

One day Louis was rushing helter-skelter down the stairs, when he suddenly fell and hurt his knee. He was so afraid of frightening his mother, and so anxious that none of the servants in charge of him should be alarmed, that he told no one how much he was hurt.

He suffered a great deal for some time, and at last he was obliged to tell his mother about it. Then it was found that an abscess had formed in the knee. The doctors held a consultation, and the little prince was taken into the next room while they talked the matter over, and determined that an operation must be performed.

When the day which they had fixed arrived, the prince's tutor went to prepare him for it as gently as he could.

"I hope you will be able to bear it quietly," he said.

Louis smiled sadly.

"I knew all you have been telling me two months ago," he said. "I heard what the surgeons said, but I did not mention it for fear any one should think I was worried about it. Now the fatal day has come. Leave me alone for a quarter of an hour; then I shall be ready."

When the time was up he asked to see the instruments. Taking them in his hands, he said:

"I can bear anything if only I may get well again and comfort mamma."

Chloroform was unknown in those days, and the operation would have been very hard for a man to bear, yet the little fellow only called out twice, and when it was all over he found his reward in the tender embraces of his father and mother.

Then came weary months of pain and weakness, which tried the poor boy sadly, yet it was only when the pain was more than usually violent that he allowed himself to complain; and it was understood among his attendants that if the prince were particularly anxious about their health and comfort, it was a sign that he himself was suffering more.

"Dear Tourolle," he said one day to one of his favorite servants, "you do too much for me; you hurt yourself. Go out and get some fresh air; I will try to do without you for two or three hours."

Night after night the poor little sufferer, not yet eleven years old, would lie awake in pain; yet he would not groan or cry out, lest he should wake the attendants who slept near him, and if he were obliged to ask for anything, it was in a tone of voice which could disturb no one.

At last those weary months of suffering came to an end, and the noble-hearted boy died, on February 23, 1761, with his arms around his mother's neck. There is one saying of his which well describes his life, and which may serve as a motto for all: "I cannot do much, but I will do all I can."

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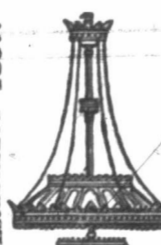


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ing—in this you must be guided by your own Clergyman. But if the communicants are many, and the time is long, you can well spend it by a devout study of the Communion Office, every part of which—not forgetting the long exhortations—will bear many readings and much attention, or you can read your Bible, or learn a Hymn or a Psalm.

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