

in a manner, to a state of beggary; because, he was, at that moment, in want of money, not having received any since his father's death.

On going from church he was accosted by one of his old fellow students, who had completed his studies and begun to exercise the functions of an Attorney. The latter told him that all the town was indignant at the conduct of his father, who suffering himself to be deceived by a wicked woman and a hypocritical son, had disinherited his eldest born. "But do not suffer this," added he: "you are authorized by the law to break the will, and I offer you my poor talents. You are sure of gaining; your cause is just. So give no time to your cruel step-mother and her red-haired darling to squander your fortune."

"But, my dear friend," replied Frederic, "where can I get the money necessary to carry on a lawsuit? I have scarcely enough to defray the expenses of the journey that I will undertake to-morrow, to return to the university, where I hope to find employment!"

"That is a minor consideration; I take upon myself to provide every thing: give me power to act for you and all will go on well. Do not be uneasy about success; I repeat it, your cause is just."

Frederic reflected some moments, and then said: "I am very sensible of your kind offer, but I cannot resolve to disturb the ashes of my father. I will respect his last wishes, and content myself with the *souvenir* that he has left me. I hope that will bring me happiness."

"But that is folly," replied the young lawyer, with warmth; "every one will laugh at you, and your step-mother will exult in your poverty. She will not hesitate to say that, tormented by your conscience, you were obliged to renounce your rights."

"It matters not! They may say what they please; I despise all the woman may say. I shall be more happy in having respected the wishes of my father, than in becoming rich against his desire."

By this time they had arrived at the dwelling of the lawyer, who invited Frederic to enter and take a cup of coffee, which the young surgeon did not decline. Whilst they were at breakfast, the conversation turned on the future prospects of Frederic.

"And what are you going to do?" asked the lawyer.

"I do not know, but I expect to find employment at the university; my professors entertain the most friendly feelings towards me, and have often said that if I could not succeed here, I had only to present myself at the university, where they would not fail to give me employment."

"That is well, but you must have something to live on until you get employment."

"God will provide for that."

Will you permit me to offer you one hundred crowns? you may repay me when you can—I regret very much to see a man of talents in so precarious a situation. If you ever need any thing address me. Depend upon my friendship, you have long since gained it, and it will never change."

Frederic, deeply moved at this generosity, threw himself into the arms of his friend and embraced him tenderly.

"Your noble generosity moves me to tears," said he, "and contrasts in a striking manner with the conduct of my relations; but let us forget it all; I accept the hundred crowns that you offer me, and I acknowledge, in your assistance a first proof of the goodness of God, which shows me how much he loves me. As soon as my affairs will permit, I will return this money. I will give you a receipt for it."

"Your word is sufficient, my dear friend I have no need of a receipt."

The lawyer then went to get the money and gave it to Frederic. They conversed some time longer, after which the young surgeon took leave of his friend, and went to see his cruel step-mother and his brother. They were in the greatest perplexity. The sudden departure of Frederic after the reading of the will, his absence from the house, and his lodging at a hotel, had thrown them into a painful embarrassment. They expected to see him return with the officers of justice, to tell them that he protested against the will. Their astonishment was at its height, when he entered alone, and in a perfect calm which announced no evil design.

Frederic saluted them with affability, inquired about their healths, and requested Sophia to bring him the two articles which his father had bequeathed to him. She, amazed at so much generosity and nobleness of soul, pretended to regret that the deceased had carried his severity too far, and that Frederic ought at least to accept some linen, and some of his father's clothes; she said that they had likewise made a little purse for him, to provide for his immediate wants; she hoped that this was not acting contrary to the advice of her attorney."

Frederic thanked her, refused everything, and asked only for what came to him by the last will of his father. Ely went at length to look for the wig and morning gown, which Frederic took and enclosed carefully in his portmanteau; then took his stick, hung his portmanteau on it, bade them farewell, and departed.

Not wishing to follow the same route by which he came, he chose another road, which was longer but more pleasant, and led him near the bound-