# THE DWARF; OR, MIND AND MATTER. A NOVEL. IN THREE VOLUMES, VOL. III

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The Dwarf; Or, Mind and Matter. A Novel. In Three Volumes, Vol. III by E. L. A. Berwick

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## THE DWARF.

## CHAPTER I.

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## THE CONFERENCE.

I was now the Queen's Dwarf. True, the title might not be sonorous, and the service itself promised to be fraught with peril; but for, these things I cared nothing. My ambition was in some measure gratified. I was looked upon, not according to my appearance, but

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## THE DWARF.

according to my intellect. I had already helped to do good service, and hoped to do still more, and I was content to bear all, dare all, and suffer all, in order to work cut my own destiny. I thought over the particulars of my last conversation with the spirited Queen with singular satisfaction, because I saw, now more than ever, that in me she recognised a kindred spirit, and was therefore more likely to receive me with favor and treat me with respect. In what I had said relative to the Hungarians, I was confident that I had made a just report.

During the many months which Kris-, tan and I had spent amongst them, I had uniformly heard Maria Theresa spoken of with an enthusiasm about which there could be no mistake.

With a sagacity natural to her, she had taken the right road to secure their allegiance, by recognising their fair claims, and establishing

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## THE DWARF.

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their ancient rights and customs on a liberal basis.

After centuries of civil broils and dissensions, during which this gallant people bore with the utmost impatience the yoke of the House of Austria, they were now, for the first time, beginning to be content with it, and the new-found feeling had, in a great measure, sprung from the prudent concessions made by their new Sovereign, who, so far from diminishing her authority by the act, had made it still more indisputable, by thus yielding freely to their fair demands. All this I knew, and it was this knowledge which had prompted me to hazard the advice which was so singularly well taken, both because in itself it seemed reasonable, and because it happened to be that which the Queen herself had resolved upon.

After a period, I turned my thoughts to the approaching ordeal, in which I was to play a

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