

26 b. Adelaide does not want to make more innocent victims!

In "Arrests and Trial of Marie-Adélaïde Champion of Cicé"
Maitre Bellart's argument p. 27

Now that you know Adelaide de Cicé, and that you know what she is capable of when it comes to doing what she believes is right, I have the right to tell you that there is, for her, a more likely reason, generosity!

You remember this touching answer: "I have caused so many unhappy people around me, by my fatal indiscretion, that I do not want to have one more misfortune to reproach myself with. I do not want to implicate an unfortunate man in this dreadful trial, of whose innocence I am as sure as mine, and who has been deceived like me. "

And the means of resisting the accent of truth which accompanied this response! How not to be convinced that she is not imposing her motives, by casting her eyes on those fatal benches?

Who is she surrounded by? Alas! it is not her accomplices; this word cannot be appropriate for the companions of her benevolence; it is her victims. It was she; it was her imprudence that disturbed their rest, and earned them their anguish. It was her imprudence that disturbed their rest and caused them anguish. It was her imprudence that sowed around her, spread, on all those to whom she was dear or respected, insults, imprisonment and accusations. She begged her unfortunate seamstress to receive letters from her brother Augustin de Cicé; the seamstress was almost put on trial. Brèche, her former maid, was commissioned by her to receive letters from the Bishop of Auxerre: Brèche was arrested! At her recommendation, the accused Duquesne receives this man whom she believed to be an emigrant: this poor and respectable religious is separated from her companions. Here she is at the feet of justice. Finally, at her request, the accused Gouyon leads this emigrant to Madame Duquesne, Madame de Gouyon and her two daughters are thrown into prison; Madame de Gouyon and her two daughters are also undergoing the humiliation of a criminal trial.

These are the blows that pierced this deeply sensitive soul; there you have it, in the midst of this painful agony in which she has been consumed for 3 months, which has been much crueller to her than this very agony; these are the terrible circumstances which are probably the reasons for her reluctance.

The measure of her remorse, caused not by the crimes she has committed, but by the wrong she has innocently done, is at its height.

The burden seems intolerable to her. Her generous soul, but oppressed under this fatal weight, is indignant at the very idea of creating, again, misfortunes for one more person, for one more person, for a person to whom she may be bound by duties. or feelings, for a person whose good faith is obvious to her.

"There are around me, she cried, enough unfortunate people who are so, through my fault."

