

"They left long ago," she answered monotonously. "Perhaps they could not stand the smoke."

"But it is not always here?"

"Always."

They walked along in silence to the other end of the village, but Gertrude occasionally nodded to a child or spoke a few words with the young maidens, who seemed to look upon Arnold in a pitiful manner. At last they arrived at the extreme end of the village which they found to be as quiet as the other parts were lively. The gardens looked as if they had not been attended to for years, thick grass grew on the walks, and not a single tree bore fruit. Here the returning funeral procession passed them in silence, and the two almost involuntarily wended their way toward the churchyard.

Arnold sought to cheer up his companion, who had become very sad, by describing other places which he had visited and the outside world in general. She had never even heard of railroads and she listened in astonishment to all that he told her. She had no knowledge of the telegraph nor of any of the recent inventions, and the young artist could not account for her ignorance of the things which were of such universal interest.

Meanwhile they arrived at the cemetery and the stranger was at once struck by the antique stones and monuments which, in spite of their evident great age, were unbroken.

"That is a very old stone," said he as he stooped down and deciphered with great difficulty the words: "'Anna Maria Bertold, nee Stieglitz, born December 1st, 1188—died December 2nd, 1224.'"

"That is my mother," said Gertrude sadly as two large tears appeared in her eyes and fell down upon her bodice.

"Your mother, my dear child, it was perhaps your great-great-grandmother."

"No," said Gertrude, "my own mother. My father remarried and it is my step-mother who now lives with us."

"But does it not say 'died in 1224?' That was more than six hundred years ago."

"What does the year matter?" she asked sadly, "it was certainly a blessing that she could go to God beforehand."

Arnold stooped down and examined the stone more carefully in order to see if the first 2 might not be an 8, but it was not. He