

Children's Department.

DIARY OF A POOR YOUNG LADY.

(From the German of MARIE NATHUSIUS.)

[Translated for the Church Guardian.]

A TALE FOR YOUNG GIRLS.

PLETTENHAUS, 2d April, 18—.

"Dear child," my aunt said to me to-day, "never indulge in a feeling of pride because you are a Fraulein von Plettenhaus; but never forget it!" Trinchen, sewing in her corner, cleared her throat; my aunt cast a stern glance at her, and went on: "Your late grandfather was Prime Minister, and if your late father,"—"had not married an angel," Trinchen burst out." "Catherine, you will keep silence!" said my aunt.

Trinchen knows what "Catherine!" means, and contented herself with a few sighs. The good soul! The loftier my aunt becomes, the higher she soars into the air,—the more Trinchen bends and gives way, until suddenly the fire is kindled, and she speaks with a tongue of flame.

Then my aunt's greatness disappears, her words are dispersed like mists by the pure sun beams. I was thinking of this, and did not hear what my aunt was saying. She grew angry and very solemn. "Rank and position are God's ordinances. The rose must bloom as a rose; the daisy as a daisy. It would ill become the rose to stoop to the clay of the field; the daisy would vainly endeavour to shine as a rose." My aunt said this, and more besides.

When she was silent, Trinchen sang softly:

"Thou art a Shepherd kind,
And such wilt ever be,
Grant, Jesu, that my heart
May ever trust in Thee.
Lord, let me hear Thy voice,
That I may wake from sleep,
And humbly follow Thee
As Thy obedient sheep.

Jesu! I know Thy voice,
But not the stranger's call,
They do not seek to save
My soul, but to enthral.
The hireling in my need
Will not beside me stand,
Thy voice I follow then,
Thy guiding Shepherd-hand!

O Jesu! that I might
Cast upon Thee alone
My care, and find in Thee
All that my heart would own.
Oh! that I might be still,
And calmly on Thee rest,
For what Thy sheep may need,
Thou, Shepherd, knowest best!

At the last words, the tears ran down my aunt's cheeks. She felt for her handkerchief; her fingers were so stiff, she could scarcely reach her eyes. I knelt down by her, and could not help crying too, and Trinchen went quickly out of the room. Poor aunt! pains torment her day and night. And then the care about my future. I know not what she means to make of me. O, Thou dear Lord, be her faithful Shepherd; take from her her many pains and worry; give her heart faith, and let it be still, and not care any longer, for Thou, as Shepherd, knowest what we all need.

April 6th.

I was up early, and standing at the open window. The air was so soft,—mist and dew and Spring beneath me. Everything was still yet, only Jacob stood below in the garden by the fresh, brown earth. I ran to help him; his back seems very stiff lately, and the spade heavy in his hand; I trust it will not be with him as with aunt. Jacob would not accept my help; he looked up at the window. She was still asleep, and it is no sin for me to help him. As a child, I was allowed to dig in my garden, and I may dig in a larger piece of ground now. He would not let me, till I had put on my gloves and the large hat. How pleasant it was! I dug twice as quickly as Jacob, and the black-birds and finches were singing in the elder-bushes, and the

larks high in the air. Light fleecy clouds were passing over the sky. The violets looked dark in the fresh green, and the forget-me-nots pale-blue and rosy-red in the glistening dew.

We saw the chestnut-tree above our heads growing, the fat brown buds shone against the deep-blue sky; we fancied then we heard the little cups burst open, and the golden leaflets spread themselves towards the warm sun.

"I wish I knew why Trinchen is sadder now than in the winter," I said to Jacob; "I am in such good spirits that I don't know what to do. Can it be prettier anywhere than here?" Jacob shook his head sadly. "Our house is not too large, and not too small," I continued; "it stands on a hill, and yet we have not to climb too high. Above, yonder, is the beech-wood and shade, and here in front meadows and sun-shine. It is quiet here; one only hears the bees and insects humming; but we can see the chimneys of the village smoking over yonder, and at night we hear the watchman singing on his rounds."

"That is just it," Jacob interrupted me. "We cling too much to this little piece of land! But our little capital is melting, dear Fraulein; the garden is getting no larger, and you, dear little girl! you need more and more!"

"Cares about the necessaries of life!" I stammered.

"Yes we have them!" Jacob went on; "but the old Fraulein must not know it. It is my opinion —"

"Jacob," called Trinchen from the kitchen window.

He passed his hand over his lips, and was silent. But I must know more.

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