

grief. The Count does this in justice as well as mercy, Amélie."

"Then I shall never see my brother more in this world, — never!" exclaimed Amélie, supporting herself on the arm of Heloise. "His fate is decided as well as mine, and yours too, O Heloise."

"It may not be so hard with him as with us, Amélie," replied Heloise, whose bosom was agitated with fresh emotions at every allusion to Le Gardeur. "The King may pardon him, Amélie." Heloise in her soul hoped so, and in her heart prayed so.

"Alas! If we could say God pardoned him!" replied Amélie, her thoughts running suddenly in a counter-current. "But my life must be spent in imploring God's grace and forgiveness all the same, whether man forgive him or no."

"Say not my life, but our lives, Amélie. We have crossed the threshold of this house together for the last time. We go no more out to look upon a world fair and beautiful to see, but so full of disappointment and wretchedness to have experience of!"

"My daughters," exclaimed the Lady de Tilly, "another time we will speak of this. Harken, Amélie! I did not tell you that Pierre Philibert came with me to the gate of the Convent to see you. He would have entered, but the Lady Superior refused inexorably to admit him even to the parlor."

"Pierre came to the Convent, — to the Convent?" repeated Amélie with fond iteration, "and they would not admit him. Why would they not admit him? But I should have died of shame to see him. They were kind in their cruelty. Poor Pierre! he thinks me still worthy of some regard." She commenced weeping afresh.

"He would fain have seen you, darling," said her aunt. "Your flight to the Convent — he knows what it means — overwhelms him with a new calamity."

"And yet it cannot be otherwise. I dare not place my hand in his now, for it would redden it! But it is sweet amid my affliction to know that Pierre has not forgotten me, that he does not hate me, nay, that he still loves me, although I abandon the world and him who to me was the light of it. Why would they not admit him?"

"Mère Migeon is as hard as she is just, Amélie. I think