

*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 unkept, 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.