

wadna harm a dog! A traitor! say ye, the king caed him? That's something very bad, isn't it? An' surely——na, na, Andrew couldna be guilty o't—the king maun be a strange sort o' man."

But, about midnight, a gentle knocking was heard at the window, and a well-known voice said, and in an under tone—

"Janet! Janet! it is me!"

"It is *him*, mother! it is Andrew! they haena gotten him yet!" And she ran to the door and admitted him; and, when he had entered, she continued, "O Andrew! what, in the name o' wonder, is the meaning o' the king's being in a passion at ye? What did ye say or do to him?—or what can be the meaning o't?"

"It is really very singular, Andrew," interrupted the old woman; "what *hae* ye done?—what is *really* the meaning o't?"

"Meaning!" said Andrew, ye may weel ask that! I maun get awa' into England this very night, or my life's no worth a straw; and it's ten chances to aye that it may be safe there. Wha is the king, think ye? now, just think wha?"

"Wha *is* the king!" said Nancy, with a look, and in a tone of astonishment; I dinna comprehend ye, Andrew—what do ye mean? Wha can the king be, but just the king."

"Oh!" said Andrew, "ye mind the chield that cam here wi' me the other night, that left the gowd noble for the three haddies that him and I had atween us, and that I gied a clout in the haffets to, and brought the blood owre his lips, for his behaviour to Jenny!—*yon was the king?*"

"Yon the king!" cried Janet.

"Yon the king!" exclaimed the mother; "and hae I really had the king o' Scotland in my house, sitting at my fireside, and cooked a supper for him! Weel, I think, yon the king! Aha! he's a bonny man!"

"O mother!" exclaimed Janet; "bonny here, bonny there, dinna talk sae—he is threatening the life o' poor Andrew, who has got into trouble and sorrow on my account.—Oh, dear me! what shall I do, Andrew!—Andrew!" she continued, and wrung her hands.

"There's just ae thing, hinny," said he; "I must endeavour to get to the other side o' the Tweed, before folk are astir in the

morning; so I maun leave ye directly, but I just ventured to come and bid ye fareweel.—And there's just ne thing that I hae to say and request, and that is, that, if I darena come back to Scotland to marry ye, that ye will come owre to England to me, as soon as I can get into some way o' providing for ye. Will ye promise, Jenny?"

"O yes! yes, Andrew!" she cried, "I'll come to ye—for it is certainly on my account that ye've to flee. But I'll do mair than that—for this very week I will go to Edinburgh, and I will watch in the way o' the king and the queen, and on my knees I'll implore him to pardon ye; and, if he refuses, I ken what I ken."

"Na, na, Jenny, dear," said he, "dinna think o' that—I wad rather suffer banishment and live in jeopardy for ever, than that ye should place yoursel in his power or in his presence. But what do ye ken, dear?"

"Ken!" replied she; "if he refuses to pardon ye, I'll threaten him to tell the queen what he said to me, and what offers he made to me when ye was running out after the powny."

Andrew was about to answer her, when he started at a heavy sound of footsteps approaching the cottage.

"They are in search o' me!" he exclaimed.

Instantly a dozen armed men entered the cottage. "We have found him," cried they to their companions without; "the traitor's here." Andrew, finding that resistance would be hopeless, gave up the sword which he still carried, and suffered them to bind his arms, Jenny clung around his neck and wept. Her mother sat speechless with terror.

"Fareweel, Jenny!" said Andrew—"Dinna distress yoursel—things mayna turn o' sae ill as we apprehend. I can hardly think that the king will be sae unjust as to take my life. Is that no your opinion, sirs?" added he addressing the armed men.

"We are not to be your judges," said the leader; "ye are our prisoner, by his Majesty's command, and that is a' we ken about the matter. The king spares nae traitor."

Poor Janet shrieked as she heard the words, and cried—"the queen shall ken!"

Jenny's arms were rude. A man from around his neck, and he was dragged from the house—and his arms, as I have stated being bound, he was placed behind a horseman, and