

talk with the Queen, and it was decided that he should set forth that afternoon on his difficult undertaking.

"Let me warn you again" she said, of the dangers that await you on your journey. The way seems pleasant, but beware of falling into any of the ambuscades laid by our enemy, and if some come to give you assistance be careful how you trust them, for they do but hide their evil intentions under a pleasing manner." Pierre promised to be careful, and waving them adieu, started on his journey. His old clothes were gone, and in their place, he wore a suit of silver armour, while his sword, a gift from the Queen, hung by his side.

At first his way lay along a broad smooth path, but by and by it commenced to twist and turn, while it was no longer smooth, but rough and uneven, while two or three times Pierre was sure he heard the sound of mocking laughter. Suddenly there appeared coming towards him what looked like a boy of his own age. Just then Pierre fell into a large hole, which had been concealed from view. Pierre tried in vain to climb up the steep sides. Looking up, he saw the strange boy regarding him, who said:

"Would you like me to help you up?"