THE KING OF NO-LAND.

BY B. L. FARJEON.

XI.

"NOW," SAID THE KING, STEPPING CLOSE TO THE PRISONER, "AS MAN TO MAN!"

At about this period signs of political disturbance were becoming somewhat alarmingly prominent in No-land. There were in the kingdom certain persons who were conscientiously dissatisfied with the form of government under which they lived, and under which they undoubtedly enjoyed many advantages of which the people of other nations were not in possession. These Reformers, as they styled themselves, sprang chiefly from the ranks of the people, and were proud of the association of a few fine minds from the higher classes of society. Notwithstanding their opinions, they were good citizens; they were hard workers, they led peaceable lives, and reasoned out matters for themselves, according to their lights, in a calm and sensible manner.

But, unfortunately for their cause, it was surrounded by excrescences which gave it an unwholesome appearance. The Quamoclits and Wortleberries of No-land fastened themselves to it, and the consequence was that a thimbleful of common-sense was hidden in a gallon of bubble and froth. The one great institution, of course, which was the object of general attack was the institution of Royalty. "Do away with kings and queens," said the agitators; "destroy the false theory that because a man is born into Royalty it is imperative he should be maintained in costly and idle luxuriance by a down-trodden people; and the misery and distress which now overwhelm the nation will disappear as smoke does before the wind." Every thing seemed to favor the agitators. The value of money had decreased in No-land, and all the necessaries of life were steadily rising in price, so that it took thirty shillings to buy to-day what twenty shillings would have purchased a dozen years ago. The working men, as a natural consequence, asked for higher wages, which in every instance was refused to them. "Ah," groaned the Quamoclits and Whortleberries, "crushed, oppressed, ground down again! Poor, suffering masses, when will you obtain your rights?" "We'll work no longer," cried the working men, "until we are fairly paid for our work." The masters still resisted, and the men left the workshops. Convinced that their demands were fair and reasonable, the hearts of these men turned bitter toward those of the higher orders who employed them, and they were, in a measure, driven into demagogism. In this way the Quamoclits and Whortleberries gained many recruits. Other strikes in other parts of the country occurred. The agricultural laborers rose and demanded their rights as men. A disclosure of the circumstances of their lives from their cradles to their graves showed a miserable state of things; they were ignorant, muddle headed, underpaid, and they lived through all their lives in the worst form of slavery which man can suffer—in a state of helpless pauperism. When the history of No-land comes to be written by a competent and impartial person (if History ever is written in any but a partisan spirit) the condition of the kingdom of No-land, so far as concerns these matters, will be more fully dilated upon; in the meantime the few preceding lines must be accepted as a faithful, if not a satisfactory, index to the state of affairs.

Sassafras, seeking for guidance among his councillors, and for an honest solution of these troubles, was temporized with and lightly put off. He was bidden not to vex himself with these small concerns.

Yet they were not entirely indifferent to the signs of the times. "Measures must be adopted," they said to one another, "to counteract the influence of these small agitators. The sentiment of loyalty must be stirred into active life in the breasts of the people. The King must go about more than he does."

Sassafras submitted to them; he went about more; his soul was wearied with pageants, and one day, as he sat in his carriage, he was shot at. The bullet missed him, but his heart was sorely wounded. "How my people must hate me!" he thought, with bitterness. The loyal papers bristled with indignation, and with expressions of love and devotion for his person; they denounced the would-be assassin as a monster whose name would be hissed throughout all time; and as usual they went to violent extremes. Sassafras read all these papers, and even insisted upon privately seeing the monster who had attempted his life.

"Your Majesty!" implored Lord Crabtree, "such a thing was never heard of in history!"

"Is there such a thing as the history of the human heart?" demanded Sassafras, bitterly. "I decline any longer to be guided by precedents of which neither my heart nor my conscience can approve. I will see this man."

"He is a monster of the deepest dye," entreated Lord Crabtree, in melodramatic language; "nay, perhaps, a madman—"

"The more is he to be pitied," said Sassafras firmly. "Your remonstrances are useless, my lord. I will see him."

But king as he was he would have been unable to carry out his design had he not promised that he would not disclose to the man that he was the King. This promise he gave—and broke. At the door of the cell he halted, and would not allow a single person to enter with him. When he closed the door, he saw before him, seated by a table which was fastened to the ground, a man in rags, with a wild and haggard face.

"Do you know me?" asked Sassafras.

"No," was the reply.

"I am the King."

The man looked at Sassafras steadily, with a frown on his face.

"I am sorry for you," he said.

"And not for yourself?"

"No: I have nothing to reproach myself with."

"Not for attempting the life of one whose face you do not know when you look upon it?"

"I did not shoot at the man; I shot at the King. If I had succeeded, there would have been a king the less in the world."

"You hate kings?"

"I hate them."

"They say you are mad."

"So I have heard; they might be right—by-and-by; they are not quite right at present." He pressed his hand upon his forehead as though to crush back oppressive thought. "I am trying to keep my reason; I may lose it soon."

There was not the slightest wandering in his speech, and his features were firm set; but it was evident that it was only by the strongest effort of will that he retained his composure. He was a man of forty years of age.

"It is a great honor," he said, with a scornful smile, "for me to receive a visit from a king. May I ask for what purpose you come?"

"To appeal to you," answered Sassafras, earnestly; "to ask you what wrong I have done you, that you should attempt my life. I do not know you; I have never seen your face before to-day; your name is strange to me. Tell me in what way I have wronged you."

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85 coils Isle of Man Hemp Rope, 2 to 7½ in.
100 " English & American Manilla, 2 to 6 in.
13 " B B Charcoal Wire Rope, 2 to 4 in.
229 " YELLOW METAL, ⅜ to 1⅝;
8 Chain Cables and Anchors;
2000 yards Cotton Duck.

To arrive per ships Ruby and Eviva, and steamers from Liverpool

Outfits for vessels complete, COMMON and REFINED IRON, Yellow Metal, SPIKES, Oakum, Lead, &c., &c.

For sale at lowest market rates.

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CIGARS!

IN STORE:

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In the market, including favorite brands of

Havana, German and Canadian Goods,

WHOLESALE ONLY.

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ALCOHOL.

50 PER cent Overproof, in bond at No. 2 Warehouse. Will be sold at Lowest Market Rates, in Bond or Duty Paid, by

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NEW STORE.

ARMSTRONG & McPHERSON, 99 UNION STREET,

ARE now receiving a choice assortment of Teas, Sugars, Coffees, Spices, Fruits, etc., etc., suitable for the season.

All warranted fresh and good.

Also—5 bbls Cranberries, choice.

oct6 99 UNION STREET.

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Paris, West End, White Rose, Pompipone, Rue, Bouquet, Jockey Club, Stolle Flowers,

THE finest perfumes made. If not sold by your druggist, may be obtained at retail of the Wholesale Agency.

H. L. SPENCER, June 8 20 Nelson street.

PRESSED HOPS—One bale—crop of 1873—fresh and good. For sale by

H. L. SPENCER, June 8 20 Nelson street.

FINE TOILET SOAPS—Five cases Brown Windsor, Glycerine, Honey, Rose and Almond.

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CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE, and other preparations—A Stock received ex Cuspian, by the Wholesale Agent.

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TAYLOR'S CREAM YEAST—If not sold by your grocer, may be obtained at Retail of the Wholesale Agent.

H. L. SPENCER, June 8 20 Nelson street.

Apples. Apples.

Ex stmr New Brunswick:

100 BBLS No. 1, American Baldwins. For sale low to close consignment.

W. A. SPENCE, nov9 North Slip.

Better Pressed Hay, in Store.

175 TONS Better Pressed Hay, 1st quality.

W. A. SPENCE, nov9 North Slip.

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