

"It was evident, that every one who had taken an interest in the festival, stood on the imminent verge of ridicule. It could not be put off without great expense. I went to Lord Blessington, who was one of the stewards, and represented to him how we all stood. After much consideration, it was determined to try how we could work upon the duke; so accordingly, we walked to the Horse Guards together, and got his royal highness's promise to come on condition that nothing should be said about the subscription. The dinner thus passed off 'charmingly well,' with all its constellations, and I dare say is remembered even to this hour; but the monumental group 'lies mouldering in the clay,' nor has the secret of the duke's coming to the barren feast been, till now, disclosed.

"The Duke of York, like all the refined of the human race, had a very civilized regard for choice cookery. Once, at some Scottish feast, or dinner of the Highland Society, I was sitting opposite, when, with an air, the landlord placed before him a *haggis*. It was evidently ill made; the bag was dingy—altogether an ugly, flabby, desultory trencherful of 'fat things.' The duke, alarmed at the apparition, cried to me, 'Galt, what is that?' Fascinated at the sight, I could not resist the temptation, and replied gravely, 'a boiled pair of bagpipes.'—Tell it not in Gath,—even at the risk of being reviled in Scotland for ever, his royal highness immediately ordered the

'Great chieftain of the pudding race'

ignominiously away.

"For the kind notice of the Duke of Sussex, I have now, in the course of a long period,—about seven-and-twenty years,—had frequently occasion to feel indebted. His Royal Highness has always treated me with the greatest condescension; invited me to dine with him at the palace, and to his conversations; but his uniform kindness has been more valued than even these distinctions.

"To the other members of the royal family, I am unknown; but the late king, when he read the 'Spaewife,' was pleased to express a wish that the author should know it had given him much pleasure, and spoke to me on my first introduction at court; an honour, as I was told.

"I mention these things, because the propriety of doing so has been suggested to me; at the same time, that I frankly confess