

**THE SISTER OF
MERCY, OR,
RETRIBUTION**

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SISTER OF MERCY;
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BY
CAMERONIA.

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THE SISTER OF MERCY;

OR,

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To Man, in this his trial state,
The privilege is given,
When toss'd by tides of human fate,
To anchor fast in Heaven.

THE Sisters of Mercy had been watching by turns the dying agonies of an unfortunate sufferer, whose shrieks from time to time were so loud and piercing, that more than once the priest had been sent for to speak words of comfort, and try and calm his thoughts, and turn them towards that grave from which no human skill could save him. But, alas! the holy man's efforts were all in vain: the dying one seemed not to know that he was addressed, and at intervals either broke out into a repetition of wild piercing screams and low mut-

terings of strange words, or else fell into a state of stupor.

It was now the turn of Sister Louise to watch. She was left alone with the patient, and approaching the bed, gazed upon him. His face was partially hid by the bandages filled with ice, which were bound across his forehead to alleviate the burning fever. He lay for some time in deep insensibility, but at length turned uneasily, and then burst forth into a fresh paroxysm of yells and incoherent words : " Ha ! I see you," he cried, " but come not nearer to me." At the first sound of his voice, the Sister started violently, and turned deadly pale ; alas ! that voice had re-awakened a chord in her heart which she hoped had long since ceased to vibrate. She composed herself, however, by a strong effort, and crossing her arms on her breast, stood gazing with apparent calmness on the sad scene before her : her pale face and exquisite features looking like a beautiful marble statue of Despair.

" Come not nearer to me !" again shouted the wretched man ; " oh ! frown not thus upon