

breast. Then Louise stepped forward. He held out his arms to her and enfolded her in a fervent embrace. Madame de Turgis was nearly distracted with joy; her son was once more with her. She ordered Henri to barricade all entrances to the castle, so as to guard them from every surprise. All her fears were now allayed. She had only one thought: he is here; he is saved!

"So you will take part in the coming campaign?" Madame de Turgis asked at length, after they had conversed for some time.

"Yes, dear mother," said he. "All the survivors of General Charette's followers, of whom I am one, had united with the force under Sombreuil's command. Some of our soldiers held Fort Penthièvre, on the peninsula of Quiberon. The contest at the foot of the fort lasted four days. Nothing had been decided, until we were betrayed most treacherously. Our troops were faced on one side by the sea, on the other side by the columns of the republican army, which advanced rapidly. What a horrible sight, this desperate human mass, whose only choice was either the enemy's bayonets or the roaring waves. The English fleet which had landed us made no attempt to assist us. Some, furious at the double treason, plunged their swords into their breasts, while others blindfolded their horses and precipitated themselves into the waves."

"But you—you, my son, how did you escape?"

"Our division covered the landing-place. We sought to defend our brethren. Some boats were sent by the fleet, but too late. Only a few could reach them. We fought as long as we could. Our rescue was impossible; we were compelled to surrender. Sombreuil offered his life for his soldiers. His magnanimous offer was not accepted. We were surrounded on all sides, brought to Auray, and thrown into a prison. A few of us could escape in the general tumult."

"Thank God you escaped!"

Paul nodded assentingly.

"Will these unhappy men be sacrificed?" asked Louise.

"Undoubtedly."

"Notwithstanding their surrender?" exclaimed Marie.

"Hoche would respect it," answered

Paul. But there is Tallien. Away with these sad remembrances! How happy I am to be with you again!"

"And you shall not leave us," said Madame de Turgis, warmly. "If necessary, we will hide you, so that you cannot be found, even if a whole army came to look for you. It is to be hoped that better times will come. The general opinion is that peace will soon be declared. Then the wish of my heart will be fulfilled." She glanced meaningly at Paul and Louise, the warm blood rushing to the cheeks of the latter. "We will live united in this spot, where your father and I have spent so many happy days."

Paul made an attempt to smile, but the expression of pain that flitted over his features did not escape his sister's eyes. He kissed his mother's hand saying,—

"If your happiness depends on me—"

"Only on you, my son. Therefore, be careful; then everything will be well. But you are tired and drenched by the rain, and it is already eleven. Notwithstanding the joy I feel at seeing you, I would not rob you of your sleep. To-morrow, my child, we will see each other again."

The young man seemed to obey unwillingly. He paced the room several times, looked at the pictures and furniture. He bent over Louise's work.

"Is this for me, dearest?"

"Yes," she answered; "mother and Marie have also worked for you."

"My dear Marie," said Paul.

He turned towards his sister, exchanging a look of deep sympathy with her. Had she seen aright, or was it only a delirium? She thought his eyes were moist.

He suddenly stepped up to his mother and kissed her good-night. He bade Louise and Marie good-night also, and quickly left the room, as though through a forcible resolve.

Madame de Turgis and Louise also retired to their rooms, while Marie remained to attend some trivial matter. Insupportable thoughts crowded upon her. What was the horrible fear that clutched her heart—that stopped her breath? Was her brother in danger?

She slowly ascended the stairs leading to her room. Having arrived there, she longed to see Paul once more. She stepped out on the balcony and softly approached his windows. The curtains