

As he spoke he advanced and laid his hand on the window ledge and prepared to vault through the aperture. But ere he could carry out his design he caught a flash of something bright within, and a dipperful of cold water, thrown with unerring aim, struck him full in the face. He drew back quickly, sputtering and half blinded, wiping the water from his eyes.

"Well, art not coming in?" taunted Anne, from her point of vantage.

"In truth that I am," retorted he, and made another quick spring for the window. But again she was watching him, and just as he gained the ledge the heavy sash fell, striking him fairly on the head. With a muttered curse he dropped to the ground, holding his hand to the injured member and glancing ruefully, and perhaps not a little angrily, at the cause of his misfortune. Meantime, Anne had raised the window and stood looking down upon him pityingly, but with just the semblance of a smile hovering about her pretty mouth.

"'Twas a very shabby trick, that," said Rudolf, a trifle harshly.

"Nay, 'all's fair in war,'" said Anne, aptly quoting his own words, and smiling so charmingly that he forgot his pain and smiled, too.

"Well, haven't I suffered enough? Aren't you going to let me in now?" pleaded Rudolf.

"Indeed, then, is all thy strategy exhausted? Remember, sir, 'faint heart never won fair lady.'"

"True enough,,," replied he, "and I doubt much if ever there were fairer to be won. But come, draw the bolt, for I am near famished, and the hour grows late."

"Nay," said Anne, with a determined stamp of her little foot, "an if thou canst not take my citadel then thou art a poor strategist and must go a-hungered."

"Which I shall not, by my sword," cried the young officer, and again sprang for the window. Either the attack was so sudden as to be unexpected, or maybe Mistress Anne had taken pity on the handsome young Briton, for he managed to crawl through without opposition. As he stepped to the floor Anne confronted him.

"Now that thou hast entered, sir, pray what will it profit thee?" she asked.

"You must get me something to eat," said he. "Come, be quick about it, lass."