

THE
GHOST-SEER;

OR,
APPARITIONIST,

AN
Interesting Fragment,

Found among the Papers

OF
COUNT O*****

From the German of Schiller.

LONDON:

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MDCCKCV.



The manner in which this Fragment is mentioned in the Monthly Review for September, 1794, page 21, as it has been an inducement for offering this translation to the public, will also, in some degree, apologize for its present title ; which, it is apprehended, may appear quaint and insignificant.

THE
GHOST-SEER.

ON my return to Courland in the year 17.. sometime about the Carnival, I visited the Prince of at Venice. We had been acquainted in the service, and we renewed here an intimacy which had been interrupted by the restoration of peace.

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As I wished to see the curiosities of this city, and as the Prince was waiting only for the arrival of remittances to return to his native country, he easily prevailed on me not to depart before him. We agreed not to separate during the time of our residence at Venice, and the Prince was so kind as to accomodate me at his lodgings at *the Moor*.

As the small revenues of the Prince did not permit him to maintain the dignity of his rank, he lived at Venice *incognito*. Two noblemen, in whom he had entire confidence, composed all his retinue.

nue. He shunned expences however, more from inclination than economy. He avoided all kinds of diversions, and though he was but thirty-five years old, he had resisted the numerous attractions of this voluptuous city. To the charms of the fair sex he was wholly indifferent. A settled gravity and a profound melancholy were the prominent features of his character. His passions were tranquil, but obstinate to excess. He formed his attachments with caution and timidity, but when once formed they were permanent and cordial. In the midst of a tumultuous crowd he walked alone. Occupied by his

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his own visionary ideas, he often was a stranger to the world about him. Sensible of the deficiency of his own judgment, he was apt to give an unwarrantable preference to the judgment of others. Though far from being weak, no man was more liable to be governed. When conviction, however, had once entered his mind, he became firm and decisive; equally courageous to combat an acknowledged prejudice, and to die for a new one.

As he was the third Prince of his house, he had no expectation of acquiring the sovereignty. His ambition had never been awakened;

ed; his passions had taken another turn. He read much, but without discrimination. As his education had been neglected, and as he had early entered the career of arms, his understanding had never come to maturity. Hence the knowledge he afterwards acquired, served but to increase the chaos of his ideas, because it was built on an unstable foundation.

Like the rest of his family he professed the Protestant religion, because he was born in it. Enquiry or investigation he had never attempted, although at one period of his life he had been an enthusiast.

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siaft. It is necessary to observe, that he had never been a free-mason.

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One evening, as usual, we were walking by ourselves, well masked, in the square of St. Mark. It was late, and the crowd was dispersing. The Prince observed a mask which followed us every where. This mask was an Arminian, and walked alone. We quickened our steps, and by different turns endeavoured to lose him. It was in vain, the mask was always close behind us. —“ You have no intrigue here, I
“ hope.”

“hope,” said the Prince at last,
“the husbands of Venice are dan-
“gerous.”——“I do not know
“a single lady;” was my answer.
“—Let us sit down here, and
“speak German,” said he, “I
“fancy we are mistaken for other
“persons.” We sat down upon a
stone bench, and expected the Ar-
minian would have passed by. He
came directly up to us, and placed
himself close by the Prince. The
latter took out his watch, and
rising at the same time, addressed
me thus in French: “It is past
“nine. Come, we forget that
“we are waited for at *the Louvre*.”
This was only a pretence to de-
ceive

ceive the Arminian.—“ Nine !” repeated the latter, in a slow and expressive voice, “ Congratulate “ yourself, my Prince ;” (calling him by his real name) “ he died “ at nine.” In saying this he arose and went away.

We looked at each other in amazement.—“ Who is dead ?” said at last the Prince, after a long silence.—“ Let us follow him,” replied I, “ and ask for an explanation.” We searched every corner of the place; the mask was no more to be found. We returned to our Hotel in disappointment. The Prince did not speak a word to me
all

all the way. He walked on at a little distance by himself, and as he told me afterwards, the conflict within him was violent.—

Having reached home he began at length to speak : “ It is laughable,” said he, “ that a madman should have the power of disturbing a man’s tranquillity by two words.” We wished each other a good night, and when in my own apartment, I noted down in my pocket-book, the day and the hour when this adventure happened. It was on a Thursday.

The next evening the Prince, said to me : “ Will you go with me

“ me to the Square of St. Mark,
“ and seek for our mysterious Ar-
“ minian? I long to see this co-
“ medy unravelled.” I consented.
We walked in the place till eleven.
The Arminian was no where to be
seen. We repeated our walk the
four following nights, and every
time with the same success.

On the sixth evening as we went
out of the Hotel, whether design-
edly or otherwise I cannot recol-
lect, I told the servants where we
might be found in case we should
be asked for. The Prince re-
marked my precaution, and appro-
ved of it with a smile. We found
the

the place very much crowded.—

Scarcely had we advanced thirty steps, when I perceived the Arminian, who was endeavouring to press through the crowd, and seemed to seek for some person.

We were just approaching him, when Baron F....., one of the Prince's retinue, came up to us quite breathless, and gave the Prince a letter : “ It is sealed with
“ black,” said he, “ we supposed
“ from this, that it contained
“ matters of importance.” I was struck as with a thunderbolt. The Prince went near a torch and began to read. “ My cousin is
“ dead !” exclaimed he.—

“ When

“ When ?” said I, quickly interrupting him. He looked again into the letter. “ Last Thursday
“ night at nine.”

We had not recovered from our surprize when the Arminian stood before us. “ You are known here,
“ my Prince !” said he. “ Hasten to your Hotel. You will
“ find there the Deputies of the
“ Senate. Do not hesitate to accept the honour they intend to
“ offer you. , Baron F... forgot
“ to tell you that your remittances
“ are arrived.”—He disappeared among the crowd.

We

We hastened home, and found every thing as the Arminian had told us. Three noblemen of the Republic were waiting to pay their respects to the Prince, and to attend him to the Assembly, where the first nobility of the city were ready to receive him. He had hardly an opportunity of giving me a hint to be on the watch.

About eleven o'clock at night he returned. On entering the room he appeared grave and thoughtful. He took me by the hand, and having dismissed the servants: "Count," said he, in the words of Hamlet:

"There

“ There are more things in heav’n and earth,
“ Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”

“ You seem to forget, my
“ Prince,” replied I, “ that you
“ are going to bed a great deal
“ richer in prospect.” The deceased was the hereditary Prince.

“ Do not mention it;” said the
Prince, “ If I should even have
“ acquired a crown, I am now
“ too much engaged to think of
“ such a trifle. If this Arminian
“ has not merely guessed by
“ chance——

“ How can that be, my
“ Prince ?” interrupted I.—

“ I

“ I resign all my hopes of royalty for a Monk’s habit ”—

I have mentioned this purposely to shew how far every ambitious idea was then distant from his thoughts.

The next evening we went sooner than common to the Square of St. Mark. A sudden shower of rain obliged us to enter a Coffee-house, where we found a party engaged at cards. The Prince took his place behind the chair of a Spaniard to observe the game. I went into an adjacent chamber to read the newspapers. I was soon disturbed

disturbed by a noise in the card-room. Previous to the entrance of the Prince, the Spaniard had been constantly losing, but since that he had been regularly winning. The fortune of the game was reversed in a striking manner, and the Bank was in danger of being challenged by the pointeur, who since this sudden change had become more adventurous. The Venetian who kept the Bank, addressing the Prince in a very rude manner, told him that his presence interrupted the fortune of the game, and that he ought to quit the table. The latter looked coolly at him, remained in his place, and preserved

preserved the same countenance, when the Venetian repeated his demand in French. He thought the Prince understood neither French or Italian; and addressing himself with a contemptuous sneer to the company, said: "Pray, "Gentlemen, tell me how I must "make myself understood by this "fool." At the same time he rose, and prepared to seize the Prince by the arm. Patience forsook the latter. He grasped the Venetian with a strong arm, and threw him violently on the ground. The company rose up in confusion. At this noise I hastily entered the room, and calling the Prince by

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his

his name : " Take care," said I imprudently ; " we are at Venice." The name of Prince, caused a general silence, which ended in a whispering that seemed to portend something very disagreeable. All the Italians who were present divided into parties, and went aside. One after the other left the room. We soon found ourselves alone with the Spaniard and a few Frenchmen. " You are undone, my Prince," said these, " if you do not immediately leave the town. The Venetian whom you have treated so cavalierly, is rich enough to hire a *Bravo*. It costs him

" but

“but fifty zechins to send you
“out of the world.” The Spaniard offered, for the security of the Prince, to go for the watch, and to accompany us home. The Frenchmen proposed to do the same. We were still standing and considering what was to be done, when some officers of the Inquisition entered the room. They shewed us an order of Government, which charged us both to follow them immediately. We arrived under a strong escort at the canal, where a gondola was waiting for us. We embarked, and were blindfolded before we landed. They then led us up a large stone staircase

B 2

case

TO THE GHOST SEER.

case, and through a long turning alley over vaults, as I judged from the echoes that resounded under our feet. At last we came to another stair-case, and having descended twenty six steps, we entered a spacious hall, where they took the bandage from our eyes. We found ourselves in a circle of venerable old men, all dressed in black. The hall was hung round with black, and faintly illuminated. The dead silence which reigned in the assembly, struck us with horror. One of the old men, probably the first Inquisitor, approached the Prince with an awful countenance, and said, at the same moment shewing him

him the Venetian, who was just then brought forward;

“ Do you know this man to be
“ the same who offended you at
“ the Coffee-house ?”

“ I do ;” answered the Prince.
—Then addressing the prisoner:
“ Is this the same person, whom
“ you meant to have assassinated.
“ this night ?”

The prisoner replied : “ Yes.”

In the same instant the circle
opened, and we saw with horror
B 3. the

the head of the Venetian immediately severed from his body.—

“Are you content with this satisfaction?” said the Inquisitor. The Prince fainted in the arms of his attendants. “Go,” added the Inquisitor, turning to me with a terrible voice, “Go, and in future judge less inconsiderately of the justice of Venice.”

An unknown friend, it was evident, had thus saved us from inevitable death, by interposing in our behalf the active arm of justice, but who it was we could not conjecture.

conjecture. Filled with terror we reached our Hotel. It was after midnight. The Chamberlain Z, impatiently waited for us at the door.

“ You did very well to send us a
“ message ;” said he to the Prince
as he lighted us up. “ The news
“ which Baron F - - - soon after
“ brought us respecting you, from
“ the Square of St. Mark, would
“ otherwise have given us the
“ greatest uneasiness.”—

“ I sent you a message ? When ?
“ I know nothing of it.”—

B 4

“ This

“ This evening after eight,
“ you sent us word, that we must
“ not be uneasy, if you should
“ come home later than usual.”—

The Prince looked at me.—
“ Perhaps you have taken this
“ precaution without mentioning
“ it to me?”—

I knew nothing of it.

“ It must be so, however,” replied the Chamberlain, “ since
“ here is your repeating watch,
“ which you sent me as a mark of
“ authenticity.”—

The

The Prince put his hand to his pocket. It was empty, and he knew the watch to be his own.

“ Who brought it ?” said he in amazement.—

“ An unknown mask in an Armenian dress, who disappeared immediately ?”—

We stood looking at each other. “ What do you think of this ?” said the Prince, at last, after a long silence. “ I have a secret guardian here at Venice.”

The terrifying adventures of this night brought on the Prince a severe

vere fever, which confined him a week. During this time our Hotel was crowded with Venetians and strangers, who visited the Prince from a deference to his newly-discovered rank. They vied with each other in offers of their services, and it was not a little entertaining for us to observe, that the last visitor seldom failed to hint some suspicions derogatory to the character of the preceding one. *Billets doux and arcana* poured upon us from all quarters. Every one endeavoured to recommend himself in his own way. Our adventure with the Inquisition was no more mentioned. The Court
of

of - - - - wishing the Prince to delay his departure from Venice for some time, orders were sent to several Bankers to pay him considerable sums of money. He was thus, against his will, enabled to protract his residence in Italy ; and, at his request, I also resolved to remain some time longer.

As soon as the Prince had recovered strength enough to quit his chamber, he was advised by his Physician to take an airing in a gondola upon the Brenta, to which, as the weather was serene, he readily consented. On going into the boat he missed the key of

a little chest in which very valuable papers were inclosed. We returned back to search for it immediately. He very distinctly remembered that he had locked the chest the day before, and he had never left the room in the interval. As our endeavours to find it proved ineffectual, we were obliged to relinquish the search in order to avoid delay. The Prince, whose soul was elevated above suspicion, declared the key to be lost, and desired that it might not be mentioned any more.

Our little voyage was exceedingly agreeable. A picturesque
country,

country, which at every winding of the river seemed to increase in richness and beauty ; the serenity of the sky, which formed a May-day in the middle of February ; the delightful gardens and elegant country-seats which adorned the banks of the Brenta ; the majestic city of Venice behind us, with its lofty spires, and a grove of masts, rising as it were out of the waves ; all this afforded us the most splendid spectacle in the world. Wholly abandoned to the enchantment of nature's luxuriant scenery, our minds shared the hilarity of the day. The Prince himself lost his wonted gravity, and vied with us
in

in our sports and diversions. On our landing, about two Italian miles from the city, we heard the sound of sprightly music; it came from a small village, at a little distance from the Brenta, where there was at that time a fair. As we advanced, we saw it crowded with company of every description. A troop of young girls and boys, dressed in theatrical habits, welcomed us in a pantomimical dance. The figure was entirely new.—Animation and grace attended their motions. Before the dance was concluded, the principal actors, who represented a Queen, stopped suddenly as if arrested by an

an invisible arm. Herself and those around her were motionless. The music ceased. The assembly was silent. Not a breath was to be heard. The Queen stood with her eyes fixed on the ground in a deep stupefaction. On a sudden she started from her reverie, with the fury of one inspired, and looking wildly around her: "A King
" is among us!" she exclaimed, taking her crown from her head, and laying it at the feet of the Prince. Every one present cast their eyes upon him, and doubted for a moment whether there was any meaning in this farce; so much were they deceived
by

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by the impressive seriousness of the actresses. Silence was at last broken by a general clapping of the hands, as a mark of approbation. I looked at the Prince. He was not a little disconcerted, and endeavoured to escape the inquisitive eyes of the spectators. He threw money to the players, and hastened out of the company.

We had advanced but a few steps, when a venerable Monk pressing through the crowd, stopped the Prince in his way. "My Lord!" said he, "give the holy Virgin part of your gold. You will want her prayers." He uttered

uttered these words in a tone of voice which struck us extremely, and disappeared in the throng.

In the mean time our company had increased. An English Lord, whom the Prince had seen before at Nice; some merchants of Leghorn; a German Prebendary; a French *Abbé* with some Ladies; and a Russian officer had joined us. The physiognomy of the latter had something so uncommon as to attract our particular attention.— Never in my life did I see such various features, and so little expression; so much attractive benevolence, and so much repelling coldness.

C

coldness in the same face. Each passion seemed, by turns, to have exercised its ravages on it, and to have left it successively. Nothing remained but the calm piercing look of a person deeply skilled in the science of man; but it was such a look as abashed every one on whom it was directed. This extraordinary man followed us at a distance, apparently taking but an indifferent part in all that had happened.

We came to a Mountebank's stage. The ladies tried their fortune. We followed their example. The Prince himself purchased a ticket.

ticket. He won a snuff-box. I saw him turn pale in opening it.— It contained his lost key.

“ How is this?” said he to me,
 as we were for a moment alone.
 “ A superior power attends me.
 “ Omniscience furrounds me. An
 “ invisible Being, that I cannot
 “ escape, watches over my steps.
 “ I must seek for the Arminian,
 “ and get information from him.”

The sun was setting when we came to the inn, where a supper had been prepared for us. The Prince's name had augmented our company to sixteen. Besides the

C 2

above-

above - mentioned persons, there was a Virtuoso of Rome; some gentlemen of Switzerland, and an adventurer of Palermo in regimentals, who pretended to be a Captain. We resolved to spend the evening where we were, and to return home by torch-light. The conversation at table was lively. The Prince could not forbear relating his adventure of the key, which excited a general surprize. A warm dispute on the subject presently took place. Most of the company positively maintained, that the pretended occult sciences were nothing better than juggling tricks. The French *Abbé*, who
had

had drunk rather too much wine, challenged the whole tribe of Ghosts. The English Lord uttered blasphemies. The musician made a cross to exorcise the devil. Some of the company, amongst whom was the Prince, contended, that our judgment respecting such matters ought to be kept in suspense. In the meantime the Russian officer discoursed with the ladies, and did not seem to pay attention to any part of the conversation. In the heat of the dispute, the pretended Sicilian Captain left the room without being observed. Half an hour after he returned, wrapt up in a cloak,

C 3

and

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and placed himself behind the chair of the Frenchman. "A few moments ago," said he, "you had the boldness to challenge the whole tribe of Ghosts. Would you wish to make a trial with one of them?"—

"I will;" answered the *Abbé*, "if you will take upon you to introduce one."—

"That I am ready to do," replied the Sicilian, turning to us, "as soon as these ladies and gentlemen shall have left us."—

"Why

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“ Why only then ? ” exclaimed the Englishman ; “ A courageous Ghost has surely no dread of a chearful company . ”

“ I would not answer for the consequences ; ” said the Sicilian .—

“ For heaven’s sake, no ! ” cried the ladies, starting affrighted from their chairs .—

“ Call your ghost , ” said the *Abbé*, in a tone of defiance, “ but warn him before-hand, that he will have to encounter with a good blade . ” At the same time

time he asked one of the company for a sword.—

“ If you preserve the same intention in his presence,” answered the Sicilian coolly, “ you may then act as you please.” And addressing the Prince: “ Your Highness,” added he, “ thinks your key has been in the hands of a stranger; can you conjecture in whose ?”—

“ No.”—

“ Have you no suspicion ?”—

“ Certainly I have.”—

“ Could

“ Could you know the person
“ if you saw him ? ” —

“ Undoubtedly. ” —

The Sicilian, throwing back his
cloak, took out a looking glass and
held it before the Prince. “ Is
“ this the same ? ” —

The Prince drew back asto-
nished.

“ Whom have you seen ? ” I
“ said. —

“ The Arminian. ”



The

The Sicilian concealed his looking-glass under his cloak.

“Is it the same person?” demanded the company.—

“The same.”—

A sudden change manifested itself on every face. No more laughter was to be heard. All eyes were fixed with curiosity on the Sicilian.

“*Monseigneur l'Abbé!* The matter grows serious;” said the Englishman. “I advise you to think of retreating.”—

“The

"The fellow is possessed with the
"devil;" exclaimed the French-
man, and flew out of the house.
The ladies screamed, and hastily
left the room. The Virtuoso fol-
lowed them. The German Pre-
bendary was snooring in a chair.
The Russian officer continued in-
different in his place as before.

"Perhaps your intention was
"only to make this *bravado*
"appear ridiculous;" said the
Prince, after they were gone, "or
"would you fulfil your promise
"with us?"—



“ It is true;” replied the Sicilian, “ I was but jesting with the *Abbé*. I took him at his word, because I knew very well that the coward would not suffer me to proceed to extremities. Besides, the matter is too serious to be trifled with.”—

“ You grant it is in your power ?”

The Conjuror maintained a long silence, and kept his look fixed steadily on the Prince, as if to examine him.

“ It is in my power;” answered he at last.

The

The Prince's curiosity was now raised to the highest pitch. A fondness for the mysterious had ever been his prevailing weakness. His improved understanding, and a proper course of reading, had for some time dissipated every idea of this kind; but the appearance of the Arminian had again revived them. He went aside with the Sicilian, and I heard them in very earnest conversation.

“ You see in me,” said the Prince, “ a man who burns with
“ impatience to be convinced on
“ this momentous subject. I
“ would embrace as a benefactor,
“ I

“ I would cherish as my best
 “ friend, him who could dissipate
 “ my doubts, and remove the veil
 “ from my eyes. Would you ren-
 “ der me this important service?”—

“ What is your request?” re-
 plied the Sicilian, hesitating.—

“ I now only beg a specimen
 “ of your art. Let me see an
 “ apparition.”—

“ To what will this lead?”

“ After a more intimate ac-
 “ quaintance with me, you may
 “ be able to judge whether I de-
 “ serve a further instruction.”—

“ I

“ I have the greatest esteem for
 “ your Highness, my Prince.—
 “ The first sight of you, has bound
 “ me to you for ever. You have
 “ an unlimited command over my
 “ power, but”—

“ So you will let me see an
 “ apparition.”—

“ But I must first be certain
 “ that you do not require it from
 “ mere curiosity. Though the
 “ invisible powers be in some de-
 “ gree at my command, it is on
 “ this sacred condition, that I do
 “ not abuse my empire.”—

“ My

“ My intentions are pure. I
“ want truth.”—

They left their places, and removed to a window, where I could no longer hear them. The English Lord, who had likewise listened to this conversation, took me aside.

“ Your Prince is a generous man.
“ I am sorry for him. I will
“ pledge my salvation that he has
“ to do with a rascal.”—

“ Every thing depends on the
“ manner in which the Conjuror
“ will extricate himself from this
“ business.”—

“ Well !

“ Well ! The poor fellow is
“ now affecting to be delicate. He
“ will not shew his tricks, unless
“ he hears the sound of gold. We
“ are nine. Let us make a col-
“ lection. That will subdue him,
“ and perhaps open the eyes of
“ the Prince.” —

I consented. The Englishman
threw six guineas upon a plate,
and gathered around. Each of us
gave some louis d'ors. The Russian
officer was particularly pleased with
our proposal ; he gave a bank note
of one hundred and fifty zechins ;
a prodigality which astonished the
Englishman. We brought the
D money

money to the Prince. "Be so kind," said the English Lord, "as to prevail on this gentleman to exhibit to us a specimen of his art, and to accept of this small token of our gratitude."

The Prince added a ring of value, and offered the whole to the Sicilian. He hesitated a few moments.

"Gentlemen," said he afterwards, "I am humbled by this generosity, but I yield to your request. Your wishes shall be gratified."

—At the same time he rung the bell.—"As for this money," continued he, "on which I have no claim for myself, permit me to send it to the next monastery,

“ monastery, to be applied to pi-
 “ ous uses. I shall only keep this
 “ ring, as a precious memorial of
 “ the worthiest of Princes.”

The Landlord came in; the
 Sicilian gave him the money.—
 “ He is a rascal notwithstand-
 “ ing;” said the Englishman,
 whispering to me. “ He refuses
 “ the money because at present
 “ his designs are chiefly on the
 “ Prince.”---

“ Whom do you want to see ?”
 said the conjurer.—

The Prince considered for a
 moment. “ You had better de-

D 2. “ mand

“mand at once a great person-
“age;” said the Englishman.
“Ask for Pope Ganganelli.
“It can make no difference to
“this gentleman.”

The Sicilian bit his lips. “I
“dare not call one of God’s
“anointed.”—

“That is a pity!” replied the
English Lord; “perhaps we
“might have heard from him
“what disorder he died of.”

“The *Marquis de Lanoy*,” be-
gan the Prince, “was a French
“General in the seven years war,
“and

“ and my most intimate friend.
“ —Having received a mortal
“ wound in the battle of *Hastin-*
“ *beck*, he was carried to my tent,
“ where he soon after died in my
“ arms. In his last agony he
“ made a sign for me to approach.
“ —Prince, said he to me, I shall
“ never see my country any more,
“ I must acquaint you with a se-
“ cret known to none but myself.
“ In a convent on the frontiers of
“ Flanders lives a - - - - -. He
“ expired. Death cut the thread
“ of his speech. I wish to see my
“ friend to hear the remainder.”

“ You

“ You ask much;” exclaimed the Englishman with an oath, and addressing the Sicilian; “ I proclaim you the greatest sorcerer on earth, if you can resolve this problem.”——We admired the sagacity of the Prince, and unanimously applauded his request.—In the mean time the conjurer was hastily walking about the room, indecisive, and apparently struggling with himself.

“ This was all that the dying Marquis communicated to you?”

“ Nothing more.”—

“ Did

“ Did you make no further inquiries about the matter in his country ? ”—

“ I did, but they all proved fruitless.”

“ Had the Marquis led an irreproachable life ? I dare not call every shade indistinctly.”—

“ He died, repenting the errors of his youth.”—

“ Do you carry with you any remembrance of him ? ”—

“ I

“ I do.”——The Prince had really a snuff box, with the Marquis’s portrait enamelled in miniature on the lid, which he had placed upon the table near his plate during the time of supper.

“ I do not want to know what
“ it is. If you will leave me
“ alone, you shall see the de-
“ ceased.”——

He desired us to pass into the other pavilion, and wait there till he called us. At the same time he caused all the furniture to be removed out of the room, the windows to be taken out, and the
shutters.

shutters to be well bolted. He ordered the innkeeper, with whom he appeared to be intimately connected, to bring a vessel with burning coals, and carefully to extinguish every fire in the house. Previous to our leaving the room, he obliged us separately to pledge our honour, that we would maintain an everlasting silence respecting every thing we might see and hear. The doors of the pavilion we were in, were bolted behind us when we left it.

It was past eleven, and a dead silence reigned in the whole house. As we were retiring from the
saloon,

saloon, the Russian officer asked me, whether we had loaded pistols.

“To what purpose?” said I.—

“They may possibly be of some use,” replied he. “Wait a moment. I will provide some.”

He went away. The Chamberlain Z and I opened a window opposite the pavilion we had left. We fancied we heard two persons whispering to each other, and a noise like that of a ladder applied to one of the windows.

This was, however, a mere conjecture, and I dare not affirm it as a fact. Half an hour after the Russian officer came back with a brace of pistols. We saw him load

load them with powder and ball. It was almost two o'clock in the morning when the conjurer came for us. Before we entered the room, he desired us to take off our shoes, coats, and waistcoats. He bolted the doors after us as before.

We found in the middle of the room a large black circle, drawn with charcoal, the space within which was capable of containing us all ten very easily. The planks of the chamber floor next to the wall were taken up, quite round the room, so that the place where we stood was, as it were, insulated.

An

An altar, covered with black, was placed in the centre upon a carpet of red sarrin. A Chaldean bible was laid open, together with a dead man's skull; and a silver crucifix was fastened upon the altar. Instead of wax tapers, some spirits of wine were burning in a silver box. A thick smoke of perfume obscured the light, and darkened the room. The conjurer was undressed like us, but bare-footed. About his neck he wore an amulet,* suspended

* AMULET, is a charm or preservative against mischief, witchcraft or diseases. Amulets were made of stone, metal, simples, animals, and every thing which fancy or credence suggested; and sometimes they consisted of words, characters and sentences ranged in a particular order, and engraved upon wood, and worn about the neck, or some other

suspended by a chain of man's hair; round his middle was a white apron, marked with mysterious cyphers and symbolical figures. He desired us to take hold of each other's hand, and observe a profound silence. Above all, he ordered us not to ask the apparition any question. He desired the English Lord and myself, whom he

other part of the body. At other times they were neither written nor engraved, but prepared with many superstitious ceremonies, great regard being usually paid to the influence of the stars. The Arabians have given to this species of Amulets the name of TALISMANS. All nations have been fond of Amulets. The Jews were extremely superstitious in the use of them to drive away diseases; and even amongst the Christians of the early times, Amulets were made of the wood of the Cross, or ribbands, with a text of scripture written in them, as preservatives against diseases.

he seemed to mistrust the most, constantly to hold two naked swords across, one inch high, above his head, during all the time of the conjuration. We formed a half moon round him; the Russian officer placed himself close to the English Lord, and was the nearest to the altar. The conjurer stood with his face turned to the East upon the satin carpet. He sprinkled holy water in the direction of the four cardinal points of the earth, and bowed three times before the bible. The *formula* of the conjuration, of which we did not understand a word, lasted for the space of seven or eight minutes;

minutes ; at the end of which he gave a sign to those who stood the nearest behind him, to seize him fast by his hair. In the most violent convulsions he thrice called the deceased by his name, and the third time he stretched his hand towards the crucifix..

On a sudden we all felt, at the same instant, a stroke as of a flash of lightening, so powerful, that it obliged us to quit each other's hands. A terrible thunder shook the house. The locks jarred ; the doors creaked ; the cover of the silver box fell down, and extinguished the light ; and on the opposite

posite wall, over the chimney, appeared a human figure, in a bloody shirt, with the paleness of death on its countenance.

“ Who calls me ? ” said a hollow, and hardly-intelligible voice.

“ Thy friend,” answered the conjurer, “ who respects thy memory, and prays for thy soul.”—He named the Prince.

The answers of the apparition were given at very long intervals.

“ What does he want of me ? ” continued the voice.

“ He

“ He wants to hear the remainder of a secret, which thou be-
“ ganst to impart to him in thy
“ last moments.”

“ In a convent on the frontiers
“ of Flanders lives a — ”

The house again trembled ; a dreadful thunder rolled ; a flash of lightening illuminated the room ; the doors flew open, and another human figure, bloody and pale as the first, but more terrible, appeared on the threshold. The spirit in the box began again to burn by itself, and the hall was light as before.

E

“ Who

“ Who is amongst us ? ” exclaimed the Conjuror, terrified, and casting around a look of horror ; “ I did not want Thee. ” — The figure advanced with slow and majestic steps directly up to the altar, stood on the fatten carpet over against us, and touched the crucifix. The first figure was no more.

“ Who calls me ? ” demanded the second apparition.

The Conjuror began to tremble. Terror and amazement overpowered us. I seized a pistol. The Sorcerer snatched it out of my hand,

hand, and fired it at the apparition. The ball rolled slowly upon the altar, and the figure remained unaltered. The Sorcerer fainted away.

“What is this?” exclaimed the Englishman, in astonishment. He was going to strike at the Ghost with a sword. The figure touched his arm, and his weapon fell on the ground. Courage forsook us.

During all this time the Prince stood fearless and tranquil, his eyes fixed on the second apparition.

“Yes, I know thee,” said he at last, with emotion; “Thou

E 2

“art

“ art *Lanoy*. Thou art my friend.

“ Whence dost thou come ?”

“ Eternity is mute. Ask me
“ about my past life.”

“ I wish to know who it is that
“ lives in the Convent which thou
“ mentionedst to me in thy last
“ moments ?”

“ My Daughter.”

“ How ? Hast thou been a
“ father ?”

“ Woe is me that I was not
“ such an one as I ought to have
“ been.”

“ Art

“ Art thou not happy, *Lanoy* ? ”

“ God has judged.”

“ Can I render thee any further
“ service in this world ? ”

“ None, but to think of thy-
“ self.”

“ How must I do it ? ”

“ Thou wilt hear at Rome.”

The thunder again rolled ; a
black cloud of smoke filled the
room ; it dispersed, and the figure
was no longer visible. I forced
open

open one of the window shutters.
It was day break.

The Conjuror now recovered his senses. "Where are we?" asked he, seeing the day light. The Russian Officer stood close behind him, and looking over his shoulder: "Juggler!" said he to him, with a terrible countenance; "thou shalt no more call a
" Ghost."

The Sicilian turned round, considered his face attentively, screamed aloud, and threw himself at his feet.

We

We looked all at once at the pretended Russian. The Prince easily recognized the features of the Arminian, and the words he was about to utter expired on his tongue. Fear and amazement petrified us. Silent and motionless, our eyes were fixed on this mysterious being, who beheld us with a calm but penetrating look of grandeur and superiority. A minute elapsed in this awful silence, another succeeded; not a breath was to be heard.

A violent knocking at the door drew us at last out of this stupefaction. The door fell in pieces
into

into the room, and a bailiff, with the watch, immediately entered.

“ Here they are, all together !”

said he to his followers—Then

addressing himself to us—“ In the

“ name of the Senate,” continued

he, “ I arrest you.” We were

surrounded before we had time to

recollect ourselves. The Russian

Officer, whom I shall again call

the Arminian, took the Bailiff

aside, and, notwithstanding the

confusion I was in, I observed him

whispering to the latter, and shew-

ing him a written paper. The

Bailiff, bowing respectfully, im-

mediately quitted him, turned

to us, and taking off his hat,

said :

said: "Gentlemen, I humbly beg
" your pardon for having con-
" founded you with this villain.
" I shall not enquire who you are,
" as this gentleman assures me
" you are men of honour." At
the same time he gave his com-
panions a sign to leave us at liberty.
He ordered the Sicilian to be
bound and guarded. "The fel-
" low is well known," added he,
" we have been searching for him
" these seven months."

The wretched Conjuror was now
become a real object of pity. The
terror caused by the second ap-
parition, and by this unexpected
arrest,

arrest, had together overpowered his senses. Helpless as a child, he suffered himself to be bound without resistance. His eyes were wide-open and immoveable ; his face pale as death. Not a word escaped his quivering lips. Every moment we thought he was falling into convulsions. The Prince was moved by the situation in which he saw him. He discovered his rank to the Bailiff, and intreated him to grant the Conjuror his liberty. “ You do not know, my Prince,” said the Bailiff, “ for whom your Highness is so generously interceding. The juggling tricks by which he endeavoured

“ deavoured to deceive you, are
“ the least of his crimes. We
“ have secured his accomplices ;
“ they depose terrible facts against
“ him. He may think himself
“ happy if he is only punished
“ with the galleys.”

In the mean time we saw the Inn-keeper and his family tied together and led through the yard. “ He
“ too, ?” said the Prince, “ and
“ what is his crime ?”——“ He
“ has concealed the Sicilian, and
“ acted as his accomplice ;” answered the Bailiff. “ He assisted
“ him in his deceptions and robberies, and shared the booty
“ with him. Your Highness shall
“ be

“ be convinced of it presently.” Then, turning to his companions, he ordered them to search the house, and to bring him whatever they might find.

The Prince looked for the Arminian, but he had disappeared. In the confusion occasioned by the arrival of the watch, he had found means to steal away unperceived. The Prince was inconsolable. He declared he would send all his servants, he would go himself in search of this mysterious man. He wished to have me along with him. I looked out of the window; the house was surrounded by

by a great number of people, who had assembled from curiosity, on hearing of this event. It was impossible to get through the crowd. I represented to the Prince, that if it was the Arminian's serious intention to conceal himself from us, he was so well acquainted with the means of doing it, that all our enquiries would prove fruitless.

“ Let us rather remain here a little longer,” added I. “ This Bailiff, to whom, if I am not mistaken, he has discovered himself, may perhaps give us a more particular account of him.”

At

At the same time we recollected that we were still undressed. We went to the other pavilion and put on our clothes in haste. When we came back, they had finished the searching of the house.

The altar having been removed, and the boards of the floor taken up, a spacious vault was discovered. It was so high that a man might sit upright in it with ease, and was separated from the cave by a secret door and a narrow stair case. In this vault they found an electrical machine, a clock, and a little silver bell, which, as well as the electrical machine, had a communication

munication with the altar and the crucifix that was fastened upon it. A hole had been made in the window shutter, opposite the chimney, which opened and shut with a slide. In this hole, as we learnt afterwards, was fixed a magic lantern, from which the figure of the Ghost had been reflected on the opposite wall, over the chimney. From the garret and the cave they brought several drums, to which large leaden bullets were fastened by strings; these had probably been used to imitate the roaring of thunder which we had heard.

In

In searching the Sicilian's clothes they found in a case different powders, genuine mercury in vials and boxes, phosphorous in a glass bottle, and a ring, which we immediately knew to be magnetic, because it adhered to a steel button that had been placed near to it by accident. In his coat pockets was a rosary, a Jew's beard, a dagger, and a brace of pocket-pistols. "Let us see whether they are loaded," said one of the watch, and fired up the chimney.

"O God!" cried a hollow voice, which we knew to be the same as that of the first apparition,

tion, and at the same instant we beheld a person tumbling down the chimney, all covered with blood.

"What? not yet at rest, poor

"Ghost?" cried the Englishman, while we started back affrighted.

"Go to thy grave. Thou hast

"appeared what thou wast not,

"and now thou wilt be what thou

"hast appeared."

"O! I am wounded," replied the man in the chimney. The ball had fractured his right leg. Care was immediately taken to have the wound dressed.

"But who art thou," said the

F English

English Lord, "and what evil
" spirit brought thee here?"

"I am a poor Monk," answered the wounded man; "a stranger
" gave me a zechin to — — —"

"Repeat a speech. And why
" didst thou not withdraw immediately?" —

"I was waiting for a signal to
" continue my speech, as had been
" agreed on between us, but as
" this signal was not given, I was
" endeavouring to get away, when
" I found the ladder had been removed." —

And

“ And what was the formula
“ he taught thee ? ”

The wounded man fainted away ; nothing more could be got from him. In the mean time the Prince addressed the leader of the watch ; giving him at the same time some pieces of gold : “ You
“ have rescued us,” said he,
“ from the hands of a villain, and
“ done us justice even without
“ knowing us ; would you increase
“ our gratitude by telling us,
“ who was the stranger that, by
“ speaking only a few words, was
“ able to procure us our liberty ? ”

F 2

“ Whom

“ Whom do you mean ?” asked the Bailiff, with a countenance which plainly shewed that the question was useless.

“ The Gentleman in a Russian uniform, who took you aside, shewed you a written paper, and whispered a few words, in consequence of which you immediately set us free.”

“ Do not you know the Gentleman ? Was not he one of your company ?”

“ No, and I have very important reasons for wishing to be acquainted with him.”

“ I

“ I know no more of him myself. Even his name is unknown to me. I saw him to-day for the first time in my life.”

“ What? And was he able in so short a time, and by using only a few words, to convince you that himself and us all were innocent?”

“ Undoubtedly, with a single word.”—

“ And this was?—I confess I wish to know it.”

“ This stranger, my Prince !”
(weighing

(weighing the zechins in his hand:)

“ You have been too generous for
“ me to make it any longer a my-
“ stery ; this stranger is an Officer
“ of the Inquisition.”

“ Of the Inquisition ? This
“ man ?”

“ Nothing else, my Prince. I
“ was convinced of it by the pa-
“ per which he shewed to me.”

“ This man, did you say ? That
“ cannot be.”

“ I will tell you more, my
“ Prince It was upon his infor-
“ mation

“ mation that I have been sent
“ here to arrest the Conjuror.”

We looked at each other in
the utmost astonishment.

“ Now we know,” said the Eng-
lish Lord, “ why the poor devil
“ of a Sorcerer started when he
“ came near his face. He knew
“ him to be a spy, and for this only
“ reason”

“ No. !” interrupted the
Prince. “ This man is what-
“ ever he wishes to be, and what-
“ ever the moment requires him
“ to be. No mortal ever knew
“ what he really was. Did not
“ you

“ you see the knees of the Sicilian
“ sink under him, when he said,
“ with a terrible voice: Thou shalt
“ no more call a Ghost. There is
“ something inexplicable in this
“ matter. No person can persuade
“ me that one man should be thus
“ alarmed at the sight of another.”

“ The Conjuror will probably
“ explain it the best,” said the
English Lord, “ if that Gentle-
“ man,” pointing to the Bailiff,
“ will procure us an opportunity
“ of speaking to his prisoner.”

The Bailiff consented to it, and
having agreed with the Englishman
to

to visit the Sicilian in the morning, we returned to Venice.*

Lord Seymour (this was the name of the Englishman) called upon us very early in the forenoon, and was soon after followed by a person whom the Bailiff had intrusted with the care of conducting us to the prison. I forgot to mention that one of the Prince's domestics,

* Count O , whose narrative I have thus far literally copied, describes minutely the various effects of this adventure upon the mind of the Prince, and of his companions, and recounts a variety of tales of apparitions, which this event gave occasion to introduce. I shall omit giving them to the reader, on the supposition that he is as curious as myself to know the conclusion of the adventure, and its effects on the conduct of the Prince. I shall only add, that the Prince got no sleep the remainder of the night, and that he waited with impatience for the moment which was to disclose this incomprehensible mystery.—*Note of the German Editor.*

metics, a native of Bremen, who had served him many years with the strictest fidelity, and who possessed his confidence, had been missing for several days. Whether he had met with any accident; whether he had been kidnapped, or had voluntarily absented himself, was a secret to every one. The last supposition was extremely improbable, as his conduct had always been regular and irreproachable. All that his companions could recollect, was, that he had been for some time very melancholy, and that whenever he had a moment's leisure, he used to visit a certain monastery in the

Giudecca,

Giudecca, where he had formed an acquaintance with some monks. This induced us to suppose that he might have fallen into the hands of the Priests, and had been persuaded to turn Catholick. The Prince was very tolerant, or rather indifferent about matters of this kind, and the few enquiries he caused to be made proving unsuccessful, he gave up the search. He, however, regretted the loss of this man, who had constantly attended him in his campaigns, had always been faithfully attached to him, and whom it was therefore difficult to replace in a foreign country. The very same day the
Prince's

Prince's banker, whom he had commissioned to provide him with another servant, came at the moment we were going out. He presented to the Prince a well dressed man, of a good appearance, about forty years of age, who had been for a long time secretary to a *Procurator*, spoke French, and a little German, and was besides furnished with the best recommendations. The Prince was pleased with the man's physiognomy, and as he declared that he would be satisfied with such wages as his service should be found to merit, the Prince engaged him immediately.

. We

We found the Sicilian in a private prison, where, as the Bailiff assured us, he had been lodged for the present, to accommodate the Prince, as he was to be confined in future under the lead roofs, to which there is no access. These lead roofs are the most terrible dungeons in Venice. They are situated on the top of the Palace of St. Mark, and the miserable criminals suffer so excessively from the heat of the leads, occasioned by the burning rays of the sun descending directly upon them, that they frequently turn mad. The Sicilian had recovered from his terror, and rose respectfully at the sight

fight of the Prince. He had fetters on one hand and one leg, but he was able to walk about the room at liberty. The keeper left the prison, as soon as we had entered.

“ I come,” said the Prince,
“ to request an explanation of you
“ on two subjects. You owe me
“ the one, and it shall not be to
“ your disadvantage if you grant
“ me the other.”—

“ My part is now acted,” replied the Sicilian, “ my destiny
“ is in your hands.”—

“ Your

"Your sincerity alone can soften
"its rigour."—

"Speak, my Prince, I am ready
"to answer you. I have nothing
"now to lose."—

"You shewed me the face of the
"Arminian in a looking-glass.
"How was it done?—

"What you saw was no look-
"ing-glass. A portrait in paint
"tied behind a glass, represent-
"ing a man in an Arminian dress,
"deceived you. The want of
"light, your astonishment, and
"my own dexterity, favoured the
"de-

“ deception. The picture itself
 “ must have been found among
 “ the other things seized at the
 “ inn.”—

“ But how came you so well
 “ acquainted with my ideas, as
 “ to hit upon the Arminian?”—

“ This was not difficult, my
 “ Prince. You have frequently
 “ mentioned your adventure with
 “ the Arminian at table, in pre-
 “ sence of your domestics. One of
 “ my servants got accidentally ac-
 “ quainted with one of your’s, in
 “ the *Giudecca*, and learned from
 “ him gradually as much as I
 “ wished

“ wished to know. By this means
“ also, I received the first infor-
“ mation of your residence, and
“ of your adventures at Venice;
“ and I resolved immediately to
“ profit by them. You see, my
“ Prince, I am sincere. I was
“ apprized of your intended ex-
“ cursion on the *Brenta*. I was
“ prepared for it, and a key that
“ dropped by chance from your
“ pocket, afforded me the first
“ opportunity of trying my art
“ upon you.”—

“ How ! Have I been mis-
“ taken ? The adventure of the
“ key was then a trick of yours,
G “ and

“ and not of the Arminian? You
“ say this key fell from my
“ pocket?”—

“ You accidentally dropped it
“ in taking out your purse, and
“ I seized a moment when no
“ person was observing me, to
“ cover it with my foot. An in-
“ telligence subsisted between my-
“ self and the person of whom you
“ bought the lottery-ticket. He
“ caused you to draw it from a
“ box where there was no blank,
“ and the key had been in the
“ snuff-box long before it came
“ into your possession.”—

“ I

“ I understand you. And the
 “ monk who stopped me in my
 “ way, and addressed me in a
 “ manner so solemn,”—

“ Was the same, who, I hear,
 “ has been wounded in the chim-
 “ ney. He is one of my accom-
 “ plices, and under that disguise
 “ has rendered me many impor-
 “ tant services.”—

“ But what purpose was this
 “ intended to answer?”—

“ To render you thoughtful;
 “ to inspire you with such a train
 “ of ideas as should be favourable

G 2

“ to

“ to the wonders I intended to
“ make you believe.”——

“ The pantomimical dance,
“ which ended in a manner so ex-
“ traordinary, was at least none of
“ your contrivance ?”——

“ I had taught the girl who
“ represented the Queen. Her
“ performance was the result of
“ my instructions. I supposed
“ your Highness would not be a
“ little astonished to find yourself
“ known in this place, and (I in-
“ treat your pardon, my Prince)
“ your adventure with the Ar-
“ minian gave room for me to
hope

“ hope that you were already dis-
 “ posed to reject natural interpre-
 “ tations, and to search for the
 “ marvellous.”—

“ Indeed,” exclaimed the
 Prince, at once angry and amazed,
 and casting upon me a significant
 look; “ Indeed, I did not expect
 “ this.” (*)—

“ But;

(*) Neither did probably the greatest number of my
 readers. The circumstance of the crown deposited at the
 feet of the Prince, in a manner so solemn and unexpected,
 and the former prediction of the Arminian, seem so na-
 turally and so obviously to aim at the same object, that
 at the first reading of these memoirs I immediately re-
 membered the deceitful speech of the Witches in Macbeth :

“ Hail to thee Thane of Glamis !

“ All hail Macbeth ! that shall be King hereafter !”

When a particular idea has once entered the mind in a
 solemn and extraordinary manner, it necessarily connects
 with

“ But,” said the Prince again, after a long silence, “ how did
“ you produce the figure that ap-
“ peared on the wall over the
“ chimney ?”—

“ By means of a magic lan-
“ tern that was fixed in the oppo-
“ site window shutter, in which
“ you have undoubtedly observed
“ an opening.”—

“ And how did it happen that
“ none of us perceived the lan-
“ tern ?” asked Lord Seymour.—

“ You

with itself every subsequent idea which seems to have the least affinity to it.

Note of the German Editor.

“ You remember, my Lord,
“ that on your re-entering the
“ room, it was darkened by a
“ thick smoke of perfume. I used
“ likewise the precaution to place
“ upright against the wall near
“ the window, the boards which
“ had been taken up from the
“ floor. By these means I pre-
“ vented the shutter from coming
“ immediately under your sight.
“ Moreover the lantern remained
“ covered until you had taken
“ your places, and until there was
“ no further reason to apprehend
“ any examination from the per-
“ sons in the salloon.”——

“ As

“ As I looked out of the window in the other pavilion,” said I, “ I heard a noise like that of a person placing a ladder against the side of the house. Was it really so ? ”——

“ Yes ; my assistant stood upon this ladder to direct the magic-lantern.”——

“ The apparition,” continued the Prince, “ had really a superficial likeness to my deceased friend, and what was particularly striking, his hair, which was of a very light colour, was exactly imitated. Was this mere
“ chance,

“ chance, or how did you come
“ by such a resemblance ?—

“ Your Highness must recol-
“ lect, that you had at table a
“ snuff-box laid by your plate,
“ with an enamelled portrait of an
“ officer in a French uniform. I
“ asked whether you had any thing
“ about you as a memorial of your
“ friend. Your Highness answered
“ in the affirmative. I con-
“ jured it might be the box. I
“ had attentively considered the
“ picture during supper, and be-
“ ing very expert in drawing, and
“ not less happy in taking like-
“ nesses, I had no difficulty in
“ giving

“ giving to my shade the superficial resemblance you have perceived, the more so as the Marquis’s features are very striking.”—

“ But the figure seemed to move ?”—

“ It appeared so, yet it was not the figure, but the smoke which received its light.”—

“ And the man who fell down in the chimney spoke for the apparition ?”—

“ He did.”—

“ But

“ But he could not hear your
“ questions distinctly.”—

“ There was no occasion for it.
“ You recollect my Prince, that
“ I ordered you all very strictly
“ not to propose any question
“ yourselves. My enquiries and
“ his answers were pre-con-
“ certed between us; and that
“ no mistake might happen, I
“ caused him to speak at long
“ intervals, which he counted by
“ the beating of a watch.”—

“ You ordered the innkeeper
“ carefully to extinguish every
“ fire in the house, with water;
“ this

“ this was, undoubtedly ” —

“ To save the man in the chimney from the danger of being smothered ; because the chimnies in the house communicate with each other, and I did not think myself very secure from your retinue.” —

“ How did it happen,” asked Lord Seymour, “ that your ghost appeared neither sooner nor later than you wished him ? ” —

“ The ghost was in the room for some time before I called him, but while the room
“ was

“ was lighted, the shade was too
“ faint to be perceived. When
“ the formula of the conjuration
“ was finished, I caused the cover
“ of the box, in which the spirit
“ was burning, to drop down; the
“ salloon was darkened, and it was
“ not till then that the figure on
“ the wall could be distinctly
“ seen, although it had been re-
“ flected there a considerable time
“ before.”—

“ When the ghost appeared, we
“ all felt an electrical stroke. How
“ was that managed?”—

“ You

" You have discovered the ma-
 " chine under the altar. You
 " have also seen, that I was stand-
 " ing upon a silk carpet. I or-
 " dered you to form a half moon
 " around me, and to take each
 " other's hand. When the crisis
 " approached, I gave a sign to
 " one of you to seize me by the
 " hair. The silver crucifix was
 " the conductor, and you felt the
 " electrical stroke when I touched
 " it with my hand."—

" You ordered us, Count
 " O and myself," conti-
 " nued Lord Seymour, " to hold
 " two naked swords across over
 " your

“ your head, during the whole
 “ time of the conjuration; for
 “ what purpose?”—

“ For no other than to engage
 “ your attention during the ope-
 “ ration; because I distrusted you
 “ two the most. You remember,
 “ that I expressly commanded you
 “ to hold the sword one inch
 “ above my head; by confining
 “ you exactly to this distance, I
 “ prevented you from looking
 “ where I did not wish you. I
 “ had not then perceived my prin-
 “ cipal enemy.”—

“ I

112 THE GHOST-SEER.

“ I own you acted cautiously ;
“ but why were we obliged to
“ appear undressed ?”—

“ Merely to give a greater so-
“ lemnity to the scene, and to fill
“ your imaginations with the idea
“ of something extraordinary.”—

“ The second apparition pre-
“ vented your ghost from speak-
“ ing ;” said the Prince, “ What
“ should we have learnt from
“ him ?”—

“ Nearly the same as what you
“ heard afterwards. It was not
“ without design that I asked your
“ Highness

“ Highness whether you had told
 “ me every thing that the deceased
 “ communicated to you, and whe-
 “ ther you had made any further
 “ enquiries on this subject in his
 “ country. I thought this was
 “ necessary, in order to prevent
 “ the deposition of the ghost from
 “ being contradicted by facts that
 “ you were previously acquainted
 “ with. Knowing likewise that
 “ every man, especially in his youth,
 “ is liable to error, I enquired whe-
 “ ther the life of your friend had
 “ been irreproachable, and on
 “ your answer I founded that of
 “ the ghost.”—

H “ Your

“ Your explanation of this
 “ matter is satisfactory; but there
 “ remains a principal circum-
 “ stance of which I require some
 “ explication.”——

“ If it be in my power, and
 “”

“ No conditions! Justice, in
 “ whose hands you now are, might
 “ perhaps not interrogate you
 “ with so much delicacy. Who
 “ was the man at whose feet we
 “ saw you fall? What do you
 “ know of him? How did you
 “ get acquainted with him? And
 “ what

“ what do you know of the second
“ apparition?”—

“ Your Highness”

“ On looking at the Russian
“ officer attentively, you scream-
“ ed aloud, and fell on your
“ knees before him. What are
“ we to understand by that?”—

“ This man, my Prince,”
He stopped, grew visibly perplex-
ed, and with an embarrassed coun-
tenance, looked around him.—
“ Yes, my Prince, by all that
“ is sacred, this man is a terrible
“ being.”—

H 2

“ What

“ What do you know of him?
 “ What connection have you with
 “ him? Do not conceal the
 “ truth from us ?”—

“ I shall take care not to do so;
 “ for who will be bound that he
 “ is not among us at this very
 “ moment ?”—

“ Where? Who?” exclaimed
 we altogether, looking fearfully
 about the room. “ It is impos-
 “ sible.”—

“ Oh! to this man, or what-
 “ ever else he may be, things still
 “ more

“ more incomprehensible are possible ? ” —

“ But who is he ? Whence does he come ? Is he Arminian or Russian ? Of the characters he assumes, which is his real one ? ” —

“ He is nothing of what he appears to be. There are few conditions or countries, of which he has not worn the mask. No person knows who he is, whence he comes, or whither he goes. That he has been for a long time in Egypt, as many pretend, and that he
“ has

" has brought from thence, out
 " of a catacomb, his occult
 " sciences, I will neither affirm
 " or deny. Here we only know
 " him by the name of the *Incom-*
 " *prehensible*. How old, for in-
 " stance, do you think he is ?"—

" To judge from his appear-
 " ance, he can scarcely have passed
 " forty."—

" And of what age do you sup-
 " pose I am ?"—

" Not far from fifty."—

" Well;

“ Well ; and I must tell you,
“ that I was but a boy of seven-
“ teen, when my grandfather spoke
“ to me of this marvellous man,
“ whom he had seen at *Famagusta* ;
“ at which time he appeared
“ nearly of the same age, as he
“ does at present.”—

“ This is exaggerated, ridicu-
“ lous, and incredible.”—

“ By no means. Was I not
“ prevented by these fetters, I
“ would produce vouchers, whose
“ dignity and respectability should
“ leave you no doubt. There are
“ several creditable persons, who
“ remember

“ remember having seen him,
“ each at the same time, in dif-
“ ferent parts of the globe. No
“ sword can wound, no poison
“ can hurt, no fire burn him;
“ no vessel in which he embarks
“ can be shipwrecked or sunk.
“ Time itself seems to lose its
“ power over him. Years do not
“ dry up his moisture, nor age
“ whiten his hair. Never was he
“ seen to take any food. Never
“ did he approach a woman. No
“ sleep closes his eyes. Of the
“ twenty-four hours in the day,
“ there is only one which he can-
“ not command; during which
“ no person ever saw him, and dur-
“ ing

“ ing which he never was employ-
“ ed in any terrestrial occupa-
“ tion.”—

“ And this hour is ?”——

“ The twelfth in the night.
“ When the clock strikes twelve,
“ he at that moment ceases to
“ belong to the living. In what-
“ ever place he is, he must im-
“ mediately be gone ; whatever
“ business he is engaged in, he
“ must instantly leave it. The
“ terrible sound of the hour of
“ midnight, tears him from the
“ arms of friendship, wrests him
“ from the altar, and would
“ drag him away even in the ago-
“ nies

“ nies of death. Whither he then
“ goes, or what he is then enga-
“ ged in, is a secret to every one.
“ No person ventures to interro-
“ gate, and still less to follow
“ him. His features, at this
“ dreadful hour, contract a de-
“ gree of gravity so gloomy,
“ and so terrifying, that no
“ person has courage sufficient
“ to look in his face, or to speak
“ a word to him. However lively
“ the conversation may have been,
“ a dead silence immediately suc-
“ ceeds it, and all around him
“ wait for his return in an awful
“ horror, without venturing to
“ quit their seats, or to open the
“ door

“ door through which he has
“ passed.”—

“ Does nothing extraordinary
“ appear in his person when he
“ returns ?”—

“ Nothing, except that he
“ seems pale and languid, nearly
“ in the state of a man who has
“ just suffered a painful opera-
“ tion, or received disastrous in-
“ telligence. Some pretend to
“ have seen drops of blood on his
“ linen, but with what degree of
“ veracity I cannot affirm.”—

“ Did

“ Did no person ever attempt
 “ to conceal the approach of this
 “ hour from him, or endeavour
 “ to engage him in such diver-
 “ sions, as might make him for-
 “ get it ?”—

“ Once only, it is said he passed
 “ his time. The company was
 “ numerous and remained toge-
 “ ther late in the night. All the
 “ clocks and watches were pur-
 “ posely set wrong, and the
 “ warmth of conversation hurried
 “ him away. When the fatal mo-
 “ ment arrived, he suddenly be-
 “ came silent and motionless; his
 “ limbs continued in the position
 “ in

“ in which this instant had ar-
 “ rested them; his eyes were
 “ fixed; his pulse ceased to beat.
 “ All the means employed to
 “ awake him proved fruitless, and
 “ this situation endured till the
 “ hour had elapsed. He then
 “ revived on a sudden without
 “ any assistance, cast up his eyes,
 “ and re-assumed his speech with
 “ the same syllable as he was pro-
 “ nouncing at the moment of in-
 “ terruption. The general con-
 “ sternation discovered to him
 “ what had happened, and he de-
 “ clared, with an awful solemnity,
 “ that they ought to think them-
 “ selves happy in having escaped
 “ with

“ with no other injury than fear.
“ The same night he quitted for
“ ever the city where this circum-
“ stance had occurred. The com-
“ mon opinion is that during this
“ mysterious hour, he converses
“ with his genius. Some even
“ suppose him to be one of the
“ departed, who is allowed to pass
“ twenty-three hours of the day
“ among the living, and that in
“ the twenty-fourth his soul is
“ obliged to return to the infernal
“ regions, to suffer its punish-
“ ment. Some believe him to be
“ the famous *Apollonius of Tyana* ;*
“ and

* *Apollonius*, a Pythagorean philosopher, was born at *Tyana*, in *Capadocia*, about three or four years before the birth

“ and others, the disciple *John*, of
“ whom it is said—*he shall remain*
“ *until the last judgment.*”—

“ A character so wonderful,”
replied the Prince, “ cannot fail
“ to give rise to extraordinary
“ conjectures. But all this you
“ profess to know only by hear-
“ say,

birth of Christ. At sixteen years of age he became a strict observer of Pythagoras's rules, renouncing wine, women, and all sorts of flesh; not wearing shoes, letting his hair grow, and wearing nothing but linen. He soon after set up for a reformer of mankind, and chose his habitation in the temple of Esculapius, where he is said to have performed many miraculous cures. On his coming of age, he gave part of his wealth to his eldest brother, distributed another part to some poor relations, and kept very little for himself. There are numberless fabulous stories recounted of him. He went five years without speaking; and yet, during this time, he stopped many seditions in *Cicilia* and *Pamphylia*; he travelled, and set
up

“ say, and yet his behaviour to
 “ you, and yours to him, seemed
 “ to indicate a more intimate ac-
 “ quaintance. Is it not founded
 “ upon some particular event in
 “ which yourself has been con-
 “ cerned? Conceal nothing from
 “ us.”——

The

up for a legislator; and he gave out, that he understood
 all languages, without having ever learned them; he
 could tell the thoughts of men, and understood the oracles
 which birds delivered by their singing. The heathens
 opposed the pretended miracles of this man to those of
 our Saviour, and gave the preference to this philosopher.
 After having for a long time imposed upon the
 world, and gained a great number of disciples, he died in
 a very advanced age, about the end of the first century.
 His life, which is filled with absurdities, was written by
 Philostratus, and *Mr. du Pin* has published a confutation of
 Apollonius's life, in which he proves, that the miracles
 of this pretended philosopher carry strong marks of falshood,
 and that there is not one which may not be imputed to
 chance or artifice. Apollonius himself wrote some works,
 which are now lost.

The Sicilian remained silent, as if uncertain whether he should speak or not.

“ If it concerns something,” continued the Prince, “ that you do not wish to publish, I promise you, in the name of these two gentlemen, the most inviolable secrecy. But speak openly, and without reserve.”—

“ Could I hope,” answered the prisoner at last, “ that you would not produce these gentlemen as evidence against me, I would tell you a remarkable adventure of this Arminian, I . . . “ which

“ which I have myself been wit-
 “ nefs of, and which will leave
 “ you no doubt of his supernatu-
 “ ral powers. But I beg leave to
 “ conceal some names.”—

“ Cannot you do it without
 “ this condition ?”—

“ No, my Prince. There is a
 “ family concerned in it, which I
 “ ought to respect.”—

“ Let us hear then.”—

“ About five years ago, being
 “ at Naples, where I practiced my
 “ art with very good fuccefs, I
 “ became

“ became acquainted with a per-
 “ son of the name of *Lorenzo del*
 “ *M* Chevalier of the or-
 “ der of St. Stephen, a young and
 “ rich nobleman, of one of the
 “ first families in the kingdom,
 “ who loaded me with kindnesses,
 “ and seemed to have a great es-
 “ teem for my occult sciences.
 “ He told me that the *Marquis*
 “ *del M* his father, was a
 “ zealous admirer of the Cab-
 “ bala, (*) and would think
 1 2 “ himself

(*) *Cabbala* is properly a mysterious kind of science delivered by revelation to the ancient Jews, and transmitted by oral tradition to those of our times; serving for the interpretation of difficult passages in scripture, and to discover future events by the combination of particular words, letters and numbers. It is likewise termed the oral law.

But

“ himself happy in having a phi-
 “ losopher like me, (for such he
 “ was pleased to call me) under
 “ his roof. The *Marquis* lived in
 “ one of his country seats on the
 “ sea shore, about seven miles from
 “ Naples. There, almost intirely
 “ secluded from the world, he be-
 “ wailed the loss of a beloved son,
 “ of whom he had been deprived
 “ by

But *Cabbala* among the Christians, is also applied to the
 use, or rather abuse, which visionaries and enthusiasts
 make of scripture for discovering futurity, by the study
 and consideration of the combination of certain words,
 letters and numbers in the sacred writings. All the words,
 terms, magic characters or figures with stones, and talis-
 mans, numbers, letters, charms, &c. employed in
 magic operations, are comprised under this species of
Cabbala, and the word is used for any kind of magic, on
 account of the resemblance this art bears to the Jewish
Cabbala. The Jews, however, never use the word in
 any such sense, but always with the utmost respect and
 veneration.

“ by a fatal accident. The *Che-*
“ *valier* gave me to understand,
“ that he and his family might
“ perhaps have occasion to em-
“ ploy my secret arts in obtaining
“ some very important intelli-
“ gence; to procure which every
“ natural means had been ex-
“ hausted in vain. He added,
“ with a very significant look,
“ that he himself might, perhaps
“ at some future period, be
“ brought to look upon me as
“ the author of his tranquility,
“ and of all his earthly happiness.
“ The affair was as follows:

“ Lorenzo,

“ Lorenzo, being the youngest
“ son of the Marquis, had been
“ destined for the church. The
“ family estates were to devolve
“ to the eldest. Jeronymo, which
“ was the name of the latter, had
“ spent many years on his tra-
“ vels, and had returned to his
“ country about seven years prior
“ to the event, which I am about
“ to relate, in order to celebrate
“ his marriage with the only
“ daughter of a neighbouring
“ Count. This marriage had
“ been determined on by the pa-
“ rents during the infancy of the
“ children, in order to unite the
“ very large fortunes of the two
“ houses.

“ houses. But though this agree-
“ ment was made by the two fa-
“ milies, without consulting the
“ hearts of the parties concerned,
“ the latter had mutually engaged
“ their faith in secret. Jeronymo
“ del M... and Antonia C....
“ had been always brought up
“ together, and the little con-
“ straint imposed on two chil-
“ dren, whom their parents were
“ already accustomed to regard
“ as united, soon produced be-
“ tween them a connection of the
“ tenderest kind. The congeni-
“ ality of their tempers cemented
“ this intimacy; and in riper
“ years it matured insensibly into
“ love.

“ love. An absence of four years,
“ far from cooling this passion,
“ had only served to inflame it;
“ and Jeronymo returned to the
“ arms of his intended bride, as
“ faithful and as ardent as if
“ they had never been sepa-
“ rated.

“ The raptures of this re-union
“ had not yet subsided, and the
“ preparations for the happy day
“ were advancing with the utmost
“ zeal and activity, when Jero-
“ nymo disappeared. He used
“ frequently to pass the after-
“ noon in a summer-house which
“ commanded a prospect of the
“ sea;

“ sea ; and was accustomed to take
“ the diversion of sailing on the
“ water. One day, when he was
“ at his favourite retirement, it
“ was observed that he remained
“ a much longer time than usual
“ without returning, and his
“ friends began to be very uneasy
“ on his account. Boats were
“ dispatched after him. Vessels
“ were sent to sea in quest of him ;
“ no person had seen him. None
“ of his servants could have attend-
“ ed him, for none of them were ab-
“ sent. Night came on, and he did
“ not appear. The next morn-
“ ing dawned ; the day passed ; the
“ evening succeeded ; Jeronymo
“ came

“ came not. Already they had be-
 “ gun to give themselves up to the
 “ most melancholy conjectures,
 “ when the news arrived, that
 “ an Algerine pirate had landed
 “ the preceding day on that coast,
 “ and carried off several of the
 “ inhabitants. Two galleys, rea-
 “ dy equipped, were immediately
 “ ordered to sea. The old *Mar-*
 “ *quis* himself embarked in one of
 “ them, to attempt the deliver-
 “ ance of his son at the peril of
 “ his own life. On the third
 “ day they perceived the corsair.
 “ The wind was favourable; they
 “ were just about to overtake
 “ him, and even approathed him
 “ so

“ so near that Lorenzo, who was
 “ in one of the galleys, fancied
 “ that he saw, upon the deck of
 “ the adversary’s ship, a signal
 “ made by his brother; when a
 “ sudden storm separated the ves-
 “ sels. Hardly could the da-
 “ maged galleys sustain the fury
 “ of the tempest. The pirate, in
 “ the mean time had disappeared,
 “ and the distressed state of the other
 “ vessels obliged them to land at
 “ Malta. The affliction of the
 “ family was beyond all bounds.
 “ The distracted old *Marquis* tore
 “ off his grey hairs in the utmost
 “ violence of grief; and the life
 “ of the young Countess was
 “ def-

despaired of. Five years were
“ consumed, after this event,
“ in fruitless enquiries. Dili-
“ gent search was made along
“ all the coast of Barbary; im-
“ mense sums were offered for
“ the ransom of the young *Mar-*
“ *quis*, but no person claimed it.
“ The only probable conjecture
“ which remained for the family
“ to form, was, that the same
“ storm which had separated the
“ galleys from the pirate, had de-
“ stroyed the latter, and that the
“ whole ship’s company had pe-
“ rished in the waves.

“ But this supposition, however
“ probable, as it did not by any
“ means

“ means amount to a certainty,
 “ could not authorise the family
 “ to renounce the hope, that the
 “ absent Jeronymo might again
 “ appear. In case, however, that he
 “ did not, either the family’s name
 “ must be suffered to perish, or
 “ the youngest son must relin-
 “ quish the church, and enter
 “ into the rights of the eldest.
 “ Justice seemed to oppose
 “ the latter measure; and on
 “ other hand, the necessity of
 “ preserving the family from an-
 “ nihilation, required that the
 “ scruple should not be carried
 “ too far. In the mean time,
 “ grief, and the infirmities of age,
 “ were

“ were bringing the *Marquis*
“ fast to his grave. Every un-
“ successful attempt diminished
“ the hope of finding his lost son.

“ He saw that his name might
“ be perpetuated by acting with
“ a little injustice, in consenting
“ to favour his younger son at
“ the expence of the elder. The
“ fulfilment of his agreement
“ with Count C required
“ only the change of a name; for
“ the object of the two families
“ was equally accomplished, whe-
“ ther Antonia became the wife
“ of Lorenzo or of Jeronymo.
“ The faint probability of the
latter's appearing again, weigh-
“ ed

“ ed but little against the certain
 “ and pressing danger of the total
 “ extinction of the family, and
 “ the old *Marquis*, who felt the
 “ approach of death every day
 “ more and more, ardently wished
 “ to die at least free from this
 “ inquietude.

“ Lorenzo alone, who was to
 “ be principally benefitted by
 “ this measure, opposed it with
 “ the greatest obstinacy. He
 “ resisted with equal firmness the
 “ allurements of an immense
 “ fortune, and the attractions of
 “ a beautiful and accomplished
 “ object, ready to be delivered
 “ into

“ into his arms. He refused, on
“ principles the most generous and
“ conscientious, to invade the rights
“ of a brother, who for any thing
“ he knew, might himself be in
“ a capacity to resume them. Is
“ not the lot of my dear Jero-
“ nymo, said he, made sufficiently
“ miserable by the horrors of a
“ long captivity, without the ag-
“ gravation of being deprived
“ for ever of all that he holds
“ most dear? With what con-
“ science could I supplicate hea-
“ ven for his return, when his
“ wife is in my arms? With
“ what countenance could I meet
“ him, if at last he should be re-
“ stored

“ stored to us by a miracle ? And
 “ even supposing that he is torn
 “ from us for ever, can we better
 “ honour his memory, than by
 “ keeping constantly open the
 “ chasm which his death has
 “ caused in our circle ? Can we
 “ better shew our respect to him,
 “ than by sacrificing our dearest
 “ hopes upon his tomb, and keep-
 “ ing untouched, as a sacred depo-
 “ sit, what was peculiarly his
 “ own ?”

“ But these arguments of fra-
 “ ternal delicacy could not recon-
 “ cile the old *Marquis* to the idea
 “ of being obliged to witness the
 “ decay of a tree, which nine cen-
 K “ turies

“turies had beheld flourishing. All
“that Lorenzo could obtain was
“a delay of two years. During
“this period they continued their
“enquiries with the utmost dili-
“gence. Lorenzo himself made
“several voyages, and exposed
“his person to many dangers.
“No trouble, no expence was
“spared to recover the lost Jero-
“nymo. These two years, how-
“ever, like those which pre-
“ceded them, were consumed in
“vain.”—

“And Antonia?” said the
Prince. “You tell us nothing
“of her. Could she so calmly
“submit

“submit to her fate? I cannot
 “suppose it.”—

“Antonia,” answered the Sici-
 lian, “experienced the most vio-
 “lent struggle between duty and
 “inclination, between dislike and
 “admiration. The disinterested
 “generosity of a brother, affected
 “her. She felt herself forced to
 “esteem a person whom she never
 “could love. Her heart, torn
 “by contrary sentiments, felt the
 “bitterest distress. But her repug-
 “nance to the *Chevalier* seemed to
 “increase in the same degree as
 “his claims upon her esteem.
 “augmented. Lorenzo perceived
 “K. 2 “with

“ with heartfelt sorrow the secret
“ grief that consumed her youth.
“ A tender compassion insensibly
“ assumed the place of that indif-
“ ference, with which, till then,
“ he had been accustomed to con-
“ sider her; but this treacherous
“ sentiment quickly deceived him,
“ and an ungovernable passion
“ began by degrees to shake the
“ steadiness of his virtue.—A vir-
“ tue which, till then, had been
“ unequalled.

“ He, however, still obeyed the
“ dictates of generosity, tho’ at the
“ expence of his love. By his efforts
“ alone was the unfortunate victim
“ protected

“ tested against the arbitrary pro-
 “ ceedings of the rest of the fa-
 “ mily. But his endeavours
 “ were not finally successful.
 “ Every victory he gained over
 “ his passion rendered him more
 “ worthy of Antonia; and the
 “ disinterestedness with which he
 “ refused her, left her without an
 “ apology for resistance.

“ Thus were affairs situated
 “ when the *Chevalier* engaged me
 “ to visit him at his father’s *villa*.
 “ The earnest recommendation of
 “ my patron procured me a recep-
 “ tion which exceeded my most
 “ sanguine wishes. I must not
 “ forget

“ forget to mention, that by some
“ remarkable operations, I had
“ previously rendered my name
“ famous in different lodges of
“ free-masons. This circum-
“ stance, perhaps, may have con-
“ tributed to strengthen the old
“ *Marquis's* confidence in me, and
“ to heighten his expectations.
“ I ' beg you will excuse me
“ from describing particularly
“ the lengths I went with him,
“ or the means which I employed.
“ You may form some judgement
“ of them from what I have be-
“ fore confessed to you. Profiting
“ by the mystic books which I
“ found in his very exten-
“ five

“tensive library, I was soon able
 “to speak to him in his own lan-
 “guage, and to adorn my system of
 “the invisible world with the most
 “extraordinary inventions. The
 “*Marquis* was very devout, and had
 “acquired in the school of reli-
 “gion a facility of belief. He was
 “therefore, with so little difficulty
 “induced to credit the fables I
 “taught him, that, in a short time,
 “he would have believed as im-
 “plicitly in the secret com-
 “merce of philosophers and
 “sylphs, as any article of the
 “canon. At length I entan-
 “gled him so completely in mys-
 “tery, that he would no longer
 “believe any thing that was na-
 “tural.

“ tural. In short I became the ador-
“ ed apostle of the house. The usual
“ subject of my lectures was the
“ exaltation of human nature,
“ and the intercourse of men with
“ superior beings; the infallible
“ *Count Gabalis** was my oracle.
“ Antonia, whose mind since the
“ loss of her lover, had been
“ more occupied in the world of
“ spirits than in that of nature, and
“ who had a strong tincture of
“ melancholy in her composition,
“ caught every hint I gave her
“ with a fearful satisfaction. Even
“ the

* A mystical work of that title, written in French in the middle of the seventeenth century, by the *Abbé de Villars*.

“ the servants contrived to have
 “ some business in the room when
 “ I was speaking, and seizing
 “ now and then one of my expressions,
 “ joined the fragments together
 “ in their own way.

“ Two months were passed in
 “ this manner at the *Marquis's*
 “ villa, when the *Chevalier* one
 “ morning entered my apartment.
 “ His features were altered, and
 “ a deep sorrow was painted on
 “ his countenance. He threw
 “ himself into a chair, with every
 “ symptom of despair.

“ It

“ It is all over with me,” said he, “ I must begone ; I cannot support it any longer.”—

“ What is the matter with you, *Chevalier* ? What has befallen you ?”

“ Oh ! this terrible passion !” said he, starting from his chair. “ I have combated it like a man ; I can resist it no longer.”—

“ And whose fault is it but yours, my dear *Chevalier* ? Are they not all in your favour ? Your father ? Your relations ?”—

“ My

“ My father, my relations !
 “ What are they to me ? I want
 “ not an union of force, but of
 “ inclination. Have not I a rival ?
 “ Alas ! and what a rival ! Per-
 “ haps a dead one ! Oh ! let me
 “ go. Let me go to the end of
 “ the world. I must find my
 “ brother.”—

“ What ! after so many un suc-
 “ cessful attempts, have you still
 “ any hope ?”—

“ Hope ! Alas, no ! It has
 “ long since vanished in my heart,
 “ but it has not in her’s. Of
 “ what consequence are my senti-
 “ ments ?

"ments? Can I be happy while
 "there remains a gleam of hope
 "in Antonia's heart? Two words,
 "my friend, would end my tor-
 "ments. But it is in vain. My
 "destiny must continue to be
 "miserable till eternity shall
 "break its long silence, and the
 "grave shall speak in my be-
 "half."—

"Is it then a state of certainty
 "that would render you hap-
 "py?"—

"Happy! Alas! I doubt
 "whether I shall ever again be
 "happy. But uncertainty is of
 "all

“ all others the most dreadful
 “ pain.”—

“ After a short interval of silence, he continued with an emotion less violent.—If he could but see my torments! Surely a constancy which renders his brother miserable, cannot add to his happiness. Can it be just that the living should suffer so much for the sake of the dead; that I should fruitlessly pine for an object which Jeronymo can no longer enjoy? If he knew the pangs I suffer, said he, concealing his face, while the tears streamed from his eyes, yes, perhaps
 “ he

“himself would conduct her to
“my arms.”—

“But is there no possibility of
“gratifying your wishes?”—

“He started.—What do you
“say, my friend?”—

“Less important occasions than
“the present, said I, have dis-
“turbed the repose of the dead
“for the sake of the living. Is
“not the terrestrial happiness of
“a man, of a brother

“The terrestrial happiness! Ah!
“my friend, I feel but too sensibly
“the

“ the force of your expression my
“ entire felicity.”—

“ And the tranquility of a dis-
“ tressed family, are not these suf-
“ ficient to justify such a measure ?
“ Undoubtedly. If any sublu-
“ nary concern can authorise us
“ to interrupt the peace of the
“ blessed, to make use of a power
“

“ For God’s sake, my friend !
“ said he, interrupting me, no
“ more of this. Once, I avow
“ it, I had such a thought ; I
“ think I mentioned it to you,
“ but I have long since rejected
“ it

“ it as horrid and abomina-
 “ ble.”—

“ You will have conjectured
 “ already continued the Sicilian,
 “ to what this conversation led
 “ us. I endeavoured to over-
 “ come the scruples of the *Cbeva-*
 “ *lier*, and at last succeeded. We
 “ resolved to call the ghost of the
 “ deceased Jeronymo. I only
 “ stipulated for a delay of a fort-
 “ night, in order, as I pretended,
 “ to prepare, in a suitable manner,
 “ for so solemn an act. The time
 “ being expired, and my ma-
 “ chinery in readiness, I took
 “ advantage of a very gloomy
 “ day,

“ day, when we were all assem-
 “ bled as usual, to communicate
 “ the affair to the family; and
 “ not only brought them to con-
 “ sent to it, but even to make it
 “ a subject of their own request.
 “ The most difficult part of the
 “ task was to obtain the appro-
 “ bation of Antonia; whose pre-
 “ sence was essential. My endea-
 “ vours were, however, greatly
 “ assisted by the melancholy turn
 “ of her mind, and perhaps still
 “ more so, by a faint hope, that
 “ Jeronymo might still be living,
 “ and therefore would not ap-
 “ pear. A want of confidence
 “ in the thing itself was the only
 L “ obstacle

“ obstacle which I had not to
“ remove.

“ Having obtained the consent
“ of the family, the third day was
“ fixed on for the operation. I pre-
“ pared then for the solemn tran-
“ saction by mystical instruction,
“ by fasting, solitude, and prayers,
“ which I ordered to be continued
“ till late in the night. Much
“ use was also made of a certain
“ musical instrument,* unknown
“ till

* Perhaps he means the *Harmonica*, a musical instrument used of late years in Germany. It is composed of a number of glass wheels, which revolve on an axle, and produce, on being touched, different degrees of sound, according to their different sizes. The harmony produced by this instrument is of a kind so languishing and delightful, that very extraordinary effects are said to have been produced
by

“ till that time, and which, in such
 “ cases, has often been found very
 “ powerful. The effect of these
 “ artifices was so much be-
 “ yond my expectation, that
 “ the enthusiasm, to which on this
 “ occasion I was obliged to force
 “ myself, was infinitely heigh-
 “ tened by that of my au-
 “ dience. The anxiously expected
 “ moment at last arrived.”—

“ “I guess” said the Prince,
 “ whom you are now going to in-
 “ troduce. But go on, go on.”—

“ No

by it.—When skilfully touched it is remarkably adapted to lull the mind into a tender and solemn melancholy, on which account it is frequently used in theatres to prepare the audience for any thing uncommonly impressive, such as the introduction of ghosts, &c.

“ No, my Prince. The deception succeeded according to my wishes.”—

“ How ? Where is then the Arminian ?”—

“ Do not fear my Prince. He will appear but too soon, I omit the description of the farce itself, as it would lead me to too great a length. It is sufficient to say, that it answered my expectation. The old *Marquis*, the young Countess, her mother, Lorenzo, and another person of the family were present. You will imagine that during

“ during my long residence in
 “ this house, I had not wanted
 “ opportunities of gathering in-
 “ formation respecting every thing
 “ that concerned the deceased.—
 “ Several of his portraits enabled
 “ me to give the apparition a
 “ striking likeness, and as I suf-
 “ fered the ghost to speak only
 “ by signs, the sound of his voice
 “ could excite no suspicion.

“ The departed Jeronymo ap-
 “ peared in the dress of a Moorish
 “ Slave, with a deep wound in his
 “ neck.—You observe that in this
 “ respect I was counteracting the
 “ general supposition that he had
 “ perished

“ perished in the waves. I had
“ reason to hope that this unex-
“ pected circumstance would
“ heighten the belief in the appa-
“ rition itself, for nothing appear-
“ ed to me more dangerous than
“ to be too natural.”—

“ I think you judged well,”
said the Prince. “ In whatever
“ respects apparitions the most
“ probable is the least acceptable.
“ If their communications are easily
“ comprehended, we undervalue
“ the channel, by which they are
“ obtained.—Nay, we even sus-
“ pect the reality of the miracle, if
“ the discoveries which it brings
“ to

“ to light, are such as might
 “ easily have been imagined.—
 “ Why should we disturb the re-
 “ pose of a spirit, if it is to inform
 “ us of nothing more than the or-
 “ dinary powers of the intellect
 “ are capable of teaching us?—
 “ But on the other hand, if the
 “ intelligence which we receive is
 “ extraordinary and unexpected,
 “ it confirms in some degree the
 “ miracle by which it is obtained ;
 “ for who can doubt an operation
 “ to be supernatural, when its
 “ effect could not be produced by
 “ natural means ?—I have inter-
 “ rupted you,” added the Prince.
 “ Proceed in your narrative.”—

“ I

“ I asked the ghost whether
“ there was any thing in this
“ world which he still considered as
“ his own, and whether he had left
“ any thing behind that was parti-
“ cularly dear to him ? The ghost
“ thrice shook his head, and lifted
“ up his hand towards heaven.
“ Previous to his retiring, he dropt
“ a ring from his finger, which
“ was found on the floor after he
“ had disappeared. Antonia took
“ it, and looking at it attentively,
“ she knew it to be the wedding
“ ring she had given her intended
“ husband.”—

“ The

"The wedding ring!" exclaimed the Prince, surprised.
 "How did you get it?"

"Who?—I!—It was not the
 "true one!—I got it!—It was
 "only a counterfeit."—

"A counterfeit!" repeated
 the Prince. "But in order to
 "counterfeit, you required the
 "true one. How did you come
 "at it? Surely the deceased
 "never went without it."—

"That is true," replied the
 Sicilian, with symptoms of con-
 fusion. "But from a descrip-
 "tion

ghost whether
 thing in this
 still considered as
 whether he had left
 behind that was parti-
 cular to him? The ghost
 took his head, and lifted
 and towards heaven.
 As it is retiring, he dropped
 from his finger, which
 lay on the floor after he
 appeared. Antonia took
 looking at it attentively,
 it to be the wedding
 had given her intended

"—

"The

“ tion which was given me of the
 “ genuine wedding ring. . . . ”—

“ A description which was given
 “ you ! By whom ? ”—

“ Long before that time. It
 “ was a plain gold ring, and had,
 “ I believe, the name of the young
 “ Countess engraved on it. But
 “ you made me lose the con-
 “ nection.”—

“ What happened farther ? ”
 said the Prince, with a very dis-
 satisfied countenance.—

“ The

“ The family fancied them-
 “ selves convinced that Jeronymo
 “ was no more. From that very
 “ day they publicly announced
 “ his death, and went into mourn-
 “ ing. The circumstance of the
 “ ring left no doubt even in the
 “ mind of Antonia, and added a
 “ considerable weight to the ad-
 “ dresses of the *Chevalier*.

“ In the mean time, the violent
 “ impression which the young
 “ Countess had received from the
 “ sight of the apparition, brought
 “ on her a disorder so dangerous;
 “ that the hopes of Lorenzo were
 “ very near being destroyed for
 “ ever.

“ ever. On her recovering she
“ insisted upon taking the veil;
“ and it was only at the serious
“ remonstrances of her Confessor,
“ in whom she placed an impli-
“ cit confidence, that she was
“ brought to abandon her project.
“ At length the united sollicita-
“ tions of the family, and the
“ Confessor, wrested from her the
“ desired consent. The last day
“ of mourning was fixed on for
“ the day of marriage, and the
“ old *Marquis* determined to add
“ to the solemnity of the occasion,
“ by resigning all his estates to
“ his lawful heir.

“ The

“ The day arrived, and Lo-
 “ renzo received his trembling
 “ bride at the altar. In the even-
 “ ing a splendid banquet was
 “ prepared for the chearful guests,
 “ in a hall superbly illumi-
 “ nated. The most lively and de-
 “ lightful music, contributed to
 “ increase the general gladness.
 “ The happy old *Marquis* wished
 “ all the world to participate in
 “ his joy. All the entrances of
 “ the palace were set open, and
 “ every one who sympathised in
 “ his happiness was joyfully wel-
 “ comed. In the midst of the
 “ throng”—

The

The Sicilian paused. A trembling expectation suspended our breath.

“ In the midst of the throng,” continued the prisoner, “ appeared
 “ a Franciscan monk, to whom
 “ my attention was directed by a
 “ person who sat next to me at
 “ table. He was standing motionless like a marble pillar.
 “ His shape was tall and thin; his
 “ face pale and ghastly; his aspect
 “ grave and mournful; his eyes
 “ were fixed on the new married
 “ couple. The joy which beamed
 “ on the face of every one present, appeared not on his. His
 “ coun-

" countenance never once va-
 " ried.—He seemed like a
 " statue among living persons.
 " Such an object, appearing amidst
 " the general joy, struck me more
 " forcibly from its contrast with
 " every thing around me. It left
 " on my mind so durable an im-
 " pression, that from it alone I
 " have been enabled (which would
 " otherwise have been impos-
 " sible) to recollect the fea-
 " tures of this Franciscan monk
 " in the Russian officer; for,
 " without doubt, you must have
 " already conceived, that the
 " person I have described was no
 " other than your Arminian.

" I

“ I frequently attempted to
“ withdraw my eyes from this
“ figure, but they returned in-
“ voluntarily, and found him al-
“ ways unaltered. I pointed him
“ out to the person who sat nearest
“ to me on the other side, and he
“ did the same to the person
“ next to him. In a few mi-
“ nutes a general curiosity and as-
“ tonishment pervaded the whole
“ company. The conversation
“ languished; a general silence
“ succeeded; the monk did not
“ interrupt it. He continued
“ motionless, and always the
“ same; his grave and mournful
“ looks constantly fixed upon the
“ new-

“ new-married couple : His ap-
“ pearance struck every one with
“ terror. The young Countess
“ alone, who found the transcript
“ of her own sorrow in the face of
“ the stranger, beheld with a
“ sullen satisfaction the only ob-
“ ject that seemed to sympathize
“ in her sufferings. The crowd
“ insensibly diminished. It was
“ past midnight. The music be-
“ came faint and languid; the ta-
“ pers grew dim, and many of
“ them went out. The conver-
“ sation declining by degrees, lost
“ itself at last in secret murmurs
“ and the faintly illuminated hall
“ was nearly deserted.—The

M

Monk

“ Monk, in the mean time, con-
 “ tinued motionless; his grave
 “ and mournful look still fixed on
 “ the new-married couple. The
 “ company at length rose from
 “ the table. The guests disper-
 “ sed. The family assembled in
 “ a separate group, and the Monk,
 “ though uninvited, continued
 “ near them. How it happened
 “ that no person spoke to him, I
 “ cannot conceive.”

“ The female friends now sur-
 “ rounded the trembling bride,
 “ who cast a supplicating and dis-
 “ tressed look on the awful stran-
 “ ger; he did not answer it. The
 “ gentlemen

“ gentlemen assembled in the same
“ manner around the bridegroom.
“ A solemn and anxious silence
“ prevailed among them.—How
“ happy we are here together,
“ said at length the old *Marquis*,
“ who alone seemed not to behold
“ the stranger, or at least seemed to
“ behold him without dismay:—
“ How happy we are here toge-
“ ther, and my son Jeronymo can-
“ not be with us !—”

“ Have you invited him, and
“ did not he answer your invita-
“ tion?—asked the Monk. It was
“ the first time he had spoken.
“ We looked at him alarmed.”

M 2

“ Alas!

“ Alas ! He is gone to a place
“ from whence there is no return ;
“ —answered the old man.—Re-
“ verend father ! You misunder-
“ stood me. My son Jeronymo
“ is dead.—”

“ Perhaps he only fears to ap-
“ pear in this company ;—replied
“ the Monk.—Who knows how
“ your son Jeronymo may be situ-
“ ated ? Let him now hear the voice
“ which he heard the last. Desire
“ your son Lorenzo to call him.--”

“ What does he mean ?-----
“ whispered the company one to
“ another. Lorenzo changed
“ colour.

“ colour. My own hair began
“ to stand on my head.”

“ In the mean time the Monk
“ approached a sideboard. He
“ took a glass of wine and bring-
“ ing it to his lips—To the me-
“ mory of our dear Jeronymo !---
“ said he.—Every one who loved
“ the deceased will follow my
“ example.—”

“ Where ever you come from,
“ reverend father !---exclaimed
“ the old Marquis—You have
“ pronounced a dearly beloved
“ name, and you are welcome
“ here;---

“ here ;—then turning to us he
“ offered us full glasses.—Come,
“ my friends ! Let us not be sur-
“ passed by a stranger. The
“ memory of my son Jeronymo!--”

“ Never, I believe, was any
“ toast less heartily received.”

“ There is one glass left;---
“ said the *Marquis*.---Why does,
“ my son Lorenzo refuse to pay
“ this friendly tribute ?---”

“ Lorenzo trembling, received
“ the glass from the hands of the
“ Monk ; tremblingly he put it
“ to his lips.---My dearly beloved
“ brother

“ brother Jeronymo!----he hesi-
 “ tatingly pronounced, and seized
 “ with horror he replaced the
 “ glass unemptied.”

“ This is the voice of my mur-
 “ derer! —exclaimed a terrible
 “ figure which appeared instanta-
 “ neously in the midst of us, co-
 “ vered with blood, and disfi-
 “ gured with horrible wounds.”

“ But ask nothing further from
 “ me,” added the Sicilian with
 every symptom of horror in his
 countenance. “ I lost my senses
 “ the moment I looked at this ap-
 “ parition. The same happened
 “ to

“ to every one present. When
“ we recovered, the Monk and
“ the ghost had disappeared.
“ Lorenzo was in the agonies
“ of death. He was carried
“ to bed in the most dreadful
“ convulsions. No person attend-
“ ed him but his Confessor and
“ the sorrowful old *Marquis*, in
“ whose presence he expired.—
“ The *Marquis* died a few weeks
“ after him. Lorenzo’s secret is
“ concealed in the bosom of the
“ Priest, who received his last
“ confession; no person ever learnt
“ what it was.”

“ SOON

“ Soon after this event, a well
 “ was cleaned in the farm yard of
 “ the *Marquis's* villa. It had been
 “ disused many years, and was al-
 “ most closed up by shrubs and
 “ old trees. A skeleton was found
 “ among the rubbish. The house,
 “ where this happened, is now no
 “ more; the family *del M.* . . . is
 “ extinct, and Antonia's tomb
 “ may be seen in a Convent not
 “ far from Salerno.”

Terror and astonishment kept
 us silent. “ You see,” continued
 the Sicilian, “ You see how my
 “ acquaintance

“ acquaintance with this Russian
“ officer, Arminian, or Franciscan
“ Friar has originated. Judge
“ whether I had not cause to
“ tremble at the sight of a being,
“ who has twice placed himself in
“ my way in a manner so terrible.”

“ I beg you will answer me
“ one question more,” said the
Prince, rising from his seat;—
“ Have you been always sincere
“ in your account of the *Che-*
“ *valier* ?”——

“ Yes, my Prince; to the best
“ of my knowledge.”——

“ You

“ You really believed him to
“ be an honest man ? ”——

“ I did ; by Heaven ! I be-
“ lieved him to be an honest
“ man.”——

“ Even at the time that he
“ gave you the ring ? ”——

“ How ! He gave me no ring.
“ I did not say that he gave me
“ the ring.”——

“ Very well ! ” said the Prince,
pulling the bell, and preparing to
depart. “ And you believe,” (go-
ing back to the prisoner) “ that
“ the

“ the ghost of the *Marquis de*
 “ *Lanoy*, which the Russian officer
 “ introduced after your apparition,
 “ was a real ghost ?”—

“ I cannot think otherwise.”—

“ Let us go !” said the Prince,
 addressing himself to us. The
 Jailor came in. “ We have done ;”
 said the Prince to him. “ As for
 “ you,” turning to the prisoner,
 “ you shall hear farther from
 “ me.”—

“ I am tempted to ask your
 “ Highness the last question you
 “ proposed to the Conjuror ;”
 said

said I to the Prince, when we were alone. "Do you believe the second ghost to have been a real one?"—

"I! believe it? No, not now, most assuredly."—

"Not now? Then you have once believed it."—

"I confess I was tempted for a moment to believe it to have been something more than the contrivance of a juggler."—

"And

190 THE GHOST-SEER.

“ And I could wish to see the
“ man, who under similar cir-
“ cumstances would not have
“ formed the same supposition.
“ But what reasons have you for
“ altering your opinion? What
“ the prisoner has related of the
“ Arminian ought to increase,
“ rather than diminish your belief
“ in his supernatural powers.”—

“ What this wretch has related
“ of him,” said the Prince, inter-
rupting me very gravely. “ I
“ hope” continued he, “ you have
“ not now any doubt that we have
“ had to do with a villain.”—

“ No;

“ No ; but must his evidence
“ on that account ” —

“ The evidence of a villain?
“ Suppose I had no other reason
“ for doubt, the evidence of such
“ a person can be of no weight
“ against common sense, and es-
“ tablished truth. Does a man
“ who has already deceived me
“ several times, and whose trade
“ it is to deceive, does he deserve
“ to be heard in a cause, in which
“ the unsupported testimony of
“ even the most sincere adherent
“ to truth could not be received?
“ Ought we to believe a man
“ who perhaps never once spoke
“ truth

“ truth for its own sake? Does
“ such a man deserve credit, when
“ he appears as evidence against
“ human reason and the eternal
“ laws of nature? Would it not
“ be as absurd as to admit the
“ accusation of a person notorious-
“ ly infamous, against unblemish-
“ ed and reproachless inno-
“ cence?”—

“ But what motives could he
“ have for giving so great a cha-
“ racter to a man whom he has so
“ many reasons to hate?”—

“ I am not to conclude that he
“ can have no motives for doing
“ this, because I am unable to
“ comprehend

“ comprehended them. Do I
 “ know who has bribed him to
 “ deceive me? I confess I can-
 “ not penetrate the whole con-
 “ texture of his plan; but he has
 “ certainly done a material injury
 “ to the cause he contends for, by
 “ shewing himself at least an im-
 “ postor, and perhaps something
 “ worse.”—

“ The circumstance of the ring,
 “ I allow, appears suspicious.”—

“ It is more than suspicious; it
 “ is decisive. He received this
 “ ring from the murderer, and at
 “ the moment he received it, he
 N “ must

“ must have been certain that it
“ was from the murderer. Who
“ but the assassin could have taken
“ from Jeronymo’s finger a ring,
“ which he undoubtedly never was
“ without? Throughout the
“ whole of his narration the Sici-
“ lian has laboured to persuade
“ us, that while he was endeavour-
“ ing to deceive Lorenzo, Lo-
“ renzo was in reality deceiving
“ him. Would he have had re-
“ course to this subterfuge, if he
“ had not been sensible that he
“ should lose much in our confi-
“ dence, by confessing himself an
“ accomplice with the assassin?
“ The whole story is visibly no-
“ thing

“ thing but a series of impostures,
“ invented merely to connect the
“ few truths he has thought pro-
“ per to give us. Ought I then,
“ to hesitate in disbelieving the
“ eleventh assertion of a person
“ who has already deceived me
“ ten times, rather than admit a
“ violation of the fundamental
“ laws of nature, which I have
“ ever found in the most perfect
“ harmony.”—

“ I have nothing to reply to
“ all this,—but the apparition we
“ saw is to me not the less incom-
“ prehensible.”——

N 2

“ It

“ It is also incomprehensible to
“ me, although I have been
“ tempted to find a key to it.”—

“ How?”

“ Do not you recollect, that the
“ second apparition, as soon as
“ he entered, walked directly up
“ to the altar, took the crucifix
“ in his hand, and placed himself
“ upon the carpet?”——

“ It appeared so to me.”

“ And this crucifix, according
“ to the Sicilian’s confession, was
“ a conductor. You see that the
“ ap-

“ apparition hastened to make
 “ himself electrical. Thus the
 “ blow which Lord Seymour
 “ struck him with his sword must
 “ of necessity be ineffectual; the
 “ electric stroke disabled his
 “ arm.”——

“ This is true with respect to
 “ the sword. But the pistol fired
 “ by the Sicilian, the ball of which
 “ rolled slowly upon the altar ?”——

“ Are you convinced that this
 “ was the same ball which was
 “ fired from the pistol ? Not to
 “ mention that the puppet, or the
 “ man who represented the ghost,
 “ may

“ may have been so well accounted
 “ red as to be invulnerable by
 “ swords or bullets ; but consider
 “ who had loaded the pistols.”—

“ True,” said I, and a sudden
 light darted into my mind ; “ The
 “ Russian officer had loaded them,
 “ but it was in our presence.—
 “ How could he have deceived
 “ us ?”——

“ Why should he not have
 “ deceived us ? Did you suspect
 “ him sufficiently to observe him ?
 “ Did you examine the ball, be-
 “ fore it was put into the pistol ?
 “ It may have been one of quick-
 “ silver

“ silver or clay. Did you take
“ notice whether the Russian of-
“ ficer really put it into the bar-
“ rel, or dropped it into his other
“ hand? But supposing that he
“ actually loaded the pistols, what
“ is to convince you that he did
“ not leave them behind him and
“ take some unloaded ones into
“ the room where the ghost ap-
“ peared? He might very easily
“ have exchanged them while we
“ were undressing. No person
“ ever thought of noticing him in
“ particular. It is besides very
“ possible that the figure, at the
“ moment when we were pre-
“ vented from seeing it by the
“ smoke

“ smoke of the pistol, might have
“ dropped another ball on the
“ altar.—Which of these conjec-
“ turs is impossible. ?”——

“ You are right, my Prince.
“ But that striking resemblance
“ to your deceased friend! I
“ have often seen him with you,
“ and I immediately recognized
“ him in the apparition.”——

“ I did the same, and I must
“ confess the illusion was com-
“ plete. But as the Juggler, from
“ a few secret glances at the snuff-
“ box, was able to give to his
“ apparition such a likeness as
“ deceived

“ deceived us both ; what was to
“ prevent the Russian officer, who
“ had used the box during the
“ whole time of supper, who had
“ liberty to observe the picture un-
“ noticed, and to whom I had dis-
“ covered in confidence the per-
“ son it represented, what was to
“ prevent him from doing the
“ same ? Add to this what has
“ been before observed by the
“ Sicilian, that the prominent
“ features of the *Marquis* were so
“ striking as to be easily imitated ;
“ what now remains to be ex-
“ plained respecting the second
“ ghost ?”——

“ The

“ The words he uttered, the
 “ information he gave you about
 “ your friend.”——

“ What? Did not the Juggler
 “ assure us, that from the little
 “ which he had learnt from me,
 “ he had composed a similar story?
 “ Does not this prove that the
 “ invention was obvious and na-
 “ tural? Besides, the answers of
 “ the ghost, like those of an ora-
 “ cle, were so obscure, that he
 “ was in no danger of being de-
 “ tected in a falsehood. If the
 “ man who personated the ghost
 “ possessed sagacity and presence of
 “ mind, and knew ever so little
 “ of

“ of the affair on which he was
“ consulted, to what length might
“ not he have carried the de-
“ ception?

“ Pray consider, my Prince, how
“ much preparation such a com-
“ plicated artifice would have re-
“ quired from the Arminian; what
“ a time it requires to paint a face
“ with sufficient exactness; what
“ a time would have been requi-
“ site to instruct the pretended
“ ghost, so as to guard him against
“ gross errors; what a degree of
“ minute attention to regulate
“ every attendant or adventitious
“ circumstance which might be
“ useful

“ useful or detrimental! And re-
 “ member, that the Russian officer
 “ was absent but half an hour. Was
 “ that short space sufficient to
 “ make even such arrangements
 “ as were indispensable? Surely
 “ not, my Prince. Even a Drama-
 “ tic writer, who has the least de-
 “ sire to preserve the three terrible
 “ unities of Aristotle, durst not
 “ venture to load the interval be-
 “ tween one act and another, with
 “ such a variety of action, or to
 “ suppose in his audience such a
 “ facility of belief.

“ What? You think it abso-
 “ lutely impossible that every ne-
 “ cessary

“ cessary preparation should have
 “ been made in the space of half
 “ an hour ? ” —

“ Indeed, I look upon it as
 “ almost impossible. ” —

“ I do not understand this ex-
 “ pression. Does it militate a-
 “ gainst the laws of time and
 “ space, or of matter and motion,
 “ that a man so ingenious and
 “ so expert as this Arminian
 “ must necessarily be, assisted by
 “ agents whose dexterity and a-
 “ cuteness are probably not infe-
 “ rior to his own; provided with
 “ such means and instruments as

“ a

“ a man of this profession is never
 “ without; is it impossible that
 “ such a man, favoured by such
 “ circumstances, should effect so
 “ much in so short a time? Is it
 “ absurd to suppose, that by a very
 “ small number of words or signs,
 “ he can convey to his assistants
 “ very extensive commissions and
 “ direct very complex operations?
 “ —Nothing ought to be admitted
 “ against the established laws of
 “ nature, unless it is something
 “ with which these laws are ab-
 “ solutely incompatible. Would
 “ you rather give credit to a mi-
 “ racle, than admit an improba-
 “ bility? Would you solve a
 “ difficulty

“ difficulty rather by overturning
 “ the powers of nature than by
 “ believing an artful and uncom-
 “ mon combination of them ? ” —

“ Though the fact will not
 “ justify a conclusion such as you
 “ have condemned, you must
 “ however grant that it is far be-
 “ yond our conception.” —

“ I am almost tempted to dis-
 “ pute even this,” said the Prince,
 with a farcastic smile. “ What
 “ would you say, my dear Count,
 “ if it should be proved, for in-
 “ stance, that the operations of
 “ the Arminian were prepared
 “ and

“ and carried on, not only during
 “ the half hour that he was absent
 “ from us; not only in haste and
 “ incidentally, but during the
 “ whole evening and the whole
 “ night? You recollect that the
 “ Sicilian employed nearly three
 “ hours in preparation.”——

“ The Sicilian? Yes, my
 “ Prince.”——

“ And how will you convince
 “ me that this Juggler had not as
 “ much concern in the second
 “ apparition as in the first?”

“ How, my Prince.”——

“ That

“ That he was not the principal assistant of the Arminian?
 “ In a word, how will you convince me that they did not
 “ co-operate ?”——

“ It would be a difficult task to
 “ prove that they did;” exclaimed
 I, with no little surprise.

“ Not so difficult, my dear
 “ Count, as you imagine. What!
 “ Could it have happened by mere
 “ chance that these two men
 “ should form a design so extraordinary and so complicate upon the same person, at the same
 “ time, and in the same place?

O “ Could

“ Could mere chance have pro-
“ duced such an exact harmony
“ between their operations, that
“ one of them should appear
“ as if subservient to the
“ other? Suppose the Arminian
“ has intended to heighten the
“ effect of his deception, by intro-
“ ducing it after a less refined
“ one; that he has created a
“ Hector to make himself an
“ Achilles. Suppose he has done
“ all this to see what degree of
“ credulity he should find in me;
“ to examine the avenues to my
“ confidence; to familiarise him-
“ self with his subject by an at-
“ tempt

“ tempt that might have mis-
 “ carried without any prejudice to
 “ his plan ; in a word, to try the
 “ instrument on which he intended
 “ to play. Suppose he has done
 “ this with a design to draw my
 “ attention on himself, in order
 “ to divert it from another object
 “ more important to his design.
 “ Lastly, suppose he wishes to have
 “ imputed to the Juggler, some
 “ indirect methods of information
 “ which himself has had occasion
 “ to practise.”

“ What do you mean ? ”——

“ Let

“ It is possible that he may have
“ bribed some of my servants,
“ to give him some secret in-
“ telligence, or perhaps some pa-
“ pers which may serve his pur-
“ pose. One of my domesticks
“ has absconded. What reason
“ have I to think that the Armi-
“ nian is not concerned in his
“ leaving me? Such a connection,
“ however, if it exists, may be ac-
“ cidentally discovered; a letter
“ may be intercepted; a servant,
“ who is in the secret, may betray
“ his trust. Now all the conse-
“ quence of the Arminian is def-
“ royed, if I detect the source of
“ his omniscience. He therefore
“ introduces

“ introduces this Juggler, who must
 “ be supposed to have the same or
 “ some other design upon me.
 “ He takes care to give me ear-
 “ ly notice of him, and his
 “ intentions, so that whatever I
 “ may hereafter discover, my sus-
 “ picions must necessarily rest up-
 “ on the Sicilian. This is the
 “ puppet with which he amuses
 “ me, whilst he himself, unobser-
 “ ved and unsuspected, is entan-
 “ gling me in invisible snares.”—

“ We will allow this. But is
 “ it consistent with the Arminian’s
 “ plan, that he himself should de-
 “ stroy the illusion which he has
 “ created,

“ created, and disclose the myf-
“ teries of his science to the eyes
“ of the profane ?”——

“ What mysteries does he dis-
“ close ? None, surely, which he
“ intends to practise on me. He
“ therefore loses nothing by the
“ discovery. But on the other
“ hand, what an advantage will
“ he gain, if this pretended vic-
“ tory over juggling and decep-
“ tion, should render me secure
“ and unsuspecting; if he succeeds
“ in diverting my attention from
“ the right quarter than him-
“ self, and in fixing my wavering
“ suspicions on an object the most
“ remote

“ remote from the real one!
“ If at any time, either from my
“ own doubts, or at the sugges-
“ tion of another, I should be
“ tempted to seek in the occult
“ sciences for a key to his myste-
“ rious wonders, how could he
“ better provide against such an
“ enquiry, than by contrasting
“ his prodigies with the tricks of
“ the Juggler?—By confining the
“ latter within artificial limits,
“ and by delivering, as it were,
“ into my hands a scale by which
“ to appreciate them, he naturally
“ exalts and perplexes my ideas
“ of the former. How many sus-
“ picions he precludes by this
“ single

“ single contrivance! How many
 “ methods of accounting for his
 “ miracles, which might after-
 “ wards have occurred to me, he
 “ refutes beforehand!”—

“ But in exposing such a finished
 “ deception, he has very much
 “ counteracted his own interest,
 “ both by quickening the pene-
 “ tration of those whom he meant
 “ to impose upon, and by stag-
 “ gering their belief of miracles in
 “ general. If he had such a plan,
 “ your Highness’s self is the best
 “ proof of its insufficiency.—”

“ Perhaps he has been mistaken
 “ in respect to myself; but his
 “ con-

“ conclusions have nevertheless
“ been well founded. Could he
“ foresee that I should exactly
“ notice the very circumstance
“ which exposes the whole arti-
“ fice? Was it in his plan,
“ that the creature he employed
“ should be so communicative?
“ Are we certain that the Si-
“ cilian has not far exceeded
“ his commission? He has un-
“ doubtedly done so with respect
“ to the ring, and yet it is chiefly
“ this single circumstance which
“ determined my distrust in him.
“ A plan, whose contexture is so
“ artful and refined, is easily
“ spoiled in the execution by an
“ awkward

“ awkward instrument. It cer-
“ tainly was not the Arminian’s
“ intention, that the Juggler
“ should speak to us in the style of
“ a mountebank, that he should
“ endeavour to impose upon us
“ such fables as are too gross to
“ bear the least reflection. For
“ instance, with what countenance
“ could this impostor affirm, that
“ the miraculous being he spoke
“ of, renounces all commerce with
“ mankind at twelve in the night?
“ Did not we see him among us
“ at that very hour?”——

“ That is true. He must have
“ forgot it.”——

“ People

“ People of this description
 “ naturally overact their parts,
 “ and by exceeding every limit of
 “ credibility mar the effects which
 “ a well managed deception is
 “ calculated to produce.”—

“ I cannot, however, yet pre-
 “ vail on myself to look upon the
 “ whole as a mere contrivance of
 “ art. What! the Sicilian’s ter-
 “ ror; his convulsive fits; his
 “ swoon; the deplorable situation
 “ in which we saw him, and which
 “ was even such as to move our
 “ pity; were all these nothing
 “ more than the mimicry of an
 “ actor? I allow that a skilful
 “ per-

“ performer may carry imitation
“ to a very high pitch, but he
“ certainly has no power over the
“ organs of life.”—

“ As for that, my friend, I
“ have seen *Richard the Third* by
“ *Garrick*. But were we at that
“ moment sufficiently cool to be
“ capable of observing dispassion-
“ ately? Could we judge of the
“ emotion of the Sicilian, when
“ we were almost overcome by our
“ own? Besides, the decisive crisis
“ even of a deception is so mo-
“ mentous to the deceiver him-
“ self, that excessive anxiety may
“ produce in him symptoms as
“ violent

“ violent as those which surprise
“ excites in the deceived. Add
“ to this the unexpected entrance
“ of the watch.”—

“ I am glad you mention that,
“ my Prince, would the Arminian
“ have ventured to discover such
“ an infamous scheme to the eye
“ of justice; to expose the fide-
“ lity of his creature to such a
“ dangerous test? And for what
“ purpose?”—

“ Leave that matter to him,
“ he is no doubt acquainted with
“ the people he employs. Do we
“ know what secret crimes may
“ have

“ have secured him the discretion
“ of this man? You have been
“ informed of the office he holds
“ at Venice; what difficulty will
“ he find in saving a man, of
“ whom himself is the only ac-
“ cuser?”—

[This suggestion of the Prince was but too well justified by the event. For, some days after, on enquiring after the prisoner, we were told that he had escaped, and had not since been heard of.]

“ You ask what could be his
“ motives for delivering this man
“ into

“ into the hands of justice ? ” con-
 tinued the Prince. “ By what
 “ other method, except this vio-
 “ lent one, could he have wrested
 “ from the Sicilian such an infam-
 “ mous and improbable confes-
 “ sion, which, however, was mate-
 “ rial to the success of his plan ?
 “ Who but a man, whose case is
 “ desperate, and who has nothing
 “ to lose, would consent to give
 “ so humiliating an account of
 “ himself ? Under what other
 “ circumstances than such as these
 “ could we have believed such a
 “ confession ?

“ I

“ I grant all this, my Prince.
“ The two apparitions were mere
“ contrivances of art. The Si-
“ cilian has imposed upon us a
“ tale which the Arminian his
“ master had previously taught
“ him. The efforts of both have
“ been directed to the same end,
“ and from this mutual intelli-
“ gence all the wonderful incidents
“ which have astonished us in this
“ adventure may be easily ex-
“ plained. But the prophecy of
“ the square of St. Mark, that
“ first miracle, which, as it were,
“ opened the door to all the rest,
“ remains still unexplained; and
“ of what use is the key to all his
“ other

“ other wonders, if we despair of
 “ resolving this single one ? ” —

“ Rather invert the proposition,
 “ my dear Count, and say, what
 “ do all these wonders prove, if I
 “ can demonstrate that a single one
 “ among them is a manifest de-
 “ ception ? The prediction, I
 “ own, is above my conception.
 “ If it stood alone ; if the Ar-
 “ minian had closed the scene
 “ with it, I confess I do not
 “ know how far I might have
 “ been carried. But in the
 “ base alloy with which it
 “ is mixed, it is certainly suspi-
 “ cious. Time may explain, or
 P “ not

“ not explain it ; but believe me,
“ my friend !” added the Prince,
taking my hand, with a grave
countenance. “ A man, who
“ can command supernatural pow-
“ ers, has no occasion to employ
“ the arts of a juggler ; he despises
“ them.”

Thus, says Count O ended
a conversation, which I have re-
lated intire ; because it shews the
difficulties which were to be over-
come, before the Prince could be
effectually imposed upon. I hope
it may free his memory from
the imputation of having blindly
and

and inconsiderately thrown himself into a snare, which was spread for his destruction by the most unheard of, and diabolical wickedness. Not all those, who at the moment I am writing this are, perhaps, smiling contemptuously at the Prince's credulity; not all those, who in the fancied superiority of their own understandings, think themselves entitled to condemn him; not all those, I apprehend, would have resisted this first attempt with so much firmness. If afterwards, notwithstanding this happy prepossession, we witness his downfall; if we see that the black de-

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figa

sign, against which, at its very opening, he was thus providentially warned, is finally successful, we are not so much inclined to ridicule his weakness, as to be astonished at the infamous ingenuity of a plot, which could seduce an understanding so admirably prepared. Considerations of interest have no influence in my testimony. He, who alone would be thankful for it, is now no more. His dreadful destiny is accomplished. His soul has long since been purified before the throne of truth, where mine must likewise shortly appear. But for the sake of justice,—and I hope
the

the involuntary tear, which now flows at the remembrance of my friend, will be pardoned,—for the sake of justice I now declare it: He was a generous man, and would have been an ornament to the throne; which, seduced by the most infernal artifices, he attempted to ascend, by the commission of a crime.



THE translator of this Fragment, which ends with the above reflections of Count O..... in order to remove the uncertainty in which the reader is left, as to the

the conclusion of these extraordinary adventures, and particularly with a view to explain some allusions in the concluding paragraph, has thought it necessary to subjoin a few particulars, in addition to what appears in the original.

The *Ghost-Seer* was first published in a German periodical work of the name of *Thalia*, in detached parts. It appeared at a time when the sect of the *Illuminated*, as it is called, was beginning to extend itself very rapidly in Germany. These people, it is well known, were accustomed to seduce the ignorant and the superstitious, by extravagant

gant and incredible tales of supernatural powers and appearances. This story being calculated in some measure, to expose these miraculous accounts would, of course, be received with avidity; the editor was therefore induced to publish the most interesting part in a small volume by itself; and it is from such a separate edition that the present translation has been made.

The conclusion of these adventures is related, though very imperfectly, in the periodical work above-mentioned. It is principally to be gathered from a very long correspondence between the
Prince

Prince and Count O chiefly on metaphysical subjects. These letters are very voluminous, and as the translator has not seen them for several years, the annexed account must of course be very imperfect, as it is written entirely from recollection.

It appears, however, from the sequel, that the person so often mentioned in the preceding work, under the name of the *Arminian*, was a Roman Catholic priest. In his attempts upon the Prince, he acted under the influence and direction of the Holy Inquisition. The design of this venerable and

en-

enlightened body was to gain him over to the Catholic religion, in order to make him at some future period, the instrument of disseminating it among his subjects. Among the unaccountable absurdities in human nature it may be remarked, that the zeal for making proselytes will frequently urge men to the commission of acts, which are directly inconsistent with the doctrines they are labouring to propagate.

To the pretended Arminian, as a man of uncommon talents and of extraordinary art, was intrusted the conduct of this important enter-

enterprize. In executing a project so glorious for the Church, no means were to be accounted criminal, and he was therefore left to his own discretion. He began by secretly studying the Prince's character. A German servant belonging to the latter, who had disappeared in a very unaccountable manner, as mentioned in the beginning of these adventures, was, in this respect, of great use to him. This man, it was supposed, had been enticed from the service of his master by the Arminian, as he was afterwards discovered in a convent in the *Giudecca*, into which he had entered as a convert.

From

From his communications the Arminian soon learned, that the mind of the Prince was particularly accessible to such ideas as were suggested by any thing extraordinary or mysterious. In this quarter therefore he determined to assail him. The Sicilian, who was known to be uncommonly expert in the arts of juggling and legerdemain, was employed as his assistant. By their joint contrivances all the pretended miracles, related in the first part of this volume, were successively produced. The adventure of the second apparition was managed nearly according to the Prince's conjectures. The
ghost

ghost itself was a living person properly equipped, and the whole transaction was a mere deception.

The reader will recollect the account which was given of the person whom the Prince engaged as successor to the servant who had left him. This man was also an agent of the Arminian's. He had contrived by some method, which does not appear, to procure a recommendation to the Prince's banker, and by that means to the Prince himself. The latter soon perceived that his new servant possessed such talents and qualities as are very seldom found in a person in his situation,

situation, and in a short time he became greatly attached to him. The man on his part was not idle; he lost no opportunity of insinuating himself into the Prince's favour, in which he at last succeeded so effectually, that he became his sole confidant and gained an entire ascendancy over him. Count O.... in the mean time, who was the only person to whose judgment the Prince paid any deference, departed for Courland. The Arminian and his colleague then began to act more openly. They perceived however that, in order to complete the seduction of the Prince, it would be necessary to call

call in the aid of female attractions. The principles of the person they had to deal with were not easily shaken. He had been early inspired with the most exalted notions of strict honour and steady resolution, and nothing less than an entire subversion of his faculties, was sufficient to overturn them. His new confident governed him completely, but he could not blind him. The attachment of one man to another however ardent it may be, as it produces nothing of that disorder of the senses, nothing of that delirium in the mind, which are the ordinary effects of love, cannot be so easily per-

perverted to the purposes of deception.

They therefore engaged the assistance of a young woman of exquisite beauty, and of a cunning and address not inferior to their own. Methods were next to be devised to make the Prince fall desperately in love. The latter on this occasion was expected to be somewhat untractable. They knew his utter indifference to female beauty, and that the mere allurements of sense would fail to conquer him: In his imagination, equally vivid and visionary, he was alone vulnerable. The young woman

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woman was therefore exhibited to his view under such circumstances as were calculated to impress him. The first time he saw her was in a solitary chapel in the midst of a sequestered grove. She was kneeling at the foot of the altar in the attitude and attire of something more than mortal. In that light she appeared to the Prince. He was completely fascinated. He returned home, and in the heat of his extasy and admiration, he related to his confident what he had seen, and intreated him, if possible, to find out this celestial object. The task, it may be supposed, was not difficult,--difficulties, however, were

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were pretended in order to enflame the Prince's passion, which at length, irritated by delays and disappointments, became impetuous and ungovernable. It was then thought proper to gratify his wishes. He was introduced to the object of his adoration. Lost and bewildered in a maze of pleasure, till then unknown to him, his passion knew no bounds. He resigned himself intirely to its dictates, and every rational and manly sentiment was quickly forgotten.

Ensnared in this manner by the united artifices of a woman and a priest, the Prince was soon completely

pletely perverted. He embraced the Catholic faith, and under the ridiculous pretence of gaining millions of deluded Protestants to the true Church, he was brought to consent to the murder of the Prince who barred his ascent to the throne. The attempt however did not succeed, and the same persons who engaged him in the crime, inflicted his punishment. To avoid the danger of a discovery, they dispatched him by poison, and he died in the bitterest agonies of contrition and remorse.

FINIS.