

a nobleman's household as governess to his children. It was useful work, and it enabled her to stay in the city. She held this position for two years and a half, and was well treated, her character commanding both affection and respect. Meanwhile she studied the working of the zemstvo. Every institution that was a beginning of representative government, however imperfect, was holy in the eyes of the Russian "intellectuals."

Her father finally insisted upon her returning home. He promised that she should be independent, and live on her own earnings. He helped her to open a boarding school for girls, and through the influence of her relatives she obtained many pupils, daughters of rich parents, who paid for their instruction. Her father also built her a cottage where she taught the peasant children free. All that she earned above her livelihood she devoted to helping the peasants. She would buy a cow for one, a horse for another, doing her utmost to relieve the misery around her. "I now drew closer to the people," she says. "I began to realize the dull memory every peasant has of flogging and toil from time immemorial. I felt their subconscious but heart-deep longing for freedom."

Three years later, at the age of twenty-five, she married a liberal, broad-minded young nobleman, with a good education and a good heart. He was active in the district zemstvo, and took a sincere interest in the peasants. He was glad to help Catherine in her good work, and they established a coöperative bank and a peasants' agricultural school. Several of the younger landowners became interested, and they met together frequently.