

"BETTER TO SUFFER WITHOUT CAUSE, THAN TO HAVE CAUSE FOR SUFFERING."

at the palace at Copenhagen, when the young queen (who had danced most of the evening with Struensee) retired about two o'clock in the morning to her chamber. Two hours later on, the Queen-Dowager and her party entered the king's apartment, and informed him falsely that Matilda was at that moment engaged with Struensee, his brother, and another of his ministers, Brandt (a young nobleman) in drawing up an act of renunciation of the crown, which they purposed compelling him to sign. Christian immediately signed an order for the arrest of Struensee and Brandt, and also an order for the queen to remove instantly from Copenhagen. Count Rantzau, the minister for Foreign Affairs (who owed his elevation to Struensee) with several officers with drawn swords, proceeded to the queen's apartments, and they immediately seized the queen, who, shrieking and resisting, was placed in a carriage, and driven with great speed to the castle of Cronborg, where she was immured, with her infant daughter, whom she was suckling at the time—an English lady of her suite being her companion in misery. Next night, to mark the event, there was an illumination of Copenhagen, and in a few days the Queen-Dowager and her party had taken possession of the reins of government, and had removed every one that had adhered either to the unfortunate queen or Struensee.

The unlucky Struensee and his companions were speedily put upon their trial before a special and secret commission, composed entirely of those who had plotted his ruin. A forced confession was obtained from Struensee, and he was declared to be guilty of adulterous connection with the queen, and of other high crimes; and both he and Brandt were condemned to die the death of traitors—which consisted in the right hand being first cut off, and then the head. Struensee made a forced confession that he had conducted a criminal intrigue with Matilda—but even after this, both he and Brandt were beheaded.

Evidence was obtained against the queen in a most artful manner, by showing her the confession of Struensee, intimating that he would, if it were discovered that he had falsely criminated her, be put to a cruel death. "What," exclaimed Matilda, "do you think if I were to confirm his declaration I should save the life of that unfortunate man?" A low bow was the answer, and the queen immediately took a pen to put her signature to his confession, but fainted away after writing the first syllable of her name. A suit of divorce was then instituted against the queen, and several of her servants, who had been placed as spies over her, were examined, and swore to a number of suspicious and apparently criminating facts. She admitted that she had been guilty of many little follies and indiscretions, but was totally innocent of the grave charge laid against her. The commission found her guilty, and pronounced sentence of divorce. There is every probability that she would have been executed, or at the least, immured for life in a state prison, had not George III., whose hostility was dreaded at that particular juncture, through his ambassador remonstrated and menaced, and finally induced the king to permit her to leave the kingdom, and live under the protection of her brother; and an English squadron proceeded to Cronborg to receive the dethroned and disgraced queen. Her infant daughter, still at the breast—and who was at that moment afflicted with measles—was torn from her, and the queen was conveyed to the castle of Zell, in Hanover, where a little court was formed for her, her expenses being supplied out of the Hanoverian revenue. After much solicitation she procured portraits of her son and daughter, and her chief consolation lay in recalling remembrances of these children, whom she was never to see again. She did not long survive her misfortunes, but died on the 10th of May, 1775, in the twenty-fourth year of her age, expressing forgiveness of all her enemies. She was attended in her last moments by Dr. Zimmerman, the well-known author of a work on "Solitude," and on her death-bed her last words were, "I am going to appear before God, I now protest that I am innocent of the guilt imputed to me, and that I never was unfaithful to my husband."

This melancholy story would not be complete without adding, that in a few years after the death of his wife, Christian became insane, and his son Prince Frederick was appointed regent. And when, in the year 1801, the British fleet, under Lord Nelson and

Admiral Parker, passed by Cronborg castle—which thundered at them with all its guns—to bombard Copenhagen, it was thought that many an English sailor fought the more fiercely from his recollections of the wrongs and sufferings that an English princess had suffered. And it may be mentioned as a curious sequel to the melancholy story of Matilda, that her son Frederick, who so gallantly led on the Danes on that dismal day when Copenhagen suffered so severely, treated his wife in the same manner that his father had treated his mother!

Additional Notes to May.

THE WHITE HAT AS A POLITICAL EMBLEM.

(15.)—HENRY HUNT, who, about fifty years ago, became so well known as "the radical reformer," was the accepted leader of the discontented, and his inflammatory orations were published and circulated all over the country; whilst the white hat he wore was regarded as almost as significant as the republican *bonnet-rouge* in the Reign of Terror. The following is a brief outline of his career:—

Henry Hunt was born in 1773, at Uphaven, in Wiltshire, where he possessed a large and valuable farm. As a young man, Mr. Hunt appears to have been firmly attached to the monarchical institutions of his country, for when, in 1801, the nation was threatened with invasion, he offered his entire stock, worth £20,000, to the Government, should it be required. Besides this, he volunteered to enter, with three servants, mounted and accoutred at his sole expense, any troop of horse-soldiers that might be the first to engage the enemy, which proposal was accepted, and he was soon afterwards gazetted to the Marlborough troop of cavalry. Whilst in this corps Mr. Hunt and Lord Bruce, the colonel commanding, happening to quarrel, the former, forgetting the respect due to a superior officer, invited his lordship to settle their differences by an appeal to arms, an offence for which he was mulcted in a fine of £100 by the court of King's Bench, and consigned to prison for a term of six weeks. These proceedings appear to have effected a complete change in Mr. Hunt's political opinions, for, from an ardent loyalist he suddenly became a radical of the most pronounced type—associating himself with the most disloyal of the party, who learned to regard him as their leader and defender in the fierce electoral contests of that period. Possessed of some eloquence, he was not long in acquiring a great notoriety as a demagogue, and as such was in great request at radical gatherings throughout the kingdom; and he presided at a Reform meeting which was held at Manchester, on the 16th of August, 1819, when nearly 80,000 persons were present, with flags, banners, and music. Mounting a scaffold, "Orator" Hunt, as he was generally called, mounted the platform, and began to harangue the assemblage. He had not proceeded far, when the meeting was suddenly assailed by a Cheshire regiment of cavalry, and a regiment of hussars. The unarmed multitude were consequently driven upon one another, and several of them were killed by being ridden over by the horses, or cut down by their riders. The deaths were eleven—men, women, and children; and the wounded, about four hundred! The event was called the "Peterloo Massacre." Mr. Hunt was arrested, and found guilty of being the ringleader of an unlawful assembly, and was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. He was accordingly incarcerated in Hechester gaol, where, however, he did not allow his reforming zeal to abate, for during his confinement he discovered and made public several reprehensible practices, which were afterwards, through his instrumentality, abolished. During his career he offered himself to several constituencies as a candidate for their representation in Parliament, but was defeated at Westminster, Bristol, and Somersetshire—succeeding eventually at Preston in 1830, for which place he was twice elected, although the fickle borough, barely twelve months after his second election, rejected his further services. He was seized four years afterwards with an attack of paralysis while alighting from his phaeton, at Alresford, Hampshire, where he died on February 12th, 1835, aged sixty-two.