

concluded that the mason had made a mistake, and he did not further question the girl who was now kneeling beside the stone and softly praying. He wandered about from stone to stone and found that without exception they were dated centuries back, even as far back as the year 900. This seemed particularly strange to him from the fact that the cemetery was still in use as was evident from the fact that a body had just been interred in it. From the low church-yard wall he had an excellent opportunity of making a sketch of the old town. He noted with no little surprise that the fog disappeared just beyond the town and the sun was shining brightly on the mountain slope.

The old, cracked bell again began to ring and Gertrude quickly arose, brushed the tears from her eyes, and nodded pleasantly at Arnold who sprang to her side.

"We can no longer be sad," she said smiling, "services are over and the dance will now begin. You will soon see that the inhabitants of Germelshausen are not as dismal as you had thought."

"But there is the church-door and I saw no one coming out."

"That is perfectly natural," she laughed, "not even the priest. The old sexton goes in and rings the bell at the beginning and end of the services."

"And do none of you go into the church?"

"No, neither to mass nor to confession," she answered quietly, "we are at variance with the Pope and he will not permit it until we obey him."

"But I never heard one word of it."

"Yes, it has been thus for a long time," said she indifferently. "Look, the sexton is coming out of the church alone and is locking the door; he will not be present at the dance."

"And will the priest be there?"

"Of course he will; he will be the liveliest person of all."

"And how did it all come about?" inquired Arnold.

"It is a long story and the priest has written it all in a large book. Sit down and I will tell you all about it, but do not speak of it in my father's presence. But look—here come the boys and girls for the dance. I must hurry home and dress myself."

"And the first dance, Gertrude?"

"I have already promised you that."

They quickly retraced their steps through the village which