

helped me, Madame. Do you remember once years ago, I had told you all about Pierre, and how pleased we were that he should be a priest, and you said "But, Josephine, it is not to these religious ones only that the call of God comes? I do not think I understood what you meant, then."

She paused and Madame waited. "You said, Madame, 'God calls to every man and woman, Josephine. Sometimes he speaks through their religion; for most of us through our love, or our duty. It is not always easy to answer.' Long afterwards, Madame, I remembered that—I understood."

She ceased speaking, and at first Madame Creton did not answer: many memories stirred within her brain, her thought shaped itself slowly.

"Josephine, I have sometimes felt, that if you had not yielded—if you had married Louis as you intended, neither of you would have been quite happy."

The kettle humming upon the range was the only sound which broke silence. A