

to meet him. Meanwhile, the inhabitants of the adjacent country crowded into the town; but, unhappily, the authorities of Leyden neglected to replenish their exhausted supplies; thus the city was in the worst possible condition to stand a second siege, should the Spanish general defeat Count Louis and return to the onslaught.

Marie was still sitting by the window when her husband entered the room.

"Oh, Albrecht," she said, "I am so glad you have come at last! What has been the matter?"

"Nothing, Marie, nothing. Count Witenhove has agreed to join us openly, and I believe he has been much maligned; for though he may be vacillating, I cannot think that he is treacherous."

"But what made you so late?"

"I was delayed on the way home. I heard tidings at Belfeldt of the defeat of Count Louis at Mookerheyde, and I stayed to ascertain the truth. I am afraid, Marie, that there is no doubt the rumour is correct, but we shall hear more in the morning."

"Is there no hope, Albrecht? Who brought the news? Did you hear anything of Bertrand?"

"I fear, Marie, that we shall never see him again."

"Oh, Albrecht! Is Bertrand killed?"

"I have no certain news; but they say that Count Louis is dead and his whole army cut to pieces. They say that none escaped."