

sister forsooth refuses to let him go with the fleet? What do you think our feelings were when Rochester, whom we both love so dearly, was sent to explain the Queen's pleasure 'that Prince George was to relinquish his intention of going to sea, and let it appear as if he had done so of his own free will.' Then when she found he would not submit to such a message, privately sent, there comes one in form to forbid his embarkation."

"Yes, madam, and it is a marvel to me how you can submit so patiently, and after giving up your place in the succession, too, to that Caliban, as you so justly call him; how you can meet the queen as if nothing had happened after such signal affronts, fills me with astonishment; but I, madam, am not so placable. The Order of the Garter is but a due reward to my husband's merit, and instead of taking that into consideration, the queen refuses, and couches her refusal in the most contemptuous terms."

"There is nothing to be done but to submit, my dear friend," said the princess. "I cannot help your disappointment. You well know what we ourselves are called on to undergo, and how my sister's anger has been excited by the pension of fifty thousand pounds having been granted to me. We cannot help ourselves while Caliban lives."

"I pray you, madam, do not trouble on my account," replied Lady Marlborough. "I do know what you and the prince have to put up with, but a sunshiny day may yet come when we shall be rewarded for what we are at present made to undergo."

Lady Marlborough sat her down, and was buried in thought for a few moments. Vague ideas were floating through her mind as to whether they could not conspire with other disaffected ones, and so hurl the Dutch monarch and his consort from the possession of the regal power.

Meanwhile the unsuspecting Anne was thinking of Florence, and wondering why her sister should detain her at the court.

"What think you of Florence O'Neill?" she remarked. "Is it not strange the queen should keep her near her person. That young Jacobite's head has hatched plots already she tells me, young as she is."

"Nay, madam, mayhap her majesty wishes to keep the young lady out of further mischief. She keeps a watchful eye on her, depend on it. A long head too that girl has got. She does not like Caliban, I am certain; she was so amused at certain anecdotes I told her about him, and yet was silent herself."

"But the queen found her at mischief once," replied Anne. "My sister told me herself that but for that girl saving her life when the palace of Whitehall was on fire, she knew that about her that she scarce thinks confinement in the Tower would have atoned for. She may have learned a lesson of prudence since then, and have a wholesome fear of the queen's wrath."

"And what a life for the girl to lead, madam. She is only like a prisoner, you know—a sort of captive, nothing else. Think, too, what the St. Germain's people must endure about her. Why, the late queen loved the girl as though she were her own child, and the queen knows it. Then, too, she is kept unmarried; I really pity her. But, do you know, madam, such strange thoughts were running through my head when you spoke to me of Florence O'Neill."

"And pray what was the tenor of your thoughts?" asked the princess.

"If the king over the water were here, then we should not suffer at the hands of Caliban."

"Ah, no, the monster," said Anne, laughing at the epithets which she and her favorite applied to the Dutch monarch when together, unconscious that they had a household spy in Lady Fitzharding, the sister of Elizabeth Villiers, through whom the king and queen always knew, in a few hours, all that happened at the Cock-pit, and also every hard and abusive name that was applied to William."

"Would it be quite out of the question to apply to the king, madam; to the late king, I mean?"

Lady Marlborough was coming more directly to the point she had in view.

The princess flushed very painfully, her favorite was touching on a delicate subject. Anne had disseminated the vilest slanders as to the birth of the Prince of Wales, and had done all that lay in her power to despoil her father of his crown; how shall she retrace the steps she has trod? how undo the mischief she has wrought? sincere repentance can alone atone for the latter, the injury is far beyond her power to repair.

The imperious favorite saw the agitation of her mistress and again returned to the topic.

"No more of this," replied the princess, "I charge you let the subject drop."

Lady Marlborough submitted for the present, but only to bring it forward later, with what result the reader shall presently become acquainted.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE DUKE OF TYRCONNELL, AND SARSFELD, LORD LUCAN.

It is a soft, summer night, serene and peaceful, all nature is hushed, the moonbeams play on the surface of the waters, and light up the flowery dells and glades around Limerick. Not a sound was heard for a few brief hours, when preparations will be made for the coming strife.

There was much suffering in the city. The foremost to relieve and succour, out of her own store, was the brave woman, Catherine O'Neill, who had in her own heart something of the spirit of her kinsman, Sarsfield.

This worthy general, now Lord Lucan, for King James had sent him the patent of an earldom, had, together with Lord Tyrconnell, put the town in a state of defence, and had induced the officers and soldiers to make oath that they would defend the rights of James to the last. But in spite of this oath, there were factious and desponding spirits whose whole thoughts were bent on a treaty with the Dutch King.

ALARMING STATE OF AFFAIRS IN SICILY.

THE success of the Government in having contrived to have the Bill for Public Safety passed by a majority, has occasioned the greatest agitation in Sicily. Even before the fact of its approval had become generally known the excitement was intense. Individuals of all classes were equally concerned in the new bill, and their anxiety to know how the discussion had terminated gave rise to great disturbances and disorders in the public squares and thoroughfares of the principal cities of the Island. At Palermo, more than at any other town, these demonstrations were manifested. When, however, the final issue of the debate in Parliament became public, the population of the city of Palermo became frantic with fury against the ministry. Large crowds of roughs, smiths, and artisans collected on the squares of the city. The shops were shut. Seditious cries were heard on all sides. The guards of public security were insufficient to calm the threatened riot. A company of cavalry rode at full trot into the principal square, swinging large carbines on their backs. The cries of the mob redoubled. "Down with Minghetti!" "Down with the Ministry!" "Long live Taiani!" were heard on all sides. The commandant of the cavalry troop halted in the middle of the square, very coolly ordered his men to load their carbines, and, turning on the crowd, ordered all to disperse before the third trumpet signal, under pain of being shot. The crowd hesitated, cheered the soldiers, and very quietly dispersed. Other disturbances, however, have taken place in several other parts of Sicily, which were not of such a quiet nature. Several battalions of infantry have been sent to the disaffected island, and a fleet, amply provided with shells, has anchored off Larentum, to be ready at any emergency to rain down upon the heads of the unfortunate Sicilians their bombs. Deputy Taiani, who so strongly opposed the measure in Parliament, and who revealed to his horrified auditors the doings of Government officials in the island, has been greatly applauded and cheered on his way home again. At Naples a regular demonstration was improvised in his favour. The most ardent of the throng unharassed the horses of his carriage, and conducted him in triumph over the town as far as his dwelling, where he was obliged to appear at a balcony, in order to satisfy the demands of the crowd.

POSEN AND THE HOLY SEE.

A LETTER printed in the Austrian journals, and copied under reserve in the 'Bien Public,' states that the Holy Father has made a communication to Cardinal Ledochowski, inviting him to repair to Rome as soon as he shall have obtained his liberation from his present unjust imprisonment. Upon his Eminence's arrival in the Eternal City the Cardinalial berretta will be presented to him in a special Consistory, to be held with exceptional solemnity for that purpose. We also learn that the Catholics of Posen have formed a defensive organisation called the Polish Catholic Society, with Prince Czartoryski, a Deputy to the Reichstag, as its President. A numerous attended and enthusiastic meeting of the members has been held, at which a remarkable speech, delivered by a Catholic artisan, was to the following effect:—"I fought in the German army; I was at the sieges of Strasburg and of Paris; I returned home to find myself heavily involved in debt, incurred for the support of my wife and children while I was helping Germany to exact that immense indemnity from France. I worked hard, I paid off my debts, but I suffer more now than when I was with the army abroad. I have returned home to see my religion persecuted, and my clergy imprisoned, and my native language forbidden to be used in the schools where my children are compelled by law to be educated." A letter in the 'Monde' says that the State persecution goes on with unabated rigour in Polish Prussia. Even the most innocent popular observances, which have been practised for centuries without offence to any Government, are now sternly prohibited by the Prussian police.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS.

We commend the following, which we find in the London 'Tablet' of the 28th ult., to the attention of our co-religionists:—

The proceedings of the Catholic Congress of Poitiers, which commenced its sittings last week, included a report sent by M. Baudon, the President-General of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, on the duty of Catholics towards the press. M. Baudon dwelt on the melancholy fact of the insufficient support given by Catholics generally to their own newspapers and periodicals. They have these publications alone to look to for the defence of their most cherished principles against the attacks so continually made upon them by sectarians and unbelievers, and yet, strange to say, they are content for the most part to leave the organs of their own body in a precarious position—a position of inferiority to their opponents, the narrowness of their resources cramping their efforts both to the obtaining of early authentic intelligence, and as to the employment of superior literary talent. On the other hand, the Catholic public (said M. Baudon) is very exacting in its requirements from Catholic newspapers, and is very severe on any mistakes or shortcomings of which they may be thought guilty. At the same time, Catholics too often support with their own money the hostile press, under the excuse of wanting to know what the other side has to say. It is not considered that if the same support were given to Catholic journals they would be at once placed in a position that would enable them to compete on much more equal terms with their adversaries, and to support the Catholic cause with far greater efficiency than they can possibly do at the present. M. Baudon concluded his report with an urgent appeal—which was heartily joined in by the Congress—to Catholics to exert themselves to the utmost in supporting and increasing the circulation of Catholic journals.