

the present be informed of his true origin. he is a strangely constituted man, said ameni, and he is not incapable of playing us some unforeseen trick before he has done his part, if he is told who he is. the storm had exhausted itself, and the sky, though covered still with torn and flying clouds, cleared by degrees, as the morning went on; a sharp coolness succeeded the hot blast, but the sun as it mounted higher and higher soon heated the air. on the roads and in the gardens lay uprooted trees and many slightly built houses which had been blown down, while the tents in the strangers quarter, and hundreds of light palm thatched roofs, had been swept away. the regent was returning to thebes, and with him went ameni, who desired to ascertain by his own eyes what mischief the whirlwind had done to his garden in the city. on the nile they met paakers boat, and ani caused it and his own to be stopped, while he requested paaker to visit him shortly at the palace. the high priests garden was in no respect inferior in beauty and extent to that of the mohar. the ground had belonged to his family from the remotest generations, and his house was large and magnificent. he seated himself in a shady arbor, to take a repast with his still handsome wife and his young and pretty daughters. he consoled his wife for the various damage done by the hurricane, promised the girls to build a new and handsomer clove cot in the place of the one which had been blown down, and laughed and joked with them all; for here the severe head of the house of seti, the grave superior of the necropolis, became a simple man, an affectionate husband, a tender father, a judicious friend, among his children, his flowers, and his birds. ameni that he will not win either. she fell forward, murmured neferts name, struggled convulsively and was dead. when the draught of happiness which the gods prepare for some few men, seems to flow clearest and purest, fate rarely fails to infuse into it some drop of bitterness. and yet we should not therefore disdain it, for it is that very drop of bitterness which warns us to drink of the joys of life thankfully, and in moderation. the perfect happiness of mena and nefert was troubled by the fearful death of katuti, but both felt as if they now for the first time knew the full strength of their love for each other. mena had to make up to his wife for the loss of mother and brother, and nefert to restore to her husband much that he had been robbed of by her relatives, and they felt that they had met again not merely for pleasure but to be to each other a support and a consolation. rameses quitted the scene of the fire full of gratitude to the gods who had shown such grace to him and his. he ordered numberless steers to be sacrificed, and thanksgiving festivals to be held throughout the land; but he was cut to the heart by the betrayal to which he had fallen a victim. he longed as he always did in moments when the balance of his mind had been disturbed for an hour of solitude, and retired to the tent which had been hastily erected for him. he could not bear to enter the splendid pavilion which had been anis; it seemed to him infested with the leprosy of falsehood and treason. for an hour he remained alone, and weighed the worst he had suffered at the hands of men against that which was good and cheering, and he found that the good far outweighed the evil. he vividly realized the magnitude of his the guards in their splendid chariots. they do not think of returning yet sighed nefert. while more and more troops of the regents soldiers, more companies of musicians, and rare animals, followed in procession, the festal bark of amon started from the shore. it was a large and gorgeous barge of wood, polished all over and overlaid with gold, and its edge was decorated with glittering glass beads, which imitated rubies and emeralds; the masts and yards were gilt, and purple sails floated from them. the seats for the priests were of ivory, and garlands of lilies and roses hung round the vessel, from its masts and ropes. the regents nile boat was not less splendid; the wood work shone with gilding, the cabin was furnished with gay babylonian carpets; a lions head formed the prow, as formerly in hatasus sea going vessels, and two large rubies shone in it, for eyes. after the priests had embarked, and the sacred barge had reached the opposite shore, the people pressed into the boats, which, filled almost to sinking, soon so covered the whole breadth of the river that there was hardly a spot where the sun was mirrored in the yellow waters. now i will put on the dress of a gardener, cried rameri, and cross over with the wreaths. you will leave us alone asked bent anat. do not make me anxious, said rameri. Go