

LIFE AT KOBERWITZ

Gertrude Mier

It has been my great good fortune that destiny allowed me to work for some months as a secretary to Count Keyserlingk in Koberwitz. We always hear him being called the Iron Count", and this he was, no doubt, but in higher realms than in the sphere of home life. Count and Countess Keyserlingk together created a special atmosphere there in the big house, where worlds and strata of society formed a wonderful community highest aristocracy, German, Russian, Austrian, Waldorf pupils and teachers, youngsters from the lower middle class, all lived together. The Countess's charming vivacity, her brilliant artistic gifts, her wealth of anthroposophical knowledge and her natural clairvoyance, spread a radiance through the house, while the Count, compared with her, appeared to be in the background, quiet and unassuming. He never had a dream in his life, he only studied the Agriculture Course, he made no claims, no outward show that he was the head of the house and yet, he was the centre, respected, loved, revered by all be it Marie Steiner, Eliza von Moltke or the kitchen maid. his butler, chauffeur, his sons and nephew or the youngsters among the guests: he was the authority, not so much the head, but head and heart of the whole place. When he was away on a journey immediately difficulties arose, problems cropped up, people quarrelled and one could almost hear the sigh of relief pervading the house from scullery to drawing room when he returned. Without any outward action or a word spoken by him, harmony and peace returned and the whole atmosphere changed. Countess Keyserlingk was puzzled by the Count's influence through mere presence and asked Rudolf Steiner how it was that he who was in no way learned in anthroposophy and studied so few books, always knew how to act. With a smile Rudolf Steiner replied: "People who have witnessed. have been present at the Mystery of Golgotha can be truly unselfish." And that was what we all experienced.