

in the star of Brandenburg, in the praise of whose beauty my lord Otho's page was as eloquent as you could reasonably expect such an animated log to be."

"And what did he say of the Princess Eleonora?" asked the king, leaning forward with an air of curiosity and interest.

"A great deal for a youth of such few words," returned the page. "One of the men at arms was commending the beauty of yon black haired flirt, who has cut such a hole in your majesty's heart, and inhumanly left you to close up the wound at your own discretion, and in the plenitude of his eloquence, he compared her to Cleopatra; and I in my own mind thought that your majesty was acting the part of Mark Antony in disguise, when Nicholas Linfelt, who had never unclosed his lips during the evening, except to empty the contents of the hirkles down his own throat, suddenly became animated, and growled forth. "By the mass! you may talk as you like of the fair face of the lady Sophia, but she is an Ethiop when compared with the star of Brandenburg, who is as beautiful as Mariamne the wife of Herod, and as chaste as the celebrated Lucretia, which is more than can be said of the haughty mistress of the moonstruck Antony!"

The king bit his lips, and putting spurs to his horse, he rode on for some hours without uttering another word, till he beheld the white spires of the city of Brandenburg glittering in the golden beams of the setting sun, and his reveries were dispelled by the cheering blasts of the horn, which were wafted by echo through the green glades of an immense forest that skirted the high road.

"A royal hunt is held here today," said the king, springing from his horse and flinging the rein to the page. "Hark! they are calling home the stragglers, proceed, good Eric, to the city, and provide a lodging for the night, while I reconnoitre the Elector and his party on foot."

So saying he entered the forest.

He had not proceeded many paces, before the sound of a horse, approaching at a furious rate, made him start out of the path, as a white steed with flying mane, dilated eyeballs, and disarranged housings rushed by.

The thundering din of its hoofs had scarcely died away before two cavaliers, well mounted, rode up and demanded if a lady had passed that way, mounted on a white horse?

"I saw the steed even now," returned the king; "but woe betide the rider, who lost saddle during its frantic career."

The cavaliers exchanged looks of alarm, and the foremost rider exclaimed with some warmth.

"Poor Eleonora, I fear some dreadful accident has befallen her; such an event would kill my father; the bare mention of her being missed has nearly stupified the senses of the Elector. Fly to him Ber-

nard!" he continued, turning to his companion, and endeavour to lull his apprehensions, while I search this part of the forest. Perhaps," he said, gracefully raising his hunting cap and addressing himself to Gustavus, "this courteous stranger will assist me?"

The king readily complied with his request, and Prince George, (for it was the Elector's eldest son,) proceeded to inform him, that his sister's horse had taken flight at the moment when the stag was brought to bay, and had fled towards the most intricate part of the forest, and all search for her at present had proved fruitless.

The path which Prince George and his companion had taken, at every step became narrower, and was so thickly studded with trees, and intersected with brushwood, that the prince, unable longer to force a passage for his horse, was obliged to dismount, and giving his steed his liberty, proceeded with the Swedish monarch on foot, carefully examining every thicket and glen they passed, till the path suddenly branching off in different directions, left the prince in doubt which course to pursue.

"We had better divide company," said the king, seeing him irresolute, "you go to the right, and I to the left, should you be successful in discovering the princess, wind the horn which is suspended from your baldric, and I will instantly rejoin you."

"Your plan is reasonable, but we cannot adopt it without personal danger."

"How!" exclaimed Gustavus, beginning to entertain strange doubts of his companion's courage; "what have we to fear? The shades of evening are deepening through these gloomy woods, but I should not suspect you, noble prince, of starting at shadows."

"The apparitions that haunt these vast forests, appear towards nightfall in very substantial forms," said Prince George; "and should the moonbeams chance to gleam on barred helms and coats of steel, you will find to your cost, you had no immortal foes to contend with. To speak plainly, Sir Knight, for such, from your bearing, I take you to be, the ground we are upon, is infested with robbers."

"Do the men of Brandenburg lack courage that they suffer such a nuisance to exist so near a populous city, without attempting to extirpate it?"

"Every possible means has been used to destroy them, or discover their retreat; immense sums have been offered for the head of the Captain, who is known by the name of Wolfenstien, or the Black Wolf of the Forest, but to no purpose. With a handful of men, he continues to set the laws of the land at defiance; and those who have dared to encounter him never returned to relate the event of the combat."

"I wish it were my chance to meet Wolfenstien alone in any part of the forest," returned Gustavus, the colour mounting to his cheek; "were he the