

Enter HENRY, GUBERT, 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 sureease. 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 Christendom 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.