

fearing to fix my thoughts on any thing, and doubting whether those who had saved my life were my friends or my enemies. Madame de Konigsmark sat patiently by my side for hours together, watching, as I have since thought, every turn of my mind. She became more and more alarmed at the bold measures she adopted, and seemed terrified lest I should refuse to disappear altogether from the world where I was known. Nothing could be more skilful or better planned than the way in which she brought me to the point. She did not say anything more on the subject that day, but on the following morning she induced me to rise from my bed, and led me to an open window looking on a garden at the back of the palace. The sudden burst of a Russian spring—the most beautiful though the most short lived of seasons—was imparting a wonderful beauty and sweetness to the shrubs and flowers. The sky was of softest blue, and a southern wind fanned my cheek, reminding me of my father's land. It awoke the wish to live. I could not now bear the idea of dying, either by violence or by poison, the effect of which had already, in spite of antidotes, begun to tell upon my health. I felt incapable of forming plans, but to get away—to escape—became now my most intense desire. At nights I was afraid of assassins. Every sound—every step—made me tremble.

"A day or two later, Madame de Konigsmark came to me in great alarm. One of the prince's favorites had been seen in the palace, conversing with the servants and making inquiries, which M. de Sasse had overheard. Rumors were afloat, she told me, that I had been killed by my husband, and my attendants, it was supposed, would undergo an examination.

"*'Princess, you must go this very night,'* she said. *'I will accompany you to the coast. M. de Sasse and one of your women will go with you to France. You can easily travel thence to America, where you will be perfectly safe from discovery. I have secured for you a sum of 50,000 roubles, which is by this time in Messrs. Frere's hands in Paris; and all the jewels which are your own property you must take with you. M. de Sasse will pass for your father; and if Mademoiselle Rosenkrantz should decline to leave Europe you can easily procure in France another*

attendant. There is not a moment to lose. Your own life, and the lives of all concerned, are at stake.'

"The suddenness of the proposal took me by surprise. I seized her hands and cried: *'I cannot forsake my son.'*

"*'Alas!'* she answered, *'have you enjoyed a parent's rights, or a parent's happiness? Have you been suffered to be a mother to your child? He is safe in the Czar's keeping. He can protect him better than you could. Believe me, princess, if the Czarovitch discovers you are alive, I cannot answer for your life or for mine. Do you think I should urge you to forego your position if there were any other way of saving you?'*

"It was not difficult to persuade me; I had not strength to resist. In the middle of the night we descended the narrow staircase, and found a carriage waiting for us. I moved like a person in a dream. Madame de Konigsmark was by my side. I do not remember having any distinct thoughts during that journey, or any feeling but that of a hunted animal pining to escape. When we came near the coast, and I felt on my cheek the peculiar freshness of the sea air, it revived me a little; but when, by the light of the moon, I caught sight of the merchant vessel which I was to embark in, a sense of desolation came over me. My friend wept bitterly as she gave me a parting embrace. I did not shed a tear. It seemed as if every thing within me was turned to stone. I sat down on my wretched cabin-bed; the anchor was raised and we began to move. For a long time I neither spoke nor stirred. The poor old man—once my servant, then my orly protector—watched me all that day and the following night. I believe the first words I uttered were some that have often been on my lips since that time: *'Free amongst the dead!'*"

"Free with the freedom of God's children!" d'Auban exclaimed. "Oh, Princess! what a miracle of mercy has your life been!"

"I can see it now; but at the time all was darkness. From Hamburg, where we landed, we went to Paris, and soon afterwards to Havre de Grace, where we embarked, as I have told you before, in a vessel with eight hundred German emigrants on board. I was impatient to get away from France, always fancying myself