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TALES OF THE JURY ROOM By Gerald Griffin

THE FIRST JURYMAN'S TALE

SIGISMUND

It was a peautiful summer evening It was a beautiful summer evening, that fell on the mountains to the north-east of Poland, but those vast tracts of country lying at their base were then almost uninabited, and the traveller, who on this evening found himself slone who on this evening found numeri sione on the hill-side, felt sensations very different from those which might result from the beauty of the scene. He was young and fair and habited in the siding continue of Massavy A

the riding costume of Muscovy. A sword hung at his waist, which from the aplendour of its carriage seemed rather intended for dress than warfare, and although it had not been so, the slender although it had not been so, the slender figure and delicate appearance of the youth who bore it would have acquitted it of any suspicion as to the latter design. His bright yellow hair was twined up under his bonnet, and as he placed one hand over his brow, in order to shade his eyes from the sun, while he looked anxiously down into the plain, the dark attone of its shadow formed a striking contrast to the siddly naleness of his contrast to the sickly paleness of his

privately accertained the truth of the scroll, was wise enough to conceal the discovery from all, (even his father) until he came to the throne, and he in-trusted it only to his confidential friend and agent, the aged Clotaldus. As Clarin and his companion, sitting on the brow of the cliff above looked anyionely into the cheam hemath them "He is not there," said the stranger, "and the night will have failen before we have left these crags behind us. Mother, why have you advised me to anxiously into the chasm beneath them they observed the light again glimmer from the recess under the rock. The

A loud and shrill "Ujaja!" from be A loud and shrill "Ujaja!" from be-nesth the cliff where he stood, made him start and rush toward it edge. "Clarin, is it you ? is there any hope ? where are our horses ? what shall we do?" said the youth. The person whom he addressed now stood forward upon the point of a rock which jutted out from the base of the liff on a nearly with

-let us descend." "How shall we descend over the rock," said Clarin; "I see no other way, and for that manner of seeking succour, I had as lief even wait here till it which jutted out from the base of the cliff, so as nearly to form an angle with that and its summit, and yet was itself no bigger than a spear's point in the eye the distant valley-dweller. He leaned upon his gold-headed staff and waved his arm to the querist to descend, at the same time pointing out his left a safer path than that which the latter was shout to choose. He conas about to choose. He con latter was about to choose. He con-tinued, while his companion was descend-ing, looking along the hillside and down the vale with a ludicrous expression of dismay painted on his broad counten-ance, and uncessily shifting his bonnet from side, to side, twirling his mustache between his finger and thumb, and mut-

"Oh! merry-merry Castile! that ever the Evil One should have put it into the head of poor Clarin that he might find a pleasanter spot on the earth than that of his birth. I was not content with good, without looking for better, and I have lost both. I would I had never heard of Muscovy when I was in Castile, or that I had never heard of Poland when I was in Muscovy.'

His companion was now by his side, breathless and exhausted. He repeated

"It is Clarin truly enough, and sorry "It is Clarin truly enough, and sorry he is to say it," answered the Castilian; "and as to whether there is any hope, I know nothing about it since we came hither. Our horses have very wisely and then assisted his companion to follow. On looking up they perceived themselves in front of the secret dunhither. Our horses have very wisely taken care of themselves, seeing that we could not do it for them, and as to what we shall do, I leave that to your judgment, since the enterprise is of your planning. What we must do, I am afraid I foresee very well." They began to descend, the youth leaning on the arm of Clarin, who while he assisted him with the most anxious themselves in front of the secret dun-geon. They turned their eyes to the clear heaven and perceived at an im-mense distance above them, almost directly over their heads, the rock from block bard dark eren the light

leaning on the arm of Clarin, who while he assisted him with the most anxious solicitude, bearing him in his arms whenever a difficulty arose in the path, and dashing away with his foot the brambles which lay cross it—took all the trouble in the world to assure him that his conduct had driven all esteem and regard from his heart, avering the trouble in the world to assure him that his conduct had driven all esteem and regard from his heart, averring that it was as hard as that of his enemy, Astolpho himself. Before they had reached the base of the mountain, the sun had long since been hidden from their eyes, and they were left almost in utter darkness; the youth then resting his head on the shoulder of Clarin deTHE CATHOLIC RECORD

the most trusty of his guards, and blind-folding them one after the other, placed the prisoner in chains between them, and conducted them himself at midnight creatures that I see around me, pun-ished for an offence of which they are no less guilty than I. The bird that and conducted them himself at midnight to the entrance of the daugeon, or rather burying ground which was no less than a mile from its interior. After his death, the secret for many years remained unknown, until in the reign of Eustoraius III., the young Prince Basslius, who was then devoting himself deeply to the study of the occult sciences, issued a proclamation offering a large reward for all the antique manuscripts of whatever kind they might be, which should be pre-sented to him. The nobility of the kingdom were auxious by such a trifling springing forward, it is borne like a winged flower upon the wind, now dividing the blue heavens in its rapid flight, and now returning to nestle in its former home, while I, with a greater capability of appreciating the joys of freedom, am doomed to chains and slavery. Nature has no sooner tinged with her magic pencil the soft and spotted fur of the beast that provis among the crags and heath of yonder mountain than, starting boldly and fereely from his lair, he flies to the free desert to shun the tyranny of map. more sented to him. The hobility of the kingdom were anxious by such a trilling sacrifice to procure the favour of the heir of Poland, and amongst many others who supplied him with the docu-ments of their families for centuries, were the descendants of the cruel baron. dessert to shun the tyranny of man, more dessert to shun the tyranny of man, more flerce than he. I have more cause to have that tyranny, and less liberty to avoid it. The fish beneath me, the thing that breathes not the abortion of Basilius, among the writings of this house, discovered one giving a descrip-tion of the site and manner of the buildweeds and foam, no sooner sees his scaly sides reflected in the wave, than darting from the light he measures the vast profundity of its liquid centre, while I with more will to fly to the shelter of darkness, have less power to indulge it. I see the streamlet leave its bed and gliding like a serpent among the flower, break its silvery side against the pebbly shore, while, with s sweet murmur the meadow opens its painted bosom to re-ceive it, and I with more need of such a friend have none to give me aid or succour. When I think of these things, my bosom swells and burns, as though a ing from the light he measures the vasi tion of the site and manner of the build-ing-the entrance to it-the date of its construction—and a long roll contain-ing the names of those whom the builder had there compelled to wear out their existence. The young prince having privately ascertained the truth of the scorel, was wise enough to conceal the

by bosom swells and burns, as though urnace were labouring at its centre, an could in the anger of my soul tear it sounder to give the passion room. What law, what justice, what reason is there in denying to man the sweet priv-ilege the Almighty has given to the creatures of the air, the forest, and even

creatures of the sir, the forest, and even to the inanimate waste of water ?" "Have you heard him, Clarin ? said the Muscovite, "his appearance strikes me with terror, and yet his speech has filled me with compassion." The strange inhabitatt of the dun-geon here suddenly turned and ex-claimed, "who heard my speech ? Is that Clotaldus ?"

that Clotaldus ?" "Alas I no," exclaimed the terrified youth, "it is only a wretched being, whose ill-fortune has conducted him to your old vaults, and who has uninten tionally overheard your complaints."

"Then," said he rushing flercely on and seizing him, " your fate is certain, for I will not suffer you to go hence with the story of my weakness." The youth flung himself at his feet. "Mercy," he exclaimed, " if you are a man you will not despise the prayer of a stranger on your own threshold.

your own threshold." Sigismund (for such was the name of the prisoner) pansed and relaxed the sternness of his grasp. At the same moment the moonlight fell upon the up-turned countenance of the kneeling stranger. It was the first sight of beauty he had ever known, and he won-dered at the influence which he felt rushing to his soul. gurgle onwards. "We shall be buried alive," said Clarin, in answer to the proposal of the Muscovite youth that they should enter. "We shall never see the day enter. "We shall never see the day break again." They had scarcely proceeded forty paces, still following the hollow mur-mur of the rivulet, when they could per-ceive that they trod on artificial steps. In a little time they saw the water bounding into the moonlight, and pleas-antly enjoying enfranchisement by de-scribing frolic mazes on the sandy plain before the clift whence it had emanated. Clarin descended on the platform, and then assisted his companion to rushing to his soul.

"Thy voice," said he, " has moved "Thy volce," said he, "has moved me-thy person astonishes me-thy glance troubles my senses; who art thou? For I know so little of the world that this tower has been my cradle and my tomb. Ever since my birth, if this can be called life, I have only beheld this rude desert, where I drag on my wretched existence, a lump of inactive earth, a breathing corpse. I have never seen or spoken to more than have never seen or spoken to more than one man who, alone, knows my misfor-tunes, and who, as if to make my slavery more miserable, tells me daily and hourly of a free and glorious world with-out—of the wonders of the heavens, of the changes of kingdoms and empired and myriads of beings like myself, in al but my chains and dungeons, and yet, amidst all my griefs, and amidst all the wonders that have at times delighted wonders that have at these dengited and smazed me, thou art the only thing whose glances ever calmed the fury of my rage. I look on thee and wonder, and look again and wonder still more-my eyes feel as though they would never be satisted with gazing on thee, art the concertion which ther course to yet the sensation which they convey to my soul resembles what I have been

creatures that I see around me, pun-ished for an offence of which they are no less guilty than I. The bird that visits me in my solitude no sooner feels the budding down upon its wings, than springing forward, it is borne like a winged flower upon the wind, now dividing the blue heavens in its rank the stranger as figurand anflared him to replace

At this moment he was interrupted by a voice from within. "Guards of the tower!" it exclaimed, "Awake, ho " Guards of the tower !" it exclaimed, "Awake, no ! Your trust has either been neglected or betrayed. The precincts of your keep-ing have been entered. Come forth, hol and speedily !" The youth started and

and speedily !" The youth started and turned yet paler than before. "It is Clotaldus," said Sigismund. "But fear not you ! I will guard you !" The aged Clotaidus now appeared in his coat of mail, and increated helmet, followed by a guard, all of whom wore masks, while in the presence of the pris-oner. The youth clung to the latter as Clotaidas annroached. "You" said Older. The youth chang to the factor and Clotaldus approached. "You," said the leader, "who have had the hardi-hood to despise our king's prohibition, and entered this prison on the psin of death, surrender your arms and quied submit, or make the forfeiture at once

Sigismund stepped, between his ex-ended weapon and the fearful stranger. "They shall do neither," said he. "Ho i ho !" said Clotaldus, " art thou his defender then ? And how shall I be

prevented ?" "Get thee hence—shrunken snake ! begone. Before thou shalt harm these, I will gnaw my chains and make these rocks my meanons. Get the hence I rocks my weapons. Get thee he say

Clotaldus signed to an attendant, who walked toward the larger gate and touched a spring on the right. In an instant Sigismund was dragged by his chain within the tower, and the double gate shut to with a loud crash, leaving gate shut to with a loud crash, leaving him within, foaming with rage. Clotal-dus mocked at him. "I think," said he, "it were as well for your dependants that you did not boast so loudly; why do you not come forth and aid them. But he spake of *them*. I see but one— guards search the prison." In a few minutes Clarin was dragged from his hiding-nace, and hrough the

from his hiding-place, and brought be-fore Clotaldus. Both travellers fell on fore Clotaldus. Both travellers fell on their knees, snd in one voice begged for mercy. He bade them surrender their arms; Clarin's staff was on the ground in an instant? The youth was silent, and did not even offer to ungird the light sword which hung at his side. "Youth," said Clotaldus, "you seem nuwilling to submit, guards, seize him." "Hold !" said he. "To your chief alone will I submit my sword;" then placing it in his hands he continued, "wretch that I am that I should be compelled to yield, that sword before have proved its virtue. Take it ; if must die preserve it carefully, for I sought your kingdom, trusting in that alone, to quit my honor of a deep

offence Clotaldus took the sword, half drew it from the sheath, and placing its point against the earth, continued for some me gazing on the stranger's face. "If this be true," said he, "I shall believe all things possible-who gave you

this sword ?" A woman," replied the youth.

"What is her name ?" "That is a secret I cannot now re-

veal "How know you then," said Clotal 'that so much depends on this dus, sword ?"

"She who gave it to me bade me de-part for Poland, and endeavor by some means that it should meet the eye of would give his protection." yet the sensation which they convey to my soul resembles what I have been told of the thrill of death. I will not sword which I left with Violante my subscription. Basilius received them kindly. A lofty seat was prepared for the old mon-arch in that part of the plain where the standard of Poland held solitary domin-

itself, was grand and inspiring; it was the sweetest time of the year—the close of the spring. The swell of the music, in its intervening pauses, contrasted with the gentle voice of the mountain rills, and the song of the wild birds that wake with the day—the waving of the banners in their pride of blazonry and display—the marshalling of the troops in their shining armour—the coverting of the spirited steeds that pranced snd hounded hencet their riders as if they banners in their pride of Diszonry and display—the marshalling of the troops in their shining armour—the coverting of the spirited steeds that praced and bounded beneath their riders as if they shared in their enthusiasm and in the jealousy of valour, all was glorious—all presclementing. Even the withousd and hung upon his thoulders. I started in horror and disgust from the monstrou creation, and turned my eyes on the un was elevating. Even the withered and hoary Clotaldus, accustomed as he was in the splendor of military show, paused on the hill-side, and leaned on Clarin's happy mother. She was already dead. A matricide in his birth he had, at his enterance upon the world, sacrificed the life of the being who fostered him. He walked, and looked around him, as if he

on the nil-side, such realises of Charles s staff to enjoy it. "Who is that," said Clarin to a soldier "with the hat and white plume, his casque hanging at his saidle-bow? I think I should know him-but who is walked, and looked around him, as if he had been a creature of years, not minutes. Terrified and grieved at the event, I locked the room, and set my seal upon the door, while I proceeded to consult my mystic aids in another wing of the palace. After I had sufficiently empowered myself to begin my calcula-tions, I found that Sigismund was born under that fatal horoscope where the sun and the moon meet in the mid-

"Astolpho of Muscovy," replied the guard.

The young traveller's eye had been fixed on the same object, but he dared not to ask the question ; when he heard Clarin make it he turned yet paler than usual ; and when he was answered, his sun and the moon meet in the mid-heaven, and contend in hues of blood. That most deadly of all the heavenly symbols, Canada Draconis of the fiery 'dragon, under whose influence scarce one in a million is born, was visible in the visib house of his horecome. From theek and brow were covered with a rushing tide of crimson. Before Clotaldus had given orders to

the guards to renew their march, both had resumed their sickly whiteness. They passed on and mingled with the general camp. the right house of his horoscope. From all my observations, I deduced—that Sigismund, if suffered to live in freedom,

general camp. "Princess," said Astolpho, after he had alighted, "I have sought this inhad slighted, "I have sought this in-terview for many reasons; and I would not have sought it were I not aware that Estrella herself was not of a mind that could delight in the effect of causeless tion. I gave it out to the general state, that my queen and her iniant had both perished, and trusting my secret only to the aged Clotaldus, I had the infant bickering among relatives. Will Estrella guess the means I have to myself pro-posed, or will she insist on a detail ?" he continued, laying his sword at her feet,

and pausing for a reply. There was a mixture of pride and meanness in his manner; it was an atbeen long built within the bosom of those stooping cliffs, and which I have now no longer any reason for concesling tempt at condescension, influenced by self interest, and checked at half-way by the lord of the ascendant among all his the lord of the ascendant among all his affections. He would have succeeded better with Estrella had he either bowed

better with Estrella had he either bowed him down entirely, or stood erect in his haughtiness; even as it was she did not despise him. "If this be not mockery, prince," said she, " what is such. You lay a sword at my feet, and you have thousands behind ready, at the raising of your finger, to sheath themselves in blood for steel." "It only depends on you, lovely cousin, all in science and in religion that betass a prince to know. There was one con-sideration that urged me to preserve the place and manner of his conceal-ment, still unknown—but two far more "It only depends on you, lovely cousin, to say whether such shall be the case. The first is this-I love thee. Poland One word, one look from you, will make this plain a scene of death or of joy." and I would not, knowingly, give over thy happiness into the keeping of a " Do you mean to woo, cousin ?" said

Estrella. "Do I look on you and speak with

thy happiness into the keeping of a destroyer. But secondly, if a man play the tyrant himself, in order to prevent another from doing so, where is his jus-tice, or the world's profit? And lastly, what assurance have I, that my divina-tion is correct. The planets inclines, not compels—and what proof have I that Sigismund will be a tyrant? The posi-tion of the planets are thus and thus in you ?' rejoined Astolpho. "Then," said Estrella, "you have struck on an original mode. It is in nd your constancy, that order to commend your constancy, that while you address me you wear another on your heart.'

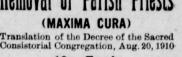
tion of the planets are thus and thus in the houses of his horoscope, Is that demonstration ? No. But I have found a remedy for all, that will perhaps sur prise you. He knows not yet, who he is -nor why confined. To-morrow I will have him placed in his slumbar methods. Astolpho quickly put up his hand and found indeed a portrait which had escaped from his vest and hung loosely forward. He trust it into his bosom again, muttering something between his teeth, and biting his lip with vexation. have him placed in his slumber under my canopy, and after, seated on my throne-that he may rule the kingdom

" Alas ! cousin," said he " what a "Alas I cousin," said he "what a simple supposition you have made. This portrait I why you shall speedily be satisfied what this portrait is. Lis-ardo, look out and see if that dust is not caused by the advance of Basilius—yes, it is his troop—they now enter on the green—'tis his train indeed." error. If, on the contrary, his cruel nature betrays itself, a second sleeping draught will place him again in his cave. I shall have done my duty in the trial— —and then Estrells and Astrolpho, by

" But the portrait," said Estrella, " is not his.'

your union, if you could consent to such your union, if you could consent to such a measure, peace would be insured to the kingdom and to me. I am your king, and I decree this. I have experi-ence, and I advise it. I am an old man, and I desire it. And if it be true what "The portrait-Oh ! most true. Lady, you shall be fully satisfied on that wh you shall be fully satisfied on that when Basilius has left us at leisure to speak of it. But the music strikes—and see where he comes yonder, accompanied by the sages of his council; it were but de-corons in us to meet him beyond the cirthe Roman Seneca has written — that a king in his kingdom is the humblest cuit of the camp."

slave in a great republic — as a slave, I entreat that you will give your consent —Astolpho—speak for both." The Muscovite prince stood forward. The hone which in the easily next of the Basilius received them kindly. A



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Justification

crown. Trembling for my people, yet more than for myse f, I took my resolu-

conveyed secretly to a prison, which has

Clotaldus has been his only im

- By Anna Blanche McGill The Festival of the Rose
- would curse Poland with his sway-would occasion civil broils, and amongst By Isabel J. Robert other crimes, would humble my own gray hairs to the dust-and usurp my
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- By A. Raybo St. Joseph's attendant, from the time of his birth-
- he has never seen or spoken with any other and from him he has learned By Mary E. Mannix The Hired Girl
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his head on the shoulder of Clarin de-clared that he could proceed no further, and finging his mantle on the earth was about to there hered! was about to throw himself upon it, when suddenly directing the attention of his companion to the de ths beneath them, he exclaimed, "Look! look! we have passed the frontier. That light is

a Polish one." "What light-where?" said Clarin, turning quickly round, for he had been bent to the earth in the act of arrangbent to the earth in the act of arrang-ing the mantle so as to preserve his ex-hausted companion from the dankness of the heath bloom. The fair hand of the latter was still extended, but the light had vanished. The struggling light of the moon, however, just re-vealed to them in the same direction the habitation from which it was most the habitation from which it was most probable it had proceeded; but such was the situation of the place, that it seemed almost hopeless to attempt reaching it, at least at that hour. It appeared from the distance at which they stood to be a species of tower, but it was so completely buried in the side of the monstain which orwing it, and of the mountain which overhung it, and ose peak formed a projecting roof ween it and the heavens, that any betwe traveller would have passed without noticing it, whose mind was not intent noticing it, whose mind was not intent on discovering some sign of human habitation. The small sandy opening before it, seemed to be surrounded on every side with rocks, which rose one above the other to an immense height, and rested at length against the brown and heatby side of the mountain. This le had been made in early times of Poland, by one of the indep ent barons of the country, who marked its completion with bloodshed, for, with his own hand, he butchered all those who had been employed in its con-struction, after inviting them to a feast struction, after inviting them to a feast within its gates, and rendering them defenceless, by mingling poppy juice with their wine. Their bones still whitened the platform before the en-trance. During his life he had made use of the place for the incarceration of those engines when he set inter he ies whom he got into his those ene power, and those among his own vassals who were abnoxious to him. The un-happy wretch, who had once entered hsppy wretch, who had once entered his horid prison house, never saw the sun again, for it was only visible when in the mid heaven from the centre of the platform, and on that he was never suffered to place his foot. When the tyrant had fixed on a victim, heselected

wanderers stood formed the only ap-pearance of vegetation which the place

presented. "I ishould hardly have thought," said the younger as he looked upward, "that we had descended so far; let us approach the gate." "The gate?" repeated Clarin, pluck-ing him back by the mantle. "What should be the fesr," said the

Muscovite, "other than that the in-terior be desolate?"

younger of the travellers was standing in an instant. 'Clarin, there it is again

"I see," said the other, "a little rill

which drops from rock to rock, and flows across the centre of that small level space before the light; and look there is

"And one may bring us to the other,"

said Clarin, rising, "but we can neither burrow like conies, nor bound like the stream—nevertheless have a good heart

-we will try it." They followed the course of the

stream as long as it continued to flow on passable soil, and had nearly pro-ceeded a furlong gradually descending,

when by a sudden turn it brought them

before two large rocks, which meeting above, formed a kind of rude archway

under which the water continued to

which they had first seen the light. They had found the little plain much more extensive than they had concluded

They had found the notice pish much more extensive than they had concluded it to be from that distance. The stream which had conducted them winded across through its centre where

in an instant. 'C —let us descend."

stream at our fe

comes.

"Heaven forbid it should worse!'' said Clarin; "nevertheless there be those things should be dreaded more by travellers than an empty dwelling, when the midnight is around them. But such a one! If night were to mingle with night and be made double, doubtless they could not form a blacker."

"Let us however," said he of Muscovy, "range ourselves by the gate, and listen for intelligence." They did so. In a few moments they heard a heavy In a few moments they heard a heavy moan within, and at the same time a clanking of iron. Clarin trembled, The other, who seemed to be all mind, walked toward the gate as noiseleasly as the grating sand would permit and looked in. A human figure approached from the interior. It was clothed in a rude babit formed of the skins of the

forest creatures, which, reaching only to the wearer's elbows and his knees, left the extremities of his limbs unproleft the extremities of his limbs unpro-tected. His hair parted in the middle of the forehead, and hung in thick and neglected masses upon his shoulders. His eyes were dark, bright, and iarge, and on his brow was stamped the savage grandeur of uncultivated nature, but his whole appearance, every look, and every motion, evinced a melancholy sternne s of disposition. As he came forward he held slott in one hand a lamp the flame of which fully revealed his figure to the wanderers, and with the other he lifted the chain which was made fast to an iron ring on his right made fast to an iron ring on his right made fast to an iron ring on his right leg, in order to relieve himself as he walked. He came from the open gate and laid his lamp on the ground. Then pausing for some time while he sprinkled his brow with the water which flowed over the sanda, he suddenly extended his arms and looking up exclaimed.

slay thee. Beautiful creature, arise and take thy way." Clarin had not time to expostulate or explain, when Sigismund lifted him from the sand, and cast him into the fountain. He scrambled to the other side tain. He scrambled to the other side as quickly as he could, and made his way under the opposite clift, grumbling at the knave's inhospitality, and only wishing that his companion, as being the cause, might share in its effect.

Clarin thought all that would be now Clarin thought all that would be now necessary to secure their safety would be promptly to take advantage of the moment, and civilly assures him of their pacific intentions. He was a courtier, too, and though not of the highest order, yet he knew how the highest act, when a favor is to be sought, or a great man to be conciliated, and however pitiful a

igure Sigismund might make at the court of Muscovy, he was decidedly the greatest man here; at least as far as power was concerned. He therefore ad-vanced with a smile, and having made ome protound bows, rested on his gold headed stsff. Sigismund scarcely looked at him. He ventured a step nearer, and again repeated his obels-ance. Sigismund lifted his head and gazed full upon him, not in a manner calculated to make Clarin pleased with

"Who art thou?" said Sigismund, "and what art thou? What do you want? Why do you call my eyes away from this pleasant sight to such a sickly from this pleasant sight to such a slokly prospect as thyself? Away 1 What do you mean by those postures and grim-aces? The n ght is hot, cool thyself, and leave me to better employment." "Tell me again," said Sigismund, ad-dressing the youth, " what and who thou art? When Clotaldus gives me books and teaches me to find their sense, and tells me of a wide world, and multitudes of men, and citics, and kincdoms, and tells me of a whee world, and multitudes of men, and cities, and kingdoms, and oceans, I listen and am pleased with the relation, but cannot understand. I know nothing about it. I take up those know nothing about it. I take up those bones which are strewed around us, and ask him what are they? He says they were once men like me. I cannot be lieve it. How are they thus? He says that they have died. He tells me I shall one day lie down and grow cold, and become such as these. I laugh at that; and yet when I take up those bones I cannot shugh. What is the reason? Everything surprises me. When I am enraged nothing can csim me until my anger wastes itself out, yet

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them :--

ates in the world; I cannot promise you life, but all that I can do you may depend upon.'

Saying this he led them from the prison to the plain on which Basilius intended, on the morning which had now risen, to hold a convention of the highest states of the kingdom, for the purpose of deciding a controversy which had arisen between Princess Estrella, a niece of Basilius, and Astolphus, Prince of Muscovy. He had summoned them both to meet him here, and on the fron-tiers of his kingdow, apprising them that he would there settle all the claims that they could make-recommending them in the meanwhile to live in goodwill as became two scions of the sam stock so nearly united. Estrella sub mitted, because she was peaceably dis-

posed ; Astolpho submitted, because he was ambitious not only of government but of the favor of the lady. They met

and pitched their several camps at the foot of the gray mountain that contained

foot of the gray mountalithat contained the dungeon of Sigismund. The camps, the banners, and the moving myriads of men glittering in their harness were the first objects that caught the eyes of our travellers as they suddenly emerged from the crags. The younger traveller started when he be-had the hanners of Museovr and everything to make the most exact cal-culation that was possible on the nativity of my offspring, and anxiously awaited the moment of my, queen's ill-ness. For many weeks previous to that event, the heavens and the elements had exhausted their prodigies. The night before his mother had a dream-and she held the banners of Muscovy, and Clarin, rubbed his hands and almost saw, and felt a monster too fearful for saw, and felt a monster too leafful for description, rending her womb, and bursting to the light by the unaided effort of his own strength. She shrieked in her slumber—and woke me, I mocked her fancy from her, and bade her be of Clarin, rubbed his hands and almost shouted for joy : he was, however, in-stantly checked in his raptures by a look of Clotaldus, who signified the guards that they should descend by a circuitous route to that part of the plain which was yet unoccupied, and which a single banner of Poland showed was intended for the site of the mon-arch's court. comfort. But the next morning her vision was indeed accomplished fear fully. Never shall I forget that morn.

ion; the chiefs and nobles gathered around, and silence having been proking's address had well nigh sunk to an ember-was relieved by his last words. He resolved again to play the only part claimed, and procured, he thus addressed which his nature prompted him to, and affected to submit cheerfully, partly be-"You all know, my kindred, friends cause he thought he might secure his interests better thereby, partly because he could not help himself. Estrella did

"You all know, my knored, 'Hends and subjects, the occasion for which I have summoned you to meet me here. You know that almost immediately on my accession to the throne of Poland, I took unto my love and my name, a woman, not affect, she assented with gladness of soul. The assembled multitudes seconded whom heaven was not content to spare ns for even the space of one short year. with shouts the request of Astolpho, that their prince might be given to them You know she died in the first travail. as speedily as might be. Basillius joy-fully promised that he should that very and you believe that her issue then perished with her. Of that more anon night be conveyed to the palace, and call-ing on the lord intendant of the household For some months previous to her death, I had anxiously betaken myself to those sciences in which I have attained a to wait on his cousins thither, he rose

and walked toward the rising ground, at a little distance, where Clotaldus knowledge that has procured me the name of wise among the nations, and has won me the life of the pencil of Timanthat a little distance, where Clotaldus with the prisoners abided the result of won me the life of the pencil of Timanth-ers, and the marble of Lissippus. But all the is a hidden woel, a grief that smiles. It is true that I can lock upon the midnight heaven, when, like a mighty tablet, it is opened with its char-acters of fire-and read them, and catch from their sight those glimpses of things to come-those revealments of the pic-ture world, which are the end and aim of the mystic sciences I have pursued. the conference. Him he took aside, and directed at length in what manner he should prepare the prince for the change in his condition, without even by a word or look apprising him of their in-tention. Clotaldus pledged himself to execute all faithfully, and then as the monarch was departing, knelt before him.

"What would ye, Clotaldus ?" asked of the mystic sciences I have pursued. But it is no less true, that I have thus Basillius. " Why, sire," replied the old man been the assassin of my own peace. I may indeed say, that I have found sorrow

this fine youth and his companion have daringly though unknowingly, contrary in my knowledge. I had prepared everything to make the most exact calto the prohibition, entered the precincts of the mount, and—"

The king was surprised at the tremu lous anxiety of the aged chieftain's ut-terance, as he pleaded for the strangers. "Be not troubled," he replied, " had this chanced yesterday, or an earlier day, it would have grieved me. But now that I have made it public, it matters not. Come to me at the court, be fore you leave for Sigismund's prison. I have somewhat more to tell thee. In the meantime, let those strangers go at liberty. Why! I think to detain or harm them, I should punish thee!"

Clotaldus thanked him with warmth and after he had departed, turning to the stranger and Clarin, exclaimed, "you are free." The young Muscovite clasped his knees, and Clarin knelt be-

clasped his knees, and Clarin kneit be-hind the latter, with a very ludicrous expression of gratitude, which however afforded mirth only to the guards, for Clotaldus did not see further than the youth at his feet.

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