

sought solitude because he believed that it would increase his powers.

At that time, much had been happening beyond the peaceful borders of Norway. Although Sweden's King Gustavus II Adolphus had led his army to a brilliant victory over Tilly at Breitenfeld in 1631, The Thirty Years' War still dragged on. King Gustavus was killed the following year at Lützen where his amassed armies succeeded in crushing the might of the combined forces of Generals Wallenstein and Pappenheim. Tilly was fatally wounded at the Battle of Lech, in 1632, and a couple of years later Wallenstein was murdered by his own troops. Yet the war went on and on, now with other

Swedish generals on the side of the Protestants. Lennart Torstensson, Johann Banér and Hans Christoff von Königsmarck would go down in history for their exploits in this long-drawn-out war.

Christian IV had finally gotten rid of Kirsten Munk after it came to light that her latest child, Dorothea, might not have been fathered by the king. Kirsten Munk had also tried to mix some medicine into the king's food and had cartoons made of him as a cuckold. Christian could take no more. He told her that he hoped she would suffer at the hands of a thousand devils and had banned her from seeing any of their children. But this didn't seem to worry

Kirsten Munk unduly.

Nobody knows what her mother, Ellen Marsvin, had to say to her daughter once their lucrative association with the king was over. Regardless, she continued to put on a brave face in adversity.

Insult was added to injury for both women when Christian IV took a new lover – their very own lady-in-waiting, Vibeke Kruse, who was the epitome of vulgarity and simple-mindedness. However, she bore him a remarkable son, Ulrik Christian Gyldenloeve, who grew up to be a far better warrior than his father ever was. When Leonora Christina was nine years' old, King Christian IV had arranged for her to

become engaged to Corfitz Ulfeldt, an ambitious young nobleman. There was one unintended benefit from this – the tyrannical royal housekeeper, who had ruled the domestic scene at Court with an iron fist, was removed. She had continued her ill treatment of the children unopposed and on one occasion she'd beaten Leonora Christina so severely that the girl was unable to sit down for several weeks. In fact, the injuries were so bad that she continued to suffer from them for the rest of her life. Inevitably, Leonora had told Corfitz what had happened and at long last the housekeeper's brutal rule over the children was brought to an end, once and for all. On the king's

orders, she was dismissed and never served at Court again.

Anna Christiane, the king's eldest daughter by Kirsten Munk, didn't enjoy a long or happy life. Her fiancée, Frans Rantzau, died in 1632. The young fop was with the king at Rosenborg Castle, celebrating his appointment as Chancellor and was determined to match Christian's consumption of wine, glass for glass. Rantzau became so drunk that he fell from the castle wall, hit his head on a stone and drowned in the moat. Anna Christiane became gravely ill shortly afterwards. Some said that she was overcome with grief, others that it was due to smallpox. She asked that Countess Palatin be at her