

Forward (Notice to the Public)

In the city of Paris, at 82 rue Cléry, there lives a woman, owner of the said house, valued at least at thirty thousand francs. In addition to the aforementioned home, she also possess farms in Normandy and Government Securities which, all together, amount to assets worth one million francs. Today, and for the last four years, this woman finds herself in the most extreme poverty.

She is without clothing, stockings, slippers, curtains, bread or other food, wood, credit, and has but what little money her friends, neighbors, or even passersby, touched by her misery, agree to give her. Often, by 10:00pm she has not eaten, nor has she a penny in her pocket.

One night she almost died helplessly, not being able to obtain credit from a pharmacist! Many traps were laid for her that she might die of fright or shock. A way was even found to scare off those who wanted to give her food. People were even paid to spread rumors that her fortune was not really hers. People were paid to stop, in her very stairwell, the bread and meat that was sent to her.

In contempt of all laws, payment was refused to her baker, her butcher, and even to the company who cleaned her cesspool; the latter (Entreprise de fosses mobiles) continued their work out of kindness.

For these reasons, and many others, the victim had no other recourse than to publish, thanks to the generosity of her printer, a memoir, entitled An Ordinary Memoir, by Mrs. Sophie Doin.

In this memoir, which can be found at the author's home, 82 rue Cléry, the dispossessed owner recounts to the public, naturally and without rancor, her story and that of her fortune. Several people, having read the memoir, came offering their aid, but the misery of the author has remained the same, and, with the onset of winter comes the threat of disaster and death.

Her enemies are shameless; they have surrounded themselves with pretexts, more or less clever, as it is well known, villains never lack pretexts.

Let us summarize: her husband, after more than twenty years of having availed himself of and misused the fortune of his wife, after having all the luxury and riches that his wife could offer lavished upon himself: numerous servants, carriages, trips, country houses, etc...; after having his debts and those of his friends paid by her; after having her bear the burden of considerable liquidation of assets, due to his spending, his indebtedness, his carelessness, and his signature, given more or less blindly; after having sold his freedom to her for twelve thousand francs, free of all debts, and this was ten years ago, and after having taken from her, by flattery and by violence, all that was desirable to her: her daughter and son-in-law, whom he hand picked to help in his hateful plan; this husband has again taken it upon himself, for the past two years, to deprive his benefactor of her (legal) powers, her credit, her status, her reputation, and fortune. He brags everywhere, he and his lawyers, that they will reduce the victim, by dint of poverty and misfortune, to signing her own ruin, in other words, he will only let her choose between dying of hunger or handing over all her assets to her enemies, by allowing them to inherit them while she

is still living and throwing herself at their mercy; that is to say, they want to leave to her, as her only resource, the *alms* she would receive from a few parcels of *her own property*, according to the whims of those that would steal it; or the alms that she would receive from public pity, if she were to kneel before the door of her own home!

On Friday, September 30, 1842, a wagon arrives at the husband's residence, #6 rue Coquenard, this wagon is filled with provisions from the farms of his *dispossessed wife*, and the dispossessed wife is dying of hunger in a bare apartment, without curtains, furniture, or heat!!!

During this time, Sophie Doin, to whom the entire fortune belongs, is aided only by the compassion of her neighbors!!!

And all these things happened in broad daylight, in the city of Paris!...And during this entire time...a girl, who was nourished from her mother's bosom; a girl whose mother showered her with affection and blessings of all kinds; a girl who is, by marriage contract, able to administer her own assets, who has spending money, jewels, clothing in cashmere, lace, opulent finery, and who knows that her mother is without bread, without clothing, without slippers...and finds this acceptable!

That is not all. -Today this woman has learned that her son had arrived with the wagon of provisions; her son of 18 years, during 16 of these he did not once leave his mother's side. She had lavished him with all the care of maternal love and all the treasures of a good upbringing. This mother spared nothing for her children, whereas their father thought of no one but himself. But this son, won over by *his father, his brother-in-law, and his sister*, knows that his mother is dying of hunger and he tolerates it!!!- The mother wants to consider the son guilty (of betrayal), however, she contains her indignation, she wants to see him...to talk to him...because he is her son!...at 5:30 in the morning, a good and honest woman, who served this family in the past, and will testify to that effect if need be, goes to #6 rue Coquenard and asks to see the young man...She is chased away!!! Mr. Doin, the husband, has allowed his parents to move into his residence and he lavishes every comfort imaginable on them; they lack nothing, a domestic serves them; Mr. Doin, his son-in-law, and his daughter have several servants themselves.

Yielding to a remaining attachment that is difficult to break, in spite of so many wrongs, Mrs. Sophie Doin, born Sophie Mamy, still wants to believe that Mr. Doin is not aware of her circumstances, which are all orchestrated, as much as many other almost unbelievable ones are, by Mr. Doin's councilor (*Mr. Dubreuil, Attorney at Law, #3 rue Pavée-Saint-Sauveur*), who has extracted almost unlimited powers for his client, which he abuses to steadily destroy Mrs. Doin because he fears she might implicate him in various dealings that he does not want to be held accountable for. It is to this end that he broadcasts in the courtrooms and has his lawyers argue such loathsome slander, knowing very well that Mrs. Doin could not refute it in person, not being able to go anywhere for lack of clothing.-- Wanting therefore to give Mr. Doin a chance to justify himself, if this is possible, and because these rightful complaints may not have reached him, Mrs. Doin has decided to take this last, sad measure: publicity, so that the truth may be revealed before the eyes of those who are ignorant of it.

In the midst of so many traps and so many enemies, Mrs. Doin presents this simple story of her poverty and suffering to the public. It is under the protection of the public conscience and under the sacred protection of the eminently wise Courts (1) that she now places her safety, her liberty, her life!

Sophie MAMY, Mrs. Doin
homeowner, 82 rue Cléry

(1) Today, October 5, 1842, a judge just ruled that Mrs. Doin may proceed with her "separation" case. (it is not clear to me whether the separation is a marital separation, a divorce or a fiduciary separation which would "repossess" her).

Vassal Bros., Printers, 368 rue St.-Denis