

country, no longer afforded shelter, or security to her well-disposed citizens, and he had his mind made up to go over to England or go somewhere else, when the advance of the Austrians upon the country aroused his patriotic ardor, and determined him to remain where his services might be useful in repelling the invader. Young de Fernig held a lieutenant's commission in the army, and the father himself had served in his youth; so the military instincts of the family had no small share in leading to the conclusion just stated; and it had been decided that the male members of the household should risk the hazards of the impending war, while the females were to remain in the seclusion of home away from the dangers and hardships of campaigns.

But those arrangements were not of long duration. The Fernigs, father and son, together with Achille Duprez, departed to join the army under the command-in-chief of Dumouriez; and the campaign had not been many weeks old when two novel recruits were added to the force. These were uniform of staff officers; but under the casques of the cavaliers appeared two female faces of remarkable loveliness. "Their modesty, their blushes, and their grace," says the historian of their exploits, "under the uniform of officers of the staff, formed a contrast to the masculine figures of the warriors who surrounded them." We need scarcely say they were the Mesdemoiselles de Fernig, who had resolved upon sharing the fortunes in the field of their father and brother. They were, in the words of Lamartine—it will be seen that we are not treating of imaginary personages—"two young girls whose tenderness for their father and passion for their country, had torn them from the shelter of their sex and age and thrown them into camp. Their filial love had left them no other asylum."

After the departure of their relatives for the army, they found their home a solitude; added to which was the feeling of filial tenderness which burned within them, and would have rendered an elysium miserable, their father being absent from it, so they decided upon the extraordinary step which we have seen them take. Their application to the Convention was promptly responded to; and the Government not only recommended them to the Commander-in-Chief, but cited their names as an example to France, and sent them horses and arms of honor in the name of the country.

Dumouriez was well disposed to pay cordial attention to the recommendation of the authorities, and the objects of Government patronage well merited the confidence of the executive, and the friendship of the general. Among the heroism displayed on the field of Jemappes, that of those simple country girls was the most

conspicuous and laudable. There they fought, triumphed, and, with true feminine tenderness, saved the lives of their wounded enemies, after having conquered them. "Tass," says their poetic eulogist, "never invented in Clorinda more heroism, more of the marvellous, and more love, than the Republic was compelled to admire in the exploits and in the destiny of those two heroines of liberty."

The young girls were, with their father and brother, always personally attached to the Commander-in-Chief, and they continued to wear the dress, the arms, and to perform the functions of staff orderly officers. Their courage, intrepidity, and devotion to the service endeared them to the General, who pointed them out as models for the imitation of his soldiers. They had fought valiantly at Valmy, and looked forward to the campaign of Jemappes with the ardor of the heroines of antiquity. On the day of Jemappes, where the Austrians had a foretaste of these numerous reverses that had their term at Leipsic, the services of the heroic sisters were conspicuous upon a field of patriotic and victorious heroes. Felicite, the elder, followed the young Duc de Chartres (afterwards Louis Philippe, destined to experience so many startling vicissitudes between that triumphant day and the day of his death, in his third or fourth exile, at Clermont), on horseback, and did not quit him during the battle. The second, the beautiful Theophile, prepared herself to carry to old General Ferrand the orders of the General-in-Chief, and to march with him to the assault of the redoubts on the left wing, which he commanded.

"Dumouriez," says Lamartine, "showed these two charming heroines to his soldiers as models of patriotism, and minded the army of those marvellous aspirations, those genii protectors of the people, at the head of armies on the day of battle. Liberty, like religion, was worthy of having her miracles also."

It is not necessary to give in this place a description of the great battle of Jemappes, or to enlarge upon the political results that followed the victory. It is sufficient to say that the Austrians were routed out of Belgium, which became a French province; that the victory, inflamed Dumouriez with the desire of restoring the fallen monarchy at Paris; that Danton intrigued for the elevation to the throne of the Duke of Orleans, who, by his counsel, hung on the heels of the victorious army, to whose triumphs and glory his two sons, DeChartres and DeMontpensier, then little more than a child, considerably contributed; that the Ultra or Red Republicans finally triumphed over moderation and mercy; and that such of the nobles of the land, or those suspected of sympathizing with them in any way, or on any account, as escaped the guillotine, had to fly the country, and seek refuge in a