

THE KING OF RO-LAND.

By R. L. FARBER.

XII.

Thereupon ensued such a clamor as I never before heard in the Cabinet. They

were agitated at the suggestion. They

looked at each other with eager and

inflamed faces, according to their tempera-

ments. What! The King, in his sacred

person, who was to the people a symbol

of right and might and power and glory

to so far forget his position as to ex-

pose these common agitators! All pre-

cedent would be outraged by such a pro-

ceeding. The King interposed them

here.

"Precedent! precedent!" he cried.

"And are we to be forever gov-

erned by those we have, and never make

a new one out of our enlarged knowledge

and advancing civilization? Are we for-

ever to be turned from the contemplation

of a course which we conceive to be

right, because it has never been trodden

before?"

They adopted another line of defense.

"The Quosquilis and Whortleberries were

worthy of high notice, these members

of their societies and associations were

of the very lowest class."

"But tell me," said the King, "are not

four-fifths of my people of the lowest

class?"

They were compelled to admit that this

was so.

"Well, then," he continued, "what

should be legislated for—the many or the

few?"

Still they insisted that the person

spoken of belonged to the rabble, whom

it would be folly to recognize.

"But," he demanded, "what if they

force themselves upon your recognition?"

"They have not forced themselves upon

ours," they replied, loquaciously.

"Upon which he related to them what he

termed 'The Parable of the Trees.'

"It is a fine and fertile tract of land

numbered of half the acre with the trees

heads raised constantly to the skies. At

their feet languished an infinite variety

of small flowers and shrubs, whose mem-

bers, in comparison with the trees, were

as ten to one. Without any

thought of their lumber brethren, these

trees grew and grew, and spread

their branches wider and wider until, in

course of time, they absorbed all the

light and air which it was in the power

of nature to bestow. 'Look ye, my

condition,' cried the smaller flowers,

'and keep yourselves within bounds, so

that we may enjoy the full measure of

the sweet light and fresh breeze, which are

as necessary to our well-being as the

sun and the rain. If ye should

spread your branches so far that ye

should intercept the sun and the rain,

and thus deprive us of the light and

the rain, we should wither and die.

'Not one of the lumber trees could see

the slight application of this parable,

which nevertheless they were bound to

listen with respect. They perceived their

solitudes; they begged the King to

reconsider his decision. The harder they

begged, the more obstinate he became.

His rose and said:

"My lords, in three days from this I

shall receive the Quosquilis and

Whortleberries, and shall listen to what

they have to say."

Then he left it to them. All the foolish ones

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