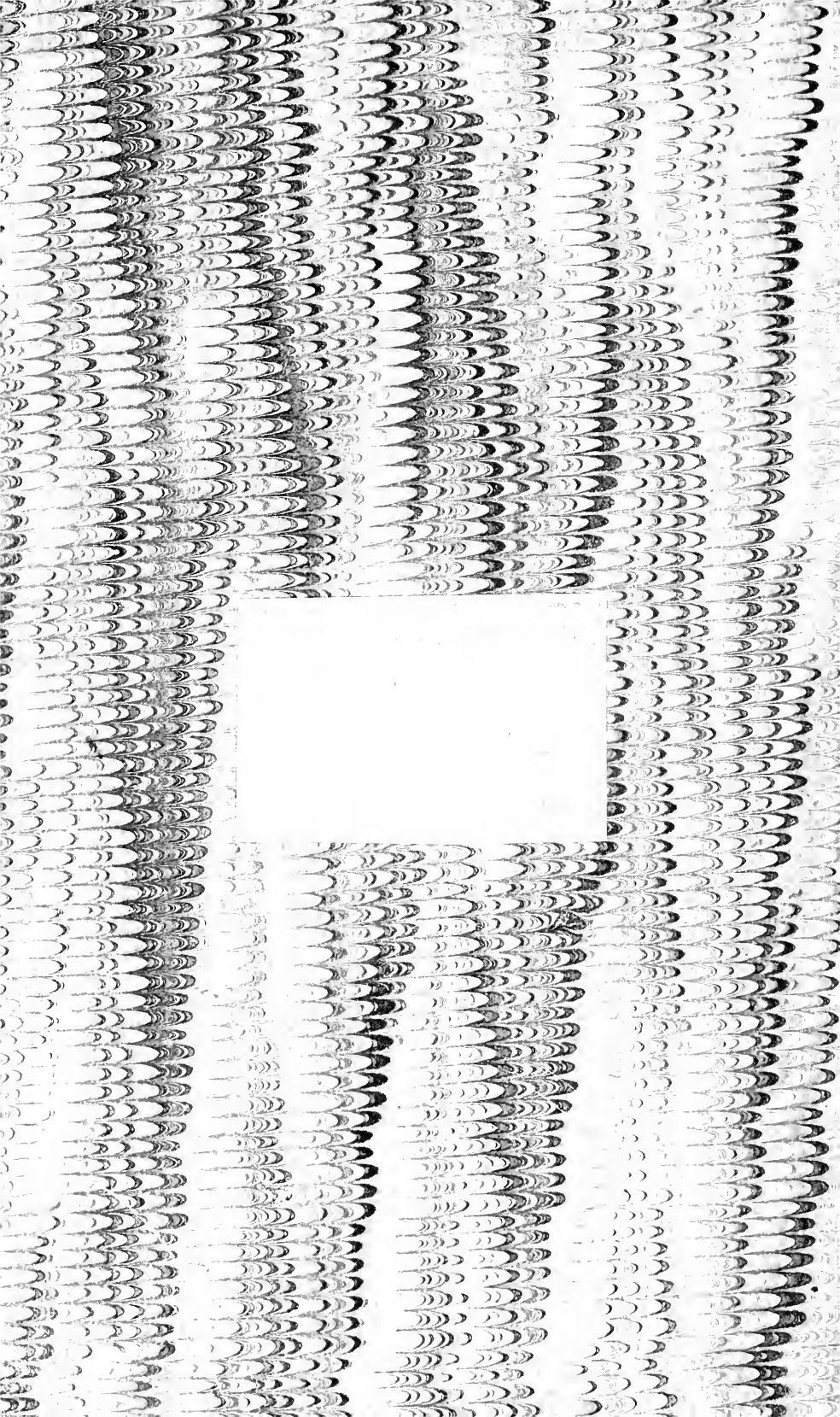
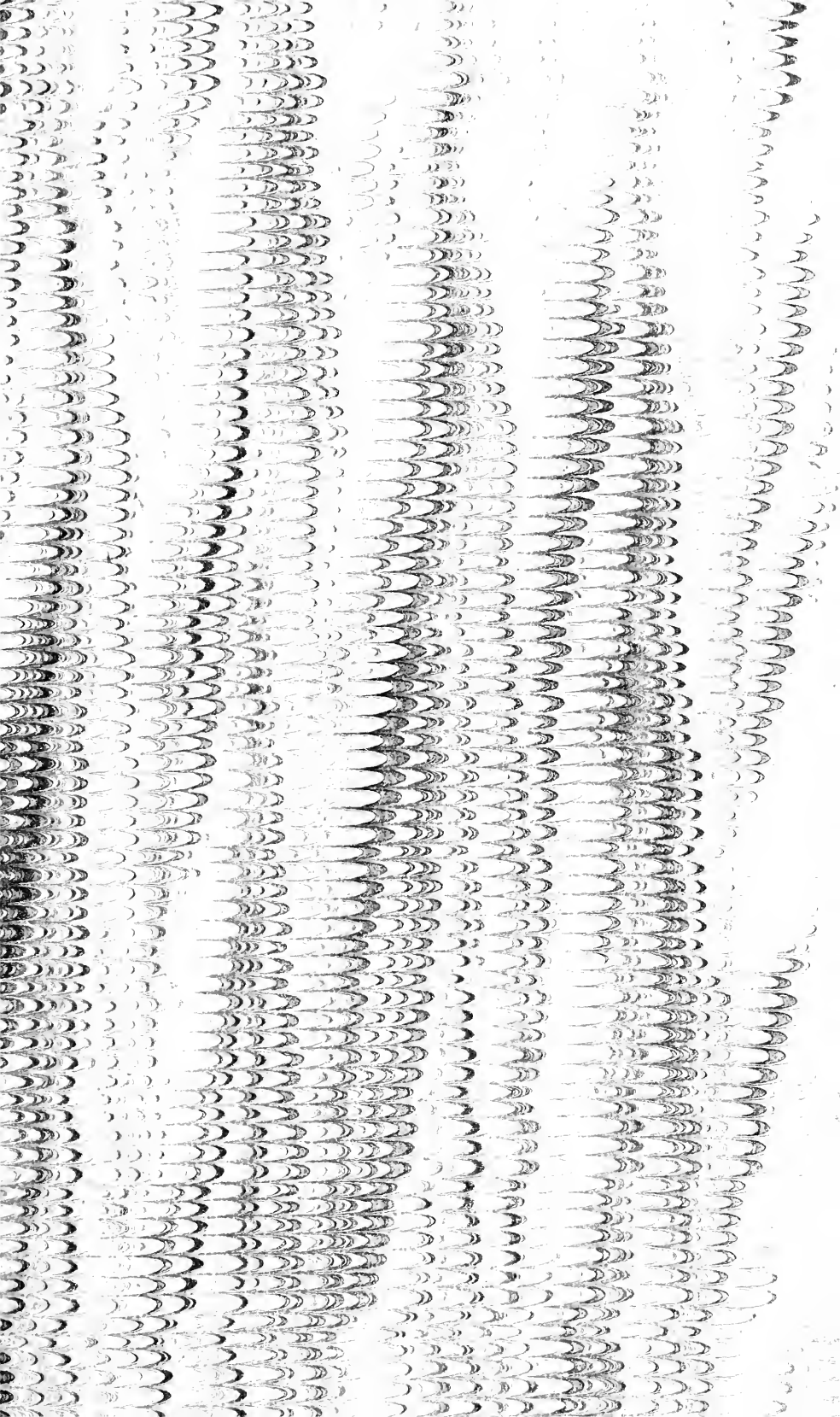


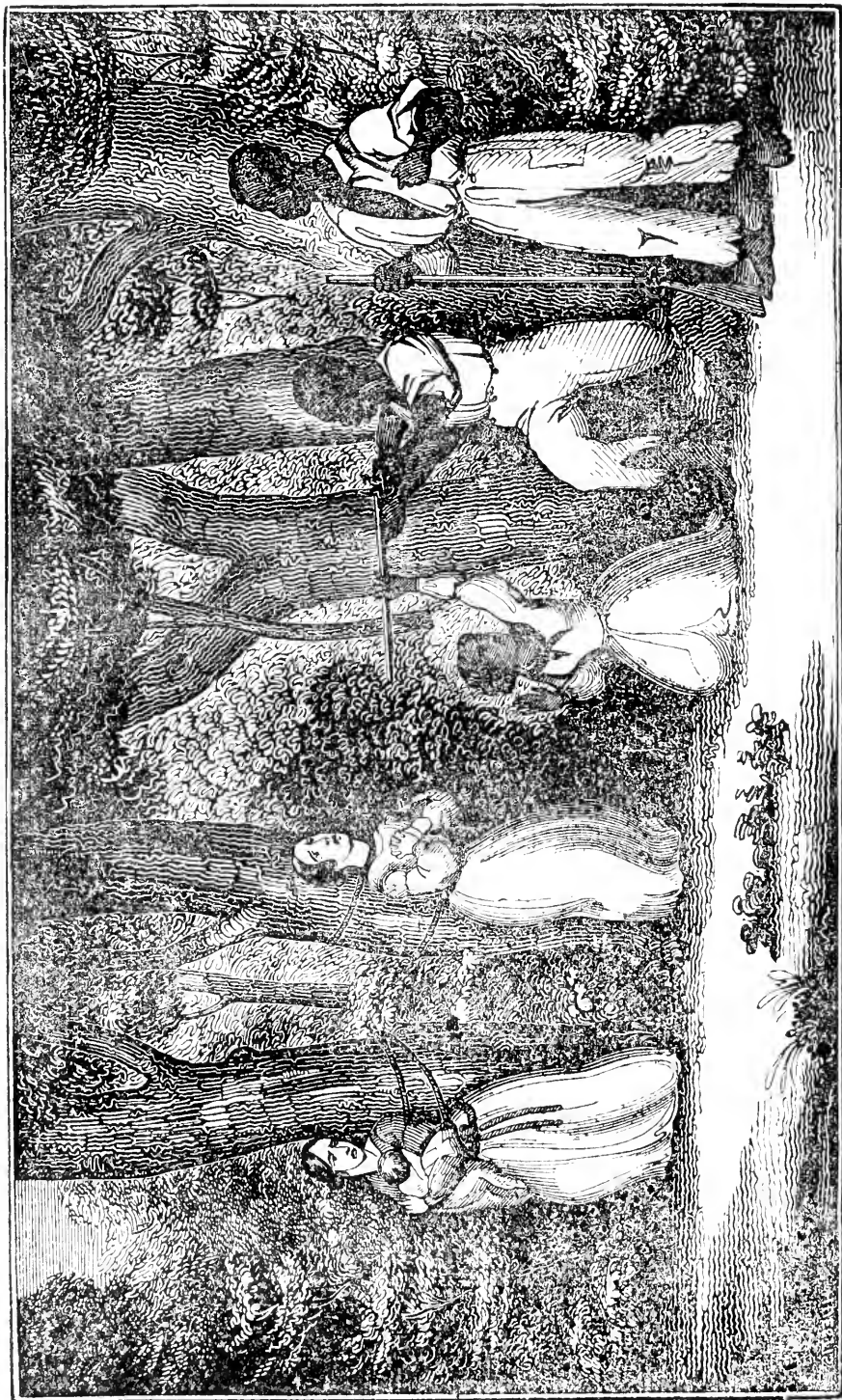
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Barbarous Treatment of Two Unfortunate Females.

NARRATIVE
OF THE
BARBAROUS TREATMENT
OF
Two Unfortunate Females,
Natives of the parish of Concordia, Louisiana,
WHOSE
HUSBAND AND PARENT WERE INHUMANELY
MURDERED
BY TWO RUNAWAY BLACKS,



The principal instigator of which has since suffered at the Stake.

NEW YORK:
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1842.

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in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Southern District of
New York.

NARRATIVE, &c.

THE painful duty unhappily devolves upon the Narrator (who has but just entered the sixteenth year of her age) to present the public with the melancholy particulars of the *awful events* that have attended her, as well as her late companion in misery, (Mrs. Eliza Todd) since the 12th of May last, both of whom, since that period, have been doomed to drink deep of the bitter cup of sorrow! Since the commencement of the month of April last, the white inhabitants residing in the neighborhood of the Parish of *Concordia* (Louisiana,) have been under very great apprehension that a portion of the *black* population in that quarter, were on the point of meditating some serious plot, either to exterminate them, or to inflict upon them, in an unguarded moment, some severe chastisement—which, although well grounded, was not realized until late in the evening of the time above mentioned, when the inmates of the dwelling of my deceased father (Mr. Noah Harrington) were suddenly aroused by a loud rap at the door, accompanied by the voices of one or more, demanding entrance! As my father at that moment (whatever might be the intentions of the assailants) possessed not the means to offer any resistance, their commands were immediately complied with, and the door unbolted, when two frightful looking *negroes*, armed and partially disguised, presented themselves,

and the report of their muskets, each levelled, and that fatally, at the head of my father, was the only reply that they gave him on his demanding the object of their visit, and which, almost as instantaneously, laid him lifeless at the feet of his affrighted family! This appears to have been the signal agreed upon by the assailants, to enter and complete the murderous deed, had it not already been affected, which very soon appeared to be the case, for, from the moment of receiving the first fire, my poor father gasped but once, and his spirit had forever fled! At the loud screeches of my mother and others of the family, the assailants became apparently much afraid that others in the neighborhood might become alarmed, and consequently hastily collected and packed up the most valuable articles nearest at hand, and fled, commanding me, in a few words of broken English, to follow them, and afterwards by threats and frightful grimaces to conduct them to the house of our nearest neighbor, which was that of a *Mr. George Todd*, situated about a half a mile distant, and where they made a similar demand for admittance, with the promise that, if immediately complied with, none within should be injured! But, in this last instance, the blacks proved themselves both treacherous as well as unmerciful, for no sooner did they here gain admittance than Mr. Todd (the only male that the house contained) became their second victim, at whom the blacks having discharged their rifles, with less immediate effect than in the tragical death of my poor father. They completed the butchery of their victim by dashing out his brains in the most barbarous manner, with the breach of their muskets! and not only in the presence of his wife, but so near that her gown became bespattered with his blood and brains! And having thus completed their contemplated work of death, they compelled Mrs. Todd, (with her helpless babe, of but seven months old) together with myself, and a young mulatto girl, who, soon after the murder, joined them as a companion, and had ac-

accompanied them from their master's plantation to follow them to an unfrequented and dismal *swamp*, situated but a few miles from Concordia; a *pathless recess*, which they no doubt had previously selected, as the place best calculated for their secret abode, and for the accomplishment, undiscovered, of their beastly designs! The object in permitting the infant of Mrs. Todd to accompany its mother, was to prevent its being left alone behind, when its tender cries, they no doubt were fearful, might lead to their detection; and that they intended to dispatch it, as soon as they had penetrated far enough into the swamp, cannot be doubted, for this they had several times hinted to their female mulatto companion, and the life of the little innocence was afterwards spared by *her* entreaties, alone!

The night proved extremely dark and rainy, and it was not until the break of day when we began to penetrate the margin of the swamp, that Mrs. Todd and myself, began to suspect what might be the designs of the wretches, and whither, and for what purpose, they intended thither to convey us; indeed, we could not but suspect that it was for almost any other than a *good* purpose! While conveying us thither, that the black villians were under continual fear that their murderous deeds might be brought to light, and they suspected and pursued, there could be no doubt, as we were forbidden to raise our voices louder than a whisper, and the poor afflicted mother (Mrs. Todd) compelled to nurse her infant the whole way, to prevent its crying—and in addition to which, by the cruel and almost constant application of *switches* to our bare shoulders, we were compelled to increase our speed, whenever we manifested the least disposition to slacken our pace. By the light of day we had penetrated the gloomy forest (or rather mirey swamp) to about its centre, when we, in the first instance, came to a halt, and were presented by the blacks with a draught of blood warm, muddy water; scooped from one of the

stagnant pools, and afterwards with a few broken crumbs of hard biscuit to eat, which they had pilfered from the cupboard of the unfortunate Mrs. Todd.

When we had arrived at this, the intended place of destination of the blacks, and which afterwards proved the spot of our six weeks abode, the few thin garments with which we were attired, were torn in tatters by the low brush and thick briars through which we had been compelled to travel, and our feet and ankles filled with bleeding and painful wounds, produced by the same cause! The first demand of the merciless wretches, after we arrived here, was the surrender of the tender and unoffending babe, of its poor mother, and in their attempt to force it from her embrace, such was its loud and shrill screeches, produced thereby, that, through fear of the consequences that might result therefrom, they were induced to suffer the affrighted infant to remain in the possession of its mother, and without attempting another separation; whereby, Mrs. Todd was providentially enabled to save from the cruel termination of its existence, the life of her precious charge; and which, notwithstanding the extreme sufferings since experienced by its wretched mother, is at the moment of pening this narrative, alive and well! And the next act of the colored villians was to regale themselves with the wine, and other intoxicating drinks, unfortunately contained in the cellar of the dwelling of my deceased father, as well as that of his not less unfortunate neighbor, Mr. Todd, and when having become heated therewith, they, in the first instance, attempted to take improper liberties with our persons! which, with the assistance of their companion, the mulatto girl, (who ever after continued our friend and benefactress) we were enabled partially to resist!

When the colored brutes became sufficiently sober, the next employment in which they engaged themselves, was each to erect for himself, with turf, brush, &c., a temporary shelter, in which their stolen booty

was deposited, and beneath which, they gave their female companion to understand, was intended for *our* lodging place, as well as *their* own!—but when completed, every artful inducement practised by them to induce either myself, or my wretched companion to yield to their brutal solicitations, proved as ineffectual as in the first instance, both having mutually resolved to trust to an unerring *Providence* to aid us, to resist every attempt that should be forcibly made by the wretches, to effect their nefarious purpose; and to which we could not but view *death*, by their savage hands, far more desirable! Finding us resolute and determined, they next proceeded to devise and practise other means to *compel* us to yield—they bound us with cords to saplings, and while *Joseph* (the youngest, and it is believed the least guilty of the two) was compelled to gather switches for the purpose, *Enoch*, the oldest, was as busily engaged in most unmercifully scourging us therewith, until life became almost extinct, by the excruciating pains produced thereby! And as I was not on this, as on other painful occasions, forbidden to converse with my suffering companion, we encouraged each other as much as possible with the pleasing reflection that our lives was alone in the power of *one*, who yet might be pleased to deliver us from the hands of the unmerciful enemy —although young, and least, perhaps, experienced to hardships, yet I could not but view Mrs. Todd, if possible, even in a more afflicting situation than myself, inasmuch as that she was not only under continual apprehensions for her own personal safety, but for that of her innocent babe, whose cries she found it almost impossible to hush, and which the blacks had threatened to put instantly to death, the moment that they became too annoying!

In the dismal swamp, with no other (with the exception of the friendly mulatto girl) but two colored brutes for our companions, who probably cared no more for our lives than that of the meanest reptile of the forest, we passed the first night with much less horrible

feelings than one would have supposed that we both would have naturally anticipated. On being ordered each to retire to bed (a bed composed of nought but dry moss and leaves) which the blacks had prepared for us, and to which each had expressed a determination to accompany us, but was finally dissuaded therefrom only by the entreaties of the mulatto girl, who strongly interested herself in our behalf, and of whom both the blacks appeared extremely fond, and who to afford us every necessary protection, obtained their consent to improve a part of one of the beds allotted us, while (much to our satisfaction) the negroes peaceably improved the other. But, although in some measure yet safe, the succeeding day brought new trials and afflictions, still more grievous to be borne! The blacks much displeased with the resistance that we had uniformly manifested, since in their power, to revenge themselves, as well as further to intimidate us, in several instances, after having received from negro *Enoch*, the most severe and painful flagellations, we were, before unbound, suffered to remain as a *mark*, at which the blacks aimed their pieces, at the eminent danger of our lives, merely, as they boasted, to exercise their skill as *marks men!* and in which instance, it is the opinion of Mrs. Todd, as well as myself, that we should have been fatally shot, had not the kind interposition of our friend, the mulatto girl, prevented it; who, whenever she beheld our lives thus jeopardized, would drop on her knees and beg of the blacks to desist, and in the meantime assuring them "that if the lives of the two unfortunate captives were thus to be cowardly sacrificed, *their* bullets would have first to pass through *her* body, before she would willingly permit them to reach those of the unfortunate victims!"

Although we were providentially permitted to pass the first night of our captivity unmolested, and free from insult, yet, notwithstanding, the most praiseworthy interest which our mulatto friend had taken thus far in our favor, there were instances before the day of

our happy deliverance, that the savage treatment which we both received from the beastly ruffians, was of a nature the most cruel and infamous, and which modesty forbids our publicly nameing, but such as very justly merited the severe punishment which black Enoch, the chief aggressor, has since received ! During the six weeks of our most bitter captivity, (in which so extreme had been our sufferings, that every day appeared a week,) Mrs. Todd and myself had opportunities of frequent interviews, and to relate to each other the appalling state of our feelings ! One or the other of the blacks, during the time of our confinement, had occasion frequently to leave us for one or more nights, clandestinely to visit some of the adjacent white settlements in quest of articles of food, or something that might serve to satisfy the cravings of nature ; but in every instance, whenever one thus absented himself, the *other* was left closely to guard us, to prevent our escape ; and to effect which, at one of our interviews, Mrs. Todd suggested a plan, which, although it appeared very encouraging and almost sure of success, yet, before the day arrived in which the attempt was to be made to carry it into execution, it was completely frustrated and abandoned by the sudden and unexpected return of *Enoch*, who early the preceding evening had been dispatched to a neighboring village, in quest of food, as before mentioned—but this unexpected frustration of our plan to escape, did not prevent our devising another, a few days thereafter, which, as our *mulatto friend* was therein engaged, promised better success, and as an incentive to urge us to its immediate execution, even at the greatest risk of our lives, the important and very serious fact was communicated to us by the *mulatto*, that *our graves were already dug*, and prepared for the reception of *our* bodies at a moment's notice, and were not a quarter of a mile distant from the place we then occupied ! All which has since proved true, by several who have had ocular proof of the fact.

The second and last plan to escape, was preconcerted by the mulatto girl alone, and such as manifested in her a proof of deep *devise* and *penetration*, but like the other, an unforeseen circumstance defeated at the very moment when we considered our final escape from the most wretched state of captivity, as almost sure and certain! These deep and well concerted plans to escape, had, however, no other effect than to cause us to be treated with more severity, and the blacks to keep a more vigilant eye on us! The second week of our confinement, both Mrs. Todd and her infant became extremely ill, produced, as was supposed, by the effects of severe treatment, and to a long and chilly rain to which they had, the two or three days previous, been exposed, and on which occasion, permission was granted me by *Joseph*, my reputed keeper, and the youngest of the blacks, (and much the most civil and human of the two) to visit her, and to administer to her wants as much as lay in my power so to do; three days severe illness had been sufficient to reduce her and her poor helpless babe to mere skeletons, and herself to that state of bodily weakness, as to render her not only unable to nurse her infant child, but to perform for it and herself other important and necessary duties! The treatment which she represented to me, she was almost daily and hourly in the habit of receiving from "negro Enoch," the depraved and remorseless *black*, whose *will* she had in too many instances been compelled to obey, was such as would cause every heart, but that of *adamant*, to bleed! Indeed, was the exposure of the black scoundrels' abominable conduct, not here improper to be presented to the view of the *public eye*, it would herein meet with that exposition, even if it necessarily must proceed from the source that it would, that every reader might be well satisfied with the *justness* of the villian's punishment, since inflicted upon him.

Amid all the troubles and trials, to which this poor sick woman had been the ten preceding days exposed,

yet, happy am I to say, that I found her still sound in mind, and perfectly, and without a murmur, resigned to the will of Providence! "Let us, Miss Harrington," said she to me, "still hope that a better fate awaits us—severe as have been our afflictions, yet still, it ought to be to us a consolation, that we know of no improper act of our lives by which they could have been in any degree merited!" The true spirit of unfeigned piety which my afflicted companion appeared to breath out, in the hour of her most severe and painful sickness, could not prove otherwise than consoling to *me*, and served very much to lighten the burden of my *own* afflictions, and on due reflection to satisfy me that amid all his judgments, a divine Providence had not forgotten to be *merciful*, even in the instance in softening the heart and causing us to be pitied by the friendly *mulatto girl*, to whose benevolent and kind interposition in our behalf, in more than one instance, saved our lives, and was finally, as the reader will learn from my Narrative, instrumental in restoring us to our liberty, and to the arms of our afflicted friends, as well as to bring to *his* merited punishment, the hard hearted wretch who had been as instrumental in plunging us in a state of inconceivable misery and despair!

My afflicted friend, Mrs. Todd, after a confinement of six days, by sickness, recovered, and no doubt to become once more the subject of trials and afflictions not less severe than those which she had already experienced—nor were they such as were altogether produced by the abuse and ill-treatment which we were almost every day in the habit of receiving from the vile brutes, in human shape, in whose power fate had placed us! But from other causes we suffered very considerable—the food allowed us was barely sufficient to satisfy the cravings of nature, being only such as the blacks were enabled to obtain in their thievish excursions; and the only bedding allowed us, on which to repose, whether sick or well, was no other than what was composed of moss and dry forest leaves,

and with little else to cover and protect us from the chilling blasts and dews of the night, but what the canopy of heaven afforded us! Such was, and continued to be, our wretched condition during the term of our captivity; and in which time, were I to attempt to particularize and herein to record, minutely, every instance of personal abuse that we sustained, would fill a book of more than double the number of pages than what it is intended this Narrative shall contain—every circumstance, however trivial, if of a nature to produce any displeasure on the part of the blacks, was almost invariably attended by a *kick* or *cuff* from one or both of them, but, in most instances, we had less cause to complain of the abuse and insolence of *Joseph*, than of “negro *Enoch*,” in whose very countenance was depicted everything that was *base* and *perfidious*! Many were the plans devised by both, Mrs. Todd and myself, how and by what manner we might be either enabled to make our escape, or by communicating with our friends acquaint them with our situation, and thereby be more able to effect it, but in every plan that we thus devised we failed, until the *last*, which providentially was attended with the success that we had hoped for, and in which, as in several other successful projects, our friend and benefactress, the mulatto girl, acted a very important part, and whom, by the rich reward that we were able to proffer her in case of success, we so far enlisted her in our favor, that for a specified sum of money, which we pledged ourselves should be paid her, by either ourselves or friends, she consented, at the risk of her life, to communicate to the latter information of our situation—and to do this with the least possible suspicion, it was proposed that she should improve the succeeding night, soon after the blacks had retired to rest, and by pursuing, with all possible haste, the supposed direction from which the blacks had brought us, and if so fortunate as to reach a settlement, to acquaint the first *white* person that she should meet with the circumstance of our captivity, &c.

The proposed hour arrived, when every direction which the mulatto girl had received from us, relative to her departure, &c., was strictly adhered to, and which happily in the end produced the heart-cheering effects that we had both so frequently and earnestly prayed for; but, before all was fairly accomplished, we both came near falling a sacrifice to the strong suspicions and evil jealousy of the blacks, who as soon as the mulatto girl (to whom they were both so much attached) was missed, they were not long to suspect the cause of her absence, and by whom, and for what purpose she had been thus secretly dispatched! From this moment they both appeared to be sure and certain that they should be betrayed, and by one whom, until this moment, they had never supposed capable of *treachery*, as regarded themselves. They well knew that they had, without the least provocation, destroyed the lives of two innocent men, and in addition to which, the treatment which the wife of one, and daughter of the other had received while since in their power, was the most abominable, and such as would most assuredly (independent of the crime of shedding innocent blood) effect their lives! Agreeable to the dying declaration of *Joseph*, (since publicly executed) they at this moment felt capable of the commission of any crime, however barbarous, if it should prove conducive to their own personal safety, and would even not have hesitated a moment to have added the three unfortunate captives, then in their power, to the catalogue of their butchered victims, had they believed that any such (to them fortunate circumstance could have resulted therefrom; but too well they knew that such an act would only be adding to the enormity of their guilt! For the yellow girl, (who would prove herself so much their enemy as to betray them) would not hesitate to appear as a witness against them if apprehended and brought to trial, and that they eventually should be, neither doubted, as they viewed an escape utterly impossible. They would both have fled, and deserted

their captives, but they knew not whither or to what part of the adjacent country they could fly, which would promise them any greater safety than the place which they then occupied.

While in this dilemma, the ears of the blacks were assailed by the most clear and positive proof that the secret and well devised plan of their false friend and unfortunate captives, were about to meet with that success that they (the blacks) least could have wished ; it was that of the shrill sound of a trumpet, accompanied by the barking of one or more *blood hounds* ! And at the instant the fiend *Enoch* would have attempted the destruction of his own life (as has since been remarked by Joseph) had he not proved too great a *coward* ! It was at the hour of about 2 o'clock, P. M., when the poor captives, (the unfortunate Mrs. Todd and myself,) were cheered in a degree not to be easily described, by the welcomed approach of five white men, with whom our fortunate messenger, the mulatto girl had communicated, and on whose information of our lamentable situation, had, in a praise worthy manner, and without a single moment of unnecessary delay, started to our relief. They were accompanied by two blood hounds, which proved very serviceable in scenting us, and in guiding their masters to the almost impenetrable thicket to which we had been six weeks confined ; on discovering us, and in the helpless situation as described by the mulatto, they all appeared very sensibly effected, as we poor unfortunate captives did, with *gratitude*, to them who were about to prove our deliverers from cruel bondage.

The blacks, on the approach of our friends, manifested no disposition whatever to escape, or in any manner to defend themselves, but stood motionless and as if completely petrified and horror-struck, particularly the wretch "*Enoch*," who indeed had but little mercy to expect from their hands ! They, the blacks, were both immediately seized, and well secured with cords and manacles, which our friends had brought

with them for the purpose, and in which condition they were ordered to set their faces eastward, and to take up their line of march, and proceed from their hiding place, which had so long been the abominable scene of their iniquity, with almost as much haste as they, the six weeks previous, had resorted thereto; while Mrs. Todd and myself were each provided with other and more easy means of conveyance; indeed, the bodily weakness of both, at that moment, would have rendered it quite impossible for us to have performed the task on foot. Our kind friends, by turns, conveyed the infant of Mrs. T. in their arms, and whose life, amid its bitter privations and sufferings, had been most miraculously preserved! In about twelve hours from the time of our departure, our happy deliverance and safe return was greeted by those who had been late our friends and neighbors, and some of our nearest connections, by whom, and by others, we were provided with every article, both of food and clothing, which we stood most in need of. The prisoners, after a close and somewhat lengthy examination, on the part of *Joseph*, were committed to prison to await the punishment which their judges were pleased to pronounce upon them.

In the course of the examination of *Joseph*, who was much younger than "negro *Enoch*," he confessed that he had *assisted* in putting to death both my *father* and *Mr. Todd*, and one other person whose name he did not know, and that he was compelled to do it against his own inclination by *Enoch*, who first enticed him to leave his master, partly by threats, and partly by the promise that if they should be so fortunate as to capture any *white females*, he [*Joseph*] should have one of his own choice as his adopted *wife*! He further confessed that the plan of retiring to some secluded spot, in the very extensive forest, with their captives, was one preconcerted by *Enoch* some time previous to the evening on which it was carried into effect; and that his savage abuse and beastly treatment of

which he had been guilty, as respected their unfortunate captives, was partly produced by his *own* inclination, and partly through fear of causing the displeasure of *Enoch*, who had in three or four instances threatened his life for manifesting an unwillingness to follow his brutal examples! He confessed that with *Nelly*, their female companion, they had both been long acquainted, and of whom both had been extravagantly fond, and had ever thought her (until the night of her secretly leaving them) too much attached to both to treacherously betray them in the manner she had done. He confessed that the treatment which *we*, their unfortunate female captives, had received from their hands, while in their power, extremely severe, and which, on our part, had been caused by no other fault than our unwillingness to yield to their brutal proposals!—and that it was the proposal of *Enoch*, that both should be put to death and our bodies buried in the *swamp*, as soon as they became weary of our company, or circumstances should render it necessary, and that the spot had been selected for the purpose in the most hidden and least likely to attract the notice of any one, who might ever happen to pass that way in search of us! He likewise confessed that it was the determination of both, himself and *Enoch*, that the infant child of *Mrs. Todd* should be put to death the moment that they had penetrated the swamp, to a distance that they thought its cries could not be heard by those whom they thought most probably would be dispatched in pursuit of them, the morning after the murders were committed. As regarded their favorite mulatto, *Nelly*, *Joseph* confessed that he believed that, agreeable to the declaration of the captives, they would in two or three instances have been put to death, in some way or other, had it not been for *her* intreaties in *their* behalf—that the great regard which she manifested for the two unfortunate women, he believed (as she has since herself declared) might be attributed to the respect which she professed to feel for her *father*, who

was a full blooded *white* man, and a Spaniard by birth, —that she had some months previous engaged to become the wife of *Enoch*, as soon as he should be able to obtain his freedom, and had consented only to accompany him on his late desperate expedition, with the expectation that it would result in nothing more serious!—that at the time the murders were committed, of my father and Mr. Todd, Enoch had taken the precaution to have her absent, as it is not improbable that he too much feared that her great regard for the whites would induce her to interpose to prevent the deed!

In the examination of *Nelly*, the mulatto girl, and of whom I so frequently, in the course of my narrative, have had occasion so *justly* to speak in praise of, as not only beneficial in alleviating in a degree the misery which attended us during our six weeks captivity, but finally was the principal means whereby we obtained our liberty; she very clearly and satisfactorily answered every question put to her by those whose duty it was to interrogate her—fully corroborating the truth of every statement and declaration that I have myself made in the preceding pages. She confessed that she had, some months previous, consented to follow the fortunes of one who had repeatedly declared his regard for her, and to whom she had given encouragement, that she would be united as soon as he could by any fair means obtain his freedom—that she continued of this mind until that fatal moment, when she saw that he was practising other than *fair means* to effect his favorite object—that he had even stained his hands in that blood, whom the love she had ever entertained for her *father*, she had been taught to respect; and even more than that, had made captives of, and held in cruel bondage, the wife and infant babe of one, and the daughter of the other of his guiltless victims, whom in her own presence he, as well as his colored male companion, had repeatedly treated in the most savage manner, and would in two or three instances have

taken their lives, had she not interposed to save them !

Soon after the examination and confession of *Joseph*, (who was adjudged the least guilty of the two prisoners) as well as that of *Nelly*, the friendly mulatto girl, who had accompanied them, it was the opinion of the court that the crime of the former, although in some instances *involuntarily* committed, were sufficiently atrocious to effect his *life*, and to render him as one justly meriting exemplary punishment ; the sentence of death was therefore pronounced upon him, to be inflicted by hanging, after the usual manner in which other condemned felons were put to death for capital offences—and which sentence was soon after carried into execution. But a still more severe punishment awaited the fiend *Enoch*, who, it had been proved to the satisfaction of the court, had been the chief projector and instigator of not only the extreme sufferings of the unfortunate captives, but of the cold blooded and untimely murders of both *husband* and *father*, and therefore the sentence of *death* in its most painful and awful form (burning at the stake !) was pronounced upon him, and who, immediately after the execution of black *Joseph*, was chained to a tree within fair view of the Mississippi, around which the faggots were piled, and the burning torch applied. The prisoner, who during the whole time that preparation was making for the consummation of the tragic scene, remained speechless, and of a revengeful and sulkey appearance ! He was a man apparently of great bodily strength, and watched heedless and unmoved the curling flame as it grew, until it began to entwine itself around and feed upon his body ! then he could no longer remain silent, or of the same disposition of mind ; but sent forth cries of agony painful to the ear, begging of some one of the spectators present, in pity to him, to blow out his brains, and thus put an end to the torments which began to seize him. And thus, the merciless wretch who was deaf to the cries of the poor suffering and unoffending *captives*, during the moments of their

most severe afflictions, while in his power, now in turn begged that the same degree of pity might be extended to him which he had withheld from them ! But he begged in vain, and when the heat became too intense and painful to be borne, with almost super human strength, drew out the staple with which the chain which bound him was fastened to the tree, and with one agonizing leap cleared the burning pile—but he was not even so to escape, at that moment the sharp ring of rifles were heard, and the next, the negro monster fell a lifeless corpse on the ground, upon which his body was immediately picked up by two or three bystanders present, and again committed to the flames, and in a very few minutes utterly consumed, and not a vestige remaining to show that such a vile being ever existed ! And thus perished two remorseless wretches, in a manner that the righteous law had justly doomed them ! Nor can the fate of either, however awful and severe, more than sufficiently atone for their beastly acts of cruelty inflicted upon their friendless captives, who, since the moment of their deliverance to the present, have not been free from the most serious effects produced thereby ; and had it not been for the interposition of a kind and unerring Providence, might have been doomed now to fill the *graves* which the wretches, it is well known, had expressly prepared for the reception of their bodies !

Nelly Predello, was the name which our benefactress bore, Predello being the name of that of her father, who was, as she represented to us, a *white* man, and a native of old Spain ; and although she was early indented to her uncle, (the master of Enoch and Joseph) yet she lived with him in no other capacity than an indented apprentice, free born, and entitled to her freedom at the age of twenty-one. At the expense of her father she had received a good education, and as far as the narrator's short acquaintance with her would enable her to determine, always appeared as one influenced by the pure principles of *humanity*,

remarkably manifested by the many acts of kindness which she had rendered both Mrs. Todd and myself, during the time of our captivity—and she too was particularly kind and serviceable to the former during the period of her severe illness, supplying her with the most wholesome food that could be obtained, and water from the clearest and purest spring that the swamp afforded—nor was this all, when she found that her inhuman black companions were disposed, to save trouble, as well as anxiety on the part of its mother, to put her young and tender infant to death, it was through Nelly's intreaties alone that the wretches were diverted from their wicked purpose!

For these kind services, the friends and connections of the liberated captives deemed her as one justly meriting a reward equivalent to the important services rendered them, and accordingly, as soon as they, the captives, became so far recovered as to be able to afford their friends with a narrative of their melancholy adventures, every word of which was corroborated by the declaration of *Nelly* in the course of her examination, she was very deservedly presented with a sum that has since proved sufficient to enable her to purchase a small plantation, sufficiently large and productive, with prudence, to insure her a comfortable support through life; and it is the sincere prayer of the narrator, (who feels that she is so deeply indebted to this kind and benevolent mulatto,) that she may enjoy hereafter that repose and degree of happiness to which (for her disinterested acts of humanity) she is so much entitled.

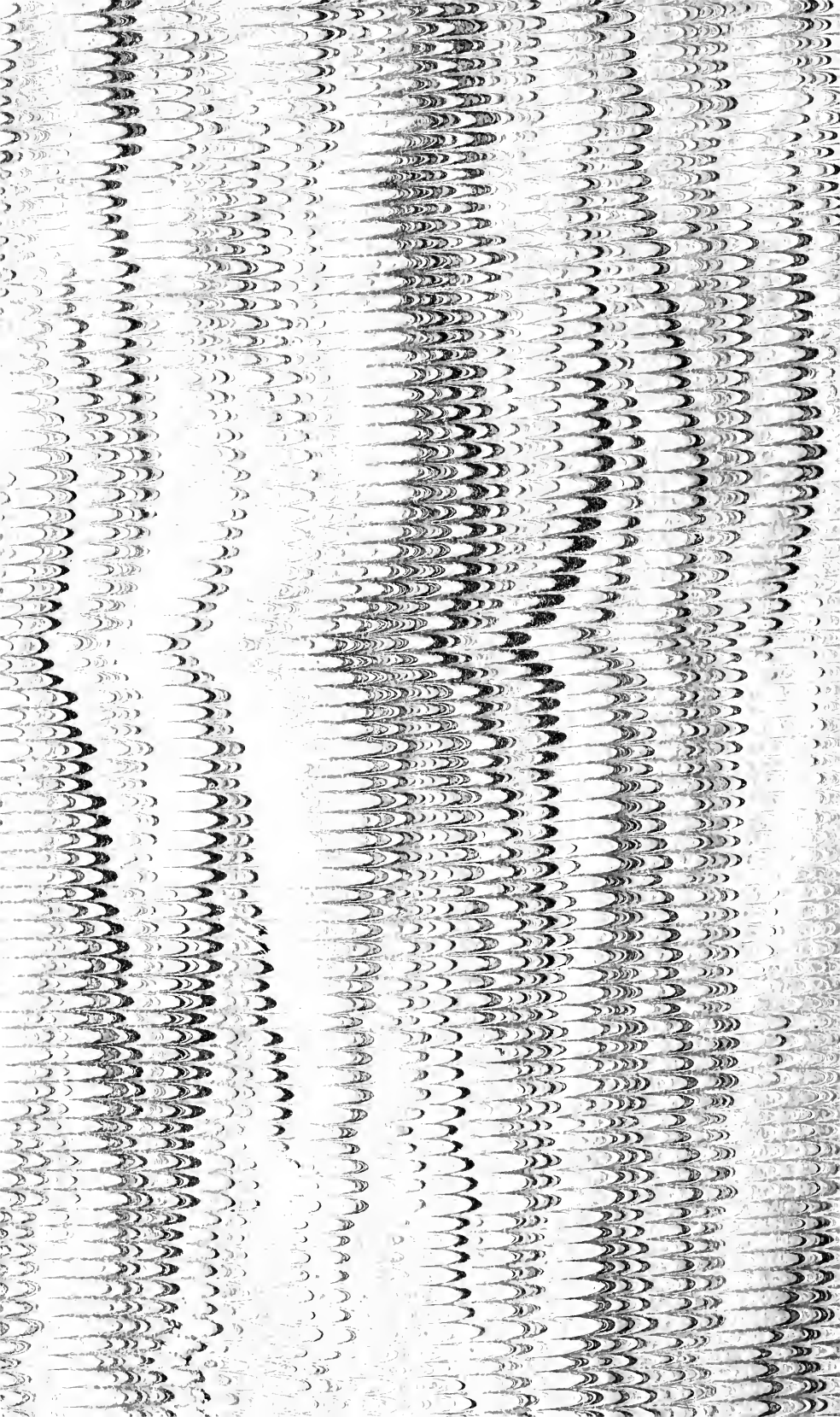
And now, my dear reader, in bringing my affecting narrative to a conclusion, I have only to add that I have furnished my readers with as minute a detail of my trials and afflictions as I possibly can do under my present state of mind—and it cannot be expected that after having been made, for six long weeks, the subject of such barbarous and inhuman treatment, much of which, if *herein* correctly delineated, would not fail to

shock the modesty of my female readers, after so *short* a period as that has transpired since my happy deliverance, that I could so soon be restored to my former state of health. But, impaired as it has been, I must again say, that I cannot believe it to have been so much so as that of my doubly afflicted friend, *Mrs. Todd*, whose misfortune it was to be almost constantly under the immediate control of that justly condemned villain, *Enoch* ! He it was, agreeable to the declaration of both Joseph and Nelly, that first projected the foul murder of the three innocent victims, the name of one yet unknown, and he it was that conducted the unfortunate female captives into the deep recess of an unfrequented swamp, and that too, for a most *bestly* purpose ! But happy am I to say, that both, *Mrs. Todd* and myself, are now fast recovering, and both feel unfeignedly thankful to that kind Providence who, while alone and in the wilderness, did not fail to hear our cries and lamentations, and cause us to be pitied, and finally to be restored to our respected friends, who since the morning of our exile had been almost constantly engaged in endeavoring to learn our condition, which from the tragic scene which the mangled bodies of our deceased friends presented, they could not but suppose must be even more shocking than what they then could have any conception of !—the day following, the whole settlement became alarmed, and believing that the bold and daring assault committed upon the dwellings of their murdered friends was only the prelude to other and still more fatal tragedies, without a moment's delay, prepared themselves in the best possible manner to repel any such attacks ! That the assailants were *blacks*, and that both *Mrs. Todd* and myself had been made captives of, and for some diabolical purpose conducted by them to some secluded part of the adjacent forest, the information which they received from the surviving friends of our family, who had fortunately escaped sharing the fate of the other captives, fully satisfied them of the fact ; and hence

the general but fruitless effort made on their part for several days to discover the place to which we had been thus conveyed and concealed.

TO THE READER.

☞ As many new publications have been recently issued in *pamphlet* form, from American presses, some of which are represented to contain “interesting narratives of events of the most thrilling nature!” and which have afterwards been found entirely *fictional*, and not even bearing the shadow of truth, the publisher of Miss. Harrington’s melancholly and *authentic* Narrative, [with which the public is herewith presented] begs liberty to assure the reader that it has been derived from a no less *correct* and *respectable* source than from the unfortunate young lady herself, and the truth of every word of which is confirmed by one or more respectable witnesses.





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