

at the house of one of the richest men in Europe, forming a party at whist, with persons who were notorious for the extravagance of their stakes, and losing with nonchalance, a sum that even a man of fortune must consider enormous. In his turn, M. Felix recognized the banker and Count, and passing before them with a serious air, and looking significantly at each in turn, he uttered the words—"pride and vanity," in a tone that was distinctly audible, and perfectly understood by both.

Neither M. Durand nor M. de Lozeraie, was a person at all likely to put up with such an insult; but the great age of the offender, added to the remembrance that each had of the indignities to which he had been subjected by them the day before, kept them both silent.—Deep in their hearts, however, did each nourish the recollection that the other had been a witness of his degradation, and thus was the mutual dislike that had already so mysteriously sprung up between them, heightened into a sentiment very much akin to hatred.

Sundry circumstances too, that followed their first meeting, served to fan this flame of causeless enmity; among which, a silly conversation that took place during the same evening between Arthur and his partner, contributed no small share.

This love-sick youth, being as simple as he was amorous, thought to make a great display of his passion by swearing to Delphine that he would never yield to the unjust prejudices of his father. The young lady naturally asked him what these prejudices were, and Arthur had the folly to repeat them. As an offset to this, the rich heiress could find nothing better to return, than a recapitulation to M. de Lozeraie, of the contemptuous observations of Flora de Favieri concerning him; attributing them, however, to her father, that Monsieur le Comte de Lozeraie might not seem to have all the impertinence on his side.

It is probable enough, considering the manner in which she had been brought up, that Delphine reported to her father the insolence of M. de Lozeraie; but we must do Arthur the justice to say, that he would not have revealed to the Count the observations of Mademoiselle Durand, had it not been for some extraordinary remarks of M. Felix, which made him attach more importance to them than he did when he heard them. The circumstances that elicited these remarks were as follow—

M. Felix having obtained an introduction to Arthur, during the ball, took him aside and told him that he had a few words to say to him

on an affair of money, in which his mother's name was seriously concerned. To this, Arthur replied, that he was as jealous of the honour of his mother's name, which he did not bear, as of his father's, which he did. M. Felix appeared charmed with this answer, but replied, gravely—

"Would to God that that which you do bear, were worth as much to you as that which you do not."

"Sir?" cried Arthur, with astonishment.

"We will meet again," said the old man, mildly, "and then you will know that I have a right to speak as I now do."

The consequence of this conversation was, that when M. le Comte de Lozeraie, who had observed his son's emotion on taking the hand of Delphine, thought it necessary to repeat the orders he had given him, not to seek a second meeting with her, he did not find so prompt and absolute an obedience as usual. Arthur took upon himself to expostulate, by representing to his father, that alliances between the nobility and financial men, were by no means so rare as to justify him in repulsing it with disdain. The Count, irritated by this shew of resistance, thought that he could not go too far in his attempt to make his son sensible of the baseness of his notions, and he concluded a precious tirade about the respect due to his name, with these words—

"I can easily understand how men of a new name, or even members of the old nobility who have compromised their rank and fortune by foolish speculations, may seek to withdraw themselves from the pecuniary embarrassments in which they have involved themselves by such alliances; but a person who owns the name and fortune of a Lozeraie, must be most scrupulous. Yes, Arthur, it is left to men like us to maintain those principles of rigid honour and integrity, which alone can ever restore to the aristocracy of France, the splendour and position they have so much sunk from."

"But, my father," said Arthur, "how is it that this name and this fortune have been the subject of such unpleasant animadversions this evening?"

This was sufficient to induce M. de Lozeraie to insist upon an exact recital of all that had been said; and Arthur did not escape from his father's strict examination, until he had been forced to repeat all the remarks of Mademoiselle Durand and M. Felix. Nothing could exceed the rage of the Count at this recital; but he vented it only against M. Durand, and Arthur was solemnly warned, that nothing in the world