IN THE CARQUINEZ WOODS.

She raised her eyes to his. There was a slight film across them; the lids were blackened; the beautiful lashes gone for-

aver! "I see you a little now, I think," she said with a smile, passing her hands vaguely over his face. "It must have happened when he fainted and I had to drag him through the blazing brush. Both my hands were full, and I could not cover my eyes."

"Drag whom ?" said Low quickly.

why, Dann." Dunn! He here?" said Low hoarrely. "Yes; didn't you read the note I left on the herbarium? Didn't you come to the camp fire?" she asked hurrledly, clasping his hands. ≪Tell me quickly l"

"No. "Then you were not there—then you didn't

Heave me to die?" "No! I swear it, Teresa !"-the stoicism that had upheld his own agony breaking down

before her strong emotion.

"Thank God!' She threw her arms around

"Tell me all, Teresa," he whispered in her Mstening ear. "Don't move; stay there and tell me all."

With her face buried in his bosom, as if speaking to his heart alone, she told him part, but not all. With her eyes filled with Sears, but a smile on her lips, radiant with new-found happiness, she told him how she ing to say a word that would shatter the hope she was building upon his sudden revalsion of feeling for Nellie. She could not bring herself to repeat their interview-that would come later, when they were safe and out of danger; now, not even the secret of his birth must come between them with its distraction to mar their perfect communion. She faltered that Dunn had fainted from weakness, and that she had dragged him out of danger. "He will never interfere with ms—I mean," she said softly, " with me again.

"Let him pass now," said Low; "that will come later on," he added, unconsciously re- task. Encouraged by her undisguised predi- land. He would, in all provability, he edupeating her thought in a tone that made her lection, and relying on his own merits, which i cated in France in the Catholic faith, and heart sick. "But tell me, Teresa, why did you the ladies of the court had not failed already thus give a death blow to Protestantism. The go to Excelsior?"

She buried her head still deeper, as if to you ever leave me unless you wish it."

entirely convey. For the first time she feit the loss of her sight. She did not know that it was, in this moment of happiness, the

A few moments of silence followed, broken only by the distant roar of the confisgration an hour yet," he whispered, "before the fire has swept a path for us to the read below. We are safe here, unless some sudden current should draw the fire down upon us. You are hir at auch a sacrifice. Yet the possibility of c sec to him now for a moment marred her present happiness and security. "You found me?" she asked softly.

"I think not," he said; "but I will reconnoitre. Stay where you are."

They pressed hands and parted. leaned upon the slanting trunk and second-

bark from the heat, had slipped, made a half momentum a bread opening to the under-

With a cry to Low Teresa staggered to her feet. There was an interval of hidecus silence but no reply. She called again. There was a sudden deepening roar, the blast of a fierv furnace swept through the opening, a thousand luminous points around her burst into fire, and in an instant she was lost in a whirl. wird of smoke and fisme! From the onset of its fury to its culmination twenty minutes did mot elapse; but in that interval a radius of two hundred vards around the hidden spring was swept of life and light and motion.

For the rest of that day and part of the might a pall of smoke hung above the scene of desolation. It listed only toward the morning, when the moon, riding high, picked out in black and silver the shrunken and stient columns of these roofless vaults, shorn of base and capital. It flickered on the still overflewing pool of the hidden spring, and shone upon the white face of Low, who, with a socilet of the fallen tree holding him down like an arm across his breast, seemed to be sleeping peacefully in the sleeping water.

Contemporaneous history touched him as bricay, but not as gently. "It is now definitely ascertained," said the Slumgullion Mirror, * that Sheriff Dupn met his fate in the Carquincz Woods in the performance of his duty, that fearless man having received information of the concealment of a band of horse thieves in their recesses. The desperadocs are presumed to have escaped, as the only remains found are those of two wretched tramps, one of whom is said to have been a digger, who supported himself upon roots and herbe, and the other a degraded half white woman. It is not unreasonable to suppose that the fire originated through their caretessness, although Father Wynne of the First Baptist Church, in his powerful discourse of last Sunday, peinted at the warning and lesson of such catastrephes. It may not be out of place here to say that the rumors regarding the engagement between the pastor's accomplished caughter and the late lamented Sheriff are niterly without foundation, and it has been an on dit for some time in all well-informed cir. cles that the indefatigable Mr. Brace, of Welle, Farge & Co.'s Express, will shortly lead the lady to the hymeneal alter." BRET HARTE.

THE MED.

CHAPTER I.

Hampton Court, during the early part of Elizabeth's reign, was a busy, bustling place. Never before or since her accession has the history of England presented such a crowd of embassadors, suitors, petitioners, poets, painters, and court dependants generally, as then swarmed round the person of the sove-teign. Hardly was she seated on the throne, land and Scotland. He was, in the opinion when nearly every royal house in Europe sent forth a suitor for her hand, or an envoy sort of their queen. Again Elizabeth interto negotiate a matrimonial alliance. Sweden, posed to prevent the match, by naming Dad-Spain, France, and many of the ducal seve regritles, vied with each other who should be first to sue for the hand of the young queen. These were met by less distinguished aspirants from amongst her own subjects and her Scottish neighbors, all equally eager for the prize.

It was like running a race, where every one jostled his competitors out of Nor was it young gailants the way. him and hid her aching eyes in his troubled only who carried their pretensions to the throne, but sires and grandsires, dressed up in the stiff, fantastic costume of the times, were to be seen at every entrance to the court, elbowing a passage to the footstuol of

the govereign. Yet there was one whose pretensions met mew found happiness, she told him how she inform the resder we mean the celebrated another princess. After this direct refusal had everheard the plans of Dunn and Brace, how she had stolen their conveyance to warn the Duke of Northumberland. Of a noble affected to think, after more mature contains in time. But here she stopped, dreading to say a word that would shatter the conveyance to say a word that would shatter the countenance, and captivating menuers, he soon found himselt occupying a place in the queen's thoughts which he once believed he never could have dered to aspire to. He who but a few years before attempted, with the dake, his father, to remove Elizabeth from the succession, and for that crime was attainted, found himself at longth, after many preferments, master of the quien's horse and knight of the garter. Constantly self, she was exasperated beyond measure. at court, and obliged by his office to be cortinually near the person of the queen, be I can promise you that as well as if he had availed himself of every opportunity to of the Scotch to their sovereign. The issue sworn it." he found this an easy se well as a pleasant | not marrying, would yet be sovereign of Eng. to acknowledge, he was bold, confident, and soon successful. The quoen and Dudley behide it. He felt her broken heart beat came at length inseparable. He appeared against his own; he was conscious of a depth | beside her at court, in the Parliament house, of feeling her rival had never awakened in in the streets of the city, and in her if prohim. The possibility of Teresa loving him gresces" through the kingdom. Married to had never occurred to his simple nature. He an imple and lovely wemen, he favorite, and the only man she would accept the head and kissed her. She was denied her the privilege of her rank, temptuouslybythe widowed queen of a competiate her band, and said: "We will his baronial residence. Lest her boanty insignificant province. What, then, then, the province will be a competiately insignificant province. What, then, then, then the competition of t leave this accurred place, and you shall go might excite the jealousy of his with me as you said you would; nor need royal mistress. At length scandalous circulate regardreports began to She could hear the beating of her own ing the queen's intimacy with Dudley. At heart through his words; she lorged to look home and abroad, tongues were busy with her read the meaning his voice alone could not suspicione her intimacy with the handsome surgents, and before the European powers earl had necessarily provoked, took no means to contradict them. Mither she was too much infetuated by her love to dismiss him, or she ast blessing vouchsafed to her miserable affected to be too high minded to care for such vague rumors. In vain did Cacil and Walsingham use all their efforts to blacken | But it cannot be helped now. It is there in the character of Dudley in her eyes, and and the crash of falling boughs. "It may be thue induce her to abandon the unhappy intercourse. She was deaf to all their representations. Cecil went even so far as to instruct Jones, his secretary in France, to come | no doubt, sometimes stopped to think what over and report to her in private the remarks | could have been the cause of her continued not frightened?" She pressed his hand; she of the Venetian and Spanish ambassadors attachment to him through all the jealousies was thinking of the pale face of Dunn, lying concerning her friendship for Dudlay, and in the secure retreat she nad purchased for the infamy attached to his name on the continent. She laughed at them all, and conferred still higher honors on her favorite.

think the fire will not go north of where you fortunate Mary Stuart, on the death of her the man who often treated her with indifferhusband, the dauphin, had returned to Scot-land, and assumed the title of heir presump-clurg to, with a fidelity that, in so capriclous As he entered the priva five to the English crown. In the event of a woman, is certainly without a parallel. Even Elizabeth dying without issue, she laid claim when old age came to bring her its wrinkles to the sovereignty of both klugdoms. And and gray bairs, and her favorite, once so handed it rapidly. She waited in mute expects- as Elizabeth had made a public and solomn some, became the bald and palsied libertine, declaration not to marry, it was not at all imthere was a sudden movement of the root
probable the Scottish queen, being the all this, which her historians and panegyrists
on which she sat, a dealening crash and she
yenger, would yet succeed her on the have affected to regard beyond their reach, was thrown forward on her face. The vast throne. In that event, the Protest but of which the chronicles of those times bulk of the leaning tree, dislodged from its tant religion, which Elizabeth was will furnish the impartial reader an energy, and, needed support by the gradual sapping of the now resolved at all risks, to established we doubt not, satisfactory explanation. spring at its roots, or by the crumbling of the tablish, would, in all likelihood, be checked for years, if not entirely abolished. She rerevolution, and, falling, overbore the lesser solved, therefore, to try every means to pre-trees in its path, and tors in its resistless clude the possibility of such a rational clude the possibility of such a rational disaster, well knowing that, in working out her plans, she would be backed by the counsel and sympathy of the most powerful of her subjects. But in addition to this political did dread of Mary Stuart, she felt an undying round the person of a sovereign, jealousy of her charms and accomplishments than were to be found among —a jealousy that never slumbered for a single those who welcomed the young monarch to moment, from the time she first saw her at the court of Edward, till she at length out off her head on the block at Fotheringay.

When it was first proposed, by the Scottish Parliament, that Mary should marry, in and many a loyal heart beat high with pride, order to secure the succession to the family as Mary, seated on her milk-white palfrey, of the Stuarte, Elizabeth, fully alive to the consequences, determined to place every porsible obstacle in the way. On receiving a cold and cautious bigot forgot his sectarian letter from Mary, informing her of the pro. animosity and captivated by her graceful once caused herself to be proposed as Mary's rival, vainly believing ber own charms and the crown of England would be preferred to those of her Scottleh elster. But finding that Ferdinand, the emperor, was not dis-posed to be duped a second time by her insincere and tortuous policy, and therefore would not entertain the proposal, she despatched her minister, Randolph, to Scotland with instructions to impress upon the Scot-tisb queen the necessity of choosing for a husband one who would be likely to perpetuate the friendship already existing between the two crowns; insinuating thereby that the archduke was not a fit person to carry out such amicable deeigns-being nominated by the Cardinal of Lorraine, who would giadly see the crown of England a fiel of France. Having succeeded in this, she persovered, still covertly opposing the marriage; always finding some weighty objection to the various suffers as they successively appeared, and yet publicly expressing a longing desire to see her eleter provided with a worthy husband. And thus she brought about the rejection of the Dukes of Ferrare, Anjou, Nemoure, and Or-leans. In order, however, to convince the public that she refused her consent to the marriage of the above-named parties from pure love of her sister and for the welfare of the two kingdoms, and not from any jealous apprchension, she herself proposed a husband for the Queen of Scots. Who was he? was asked on every side. The nobility of both realms, suspecting he was a subject of Queen Elizabeth, formed various surmises as to the individual. Mary herself was kept for some

time in profound ignorance of the choice,

out a moment's hesitation, assuring the envoy, that even if Lefoester were not a subject, she would be loth to remove from the presence of her royal sleter a nobleman so presence of her royal stater a monitorial and dear to her heart. This was not what Eliza- dear to her heart. This was not what Eliza- her subjects in reference to her marriage, and beth expected. Indeed, the general belief her subjects in reference to her marriage, and her subjects in reference to her marriage. would accept Dudley, in order that, with a better grace, she might marry him herself.

At length Darnley was proposed. He was subject, it is true, but yet a cousin of Elizaboth, grandson of the Princess Margaret, and of the well-affected of her nobles, a fit conposed to prevent the match, by naming Dadley a second time; and, to enhance the offer, created him Earl of Leicester. She informed Mary, if she accepted him, she would, as soon as possible, consider her claim to the succession, and probably admit if, provided she herself had made up her mind, as was very probable, to live a single life. This conduct, on the part of Elizabeth, at length awoke in Mary Stuart feelings of disguet. She told the English envoy she had already rejected suitore from almost every royal house in Europe to please his sovereign, and that she would no longer sacrifice her inclinations to satisfy one whose sole object was to make her unhappy; and that, as for Leicester, she sup-posed Elizabeth had already determined on making him her owe, but had waited with more favor from the young queen than till such time as he might enhance his did those of all others; and we need hardly value by the rejection of the hand of and at last approved if, going even so far as to send Mary letters of recommendation.

But when she understood that Mary had actually married Darnley at Holyrood House, her indignation against Randolph knew no bounds. It was owing to his solemn assurance that the match would not go on, she had given her consent and approval; and now caught in the net she had laid for her-Thus all her schemes had failed to prevent the marriage, and so weaken the attachment

prospect of such an event would naturally injure the interest of the Protestant cause, even during her own lifetime, and expose her to But on the other dangers of every kind. hand, she might prevent all these results by her own marriage. True, but Leicester was was Elizabeth to do? she had the choice of two is conveyed to prison. thinge, namely, to induce Mary, by promises or threats, to relinquish the right of euccergion, or, it she falled in that, to prevent it, and to prevent it in time, whilst France naturally surgents, and before the European powers could muster to the aid of Scotland. In the first design she felled; and now she was busy in prosecuting the second. How she succeeded is a fact, which would to God had never been written on the page of history.

characters of blood, and will remain forever. ala ! to disgrace our poor humanity. But to return to Leicester. The most cursory reader of the history of Elizabeth has, and quarrels that history records to have arisen between these two remarkable personages. She tired of all her lovers, one after another-Occil, Hatton, Baleigh, Pickering,

OHAPTER II.

Mary Stuart, the ill-fated queen, had arrived in Scotland, and taken possession of her kingdom, amid the smiles of the many and the frowns of the few. Never, perhaps, devoted hearts more her realm, and followed in her triumphal precossion, from the pier of Leith to her palace of Holyrcod, on the 19th of August, 1561. Many a gallant Scot waved his tartan bonuet saluted her loving subjects that evening on her way to the bereditary castle. Even the cold and cautious bigot forgot his sectarian posal of marriage by the Archduke of mica and transcendent loveliness, joined for a Austria, Elizabeth, to prevent the match, at | time in the general welcome. Who, that beheld so auspicious a commencement of her reign, could have thought it would close so soon and so terribly? Who, that listened to those shouts of welcome, those prayers poured forth that day from the hearts of thousands upon her young head, could have imagined that, in a few years, that face, so chaste, so pale, so trusting, and so beautiful, would yet lie, covered with its own blocd, under the axe of the executioner? But so it was. In the midst of that pageantry, and all

that loyal greeting, there were some dark brows drawn down, and some evil thoughts at work, even while the joyous procession passed. Men were there, who, whilst they joined in the general jubileo, and marched nearest to the person of their sovereign, were yet devising means to rob her of her honor and her life. Traitors were there who, whilst their young queen's hands pressed her throbbing bosom in speechless gratitude for their professions of love, hept their eyes averted from her face, like the assassin who the beauty of his victim

might deprive him of power to kill.

Mary had reached Holyrood, and taken possession of her encestral halls surrounded by the chivalry of Scotland and many of the fair dames of France. She had at last escaped the toils laid for her so industriously by her royal sister. Her good ship had carried har safely across the channel, through the midst of the English craisers, and she felt now like a child, who, flying from death thinks all danger is ever as soon as she reaches the threshold of her home. But alas! she was mistaken; her home afforded her but lietle protection. True, the sword of steel could not easily reach her there, but the sword that cuts and kills as surely, the two-sdged sword

honor, without which the grave itself is a blessing; sy, even when the passage to it lies

between the dungeon and the block.

The Parliament of Scotland, soon after Elizabeth, too, was not tardy in her manifes. tations of regard for the happiness of her sister and the welfare of her kingdom. She had many a sultor to propose for the hand of the young widow. But Mary steadily withheld her consent; always ready with one objection or another to the nominees of her cabinet, and always clearsighted enough to detect in all the husbands of Elizabeth's choice some political mansauvre to effect, or some foreign relation to strengthen. In fact, Mary Stuart had resolved on wedding Darnley, the man of her own choosing, and was too candid and too honorable to encour-

age others. Peace was already proclaimed by Charles IX, between England and France, and Elizabeth had now more leisure to pursue her designs on her rival sister, and mature those plans regarding the succession which her troubles abroad had so long interrupted. Every possible agon: y was now set to work at the Scotch court, and every imaginable inducement held out to the most disaffected or corruptible of the Scotch nobles, to abandon the cause of their royal mistress. Sir Nichclas Throckmorton was sent as ambassador, with secret instructions to take measures with the Lord James Stuart, now Earl of Murra, the Duke of Castleherault, and the Earls of Argyle and Routhes, for preventing the marriage of Darnley, and placing Murray at the head of the government. When Elizabeth first beard of Mary's intention to wed Darnley, she saw in an instant, as we have already stated, that his birth and royal connections would give him an influence over the Parliament which would be soon impossible for her to control, and therefore she determined to use all possible means to prevent the union. In the beginning she dissembled her dissatisfaction at the news, and even went so far as to send Mary letters of congratulation on her choice. But she scon changed her tone.

At this time the Counters of Lenox, mother of Lord Darnley, was in London enjoy-ing the pleasures of the English court and the smiles of its queen. Suddenly she found herselfa prisoner, and before she could ascertain the cause, or communicate with her friends, was lodged in the Tower.

Shrockmorton was again despatched in all possible haste to Edinburgh, to revoke the royal permit given to Lord Lenox to visit Scotland, and to summon him and Darnley to return to England, forthwith, under pain of fortifiture of their estator.

On the same week, John Hay, a messenger from Mary to Elizabeth, on reaching London

It was on the morning of his arrest, and about the hour of noon, after the secretary, Sir William Cooli, had left the royal apartments, looking grave and solemn as usual, that a page, in gaudy livery, was observed to run down a private stairway, and addressing a man who had been promeneding the passage for som - time, apparently expecting a summons, as Sir Thomas Plimpton informed him that her majesty had commanded his immediate presence in her private audience chamber. He instantly turned to obsy the royal order.

Sir Thomas Plimpton was a man about thirty years of uge, of thin, ascetic aspect, tall, bony figure, somewhat awaward in his sair, and seemingly of great muscular power. He were his hair short at the poli,—a thing thon very unusual at court,-a high, stiff cravat, and a ruff, of many plaits and of large dimensions, round his thin neck. His visage, long and dark, and naturally repuleive, was rendered still more forbidding by the pointed At the period of which we write, the un- with a score of others of lesser note; and yet | mustache, and black (yebrows shaved down to a straw's breadth and dyec, as was also his

As he entered the private addler ber, he was met by the Countess of Harrington, carrying a casket of jewels, from which the queen had just selected a bracelet to be cent as a present to her royal eleter. As the countess made her last obeisance on quitting the room, Elizabeth recalled her.

The queen was sitting muffled in an arm chair, richly carved and gilt, before a table covered with dresses of the newest French pattern, and a woman, who, by her language and mode of address, seemed to be a Parisian, stood opposite her majesty, holding a looking glass in her hand. Elizabeth had taken up and laid down, in quick succession, a number of head dresses, none of which appeared to enit her fancy or her purse. She made various inquiries, as she handled the different articles, concerning the tastes of the ladies at the French court-of their habits and dis. positions, particularly those of Catherine de Medicis, in whom she seemed to take a particular interest; so that a stranger could hardly say whether she was more intent on making a choice or prolonging a gessip.

Plimpton, as he entered the room, seeing the queen engaged, remained standing with-in the threshold, his back resting against the wall; and though Elizabeth saw him there, seemed to think his presence ne bar to her convergation.

"Harrington, what thinkest thou of that green velvet?" said Blizzbeth, polating to the article on the table, and then folding her ample shawl closer round her shoulders, though the weather was warm enough to have the windows open.

The countess took it up to examine. "We think," pursued Elizaboth, "it suits not our complexion; besides, it is by far too

costly for a purse se empty as ours." "My gracious madam," replied the sourtess, " your majesty must not forget thyself in thy thrift to save the pockets of thy surfects."

brings many cares with it. If God hath made every thought of familiar associations with us a great steward, he will also demand of us her-two would have thee know, there are but a great account of our stewardship. Woll, three men whom we have been pleased to trust but the blue, there; what thinkest theu of the, with the conduct of our affairs touching the blue, and the agate buttons?"

"Your majorty hath already one of that pattern, and worn but once." "He, and by our faith, we had almost for-

gotten it; we were it at our last audience of the French am bassador—eb, is it not so?" "The same, madem."

"And hast heard any tidings yet of the buttone lost on that occasion?" she demanded. Have they been found?'s

The countess replied in the negative. "Then let my waiting women see to it These buttons cost us more than we could conveniently dispense, were it not for the folding her arms under ker shawl, honer of our crown; and we tell thee, coun- and putting on a look of stern tess, if they be not forthcoming, our women's resolve, "we swear by our royal selves, that if wages this year will require but small wallets to hold them."

" His grace of Canterbury will so make up the less, please your majesty, that thy faithful servants may well be forgiven this one poer mishap.'
"Ab, how's that. Harrington?"

Mr. Chas. Smith, of Jimes, Ohio, writes:
have used every remedy for Sick Headache
could hear of for the past fifteen years, but
arter's Little Liver Pills did me mere good
t. Doubless your majesty kneweth that the fine consideration of thy Christian merits
of soandal, which no walls can shut out, could
worthy prelate hath ordered many rich and
yet find its way to asperse her fair fame—to
the fine delay, it began
of soandal, which no walls can shut out, could
worthy prelate hath ordered many rich and
yet find its way to asperse her fair fame—to
this strange
from the satistic of the past fifteen years, but
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selection of thy Christian merits
as because of thy usefulness in our service,
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solly ornaments for yeur majesty kneweth that the
worthy prelate hath ordered many rich and
solly ornaments for yeur majesty kneweth
when at length, after a painful delay, it began
of the call the fill of the could worthy prelate hath orde "Doubiless your majesty kneweth that the

"Ha! sayest thou so? And by our royal word, we need them much. As for the good archbishop, he hath been ever thoughtful of us, knowing, as well he might, how poorly our treasury hath been supplied. Well, that changes the case, my good Mistress Delavere, so thou'd better take thy wares to the other ladies about the court; we shall none of them at present. Moreover, we promised an audience to that disconsolate gentleman at the door,"-looking towards Plimpton,-"and would fain despatch him without further delay. So take thy wares with thee, good woman, and Dame Fortune send thee

better customers." As the Countess of Harrington and the French woman left the reom, and Sir Thomas Plimpton approached, the queen drew herselt up a little, and rubbed her hands across her forehead, as if to drive away all minor thoughts, in order to make room for verently, but did not presume to touch her hand.

"Well, Sir Thomas Plimpton, how go on affairs in Scotland?" began Elizabeth, looking round at the different doors of the apartment, and again drawing the shawl closer about her shoulders.

"Please your majesty, as well as might be expected. There be many noble hearts in Scotland, devoted to the welfare of your majesty's person and throne.'

"Hast seen my Lord Murray? and how fares his lordship?" Well, my gracious madam; and hath charged me with assurances of his hearty attachment to your grace's interests and those

of the church." "And Argyle and Routhes; what say they

of the royal marriage?" "That, the Bishop of Dunblane having reached Edinburgh unknown to them, and prevent the marriage without serious injury to your grace's cause."

"Pugh!" ejaculated Elizabeth; "they faltered when they should have struck. Some men there are too chicken-hearted to kill flies in a butcher's stall. Well?"

"Every thing is being arranged for a more fitting occasion, and the ulmost care taken that nothing in Scotland shall long interfere between your majesty and your majesty's pleasure.

"So thou hast nothing to communicate in any wise differing from our last despatches?" Nothing, please your majesty.

Elizabeth now turned her keen eyes upon her visitor, and looked at him intently for a moment, as it deliberating whether she would edmit him further late her confidence.

" Hast not heard," she said, rather abrupily of an intercepted correspondence between France and Edinburgh?

"Not I, your grace. Hath there been euch?" "Ay, doubtless there hath. Thinkest thou

the interests of Rome require not such between the cardinal and Mary Stuart?' "Weil assured am I madem, the Cardinal of Lorraine hath not been idle since the return

of his pupil to Holyrood; but I thought your majesty alluded to an actually intercepted correspondence." "We have merely inquired, observed Eliza-

betb. "knowing such a correspondence to be maintained, and foolishly thinking we had some in our service clever enough to intercept i rightly."

Plimpton felt at a loss how to reply to this hint.

"Dost not see," pursued the queen, "the value of such a packet, in the present state of Scotland, when the army of the Congregation | daughter?" requires all the help it can gather from every source ?"

Plimpton ventured to glance at Etizabeth for a second, and saw a psculiar expression on her lip, and a side look in her eye, that spoke to him plainer than she would dore venture in words. He caught her meaning in an instaut.

"It is probable, madam, that the vigilance cepted some such papers since I had conference last with the Scottish nobles; and now that your grace hath pricked my dull memory," he said, laying his fore finger to his forehead, ' let me think—truly yes—I do remember some such vague report, on my setting out from Edinburgh."

"Ha! we thought then hadet forgotten," observed Elizabeth, smiling contemptuously at the slave before her. "But pray, Sir Thomas, didst ever see this queen's cipher and handwriting?"

Plimpion replied in the negative.

"Here they are, ther," she promptly answered, opening a drawer in the table, and handing him two papers; "and thou wouldst do well to study both, sir. Who knoweth how soon thou mights! find good use for thy knowledge of such matters?"

Again Plimpton looked up, and saw the same expression on her lip and the same glance in her eye.
"Put them up, sir; put them up," she said:

it is surely not in the royal presence thou wor de commence so tedious a study."

S thoras bowed, and committed the to his pocket.

Scotch queen," resumed Eliza-11 69 esch, ' a essaped our cruisors, reached Helps '; refused our choice of a husband, marting Damley, and declined a conference with as at York respecting the succession; and yet the ____ " The queen hesitated and looked up; her eyes met those of the tell, illfavored knight, fixed upon her with intense earnestuces. Both averted their looks at the same instant, and Elizabeth moved uneasily in her chair, as if the felt embarrassed under his gazo. She soon rallied, however, and, fearing she had gone too far, resumed in analtered tone :-

"We wish thee to understand, Sir Thomas Pllmptom" she said, with increased dignity "Ar, counters, this sovereignty of the state of manner, as if she would repress in him kingdom of Scotland, namely, Sir Nicholas Throckmortor, Master Thomas Randolph, and Sir Thomas Plimpton, the last mention. ed of whom will, for make of seme very weighty reasons, be careful and prudent, and do his office with due regard to the honor of his severeign. Of the other two we need not further speak. They have given sufficient guaranty of their faithfulness. To these we have granted full powers to set out our wishes in reference to the interests of the church in Scotland, and the succession to the Beitish Crown. And now," she added, they, or either of them, by accident or design, we care not which, intermix us in their secret affairs, to the injury of our reputation, which has been ever bitherte in good keeping, the guilty shall die without trial and without respite. For thyself, Master Plimp. ton, we have knighted thee, not so much in consideration of thy Christian merits

we expect that all affairs of a certain character, intrusted to thy keeping, be conducted without regard to our knowledge of them. Plimpton bowed again.

"And take thee care," she continued, "that our favor do not make thee over hold to run thy head into a noose, trusting to our royal hand to release thee; for, by our princely word of honor, we shall curse ves be the first to strangle thee for thy presumption." Such forewarning, however, was, in this in-

stance, quite unnecessary. Plimpton had studied well the character and disposition of

the woman with whom he had to deal. When

he took service under Bandolph and Throckmorten, he was soon made aware of the dangers to which his scoret duties wovid expose him. He saw clearly that his life depended on his caution; for the moment any blunder of his tended to compromise the queen, his head would fall ere he could utter a word those which she knew were soon to occupy in defence. Though he was now three years her mind. Plimpton beat his knee re- or more in her employment, Elizabeth had never once directly intrusted him with the management of an intrigue at the Scotch court or elsewhere. She never gave him any direct handle by which he could successfully inculpate her, in the event of an unforeseen exposure. And so it was in her dally intercourse with her various other employees. Whether in her plots to compass the rule of Mary Stuart, or in alding the Hugusnots, or in her diplomatic relations with foreign powers, she took especial care that no agent of hers had whereby to charge her with criminal or dishonorable interference. She could smile her assent and frown her refusal, but there was no word or overt act to endanger her honor. As for Plimpton, he was a man every way fit for her purposes; cautious, persevering, insinuating, and devoid of all moral principle. Full of avarice and ambition, he was prepared to sacrifice every thing for wealth and titles. But what published the banne, it was impossible to afforded her the strongest feeling of security was, that Plimpton had no family connection, and was therefore the fittest to trust in the cannon's mouth; for if he fell, there was no troublescene friends to take any interest in his fate.

"Well," said Elizabeth, after a pause, during which she gazed vacantly on the table, and kept tapping it with the handle of her fan-" well," she said, looking up suddenly, and turning a little more towards her visitor, now that we have said so much of these perplexing affaire, and, we trust, being sufficiently explicit, pray what is the object of this audience? Thou must make thy story short, sir; for our physician will otherwise irterrupt us in his concern for our health,

which, we grieve to say, is none of the best," "I humbly crave your majesty's pardon," began Plimpton, "for having -

"Well well, sir, proceed," interrupted the queen, impatient of his presence now that her own business had been settled; "what wouldst thou?" "I should ever regret to cause one mo-

ment's pain ---"Enough, sir, exough; we are much be-

holden to thee. But to the purpose." "Your majesty hath doubtless forgotten amid the weighty cares of state that daily occupied your mejesty's gracious thoughts, the small matter I had the bonor of laying be-

fore your majesty in April last. "Ab, yes; something concerning an old man and his daughter, if we remember

"The same, your grace."

"Ab, well." "I am sgain a petitioner at your majesty's

" Proceed, sir; what of the old man and his "I have tended the oath of supremacy to

the one, and my hand to the other." " Ha, hs! thy hand, man!" laughed Elizabeth, who never could bear the sight of an ongainly figure, "thy hand! By our faith, Magter Plinepton, she was little likely to fall in love with thy hands; and, for the rest of thee, methinks there's but little terbelie the

relationship. Hands and feet, head and necis, have a strong family resemblance He, ha! And the maiden refused to have

" Both, madam, have refused, and most contemptnously."

"With all thy recommendations of purse and person, titles and ancestors. Gade me! And how name ye the stlly wench?" "Wentworth, please your majesty; Alice Wentworth."

"Wentworth! We have heard the name before -- Wentworth."

"Daughter of Sir Geoffrey Wentworth, of Brockton, in Worcesterabire." "An old map, of great learning and eccen-

tric habits-is it not so? "The same, please your majesty, and an inveterate enemy of the church withal." "A stanch recusant, ch? ready to renounce

his allegiance to us at the bidding of the Pop a." He had the boldness to laugh most irreverently when I tendered him the cath under your grace's sanction, particularly at that part touching your mejesty's spiritual supre-

"Pugh, man! we were prepared for all that. But what thinks he of the Pops's temporal power? That's what concerns us most:" and her brows contracted as she put the queetion, "What thinks be of that? Are we to be bastardized and deposed at his pontifical ned?"

"I erave your grace's pardon," responded Plimpton, still standing bent, and bowing be-fore her. "I have not dered to hazard such a question, fearing the answer might provoke me to extremities."

"Ay, thy loyalty would have been put to too severe a trial," quietly observed Eliza-bet's, smiling incredulously at the sycophant. "But thou wouldst marry the daughter, ch?"

Plimpton assented. "The girl, or her lands?"

"Both, your majesty."
"And mayhap convert her?"

"With God's help and your grace's." "But of the knight what wouldst thou?" "As your majesty pleaseth to direct." "Thou art well informed of the penalty for

"I am, your majesty." "Well, wouldst expatriate or hang him-

efusing to swear on the second tender?

which?" " It might be unnecessary to do either; his daughter, once converted, might convert him."

O, thou art concerned for their so safety, art thou? Well, Master, or rather Six Thomas, Plimpton, we rejoice to see thee so ghostly given. But as to the further enforcement of the cath, we have our own opinions, and therefore must take more time to consider thy petition. As respects the maiden, we shall inquire how she carrieth herself in this matter."

Plimpton saw that the Brockton estate, which he had so long set his heart upon, was slipping through his fingers by a single thoughtiess answer. Instead of replying as he did to her mejesty's question regarding Sir Geoffrey Wentworth's dostrinal opinions, had he promptly assured her of his bigoted faith in the Pope's deposing power, he would have, in all prebability, obtained the object of his wishes; but, like seme others of her confidential servants, he was ignorant of her

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