

torches. As they advanced he scrutinised them closely, but gave no sign of recognition ; for indeed he had never before set eyes on either of them. He bowed stiffly to their salute, and was about to begin an examination when all at once a Gordon adherent by his side leaped forward with a great cry as if seized with sudden madness. The next moment he was on his bare knees kissing the hand of him who came foremost.

"At last, at last," he said, sobbing for joy. "Himself, himself," he added, rising and turning to Macdonald. Colkitto bent a piercing look upon the stranger thus saluted, and met eyes as keen and fearless as his own.

"Don't I know him, don't I know him," struck in the sobbing Gordon. The stranger drew up, smiling quietly.

"Major-General Macdonald," he said simply, "since my good friend here has divined the truth, Montrose greets you in the king's name."

At these words a great shout went up, Colkitto at the same time bowing as his proud back never bowed to mortal before.

"Thank God for the sight of your Excellency's face," he said in some confusion. "And a prisoner," he added instantly. "I will look to this. Restore his Excellency's sword ; quick, and let the laggard look to it for his life."

"Nay, nay," said Montrose, with the same quiet smile. "See to it that your officer and his sentry be rewarded for their zeal, their vigilance, their devotion to duty. And now let me present my cousin,