

The Queens Necklace

THE QUEEN'S NECKLACE

Alexandre Dumas

Book may have numerous typos, missing text, images, or index. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. 1890. Excerpt: ... CHAPTER II. MASKS AND FACES. Long conversations are the blessed privilege of persons who have nothing further to tell each other. After the pleasure of being silent there is none greater than that of conversing carelessly. Two hours after the departure of the carriage, the cardinal and the countess had reached this point in their intercourse. The countess had yielded, the cardinal had conquered; and yet the cardinal was the slave, the countess was the victor. Two men deceive each other while shaking hands; a man and a woman deceive each other with a kiss. But in this case each deceived the other only because the other wished to be deceived. Each had an end in view, for the attainment of which this intimacy was necessary. Each, then, had made a forward step. The cardinal did not take the trouble to conceal his impatience. He very soon brought the conversation back to the subject of Versailles and the honors which there awaited the new favorite of the queen: She is generous, he said, and spares no pains to please those whom she likes. She has the rare gift of giving a little to a great many persons, and of giving much to a few friends. You think she is rich, then? asked Madame de La Motte. She knows how to obtain resources with a word, a gesture, a smile. There has never been a minister except Turgot, perhaps, who has had the courage to refuse the queen anything she asked. Well! / think she is not so rich as you imagine, poor queen, -- or rather, poor woman! Why do you thiuk so 1 Is a person rich who is obliged to endure privations? Privations 1 Tell me about it, dear Jeanne. Oh! mon Dieu / I will tell you what I have seen, nothing more, nothing less. Go on, I will listen. Imagine to yourself two terrible

torments which this unhappy queen has endured. Two tormen...

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