The Duke of Wellington Discusses Macauley with the Queen

(Harriette's mother was a stocking-mender. A good living then, trousers for men not being common until 1820.)

"Admirable Horatius! So gallant and heroic!"
The Queen in her fervent ribbons.

(By now Harriette's profession, too, is obsolete. She did make a career change in middle-age: novels, memoirs, romans à clef, and she married. But once she kept Wellington waiting outside in the rain while she finished off another lover.)

"Bows and arrows, ma'am. A smart volley with bows and arrows would have stopped the Three."

(Harriette, too, knew his contempt for literature was perfect.)

NANCY HOLMES