dressed man, whose face he did not remember to have seen before, but who stopped him, and inquired of him to what trade he belonged. On being answered that he was a mason, the man said that if he would wall up a certain niche which would be shown to him, he should receive as his reward fifty Louis-d'ors. The stranger added that he must submit to have his eyes covered, and to be carried in that state for a considerable distance. To all this the mason readily consented, partly from curiosity, and partly from the greatness of the reward offered to him for so inconsiderable a work. The stranger immediately placed a bandage over his eyes, and having led him by the hand for a few paces, they came to a spot where a carriage waited for them, into which they both got, and it drove rapidly off. They soon got out of Paris,—at least so the mason conjectured, from the noise of the wheels going over the stones having ceased. After having proceeded for about two hours, the rattling of the stones returned, and they seemed to the mason to have entered another town; shortly after which they stopped, and the mason was taken out of the carriage, and led through several passages, and up a flight of stairs, till they came to a place where he heard the sound of voices.

Here his eyes were uncovered; and he found himself in a large room, the walls, roof, and floor of which were entirely hung with black cloth, excepting a niche on one side, which was left open. By the side of it were placed a considerable quantity of stones and mortar, together with all the tools necessary for the work upon which the mason was to be employed. There were, also, several men in the room, whose faces were covered with masks. One of these came up to the mason, and addressing himself to him, said, "Here are the fifty Louis-d'ors which were promised you; and there is only one condition to be exacted from you, which is, that you must never mention to any person what you may see or hear in this place." This the mason promised; and at this instant another man, who was also masked, entered the room, and demanded if all were ready. Upon being answered in the affirmative he went out, and returned again in a few minutes with two other men, both masked, and one of whom, from the whiteness of his hair, the mason supposed to be an old man.

These three dragged in with them a very beautiful young woman, with her hair dishevelled, and her whole appearance betokening great disorder. They pushed her with great violence toward the niche, into which they at length succeeded in forcing her, notwithstanding her struggling and resistance. During this time she never ceased alternately uttering dreadful screams, and crying for mercy in a most piteous manner. Once she got loose from her persecutors, and immediately prostrated herself at the feet of the old man, and, embracing his knees, besought him to kill her at once, and not to let her suffer a cruel and lingering death. But all in vain.

When the three men had at last forced her into the niche, they held her there, and commanded the mason to commence his work, and wall her up.

Upon witnessing this dreadful scene, the mason fell on his knees, and entreated to be permitted to depart, without being accessory to this act of cruelty. The men, however, told him it was impossible. They menaced him, if he refused to perform his promise, with instant death; whereas, on the other hand, if he complied, they said he should receive an additional fifty Louis-d'ors when he had completed his work.

This united threat and promise had such an effect on the mason, that he instantly did as he was commanded, and at last actually walled up the poor victim, so as to render her escape impossible. She was then left to perish by slow degrees, without light, air, or sustenance.

When the mason had finished, he received the fifty additional Louis-d'ors; his eyes were again covered; he was led through various passages as on his arrival; and finally put into the carriage, which drove off rapidly as before. When he was again taken out of it, his eyes were uncovered, and he found himself standing