Minnie Pinkerton.
19th of March 1880.

LEILA;

OR,

THE ISLAND.

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LEILA;

OR,

THE ISLAND.

BY

ANN FRASER TYTLER,

AUTHORESS OF "MARY AND FLORENCE; OR, GRAVE AND GAY," &c. &c.

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Гос. Ордена Ленина
БИБЛИОТЕКА
СССР
им. В. И. Ленина

И 30474-50

LEILA.

CHAPTER I.

THE sea still bore traces of a recent storm, a heavy surge beat upon the shore, and around a bold promontory which jutted far out into the ocean, the waves dashed, wildly throwing their white foam far up into the blue sky. But the wind was hushed, and amidst the dark masses of luxuriant foliage which at intervals overhung the cliff, scarce a leaf was stirring. Softly swelling hills and smiling valleys lay beneath the light of a brilliant sun. Of human habitation or woodland pathway there appeared none; and, far as the eye could reach, one solitary group alone

was discernible upon the beach. It consisted of one who had passed the bloom of youth, but in whose noble turn of features and fine form high birth was apparent; an elderly female in the dress of an attendant stood by his side, and both were bending anxiously over the apparently lifeless body of a beautiful child. Hours had passed away in their unwearied efforts to reanimate the object of their anxious care; but hitherto all had proved vain, and the deepest despondency was seen in the father's face, for such he was. A brown water-spaniel, which lay beside them, completed this melancholy group, and seemed no uninterested spectator of the scene. It crept closer and closer to the object of their solicitude, as if anxious to impart to it a portion of its own life and warmth, and, with eyes fixed on the pale features of the child, uttered from time to time a low melancholy whine.

"Dash, my faithful friend, you have perilled your life in vain. Leila, my child, my child! O that I too had perished! forgive me, heavenly Father! O teach me to say,