

be to some, but that I was destined for great achievements; deeds of conquest and discovery; deeds wrought out in the solitude of the wilderness or about the council fires of a treacherous foe. For such a one there can be no home, no domestic ties. My heart goes out in pity for her, although it does not throb with love. I trust she will find some one better able to make her happy than I, for she is certainly everything that is good and estimable. Were your affections not already engaged in another direction I could not wish you a greater blessing than that you yourself might win her."

Tonti's hand trembled; a faintness came over him as he realized the full import of the message.

"Have you bad news?" asked Renée, as she noticed his agitation.

"The only news worth living for," was Tonti's reply. He tried to speak further, but his lips were dumb. He who through so many days had schooled his tongue to silence, whose full strength had been needed to keep back in fierce repression the thousand loving words that came rushing to his lips, found when the time came and the seal was removed that the springs of his eloquence were dry. He looked into her eyes, those eyes that had greeted him in maidenly confusion from the depths of the sedan-chair;