

hypocrites; and yet, in the supernatural machinery of the piece we see, as in the atheistic poetry of Shelley, the elements of a new religion coming into view, and embodying, in an incipient state, not a few of the worst errors of Rome. One of the leading characters in the novel,—a young lady of high birth and talent, whose destruction the Jesuits at length effect, and are rendered detestable by effecting,—is represented as adorned by qualities the most generous and loveable. We must select one trait of many, not merely as a specimen of the character, but of the art also with which the novelist addresses himself to the independent feelings of the French people, which have been so prominently developed since the Revolution. The heroine of the following passage is, as we have said, a lady of birth and fortune; and it is a poor journeyman mechanic,—of spirit and talent, however,—who is the second actor in the scene:—

“When Adrienne entered the saloon, Agricola was examining a magnificent silver vase, which bore the words, ‘Jean Marie, working-chaser, 1823.’ Adrienne trod so lightly, that she had approached the blacksmith without his being aware of it.

“‘Is not that a handsome vase, Sir?’ she said, in a silver-toned voice.

“Agricola started, and replied in confusion, ‘Very handsome, Mademoiselle.’

“‘You see that I am an admirer of what is just and right,’ said Adrienne, pointing to the words engraved on the vase. ‘A painter puts his name to a picture, a writer to his book; and I hold that a workman who distinguishes himself in his trade should put his name to his workmanship. When I bought this vase it bore the name of a wealthy goldsmith, who was astonished at my fantasies, for I caused him to erase it, and to insert that of the maker of this wonderful piece of art; so that if the workman lack riches, his name at least will not be forgotten. Is this just, Sir?’

“‘As a workman, Mademoiselle, I feel sensible of this act of justice.’

“‘A skilful artizan merits esteem and respect. But take a seat, Sir.’”

This is a fine trait, and the character of Adrienne is mainly composed of such; but the author takes particular care to