

hat. "Monsieur Behrens, put tragedy away, pack it with the others. I will travel in this. Monsieur de Sartines, the play of which I spoke to you this morning shall have a happy ending. I retain the manuscript, however. Placide, bring me that parcel."

But, before Placide could move, De Maupeou, who had been whispering to Monsieur de Beautrellis, took a paper from his pocket and presented it to the baroness. Monsieur de Beautrellis took up his position by the door, and the vice-chancellor, calmly walking up to Placide, took the paper from his hand.

Madame Linden glanced at the paper that had been handed to her. De Sartines, who was by her side, glanced at it too.

It was the order of the king.