

DIARY OF A POOR YOUNG LADY.

(From the German of MARIE NATHUSIUS.)

[Translated for the Church Guardian.]

A TALE FOR YOUNG GIRLS.

(Continued.)

I MUST confess that my heart failed me as we entered the courtyard of the Amt house. The Amtmann was talking to the farmers in the shade of the lime tree. His wife and Adelaide were sitting in the porch. They had already dined. Aunt generally chooses the dinner time of ordinary people to pay visits. Adelaide tittered. The young men turned their heads. I looked anxiously at Jacob, but he was walking quite calmly behind us, and now stopped forward with his best manner to receive the cards from my aunt, to announce us. This was quite unnecessary, for the Amtmann came to meet us, after giving an angry glance to the young men. He spoke to my aunt of the pleasure and honour of seeing her at his house, and kissed her hand. I felt the tears rush into my eyes, all my embarrassment was gone; I could only feel gratitude towards these good people. They are so polite and kind from pure compassion, the Amtmann's wife also showed my aunt all possible affection and respect. My aunt spoke English to Adelaide, praised her fluency, and found fault with her accent.

The Amtmann's wife regretted that Adelaide had had no opportunity of speaking English since her return from the capital, and begged that we two girls might meet some times. My aunt did not seem averse to it. Though she said I should probably soon be offered a position at court. "Or, as a governess" I added quickly—I scarcely meant what I said, but I could not help saying something in opposition to aunt's loftiness. She looked gravely at me, but we turned the conversation. Adelaide's mother is a very kind-hearted woman. Poor aunt, I fear that she will be soon altogether crippled. I noticed how much more fatiguing the walk to the Amtmann's seemed to her this time than it used to be.

May 10th.

It has been raining incessantly for a week. Such weather in spring time is so dreary, I could be almost melancholy. The children came regularly, we sit in the old conservatory. Jacob has nailed up the holes where the rain came in. The children are happy in spite of the bad weather. And I—Surely I have every reason to be happy. Trichen says it is the remains of my idle life. "The more you bestir yourself, the brighter you will be." She is right. Yes, I will be happy, for it is sinful to be out of sorts without any cause.

May 11th.

It is raining still, but I don't mind. We have learnt a beautiful song about spring, and "Lord help us with Thy grace" for aunt's birth-day. In the afternoon, I arranged my bureau. Trichen says the condition of a girl's wardrobe is like her heart. "O, that I could govern my thoughts, and rule my heart with God's word, and not spare myself when I do wrong."

May 12th.

The nightingales awoke me. I hurried into the garden—O, how glorious! The sky so pure and wide, and blue—the young birches smelling so sweet—thousands and thousands of gleaming diamonds hanging on the dark fir trees,—the leaves of the beeches and oaks pale green and gold! For a whole week the rainy weather has spread a veil over spring, but beneath it everything was growing, and stirring and spreading, and now the veil is lifted, and the miracle is here. I stood under the cherry tree, the silvery branches waved softly against the deep blue sky, and the apple tree yonder glistened rosy red with its swelling buds.

What bloom and sunlight everywhere, and what rejoicing! What life in the hedges, and on every bough—birds singing, bees and insects humming. I opened wide my heart, and looked deep into the blue sky. "O, gracious Master, would that my heart could be a true garden of Thine, and bloom, and grow heavenward. I should be sad, because I am so poor, so miserable,—because the nettles and thorns of vanity grow in my heart, but I am so happy to-day. I love Thee, Lord, and as a poor, helpless child, I may sit at Thy feet, and may look up into Thy blue sky, and rejoice in Thy wonders."

(To be continued.)

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