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ARGUMENT.

SULPIZO, Sergeant of the 21st Regiment of the Army of Napoleon, found a little girl on the field of battle. A letter from her father to the Marchioness of Birkenfeldt is found upon her. The girl is named Marie, and follows the profession of Vivandiere. She meets Tonio, a peasant, who saves her life, and falls in love with her, which she returns. Tonio follows the regiment, is apprehended as a spy and threatened with death. This does not deter him from demanding her as his wife from the regiment. The 21st agree to give Marie to Tonio on condition that he joins the regiment, so he becomes a soldier of the Grand Army, but he does not obtain possession of Marie as soon as he expected. Sulpizo meets the Marchioness, remembers the letter, and gives it to her. She declares Marie to be her niece, the offspring of a secret marriage. She commands that Marie be delivered up. The 21st have to comply, and Tonio discovers he has joined the ranks of the enemy to no purpose. Several years elapse. But Marie cannot forget old times. To Tonio she remains constant throughout. One day the well-known sounds of a band are heard. It is the 21st, having as one of its officers no less a person than Tonio. A joyous meeting takes place between Marie and Tonio, who now entitled by his rank demands her hand in marriage. The "Old Lady," however, has promised her to the son of a duchess, and Tonio declares he will carry Marie off by force. To prevent this she declares Marie to be her daughter. Marie cannot refuse her mother, and in despair consents to marry the young duke. This profession of affection softens the Marchioness, who consents to the union of Marie and Tonio.

The scene is laid in the Swiss Tyrol.

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