

inform us that she is not a Christian ; and when we come to learn her views on marriage, we find that they are exactly those of Mary Wolstonecraft. The sentiments which she is made to express in the following scene are not unworthy of being examined. They are not simply those of a writer of fiction, struck out at a sitting, and then given to the world merely to amuse it, and keep up the interest of his work : they are, on the contrary, widely disseminated over the cities of Europe, and very extensively acted upon. Socialism in our own country ostensibly adopts them as its own ; and there are many not Socialists, who, though the usages of society prevent their acting upon them, have not hesitated to adopt them. We need scarce remind the reader that the subject is one upon which the Saviour has authoritatively spoken, and that if He be Truth, the modern theory is a lie :—

“ ‘ Something is wanting to consecrate our union ; and in the eyes of the world there is only one way,—by marriage,—which is binding for life.’

“ Djalma looked at the young girl with surprise.

“ ‘ Yes, for life ; and yet who can answer for the sentiments of a whole life ? A Deity able to look into futurity could alone bind irrevocably certain beings together for their happiness. But, alas ! the future is impenetrable to us ; therefore we can only answer for our present sentiments. To bind ourselves indissolubly is a foolish, selfish, and impious action,—is it not ?’

“ ‘ That is sad to think of,’ said Djalma, after a moment’s reflection, ‘ but it is true.’ He then regarded her with an expression of increasing surprise.

“ Adrienne hastily resumed in a tender tone,—Do not mistake my meaning, my friend. The love of two beings who, like ourselves, after a patient investigation of heart and mind, have found in each other all the assurances of happiness,—a love, in short, like ours, is so noble, so divine, that it must be consecrated from above. I am not of the religion of my venerable aunt ; but I worship God, from whom we derive our ardent love. For this He must be piously adored. It is therefore by invoking his name with deep gratitude that we ought to promise *not* to love each other for ever,—*not* to remain always together.’

“ ‘ What !’ cried Djalma.

“ ‘ No,’ resumed Adrienne, ‘ for no one can take such an oath with-