

"Yes? I do not remember him; but papa had so many friends that I could not remember the names of half of them."

"I can assure you the remembrance on the part of my friend is very distinct, and I should say lasting."

"Indeed, I must have annoyed him very much with my back-woods ways, to make such a lasting impression, and I dare say your friend has enjoyed many a good laugh at my expense. Do you remember Mr. Vandenberg, papa?"

"Very well, indeed," replied her father. "He used to come to our hotel frequently, and I found him a very enjoyable young man, and one who gave promise of attaining prominence in after life."

The conversation finally turned on the subject of the war, and the colonel informed them he had that day received a letter from the governor, offering him the command of a regiment, which was then being rendezvoused at Camp Chase, near Columbus."

"Oh, of course you will decline the offer," said Amy, quickly.

"Certainly!" said Mrs. Harrington, with decision.

"I am somewhat undecided, but feel it to be my duty to give what aid and strength I have to the service of our government, in putting down this rebellion."

"My dearest papa, none who know you will question your patriotism, and there are many others who would gladly accept the governor's offer, and who are better able to endure the hardships of a soldier's life." Turning to Frank, she said: "Mr. Von Brean, no doubt, would be pleased to accept the command of a regiment of our intrepid Western soldiers."

Frank thought he detected a little irony in Amy's remarks, and replied: "Certainly, I should esteem it a great honor to command a regiment of Western men, but fear I should not make a good soldier myself."

"Were I a man," said Amy, with asperity, "I would become a soldier; but as the privilege of carrying a musket in the defense of our beautiful flag is denied me, I have serious intentions of becoming a hospital nurse."

"Why, daughter, you must not talk that way; you know you would do nothing of the kind," said her mother in utter amazement.

"When does Miss Harrington contemplate putting her intention into execution?"

"I assure you, Mr. Von Brean," replied Mrs. Harrington, "Amy has no such intentions."

"Yes, indeed, mamma, I was never more serious in my life. There are a great many ladies who have become nurses in hospitals, and why should not I?"

"I fear Miss Harrington does not realize the position in which she thinks of placing herself, nor the duties devolving upon such a position."

"Oh, yes, I fully understand what would be required of me, and I assure you that waiting upon and relieving sick and wounded soldiers would be a pleasure, as well as a duty."

"I see," said Frank, somewhat sarcastically, "you are enthusiastic in the cause of your country, and, like Joan of Arc, would offer yourself to be burned at the stake in her service."

"I certainly shall not remain passively at home during this great struggle for national existence, while so many of my countrymen and countrywomen are rendering such noble service to the government," said Amy, piqued at the manner in which he had referred to her purpose of becoming a nurse.

Dinner over the party retired to the parlor, where the gentlemen soon left the ladies, and went out to enjoy their cigars.

"Daughter," said Mrs. Harrington, when they were alone, "what made you speak to Mr. Von Brean as you did at dinner?"

"Why, mamma, I said nothing terrible, did I?"

"I mean your assertion of going into the hospitals as nurse, and the manner in which you reminded him that he ought to be in the army. I dare say his father and mother would not give their consent to his becoming a soldier."

"Well, mamma, I think it would look much better in him, if, instead of traveling over the country, he was serving his government in some way. I should feel ashamed, were I in his place, to be seen idling away my time while thousands of our brave boys are in the army. Oh, I wish I were a man, that I, too, might become one of the great number of noble patriots who have so gallantly responded to the call of their country."

"My child, all of the men can not become soldiers; some must remain at home."

"There are plenty of men like papa, who are too old to go into the army, who can provide for and protect the defenseless ones at home. There is no excuse for a young man like Mr. Von Brean shirking his duty."

"You are severe on Mr. Von Brean," said Mrs. Harrington.

"I hate neutral people in times like these," replied Amy.

"I fear," said Mrs. Harrington, sorrowfully, "that your father will accept the governor's offer."

"Father is a patriot, and I do not wonder that he feels that he should be serving his country. So many of our neighbors have given their lives to the service that I know he would also have gone with them but