

unwell last evening. Wherefore hide this affliction from your mother? Am I not still your mother? Do I love you less than formerly; or do you love me less since Waldrich is your lover? Why do you blush? Is it for anything wrong? I do not see anything very sinful in the fact of your loving him. But that your heart, which formerly was as open to me as to God, is no longer so, is worthy of reprehension."

Frederika raised herself, extended her arms, and having drawn her mother closely to her, said:

"Yes! I love him—and you know it—yes, I will write to him. I was wrong, indeed, to be silent with so good a mamma, but still I wished to conceal my unhappiness from you, that you might not be so early affected by my affliction; but any way, that must come very soon. I had far rather die unmarried than be forced into this hateful union. So, I think, and am silent."

"Child, I have not come to reprove you; I indulge your distrust with a mother's heart; that has never yet denied thee; I will forget it, and pass it by; but that which has befallen you and Waldrich's reciprocal inclination, I had long since apprehended. Neither of you knew better. Yet be quiet—hope! pray! If God wills, who disposes? It is your lot, and probably what your father has designed for you. I would disclose the whole to your father, if you both were here together."

"For God's sake! not yet! Oh, no—not yet!"

"Yes! Frederika, it would have been better to have done so earlier. I am his wife, and I must divulge it to him; I must do it; I dare not have an important secret from my husband. Never keep a secret from your future husband. The first secret a husband or wife has in an otherwise happy marriage, causes the destruction of that happiness, brings mistrust and variance. We can always deal right or wrong—andor is the best for all. It prevents the appearance of many evils, and even makes the faulty less guilty."

"But what can I do?" said Frederika.

"You! what can *you* do! Do you not know? Turn in silent prayer to your God; communion with Him who in Heaven will sanctify you, will give you peace. You must think correctly, and act prudently, and then you cannot do wrong, for while acting and speaking rightly, no evil can befall you."

Thus Madame Bantes spoke to her daughter, and left her, to sit down to breakfast with her husband.

"What ails the maiden?" said he.

"She is afraid that you will press upon her, Herr Von Hahn; but she will not have him."

"She has not seen him."

"She had rather not see him. Her heart has already decided. She and Waldrich have a mutual affection. You cannot but have observed it."

"Stop!" cried Herr Bantes, setting down his coffee cup; but recollecting himself, he raised it, and said: "What more?"

"Why this, that you must go cautiously to work; that you must not be precipitate with the betrothal, if you do not wish to bring on misfortune without necessity. It is possible that by and by, she may find Herr Von Hahn more agreeable, if she thinks that he will not be forced on her. It is possible that the commander may be transferred to another garrison. Separation and time will diminish the ardor of first passion—then—"

"Exactly; those are entirely my sentiments. I will write to the General—he shall be removed to another garrison. Frederika shall not become a Captain's wife. I will write by the next mail, or may Satan smite me!"

From this time, Herr Bantes had it all in his own way, and it certainly gave rise to very animated speeches. He, after his custom, stormed a little, and spoke his will decidedly enough; yet he understood that he must proceed cautiously, since as the velocity of a current depends on a dam, so does the strength of a passion on the checks it receives. Waldrich must in a proper way leave Herbesheim—the affection of Frederika must be unopposed—by these means they could secure her quiet, and unobserved could gain their end.

"By all that remains undone!" said Herr Bantes, fretfully; "this is a stupid trick." He said, however, when explaining himself to Frederika: "You are a prudent girl, and therefore you ought not to trifle like another gosling. But as I have said, I have nothing against you—indeed for my own part, I love you. Only you must not think of marriage. It is not proper that you should, you are too young. Learn to know all men—each has his peculiar kindness. Think then of what would suit you. Be not in a hurry. Learn to know Herr Von Hahn. If he does not suit you, send him away. And since I do not force your inclinations, you must not force mine."

In this manner, the internal peace of the family was re-established by the wise conduct of Madame Bantes; and a threatening storm was changed into an ordinary cloudy, rainy day. The old serenity returned to the family in the same way it had left; and every thing went on in its accustomed way. Frederika composed herself perfectly, thanking Heaven that this expedient had succeeded so well, and looking forward to the