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THE DAUGHTER OF TYRCONNELL. A TALE OF THE REIGN OF JAMES THE FIRST.

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It was unpossible to doubt the sincerity of the marquis, whose frankness and bonesty were too well known to admit of suspicion, and Mary well knew that nothing could induce him to profess sentiments which he did not feel. Acting on a momentary impulse, she gave him her hand, murmuring at the same time some half audible words of gratitude and admiration. She was speedily recalled to a sense of her indiscretion (it such it might be called) by the ardor with which the young nobleman pressed her hand to his lips .-The warm blood mounted to her very temples, and hastily drawing away her hand, she cast her eyes on the Spaniard. A total change had passed over Pedro's face; the bright glow by hope so late enkindled there had given place to an ashy paleness, and a look of profound sadness darkened his gaze as it rested now on the transparently-delicate features of Mary, now on the frank, ingenuous countenance of the young English noble. Ere Mary had time to ponder on the change, Don Pedro hastily arose and walked towards one of the high, narrow windows which there looked out upon the street. Having stood a few moments, apparently occupied with the busy crowd below, but in reality endeavoring to suppress every vestige of emotion, he approached the countess and was soon, to all appearance, a highly interested listener to her glowing description of the court of Elizabeth in its palmiest days. Looking round, he saw that Hereford had entered into conversation with a stately dowager, but Mary was no longer to be seen. She had vanished from the room.

Neither Don Pedro nor the marquis had any desire to remain when the planet who gave light to that cheerless scene had once withdrawn her rays, and they were both on the point of making their adieux, when Mary again entered, her face flushed with some strong excitement, and her person enveloped in a large mantle. Going at once to her grandmother, she spoke some words in an under tone, whereupon the old lady started

up alarmed.
What! the king hath sent to command
What may this thine instant attendance! What may this

mean? 'I know not,' replied Mary endeavoring to control her agitation, 'but since your ladyship is cheerfully subscribed to the truth of the obsernot now at liberty to accompany me, I suppose I must go alone.'

'Not so, daughter, not so,' said the countess with strong emotion, it were not fitting that thou shouldst brave alone, it may be, royal anger. I will give thee a more helpful protector. My lord of Hereford, raising her voice, 'will it please you to come hither?' The young lord was instantly before her. 'The king hath sent to summon the Lady Mary Stuart to his presence. It suits not my convenience to conduct her hither-will you take my place?'

The significant look which accompanied these words was not lost upon Mezara, though Mary was too much engrossed by her own thoughts to perceive it. Right willingly did Hereford embrace the offer, expressing at the same time his high sense of the honor done him. 'But.' he added quickly, 'will the Lady Mary deign to permit my attendance?

He turned with a heightened color to Mary, but, though the latter did not positively decline the proposal, her reception was scarce less chil-

ling than would have been a refusal.

As the friend chosen by my grandmother to accompany me-nay, as her delegate, I shall, of course, avail myself of Lord Hereford's obliging

offer.' The sudden glow died away on the cheek of the marquis, and in silence he offered bis arm to Mary. The latter, as she passed from the room, turned to the Spaniard where he stood in moody silence, and holding out her hand with a frankness and cordiality that at once charmed away his gloom, she half-whispered in Irish :-

'As I know you have but little interest in your present company, do not remain here .-

Better come with us.' With a sudden return of animation Don Pedro advanced to the countess, made a hasty apology for his abrupt departure, bowed coldly outer hall. As Mezara came up the marquis turned towards him:

'How now, friend Pedro! methought thou wouldst have remained the countess' guest till

are bronze or marble, Hereford, or any other the reason thereof, but now be saw nothing- to the faith of her fathers, and then proceeded ford and Mary he blubbered out :

mood for converting them to a better opinion of Papists, I will, with your leave, take possession sigh and went on: 'I am here a nobody, void of all influence or power, and have only to remain as quiet as possible, thankful for being permitted even to walk at large through the streets of this reformed city!'

ATHOL

They had just reached the door of the carriage, and Mary had her foot on the step when she turned to take leave of Mezara, and as she gave him her hand she could not avoid noticing the dejection of his countenance, nor could she conceal from herself that she was some how the cause of his sadness.

'We part now, Signor Mezara!' she said in kind and friendly tone, 'but to-morrow, I trust, we shall meet again, as I have many things to tell you for my brother, and by that time, I may, perchance, have many more. Nay, I may have to call on your friendship for active ser-

A melancholy presentiment clung around her heart, as, drawing away the hand so eagerly retained, she stept into the carriage and was followed by Hereford. For some time no word was spoken,-Mary, on her part, having an undefined but strong notion that her position was a somewhat awkward one. Sooner than have gone to court under the escort of a young nobleman of whom she knew comparatively little, she would have braved alone the storm which she feared awaited her; but whatever might be her grandmother's motives in the affair, her commands must be obeyed (where conscience was not concerned), so Mary was fain to acquiesce. Her thoughts then turned on the king's mandate, and it required all the moral courage she possessed to enable her to regard the approaching interview with any degree of firmness. From the peremptory tone of the message she inferred that his majesty must have more serious grounds of anger against her than the mere fact of her standing related to the new prisoners; and her fears led her at once to the conclusion that he had by some means discovered the secret of her

She was aroused from these gloomy anticipations by the voice of her companion, who made some abrupt remark on the noble bearing and apparent worth of his Spanish friend. As he spoke he leaned forward so as to mark the effect his words, but though Mary readily and vation, he looked in vain for the tremulous emotion, the vivid blush which he had feared and expected to see. On the contrary, Mary spoke eloquently, but with perfect composure, of the high polish of Mezara's manners, and the learning wherewith his mind was evidently stored.

'He is, above all, the friend of Hugh O'Donnell,' went on the marquis with a sort of nervous tremor in his voice, 'and that alone would suffice to win for him a high place in the Lady Mary's affections!

'Nay, my lord,' returned Mary with a forced smile, 'that last is too strong a word, and I bar its use on the present occasion. My affections are scarcely called in question, though assuredly I entertain the very highest opinion of this nobleman, and have no doubt that a further acquaintance might ripen that prepossession into a

very sincere friendship. 'Friendship!' repeated Hereford, 'would it, indeed, go no tarther?' Then snatching the hand of the wondering girl, he would have carried it to his lips, but Mary withdrew it very quickly, and drew herself up in a corner of the carriage with an air of cold reserve which awed the marquis into silence, and sufficiently reminded him that any declaration of attachment would in all their tribulations-the faith which alone be, in their present relative positions, highly in-

decorous. When Mary was led by the marquis into the presence-chamber she cast a timid, searching look around, and was rejoiced to find the apartment totally deserted. Hereford, penetrating her thoughts, said with a smile; 'This is, I trust a happy omen. God grant we may see his majesty alone, for in that case it were an easier matter to turn him to our wish. But hush! here distinctly deny with all proper deference to my

he comes—his most learned majesty! He had scarcely spoken when James threw. open a side door and entered the room, his unand haughtily to the guests, and hurried after his gainly person wearing an air of slovenly neglect, friend who, with Mary, was already crossing the which completed the tout ensemble. His feet were thrust into a pair of slippers much too large, while his unshaved face looked grimly out grace's presence, called to account. Nor could from under the long grizzled locks which then hung at either side. Pushing back these elfing tongues of the fair dames there assem- slammed the door to, and walked as steadily as line gracious liege, who hath been ever, too, my have carefully avoided. my return. Hast wearied already of the clack- locks with a quick motion of his hand, James was a child of the old Church. Surely, then, one less versed in James's peculiarities would 'I' faith no !' rejoined Pedro gaily, 'these who, with the marquis, had arisen on his entrance hold me guilty of hypocrisy or dissimulation.' ladies are an exception to the general rule, for and now stood bowing before him. At another

substance harder still. However, as I am in no thought of nothing but Mary herself, who was with modest firmness to repudiate the senseless | 'Evil betide the accursed loons who did of a corner in your house, since I may not ac-company you to court.' He suppressed a rising nation in general and the O'Donnells in particular. So great was his excitement that he could scarcely articulate a word, so that between the exertion of ejecting his ideas in the form of words, and the violent tempest of his wrath, his face, usually of a pallid hue, was now literally crimsoned over.

So unmanly was his attack on a young and defenceless female and so intemperate his language, that it required all Hereford's aristocratic veneration for royalty to restrain his rising anger. When he looked at the furious visage of James, and then at the pale but lovely features of the suffering daughter of O'Donnell--when he thought of her illustrious birth, and her undoubted descent from a long line of sovereign princes, and saw her stand in her modest maidenly dignity before the royal clown who so rudely reviled her country and her kindred-he, an Englishman and a born subject of James, could scarce refrain from stepping forward and flinging back the infamous epithets so copiously poured forth.

Although it was evident that the king's present indignation was mainly excited by the recent charges made against O'Rourke and O'Donnell, yet in the rushing torrent of his wrath face. all coherency was swept away, and he actually forgot to mention either their names or their particular offence. During the first effervescence of the king's wrath, Mary had wisely and decorously remained silent, but when the storm began at length to abate, as indicated by the increasing facility of James's utterance, she availed herself of the first opportunity to edge in a brief word of remonstrance.

'I am deeply grieved,' she began, 'that your highness should be driven to entertain so unfavorable an opinion of our poor people, and were the king's own excellent judgment alone brought to bear on the subject, the matter would assuredly appear to him in a different light. As regards these young chieftains who now stand charged with resisting your grace's authority, I attempt not to extenuate their alleged crime.— There was a time, not far distant, when I might have presumed on the favor of my gracious liege, but now I cannot help perceiving that I have somehow given offence to your highness, though my conscience doth truly acquit me of any known cause.

Hearing this James broke out anew: "What then, doth they conscience belie the known truth? Doth it not accuse thee of an obstinate adherence to the idolatrous worship of Rome? Out upon thee, Jassie! thou hast of a surety disgusted us with all thy deceitful sex! Here have we, in the upright simplicity of our own heart, given thee credit for the most orthodox opinions, and have, therefore, loaded thee with our favors, never taking it into our mind to question thee on thy religious belief; while thou, in thy base hypocrisy, hast showed thyself to all appearance good Protestant, though secretly practising all the forbidden superstitions of the antiquated hag whose thraldom we of these favored realms have succeeded in shaking off. What dost thou say to that, eh?' and, shifting up almost close to Mary, he jerked out his head in a manner peculiar to himself, and fixed his eye on the fluctuating countenance, seemed to await an answer.

'Most gracious prince,' said Mary, repressing by a strong effort her disgust and indignation. with respect to the charge of being a Catholic I unhesitatingly plead guilty. It it be a crime to belong to what I firmly believe to be the only true Church—to profess the faith which has for countless generations been the cherished faith of my fathers—the faith which consoled my parents cheered my father in exile, in poverty, and in death-the faith that shed its brightening balo round the deathbed of my mother, and which that dear mother bequeathed to me as a legacy more valuable than all the lost possessions of our house-if it be a crime to have held fast by that faith, then am I, indeed, guilty.' Seeing that James was about to break in she hurried on :-But the second count of the indictment I most sovereign lord the king. Never have I, either by word or deed, professed any leaning towards the doctrines of the Reformation, and that I never made known to your highness my adherence to the Catholic faith is owing entirely to the fact that my belief was never, in your I, consistently with the high respect due mine honored sovereign, gratuitously inform him that I

sonifications of virtue!

The truth was that even the sluggish mind of tic candor of Mary's mien, however little he Hereford, no such weakness is ours. God fore-

for governing. Of a truth, it were enow to had better claims to our good liking, but as an drive a man mad to hear sic an absurdity. Body avowed papist we wash our hands of thee, and o' me, but it were!'

He turned and walked half-way across the room in a fit of vehement indignation, and again shook his clenched hand almost close to her

'Verily we have a mind to attaint thee of high treason-de'il fetch us but we have. How darest thou deny our entire fitness to govern God's church-preferring before us this Urban, who wards and retrace his course through the heavens keepeth court in the ungodly city of Rome?-Are we not every whit as wise, ay! and far more godly? Answer us that now, an' it please Before I go hence for the last time, suffer me to thee, young mistress!'

Although Mary could scarce retrain from smiling, particularly as she saw by a glance at Hereford that he was obliged to walk to the farther end of the room to conceal his uncontrollable mirth-yet fully aware that such a breach of respect would have been an unpardonable offence, she resolutely maintained her gravity as she re-

'That your highness is a most fitting head for the English Church, by law established, none may deny, as all the world knoweth that your covered, or fancied he had, a certain expression grace presides with equal dignity and wisdom in in the twinkling orbs of James which might indithe spiritual as well as temporal sovereignty of cate a disposition to relent. these realms, but as it so happens that my parents belonged to that Church which acknowledges Mary quickly, not another word, and you va-Urban the Eighth as its earthly chief, I cannot, if lue my friendship. Too long have I engrossed But as your majesty well knoweth, the authority many other applicants await admission to his of Urban is of a purely spiritual nature, and hath no interference with the rights of kings, that is to say, beyond the limits of his own small territory. As the chief pastor of the Catholic Church, I owe obedience in all things spiritual to his Holiness Urban the Eighth-but as the sovereign lord of these realms-of Catholics therein as well as Protestants-I bow in all submission to a prince whose illustrious lineage places him in the first rank of European sovereigns!'-and bowing her graceful head in lowly reverence, she stood before the king.

Pleased against his will, yet afraid of showing how much he was softened and conciliated, James turned away with a muttered imprecation on womanish arts. Just at that moment, Hereford, making a low obeisance, presented himself to the king's notice.

Why, how is this, my lord marquis?' cried the chased monarch, we were not cognizant of thy vicinity. 'Sdeath, man, we have no love for eavesdroppers.'

'Nor have I, my liege,' Hereford replied with a heightened color on his cheek, 'for the rest, I came hither in attendance on the Lady Mary Stuart, and have been, I assure your grace, no willing listener to what hath passed.

Here he was testily interrupted by James .-Call her not Mary Stuart-that name can never belong to a Popish recusant.'

'And yet,' said Mary timidly from behindand yet, mine honored prince, it was last borne by a queen whose chief pride it was to be a Popish recusant. If that loveliest of women and noblest of queens was reviled and calumniatedyea, persecuted even to death-it was because she, too, professed the Catholic faith and cherished it in her heart of hearts. Were that royal martyr now living the oppressed Catholics of this realm would have no need of other advocate?"

However unfeeling was James's general disposition, there were times when his stony heart could 'vield its rill,' and few things had such power to move him as the sad fate of his royal mother. This was known to Mary, and hence she had hazarded this allusion to a subject which

A sudden emotion shook the king's framehe staggered to a seat, and pulled out his hand-The cast of Mary's countenance was, at all kerchief kept his face concealed for some moone might as well expect to open a conversation time James would have noticed the absence of times, singularly noble, and as she thus defended meuts. When he again looked up his eyes were with the statues on guard in yonder hall. They the countess, and in his gossiping way inquired with her whole soul in the words, her adherence | red and swollen, and looking alternately at Here- where he stood looking gloomily down on the

unhappily the immediate object of his indignation. | charge of hypocrisy, Hereford gazed enraptured | wrongfully conspire against our royal mother, Without at all heeding the marquis, he launched on those enspired features lit up with the bright the Queen of Scots. It canna be denied that intelligence of her mind, and he inwardly ex- she was a staunch Catholic, but times are changclaimed: 'Even such a form and such a face | ed sin syne, and men's hatred of Popery hath might pagan poets have given to their deined per- | become deeper and more confirmed. Even if the King of England were disposed to wink at Popish practices, the whole nation would cry the king was not wholly insensible to the majes- out Shame! But mistake us not, my lord of could appreciate her mental qualities. When send; as the head of this great and well-purified he spoke again his tone was considerably milder | Church of England we are bound to unhold, and though still expressive of displeasure as well as | will till death uphold, her doctrines, and discountenance by every means the dangerous encroach-'This is fair talking, lassie, and doubtless ments of Popery. Hence it is that we have sounds well, but thou shalt never wheedle us, no choice in the matter—so flagrant a violation natheless, out of our just indignation. God's of the statutes cannot go unpunished. As the life! dost thou imagine that we could ever be daughter of a known and convicted traitor we brought to connive at a ward of ours professing did, natheless, receive, nay, cherish thee, unallegiance to a foreign potentate, who, as all the grateful as thou art, Mary O'Donnell! ay, and world knoweth, hath not one-half our capacity still would have favored thee above many who cast thee off now and for ever. From henceforth thou shalt no longer bear our royal name, and the princely fortune which was thine doth approaching Mary with a more rapid step than revert to ourself, the original donor thereof .usual, he stamped his foot npon the floor, and Depart from our presence, nor venture again to appear before us, unless it be to recent thine errors.

> 'In that case,' replied Mary with great firmness, 'I am now to take a final farewell of your majesty, for as soon might yonder sun turn backthis day, as I give up for earthly motives the faith which can alone save me from perdition .thank your highness, in all sincerity, for the many and great favors I have received from your royal munificence.'

Turning then to Hereford, she gracefully placed her hand in his: 'Now, my lord, be pleased to lead the way: my business here is ended and I would free his highness from the presence of a condemned criminal.'

Will the Lady Mary permit me to speak a word to the king in this matter?' inquired the marquis who, in making his parting bow, had dis-

'Not so, my lord marquis, not so!' returned would, see this matter as Protestants see it .- | time so precious, and, perchance, even now grace's presence.'

Hereford reductantly yielded, and the king, whether in a sullen fit, or from some other after feeling, remained silent for once in his life, while Mary and her noble attendant quitted the presence-chamber. On reaching Lady Kildare's mansion they found the old lady alone and in a state of restless anxiety to know what had hapnened. She had seen the carriage drive into the courtyard and departed so far from her usual dignity as to meet her granddaughter and the marquis at the door of the apartment. Scarcely had they entered when she eagerly asked :-What did his highness say ! How did he act? I pray tell me, my lord of Hereford!

But the marquis, fearful of saying what were better unsaid, looked at Mary and was silent .-Mary smiled sadly as she replied:

'Since our friend seems loath to answer your ladyship's question, that task, I suppose, devolves on me. His Majesty hath been told of my being a Catholic, and for that so heinous crime he hath seen fit to strip ine of name and wealth. I stand here, madam, not as Mary Stuart, the richlyendowed ward of a king, but as the portionless daughter of a fallen house, depending on your ladyship even for the shelter of a roof.'

And hast thou the shameless effrontery to say that even the king's authority could not bring thy stubborn heart to obedience? Thou hast, forsooth! given up-martyr-like, I trowthe dowry so generously settled upon thee-all thy hopes, too, from the king's favor-all thy prospects and expectations-and for Poperythinking, doubtless, that a refuge remains for thee in my protection. But deceive not thyself, Mary O'Donnell! I, no more than the king's highness, will encourage Popery, or Popish peeple, so that I, too, will discard thee at once and forever if, before to-morrow's sun rises, thou dost not forswear Rome and her abominations.

'Then, madam,' said Mary with difficulty restraining her tears, 'I have but to repeat to your ladyship the solemn resolution which I have already declared to the king. You may disown me-cast me forth on the wide world as a vile thing-but I will go rejoicing on my lonely way, strengthened and supported by the thought that I suffer for the faith of Christ.'

'Alas! alas!' cried the countess in piteous accents, ' was there ever so obstinate a fool ? My lord ! she suddenly added, turning to Hereford polished oak floor, ' my lord of Heretord! touch-