

BARON ADOLPH.

A ROMANCE OF LOVE, ROBERT AND
REPENTANCE.

I.

Young Taschenmacher belonged to one of the wealthiest and most respectable families of Cologne. At an early age, he went to Paris and was received in the Poselt family as the child of the house. The Poselts are a large manufacturing firm who have branch establishments in Germany and England. In course of time, Taschenmacher became cashier of the Paris house. With a liberal salary, a handsome person, a perfect knowledge of French, and refined manners, he naturally drifted into the current of gay Parisian life. He attended theatres, race courses, gambling tables. At the Jardin Mabille, he met and fell in love with a fair girl named Marguerite Chauvain. This was the turning point in his career of fashionable dissipation. He rented a lovely cottage for Marguerite, at Auteuil, on the outskirts of Paris. It was a fairy spot embosomed in flowers. He furnished it with costly taste and art. To meet the increased expense, he took to gambling more heavily. At first, he was very fortunate and his mode of life was splendid. Working hard at his desk all day in soiled clothes, he drove about at nights in the livery of a prince. At Auteuil, he passed for the Baron Adolph.

II.

A crisis came, as it always does come in such cases. The cards turned against him. Unwilling to retrench his expenses, he took to helping himself from his master's safe. At first only moderately, and with the intention of repaying. Then more recklessly, until the day of balancing the books arrived. Then he lost his head, grew desperate, plunged his arm into the till, drew from it a large sum, buttoned up his coat, hailed



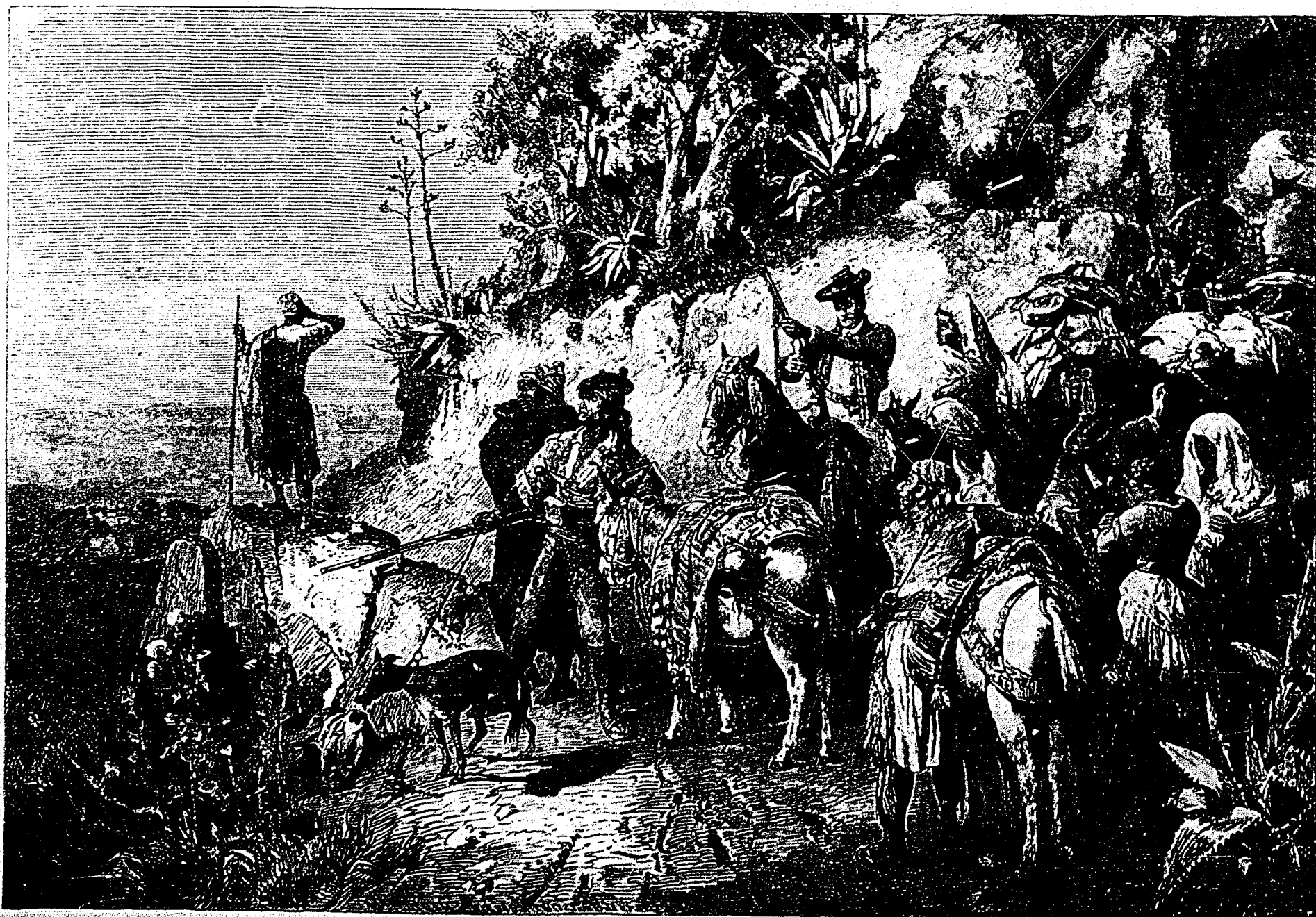
BARON ADOLPH—TASCHENMACHER

a cab, drove to the station du Nord, and off for London. An examination of the accounts, showed that he was a defaulter to the tune of 400,000 francs. Tracked to London, he fled to Liverpool. There he telegraphed Marguerite to join him. She started, but reached Liverpool just in time to see the *Prussian* steaming down the Mersey with her lover on board. Then she returned to Paris. Meanwhile the cable flashed its message, the signalment was given, and when the *Prussian* touched at Father Point, Emile Bureau, of the Quebec Detective Force, stepped on board with the pilot. He recognized his man who now gave his name as Kollich, brought him safely to Quebec and lodged him in goal.

III.

The trial for extradition soon took place. Members of the Poselt firm came over from Bradford and Paris. The particulars of the case need not be detailed. Lawyers got hold of it and made a mess of it as usual. They are still quarrelling about it in the newspapers. The upshot, however, was that Taschenmacher was released, there being a flaw in the indictment. What did he do? Remain in the land of liberty? Not he. In his prison, he had had time to reflect. His better nature prevailed. He resolved on repairing the wrong he had done both to his patrons and to Marguerite Chauvain. Immediately, on leaving the prison of Quebec, he went direct to New York and sailed in the first steamer for France. There he will be arrested on arrival, but it is said that by restoring the money and setting the books of the firm in order he will not be further molested. If his repentance is sincere, as it appears to be, this may be regarded as a fit conclusion to an unfortunate youthful escapade.

J. L.



SPANISH SMUGGLERS.