

But how is it possible to supply an apt name, unless there be a similitude of characters? If so, how a libel, unless it be such to speak truth, and scourge vice? Good fame is the reward of virtue; bad, the punishment of vice. Now rewards and punishments are the hinges, the poles on which all government turns, both human and divine. Would you rob virtue of her arms? And ease vice of her terrors? Tell me not of the magistrate's office; his ends with a single act; a bad reputation is a constant punishment. The objection implies, the chastisement of the magistrate is ineffectual, and inferior to the constant reproach of the world. Wicked men are afraid of those reproaches, they are nettled with them. They are always cung with the charge of their old crimes, or present vices. What a contradiction is man! that he cannot bear, to hear himself charged with the guilt of those vices, which he dares constantly to practise.

*Video meliora proboque,  
Et deteriora sequor.*

As the punishment, which the magistrate inflicts, is soon over, and a constant dread of reproach attends the guilty, to debar reproaching men with their crimes, is to take away one curb on vice, nay a principal one; and to rob virtue of one of the chief parts of her armour, with which she combats the monster. If a good name be an incitement to virtue, a bad name is a restraint on vice. Not to publish a man's wickedness is to expose the innocent to his snares. But, according to some, the bare relating a crime, a man has been guilty of, is a libel; such corrupt mean fools have been found in the law, to screen the guilty great from the punishment of reproach; but all has been offered under the specious pretext of protecting the innocent; whereas innocence soon cures the bite of slander by her own balm, and has in herself her own consolation under reproach. Thus much by way of prelude; we come now to the story.

In the kingdom of Hungary there lived two great lords, whose estates were parted only by the river *Drave*. The name of one was count *Grandarotsky*, and the name of the other was *Bullafinsky*. Count *Grandarotsky* had been a miner for many years, and had, by his success, very much enlarged his estate, his interest, and his power; which rendered him extremely vain, insolent and turbulent towards his neighbours. Count *Bullafinsky* was advised by his stewards and tenants in chief, to try his luck in mining likewise; in order, to be in a condition, to protect his neighbours, and to oppose by his riches any unjust attempt *Grandarotsky* might make on his property, by setting