

knowledge of drawing and sculpture and also of horses. I shall, therefore, devote myself to study, and thus try to acquire the manners of a gentleman, and if I ever meet those impertinent young men, I shall say to them, "Here is the one you called a beggar; still he has raised himself; by his courage, he occupies a good position, and is now your equal."

This incident roused his spirit of adventure, and he said: "It is impossible for me to stay here any longer doing nothing. I must go and see other countries, and devote myself to study, so that I may become a useful man."

As soon as he came in, he told Agatha what had happened, how the young lords had insulted him, and he was determined to acquire, by study, a position which would protect him from further insults. Agatha shook her head sadly, and said: "I am afraid your project is a foolish one, and that your anger is a trifle exaggerated. Try and forget this. Remember that our Lord forgave his enemies; why should you not forgive yours?"

"For your sake, I forgive them, Agatha."

"No, no, dear Christian, not for mine, but for our Saviour's sake, and bear this in mind, that you need never blush because you are poor; you have never wanted for anything, and the name you bear is without a stain."

Christian promised her that he would think no more about it, but from this time he was completely changed. No longer gay and full of mischief, but sullen and morose. His parents wondered at the change, and could in no way account for it, but Agatha knew very well what was troubling him, and one evening she said to her parents:

"I can tell you why Christian is so sad. The child wants to travel and devote himself to study. I have done all I could to persuade him to take your place. Several times he has promised to give up thinking about this, but it seems useless. Who knows if it is not God's voice calling him. Anyhow, no matter how you look at it, there is no other way of arranging it. Christian cannot remain with us any longer. Tomorrow I shall go and see Countess Genevive. You know kind she always

is to me, and how she admires my fancy work. Well, I have taken more pains with the work she gave me four weeks ago, and as it is just finished, I shall take it to her. This will please her, and at the same time give me a chance to speak to her about Christian. If she really thinks he has any talent for study she will probably lend him the necessary money until he can repay her from his own earnings."

George and Sabine thought she was quite right, though the former felt rather sad at the thought that his family would have no one to care for them when he was gone. Still he said "May God's holy will be done. I do not wish to make him a guard of the hunt, if he does not care for it. Our Divine Lord will, I am sure, give me sufficient strength to carry on my work for some time longer, and I am only sorry that I cannot educate him myself. Go then to the Countess, dear Agatha; she will not be able to resist your eloquent pleading, and if Christian is to become a student, I shall sell my gifle to procure for him the necessary clothing."

"You are right, dear George," said Sabine, "we must make some sacrifice for him. If our Anthony were living, and had expressed a similar wish, we would rather have begged than refuse him anything which would have made him happy."

The next morning Agatha went up to Ortenbourg Castle; here lived the Countess Genevive, a worthy and pious lady, whose charity was known throughout the country. Having been a widow for some years past, she had devoted her life and money to the poor and suffering of the neighborhood. She was particularly kind to Agatha, whose devotedness and love for her family made her beloved by all, and also a model to imitate. Then, of course, she had been with the Ursuline nuns for some years, and had obtained the first prize for manual labor, and also for fancy work. The Countess, therefore, took great pleasure in getting her friends to give her work to Agatha. They paid Agatha so well that she always had something by her, in case her parents needed it. The Countess received Agatha as usual, and when she had examined the work, she