

Then the February of 1848 came, and Rachel entered Paris amid the shouts of "La Marseillaise." Who could resist that hymn? for, as a young girl told Béranger, "One felt in the air a mighty breath of hope, that bore along with it all youthful hearts."

And she, the idol of the people, she of the masses, chanted the great hymn of liberty. Clad in long flowing white drapery, grasping the tricolor in her right hand, she appeared before the footlights, half-chanting, half-reciting the Marseillaise. "The whole figure," writes a contemporary, "in its terrific grace, its sinister beauty, was a magnificent representation of the implacable Nemesis of antiquity, and struck every heart with terror and admiration." Then when she sank to the ground, clasping the flag, the enthusiasm of the people broke forth in one spontaneous, electric shout of applause.

There were free performances at this time, and with the sash of a *commissaire* bound around her waist, she created such a furore that even the gamins passed their hats, collecting sous for a monster bouquet to present. But times changed, the empire succeeded the republic, and the Marseillaise ceased even in the streets. Then *Adrienne Lecouvreur* appeared, calling forth a remarkable criticism, and contradicting the heartlessness so often urged; for it was now said that her success was more that of the woman than the *artiste*. Only on rare occasions did she allow glimpses of her better nature to appear, but these showed a kindness none the less real. Witness her generosity to the poor peasant aunt in Germany, whom she invited to stay with her, bestowing upon the old woman a sum that made her comfortable for life. And again, when her quick passion made her forget the deference due to her mother, she would never rest till she had speedily returned for pardon.

At one time, it was reported that, in Rome, she was desirous of being baptized by the Holy Father, and this impulse is said to have originated in deep feelings, the result of powerful impressions. Indeed, after her return from the Vatican, she exclaimed, "Yes, *this* is the true faith. This is the God-inspired creed. None other could have accomplished such works. Truly I will be one of them yet." These words excited great alarm in her family who looked with horror upon the prospect of her