

all but will tell you he is able to judge of my acts, and judge them he will as often as he is asked to judge. There is not a man in Florence, outside my own offices, who does not think the burden of affairs rests equally upon him with Cosimo. It is well that this is the case. I look to the time when contentment and prosperity will enable us to educate the young to something nobler and better in life than breaking each other's heads. But here we are at your inn, and the Lady Margaret will have more pleasant converse for us than this talk of war and blood."



THE MEETING WITH COSIMO.

we found the Lady Margaret in high spirits, she having spent her time in making merry over the woes of the good ladies who found travelling none so pleasant as they might were a dozen years or so taken from their score. And it ought to be set down that Cosimo, yielding to the charm which this lady ever exerted over the minds and hearts of men, soon abandoned the severity of his demeanor, and was as blithe and