on one
 “ alienated heart, but let him leave his
 “ slave, who is unworthy of his notice,
 “ to her own unhappy fate, till death
 “ put a period to her life and misery
 “ at once.”—Upon hearing this account
 “ of the constancy of Selima, and
 “ that for my sake she had rejected
 “ the preferred vows of the emperor
 “ of Persia, I burst into a mingled
 “ transport of love and gratitude, of
 “ joy and grief, then addressing my-
 “ self

“ self to the supreme lord of the uni-
“ verse, as the witness of our plighted
“ engagements, “ Merciful Allah,”
“ cried I, “ who amidst the wonder-
“ ful and often unaccountable dispensa-
“ tions of thy providence shewest a
“ special regard to the happiness of
“ the upright and the just, do thou
“ grant that our mutual vows may be
“ crowned with success, and that as our
“ hearts are irrevocably joined our fates
“ and fortunes may be inseparably
“ united.” “ But I interrupt your
“ relation,” said I; “ be so good as
“ to inform me, how the Sophy bore
“ the mortification of his slighted love?”
“ He appeared,” replied Obeyd,
“ to feel some resentment from the
“ wound which Selima had given
“ to his pride, and expressed the ut-
“ most uneasiness at finding that his
“ passion

“ passion had met with no other return
“ but that of indifference and aversion.
“ He said, he was not ignorant, that
“ her affections were pre-engaged, and
“ that he knew upon whose account
“ all his vows and promises were dis-
“ regarded; but he bid her consider,
“ that as he would never resign the
“ possession of those charms, of which
“ the emperor of Persia alone was wor-
“ thy, to any potentate upon earth, much
“ less to one of his own slaves, whether
“ it were not better to listen to his
“ suit, and by doing so, enjoy both
“ empire and love, than to rouse the
“ fury of his lust and revenge, which
“ might prove equally fatal to herself
“ and her lover.” On uttering these
“ words, he went out of the room
“ somewhat hastily and abruptly, leav-
“ ing Selima overwhelmed with grief,
“ which

“ which affected me so sensibly, that
“ I could not help mingling my sighs
“ and tears with hers.—But as mere
“ sympathy with the misfortunes of
“ others, though pleasing to the sufferers,
“ is of little consequence without some
“ exertion for their relief, I have ne-
“ ver ceased, since I first became ac-
“ quainted with her, to employ my
“ invention in devising the means of
“ her escape, and Providence seems
“ now, by your unexpected arrival
“ in this place, to favour us with an
“ opportunity of effectuating it. I have
“ already concerted a rude plan for
“ this purpose, which I will communi-
“ cate to you at our next interview.
“ My duty, at present, requires my
“ attendance in the haram: to-morrow
“ evening you may expect me to call
“ for you at your own lodgings. Then
“ bidding

“ bidding me good night, he left me
 “ without allowing me time, either to
 “ express my gratitude for his generous
 “ offices, or to ask him to unfold the
 “ scheme he had concerted for accom-
 “ plishing the deliverance of Selima.

“ My mind was in too much agita-
 “ tion to admit of my enjoying any
 “ sleep that night. My imagination,
 “ naturally sanguine, flattered me with
 “ a prospect of yet recovering the
 “ sole object of my affections; and I
 “ spent the night in golden dreams of
 “ my future felicity and in anxious
 “ expectation of a visit from Obeyd,
 “ whom I considered as the person
 “ destined to fulfill all my wishes.

“ Obeyd, “ punctual to his time,
 “ called next evening at my lodgings;
 “ and

“ and finding me in a musing posture,
“ —Rouse yourself,” said he, “ Rhedi,
“ from those deliriums of love into
“ which you are lulled by your passion
“ for Selima. The present juncture
“ is the hour of danger, the crisis of
“ action and enterprize, and must not
“ be wasted in those pleasing but
“ delusive reveries, which absorb the
“ faculties in useless contemplation of
“ ideal felicity, while they should be
“ braced for a vigorous exertion and
“ employed in providing against those
“ disastrous contingencies, which may
“ blast the fairest blossoms in the gar-
“ den of hope.”—“ I felt the justness
“ of the rebuke, and awaking as it
“ were from the delicious dream which
“ I had been indulging, I started up
“ on my feet, and embracing Obeyd
“ with all the ardour of the most
“ affectionate

“ affectionate gratitude, “ Your re-
 “ proaches, my friend,” said I, “ are
 “ just ; but the enchantment that locked
 “ up my faculties, is broke at once
 “ by the force of your remonstrances ;
 “ I this moment shake off the indolence
 “ with which you charge me, and
 “ stand prepared for engaging in any
 “ enterprize, however perilous, for ac-
 “ complishing the object of my wishes.”
 “ Listen then,” replied he, “ to the
 “ scheme which for this purpose I am
 “ going to communicate to thee.

“ I told Selima to-day, that as she
 “ appeared to have an unsurmountable
 “ aversion to the Sophy, and had no
 “ prospect of ever being united to
 “ Rhedi, I hoped she would forgive
 “ me, if I took the liberty to recom-
 “ mend a friend of mine to her as
 “ a lover,

“ a lover, who was irresistibly struck
 “ with her charms, and would hazard
 “ his life to effectuate her deliverance.
 “ I assured her, that he was one of the
 “ most agreeable and accomplished
 “ men I had ever seen; that I was per-
 “ suaded, she would be of the same opi-
 “ nion when she had become acquainted
 “ with him; and that therefore, if she
 “ would give me leave, I would find
 “ means to introduce him to her this
 “ evening. To this proposal she gave
 “ just such an answer as I expected
 “ from her. She told me that she was
 “ sorry to discover her mistake, that
 “ till then she had always considered
 “ me as her friend; that she was now
 “ however sufficiently convinced of
 “ the contrary, and desired I would
 “ talk to her no more upon such a
 “ subject, otherwise she would instant-

“ ly acquaint the Sophy of my intended
 “ treachery, who would not fail to in-
 “ flict the punishment due to such infi-
 “ delity. She added, that as I knew
 “ her heart was irrevocably attached
 “ to you, it was intolerable presump-
 “ tion and insolence in me to propose
 “ to her another lover ; then assuming
 “ a severe and menacing air, “ Be gone,”
 “ said she, “ this moment from my pre-
 “ sence, unworthy as thou art either
 “ of my confidence or esteem, and
 “ take care never to mention thy
 “ friend to me as a lover, if thou wishest
 “ to avoid the effects of my resentment
 “ and revenge.”

“ Though I appeared to be greatly
 “ abashed and disconcerted by the seve-
 “ rity of this rebuke, and immediately
 “ left her apartment, I determined to
 “ prosecute

“ prosecute my plan, and as you are
“ the person whom I intend to intro-
“ duce to her as a lover, I expect
“ that you will act your part properly :
“ since the unravelling of the plot will
“ produce the most agreeable decep-
“ tion to Selima, which she ever ex-
“ perience*d*, I hope I shall be forgiven
“ by you both for using a little inno-
“ cent artifice in the conduct of it.”

“ As I anticipated in my imagina-
“ tion the mutual raptures which
“ would be the consequence of the
“ elucidation of the plot, I entered
“ eagerly into it, and promised that I
“ would act my part to his satisfac-
“ tion, desiring he would acquaint me
“ in what manner he proposed I should
“ perform it. “ Within two hours,” said
“ he, “ when it is dark, I will send you
“ a suit

“ a suit of cloaths belonging to one
 “ of the eunuchs, carefully packed up,
 “ which you will put on, remembering
 “ to bring your own, packed up in the
 “ same manner, under your arm, and
 “ come without fear to the gate of
 “ the palace: your disguise will im-
 “ pose upon the guards, and pro-
 “ cure your admission. As soon as I
 “ perceive you approaching, I will
 “ call upon you by the name of some
 “ of the eunuchs, desiring you to
 “ quicken your pace, as if your at-
 “ tendance were immediately wanted,
 “ and having followed me into a room
 “ adjoining to the apartment of Se-
 “ lima, I will furnish you with ano-
 “ ther suit, in which you are to ap-
 “ pear before the enchantress of your
 “ soul. With regard to the other cir-
 “ cumstances, you may leave them to
 “ me

“ me to manage, as time and exigencies may require.”

“ Having given me these instructions, he left me immediately, and in about two hours after, according to his promise, he sent me the cloaths of an eunuch wrapped up as he had told me, and arraying myself in my new habit at the same time that I folded up my own, as I had been directed, I set out without loss of time for the palace, where I readily obtained admittance, and being recognized at a distance by Obeyd, who was watching my approach, he called out to me to make haste, as I was just now wanted by one of the ladies of the haram. I obeyed the call without delay, and following

F

“ Obeyd

“Obeyd with a mixed emotion of
 “hope, fear, and joy, I at last ar-
 “rived at an apartment adjoining to
 “the one that I was told was possessed
 “by Selima. On entering this apart-
 “ment, Obeyd pointed out to me a
 “suit of cloaths, which, from the fine-
 “ness of the vesture and richness of
 “the embroidery, I perceived to be-
 “long to the Sophy.” “Exchange once
 “more the garb which you now wear,
 “for that which I present you with,”
 “said he; “you shall have the honour
 “to appear in the habit of the Sophy,
 “and you shall, in a little, enjoy a
 “happiness which the Sophy himself,
 “with all his power and grandeur,
 “could never attain. You will like-
 “wise derive another advantage from
 “this garb, and that is, that it will
 “screen