

"It is as I say, your Highness; and his Majesty further bids me say that as your health has broken down, he will immediately relieve you of all your official duties."

"He cannot mean this — and without ever seeing me," he cried.

"His Majesty is too overcome by news which has reached him to-day, to be able to endure the strain of an interview with your Highness, and has retired to his private apartments."

"My God! after all my years of service."

"Come, Harper," whispered Helga; and we hurried out glad to escape the sight of our enemy's overthrow.

On the way to the hotel she told me all the Emperor had said to her; the regrets he had expressed; the sorrow he felt; the promises he made; and the hopes he had expressed for her future happiness.

"As a Princess?" I asked; "or as —"

She glanced and smiled and ran on into the hotel, leaving me unanswered.

At the hotel Ivan was waiting, anxious concerning our journey to Siberia, and overjoyed at seeing us together again.

"Has your Highness any commands?" I asked Helga.

"Harper!"

"Well, has Mrs. Denver any wishes?"

"We are not going to Siberia, Ivan," she said to him. "Everything has come right."

The great burly fellow laughed with the delight of a child.

"I could cry with pleasure, mademoiselle," he said.

"Hullo, that's still a third title for you — mademoiselle," I laughed.

She would not hear me.

"But we are going on a long journey, Ivan, all the same," she said, in a very matter of fact unconcerned tone.