

tance seemed to lack busy tongue or frolicsome gambols;" cried the Chevalier, throwing off the air of gloom which sat so unbecomingly upon him and advancing towards the couched Glenbucket. "Hast thou not some deep plan, weighty operation, or wise scheme, to propose?"

"I mind not thy mockings," replied the stout captain, beginning snarlingly enough, but almost unconsciously speaking in more genial tones as he proceeded; "for words are cheap while the ducats which form my chair will buy commodities without end. Howbeit, there is one thing to which I might call attention. Ye two laggards in watching and warding are doubtless feeling comfortable and satisfied in palate, but I would you might remember that I have been missing at the last two or three meal-hours. Peste! I declare I have not broken my fast since our host's light cakes and fruits of yesterday."

"Plague on it! This gold guarding is worse than the siege of Mens. But was it not hereabouts that Your Highness shot the moose? Prithee try skill upon another like stalking. I dare not venture far but will endeavor to broil some collops of any meat you may procure. Luckily, gold takes no harm from fire-flames. If Master Lieutenant would but kindle me a blaze, I could toast the venison without stirring from my sentry box. Faugh! The thought of the luscious flavor of our last meal upon this spot sets