

down the road. Alas, he soon saw that she had failed, for her face was very sad.

"Christian, God has another trial in store for you. The baroness refused to see me; she sent me word by her servant Cunegonde, that all was forgiven, but that you must leave the village at once, else she would have to employ other means.

"Dear sister, I have expected this and am prepared for it, and have made my plans."

He then told her of his intention to go to Wurtemberg, and present himself at the school of medicine, and he felt confident that he would succeed, and one day be able to return and practice in his native place. The young girl knew how much good a doctor does, yet she also knew that his parents had not the money to defray the expenses of his profession. Of course the ambassador would not do anything when he received the baroness' report of his conduct. Agatha said that he had better give all this up, and return to his occupation of guard and help to support their father.

"Dear Agatha, I sincerely hope to be a great help to my father later on, but it shall never be in this way. I feel that guard of the forest is not my position. Anyhow I dare not face my parents or the ambassador and his generous wife, until my name is cleared and this stain removed from it. My innocence must sooner or later be brought to light. Until then I wish to face none of my friends but you. This is not pride, but a feeling of honor, which prompts me to act thus. Who knows, perhaps what has befallen me may be for my advancement. Of course, the position offered me, pleased me, because I thought I could thus repay my benefactress, but I must confess, life would not have been very pleasant, seated all day in the office, surrounded by papers. If I have been called to this, God must will it so. When you return to our parents, try and make my suffering appear as light as possible. If you can hide all this do so, if you can not, try and console them, by saying that all will one day come right."

"Do as God inspires you, Christian, we can only pray that the clouds may be dispersed, and brighter days come again."

They went together as far as Munich, then bid each other farewell, with lighter hearts than at the first meeting. The courageous young man had no time to lose, if he wished to reach Wurtemberg before night, and as the autumn was getting on, it was more than time to present himself at the university. He therefore purchased his ticket, and after a pleasant journey arrived at Wurtemberg. Several hours after his arrival, as he was walking down the street, he met a religious of the Order of Mount Carmel, carrying the Holy Viaticum to a poor man; he was followed by a number of people. Christian joined the crowd. When they arrived at the dwelling, all knelt to receive the priest's blessing. A few entered the house, amongst others Christian. He then accompanied the priest as far as the monastery, and after a short time, asked if any person could hear his confession. The religious in question offered to do so. Then with that confidence and humility which characterizes the true Christian, the young man made his confession. When he had finished, he told this sympathetic man the secret which we already know. The priest saw that this was the outpouring of a burdened heart. He also noted that he seemed gifted with many noble qualities. After questioning him closely, he told him to return the next morning, after Mass. Accordingly, after the Mass said in the chapel, Christian waited for the priest. Father Celestin, as we will now call him, immediately brought him to the prior, a venerable old man who knew human nature well. He held quite a conversation with Christian, and soon saw that Father Celestin had spoken the truth, and that this youth was endowed with great genius and could not fail to shine in the profession he wished to take up. So he told him that the fathers had agreed that a certain sum should be given him from the revenues, and that he must not bother his head about restituting it, until his profession should be well on its way. The only proof of gratitude they wished him to give was by devoting himself from this moment solely to the study of medicine. Christian's joy was so great that he could almost believe it to be a dream.