a heart which hitherto had rejoiced in things unworthy of a Christian and a

man. The happy change gladdened her, but she turned her mind to some

self the holy work of saving his soul

Pleased with the good which Wences

laus had begun to display, her love for

him grew with the zeal for his saiva

The Emperor Chas IV. having reigned

queen was his only comfort in his grief

At length Hatto began to break from the humble role to which he had been

for two years condemned. He crept slowly out of his hiding place. The

queen disliked him. As Wenceslaus boasted of the staunch attachment of his favorite, she did not betray what

the may have thought of him, but Hatto

his former power over Wenceslaus. He spoke of the chase, the king shrug ed

words of the grand tournament, which

knows he need not seek happiness

mere amusement. Lastly, Hatto hinted

that Wenceslaus did not rule alone; the

had his former power been so com

out there were many other women

queen-virtue without spot. Wences

go down and watch her small, white

hands doling out bread, clothes, and

relieved. More than once, moved by

utter stranger, he was often led to kindly deeds for the sake of the pleas

ure which they brought him. It did not cost him a thought that the queen

was not an able pointed, or father could not bring a vast army to aid him in case of need. Wenceslaus felt that nothing could lessen his love for the queen; and indeed, if Wences are the queen; and indeed, if wences the could hardly be could hardly an army the could hardly the

laus would be saved, he could hardly

work than the companion of his life.

Hatto thoroughly understood what an

opponent he had to overcome ; he also

purity of the queen. She avoided what was wrong with as much zeal as he

would bide his time; like a skilled

huntsman, he spread his snares. His

time, however, was not yet come; all the noble families in Aix la Chapeile

loved the queen; all the inhabitants

vould have risen to defend her, if a

He must wait till she had gone to a part

of her dominions where she was les

known, and therefore less powerful.

The plague abated in Bohemia; Wen

known preference for that part of the

empire; and when the ravages of the

plague had ceased, without asking Hatto's advice, the king set out with

CHAPTER II.

TWO PLOTTERS.

With eager strides Hatto paced his

room up and down. His hard features

bore signs of impatience; it was plain

he was expecting a visitor, for from time to time he went to the lofty win-

dow of his apartment to watch the per-

sons who passed and repassed in the

than once from his lips.
At length an ill-looking man, with

stealthy tread and downcast ga e, glided rather than walked into Hatto's

"At last!" cried Hatto. "You have made me wait, and wait, and you

"That you don't like waiting, my

"Is sure to satisfy you."
"Speak," said Hatto, sharply.
"Of course, and I ask nothing bet

have been questioned; I have had to

"Enough," said Hatto, shrugging

said his visitor, in a suspicious "But I have been running; I

Will he never come ?" burst more

ais attendants for Bohemia.

courtyard below.

Your work-"

while he rang the bell.

inherited his father's well-

breathed against her.

was not an able politician, or that

find a surer helpmate in such a

believed in the sterling g

word had been

shunned what was upright.

his own fiering to hers, and he

nedicines to the poor whom her chi

felt the etter for it. Finding in a

the pity which her charity

She was beautiful

shoulders; he spoke in glowing

favor in her eyes. He would

had early learned

pletely broken?

beauty with her.

that he found no

thing greater still, she set before he

DECEMBER 28.

## THE QUEEN'S CONFESSION. OR, THE MARTYRDOM OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUCONE.

FROM THE FRENCH OF RAOUL DE

CHAPTER I.

KING AND QUEEN. A great crowd thronged the banks the Rhine. Gay yachts covered the rand old river. The inhabitants of grand old river. The inhabitants of Cologne, Mayence, Coblentz, and Aix Cologne, Mayence, Coblentz, and Alx la Chapelle came in long processions. All the roads were crowded with the white nags of the women, with paltreys cat arisoned with velvet, with trains of ca; arisoned with velvet, with trains of attendants and pages, and with companies of guards and archers. From time to time lvory horns and trumpets sounded the gathering. Every one was elad in holiday garb. The old mentalked of the last grand solemnity of the Koenigstuhl. The maidens, leaning on the arms of their lovers, hastened on in their cagerness to arrive on the arms of eagerness to arrive er. The vines could not be seen on the hill-sides; far as the eye could look, nothing could be seen but the great human gathering, swaying like the plentiful ears in a vast core-

The day was fine. A single cloud growned the dark summit of Marxburg, seated on the abrupt rock of Brauback, like a giant turned into stone.
senfels reared high above its wa reared high above its walls its round or square towers, and its bell turrets, the weirdness of which makes as still wonder, while the plainer Laneck lay away in the distance, looking like the continuation of the mighty rock on which Marxburg stood. rock on which Marxon's scool. The villages, hidden by the reed-canes of the Rhine, displayed their gay roofs and gardens. On that day the simpli-city of German life adorned the patriotism of the German land.

In the little Church of Rhense, the and windows of which seemed to be taken by storm, some priest knelt in prayer. The impatient crowds outin prayer. The impatient crowds out and gestures would hasten the spectacle they had awaited since early dawn. Suddenly a lengthened clamor arose, rising higher and higher as it passed onwards. The correspond to the passed onwards. The cortege electors had come in sight. For For those that have not seen the Rhine, it will be difficult to imagine the scene which gladdened its banks; but for those that know that noble river, it unrolls the glorious sights which its waters have reflected during so many ages. On either side of the Koenigstuhl

stood the clergy and nobility of the land, in front stood the burghers and the people. The Koenigstuni was a large stone in the form of an octagon. It rested on seven pillars of granite, and supported seven seats of stone; a large column standing in the centre represented the emperor, seven smalle The platform was reached by a stone of fourteen steps. Around or near the Koenigstuhl, or the king's seat, there was neither house no Instead of the large shield formerly used at the election of an emperor, a huge rock hewn from the bosom of the earth was the emblem of the German empire, which weighed so heavily in the balance of the fortunes of European nations. The simplicity the Koenigstuhl gave a peculiar greatness to the empire; its very name strikes us even to-day, because of the solemn symbol to which it owes its origin. It is with sad musing we turn aind from the Koenigstuhl, and the waters of the Raine, flowing to the sea, and we would fain back to the stirring times and grand festivals, which assembled the German people around the little chapel of Rhense.

The spectacle awaited was indeed The spectacle awaited was indeed worthy of a great people. At the sound of the trumpet, mounted on their palireys, came forth the Archbishops of Mayence, of Treves, and Cologoe, and the grand Chaucellors of Germany, of Italy, and Gaul, with their banners floating before them. They were followed by dukes, marshals, landgraves, lords of feudal cities, warriors, abbots. lords of feudal cities, warriors, abbots and the numerous retainers and follow ers that composed a grand procession in feudal times. The Archoishop of Mayence rode between the Enperor and the young King elect of Bohemia. reached the Koenigstuhl The arque busiers ranged themselves around the granite rock. Slowly did the seven electors ascend the stone steps; and take their places on the high stone seats of the platform. Acclaims loud and prolonged greeted the emperor and princes of the empire. A deep silence followed. The listen ing crowds waited to hear the Archbishop of Mayence proclaim the name Wenceslaus as their future king To the seven electors belonged the right of electing the Frankish or German kings; and the emperors, whenever they could, got their sons to be chosen kings in their own lifetime. In this case there was less likelihood of an interregnum, for after the em peror's ceath, the young king at once took up the reins of government, and ue time crowned emperor.

The Archbishop of Mayence opened the ceremony of the election by intoning the Veni Sancte Spiritus. the hymn was ended, rising slowly, he proclaimed the name of Wenceslaus proclaimed the name of Before the Archbishop's lips had closed again, the slumbering echoes of the valleys and the hills were awakened by the cry - Vivat Rex! General gladdened the return to Mayence. General joy was the

The young Queen Jane was the daughter of Albert, Count of Hainault; she had been married to Wenceslaus a short time before the coronation. The king and queen were expected in Bonemia, but a plague raged in that part of the empire, and Wenceslaus re solved to stay some time at Aix-la Queen Jane was glad of the Chapelle Her lathers's ambition was now satisfied; she was crowned queen; but her crown would yet become a crown of

Justice bids us say that some change for the better was wrought in Wences laus after his marriage. That harsh and violent young man became milder; he began to love the society of his home circle, and he indulged less often to the queen would be short lived, that

in Renish and Bohemian wines. Wen cessaus was a man of passion, without toresight, without discretion, and un oftened by the least self-control. never known any gentle or some influence. Charles IV. had had never wholesome influence. Charles IV. had been a prudent ruler, but while he he'd kept a steady eye to his pol-itical interests, he was, perhaps, an imne no kept a steady it cal interests, he was, perhaps, an imprudent father. Allowed to be his own master, Wenceslaus cared for no one but debauched courtlings, who were more eager to make him worse than to wean him from his vices. Anxious to wean him from his vices. Anxious to be thought a person of strong mind and will, he did not observe that the resolves which he made, and the thoughts which he spoke, came from insinuating advice rather than from any inborn strength or thinking of his own. As he liked or disliked, so was he advised by those around him. They allowed him to boast of his absolute freedom, they praised what they called his firm they praised what they called his firm ness, which lay who ly in blindly follow ness, which lay who ly in blindly folling a path of wickedness and ruin. A favorite, named Hatto, had won

fatal control over Wenc-slaus. Hattaliked to rule, and he found it all the easier to govern that he did not bear the weight of a crown, and was not therefore apt to be brought to account for his misdeeds by an outraged people To make Wenceslaus a mere pupp 5 lull him into slothiuiness, to make him unfitted for the duties of his high state, to make pleasure h.s only thought, to induige his every whim, to fill his coff-ers at any sacrifice—all seemed praiseworthy to Hatto, who aimed at b virtually the ruler of the empire. With the stubboroness of a brute, was a weak slave, whom the allure-ments of a paitry pleasure could lead Charles IV. did not see all the folly

and vice of his son, but what he did see suggested to him that it might be well if ne were married. But how difficult to find a spouse for one whose stubbornness made him hateful to his nearest friends. Charles spoke to him, and impatient though he was, the pic ture the emperor gave him of Jane of Hainault made him listen. That even-ing Hatto was sent for. Contrary to the expectation of Wenceslaus, Hatto recommended the proposed marriage. This was quite in keeping with the character of Hatto. Believing that a gentle, patient, pious woman, like Jane, would allow the king to be master of his time and his acts, Hatto imagined that such a marriage would further his own designs. Besides, the daughter of Atbert of Hainault could not have any very exaggerated notions of what migh oe due to her as a queen. being made queen would make her over look domestic amoyances, and if she should ever grow angry, she could not threaten to bring an invading army into the dominions of her husband to avenge her personal wrongs. She would be too helpless to thwart Hatto. Having satisfied his own mind, he was easily able to satisfy Wences

"You," said he to him, "will have to marry, like other princes, for political reasons; gain the confidence of the and your marriage reed emperor, and your marriage reed make no change whatsoever in your life or manners.

Wenceslaus was pleased with Hatto's plausible re-soning, and he at once declared hi uself willing to take Jane of Hainault as his wife. When Charles Hainault as his wife. IV. received Jane, he represented him self with having sacrificed her to his auxiety for a stubborn son; remorse filled his heart; to drive it away he flattered himself that the flerceness of Wenceslaus would give way f Wenceslaus would give way fore the gentleness of his spouse.

Wenceslaus a waited her with eager curiosity. He never once reflected that she should be his for life. Hatto had told him so often that marriage was merely a condition to be complied with in order to reign, that he looked upon his marriage as little more than a means expectedly he found himself in the of Jane. The sight of his betrothe: bride troubled him; he had not thought she was so graceful, and so pale and delicate withal. While she looked into his with her own blue eyes, so ull of fear and anxiety, his harsh voice became smoother, and his usually insolent bearing more respectful. Charles could not conceal the joy which After the marriage ce he felt. was over, Wenceslaus asked his father

"Do you think she will love me?" if you are worthy of her love, replied the emperor.
"She ought to love me."

"My son, respect commands respect and tenderness inspires tenderness Among all the princesses and noble ladies of Europe, there is not one in whom so many charms and vitues are there is not one in united. Show yourself worthy of the treasure you have received, strive to be good for her sake, and she will obey love; her soul has been sorely tried by early sorrows, she needs gentle

She shall love me, said Wenceslaus,

with warmth. The young queen soon learned all the strong leanings of her husband's char acter. She so unassumingly tried to mould them, to soften them, that her quiet goodness told on him in a marked Seeking nothing more eagerly than to be corrected herself, she made the most heroic sacrifices. ever ready to please him; she undertook things seemingly impossible in order to prove to him that she deemed his every wish should be obeyed and respected The barsh Wenceslaus learned was noble to be gentle. The drunken feast was forgotten. Wenceslaus loved Jane passionately, jealously. It was not the holy, unselfish love that springs from purity and confidence; yet, such as it was, his love very much surprise the queen. She was grateful to him for the efforts he made to gain a mas tery over himself. She counted every step in his improvement. He, on other hand, was pleased with himself that he had won a place in the heart of one so good, so pare, and he the foresight of the emperor for having brought him so much happiness.

During the first months of their mar ried life, Hatto kept out of sight. He thought the attachment of Wenceslaus

and set the glass and the flask of wine it was better to leave him to himself for a while, that time would achieve what he aimed at more surely than any

and set the glass and the flask of wine on the table.

"Drink, Mauper," said Hatto.
Mauper did not need to be told a second time. With a slow but steady hand, lest he should spill one dron of the highly.prized wine, he filled his glass, emptied it, then re-filled it and emptied it again. Mauper was remarkable for three things—for his love for wine, for his dislike to Hatto, and for his cunning. Burning at once with impatience and bad passions, Hatto was almost beside himself with anger. He wished for intelli what he almed at hot sately counsel of his. But far from being tired with the sight or companionship of the queen, Wenceslaus was delighted to meet her, and to be with her whenever he could. He had begun to rise ever he could. He had begun to rise out of the abyss into which unbridled passion had plunged him. His heart began to warn to nobler aims, his mind sometimes dwelt on wise plans of rulsometimes dweit on wise plans of rating well, and the unexpected turn for doing justice, and the general good will which follow a change of life, soon showed themselves in his words and deeds. Doubtless the queen would have been better pleased it he had been worse enlightened in the laws of God. elf with anger. He wished for intelli gence, and Mauper could give it. In is eagerness to learn the secrets for which he was so anxious, he forced his pride to yield to his menial, while more enlightened in the laws of God, and if his past life had been less sullied Mauper, on the other hand, enjoyed his with vice; but she consoled hersels with the thought that she had changed

master's humiliation.
"Yes, my lord, I have faithfully ex ecuted your orders; for eight days the queen has been closely watched."

"What have you discovered ?" "On Monday she went to the office in the cathedral. She came back to the palace, and remained with her maids of honor until mid-day; after that the king and queen dined: in the evening the appear were that the king and the control of the control evening the queen wrote two letters, one of them was for the count of Hain auls, and a courier was sent off with it at full speed." thirty two years wisely and plously, died at Prague, 1378. Wenceslaus mourned his father's death, and the

Stupid "After allowing me to make a copy

Let me see it." He snatched the paper from the hand He snatched the paper from the hand of the guilty wretch, scanned its con tents, muttering them as his eyes ran through them: "Strange feelings of weariness; not yet accustomed to the country or the people; regrets the ab sence of her former chaplain; does not tnow why she is not so happy here as t Aix la Chapelle."

Hatto crushed the paper in his hand. . What more ?" "On the next day the queen had a ong conversation with Offried."

would bring together all the beauty and valor of the palatinate; the king smiled the careless smile of a man who Hatto, becoming doubly attentive, aid: "I told you to bring every ite you could glean respecting this young gentleman.

"I have done so," said Mauper, while he raised another glass of Tokay

king answered that two govern more to his lips.
Hatto struck his heel violently wisely than one. Hatto knew not how he might sap the against the seat on which he was sitting. Msuper, however, seemed not to notice influence of the queen, an influence based on esteem and virtue. If the king should cease to love her, the field

"Ottried," he began at length, " is the son of a man that comes of a good family, named Notberg. You are aware, my lord, of the Count of Hainwould be again open to him. What was the charm of this weak woman? ault's passion for the chase. In a struggle with a wild boar, Count Albert would have been surely torn to death had it not been for Notberg. The lat-ter received the wounds intended for might successfully dispute the palm for What then had nad it not been for Notberg. The latter received the wounds intended for his feudal lord. With his dying breath he commended his only son to the tenderness of Lady Isabella. The count ed Wenceslaus, once so coarse, so worthless, so wicked. His conscience answered it was the virtue of the laus believed in her goodness, and he kept the promise she ess religiously gave to the dying hunter. Though clad in the garb of a page, Ot ried shared in the education given to Jane loved her for it; she was his wife, and he could boast of her priceless worth. When he saw her coming from the divine office in the royal chapel, he gazed on of Hainault. her as he would have gazed on an angel; when she gave alms, he would

Go on," said Hatto. "For many years children remain children; but a day came, and Count Albert wishing to marry again, was persuaded by Lady Odelinde, now his wife, that his own happiness, as well as the happiness of his child, demanded that Jane should be married to Otfried." To Offried !"

"The count would not hear of such a thing; it seemed a sorry lot for the heiress of the house of Hamauit o be the wife of Otfried, whose only heritage was the memory of his father's devot-edness. But what pride scorned, im-patience deemed fitting. Feeling that he could not find a stepmother for his daughter, the count would find her s Odelinde encouraged count, and all was finally settled.

"For the marriage of Jane with Otfried?"

"Tae chaplain brought them the happy tidings of their contemplated and Jane V bridal robes, when Count Boleslaus arrived at the Castle of Hainault, and demanded the hand of Jane for royal master Oh, if Wenceslaus only knew this!'

"But Wenceslans may not know it, and there are two good reasons for not telling him; first, he is now king." "And secondly?"
"Jane of Hainault is Queen of Bo

emis."
"What do you thence infer?"

"You have not bargained with me to infer

Continue." "Albert, blinded by his love for Odelinde, hastily resolved on a mar-riage which should free him from the oce of his daughter, and enable him to give the titles of the house of Bavaria to Odelinde. Jane was happy very happy, in her belief that she was soon to be the spouse of Ottried.

ner mother, the Countess Isabella,
would have blessed such a union; it
was a union too lowly indeed for her was a union too lowly indeed for her child's high lineage, but it was likely to bring happiness to persons un-troubled by amuition. Jane of Hain-ault is capable of deep, serious tender ness. An exact luquiry into all that h ppened proves that she loved Ottried deeply. Suddenly, hastily, all was changed. Count Boleslaus went back to Hainault as ambassador. He de livered the message of Charles IV.
Albert's pride overruled the consent he had already given, cancelled the arrangements he had already made; esides, he deemed it worth his to pay no heed to the scraples of his child. Jane, who attached no impor-tance to the title of queen, and a great deal to the sanctity of a solemn en-g gement, showed a determination to remain faithful to her plighted troth. Policy and selfshness stifled Albert's scruples, if he had any, and made him stern in his demands. Jane wept; her tears and her sorrow bore witness to the great struggle she underwent be fore she consented to obey her father,

and when she came from Hainault as the betrothed bride of wenceslaus, Offried came with her." his shoulders, sud casting a look of contempt at the creature before him A servant promptly answered the call.

'Fetch a glass and a flask of Tokay.'

The gray eyes of Hatto's guest What do you understand from that?' The gray eyes of Hatto's guest sparkled with pleasure.
"You are a generous patron," said he.
In a moment the servant returned,

"Just what you understand, my lord? Hatto would have sharply rebuked

his pert reply if he dared, but he could not afford to lose the services of

Mauper had the eyes of an owl, he could descry what darkness hid from the sight of other men. He saw plainly what Hatto did his best to conceal. To pay large sums for the spying of Mauper pained Hatto; while it vexed the former to see Hatto, whom he be lieved a mere bungler incapable of de vising anything really clever, holding a place in the confidence of Wenceslaus. In his inmost soul he cursed Hatto for standing in the way of his rightful ambition, by usurping a place which he deemed himself better fitted to hold because of his superior shrewdness and

A moment of awkward silence fol-A moment of awayard shedge for lowed. Hatto wished to get further information without forcing his pride to beg it. Mauper would give no more till his patron had first asked for it. To cut short this unpleasantness, Hatto took up a purse and jerked it contemptuously at Manper, who with-out deigning to open it, weighed it scorefully in his hand, and then placed it beside the empty wine flask, like a man that feels he is meanly, unjustly treated.

"Perhaps you are Master Mauper?" said Hatto.
"I, my tord? I am only too happy

to render you a service."
"And do you call this rendering me service.

" I should think so." "So that I should be obliged to

should hope so." " Then I have to tell you the fact is

"Do you treat me as a friend?" " As a friend!

"Or pay me as a hired servant?"

"I will owe you nothing."
"Then we shall settle our accounts."
"By all means."
"Without opening this purse, I know what is in it. I had to break down three horses on my journey from Prague to Hainault, to brice the waiting women of Lady Odelinde, to make the guards drunk, to have her majesty closely watched and followed during a w ole month. I have spent double the sum you offer, but I am, as I have been,

the devoted servant of Count Hatto. Hatto hurriedly searched his pockets nd found them empty.

You need not press yourself, my lord; I can trust you; and to prove that I am willing to trust you, I shall give you further intelligence. The old nuntsman at the manor of Count Al pert told me an intere ting item about the chase in which Ottried's father tost his life. I have already told you that Notberg exposed himself to the rage of the wild boar, and was torn by tusks of the furious beast. The hunts man wrenched out the tueks and gave them to Ouried. The young orphan kept one for himself and go one other to Jane of Hainault. " And now where is it?"

"The queen keeps it."
"Are you sure of that?"
"I have seen it."

"A proof! a proof!" cried Hatto. "If my traveling and inquiries hav been expensive, they have not been fruitless. The qu en does not scorn the keepsakes of the little maiden."

But in Prague what is the behavior

of the queen-her manner towards Ot

"Ah, here lies the difficulty. The queen is never alone. One or two of ner maids are always with her. Otfried takes the orders of ber majesty in the picture gallery, and often in the oratory. These orders are never any more than a commission to thing more than a commission to be against the poor, or to beg the prayers of the monks in the neighboring monastery.' . Then everything looks wholly

blameless ?' " And is so."

"The countenance of the queen?" " Is calm and dignified: Otfried deeply respectful."
"But if nothing in the tone of their

voices or in their countenances betrays them, may hap there is something which peaks more than they would hav thers suspect."

" Notwithstanding the past-" "Mark you, my lord, it is a past that is wholly tlameless and good."

"Notwithstanding the past," continued Hatto, heedless of the interruption, "you are convinced the queen is taithful to Wenceslaus?"
"I believe she loves him."

"Damnation!" roared Hatto. Haste may upset fine schemes, my ord. Is there anything strange in it, after all? Do we not remember the king to have been revengeful, bloody, despotic? Wenceslaus is no longer himself. Once he was a deep drinker, now he dreads wine and shuns the Unable to revenge himself on wassail. men, he used to chase the wild boar,

and slake his thirst for revenge in the blood of wild beasts. Now he kneels in the chapel beside the queen. For her charities he empties the coffers of the empire. Every day churches are built, spitals founded; the fever of charity is growing daily; all the old favorite are discarded, and the balance power is lost; the whole power of the nation is in the hands of the young beautiful, and virtuous Jane of Hain-

anlt "It is not the beauty of the queen but her virtue, that bars our way, and that is a barrier we must break down at any cost; if we cannot tarnish he virtue, it will be enough to make Wenceslaus distrust her. Bat this Eve will not be tempted

into sny indiscre ion. "Appearances may ruin ber."
"She saves appearances."
"The presence of Offied may be

arged as an accusation against

She goes out sometimes?" · To the church, yes "She passes several hours there?"

"Sarely. She visits the hospitals?"

"Yes, twice a week."
Does she never go into the dwell ings of the poor?"

needful is a deep plot. Let Wences-laus once suspect her, and we shall be-come masters of this stupid monarch he will make us his favorites. Simony shall refill the coffers charity has emptied. The queen must be di-graced and it must be done hrough Officed." "I agree with you; but who will dare hint to Wenceslaus that he is the

dupe of the queen's artfulness?'
"I will," answered Hatto. " It is a dangerous game to play." "On the first impulse Wenceslaus will have but one thought, my death; the instant after he would save my life. Yet who can tell what effect nay have on a furious beast muzzle only by a woman's scarf?"

'If you fail!—and one ought to anticipate defeat; everything is in favor

of the queen. Naturally one believes in her virtue; she is so obedient to the king, so charitable, so good to the

or. "If failure threatens, we must try violent measures."
"A c ime?" asked Mauper, in a

low voice.
Or the appearance of a crime.

have a plot! Mauper, this night you may have the full sum of your wages. Strain your keenest wit to find a case of deepest distress. To play the comedy well, we will have no accomplices who might mar our plot, but partners, whose misary shall make them no mighting tool. nisery shall make them unwitting tools and whose distress shall serve as a bait for the trap we shall set."
"I will find all you need," said

Mauper.

Having received his instructions, Mauper bade Count Hatto good night.

CHAPTER III. THE PLOT.

Having left Hatto's room, Mauper crossed the courtyard, and was soon lost in the windings of the dark streets, hidden lanes, and byways. While he went along the streets, peering through the broken walls, narrowly watching the houses, and spying out the persons appearing at the windows, he mused over the conversation he had just had with Hatto. The two plotters cunning-ly argued that the queen's reputation might be most easily damaged by turn-ing her very virtues against her. Jane of Hainault was likely to push her nerote charity to the verge of rashness. Great souls despise base plots; they

fear no evil, for they know no sin.'? Who would fall in Mauper's way to help him in his guilty work? stands and listens. There is a loud noise in the distance. At another time Manper would have turned and fled, for, like most potters, he was a coward, but now any chance, no matter how poor, might serve him. He therefore pushed forward at a brisk pace to the spot whence the roise came, and he on saw a large crowd gesticulating and shaking their hands threateningly in the direction of a dismal nouse, at the solitary window of which stood a pale, affrighted girl, her hair haggard wildness, while she nowing in naggard wildness, while she vainly strove to move the riotous crowd to pity her forlorn condition.

"What is going on over there?"
Mauper asked of the first person he

et near the crowd.

met near the crowd.

"An awful thing," said an old vixen. "You see that wre tched creature. The day before yesterday her father died suddenly. She pretended he died from the bursting of a blood her died from the bursting of the vessel; he was buried; the corpse was vessel; ne was buried; the could see covered with a cloth; no one could see it. Yesterday her mother dropped down dead. Do you understand now?

" No! the pest is in that house!"

"No I the pest!" cried the accomplice of Hatto, with a shudder.
"Yes, the pest!" said a loud strong voice. "We had thought it was gone, but now it is back with us again. That girl should have told the truth yester-When she knew what her day. When she knew what her died of, she should not have suffered died of, she should not have suffered any one to go near the corpse, to carry it to the graveyard or to the church. Not one can approach such a corpse without being stricken with the plague. The people should be first thought of Did she make the truth known when her mother died? Not she, indeed a If a neighbor had not heard the shricks of the dying woman, and had not seen her convulsed, swoolen, hideous, we should not have known the plague was amongst us. That girl is a fiend: that honse will be the death of us; let us

"A gravel" yelled the crowd in wild uproar. "Mercy ! mercy !" screamed the be-

make it a grave.

"I have lost my father reaved girl. and mother." There was death in every tone of

the wild mob. "No mercy! She must not leave the house! Close up the door with stones !" The poor girl threw up her arms.
She begged the crowd to let her leave
the house, and she would quit the city
at once, She was alraid; starvation and death stared her in the face : she

trembled as she thought of being forced to stay shut up with the black swollen corpse of her mother.

Had the plague come to sweep away anew the people of Bohemia? A single case of it renewed the fears of the people. Prague had so severely offered from its ravages that we and the cruelty of the

form some idea of the rage the dread wretches, who were going to build up a barrier between themselves and the a parrier between themselves and the unbappy girl, who, they believed, would bring the past with her wherever she went. In good and evil the mob acts hur ledly. The voice of the man who said, "close up the door, make the boars a graps" found a nake the house a grave, terrible echo. In an instant, as if by magic, their hands were filled with stones and mortar, and in a quarter of an hour the house was changed into a tomb, the living was buried with the The terror of Julie was followed by

a dismal hopelessness that stunned her. Seeing the mob deal to her cries, she awaited her doom with a enselees indiffere ce. The corpse of her mother lay in the end of the room; its dim outline reminded her again of her father's and mother's death; their dying shrieks rang again "N-ver; the king forbids that." death; their dying shrieks rang again in her ears; their convulsed, swollen

limbs again writhed in her eyes; shudder after the poor girl's frame, length awakened to a s Mauper saw all that

He thought he might scene in favor of his ow A poor, harmless you to borrible treatment the dreaded plague v fresh. An heroic set danger to bray should go alone? She some one may aid her is morrow there will be a the monastery; the off a child go through therself at the feet of queen is touched with the devil will do the the thoughts that Mauper's mind; they able for such a genero er to keep them long The crowd had clo

her dead mother, and burriedly from the afraid to go back to Some were appalled the poor orphan bu greater part strove fection by using stro by barning scented their houses. When kept aloof from the the street was aband it, and descried a in the doorway of Jul "Who are you?" as

killing. "You love her very "Why ?"

"Because she love "And would you s "Look," said th ngers bleeding. I ingers nails trying to teal and the mortar."
"That is not the v "What way, then "Do you know the The queen!

child. "Would you have speak to her ?' "Is it I? Never "Even to save J "Oh, for her-" "You would dare

"I will try. Wha "Do you know monks?" "They have ofte "Well, go there twait in the archwa

"The bells will ri will leave the sa-ceremonies. A la with sweet eyes, a will pass along the You will say not nothing; watch the ceremonies ar lady leaves the chi at her feet, join to her. 'Justice an

Justice and m child. "The Queen wi you will tell her ho with the corpse that, if she does n she will surely

misery."
"And will the q "The queen is a

"I will go then.
"You will forge "Nothing." Mauper, giving the little girl, l going home, he re told him all he he had done. T so far advanced t

not yet find a pre

with the king. It to the end, Hat joy. "Come what is are to fall in But have you "Before an hor thing ready." "I am comman

cabinet.' "Then let t queen," said Ma patron the car seemed to him s TO BI

> THE CHE The landlord and from vario "Arnold is no have waited no cannot be

the host.

the sky, he is s tempt a stran I should he he knew that Grace, Arnola The bride-elec

Arnold is difficult, perha more especiall of taking grahimself." said at the bright his daughter

They seated cheerful atn room. The fast glow of bined with words to raise

How they in a wayside on Christma The explanat