THE PAGE OF JAMES Y. OF SCOTLAND.

Transferred from the Ferradic by E. L. C.

CHAPTER L STATEMENT AND MOST

Of the French pentienten who had corresponded the begent Alberty to berhand, the most become was without Biene building C'brey be in . Promps and contragente, he had, from the fact, from many appreciations of mentanting region to the Engels, who market his theility by appointing his Convenies of the Eastern Boster, at important you formerly filed by Lord

tions, a bountain none, whom Albert and second to be ensembled for rework. pose following was at all times one of green following: not for the house he disconting were increased ten-ind, on ing to the 11 will of the boundar contex, who were much affected to an contex, mentioned part in the banda of a terriories. In house was of noble is the light of an admentioner, seeking to their something

When Allowy family quitted book was the enumber of D keep to ped to dived itimeself so well in his difficult and pertional position that for eg the the Green women-win sound the Register - encounted

estate his governmently. Inde to a Forter lords and delightelms, trouling was beaut but threshe of revenues was test astracted to troid a year that should by right be filled only une of the most presented of their in yer thoulan, these through of very course were openly expressed, and to paint were taken to conseal the habred which the master of the matter bors to

the gallant Francisco. ediative of the Lord Home who to was executed by the Regent's Orders, and it was with boolings of the bitteres caper that he saw D'Arey, whom could the tool of Albony and concentrate of the Vicentian, issued washed of the relation, specified it does washed poet. Naturally of a violent and violetancy complet in adhen-ing vengenate against the Ottevaller. He had brief before Alvany left book-and to encompass If Arrey's role by ducing executing the belone the Contr RAMMON ; but La Radio, friends and probestors encount the members of the conneils, and, in the person of the Chancellor, Cardinal Beaton, in particular, we had the could not colvinate and colvi

MOTOLOGICA COCK. The Cardinal's interest, which at this time was all powerful, was exerted in the Chevaller's favor, and the access thoma against him tell to the ground. Sir Home now swore that, since the law had released him the redress that was due to him, he would take the task of rengences into his own hands.

La Bastis was some make anymicted with his enemy's resolve, and warned to be on his guard. He had no reason to fear for himself. Dombar Caetle, where he resided, was strong courge to resist any assault that might be attempted, and when he issued forth from his stronghold he was always accompanied by an armed retions soft elently numerous to scoure his safety But though he did not lear for himself La Bastle could not refrain from anxiety on account of his son Francis, a lad of comewhat more than twelve years of age, to whom he was tenderly devoted. La Bastle was a widower, and love he had to give was centred in this cherished son. Francis was, in truth, worthy of this love, and as he is to be give a sketch of him.

Francis was very tail and strong for sharply round, but hardly had he his age, and his features, though east glaced at his con before he cried out in the same mould as those of his in a surprised and angry bone:

If the same mould as those of his in a surprised and angry bone:

If the same is it really beauty, were redeemed from the susping way son whom I see there? What have carry beauty, were redeemed from the susplicion of effectionacy by a certain stamp of precedent manhood and youthful audacity. His limbs were well devel the training to which he had seen subjected from childhood, and his searing was full of manly case and boaring His education had been, indeed, imost ontirely of a military kind. Horses and arms, swimming and hunt had been his childhood's playthings and amusements, and, amo Scottish companions, his superiority is those bodily exercises to which they were so habituated often won for him

well-merited praise. If there was a question of swimming merces a lake, throwing a net in mid water, or of climbing to the top of a tree after a bullfach's nest, Francis was always the first to volunteer. The

French youth was therefore looked up to with a sort of here worship by the oung Scots with whom he asso at Dunbar. Antony was proud of the courage displayed by his son, and far from opposing his excursions, he en couraged them, and loved nothing bet than to listen in the evenings to the hoy's account of the day's adven-tures. Young D'Arcy was thus left very much to his own devices; but this erty, far from proving hurtful to his character, had only served to develop his good qualities. He had a loving nature, yet did not lightly bestow his affections, and the companions to whom he was most closely bound had all won he was most closely bound had all won his friendship by some trait of bravery or generosity, the two qualities he most estberned. He had a deep sense of justice and uprightness, and would rather have been torn in pieces than have witnessed an unequal fight with out interfering to uphold the weaker

side. All who suffered, or who were unhappy, had a right to his help or pity, and he had adopted a dog for no other reason than that it was ugly and lame and repulsed by all.

The literary education of Francis was

a monk whom he had often met in his interrupted his father impatiently. a monk whom he had often met in his interrupted his father impatiently.

boy with a sigh, 'not because of the be at rest; nothing will be attempted walks he had learnt to read after a 'Yes, father,' said Francis, and he danger I might personally run, but for until the divorce of Angus and the

cone seems in Miniming.

Dut through our young bern was exdened with many good qualities, we
have to about these her was not without no telera. His very faults, towever, were virtues carried to ensess. Turns, the contrage amounted to beneating. He known not what it was to lear, and other its set confidence passed him in partione armations. Assuminged to line as loss as the mountain teer is charef, is was impatient of all restraint, and having more resolved upon anything, he send to it with a tenseting that contened or obstitutely. When he took it into the need to leave Dunbase to into the teem or fair for existent testing sound ever, in - perfect tensoriesing storm nor wind perfect that nor snow, Eastly, even would the representations of the latter whom he in passionalely loved, and to their time from the purpose, so desiring the love freedom. From all it may easily be conseived that the strowing as in find the soutest characters. towards nimbell by the telephyofing trothes and the too entemprising characters.

"If they should begins to vent of my son their balest against me, brought the udiappy father; "nothing would be essier. Francis is always smonger like mountains and valleys or a lonely places, without other someony on that of a less triends or a servant. How could the poor child belend himless Exerter chiefs? Wedderburn halves to the because he abbrightes to me the tours of his relative of which I call second." "And who may this more because to witness, I am introcent. I powerful one be?" he said, will in a lear the more than any of the others. which he does he the rage against me, not even teorible to diagraise, he is even to the point of seizing my son for the very insteed would bell thin that this would be to me the president of sufferings. I must keep fraction with me, and forbid him to roam about the country. But shall I succeed? The poor duty is so consequents that if he talinks there is tanger he will want to go at once to need it. No, no! I will exert all my powerpal authority, which but which, after all, is mine to take in great emergentides—and this is everly one. Why, out of my love for him, my what to have him near me, did I refuse

the Chancellor's offer?
The Cartinal had offered to take Francia to Edinburgh to become the companion of the young King, who, he said, could not have a better one.

Yes, La Bestie continued, Cardinal judget Francis aright. where is the toy now? I must see him, speak to him, and make him understand that his interest, my happiness peace, depend on the giving up, for a time at least, the wild wenderings."

The knight here summoned one of his

Where is Francis? he select. Where is my son?

The young lord has just returned, sir, replied the man. He has been toking, and has brought back a splen

did ealmon. I am glad to hear it," said bis father, somewhat reasoured. Send blu to me at once; I wish to speak

My Lord. Well, what now?

'A horseman waits below who has come from Edicburge, and who is the carer of a message for you."
Presently, later on, I will see him; Presently, later on,

but send my son to me first.

The servent retired, and a lew moments later Francis entered the great hall of the eastle, where his father, with a troubled air, was unearly oscing up and down.

CHAPTER II.

as he entered.

been about to get into such a

plight? in truth, Sir Antony had good reason to be both surprised and angry Francis stood before his father a piti picture indeed. His outer ments were soaked through, and was covered with mad up to the knees. many places, and his damp hair clong

temples, rgive me father,' he said. 'I know I ought not to have let you see such a state; but Dick said you wanted me at once, and rather than

keep you waiting -- '
Well, at least tell me,' interrupted Sir Antony, ' how did you get into this condition

'Oh, that is easily explained. I went to fish in the little take to the right of the Morass of Dunse.'
'The Morass of Dunse!' re-echoed

his father. 'Unhappy child! Wedder-burn is only a few miles from there;'

and he shuddered involuntarily.
Yes, I know that too well, father, and it is precisely on account of those Wedderburn people that you see me

My God !' said the knight, turning pale. 'Then my fears were well founded. Speak, speak! Tell me all that happened, even to the least de tail. I wish to know everything, and woe to Wedderburn if——' Then,

mastering his anger, he continued:
'Hpeak Francis; I am waiting.'
Without preamble the boy began the relation of his adventure.

went to fish, as I said, in the lake of the Dunse Morass, for as you know, father, the finest salmon in the county are found there. The two friends I had expected were not able to come, so vas only accompanied by your servant Gauthler, who follows me like a shadow, which, by the way, is not always pleasant, as he generally lags behind.

by pringing some the front minors in the late, I and taken with me my best and got line. I had torown it has in. and was waiting. All at served it sint it the water. I can, and was just beading form to from it out, when I must be other side of the side I beam I some eye, " He, there I wise are you, sleading my Lord's fast ?" I house my, and say in the opposite

bank's young man of shoot twenty, wearing a green livery, and with a beatherer's plane in the beauter. "One of Webberman's works oried La Bartie. " He and his men all

"It was the falconer's son. neeper of the river, as you will see, replied Francis. "Learn then thed Francisco, "that I am Francisco," I amswerted, "that I am Francisco, and that on I herey and a gentleman, and that any one was rother it is your panditions, and not my bather's wor." " in. s gentleman !" he replied, hange ing an near tim he would have ma battoe with my fast. "Faith!" he went on, "a fine gentiemat indeed ! & gentlemanly segme who came to bear and it eat other fold a be Weeter | endumed

How there he openit like this Don't distress yourself, lattier have punished him. Listen to w of "Well my fine pentleman. he went on as impudently what right have not to feet in this like?" " & right," I replied, " given me by one more powerful And who may this more powerful one be?" he said, still in a tone of mochery. "God," I answered, "who placed the lake in this part of Scotland, and the Regent, tilis expains of prairing the verigestore my father the wardenship of the fron-Ha ha !" he soufiet. we shall see; but as I am heeper of the river to Lord Home of Webberpher. and my orders are to arrest and duet to the matter at your found faiting in this lake, I must obey. I say parties of God; but as to the Regent, that is my master's positions." Then he action, speaking with all imaginable solemnity: "In the name of my lord, I arrest you. Do not attempt to by, for if you do I have a haded musica and shall fire." "Easted!" I he seemed I have never fied before a clown like you, and your muchet does not trighten me." He then numoored a boat, and got into it with two peasant children who followed dog who, poor beast i to For my part, I but longer erlets. myself is drawing out my like, which had booked the finest salmon I have ever eaught in my life. Canthier, who up, tried to draw me away. "Let us by " he said, " let us by !" But I would not, and was I not right, lather, not to by before a servant?" "Continue, continue," said the lather,

erinding the most lively interest. "I looked at the boat as it approached," went on the boy, and when it pretty near I said to Ganthier, " Y but come to my belo if I need it. Then, without giving the Wedderburn vascal time to land, I jumped into the boot, seized him round the waist, and threw myself into the water, dragging him with me. Unfortunately, the boat followed our example, and capsized, so that the two children were also throws hato the lake. Being a good swimmer, I soon regained the shore, and was about escape across the morass, when I saw that the bigger of could not awim. It would have been shaful to let him periah, and, besides, I had time enough to go to his rescue. The keeper was not an expert ewimmer, bimself from the reeds which had cangit gs. The other child, in a fright, back to the Webberburn shore. did not besitate an instant. Telling Good morning, tather, said the boy and who had not had time to interfere, "Welcome to Dunbar, sir." he entered.

At this greeting the knight turned after the keeper if he landed before me. I jumped into the water to save the no, I tunped into the water to save the poor boy who was drowning. I speed-ily landed him, and after seizing my salmon, which I was determined to carry away with me, I set off at a ron across the morass, followed by Gauth Unbappily, Ganthier e get on as quickly as I did, the ground being so awampy and miry, and the danger was now imminent, for the keeper had landed, and, after shaking boy to bring him to himself, they have off after us. I did not fear for myself, for I was too far ahead, and it emed to me that the boy was no willing to pursue one to whom he owed his life. But poor Gauthier sank at every step, and I feared to see h into their hands, which, alas! I fear has happened, as he has not arrived, and I know not what is fate. I had also to contend v another kind of enemy. The dog, urged on by his master, left me no urged on by his master, eace. To defend myself from him. I was obliged to run him through with my dagger. After that I looked in vain for either Gauthler or the keepe they were not to be seen. his chase had drawn me on far beyond them, so I returned to Dunbar, feeling sure that you would know how to

rescue your faithful servant." 'Unhappy boy! see to what you imprudence has exposed you! Why did you go and fish so near Wedder burn? If it had not been for you been for your toolish lancy, Gauthier would not now

be in our enemy's power.'
'Our enemy!' repeated Francis. it possible that my noble father, the servant of the Regent, can have ene

mies in Scotland? 'He has,' replied D'Arcy, 'and cruel nes—Wedderburn above all. But pay attention, Francis: you must promise me not to go out of Dunbar for a time.' 'Oh, father, that is impossible! Do

you want me to die of dulineas?' 'And you, foolish boy, do not scrupl to expose to death faithful servants like Gauthler! For doubtless this was watched, and it was you, not the servant, he wished to seize. 'I will star

'I will stay, then, father,' said the boy with a sigh, 'not because of the

That is well, my son. I screet your in proteins, and know you will not break per your word. Now I must see after poor not. Gamteler, and demand him from fir home; and if he refuse my demand,

by all teat is bole his son, "take a We will," attrack in proof of soldiers and overterow is reinsed to me, have come to Edinburgh coatse, so that not a stope shall rest to be ready for any emergency. Such Brave boy !" said his lather, looking

at Francis with admining eyes.
will one day make a gallant anight. Le Bastie ther called his servants,

put before he had time to mine his orders Dick reminded hit of the Bes-senger, who had now been suiting a long time and invited announced that a must remain in the burnet's headbeath's plane had just nerived from Veddenorn, and had asked to speak with Bir Espiony C'Arres.

CHAPTER III.

THE TWO MERCORS.

& message from Wedderburn claimed the imight. It has arrived just in time, Dick, to save you going to the manor. Let this come in, and we shall see if the heathcook will dare to crow here in such a high hey. nin in, he repeated impatiently, and let us leave the ball. The orders I least, tabless. However, Tony i, turning to one of the men. However, Tony, he and tell the captain of the pinemen to arm some of the men and build himself in readiness, and you, Disk, bring in this Wedderburt messenger.

to your Honor. said Dier, before departing on the errand, "that the horseman from Edin burgh has been waiting a long time. and he says he has come from my the Accidiatop of Glasgow, Oaccida

Beston message from the Obstreelling replied his Autory, in surprise. are right, Dick-you are right; he must come first. Let the messenger from Vedderborn walt, and give him a put of beer and some beef. not when him to tell his master that he was offered no refreshment at Duntar. low let the Cardinal's messenger enter. Francia, be said, terming to his son and change your chothes and wast blood from your bands. the Cardinal's message will relate to the present state of politics, and those are matters too serious for one of your

am going, father; but do not for get Garchier, for if any mischaute hap-pen to him, I tell you I should never torgive myself." Be at rest, my shild ; Gauthler will

be free to-morrow, or the Manor of Wedderburn will be pulled down as belonging to a traitor. second by these words, Francis he hall. When alone, the knight

left the ball ecame a prey to the most lively im-

What news can the Chancellor be sending me? he asked rimself. "Is he automoting that the Council of the Regency, yielding to the desires of my enemies, have dismissed me from my If it should be so, the news post? would be welcome. I would glad! hand over the castle keys to my suc I would gladly I should then leave Sootland where such hatred is shown towards me, and I would return at once to my dear France, whence the Duke of Alteny should never have taken me abandon me at last in the midst of strangers. But perhaps the Cardinal is renewing the invitation he made me to send Francis to bim. If that should be the case, notwithstanding my for the child, he shall go, for he be eafer with the Cardinal at Edin-burgh than here on the Border in the midst of these merciless lords who so

hate me. He was roused from his reverie by the entrance of the messenger, who approached him respectfully.

"Welcome to Dunbar, sir,' said La
Bastle, 'It is always a pleasure to re-

ceive a memenger from the Cardinal. "I am charged to deliver this into your Honor's hands,' replied the man, in a hoarse voice, at the same time presenting the knight with a folded paper, tied with a silken thread, and sealed with the arms of the Chancellor of Scotland. Sir Antony was in such haste to open the missive that he did that the war had been cut through and then adroitly covered with more war of the same color. drawing into the embrasure of a win-dow, he read the following letter with

'Sir Knight, My Trusty Friend,

ever-increasing interest; 'Grave events are taking place Edinburgh, and a revolution is imminent in the Regency. The Queen-mother has lost all her prestige, and everything leads me to fear that her husband Angus, of the House of Doug las, will succeed in possessing himself of the supreme power. For the last few months he has been dissembling, and has ingratiated himself with the and has ingratiated himself with the young King by flattering his tastes and gratifying his whims. Everyone be lieves, or makes a show of believing, that he acts thus out of affection to the child King; but his real intention is to persuade James to entrust himself to his guardianship, and once master of the royal person, he will seize the Regency by main force. But he shall not accomplish his designs so easily. The Hamiltons are on the alert, and ready, if necessary, to take up arms. I much wish, my brave knight, that I could have in these circumstances the support of your presence; but it would be impolitic for you to leave the frontier until something is decided. Be-sides, your presence on the Border is absolutely necessary to hold in check the rebellious nobles. Remain, then at your post until you receive further news—that is to say, until the success or defeat of Angus is certain. In the event of his success, you must hasten at once to the capital, where you would be in greater safety than at Dunbar l know you have enemies, and powerful ones, on the Border, who would com bine to attack you should the Douglas prove successful. But for the present

Sention and the little he had sometimed. Waning it surprise you the make of those who might be with Queen-mother is effected, and thought one of the art of setting he need to a by bringing home the finest address in me. marked and wile are for the lest time in their lives both agreed in wishing for it. Henry VIII., was is the Queen's brother, may possibly oppose it. ever that may be, the success of Augus mainly depends on that beparation taking place. The Hamiltons, with their oniel, the Earl of Arrat, who is is the present state of affairs. Enlight, and what I said before I peat now. Fulfil your duty and reson, who is now more than ever to neer. I know I am imposing a sacri-face on your fastiently heart, but the case is pressing. I wish to present him to the young Eing, and to have him about his person, for in the event of singus accomplishing his design, the presence of your son near the royal presence of your air near the royal child who could not see him without making him his triend would be more medial to our cause than the best-in tentioned representations of the Co oil. The Eing is certain to like your boy, and to make him his confident, and this will serve to leasen, or even en-tirely destroy, the influence East angus has gained over our youthful hovereign. Think over what I wrimen, his Antony. My messe Think over what I have will remain one day at Dunbar return the following day. I have great hopes that you will entrust Fran die to him. The lin is troop I have sufficient guarantee to you for you on the journey. As to his sojoner at Edinburgh, me. He will find friends-sy, powerful ones, foremost among whom I beg to number the Archbishop of St

Chancellor of Scotland.

The knight was reloiding the paper, when he perceived a postsoript, which

Yours wery affectionately,

P. S.- My writing openly to on such matters will make it clear to you that I have as much confidence in vone honor as in your attachment to Therefore, do not take offence at what I now sat of you. letter to me with your reply. It would injure to much if it should happen to fall into the hands of our enemies.

When the knight had finished reading he remained for some time absorbed in thought. At last, addressing the horseman, who had stood motionless in a corner of the hall, 'Sir messenger, he said, 'the orders of the Archbisho are that you pass the night at Dunbar and set out to morrow at break I will remit my answer to you."

As soon as the man had withdrawn, Autory sent for his son. Francis,' he said, somewhat abrupt ly, 'we must part. You are going to

What did you say, father-going sway from you?" seked the boy sorrow-

fully.
Tes, my child. Cardinal Beaton, Chantellur of the realm, vishes me to send you to Edinburgh.

To Edinburgh ! repeated the boy, anable to repress his joyful surprise 'The Cardinal has views about you,' continued his father, 'of which I do not wholly approve, though it is urgent so: besides, my peace of mind and your

What do you mean, father?'

'[am not allowed to make known to ou the Cardinal's plans. He will nimself inform you of the brilliant de tiny he designs for you. Let it suffice for you to know that you will be thrown with persons of rank-yes, of Strive always serve your frank and upright character. You will see the Court, Francis, and the Court is the land of lies and intrigues. Be pradent. I need not show devotion to His Maj -- that is to say, the person with grace, greeting all with kind and please whom you will be placed; and it at any ant words. The great Cuar time, notwithstanding your youth, you slowly through the room. The should be charged with any commission smile seemed to have erased the lines equit yourself of it courageously and

understand all you say. I do not know for what purpose I am going to Edinborgh and with what person I am to be placed; but be assured that, with whatever mission I may be entrusted good-will, but his mind was restless; or in whatever situation I may be, I be had a dim foreboding of some imor in whatever situation I may be, I shall always and everywhere try to do honor to my father and my country. And now command me to depart. I am ready. I go full of hope, and I might even say with a joyful heart, if the sorrow of leaving you did not trouble my happiness.

my son. Our separation may not be a long one; perhaps before a month has elapsed I also may be at Edinburgh. When that day comes, father, I shall be perfectly happy. Now at last and graceful sleighs awaited the end. I am going to be of use. I shall fulfil a ing of the ball; horses stamped imhigher destiny than that of hunting deer or catching salmon.

eassure yourself on that point,

Go now, Francis, and prepare for your journey, for to morrow break you start for Edinburgh.

The boy hastened away, and as he made his preparations for departure his mind was filled with thoughts of a pleasant future.

Going to Edinburgh !' he said, for in his joy he spoke aloud. 'To Edin-burgh-to the Court. What joy! One thing only grieves me, and leaving my poor father; but he has just assured me that perhaps in less than a month he may rejoin me. month! that is soon over, and then shall have so many new and beautifu things to see there. Oh, I am very happy! My real life is at last going to begin. But, see, here I am talking to myself, and my packing is not yet

'I cannot understand why this parting makes me so uneasy, said Sir Antony, when his son had left the apartment. 'I know I shall see him apartment. 'I know I shall see him again—soon too, perhaps, for Angus will succeed in his plans, and then yes, I feel sure I shall see my son again; and yet I am sad, and full of a vague uneasiness, as if some misfortune vague uneasiness, as if some misfortune were about to fall on me.'

At this moment a knock was heard at

the toor, and Dier, advancing timely been before his master, seemingly to

lling to speak.
"Well, Dick, what is H?" questioned the knight.

Dick will maintained allego twisting his cap about in his many and every moment issuming more e

pursent Wint 60 you want? repeated in

Your Honor—'
Well, what? Can't you speak? It is Tunion, the nessenger

V. saderpurn. Ak, true! Let him come in Partice me, your Bonce, but that impossible, seeing that he is no

What say you, clows ?' said & Autory irritably.

1 declars to your Honor I did al could to reer him and reserve in his in-patience. I even condescended to drink with him, but that only serve to make him somewhat tipey.

And you also, you dranked ? Oh! I-that was my duty to the castle: it was honorable; but he-ai

Well, when will you knist? He left saying that the falsoner of red Home of Wedderburn could an ned Home of be expected to wait your Honor clipped wings to have let the your lord escape ; and, as he could wait t ionger, he charged me to give you or behalf of his master this letter, written at his dictation by the chaptain of Wedderburn.

'Give it me, then, and remember that the fellow who has dared title such inselent words will be punished as he deserves. And now, you drenk ard, get to bed, and be thankful tha present state prevents my char tizing you as you deserve for repeating ment messages to me. such in

Dick did not require to be told twice and withdrew. The knight opened to etter, and read as follows

From the Maror of Wedderburn

Sir Home of Wedderburn to Astony d'Arcy, Governor of the Bestern Border by usurpation and assault-Stipps.

"If Sir Autory d'Arry values the life of his Tassal, arrested by sen keeper for fishing without leave on or. domain, he must appear to morrow daybreak on the border of the lake where the offence was committed, and he must come in person to claim him if not, justice will have its way. An D'Arcy, if he is afraid, can bring with him an escort, but of not met that five men-st-arms. If the escer-exceeds that number, the French ser rant will be executed immediately that the escort appears in sight.
'Boxe or Weinderster.

Insolent lord I cried the knight, 'I'er indignant at what he had read. 'You shall see if Antony d'Arey is afraid I will go alone to meet you, and if you have courage enough to combat with me, we shall see if my arm is not strong enough to best down your inscience. He then wrote a short reply to

Chancellor, and, without und threw himself on his couch

TO RE CONTINUED.

THE STROKE THAT SAVED.

The great palace at Moscow was brilliantly lighted, and the opening ball of the festive season had brought wealth and royalty together at the winter home of the Czur.

In the salon all was magnificence Gorgeous decorations and spleadid flowers graced the room; costly mirrors threw back the light of a thou sand candles, and the walls were bean tiful with colored tapestries, royal divan was unoccupied. Great had for the evening throw his mask of stern authority, so moved among the guests with courtly of care from his brow, but there was an anxious, watchful look in the deep 'Father,' replied Francis, 'I do not gray eyes that told of the sleeplessmess

of his mind. The rounds have been made. Everywhere he had been met with express ions of humble submission and the pending evil, and sank into a cash chair, a prey to uneasiness and un happy thoughts. How long he but presently he was he knew not. called back to the situation by a light touch on his knee and the whispering voice of his page: "They await you, sire." And with a hurried glan the scene of gaiety and joy, he slipsed away.

Outside on the avenue all was differ ent. Long lines of heavy carriages and graceful sleighs awaited the endpatiently on the crisp, hard snow, and weary drivers, muffled in their great fur coats, huddled in the protecting

Far off in the west wing of the palace there was but little sign of palace there was but little sign of festivity. The great massive building loomed, a tower of black. One single window was lighted, and the elender ray that struggled forth seem almost swallowed in the darkness Figures passed repeatedly before it and the drivers noted it and wondered

Inside of the palace the ball was a its height ; selt strains of music floate through the long suites of rooms; for-eign ambassadors, stately nobles, young and dashing officers chatted in little groups, danced with Russian I wandered aimlessly through the grand

away, not unnoticed, for the watchfu eye of a pale young nobleman, far apart from the crowd, had marked it. The Czar had gone through a small door to the left half hidden by the hanging curtains, and through dark, narrow corridors, up long flights of stairs to the little room of the left wing, where the solitary light peered out into he darkness.

His Majesty was expected. Matters of state had called him away from the

chambers. As he wledged the the councillors their places around They were all nobles of great le worthy of the high One alone in the cillor. Young as broad of shoulde hev was there, by as captain of the dangers of secre whispered eft the room and dark hallway. Nihilists were the pale young n

the most powerfu There was a wild eyes that seem rkings in his smile that boded dently waiting minute after tapping his foo marble floor. Finally he as calmness, quietl half-bidden doo wing. He entered darknes

and each time joined him, un gathered there i Not a word w little band start hall that had s footfalls of the and down anoth again, and still Suddenly the captain of the ecabbard, and "Halt" echoes passageway. F that dreaded Down with th warning cry the lunger at the di

opened. A for Again and still

upon him, and Count of Khark But the fight has he raised hi crowded with back against th again, with a save the Czar f furious men -fight. Again Fate seems to fa own in the dar nervousness in quick thrusts. eyes, and he d a half-met thr road forehead stand the fu longer.

Suddenly the room. It tells escaped, and v clears a mome Down the long out into the chi two of the be heels. A sad bleeding face cries of rage a the room above he is content. Down the de chase continue

man who color with his lifestreet after at last long; his but with a final narrow side str death. He lis pursuing foots a moment he Two panting His mi reels and falls The clock in public square

city slumbers

ly averted. I empty and d

have gone to ance of the fle curred in that ere their depa In front of a in a quiet st body of the C of the royal g grasps the tr but he is alive And a dream there bleeding no longer the little curly

The dream vigor of early wncast head Count Boll thou sayest; of my guards nounce thy fo forever. oment. The And the drea

innocent lips

But there is scending the and there is prostrate man doorstep. St ministering ! away the bloc

Over him