

CATCHING A TARTAN.

A TRADITION OF SWEDEN.

[CONTINUED.]

"What is the matter?" she asked.

"I want to put you on your guard,"

he exclaimed breathlessly. "The

police have sent to say they have re-

ceived a letter from a young man in con-

cealation with you somewhere in a chain."

"I know it," answered Ika, coolly.

"I concealed him."

"You?" exclaimed the astonished

Baron. "Who is he?"

"Gustavus Reinhold."

The Baron uttered a dismal groan.

"Ika, you have murdered me!" he

cried, and sank feebly into a chair.

"Not so bad as that, I hope," she re-

plied, smilingly.

"I tell you that whoever harbors the

traitor is to be shot—and so must I!"

and the Baron groaned again. "What

made you take so fatal an interest in

this young man?"

"His misfortune," replied Ika.

"He is innocent; I know it; and my

mother, your dear sister, knew it also.

Forced by a cruel and unjust sentence

to fly from his country, he found refuge

in ours."

"Then why the deuce did he leave it?"

"To follow me when you sent for me.

Finding the pursuit so hot, I thought

the best asylum for him was your

chalet."

At this moment a servant entered the

room and announced the Count d'Ollen.

The Baron's visage brightened with a

hopeful idea.

"There is but one chance for us all!"

he exclaimed; "marry the Count and

then—" He checked himself abruptly.

"If it depends on that, our chance is

small," she returned indignantly; "but

listen to me—obey me, and all will yet

be well. I intend to play a desperate

game; but if I win, I shall save a life

far more valuable than my own."

She held a rapid conference with the

Baron; and though he listened to her at

first with astonishment and alarm, she

finally won him over to her purpose

and he promised to assist her, though it

was with fear and trembling.

He withdrew and Charles the Twelfth,

as Count d'Ollen, entered the room.

"He seeks a Tartan; he shall find one,"

she thought.

"What Count," she exclaimed, "in

regimentals? How devoted you are to

the King!"

"Well, I am," he exclaimed; "but I

came here, as well as I can, to recollect,

to tell how devoted I am to you."

"Why, Count you must be the very

counterpart of the King," cried Ika,

coquettishly.

"They say he hates women."

"He does no such thing," replied

Charles quickly.

"How do you know?" Ika asked

archly.

"Oh, I know you at all events. I

know what a talking, striking, bewitch-

ing little creature you are. Above all,

I know how I love you. Do you love

me?"

"I must have proof of your love be-

fore I answer that."

"What proof?"

"Would you grant any little whim of

mine?"

"Certainly, I will."

"Don't make any rash promises."

"I swear it."

Ika laughed gleefully, went into an

adjoining room, and brought forth an

antique costume, such as had been worn

by the deuces of fifty years ago.

"I have the costume," she said, "and

now you would look dressed as my grand-

mother," she cried.

The King was appalled.

"Death and damnation!" he cried, "I

am not wearing in a lady's pres-

ence," she said, checking him. "But I

have discovered what your love amounts

to."

He expostulated with her, and ended,

as most mortals do, in submitting to a

woman's will.

She then dressed him in a heavy bro-

cade dress, and tied the high starched

collar tightly under his chin.

"Fudge!" he cried in disgust. "This

dress makes me smell like a mummy."

"You don't like perfume, then?"

"No—yes, once—perhaps! I like

Charles the Twelfth, and there is no per-

fume for me but gunpowder."

"Oh, I wish I were his wife and

ed him forever."

He regarded her in pleased surprise.

"What are you in love with—the

King?"

"Oh dear, no! Only one might be in-

duced to sacrifice one's self for the good

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