

THE PETIT TRIANON

of Marie Antoinette, a specimen of old Sévres china: some of the furniture in the bedroom belonged to her, and the flowers sewn on the coverlet must have been embroidered for one of her beds, since her cipher and the King's appear in them.

It was in this room that Marie Antoinette lay ill in the spring of 1779, when she had the measles. A few months after the birth of her eldest daughter, Madame Royale, the doctors ordered her to leave the palace of Versailles while she was recovering her strength. She established herself at Trianon with her whole household, and violated all the customs of the Court by accepting four gentlemen as sicknurses: her friends the Duc de Coigny, the Duc de Guines, the Comte Eszterhazy, and the Baron de Besenval. This thoughtless action, in which the Queen saw only an innocent amusement, was the cause of a great deal of comment at Court, and was the origin of the malicious insinuations against her which became so common later on.

She grew more and more attached to her country-house. The Princesses of the Blood spent whole days there, and the King joined them sometimes on returning from the chase. The Queen showed herself to be an accomplished hostess, desiring only to please the friends she was entertaining. "The Queen," says an eye-witness, "remained sometimes