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THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 29, 1850.

THE NIGHT-IN-LAW.

A STORY OF THE ISLAND ESTATE.

BY MRS. EMMA D. SOUTHWORTH.

BOOK THIRD.

THE TRAVELLERS.

"She shall go out, she shall go out!"

To seek for peace with its own thoughts.

A quiet and contented mind.—London.

Mrs. Armstrong, from the time of her leaving

Mont Crystal, seemed possessed with a perfect

charm for travelling. She had, until near her

fortieth year, lived entirely in one sumptuous

retired home, now, with the strange restlessness

of remorse, or fear, or both, wandered from

place to place, with a troop of attendants, equal in

number to a queen's retinue. Only she avoided

the noisy cities, to which she could not carry

her slaves. Mrs. Armstrong abhorred the attend-

ance of any one over whom she did not possess

absolute control. Her winters were passed at

New Orleans, Charleston, (South Carolina), Wash-

ington City, or Richmond, and her summers at

the Cape, the various Sulphur Springs of Vir-

ginia, or at other fashionable Southern water-

ing places. And everywhere, the majestic grace

of the mother, and the fragile beauty of the daughter,

attracted great attention. It was in Febru-

ary of the second winter of their wanderings,

that they found themselves in a suite of apart-

ments in the most fashionable hotel in Wash-

ington. It was the long session of Congress, and

the city was very full of strangers. Mrs. Arm-

strong had her rooms fitted up with ostentatious

magnificence, and soon found herself and her daughter

"the cynosure of neighboring eyes." Mrs. Stur-

art-Gordon was supposed to be a wealthy young

lady. Louise excited a very general interest;

her extreme youth, her fragile beauty, her deep

melancholy and habitual absence of mind, were

an inexhaustible subject of surprise and com-

miseration. In the deep blue eyes of Louise brooded

an eternal sorrow; the lids seemed heavy with

suspended tears; that yet never fell. This was

of course supposed to be the grief of a youthful

widow, mourning for the premature loss of her

husband; and without committing herself

to any direct allusion, Mrs. Armstrong favored

the opinion by implication. Among the many who

from various motives paid great attention to

the mother and daughter, was Mrs. M.—the lady

of the President. Mrs. M.—was perhaps the

most dignified and gracious of all the ladies

then present at the White House. Certainly

her general affability made her the most popular

it was at a public reception, that she first saw

the pale young beauty who, to her eyes, seemed a

sorrow-stricken orphan child, scarcely old enough

to be presented; but when she was presented

to Mrs. Sturart-Gordon, and when she understood

that the broken-spirited girl was a widow, all her

sympathies for her benevolent heart went out to

Louise, also, by a corresponding instinct, was

attracted to this lady, forcibly. Mrs. M. occa-

sionally went to the parties given by the ladies

of the Cabinet, and here she sometimes

met Louise; and even in the thickest crowd, Lou-

ise would find herself, she scarcely knew, in the

immediate circle of the President's lady. Mrs.

M.—, quick to discern and prompt to distin-

guish excellence of character, had another

preference. This was young Frohisher, the secretary

of legation, whose high intelligence, and more

than that, whose deep sensibilities, attached her

to him with an almost maternal tenderness.

Louise was frequently admitted to the domestic

privacy of Mrs. M.—'s apartments. Here she

often met young Frohisher, who, more than any

love, yet plainly visible to the solutions low of

her mother. Yet she feared that Louise, in her

religious attachment to a mere memory, might re-

ceive the happiness within her reach. In fact,

she required time to ascertain her daughter's

sentiments on this projected marriage, before

presenting Mr. Frohisher to her as a suitor.

Frohisher bowed and took his leave, his rather

moderate inclination for "the pale young widow"

somewhat increased by the prospect of a little

opposition.

The reader knows, as well as I do, that she

only wished an opportunity of laying her deprecating

commands upon Louise. The reader knows, as

well, how this interview was likely to terminate.

rest during the day without an opiate, as days

and weeks passed without her hearing from or

seeing Louise.

"He will not lose time in writing—he will come

at once, if he is so forgiving; so magnanimous!"

But he had been her first and most enthusias-

tic admirer. "What can be the reason he does

not write, at least, if anything prevents him from

coming, mother?" he was despairing inquiry a

week later. "Write again! do write! Tell him

that I am dying—that I shall never see Heaven

if I pass hence without his forgiveness and bless-

ing." And Mrs. Armstrong, to honor her, pretended

to write.

Another weary week of mental torture passed,

and then Louise pleaded—

"Write! write! write! mother! once more! Pleas-

ed with him! it is not for me to plead, if he is

here to a bed of illness! that I cannot put my foot

to the ground! that I cannot raise my hand to

my head! that I cannot lift my voice! my words

audible even to your listening ear! Tell him

that I may not live, and cannot die, and he

blisses me!"

So the heavy weeks passed in torturing

and sorrowful pleadings. So October passed.

Louise had told the truth. She could not die. A

strange vitality of anxiety held her life, as some

sharp pains sometimes keep their victim from

fainting. Nay, more, with good medical attend-

ance, she had recovered her strength, and her

gradual subsidence of suspense into certainty, she

recovered the tone of her nervous system suffi-

ciently to leave her bed. November passed. De-

ember came, and with her mother, after prepar-

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at in this respect. That country had long been

the main prop of the Austrian Empire. There had

been a constitution for a length of time. There

were statesmen, generals, officers, and soldiers,

ready-made. The Italians in time would have

had just as good ones; but a certain time was

absolutely necessary to form them, and to discover

such as might be most suitable to the various de-

partments of the public service. The first man

Europe was already at the head of the trium-

virate. The subordinate officers were beginning

to be appropriately filled. As regards their sol-

diers, I could not desire to have better materials

out of which to form battalions; for set down as

a rifle, that all those men, after a little drill-

ing, would make good soldiers, who take well to

the bayonet. Cavalry, artillery, and officers, take

such a longer time to form, though the Italians

are not so much inferior in this respect. Both Italy

and Hungary have acquired some dearly bought

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pot (that of a free American citizen, attempting

to prove that no revolution can succeed unless de-

factually recognized by the European Powers.

There is a first desideratum for a revolutionary gov-

ernment, according to the doctrine of the ultra-

liberals, the independence of the country; that done,

the "recognitions" will come of themselves. Such

old Governments as do not know proper to ex-

ercise their power, will not know one, may leave it

alone. During a revolution, the friends of the

new government are neither to be expected nor

desired; it would be a dangerous protection. Had

the American Government, in the case of a free peo-

ple, recognized the Liberator, and a village

had been a matter of exultation and encouragement.

How does Sigma dare to charge the Republi-

cans with the death of Rossi? Nobody knows

the name of the assassin. Revolution is not

an act of the police of the Jesuits, who