```
tures to be false, you cannot contest the inestimable benefit which I shall confer on all mankind, to the last generation, by discovering a passage near the pole to those countries, to reach which at present so many months are requisite; or by ascertaining the secret of the secret 
           day and night, and my familiarity with them increased that regret which I had felt, as a child, on learning that my father's dying injunction had forbidden my uncle to allow me to embark in a seafaring life. These visions faded when I perused, for the first time, those poets
 my failure and how heavily I bore the disappointment. But just at that time I inherited the fortune of my cousin, and my thoughts were turned into the channel of their earlier bent. Six years have passed since I resolved on my present undertaking. I can, even now, remen
   from which I dedicated myself to this great enterprise. I commenced by inuring my body to hardship. I accompanied the whale-fishers on several expeditions to the North Sea; I voluntarily endured cold, famine, thirst, and want of sleep; I often worked harder than the cor
                day and devoted my nights to the study of mathematics, the theory of medicine, and those branches of physical science from which a naval adventurer might derive the greatest practical advantage. Twice I actually hired myself as an under-mate in a Greenland what
  some great purpose? My life might have been passed in ease and luxury, but I preferred glory to every enticement that wealth placed in my path. Oh, that some encouraging voice would answer in the affirmative! My courage and my resolution is firm; but my hopes fluctuate, and
  r spirits are often depressed. I am about to proceed on a long and difficult voyage, the emergencies of which will demand all my fortitude: I am required not only to raise the spirits of others, but sometimes to sustain my own, when theirs are failing. This is the most favourable pe
 d for travelling in Russia. They fly quickly over the snow in their sledges; the motion is pleasant, and, in my opinion, far more agreeable than that of an English stagecoach. The cold is not excessive, if you are wrapped in furs--a dress which I have already adopted, for there is a gi
              between walking the deck and remaining seated motionless for hours, when no exercise prevents the blood from actually freezing in your veins. I have no ambition to lose my life on the post-road between St. Petersburgh and Archangel. I shall depart for the latter tow
            ht or three weeks; and my intention is to hire a ship there, which can easily be done by paying the insurance for the owner, and to engage as many sailors as I think necessary among those who are accustomed to the whale-fishing. I do not intend to sail until the month o
           when shall I return? Ah, dear sister, how can I answer this question? If I succeed, many, many months, perhaps years, will pass before you and I may meet. If I fail, you will see me again soon, or never. Farewell, my dear, excellent Margaret. Heaven shower down blessing
 on you, and save me, that I may again and again testify my gratitude for all your love and kindness. Your affectionate brother, R. Walton Letter 2 Archangel, 28th March, 17-- To Mrs. Saville, England How slowly the time passes here, encompassed as I am by frost and snow! Yet a
               taken towards my enterprise. I have hired a vessel and am occupied in collecting my sailors; those whom I have already engaged appear to be men on whom I can depend and are certainly possessed of dauntless courage. But I have one want which I have never yet be
                   and the absence of the object of which I now feel as a most severe evil, I have no friend, Margaret: when I am glowing with the enthusiasm of success, there will be none to participate my joy; if I am assailed by disappointment, no one will endeavour to sustain me
              shall commit my thoughts to paper, it is true; but that is a poor medium for the communication of feeling. I desire the communication of feeling. I desire the
   nt of a friend. I have no one near me, gentle yet courageous, possessed of a cultivated as well as of a capacious mind, whose tastes are like my own, to approve or amend my plans. How would such a friend repair the faults of your poor brother! I am too ardent in execution and
                 difficulties. But it is a still greater evil to me that Lam self-educated: for the first fourteen years of my life I ran wild on a common and read nothing but our Uncle Thomas' books of voyages. At that age I became acquainted with the celebrated poets of our own count
 but it was only when it had ceased to be in my power to derive its most important benefits from such a conviction that I perceived the necessity of becoming acquainted with more languages than that of my native country. Now I am twenty-eight and am in reality more
               ned the groundwork of my character that I cannot overcome an intense distaste to the usual brutality exercised on board ship: I have never believed it to be necessary, and when I heard of a mariner equally noted for his kindliness of heart and the respect and obedie
e paid to him by his crew, I felt myself peculiarly fortunate in being able to secure his services. I heard of him first in rather a romantic manner, from a lady who owes to him the happiness of her life. This, briefly, is his story. Some years ago he loved a young Russian lady of mode
     ime that she loved another, but that he was poor, and that her father would never consent to the union. My generous friend reassured the suppliant, and on being informed of the name of her lover, instantly abandoned his pursuit. He had already bought a farm with his money,
  which he had designed to pass the remainder of his life, but he bestowed the whole on his rival, together with the remains of his prize-m
er. But the old man decidedly refused, thinking himself bound in honour to my friend, who, when he found the father inexorable, quit
           What a noble fellow!" you will exclaim. He is so; but then he is wholly uneducated: he is as silent as a Turk, and a kind o
                                                                                                                                                                                                         f ignorant carelessness attends him, which, while it renders his conduct the more astonishing, de
           plutions. Those are as fixed as fate, and my voyage is only now delayed until the weather shall permit my em
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    arkation. The winter has been dreadfully severe, but the spring promises well, and it is co
           as a remarkably early season, so that perhaps I may sail sooner than I expected. I shall do nothing rashly: y
 ty of others is committed to my care. I cannot describe to you my sensations on the near prospect of my undertak
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ing. It is impossible to communicate to you a conception of the trembling sensation,
   pleasurable and half fearful, with which I am preparing to depart. I am going to unexplored reg
          or if I should come back to you as worn and woeful as the "Ancient Mariner.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                usion, but I will disclose a secret. I have often attributed my attachment to, my
               thusiasm for, the dangerous mysteries of ocean to that production of the most imaginative of m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      es this there is a love for the marvellous, a belief in the marvellous, inter
             ctically industrious--painstaking, a workman to execute with perseverance and labour--but besi d
             my projects, which hurries me out of the common pathways of men, even to the wild sea and un
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           of Africa or America? I dare not expect such success, yet I cannot b
             spirits. I love you very tenderly. Remember me with affection, should you never hear from m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           e again. Your affectionate brother, Robert Walton Letter 3 July 7th,
 an now on its homeward voyage from Archangel; more fortunate than I, who may not see my native I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           a nd, perhaps, for many years. I am, however, in good spirits: my m
            to dismay them. We have already reached a very high latitude; but it is the height of sui
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             er, and although not so warm as in England, the southern gales, v
              speedily towards those shores which I so ardently desire to attain, breathe a degree of
            en us that would make a figure in a letter. One or two stiff gales and the springing of a le
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ak are accidents which experienced navigators scarcely remembe
                encounter danger. I will be cool, persevering, and prudent. But success SHALL crow
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             my endeavours. Wherefore not? Thus far I have gone, tracing a se
              the determined heart and resolved will of man? My swelling heart involuntarily pours
5th. 17-- To Mrs. Saville. England So strange an accident has happened to us that I cannot forbeau
  come into your possession. Last Monday (July 31st) we were nearly surrounded by ice, which
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            in the ship on all sides, scarcely leaving her the sea-room in which
                  situation was somewhat dangerous, especially as we were compassed round by
             e atmosphere and weather. About two o'clock the mist cleared away, and we beheld, s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             out in every direction, vast and irregular plains of ice, which seem
                                                                                                                                                                                  anxious though
           citude from our own situation. We perceived a low carriage, fixed on a sledge and draw
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ogs, pass on towards the north, at the distance of half a mile; a bei
  which had the shape of a man, but apparently of gigantic stature, sat in the sledge and guided t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               We watched the rapid progress of the traveller with our telescope
           was lost among the distant inequalities of the ice. This appearance excited our unqual
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          wonder. We were, as we believed, many hundred miles from any land
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ght the ice broke and freed our ship. We, however, lay to until the mo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            of the vessel, apparently talking to someone in the sea. It was, in fa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             nt of ice. Only one dog remained alive: but there was a human bei
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               seemed to be, a savage inhabitant of some undiscovered island,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                d consented to come on board. Good God! Margaret, if vou had
                ho thus capitulated for his safety, your surprise would have been boundless. His l
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         mbs were nearly frozen, and his body dreadfully emaciated by fatigue
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         forcing him to swallow a small quantity. As soon as he showed signs of
                                                                                                                            nd
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         his sufferings had deprived him of understanding. When he had in som
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        e performs an act of kindness towards him or does him any the most tr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       nd sweetness that I never saw equalled. But he is generally melancholy
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      s that oppresses him. When my guest was a little recovered I had great tro
              estoration evidently depended upon entire repose. Once, however, the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ieutenant asked why he had come so far upon the ice in so strange a veh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       .
efore we picked you up we saw some dogs drawing a sledge, with a man
in it, across the ice." This aroused the stranger's attention, and he asked a muletit
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      de of questions concerning the route which the demon, as he called him
nad pursued. Soon after, when he was alone with me, he said, "I have, doubtles
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      s, excited your curiosity, as well as that of these good people; but you ar
 too considerate to make inquiries." "Certainly; it would indeed be very impe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       nent and inhuman in me to trouble you with any inquisitivene
'And yet you rescued me from a strange and perilous situation; you have ben
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      evolently restored me to life." Soon after this he inquired if I thought that t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   d not answer with any degree of certainty, for the ice had not broken until n
he breaking up of the ice had destroyed the other sledge. I replied that I coul
ear midnight, and the traveller might have arrived at a place of safety befor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  but of this I could not judge. From this time a new spirit of life animated the d
ecaying frame of the stranger. He manifested the greatest eagerness to be
                                                                                                                                                                                                      pon deck to watch for the sledge which had before appeared; but I have persuaded him to remain in th
                                                                                                                                     u
e cabin, for he is far too weak to sustain the rawness of the atmosphere.
                                                                                                                                                                                                       have promised that someone should watch for him and give him instant notice if any new object shoul
d appear in sight. Such is my journal of what relates to this strange oc c
                                                                                                                                                                                                    urrence up to the present day. The stranger has gradually improved in health but is very silent and appe
ars uneasy when anyone except myself enters his cabin. Yet his man n
                                                                                                                                                                                                   ers are so conciliating and gentle that the sailors are all interested in him, although they have had very l
tle communication with him. For my own part, I begin to love him as
                                                                                                                                                                                                   a brother, and his constant and deep grief fills me with sympathy and compassion. He must have been a
noble creature in his better days, being even now in wreck so attra
                                                                                                                                                                                                     ctive and amiable. I said in one of my letters, my dear Margaret, that I should find no friend on the wide
ocean; yet I have found a man who, before his spirit had been brok
                                                                                                                                                                                                      en by misery, I should have been happy to have possessed as the brother of my heart. I shall continu
                                                                                                                                                                                                        ny fresh incidents to record. August 13th, 17-- My affection for my guest increases every day. He exc
e my journal concerning the stranger at intervals, should I have a
ites at once my admiration and my pity to an astonishing degree.
                                                                                                                                                                                                         How can I see so noble a creature destroyed by misery without feeling the most poignant grief? He
                                                                                                                                                                                                         speaks, although his words are culled with the choicest art, yet they flow with rapidity and unparalle
is so gentle, yet so wise; his mind is so cultivated, and when he
                                                                                                                                                                                                         continually on the deck, apparently watching for the sledge that preceded his own. Yet, although ur
led eloquence. He is now much recovered from his illness and i
                                                                                                                                                  S
                                                                                                                                                                                                          t he interests himself deeply in the projects of others. He has frequently conversed with me on min
happy, he is not so utterly occupied by his own misery but tha
e, which I have communicated to him without disguise. He ent
                                                                                                                                                                                                          ered attentively into all my arguments in favour of my eventual success and into every minute det
ail of the measures I had taken to secure it. I was easily led by
                                                                                                                                                                                                             the sympathy which he evinced to use the language of my heart, to give utterance to the burnin
                                                                                                                                                                                                              ed me, how gladly I would sacrifice my fortune, my existence, my every hope, to the furtherand
g ardour of my soul and to say, with all the fervour that warm
e of my enterprise. One man's life or death were but a small p
                                                                                                                                                 ri
                                                                                                                                                                                                               ce to pay for the acquirement of the knowledge which I sought, for the dominion I should acqu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                a dark gloom spread over my listener's countenance. At first I perceived that he tried to supp
ire and transmit over the elemental foes of our race. As I spo
                                                                                                                                                  ke,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   quivered and failed me as I beheld tears trickle fast from between his fingers; a groan burs
ress his emotion; he placed his hands before his eyes, and m
                                                                                                                y v
                                                                                                                                                 o ice
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    accents: "Unhappy man! Do you share my madness? Have you drunk also of the intoxic up from your lips!" Such words, you may imagine, strongly excited my curiosity; but the
t from his heaving breast. I paused; at length he spoke, in b
                                                                                                                                                 r oken
ating draught? Hear me; let me reveal my tale, and you will
                                                                                                                                                ash the c
paroxysm of grief that had seized the stranger overcame hi
                                                                                                                                              ak ened po
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       wers, and many hours of repose and tranquil conversation were necessary to restore h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          to despise himself for being the slave of passion; and quelling the dark tyranny of d
is composure. Having conquered the violence of his feelin
                                                                                                                                              gs, he appea
                                                                                                                                           s onal ly . He a
espair, he led me again to converse concerning myself per
                                                                                                                                                                                             sk
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             me the history of my earlier years. The tale was quickly told, but it awakened vari
                                                                                                                                                                                             m
ous trains of reflection. I spoke of my desire of finding a f
                                                                                    riend, o
                                                                                                                                             thi rs t for a
                                                                                                                                                                                                   ore
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               intimate sympathy with a fellow mind than had ever fallen to my lot, and expres
                                                                                                    m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ng. "I agree with you," replied the stranger; "we are unfashioned creatures, but
sed my conviction that a man could boast of little happin
                                                                                  e ss w
                                                                                              ho
                                                                                                                                         did not enjoy this
                                                                                                                                                                                                   lessi
half made up, if one wiser, better, dearer than ourselves-
                                                                                               uc
                                                                                                     h
                                                                                                                                      a f rie nd ought to be
                                                                                                                                                                                                   -do n
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ot lend his aid to perfectionate our weak and faulty natures. I once had a frien
                                                                                                                                                                                                     cti
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ng friendship. You have hope, and the world before you, and have no cause
d, the most noble of human creatures, and am entitled, th
                                                                                                                                    efore, to jud ge respe
                                                                                     е
for despair. But I--I have lost everything and cannot begin
                                                                                                                                     fe anew." As he said
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     s his countenance became expressive of a calm, settled grief that touched
                                                                                                                                          . Even
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      pirit as he is, no one can feel more deeply than he does the beauties of na
me to the heart. But he was silent and presently retired to hi
                                                                                     s ca
                                                                                                                                                        broke
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ns seem still to have the power of elevating his soul from earth. Such a
ture. The starry sky, the sea, and every sight afforded by t h
                                                                                    ese wond
                                                                                                                                          u l
                                                                                                                                                           re
man has a double existence: he may suffer misery and be overw
                                                                                   helmed b
                                                                                                                                 y dis
                                                                                                                                                          oin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  m e
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       nts, yet when he has retired into himself, he will be like a celestial spirit
                                                                                                                                          app
hat has a halo around him, within whose circle no grief o
                                                                                                                                    es. Will
                                                                                   ly ventur
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       mile at the enthusiasm I express concerning this divine wanderer? You
                                                                                                                                                         you
would not if you saw him. You have been tutored and refi
                                                                    ned b
                                                                                  v books a
                                                                                                                                      n d re
                                                                                                                                                         ire
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ent from the world, and you are therefore somewhat fastidious; but this
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           man. Sometimes I have endeavoured to discover what quality it is w
only renders you the more fit to appreciate the extraordin
                                                                               e rits of th
                                                                                                                                                         erf
                                                                    arv m
                                                                                                                               S
                                                                                                                                     w ond
hich he possesses that elevates him so immeasurably ab ov e any
                                                                              o ther per
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           w. I believe it to be an intuitive discernment, a quick but never-failing
                                                                                                                                   n l ever
                                                                                                                                                         kn
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power of judgment, a penetration into the causes of thin gs,
                                                                              ualled fo
                                                                                                                                   cle arne
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                                                                                                                                                                            n
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            precision; add to this a facility of expression and a voice whose var
                                                                                                                                                        s a
ed intonations are soul-subduing music. August 19, 17-- Yes terd
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             easily perceive, Captain Walton, that I have suffered great and unpa
                                                                              ay the st
                                                                                                                                   g er said to
                                                                                                                                                  me
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 may
ralleled misfortunes. I had determined at one time that the memor y of these
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              won me to alter my determination. You seek for knowledge and wi
                                                                                                                              sh ould die with me, bu
sdom, as I once did; and I ardently hope that the gratification of yo ur wishe s m
                                                                                                                        ay not be a serpent to s ting v
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ne has been. I do not know that the relation of my disasters will be
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               s mi
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useful to you; yet, when I reflect that you are pursuing the 's amé 'course, exposin
                                                                                                                        g yoursel f to the same danger
                                                                                                                                                                       s whi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              h have rendered me what I am, I imagine that you may deduce an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               lure. Prepare to hear of occurrences which are usually deemed n
apt moral from my tale, one that may direct you if you su cc eed in your u nde
                                                                                                                        taking and console you in c
                                                                                                                                                                       as e o
arvellous. Were we among the tamer scenes of nature I might fear to en c ou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               lief, perhaps your ridicule; but many things will appear possible
                                                                                                                                  nt er
                                                                                                                                                                       ur un
n these wild and mysterious regions which would provoke the laughter of th
                                                                                                                          ose unacquaint
                                                                                                                                                                       ith t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             e ever-varied powers of nature; nor can I doubt but that my tale co
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              asily imagine that I was much gratified by the offered communicat
nveys in its series internal evidence of the truth of the events of well ich
                                                                                                                           it is composed." Yo u may
on, yet I could not endure that he should renew his grief by a recit all o
                                                                                                                          f his misfortunes. I felt the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                st eagerness to hear the promised narrative, partly from curiosit
y and partly from a strong desire to ameliorate his fate if it were in m y power.
                                                                                                                         e xpr e ssed these fe elin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        gs in my answer. It thank you," he replied, "for your sympathy, but it is useless; my
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ng," continued he, perceiving that I wished to interrupt him; "but you are mistaken
ate is nearly fulfilled. I wait but for one event, and then I shall repose in peace. I u
                                                                                                                                     stand your feeli
my friend, if thus you will allow me to name you; nothing can alter my destiny; liste
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         you will perc e ive how irrevocably it is determined." He then told me that he would
                                                                                                              to
                                                                                                                      my hi
                                                                                                                                        st
                                                                                                                                              ory, and
ommence his narrative the next day when I should be at leisure. This promise drew from me the warmest thanks. I have resolved every night, when I am not imperatively occupied by my duties, to record, as nearly as possible in his own words, what he has related during the day. If
should be engaged, I will at least make notes. This manuscript will doubtless afford you the greatest pleasure; but to me, who know him, and who hear it from his own lips--with what interest and sympathy shall I read it in some future day! Even now, as I commence my task, his full
toned voice swells in my ears; his lustrous eyes dwell on me with all their melancholy sweetness; I see his thin hand raised in animation, while the lineaments of his face are irradiated by the soul within. Strange and harrowing must be his story, frightful the storm which embraced
he gallant vessel on its course and wrecked it--thus! Chapter 1 I am by birth a Genevese, and my family is one of the most distinguished of that republic. My ancestors had been for many years counsellors and syndics, and my father had filled several public situations with honour a not reputation. He was respected by all who knew him for his integrity and indefatigable attention to public business. He passed his younger days perpetually occupied by the affairs of his country; a variety of circumstances had prevented his marrying early, nor was it until the decl
ne of life that he became a husband and the father of a family. As the circumstances of his most intimate friends was a merchant who, from a flourishing state, fell, through numerous mischances, into p
overty. This man, whose name was Beaufort, was of a proud and unbending disposition and could not bear to live in poverty and oblivion in the same country where he had formerly been distinguished for his rank and magnificence. Having paid his debts, therefore, in the most hon
ourable manner, he retreated with his daughter to the town of Lucerne, where he lived unknown and in wretchedness. My father loved Beaufort with the truest friendship and was deeply grieved by his retreat in these unfortunate circumstances. He bitterly deplored the false pride w hich led his friend to a conduct so little worthy of the affection that united them. He lost no time in endeavouring to seek him out, with the hope of persuading him to begin the world again through his credit and assistance. Beaufort had taken effectual measures to conceal himself, a
nd it was ten months before my father discovered his abode. Overjoyed at this discovery, he hastened to the house, which was situated in a mean street near the Reuss. But when he entered, misery and despair alone welcomed him. Beaufort had saved but a very small sum of mon
ey from the wreck of his fortunes, but it was sufficient to provide him with sustenance for some months, and in the meantime he hoped to procure some respectable employment in a merchant's house. The interval was, consequently, spent in inaction; his grief only became more d
ep and rankling when he had leisure for reflection, and at length it took so fast hold of his mind that at the end of three months he lay on a bed of sickness, incapable of any exertion. His daughter attended him with the greatest tenderness, but she saw with despair that their little fu
nd was rapidly decreasing and that there was no other prospect of support. But Caroline Beaufort her in her adversity. She procured plain work; she plaited straw and by various means contrived to earn a
pittance scarcely sufficient to support life. Several months passed in this manner. Her father grew worse; her time was more entirely occupied in attending him; her means of subsistence decreased; and in the tenth month her father died in her arms, leaving her an orphan and a beg
gar. This last blow overcame her, and she knelt by Beaufort's coffin weeping bitterly, when my father entered the conducted her to Geneva and place dher under the protection of a relation. Two years after this event Caroline became his wife. There was a considerable difference between the ages of my parents, but this circumstance seemed to unite them only closer in bonds of devoted affection. There was a sense of justice in
my father's upright mind which rendered it necessary that he should approve highly to love strongly. Perhaps during former years he had suffered from the late-discovered unworthiness of one beloved and so was disposed to set a greater value on tried worth. There was a show of gratitude and worship in his attachment to my mother, differing wholly from the doting fondness of age, for it was inspired by reverence for her virtues and a desire to be the means of, in some degree, recompensing her for the sorrows she had endured, but which gave inexpressib
e grace to his behaviour to her. Everything was made to yield to her wishes and her convenience. He strove to shelter her, as a fair exotic is sheltered by the gardener, from every rougher wind and to surround her with all that could tend to excite pleasurable emotion in her soft and
benevolent mind. Her health, and even the tranquillity of her hitherto constant spirit, had been shaken by what she had gone through. During the two years that had elapsed previous to their marriage my father had gradually relinquished all his public functions; and immediately after
r their union they sought the pleasant climate of Italy, and the change of scene and interest attendant on a tour through that land of wonders, as a restorative for her weakened frame. From Italy they visited Germany and France. I, their eldest child, was born at Naples, and as an infance. In the contract the contract the contract through that land of wonders, as a restorative for her weakened frame.
nt accompanied them in their rambles. I remained for several years their only child. Much as they were attached to each other, they seemed to draw inexhaustible stores of affection from a very mine of love to bestow them upon me. My mother's tender caresses and my father's smil
e of benevolent pleasure while regarding me are my first recollections. I was their plaything and their idol, and something better--their child, the innocent and helpless creature bestowed on them by heaven, whom to bring up to good, and whose future lot it was in their hands to dire
ct to happiness or misery, according as they fulfilled their duties towards me. With this deep consciousness of what they owed towards the being to which they had given life, added to the active spirit of tenderness that animated both, it may be imagined that while during every hou
r of my infant life I received a lesson of patience, of charity, and of self-control, I was so guided by a silken cord that all seemed but one train of enjoyment to me. For a long time I was their only care. My mother had much desired to have a daughter, but I continued their single offspr
ng. When I was about five years old, while making an excursion beyond the frontiers of Italy, they passed a week on the shores of the poor. This, to my mother, was more than a duty; it was a nec
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