

saw at once that it had been more carefully done than usual. She expressed her satisfaction and liberally paid for it. Encouraged by this warm welcome, Agatha exposed the motive of her visit. She spoke of Christian's love for study, and the hope he entertained of becoming useful to society. All this deeply interested the Countess. After Agatha had finished, the Countess told her to return on the morrow and bring her brother with her, that she might judge for herself if he was worthy of her protection. On her return home Agatha made known her success, and on the following day they took their way to the castle. The Countess, as well as the people of the village, was ignorant of the fact that that Christian was a stray waif, who had been found in the forest, and was therefore not a little surprised to see such a finely built fellow, in perfect health, and with a countenance on which was stamped nobility of soul. After a short examination she was convinced that Christian possessed great qualities, and had been endowed with great genius as well as a marvellous judgment. "This child," said she, "has received great gifts from God, and is destined to be something better than a hunter." This noble woman then resolved to take charge of Christian and help him to obtain a position, which, as he had said, would enable him to render society great services.

She then whispered to Agatha, "You were quite right; your brother promises to become a great man, I shall therefore look after him. Come to me in two weeks and in the meantime I shall see what I can do."

When the two weeks were up the brother and sister returned to the castle. The Countess received them with such a bright face that Agatha was at once reassured, and was not surprised when the Countess said to Christian: "I wrote to my son-in-law, who is the ambassador at the electorate of Mayence at Ratisbonne. I specially recommended you to him, and he and my daughter are willing to receive you and you will live with them at the hotel. You will attend the Lyceum during the hours of study, and my son-in-law will feed and clothe you; all he expects in return is, that you help

the secretary of Legation in his office during your free time; this work will only advance your education."

Agatha seized her hands and bathed them in tears. Christian tried to find words to thank her, but they seemed to stick in his throat. The Countess seeing his embarrassment, said, "I am already thanked, my dear child, and the best proof you can give me of your gratefulness is by working well and conducting yourself like a gentleman. If you always act thus, I shall always be ready to help you, and when ever you are in need of funds write and let me know. Now, go and prepare for your journey, and try to be ready as soon as possible."

About ten days after this conversation Christian was ready. His parents had done their best to get him the necessary things, and his father had generously added a fine overcoat to his few treasures. When he was dressed up he might easily have been mistaken for a lord's son. But, alas! the day of departure arrived too soon for them; only a few moments remained, and George, drawing his son aside, said to him, in a voice choked with emotion, "May God be with you, dear Christian. Pray well and work well; this is the only advice I can give you. You are laying aside the rifle to take up the pen; try to use it well and usefully. Of course choose the path towards which you feel yourself drawn, but never attempt anything without asking your Divine Lord to inspire and direct you; be not led away by your own passions. I hope these words are sufficient, and when you are far away, you will remember our loving care. If we did not do all we should have done, remember that want of money was the cause. When you are with your kind friends and among your fellow students, should this life not please you, think of your parents who are waiting to receive you then as in the past. You can once again resume your occupation as a guard."

After he had finished, Dame Sabine knelt with him and prayed the Divine Infant and his Blessed Mother to protect him. She then begged him to keep clear of bad companions. "Take as a model St. Aloysius; frequent the Sacraments as he did, and God will bless you,