

voice was then silent : no ! for her feet were dust. Pure, innocent, noble-hearted girl ! whom, from earliest youth, ever I believe in as full of truth and self-sacrifice, this was amongst the strongest pledges for *thy* truth, that never once—no, not for a moment of weakness—didst thou revel in the vision of coronets and honor from man. Coronets for thee ! Oh no ! Honors, if they come when all is over, are for those that share thy blood.³ Daughter of Domrémy, when the gratitude of thy king shall awaken, thou wilt be sleeping the sleep of the dead. Call her, King of France, but she will not hear thee ! Cite her by thy apparitors⁴ to come and receive a robe of honor, but she will be found *en contumace*.⁵ When the thunders of universal France, as even yet may happen, shall proclaim the grandeur of the poor shepherd girl, that gave up all for her country, thy ear, young shepherd girl, will have been deaf for five centuries. To suffer and to do, that was thy portion in this life ; that was thy destiny ; and not for a moment was it hidden from thyself. Life, thou saidst, is short : and the sleep which is in the grave is long ! Let me use that life, so transitory, for the glory of those heavenly dreams destined to comfort the sleep which is so long. This pure creature—pure from every suspicion of even a visionary self-interest, even as she was pure in senses more obvious—never once did this holy child, as regarded herself, relax from her belief in the darkness that was travelling to meet her. She might not prefigure the very manner of her death ; she saw not in vision, perhaps, the aerial altitude of the fiery scaffold, the spectators without end on every road pouring into Rouen as to a coronation, the surging smoke, the volleying flames, the hostile faces all around, the pitying eye that lurked but here and there, until nature and imperishable truth broke loose from artificial restraints ; —these might not be apparent through the mists of the hurrying future. But the voice that called her to death, *that* she heard forever.

3. A relative of Joan of Arc, probably her brother, was ennobled by the title of *Du Lis*.

4. **Apparitors**: The summoners, or attendants, upon the officers of ecclesiastical courts.

5. **En contumace**: A French legal term denoting the position of one who being criminally charged does not appear for trial.