

*Enter HENRY, GUIBERT, HAROLD, GODFREY, CONRAD and COURTIERS, D. R. 1.*

*Henry.* Conrad, to you we assign the duty of making ready. (*Exit Godfrey D. R. 2*). Gentlemen, to you the several things that pertain to our person and comfort. (*Courtiers exit different directions*). Guibert, for you, I see the tiara in sight.

*Guibert.* I am unworthy——

*Henry.* No need to confess it. Hildebrand must learn that who makes can unmake. Such is ours by prescription and the oath of John. (*Exit Guibert D. R. C.*) Still, all is not plain sailing. France, England, Spain ; there are the dangers——

*Enter BERTHA D. L. 2.*

Your Majesty is most opportune.

*Bertha.* Heard you—— ?

*Henry.* By the same courier dispatched to you.

*Bertha.* And you are not angry ?

*Henry.* On the contrary, I am delighted.

*Bertha.* Thank God ! thank God !

*Henry.* He finds no impediment——

*Bertha.* For none existed.

*Henry.* True. Still it removes a heavy burden from my conscience.

*Bertha.* And gives to me my husband ! (*Throws herself into his arms*).

*Henry.* Yours until death.

*Bertha.* Say ; you love me !

*Henry.* More than ever.

*Bertha.* My wounded heart already heals 'neath the ointment of your graciousness ; it palpitates with mad rejoicing !

*Henry.* You thought me harsh, cruel, tyrannical. I was not ; I was just. The conflict lay 'twixt love and duty. My passion for you was consuming ; but, what I conceived to be the dictates of God, fell like ghostly phantoms across my path ; gave me no surcease. It stalked me in the day light and stood by my pillow to banish sleep.

*Bertha.* But now, my loved one, it has gone. The father of Christianity has spoken and the evil one flies from the exorcist.

*Henry.* To the limbo of forgetfulness I consign him !

*Bertha.* This ; this, indeed, is recompense. I could weep with joy. You know not, my dearest,—it is not given to man to comprehend—the consuming intensity, all powerful flames of woman's love. It brooks no rival ; it is jealous of supremacy ; it illumines and exaggerates the nobleness of its affection ; hides short comings ; obliterates failings ; to the giver and receiver it is a benediction or a curse.