

threatened deposition ; but, when France, Spain, Netherlands, the States and Western Isles hailed him vicar, the Emperor, to maintain a semblance of authority, reluctantly approved. (*Rises*). Neither wiles, threats or intimidation, can deter this man of indomitable will.

*Enter MARY L. 2.*

*Harold.* Still ; I—

*Felix.* The mistress Mary.

*Mary.* Choicest favors to you gentlemen.

*Felix.* Most acceptable from so fair a bearer. (*To Harold*). Lend an ear to the dirges of baffled rage. (*Exit Harold R. 1*). A greeting to the choicest of the chosen.

*Mary.* Your pleasantries may be well meant ; but, they sound like a nut without a kernel.

*Felix.* Your ears are out of tune. I offer no libations unworthy of the goddess.

*Mary.* They rest too lightly on lips avowed to woman's hatred.

*Felix.* Mine are not so perjured.

*Mary.* Then report has lone thee ill. It was spoken in the Court.

*Felix.* By some brazen damsel whose vanity craves but cannot command adulation.

*Mary.* I heard it pass from the stately—But, there I must not disclose !

*Felix.* Clodel ! — See ; I finish it. If she spoke personally she did it well. My reputation grows apace ; impudent, insolent, enigmatic, iconoclast ! What more !

*Mary.* It is not enviable. Still, you are as good as the rest.

*Felix.* Which means : I give you sweet drink well dashed with wormwood. How delights your new surroundings ?

*Mary.* There is much freedom yet much restraint.

*Felix.* Good tonics in proper season and in mild doses.

*Mary.* The men are forward ; their speech is prodigal of candor.

*Felix.* It is not nursed in honesty.

*Mary.* The women terrify. My mother would drop of shame heard she stories they relate. It causes the cheeks to mantle blushes—I cannot help it ; then they laugh.

*Felix.* Keep your blushes little one. They are the banners of innocence. Colors that once dipped can never again float !

*Mary.* I long for the valleys where the brooks babble ; the woods where the winds whisper ; the hills that lift their ancient heads to God.

*Felix.* Fitting companions !

*Mary.* My day dreams deceived ! They painted armored knights—champions of justice ; beautiful women—in-