

A BALLERINA.

FROM THE GERMAN OF ELISE POLKO.

It was a summer evening of the year 1735. Through the open doors of the little balcony came a sound of gay talk and laughter from the luxurious saloon of the charming Parisian danseuse, Camille Petipas. The sweet fragrance of roses pervaded, like an enlivening breath, the brilliantly-illuminated apartment where, on satin-covered chairs and sofas, sat the loveliest women of the capital, surrounded by their elegant and distinguished admirers.

hours and many admirers, and the Petipas was still fresh and artless, and loved to listen to the praises of her black eyes, and rosy lips, and pearly teeth, her dimples, and her little feet. It seemed a strange caprice that her shoes, though fashioned of the daintiest satin, were always bright red. All Paris knew and admired this "little red foot," and some noble ladies already began to wear shoes a la Petipas.

Turning with a gay laugh to the Duke de Berton, she exclaimed:—"I shall never believe in the strength of a man's love until he has shown me the proof of an all-subsiding devotion. We women are expected to devote our whole lives to men who would not give up the pleasures of a single month for love of us."

Thus the days passed. Camille's eyes often had a sorrowful expression, and, for the first time in her life, her sleep was disturbed by frightful dreams! Starting up, sometimes, with a cry of terror, she would lean her arm upon the pillow, and weep like a frightened child.

At last, she prayed longer and more fervently than ever before, and sometimes quite forgot to coquet with her admirers. Even the duke could not obtain a look from her. Where was Jacques?

At last the day arrived, on which the curious throng pressed into the saloon, for the decision of the far-famed trial of love. What a host of eager, charming faces! Even the beautiful, proud Camargo wore an air of unusual excitement. Camille herself, although in richest dress was looking pale and cast anxious glances toward the door, which Francois was incessantly opening, to admit fresh arrivals.

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