

the primrose, "which dies before marriage," are prized far more than the succeeding attractive beauties of Flora's domains.

Even the bride herself is not so welcomed and admired, albeit "she excelleth them all," as her lovely subjects who precede the appearance of the crowned queen. Often I was not required for hours together, but my time passed pleasantly. I made excursions alone to the neighbouring hamlets, and visited the churches where I sat in solemn reflection, which such places are likely to call forth. I beheld the flickering lamp burning at the altar, I gazed on the numerous statues which mark the Roman Church, I listened to the confession of a youthful penitent, made to the aged *curé*, and then would return to the *chateau* in time for the seven o'clock dinner. After half past eight I was again my own mistress.