

the order to withdraw the gun to a distance. The camp was left in peace that day and several days to come.

Suddenly Pastor Kasbarian was called for from without the tent. He got up not knowing what fresh urgent appeal of duty was upon him. A stir of voices followed his exit and then a new silence.

Shortly he reëntered the tent followed by two men. The one who had bared his head was Pierre Marson. The other, Ali, his guide and companion, was weeping unrestrainedly for the new calamity that had befallen his friends.

Veronica, her whole soul engrossed in her mother alone, at one moment moistening the parched lips, and the next tenderly wiping the death dew from the pallid brow, neither stirred nor looked round. Pastor Kasbarian bent over her whispering in her ear. Pierre then knelt without a word close beside her, put his arm round her waist and held her closely.

For an instant she turned her head with an unfathomable look of anguish in her eyes and leaning heavily against the encircling arm seemed on the point of collapse. Then forcibly controlling herself her whole figure stiffened, her face sank to her mother and she kissed her with all her soul.

The deep set eyes of Anna Severin suddenly opened wide, and shone with peculiar luster as they looked from Pierre to Veronica.

"Now I can die in peace," she said in a clear voice. She took their hands and put them one in the other. "Thus united you must always be, and love and care for each other as long as your hearts beat."

"To eternity," said Pierre, fervently, bending over her hand.