
Elfa

country, where one is lured from one pleasant view to another by gentle paths.

The chase it was that drew us three men closely together; von Gunsthal, von Unger, and myself. They were clever sportsmen, and as keen as ever shouldered gun. Many a hundred splendid tramps we had across mountain dale and forest; knit together in the bond of good fellowship, which binds all true hunters. My life on the Grossberg had given me a knowledge of the craft far beyond theirs, and they acknowledged it ungrudgingly, giving way to my judgment. This better skill of mine, too, drew from them tributes of admiration which they were glad enough to render: just as in other matters I was well pleased to yield to them. Thus we passed from an earlier friendship to the delightful intimacy of close and constant companions.

When the labours of the day's sport were ended and we marched homeward, moved in common by the generous flow of mutual confidence, discussing all the incidents of the day and comparing them with those of former hunts, or passing to some other matters which could claim and hold the interest of all alike, the talk was ever that of tried and genial friendship. And often in the evenings we would all foregather in one of our homes; our wives and we together forming a happy circle, and tell again the never-tiring story of the chase, each ready with a generous tribute to the others' prowess, and all sure of a ready, interested, sympathising audience in our womenfolk.