

a lady. He and his companions entered the university with little delay, though not without being considerably ill at ease.

On setting eyes upon them, Psyche, Ida's dearest friend and closest companion, immediately recognized Florian as her brother. In great excitement she warned them that, if detected, their lives, according to the laws, would be forfeited. Melissa, Blanche's child, was in the secret too; yet, neither she nor Psyche would dare to inform on the intruders, lest these rash youths would be sentenced to death. Orders of such a nature might have been enforced by the bodyguard of sturdy mountain-bred peasant women, who could hold their own against a very considerable band of men. The following day several ladies rode to a wood for an outing, the gentlemen being in the company. The prince and princess passed many hours together; first, in the ride, and, later, in the mountain climb. Evening approaching, the spread was laid; and, when the lunch was over, each was called upon to sing. A sentimental lassie sang: "The Days that Are No More." Ida sang, and the prince sang. Cyril, perhaps from too free use of the wine cup, began a drinking song. At this the princess, all indignation, rose and cried: "Forbear, sir." A panic followed. In rushing heedlessly over the boardwalk that bridged the nearby brook, Ida lost her balance, falling headlong into the current. The prince had the good fortune to rescue her, but retreated at once under the impulse of his shameful conscience. That night, having wandered back to the castle grounds, he and Florian were captured by the guard. While they were yet in the presence of the princess, who bitterly chided them for desecrating her retreat, letters came from the prince's father stating that he had arrived in the vicinity with his army and would hold King Gama prisoner until such time as his son should be released. Entering his own camp, later, the prince caused much laughter owing to his female attire. Cyril was there, and Psyche, who had become separated from her friends. The young widow wept for her baby that Ida held, and which, at that time, was teaching the young princess the sweetness of motherhood. The prince went to Gama's lines to propose terms with Arac, the commander, Ida's brother, and her only acknowledged male friend. She had previously pledged him to protect her. Negotiations followed. They agreed to fight forty good knights to a side, the princess to abide by the issue. The fight was fierce. The prince clashed with the best of the knights, and left them writhing on the ground. Arac alone, giant-like, met, and finally overcame