

“tives through every suspected house
“in the city.

“This intelligence was like a dread-
“ful thunderclap in our ears. Selima
“was terrified beyond measure: her
“distracted imagination exhibited no-
“thing to view but pictures of horror
“and despair. She figured to herself
“the guards at her heels, herself,
“Obeyd, and me dragged by them,
“with every circumstance of indignity
“and outrage, into the presence of the
“furious Sophy, and subjected to the
“severest tortures which his invention
“could suggest. Obeyd however,
“with a presence of mind that no
“accident could discompose, ordered
“the camels to be unloaded and put
“up immediately, and calling upon
“Raschid, who to his natural sagacity
“joined

“ joined a fertility in stratagem, asked
“ him whether there was any place of
“ concealment in his house, where we
“ could remain in safety till the danger
“ was over. Raschid told him there
“ was a vault below his parlour, to
“ which there was a descent by a trap-
“ door, that was covered from the
“ view by a carpet spread over it, where
“ he imagined we would be safe; that
“ however, if he did not think they
“ would be perfectly secure in this
“ vault, there was still another below
“ it, the entrance to which was covered
“ with a thin flat stone, that had the
“ appearance of being a part of the
“ pavement, where they would doubt-
“ less be in absolute safety, but that as
“ there was no air communicated to
“ this dungeon by any conveyance
“ whatever, it was impossible that one
“ person,

“ person, much less three, could
“ breathe in it for any considerable
“ time.

“ While Raschid was speaking, the
“ tidings reached our ears that the
“ guards were scouring the streets in
“ our neighbourhood, and driving like
“ so many blood-hounds from house to
“ house in quest of us. We all rushed
“ therefore into the parlour immedi-
“ ately ; and Raschid opening the trap-
“ door, we descended into the vault in
“ an instant. Then Raschid having
“ raised the stone in the floor, which
“ opened a passage into the second,
“ and having supported it with a piece
“ of wood which he had brought in
“ his hand, suggested to us, that in
“ case of necessity we could descend
“ into it ; and he promised that if the
“ first

“ first concealment was discovered by
 “ the inquisitors, and they proposed
 “ to ransack it, that he would give us
 “ notice of our danger, by suddenly
 “ overturning one of the tables in the
 “ room, as it were by accident, on
 “ hearing which signal we could de-
 “ scend into the dungeon, and let the
 “ stone fall upon the mouth of it.

“ Both Obeyd and I approved highly
 “ of the contrivance of Raschid, and
 “ thanked him for his judicious advice.
 “ Just when he was leaving us, however,
 “ in our prison, it occurred to Obeyd,
 “ that there was a bundle of Selima’s
 “ clothes and ours wrapped up in the
 “ heart of one of the bales of silk, and
 “ that if the bales should happen to be
 “ unfolded by the emissaries of the
 “ Sophy, and the bundle found, the
 “ whole

“ whole affair would be discovered.
“ He begged Raschid therefore in-
“ stantly to unloose one of the bales to
“ which he directed him, and to take
“ out and bring to him the bundle he
“ had mentioned. Raschid returned to
“ us with it immediately ; but had
“ scarce delivered it, when we heard the
“ guard knocking at the gate, and
“ calling for admittance. Springing
“ up to the parlour, therefore, in a
“ moment, without the least confu-
“ sion, and letting drop the trap-door,
“ which he covered with a carpet, he
“ ran to the gate, and admitted the
“ guard into his house. The guard,
“ having with the utmost strictness
“ ransacked every other corner, came
“ at last into the parlour. When Se-
“ lima heard the sound of their feet
“ above our heads, she quaked with
“ fear,

" fear, her face became pale and blood-
 " less, and she was just ready to sink
 " into a swoon, when we heard the
 " table fall. At that instant Obeyd
 " threw himself into the dungeon, and
 " I catching Selima in my arms, let
 " her slide down into those of Obeyd ;
 " and following them both, let the
 " stone down upon the mouth of the
 " pit. This was our last resource.
 " While we were shut up in this dark
 " cave we still heard the tread of our
 " enemies feet, and one of them calling
 " for a light to search narrowly the sub-
 " terranean dwelling into which they
 " had entered. When I heard a light
 " calling for, I began indeed to tremble ;
 " Obeyd himself was afraid ; and Se-
 " limas, by this time past feeling, had
 " fallen into a deep swoon. A candle
 " was brought : the reflexion of its
 " rays

" rays cast a glimmering light on our
 " dark retreat. Happening to look
 " up to the crevice through which the
 " rays of light descended, I could ob-
 " serve the faces of some of the guards,
 " and I even fancied they were gazing
 " at me; but my fears deceived me.
 " These however were removed in an
 " instant, upon hearing them again
 " ascend into the parlour; where,
 " having searched the bales of silk that
 " were lying in it, they left the house
 " and proceeded in their career.

" As soon as the guard were without
 " the gate, Raschid returned to us im-
 " mediately, and raising the stone,
 " released us from our confinement.
 " Selima was still in a swoon, but re-
 " covered in a little after enjoying the
 " fresh air; and we all congratulated
 " each

“ each other upon our fortunate •
 “ escape, ascribing praise to Allah for
 “ the deliverance we had met with.

“ We continued several days in the
 “ house of Raschid, passing in the opi-
 “ nion of his servants and neighbours
 “ for merchants travelling towards
 “ Armenia, who being supposed to be
 “ friends of Raschid had lodged with
 “ him a few nights by the way.

“ At last, when the noise of the
 “ search was over, we set out on our
 “ journey for mount Ararat, with the
 “ faithful Raschid and two servants,
 “ who were ignorant of our situation
 “ and circumstances, along with three
 “ camels, besides those on which we
 “ rode; and travelling with the utmost
 “ expedition, under favour of the

• “ night, we arrived by break of day
 “ at a wood about sixteen miles distance
 “ from Ispahan. Selima, Obeyd, and
 “ I having concealed ourselves in caves
 “ and holes throughout the day, while
 “ Raschid undertook the charge of the
 “ camels, we set out again on our tra-
 “ vels next evening, and before day-
 “ light we were forty miles distant
 “ from the capital of Persia. We pro-
 “ ceeded on our journey in this manner
 “ through the province of Eyrac Agem,
 “ travelling all night, and resting
 “ throughout the day in the most se-
 “ questered places we could find, till
 “ we were at least a hundred and fifty
 “ miles on our way to mount Ararat.

“ In passing through Casbin, we
 “ heard immense rewards proclaimed
 “ for apprehending Selima, Obeyd, or
 “ me ;

“ me ; but as we were now in a coun-
 “ try in which we were wholly un-
 “ known, and travelled in the disguise
 “ of merchants, we were hopeful, by
 “ a cautious and circumspective con-
 “ duct, to escape detection.

“ After leaving Casbin, we directed
 “ our course through the province of
 “ Ghilan, Adirbutzan, and Sherivan ;
 “ in which last place having sold our
 “ bales of silk, before we entered Ar-
 “ menia, we dismissed the faithful
 “ Raschid with the camels, rewarding
 “ him liberally for his trouble, and
 “ each of us resuming his proper habit,
 “ travelled on foot towards mount
 “ Ararat, the place of our destination,
 “ which we reached in two days, having
 “ been in all about three weeks on our
 “ journey from Isfahan.—But lest I
 “ should

"should exhaust your attention, or my
"own strength," said Rhedi, "I will
"here interrupt my narration, and after
"breathing a little, shall proceed to
"relate to you the subsequent events
"of my unfortunate life."

I AFTER

AFTER pausing for some time, Rhedi again resumed the history of his life.

“ When we were arrived at the foot
 “ of the mountain, and were viewing
 “ the long-extended forest before us,
 “ Obeyd pointing to a spot in the
 “ middle of it, which presented a small
 “ opening surrounded with trees, “ Yon-
 “ der,” said he, “ in the depth of that
 “ embowering wood, lives the vene-
 “ rable sage Bondezir, the friend of
 “ my father, and the guide of my
 “ youth, on whose head the hand of
 “ time has strowed his silver honours,
 “ and whose soul is the mansion of
 “ wisdom and virtue ; let us,” said he,
 “ seek out his sequestered abode, and
 “ if it be agreeable to your inclina-
 “ tions,

- “ tions, we will spend the remainder
- “ of our days with him in the tran-
- “ quillity of retired life, from which,
- “ for my own part, I expect to reap
- “ more real felicity than I have ever
- “ experienced in the noise and bustle
- “ of a court.” Both Selima and I
- “ assured him, that nothing could
- “ be more agreeable to our choice than
- “ such a plan of life ; that the luxuries
- “ to which we had been accustomed
- “ had not so far vitiated our taste as to
- “ destroy our relish for those pure and
- “ simple pleasures which are the effect
- “ of innocence, temperance, and vir-
- “ tue, and which are most effectually
- “ cultivated in the shade of retirement ;
- “ and that we wished for nothing so
- “ much as to be placed in a situation
- “ in which we might cultivate those
- “ pleasures with most advantage, and

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“indulge the genuine feelings of the
“heart without disguise.” “If these
“are your sentiments and resolutions,”
“resumed Obeyd, “let us penetrate
“the recesses of this forest, and endea-
“vour to find out the cell of Bon-
“dezir.”

“Accordingly we immediately en-
“tered the wood, in which we found
“many by-paths, that would have be-
“wildered a traveller that was unac-
“quainted with the place; but as the
“forest was well known to Obeyd, on
“account of his frequent visits to the
“hermit in his youth, we travelled
“safely under his direction, and at last
“reached the spot which has afforded
“you this homely but welcome recep-
“tion.

“We

“ We entered the cell with that re-
 “ verence which was due to the wis-
 “ dom and sanctity of its owner ; but
 “ the hermit was not within. We
 “ amused ourselves therefore a little in
 “ surveying the furniture of his grotto,
 “ which in its plainness and simplicity
 “ was every way suitable to the nature
 “ of the place, and the character of
 “ the possessor.

“ In one corner we found a kind of
 “ table made of a large slate, which
 “ was fixed on a pedestal of stone in
 “ the manner in which you saw it, and
 “ on it there were several books of
 “ piety and devotion, particularly the
 “ Koran and some others, containing
 “ the revelations of the Prophet, and
 “ the visions of Bondezir’s predeces-
 “ sors who inhabited this cell. In
 I 3 “ another

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“ another corner, in a part of the cell
 “ secreted from the rest, were piled up
 “ a few cheese on shelves that were
 “ dug out of the rock; and besides
 “ these were placed some vessels of
 “ milk, and some heaps both of fresh
 “ and dried fruits, that were gathered
 “ from the neighbouring mountains
 “ and plains. The furniture of the
 “ cell convinced us that the hermit
 “ was still alive, and therefore we went
 “ out immediately in search of him.
 “ We had not travelled far on this
 “ errand, when we discovered the
 “ hoary sage sitting under the shade of
 “ some spreading tree by the side of
 “ the fountain, near his hermitage,
 “ leaning on his staff, and at one time
 “ conversing with a young man and a
 “ young woman who sat close by
 “ him, at another attending to the
 “ sports

"sports of two lovely boys who
 "prattled and played around him in
 "all the innocent simplicity of child-
 "hood, and whom he seemed to gaze
 "on with ineffable tenderness and de-
 "light. We all stopt spontaneously,
 "as it had been by concert, to contem-
 "plate and to enjoy this pleasing scene
 "of domestic life, till Bondezir happen-
 "ing to cast an eye towards us, Obeyd
 "immediately went up to him. The
 "hermit observing his approach, rose
 "to salute him; and recognizing at
 "once the son of his friend, and the
 "pupil whom he had taught, "Wel-
 "come, my dear friend," said he,
 "throwing his arms around him, and
 "embracing him with all the ardor of
 "parental affection, "to this solitary
 "dwelling, and welcome the strangers
 "who have accompanied thy steps to

" the best entertainment which my
 " humble abode can afford; but ne-
 " cessity, and not choice, has doubtless
 " compelled you to take shelter in this
 " unfrequented desert: the children of
 " prosperity, who bask in the sunshine
 " of fortune, and are nursed in the lap
 " of luxury, have seldom the inclina-
 " tion or the fortitude to exchange the
 " court for the cottage, to renounce
 " the superfluities and delicacies of life
 " to which they have been accustomed,
 " and to live according to the dictates
 " of uncorrupted nature." " The
 " visit which we have paid you, vене-
 " rable father, in your sequestered re-
 " treat," replied Olney, " is partly
 " the effect of necessity, partly the
 " result of deliberate choice. These
 " amiable strangers, whom I beg to
 " recommend to your hospitality, are
 " obliged

“ obliged to seek for shelter from the
 “ arm of violence in this lonely desert,
 “ and I have voluntarily abandoned
 “ the pageantry of a court, in order to
 “ accompany them in their flight, and
 “ attach myself to their fortune; and
 “ all of us, with hearts truly indifferent
 “ to the blandishments of honour
 “ and wealth, or the luxuries of life;
 “ are desirous of spending the remain-
 “ der of our days with you, whose
 “ temperate meals will contribute to
 “ our health, and whose excellent les-
 “ sons of morality will establish our
 “ souls in virtue, and qualify us for
 “ the felicity of paradise, which the
 “ Prophet hath assured us is reserved
 “ for the faithful.”

“ As he uttered these words, the
 “ venerable man, regarding Selima

“ and me with a look of complacency
 “ that indicated the benignity of his
 “ disposition, and the gentleness of his
 “ manners, “ Children,” said he, “ the
 “ testimony of Obeyd, confirmed by
 “ your own engaging appearance, is
 “ sufficient to recommend you to my
 “ esteem; but with regard to the prac-
 “ tice of virtue, which you are desirous
 “ of learning from me, I am not so
 “ arrogant as to pretend to teach what
 “ I myself, hoary as you now see me,
 “ am still studying to acquire. A vir-
 “ tuous life is a gradual and progres-
 “ sive state, and the highest advance-
 “ ments in virtue are not to be attained
 “ without the most strenuous exertions,
 “ confirmed by reiterated habit. The
 “ tranquillity of retired life, to which
 “ I have devoted myself, may, by its
 “ being less subject to the influence of
 “ tempta-

"temptation, and by its affording bet-
 "ter opportunities of recollection and
 "meditation, be peculiarly favourable
 "to those exertions; and if I can,
 "either by my counsel or experience,
 "aid your virtuous resolutions, my
 "best endeavours shall not be wanting.
 "Your society," added he, "in the
 "mean time, will be highly agreeable
 "to me; and I doubt not that our
 "mutual happiness will increase in
 "proportion to the strength of our
 "mutual attachments, and to the in-
 "dulgence of those affections for the
 "exercise of which domestic life af-
 "fords the greatest scope." Then
 "embracing Senma and me with the
 "most cordial friendship, he proposed
 "that we should all walk with him
 "into his cell, in order to refresh our-
 "selves after our fatigue with such

“provisions as the place afforded,
 “which,” said he, “though it is re-
 “plenished with none of those rich
 “sauces and ragouts that you have
 “been accustomed to, and which a
 “vitiating taste represents as palatable,
 “is however stored with abundance of
 “such food as is most suitable to a
 “natural and uncorrupted taste, such as
 “is most conducive to health, and
 “will probably in a little time be the
 “most agreeable to your choice.”
 “Being greatly exhausted with fatigue
 “and hunger, we gladly accepted the
 “the invitation, and walked all together
 “towards his cell.

“While we were on the way Obeyd
 “was frequently glancing his eye on
 “the young man and woman and on
 “the two boys whom we found with
 “the

" the hermit by the side of the fountain,
 " which Bondezir happening at last to ob-
 " serve, " you are desirous to know," said
 " he, " who these persons are whom you
 " see here travelling with us to the cell.
 " Cannot you discover," continued he,
 " in the features of that young woman
 " some resemblance to my dear Zem-
 " roud? Peri ô Konkonna, for that is
 " her name, was indeed only a child
 " when you last visited this solitary
 " abode; but she is since married to
 " this young man, whose name is Re-
 " zoud, and these two boys whom you
 " now see playing around us are their
 " children." Then addressing himself
 " to me, " had I continued," said he,
 " in the public walks of life in which
 " I at first set out, and been possessed
 " of that fortune which Obeyd knows
 " I was unjustly deprived of by the
 " perfidy

“ perfidy of an uncle, to whose tutelage
 “ I was committed, I might have obtain-
 “ ed a richer husband for my daughter,
 “ but I could not have obtained one
 “ more deserving of her: they are in-
 “ deed both worthy of each other, and
 “ are the support and comfort of my
 “ declining years.” As he uttered
 “ these words the filial tear started
 “ into the eyes of Peri ô Konkonna;
 “ both she and Rezoud cast a
 “ reverential and affectionate look on
 “ Bondezir, and then blushing through
 “ native modesty bent their eyes to-
 “ wards the ground. “ This young
 “ man,” continued Bondezir, “ possesses
 “ a farm at the distance of two miles,
 “ hard by the side of this forest:
 “ both he and my daughter, know-
 “ ing how much I am attached,
 “ from the power of habit to this cell,
 “ to yonder fountain, and to the walks
 “ and

“ and groves around, which to me are
“ so familiar and so delightful, visit
“ me every day with these dear infants,
“ though with considerable inconveni-
“ ency to themselves. But since you
“ have resolved to take up your abode
“ with me in this sequestered retreat,
“ there will be less occasion for their
“ daily attendance on me. We will
“ continue however to live as the
“ members of one family; we will
“ visit each other as often as our con-
“ venience will allow; and I am
“ inclined to hope that my declining
“ sun will shine forth with a mild and
“ serene splendor on the evening of
“ of my days, that he will set in a clear
“ and unruffled sky, and that he will
“ rise again with transcendent bright-
“ ness in the climes of paradise.”

“ We

“ We had by this time arrived at
 “ the hermitage, and having entered
 “ into it, the reverend sage desired his
 “ daughter to set before his guests
 “ the best entertainment which she
 “ had. Accordingly, she brought,
 “ with the utmost dispatch, some
 “ vessels of excellent milk, cheese which
 “ she herself had made, and several
 “ kinds of choice fruits, both fresh and
 “ dried, which she and her husband
 “ had gathered, and for our drink,
 “ some fine fresh whey, and the pure
 “ transparent water which gushed from
 “ the rock. “ This plain and simple
 “ food,” said our benevolent host,
 “ will, I am afraid, not be so palatable
 “ to your taste, accustomed as you
 “ have been to those dainties that are
 “ contrived for stimulating the fated
 “ appetite, and which the pampered
 “ and

“ and overcharged stomach is unable
“ to convert into wholesome nourish-
“ ment ; but as I observed already, a
“ little time will reconcile you to that
“ food which is agreeable to nature,
“ and which is all that nature requires :
“ besides that you will feel the happy
“ effects of our temperate way of
“ living, and of the air and exercise
“ which we enjoy in this pleasing re-
“ treat, in contributing both to the
“ health of your bodies and the
“ serenity of your minds.”

“ We needed no arguments to con-
“ vince us, that the food which was
“ set before us was excellent of its
“ kind, or to persuade us to eat heartily.
“ Feeling the calls of hunger very
“ urgent, we thought the food that
“ was set before us, the most delicious

“ we

“ we had ever tasted; and did not in
 “ the least regret the want of any of
 “ the superfluities to which we had
 “ been accustomed. After our appe-
 “ tites were fully satisfied and the
 “ dishes that were set before us were
 “ removed, the venerable sage re-
 “ quested, that I would favour him
 “ with the relation of our history, of
 “ our acquaintance with his friend
 “ Obeyd, and of the motives which
 “ determined all of us to make choice
 “ of this solitary cell as the place
 “ our retreat.

“ I then related to him in the man-
 “ ner in which I had done to you, the
 “ various circumstances of my life,
 “ gave him an account of the rise and
 “ progress of my passion for Selima,
 “ of the many cruel disappointments
 “ and

“ and calamities to which we were
“ both subjected; and lastly, acquainted
“ him of my obligations to our com-
“ mon friend Obeyd, and of the means
“ by which he had brought about
“ our escape.”

“ After hearing a relation of the
“ whole, “ Your disappointments and
“ your sufferings, my children,” says he,
“ have been severe; but the angel of
“ adversity, I hope, has now ceased
“ to inflict his scourge: your calami-
“ ties, I trust, are at an end, and the
“ holy prophet has doubtless con-
“ ducted you to this hermitage, as a
“ secure asylum from the dangers to
“ which you have been exposed. I
“ flatter myself that I am destined to be
“ the instrument of consummating your
“ happiness;” and addressing himself to
“ Obeyd,

" Obeyd, " If you my friend," said he,
 " concur with me, the felicity of this
 " worthy pair shall be immediately
 " completed. Do you," added he, " act
 " the part of a father in giving this
 " amiable lady to her betrothed lover,
 " and I myself will officiate in bring-
 " ing them under those vows, which
 " will indissolubly unite them to each
 " other." Transported with a proposal
 " the execution of which was to put me
 " in possession of the highest earthly
 " felicity, I eagerly caught the hand
 " of Selima, and urged her with the
 " most earnest and tender importunity
 " to comply with it; with a countenance
 " effused with bliss she let me under-
 " stand that she gave her consent. We
 " were accordingly without any further
 " ceremony or preparation married that
 " instant, and our mutual constancy was
 " rewarded

“ rewarded with the full accomplishment
“ of our wishes.

“ In the possession of Selima my
“ earthly felicity was completed; and
“ we all lived together for several
“ years in a state of the sweetest harmony
“ and of the most improving friend-
“ ship that mortals can enjoy. In our
“ amusements and occupations in this
“ delightful solitude, and especially in
“ that endearing society in which we
“ lived, we realized the idea of the
“ golden age, and experienced those
“ serene and heart-felt pleasures which
“ flow from innocence and virtue,
“ and which were enjoyed by some of
“ the first inhabitants of the world,
“ whose lives were regulated by the
“ dictates of simple nature, before the
“ arts of luxury had vitiated the taste
“ and depraved the manners of man-
“ kind.

“ Sometimes

“ Sometimes we walked together,
 “ sometimes apart, as humour or in-
 “ clination dictated; sometimes we
 “ ranged the mountains in quest of
 “ herbs and fruits, at other times we
 “ reposed ourselves under the shade of
 “ some spreading tree, and listened to
 “ the lessons of wisdom and virtue
 “ which flowed from the tongue of
 “ Bondezir; sometimes we were visited
 “ by the neighbouring shepherds, some-
 “ times we returned their visits, follow-
 “ ing their flocks through the mea-
 “ dows and mountains on which they
 “ grazed, and sometimes Selima and I,
 “ stealing as it were unperceived from
 “ the rest of company, and wandering
 “ through the woods, or sitting on the
 “ brink of a clear fountain, gave vent
 “ to the emotions of our hearts without
 “ disguise and poured forth the dictates
 “ of

“ of mutual love, tenderness, and friend-
“ ship into each other's bosom.

“ To consummate my happiness, if
“ any thing could be said to be wanting
“ to its accomplishment, about a year
“ after our marriage I was blessed
“ with a son, and in about two years
“ after his birth with a daughter, who
“ were brought up with the children
“ of Rezoud and Peri ô Konkonna,
“ and we all lived together for several
“ years in the utmost harmony and
“ happiness, like children of the same
“ family, considering Bondezir as our
“ common father, and concurring in
“ every sentiment of duty and affection
“ that was due to a parent. But alas!
“ all earthly happiness is fleeting and
“ uncertain as the sun beams which
“ play upon yonder lake. The wor-
“ thy

“ thy and venerable sage, who had so
 “ long inhabited this cell, at last paid
 “ the debt of nature, and left us in
 “ deep affliction for the loss of one
 “ to whom we were all attached by the
 “ strongest ties of esteem, friendship,
 “ and obligation. To aggravate the
 “ stroke, our dear friend Obeyd soon
 “ after expired, and drew fresh streams
 “ of grief from our wounded hearts.
 “ In yonder mount of earth, covered
 “ with green sods, and shaded by two
 “ lofty trees, whose branches are inter-
 “ woven with each other, and near the
 “ fountain where we first discovered
 “ Bondezir, are interred the remains
 “ of that excellent man and his worthy
 “ friend. On a certain day every week
 “ Rezoud and Peri ô Konkonna come
 “ hither in order to visit their tomb
 “ with me; and we join with min-
 “ gling

“gling our sighs and tears together,
“and in strewing fresh leaves over the
“graves of the deceased. Selima how-
“ever and my children were yet spared
“to me; and while they were spared,
“I was able to support every other af-
“fliction with some degree of forti-
“tude.

“But an event, to me of all others
“the most deplorable, soon after hap-
“pened, which extinguished all my
“prospects of earthly felicity, and
“overcast my soul with a cloud of
“misery, black, and dark, as the
“shades of death. While I recollect
“this direful event, my tortured heart
“still throbs at the reflection, the
“fountain of my grief is opened, and
“all its wounds bleed afresh.

K

“As

As he uttered these words, the heaving sighs which crouded his bosom in quick succession stifled his speech, and occasioned a pause in the narration. Amur, Almerine, and Mouli, though they could only yet conjecture the cause, from a sympathy of feeling, burst into tears; Almerine in particular was deeply affected, and readily anticipating in her own imagination the calamity which was the cause of the unusual agitation, she observed, "Alas!" said she, regarding him with a look of sensibility and pity peculiar to herself, "this violent emotion which agitates thy soul can only be occasioned by the death of Selima. O speak! Is not this the cause of that anguish which wrings thy heart?" "Your conjecture," recovering himself a little

a little, "is too true; and the man-
 "ner of her death was an aggravation
 "of my affliction, and gave a shock
 "to my whole frame that I shall never
 "be able to recover.

"The dear partner of my life having
 "been one day employed in washing
 "the clothes of her children on the
 "brink of that rivulet, just where you
 "see it fall into a deep basin, her
 "daughter, then a child, prattling and
 "playing around her, her foot slipped,
 "and falling backward, her head
 "striking against the rock by the side
 "of the rivulet, she tumbled into the
 "pool below, from which, benumbed
 "as she had been by the fall, she was
 "unable to rescue herself. The child,
 "terrified and affected by the dreadful
 "catastrophe, ran to the cell, crying,

" that her mother had fallen into the
 " pool!" Thunderstruck with the dismal
 " tidings, my blood ran cold in my
 " veins, my hair stiffened with horror,
 " and I was for a moment fixed in
 " speechless agony; but on hearing
 " the child utter another scream, I
 " started from my seat like one dis-
 " tracted, and flew in an instant to the
 " fatal place; but alas! I came too
 " late. Regardless of my own life,
 " while I believed a dearer to be at
 " stake, I plunged immediately into the
 " pool, caught hold of Selima's cloaths,
 " and drew her to the bank. While I
 " raised her from the ground, the water
 " gushed from her mouth, and the
 " blood trickled from the wound she
 " had received in one of her temples
 " from the fall. I pressed her to my
 " bosom, I applied my mouth to her
 " lips,

“ lips, I beseeched, I adjured her to
“ speak to me, but she uttered not a
“ word ; the power of speech had
“ failed her, and her gentle soul was
“ upon the point of forsaking the seat
“ of life. Raising once more her dying
“ eyes, she cast upon me a look of ines-
“ table tenderness and pity ; she heaved
“ a deep sigh, and expired in my arms.
“ When I perceived her without mo-
“ tion or life, my arms, which were
“ clasped round her waist, quitted their
“ hold, and I sunk to the earth in an
“ agony of grief and horror, that for
“ a while deprived me of the power of
“ utterance, and almost drove me into
“ phrenzy. Selima fell by my side.
“ Casting my eyes at one time towards
“ heaven, as if I accused Providence
“ on account of the fate of Selima, at
“ another upon the pale, livid, and

" breathless corpse beside me, I uttered
 " the most lamentable cries, I tore my
 " hair in the fury of my passion, I
 " rolled in the dust, and abandoned
 " myself to the excesses of inconsolable
 " grief. I again folded the sad remains
 " of the dear creature in my arms; I
 " pressed her lifeless body to my breast;
 " I often repeated her name, and be-
 " seeched her to hear and answer the
 " voice of her Rhedi, as if she had
 " been sensible of my request.—" But
 " ah! my Selima," exclaimed I, with
 " a sigh that swelled and almost burst
 " my heaving heart, " thou no more
 " knowest the calls of thy Rhedi!
 " Thy pure and innocent soul has
 " forsaken its mortal tenement, and
 " under the conduct of its guardian
 " angels taken its flight to the mansions
 " of paradise. Ah! why am I not suf-
 " fered

“fered to accompany thy flight? Why
“am I compelled by the severe destiny
“of Providence to drag out a wretched
“life without the society of her who
“could alone render life comfortable
“or supportable.”

“While I was thus giving myself
up to devouring grief, my children,
the dear pledges of my Selima's love,
“were pouring forth their little souls
“in the most moving cries and la-
“mentations for the death of their
“mother; and the reflection on their
“helpless state, and the irreparable
“loss they had sustained, aggravated
“the stroke of my affliction, and gave
“a fresh wound to my bleeding heart.
“I folded the two lovely babes, the
“sole remains and representatives of
“Selima, in my arms; I hung over
K 4 “them

“ them with a sort of mournful delight,
 “ bathing their faces with the tears that
 “ streamed from my eyes, and I at-
 “ tempted to pour into their hearts
 “ that balm of consolation of which I
 “ myself stood so much in need, but
 “ could not obtain.

“ Judging it proper, however, to
 “ remove my children from a scene
 “ which was calculated to feed and to
 “ renew their grief, I carried them
 “ away from the dead body of their
 “ mother into the cell, committing
 “ them to the care of a humane and
 “ tender-hearted shepherd, who was in
 “ the use of visiting us in our solitude,
 “ and who, hearing of the calamity
 “ which had befallen me, had come
 “ upon the sad occasion to express
 “ his sympathy, and mingle his tears
 “ with

“ with mine. Having left my chil-
“ dren under the care of this shepherd,
“ whose name was Mansur, I repaired
“ again to the place where the body of
“ my Selima lay ; on the banks of the
“ rivulet, near that fatal pool where
“ she was drowned, I dug her grave,
“ and deposited her dear remains in the
“ dust. In this shady arbour, which
“ these hands have planted around her
“ grave and in the spot where we
“ now sit, is interred the best and ten-
“ derest of women. To this conse-
“ crated arbour I have never failed to
“ repair once every day, and prostrating
“ myself on the spot where her ashes
“ are laid, I give vent to my over-
“ charged heart, and pour forth tor-
“ rents of tears to the memory of the
“ deceased.

“ For some time my grief was rather
 “ augmented than diminished, which
 “ was partly owing to my solitary
 “ life, of which I still became fonder,
 “ partly to the indulgence I gave to
 “ it, and partly to those peculiar me-
 “ thods I was led into through inclina-
 “ tion, which were naturally adapted
 “ to increase it. Every object around
 “ me was calculated to inspire and to
 “ nourish this disposition. Every tree
 “ under whose shade I sat, and every
 “ fountain of whose waters I drank,
 “ recalled to my remembrance the
 “ idea of Selima. But when I retired
 “ into this grove where her precious
 “ dust is interred, on purpose to meditate
 “ on the excellencies of the dear deceased,
 “ and to pay my daily tribute of tears
 “ to her memory, her beauty, her virtues,
 “ and her accomplishments rose to my
 “ view

“ view at once in all their lustre, and
 “ so entirely occupied my mind, as to
 “ leave no room for any other idea. I
 “ became indifferent to the world and
 “ all its attractions; and so much was
 “ I absorbed in the contemplation of
 “ the sole object of my affections, that
 “ I was upon these occasions, even in a
 “ great measure, deaf to the calls of
 “ duty towards my children. I thought
 “ of nothing but Selima; and earnestly
 “ wished to be released from this brittle
 “ tenement of clay, that I might once
 “ more rejoin the society of my lovely
 “ fair one in the regions of paradise.

“ While I was one day pouring forth
 “ my usual tribute of tears on the grave
 “ of Selima, and indulging the most
 “ ardent desires of being re-united to her
 “ without any more dread of separa-
 K 6 “ tion,

" tion, I felt the ground trembling
 " under my feet ; I saw the trees of
 " the grove nodding over my head ;
 " and I perceived a being of a dignity
 " superior to that of the race of mor-
 " tals, standing before me ; a robe
 " spangled with the dyes of heaven
 " floated on his shoulders in graceful
 " majesty ; a refulgent diadem encir-
 " cled his head, his right hand wield-
 " ed the rod of chastisement, his eye
 " glanced the lightning of indignation,
 " and his brow lowered with the frown
 " of disdain. From the menacing air
 " which appeared in his countenance,
 " I knew him to be the angel of re-
 " proof, and I was petrified at once
 " while he delivered his rebuke,
 " Unthinking mortal," said he, " dost
 " thou presume to oppose thy wishes
 " to the destiny of Providence, and
 " the

“ the will of the Omnipotent and
 “ infinitely Wise? As he has dispersed
 “ his bounties to the children of mor-
 “ tality, has he not a title to resume
 “ the blessings he hath lent? And as
 “ he has appointed to each his station
 “ in life, has he not a right to require
 “ of each the performance of the du-
 “ ties which are correspondent to the
 “ station he has assigned? Can a
 “ reptile of the earth censure the dis-
 “ pensations of unerring Wisdom with-
 “ out arrogance? Or can he desert
 “ the station appointed him by the
 “ Eternal, or neglect the duties of it
 “ without guilt? Thou repinest at the
 “ dispensations of Providence, which
 “ have separated thee from Selima,
 “ and thou wishest, with impatience,
 “ to be released from thy mortal
 “ tenement, that thou mightest be
 “ united

“ united to her to separate no more;
“ thou dost not consider that the wish
“ implies an opposition to thee will
“ of him who gave thee thy being,
“ to whom it is thy duty to submit.
“ Let a conviction therefore of the
“ just administration and righteous
“ order of Providence, though at pre-
“ sent imperceptible to thy limited
“ faculties, seal thy lips in silence, and
“ still the murmurs of thy heart.
“ If thou wishest to be re-united to
“ Selima, and to participate of her
“ happiness, make it thy study to
“ imitate her example; train up thy
“ children in the principles of virtue
“ and steadfastly persevere in the path
“ of duty; and thy perseverance shall
“ be rewarded with the felicity of
“ paradise.” As he uttered these
“ last words, his brows, which
“ had

“ had been contracted into a frown,
 “ acquired an aspect of more benignity;
 “ his accent became less severe; and
 “ though I was awed into reverence
 “ and submission by his rebuke, I was
 “ likewise inspired with confidence and
 “ hope of the rewards of immortality.
 “ The angel, who had descended both
 “ to reprove and instruct me, having
 “ executed his commission, spread
 “ forth his resplendent pinions, and
 “ soared towards the empyrean.

“ When I began to reflect upon my
 “ own sentiments and conduct for some
 “ time past, I was sensible of the justness
 “ and force of the admonition delivered
 “ me by the angel of reproof; I per-
 “ ceived, that I had indulged a crimi-
 “ nal excess of grief, and that for the
 “ sake of this indulgence, I had sacri-
 “ ficed

[“ fixed or neglected some of the most
 “ important duties of life. I recollected
 “ that man was formed for action,
 “ rather than for contemplation;
 “ that the pressure of our own private
 “ calamities, however severe, can never
 “ exempt us from those duties which
 “ we owe to our children and to society;
 “ that despondence under affliction is
 “ in every situation a weakness as well
 “ as a crime; and that resignation under
 “ the irremediable evils of life to the
 “ will of the Supreme, and intrepid
 “ resolution exerted in combating those
 “ to which our natural powers are
 “ adapted, and which by our continued
 “ efforts may be overcome, argues at
 “ once the greatest magnanimity and
 “ the truest fortitude.

“ This train of reflexion served in
 “ some

“ some measure to reconcile me to my
“ unhappy fate; reason resumed its em-
“ pire in my breast, and time, which al-
“ ways moderates the excess both of our
“ joys and sorrows, aided by sentiments
“ of religion which took place in my
“ mind, at last abated the violence of
“ my grief; and the tempestuous gusts
“ of passion, which at first agitated
“ my soul, subsided in a settled and
“ pensive, but not unpleasing melan-
“ choly. I still thought of Selima
“ with the same tenderness, but my
“ heart was not so much torn by
“ those violent conflicts of passion,
“ which are the results of the first im-
“ petuous bursts of grief in its excess:
“ I gradually acquired a certain serenity
“ of temper, to which I had been long
“ a stranger, and I engaged with ear-
“ nestness in the task of educating my
“ children,

“ children, now my only care, which I
“ considered as my duty, and which
“ I executed with delight.

“ My son, to whom I had given the
“ name of Alibeg, was at the time of
“ his mother's death in the ninth year
“ of his age, and flattered me with the
“ appearance of a happy genius and
“ good disposition, much beyond his
“ years; my daughter, who bore the
“ name of Fatima, was only in the
“ seventh, and I already traced with in-
“ expressible pleasure, in her unfolding
“ features, a lively image of her mother,
“ whom she promised to resemble in
“ the endowments of her mind and the
“ graces of her person.

“ In the education of my children
“ I was particularly careful to impress
“ on

“ on their minds an awful reverence
“ of the supreme Being, a veneration
“ for his prophet and a respect to his
“ oracles ; for I considered, that though
“ these sentiments could not at present
“ operate upon their actions in any
“ other manner than by the power of
“ of habit, yet they might in the fu-
“ ture period of their lives, should
“ they in the course of Providence
“ happen to be cast upon the world,
“ and to mingle in the common pursuits
“ and occupations of mankind, discover
“ their influence in a more rational
“ manner, and prove excellent preserva-
“ tives against the contagion of folly
“ and vice. I endeavoured to trace
“ out to them, in proportion as their
“ faculties expanded, the vestiges and
“ exhibitions of divine wisdom and
“ goodness in the visible creation around
“ us ;

“ us; and pointed out innumerable
 “ instances of the benignity of the
 “ supreme Being in the provision which
 “ he has made for the supply of the
 “ manifold wants of mankind. From
 “ this display of the wisdom and
 “ beneficence of the Deity, I endeavour-
 “ ed to inflame their hearts with the
 “ most fervent love and gratitude to-
 “ wards that Being who is the author
 “ of all the felicity we enjoy or hope
 “ for.

“ I shewed them likewise that a de-
 “ vout resignation to the divine Will,
 “ under the pressure of affliction, an
 “ unshaken trust in God for deliverance
 “ from the calamities to which we
 “ may be subjected, a stedfast hope
 “ of his favour, of his bestowing upon
 “ us whatsoever is most conducive
 “ to

“ to our most important interests, and
 “ finally productive of our eternal
 “ happiness, are all founded upon the
 “ power, the omniscience, the wisdom,
 “ and the goodness of the supreme
 “ Being.

“ While I pointed out to them the
 “ reasonableness and the obligation of
 “ gratitude and love to God, I endea-
 “ voured at the same time to cultivate
 “ in their minds the principle of uni-
 “ versal benevolence to mankind, and
 “ to train them to the practice of this
 “ virtue by exercise and habit, long
 “ before they were capable of reasoning
 “ on its nature and its effects. The
 “ sphere of their beneficence indeed
 “ was narrow, being confined within
 “ the circle of the shepherds and pea-
 “ sants in the neighbourhood, who
 “ used

“ used sometimes to visit us in our
 “ retirement, and with whom we inter-
 “ changed offices of hospitality and
 “ friendship; but the operation of the
 “ principle itself became vigorous ac-
 “ cording to the paucity of the objects
 “ on which it was exerted, as waters
 “ pent up in a narrow channel over-
 “ flow the banks which confine them
 “ and form a stronger and more rapid
 “ current, than when they are diffused
 “ to a greater extent.

“ In order to habituate them to the
 “ practice of benevolence, I accustomed
 “ them to the performance of kind
 “ and benevolent offices to those who
 “ came to visit us, such as by making
 “ them presents of figs, dates, and such
 “ like, which, though inconsiderable
 “ in their value, had a tendency to
 “ strengthen

“ strengthen the principle from which
 “ they flowed; and I endeavoured to
 “ inspire them with tenderness and
 “ sympathy towards the unhappy by
 “ making them eye-witnesses of the
 “ misfortunes of our neighbours arising
 “ from the desolation of the seasons and
 “ from the consequent scarcity of pro-
 “ visions.

“ In this system of moral discipline,
 “ I found indeed that nature performed
 “ more than one half of the work, at
 “ the same time I observed with
 “ exquisite pleasure the effect of my
 “ instructions and tuition in giving a
 “ proper direction for the principles
 “ which she had implanted. Thus
 “ all my cares and labours in the educa-
 “ tion of my children were fully com-
 “ pensated by their daily progress and
 “ advancement

“ advancement in those which I en-
 “ deavoured to cultivate in their minds.
 “ But alas! when my children, now in
 “ the prime of youth, appeared like
 “ the almond-tree in all its blossom
 “ and beauty, lovely to the eye and
 “ fragrant to the smell, a fatal accident,
 “ which I yet shudder with agony and
 “ horror to relate, blasted the goodly
 “ prospect and laid all its honours in
 “ the dust.

“ One day Alibeg and Fatima hav-
 “ ing gone abroad with some of the
 “ neighbouring shepherds, in order to
 “ gather some of the fruits which the
 “ mountains yielded, were intercepted
 “ by a band of robbers, consisting of
 “ six persons all armed, who happened
 “ to pass that way through the desert
 “ by an unfrequented road near the
 “ place

“ place where they were gathering fruit.
 “ These ruffians, casting their eyes on
 “ Fatima, whose beauty arrested their
 “ attention, and thinking her the only
 “ prize worthy of their regard, they
 “ determined to carry her off by
 “ force as a present to their chieftain,
 “ who was not with them in this expedi-
 “ tion; coming up therefore with this
 “ intention to Fatima, who was quak-
 “ ing with dread at what was likely
 “ to happen, they seized her with-
 “ out further ceremony, telling her
 “ that she must go along with them,
 “ and that they would provide her with
 “ a lover who would know how to
 “ prize her charms.

“ Fatima, upon finding herself in the
 “ power of this infamous band, gave
 “ a loud shriek, which alarmed her
 L “ brother

“ brother so much, that he ran up hastily
“ with a baton in his hand, the only
“ weapon he had, calling upon the
“ villains who dragged her along to
“ release her, and threatening if they
“ did not instantly comply with his
“ desire, to revenge the violence offered
“ to his sister. One of the wretches
“ who thus dragged Fatima along
“ with him, whose name was Tagay
“ Bahadr, and who seemed to have
“ the command of the rest, turning
“ upon Alibeg, and regarding him
“ with a look both of resentment and
“ scorn, told him, “That he would
“ chastize his insolence immediately if
“ he did not restrain the petulance of
“ his tongue, and that he needed not
“ expect he would release his fair captive
“ as he was determined to carry her
“ as a present for his captain, though
“ he