

other, Benedict, with his energy, love of work and lawful ambition. You know Benedict's talents, his moral character, his strong religious principles, and you do well to place my sister's hand in his. They both know full well, despite the illusions of their age, that the future will have many trials for them, but they know also that they can overcome these trials. The blessing of heaven must surely rest on such a marriage, and I shall gladly perform the ceremony which unites them."

"You remind me," said M. Pomereul smiling, "that Benedict and I have not yet spoken of Sabine's dowry."

"Your lawyer will attend to that," said Sulpice.

"No," said M. Pomereul, "when you want a thing well done do it yourself."

As he spoke he turned to the young people.

"Come here a moment, Benedict," said he.

The young man came.

"My good son-in-law," said Pomereul, "you acted somewhat thoughtlessly yesterday about a certain matter. I must say it did not give me a very high opinion of your business ability. How can you possibly sign contracts for your work, or make agreements if you know so little of the value of money, that you did not ask me what dowry I would give Sabine?"

"A dowry to Sabine?" cried Benedict. "I do not want any."

"You do not want any?" said Pomereul.

"Most assuredly not," said Benedict. "Is it not enough that I am to become the husband of such a girl as that without receiving a large sum of money? Do you think that while you live I would ever take a penny of your fortune from you? By doing so I would offend Sabine and degrade myself. I am only twenty-five. I am willing to work and I may add I have talents. I can easily supply our little wants. No, dear father. I refuse to