

*Enter GUIBERT, R. 2, followed by GODFREY, CONRAD and COURTIERS.*

*Guibert.* Am I correct ? Another suicide ?

*Godfrey.* You have not been misinformed.

*Guibert.* Three within a fortnight ! Scandalous !

*Conrad.* Felix Cosmos said it was the haven of misfortune.

*Enter FELIX D. R. C. Comes slowly down C.*

*Guibert.* Sinful ! Who is this Felix Cosmos ?

*Godfrey.* A question that imports no easy answer. None here know. His credentials were unimpeachable. It is suspected that he is in the service of the Papal Court. At least ; it is an explanation of Hildebrand's certain knowledge of all we do.

*Guibert.* And the King tolerates ! We must discover !

*Felix.* (*At C.*) At you service—

*Omnes.* Ah ! Cosmos !

*Felix.* Why trouble yourselves with a thing so insignificant ? You know almost as much about him as he does himself. His ancestors ? Mystery and Desertion. If, unlike Moses, he was not found in a basket of bull-rushes, at least, like the olden prophet, he kens not whom to blame for ushering him into this unkempt, stupid, world.

*Guibert.* Foundling !

*Felix.* Some monks, who discovered me, did the pressing service—

*Godfrey.* Illegitimate !

*Felix.* Perhaps ! Two things may be born without the pale of wedlock ; a child and a character. In the first we have no choice ; in the latter, my dear Count, we have.

*Harold.* A rapier with a sharpened edge !

*Felix.* Who knows, but, that the unfortunate who begot me wore the coronet of—well, say Sudermann ? (*Godfrey grasps his sword hilt.*) Nay ! do not draw ! I retract—

*Godfrey.* Ah !

*Felix.* There is no Sudermann blood in me—

*Godfrey.* 'Tis well you say it !

*Felix.* Thank God !

*Omnes.* Gad's sooks !

*Harold.* No novice wrist gives that thrust !

*Felix.* Pardon the digression. Those hospitable monks, had, preforce, to give me a name. One claimed that I possessed the dark eyes of the Spaniard ; another, that my complexion was fair as a Norseman ; still another—he was an old man—that I had the beauty of the Hibernian women—though how that hoary saint knew so much about Hibernian women puzzles me ! Perhaps, he was Irish.