

The Prodject Goottenberg EBooc ov The Thre Musketeerz, bi Alexaander Dumaa, Pare

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MUSKETEERZ \*\*\*

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# THE THRE MUSKETEERZ

Alexaander Duma

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THE THRE MUSKETEERZ

AUTHORZ PREFFACE

In which it iz pruivd dhat, notwithstanding dhare naimz ending in *OS*

and *IS*, the herose ov the stoery which we ar about too hav the onnor too relate too our rederz hav nuthhing mitholodgical about them.

A short time ago, while making recerchez in the Roiyal Liabrary for mi History ov Loowy 14, I stumbeld bi chaans uppon the Memwarz ov M. dArtanyan, printed—az wer moast ov the werx ov dhat pereyod, in which authorz cood not tel the trueth widhout the risc ov a rezsidens, moer or les long, in the Bastele—at Amsterdam, bi Peyare Rooje. The titel attracted me; I tooc them home withe me, withe the permishon ov the garjan, and devourd them.

It iz not mi intenshon here too enter intoo an anallicis ov this cureyous werc; and I shal sattisfi micelf withe refuuring such ov mi rederz az apreesheyate the picchuerz ov the pereyod too its pagez. Dha wil dharin fiand poertraits penciald bi the hand ov a maaster; and auldho these sqwibz ma be, for the moast part, traist uppon the doerz ov barrax and the waulz ov cabbarase, dha wil not fiand the liacnecez ov Loowy 13, An ov Austreyaa, Reeshlu, Mazzaran, and the coercherz ov the pereyod, les faithfool dhan in the history ov M. Onketil.

But, it iz wel none, whaut striax the caprishous miand ov the powet iz not aulwase whaut afects the mas ov rederz. Nou, while admiring, az utherz doutles wil admire, the detailz we hav too relate, our mane preyoccupaishon concernd a matter too which no wun befoer ourcelvz had ghivven a thaut.

DArtanyan relaits dhat on hiz ferst vizsit too M. de Treveye, captane ov the kingz Musketeerz, he met in the antechaimber thre yung men, cerving in the ilustreyous coer intoo which he wauz solisciting the onnor ov beying receevd, baring the naimz ov Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis.

We must confes these thre strainj naimz struc us; and it imejaitly okerd too us dhat dha wer but sudonimz, under which dArtanyan had

disghiazd naimz perhaps illustreyous, or els dhat the barerz ov these borode naimz had themcelvz chosen them on the da in which, from caprece, discontent, or waunt ov forchune, dha had dond the cimpel Musketeerz uniform.

From the moment we had no rest til we cood fiand sum trace in contemporary werx ov these extrordinary naimz which had so strongly awakend our cureyosity.

The cattalog alone ov the boox we red withe this obgett wood fil a whole chapter, which, auldho it mite be verry instructive, wood certainly afoerd our rederz but littel amuezment. It wil suffice, then, too tel them dhat at the moment at which, discourraijd bi so menny fruetles investigaishonz, we wer about too abandon our cerch, we at length found, ghided bi the councelz ov our illustreyous frend Paulin Parris, a manuscript in foleyo, endorst 4772 or 4773, we doo not recolect which, havving for titel, "Memwarz ov the Comt de laa Fare, Tutching Sum Events Which Paast in Fraans Tooword the End ov the Rane ov King Loowy 13 and the Comensment ov the Rane ov King Loowy 14."

It ma be esily imadgiand hou grate wauz our joi when, in terning over this manuscript, our laast hope, we found at the twenteyeth page the name ov Aithos, at the twenty-cevventh the name ov Porthos, and at the thherty-ferst the name ov Arramis.

The discuvvery ov a compleetly un'none manuscript at a pereyod in which historical ciyens iz carrede too such a hi degry apeerd aulmoast miracculous. We hacend, dhaerfoer, too obtane permishon too print it, withe the vu ov presenting ourcelvz sumda withe the pac ov utherz at the doerz ov the *Academie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*, if we shood not suxede—a verry probbabel thhing, bi the bi—in ganing

admishon too the Acaddamy Fraunsase withe our one propper pac. This permishon, we fele bound too sa, wauz graishously graanted; which compelz

us here too ghiv a public contradicshon too the slaandererz whoo pretend dhat we liv under a guvvernment but modderaitly indulgent too men ov letterz.

Nou, this iz the ferst part ov this preshous mannuscript which we offer too our rederz, restoering it too the titel which belongz too it, and entering intoo an en'gajment dhat if (ov which we hav no dout) this ferst part shoold obtane the suxes it merrits, we wil publish the cecond imejaitly.

In the meenwhile, az the godfaather iz a cecond faather, we beg the reder too la too our acount, and not too dhat ov the Comt de laa Fare, the plezhure or the *ENNUI* he ma expereyens.

This beying understood, let us procede withe our history.

## 1 THE THRE PREZSENTS OV DARTANYAN THE ELDER

On the ferst Munda ov the munth ov Aipril, 1625, the market toun ov Muung, in which the author ov ROMANS OV THE ROSE wauz born, apeerd too

be in az perfect a state ov revolueshon az if the Ughenose had just made a cecond Laa Roshel ov it. Menny cittisenz, ceying the wimmen fliying

tooword the Hi Strete, leving dhare children crying at the open doerz, hacend too don the qweras, and supoerting dhare sumwhaut uncertane currage withe a musket or a partizan, directed dhare steps tooword the

hostelry ov the Jolly Miller, befoer which wauz gatherd, increcing evvery minnute, a compact groope, vocifferous and fool ov cureyoscity.

In dhose tiamz pannix wer common, and fu dase paast widhout sum citty or uther redgistering in its arkiavz an event ov this kiand. Dhare wer nobelz, whoo made wor against eche uther; dhare wauz the king, whoo made wor against the cardinal; dhare wauz Spane, which made wor against the king. Then, in adishon too these conceeld or public, ceecret or open worz, dhare wer robberz, mendicants, Ughenose, woolvz, and scoundrelz, whoo made wor uppon evveriboddy. The cittisenz aulwase tooc up armz reddily against thheevz, woolvz or scoundrelz, often against nobelz or Ughenose, sumtiamz against the king, but nevver against cardinal or Spane. It rezulted, then, from this habbit dhat on the ced ferst Munda ov Aipril, 1625, the cittisenz, on hering the clammor, and ceying niather the red-and-yello standard nor the livery ov the Dooke de Reeshlu, rusht tooword the hostel ov the Jolly Miller. When ariavd dhare, the cauz ov the hubbub wauz apparrent too aul.

A yung man—we can skech hiz poertrate at a dash. Imadgine too yorcelf a Don Kehoty ov atene; a Don Kehoty widhout hiz corcelet, widhout hiz cote ov male, widhout hiz qwecez; a Don Kehoty cloadhd in a woollen dublet, the blu cullor ov which had faded intoo a naimles shade betwene lese ov wine and a hevvenly azhure; face long and broun; hi cheke boanz, a cine ov sagascity; the maxillary muscelz enormously devellopt, an infallibel cine bi which a Gascon ma aulwase be detected, even widhout hiz cap—and our yung man woer a cap cet of withe a sort ov fether; the i open and intelligent; the nose hooct, but fianly chizseld. Too big for a ueth, too smaul for a grone man, an expereyenst i mite hav taken him for a farmerz sun uppon a gerny had it not bene for the long soerd which, dan'gling from a lether bauldric, hit against the caavz ov its oner az he wauct, and against the ruf cide ov hiz stede when he wauz on horsbac.



For our yung man had a stede which wauz the observd ov aul observerz. It wauz a Baern pony, from twelv too foertene yeerz oald, yello in hiz hide, widhout a hare in hiz tale, but not widhout windgaulz on hiz legz, which, dho gowing withe hiz hed lower dhan hiz nese, rendering a martin' gale qwite un'necesary, contriavd nevvertheles too perform hiz ate leegz a da. Unforchunaitly, the qwaulitese ov this hors wer so wel conceeld under hiz strainj-cullord hide and hiz unnacountabel gate, dhat at a time when evveriboddy wauz a conocer in horsflesh, the aperans ov the afoerced pony at Muung—which place he had enterd about a qworter ov an our befoer, bi the gate ov Boazhony—projuest an unfavorabel feling, which extended too hiz rider.

And this feling had bene moer painfooly perceevd bi yung dArtanyan—for so wauz the Don Kehoty ov this cecond Rocinanty naimd—from hiz not beying abel too concele from himcelf the ridiculous aperans dhat such a stede gave him, good horsman az he wauz. He had cide deeply, dhaerfoer, when axepting the ghift ov the pony from M. dArtanyan the elder. He wauz not ignorant dhat such a beast wauz werth at leest twenty leevrz; and the werdz which had acumpanede the prezsent wer abuv aul price.

"Mi sun," ced the oald Gascon gentelman, in dhat pure Baern PATWAA ov which Henry 4 cood nevver rid himcelf, "this hors wauz born in the hous ov yor faather about thhertene yeerz ago, and haz remaind in it evver cins, which aut too make u luv it. Nevver cel it; alou it too di tranqwily and onnorably ov oald age, and if u make a campane withe it, take az much care ov it az u wood ov an oald cervant. At coert, provided u hav evver the onnor too go dhare," continnude M. dArtanyan the elder, "—an onnor too which, remember, yor ainshent nobillity ghivz u the rite—sustane werthily yor name ov gentelman, which haz bene werthily boern bi yor ancestorz for five hundred yeerz, boath for yor one sake and the sake ov dhose whoo belong too u. Bi the latter I mene

yor rellatiavz and frendz. Enjure nuthhing from enniwun exep't Msyer the Cardinal and the king. It iz bi hiz currage, plese observ, bi hiz currage alone, dhat a gentelman can make hiz wa nouwadase.

Whoowevver

hezsitaitz for a cecond perhaps alouz the bate too escape which juring dhat exact cecond forchune held out too him. U ar yung. U aut too be brave for too rezonz: the ferst iz dhat u ar a Gascon, and the cecond iz dhat u ar mi sun. Nevver fere qworelz, but ceke advenchuerz.

I hav taut u hou too handel a soerd; u hav thuse ov iarn, a rist ov stele. Fite on aul ocaizhonz. Fite the moer for juwelz beying forbidden, cins conceqwently dhare iz twice az much currage in fiting. I hav nuthhing too ghiv u, mi sun, but fiftene crounz, mi hors, and the councelz u hav just herd. Yor muther wil ad too them a rescipy for a certane baulsam, which she had from a Bohemeyan and

which haz the miracculous verchu ov curing aul wuindz dhat doo not reche

the hart. Take advaantage ov aul, and liv happily and long. I hav but wun werd too ad, and dhat iz too propose an exaampel too u—not mine, for I micelf hav nevver apeerd at coert, and hav oonly taken part in relidjous worz az a volluntere; I speke ov Msyer de Treveye, whoo wauz formerly mi nabor, and whoo had the onnor too be, az a chiald, the pla-fello ov our king, Loowy 13, whoome God preserv! Sumtiamz dhare pla degennerated intoo battelz, and in these battelz the king wauz not aulwase the stron'gher. The blose which he receevd increest graitley hiz esteme and frendship for Msyer de Treveye. Aafterword, Msyer de Treveye faut withe utherz: in hiz ferst gerny too Parris, five tiamz; from the deth ov the late king til the yung wun came ov age, widhout recconing worz and cejez, cevven tiamz; and from dhat date up too the prezsent da, a hundred tiamz, perhaps! So dhat in spite ov edicts, ordinancez, and decrese, dhare he iz, captane ov the Musketeerz; dhat iz too sa, chefe ov a lejon ov Cezarz, whoome the king hoaldz in grate esteme and whoome the cardinal dredz—he whoo dredz nuthhing, az it iz

ced. Stil ferther, Msyer de Treveye gainz ten thouzand crounz a yere; he iz dhaerfoer a grate nobel. He began az u beghin. Go too him withe this letter, and make him yor moddel in order dhat u ma doo az he haz dun."

Uppon which M. dArtanyan the elder gherded hiz one soerd round hiz sun,  
kist him tenderly on boath cheex, and gave him hiz benedicshon.

On leving the paternal chaimber, the yung man found hiz muther, whoo wauz wating for him withe the famous rescipy ov which the councelz we hav just repeted wood necesitate freeqwent emploiment. The ajuse wer on this cide lon'gher and moer tender dhan dha had bene on the uther—not dhat M. dArtanyan did not luv hiz sun, whoo wauz hiz oonly ofspring, but M. dArtanyan wauz a man, and he wood hav concidderd it unwerthy ov a man too ghiv wa too hiz felingz; wharaz Mme. dArtanyan wauz a woomman,  
and stil moer, a muther. She wept abundantly; and—let us speke it too the prase ov M. dArtanyan the yun'gher—notwidhstanding the efforts he made too remane ferm, az a fuchure Musketere aut, nachure prevaild, and he shed menny teerz, ov which he suxeded withe grate difficulty in conceling the haaf.

The same da the yung man cet forword on hiz gerny, fernisht withe the thre paternal ghifts, which concisted, az we hav ced, ov fiftene crounz, the hors, and the letter for M. de Treveye—the councelz beying throne intoo the bargane.

Withe such a *VADE MECUM* dArtanyan wauz moraly and fizsicaly an exact copy ov the hero ov Cervantese, too whoome we so happily compaerd him when  
our juty ov an histoereyan plaist us under the necescity ov sketching hiz

poertrate. Don Kehoty tooc windmilz for giyants, and shepe for armese; dArtanyan tooc evvery smile for an insult, and evvery looc az a provocaishon—whens it rezulted dhat from Tarb too Muung hiz fist wauz constantly dubbeld, or hiz hand on the hilt ov hiz soerd; and yet the fist did not decend uppon enny jau, nor did the soerd ishu from its scabbard. It wauz not dhat the cite ov the retched pony did not exite numerous smialz on the countenancez ov paacerz-bi; but az against the cide ov this pony ratteld a soerd ov respectabel length, and az over this soerd gleemd an i raather feroashous dhan hauty, these paacerz-bi represt dhare hilarrity, or if hilarrity prevaield over prudens, dha endevvord too laaf oonly on wun cide, like the maasx ov the ainshents. DArtanyan, then, remaind magestic and intact in hiz susceptibillity, til he came too this unlucky city ov Muung.

But dhare, az he wauz aliting from hiz hors at the gate ov the Jolly Miller, widhout enniwun—hoast, water, or hosler—cumming too hoald hiz stirrup or take hiz hors, dArtanyan spide, throo an open windo on the ground floer, a gentelman, wel-made and ov good carrage, auldho ov raather a stern countenans, tauking withe too personz whoo apeerd too liscen too him withe respect. dArtanyan fancede qwite natchuraly, acording too hiz custom, dhat he must be the obgett ov dhare conversaishon, and liscend. This time dArtanyan wauz oonly in part mistaken; he himcelf wauz not in qweschon, but hiz hors wauz. The gentelman apeerd too be enumerating aul hiz qwaulitese too hiz auditorz; and, az I hav ced, the auditorz ceming too hav grate defferens for the narator, dha evvery moment berst intoo fits ov laafter. Nou, az a haaf-smile wauz sufishent too awaken the iracibillity ov the yung man, the efect projuest uppon him bi this vocifferous merth ma be esily imadgiand.

Nevvertheles, dArtanyan wauz desirous ov examining the aperans ov this impertinent personage whoo riddicueid him. He fixt hiz hauty i uppon the strain'ger, and perceevd a man ov from forty too forty-five yearz ov age, withe blac and peercing ise, pale complecshon, a strongly marct

nose, and a blac and wel-shaipt mustaash. He wauz drest in a dublet and hose ov a viyiolet cullor, withe aigwillets ov the same cullor, widhout enny uther ornaments dhan the customary slashez, throo which the shert apeerd. This dublet and hose, dho nu, wer creest, like travveling cloadhz for a long time pact in a portmanto. DArtanyan made aul these remarx withe the rapiddity ov a moast minute observer, and doutles from an instinctive feling dhat this strain'ger wauz destiand too hav a grate influwens over hiz fuchure life.

Nou, az at the moment in which dArtanyan fixt hiz ise uppon the gentelman in the viyiolet dublet, the gentelman made wun ov hiz moast nowing and profound remarx respecting the Baernese pony, hiz too auditorz laaft even louder dhan befoer, and he himcelf, dho contrary too hiz custom, aloud a pale smile (if I ma be aloud too use such an expreshon) too stra over hiz countenans. This time dhare cood be no dout; dArtanyan wauz reyaly insulted. Fool, then, ov this convicshon, he poold hiz cap doun over hiz ise, and endevvoring too cobby sum ov the coert aerz he had pict up in Gascony amung yung travveling nobelz, he advaanst withe wun hand on the hilt ov hiz soerd and the uther resting on hiz hip. Unforchunaitly, az he advaanst, hiz an'gher increest at evvery step; and insted ov the propper and lofty speche he had prepaerd az a prelude too hiz challenj, he found nuthhing at the tip ov hiz tung but a groce personallity, which he acumpanede withe a fureyous geschure.

"I sa, cer, u cer, whoo ar hiding yorcelf behiand dhat shutter—yes, u, cer, tel me whaut u ar laafing at, and we wil laaf tooghether!"

The gentelman raizd hiz ise sloly from the nag too hiz cavaleyer, az if he reqwiard sum time too ascertain whether it cood be too him dhat such strainj reprochez wer adrest; then, when he cood not poscibly entertane enny dout ov the matter, hiz iabrouz sliatly bent, and withe

an axent ov irony and insolens imposcibel too be descriabd, he replide too dArtanyan, "I wauz not speking too u, cer."

"But I am speking too u!" replide the yung man, adishonaly exaasperated withe this mixchure ov insolens and good mannerz, ov poliatnes and scorn.

The strain'ger looct at him agane withe a slite smile, and retiring from the windo, came out ov the hostelry withe a slo step, and plaist himcelf befoer the hors, within too pacez ov dArtanyan. Hiz qwiyet manner and the ironnical expreshon ov hiz countenans redubbeld the merth ov the personz withe whoome he had bene tauking, and whoo stil remaind at the windo.

DArtanyan, ceying him aproche, dru hiz soerd a foot out ov the scabbard.

"This hors iz decidedly, or raather haz bene in hiz ueth, a buttercup," rezhuemd the strain'ger, continnuwing the remarx he had begun, and adrescing himcelf too hiz auditorz at the windo, widhout paying the leest atenshon too the exasperaishon ov dArtanyan, whoo, houwevver plaist himcelf betwene him and them. "It iz a cullor verry wel none in bottany, but til the prezsent time verry rare among horcez."

"Dhare ar pepel whoo laaf at the hors dhat wood not dare too laaf at the maaster," cride the yung emmulator ov the fureyous Treveye.

"I doo not often laaf, cer," replide the strain'ger, "az u ma perceve bi the expreshon ov mi countenans; but nevvertheles I retane the privvilege ov laafing when I plese."

"And I," cride dArtanyan, "wil alou no man too laaf when it displesez me!"

"Indede, cer," continnude the strain'ger, moer caalm dhan evver; "wel, dhat iz perfectly rite!" and terning on hiz hele, wauz about too re-enter the hostelry bi the frunt gate, beneeth which dArtanyan on ariving had observd a saddeld hors.

But, dArtanyan wauz not ov a carracter too alou a man too escape him dhus whoo had the insolens too riddicule him. He dru hiz soerd entiarly from the scabbard, and follode him, crying, "Tern, tern, Maaster Joker, lest I strike u behiand!"

"Strike me!" ced the uther, terning on hiz heelz, and cervaying the yung man withe az much astonnishment az contempt. "Whi, mi good fello, u must be mad!" Then, in a suprest tone, az if speking too himcelf, "This iz anoiying," continnude he. "Whaut a godcend this wood be for hiz Madgesty, whoo iz ceking evveriw hare for brave fellose too recrute for hiz Musketeerz!"

He had scaersly finnisht, when dArtanyan made such a fureyous lunj at him dhat if he had not sprung nimbly baqword, it iz probbabel he wood hav gested for the laast time. The strain'ger, then perceving dhat the matter went beyond ralery, dru hiz soerd, saluted hiz adversary, and cereyously plaist himcelf on gard. But at the same moment, hiz too auditorz, acumpanede bi the hoast, fel uppon dArtanyan withe stix, shuvvelz and tongz. This cauzd so rappid and complete a diverzhon from the atac dhat dArtanyanz adversary, while the latter ternd round too face this shower ov blose, sheedhd hiz soerd withe the same precizhon, and insted ov an actor, which he had neerly bene, became a spectator ov the fite—a part in which he aqwitted himcelf withe hiz uezhuwal impasciavnes, muttering, nevvertheles, "A plaghe uppon these Gasconz! Replace him on hiz oranj hors, and let him begon!"

"Not befoer I hav kild u, poltroone!" cride dArtanyan, making

the best face possible, and never retreating wun step before his three assailants, who continued too shower blows upon him.

"Another gasconade!" murmured the gentleman. "By my honor, these Gascons are incorrigible! Keep up the daans, then, cins he will have it so. When he is tired, he will perhaps tell us what he has had enough of it."

But the stranger was not the headstrong personage he had too do with; d'Artagnan was not the man ever too cry for quarter. The fight was dhaerfor prolonged for sum seconds; but at length d'Artagnan dropped his sword, which was broken in too pieces by the blow of a stick. Another blow fell upon his forehead at the same moment brought him too the ground, covered with blood and almost fainting.

It was at this moment that people came flocking too the scene of action from all sides. The host, fearful of consequence, with the help of his servants carried the wounded man into the kitchen, where sum trifling attentions were bestowed upon him.

As too the gentleman, he resumed his place at the window, and surveyed the crowd with a certain impatience, evidently annoyed by the remaining undispersed.

"Well, how is it with this madman?" exclaimed he, turning round as the noise of the door against the entrance of the host, who came in too inquire if he was unhurt.

"Your excellency is safe and sound?" asked the host.

"O, yes! Perfectly safe and sound, my good host; and I wish too no what has become of our young man."

"He is better," said the host, "he fainted quite away."



"Indede!" ced the gentelman.

"But befoer he fainted, he colected aul hiz strength too challenj u, and too defi u while challen'ging u."

"Whi, this fello must be the devvil in person!" cride the strain'ger.

"O, no, yor Exelency, he iz not the devvil," replide the hoast, withe a grin ov contempt; "for juring hiz fainting we rummaid hiz valse and found nuthhing but a clene shert and elevven crounz—which houwevver, did not prevent hiz saying, az he wauz fainting, dhat if such a thhing had happend in Parris, u shood hav cauz too repent ov it at a later pereyod."

"Then," ced the strain'ger cooly, "he must be sum prins in disghise."

"I hav toald u this, good cer," rezhuemd the hoast, "in order dhat u ma be on yor gard."

"Did he name no wun in hiz pashon?"

"Yes; he struc hiz pocket and ced, We shal ce whaut Msyer de Treveye wil thhinc ov this insult offerd too hiz protaizha."

"Msyer de Treveye?" ced the strain'ger, becumming atentive, "he poot hiz hand uppon hiz pocket while pronouncing the name ov Msyer de Treveye? Nou, mi dere hoast, while yor yung man wauz incencibel, u did not fale, I am qwite shure, too ascertain whaut dhat pocket containd. Whaut wauz dhare in it?"

"A letter adrest too Msyer de Treveye, captane ov the Musketeerz."

"Indede!"

"Exactly az I hav the onnor too tel yor Exelency."

The hoast, whoo wauz not endoud withe grate perspicascity, did not observ  
the expreshon which hiz werdz had ghivven too the fiseyonnomy ov the  
strain'ger. The latter rose from the frunt ov the windo, uppon the cil  
ov which he had leend withe hiz elbo, and nitted hiz brou like a man  
disqwiyeted.

"The devvil!" mermerd he, betwene hiz teeth. "Can Treveye hav cet this  
Gascon uppon me? He iz verry yung; but a soerd thrust iz a soerd thrust,  
whautevver be the age ov him whoo ghivz it, and a ueth iz les too be  
suspected dhan an oalder man," and the strain'ger fel intoo a revvery  
which laasted sum minnuets. "A weke obstakel iz sumtiamz sufishent too  
overthro a grate desine."

"Hoast," ced he, "cood u not contrive too ghet rid ov this frantic boi  
for me? In conshens, I canot kil him; and yet," added he, withe a  
coaldly mennacing expreshon, "he anoiz me. Whare iz he?"

"In mi wiafs chaimber, on the ferst flite, whare dha ar drescing hiz  
wuindz."

"Hiz thhingz and hiz bag ar withe him? Haz he taken of hiz dublet?"

"On the contrary, evverithhing iz in the kitchen. But if he anoiz u,  
this yung foole—"

"Too be shure he duz. He causez a disterbans in yor hostelry, which  
respectabel pepel canot poot up withe. Go; make out mi bil and notifi  
mi cervant."

"Whaut, msyer, wil u leve us so soone?"

"U no dhat verry wel, az I gave mi order too saddel mi hors. Hav dha not obade me?"

"It iz dun; az yor Exelency ma hav observd, yor hors iz in the grate gaitwa, reddy saddeld for yor deparchure."

"Dhat iz wel; doo az I hav directed u, then."

"Whaut the devvil!" ced the hoast too himcelf. "Can he be afrade ov this boi?" But an impereyous glaans from the strain'ger stopt him short; he boud humbly and retiard.

"It iz not nescesary for Milady\* too be cene bi this fello," continnude the strain'ger. "She wil soone paas; she iz aulreddy late. I had better ghet on horsbac, and go and mete her. I shood like, houwevver, too no whaut this letter adrest too Treveye containz."

\*We ar wel aware dhat this term, milady, iz oonly properly uezd when follode bi a fammily name. But we fiand it dhus in the mannuscript, and we doo not chuse too take uppon ourcelvz too aulter it.

And the strain'ger, muttering too himcelf, directed hiz steps tooword the kitchen.

In the meentime, the hoast, whoo entertaind no dout dhat it wauz the prezsens ov the yung man dhat drove the strain'ger from hiz hostelry, re-acended too hiz wiafs chaimber, and found dArtanyan just recuvering hiz cencez. Ghivving him too understand dhat the polece wood dele withe him

pritty ceveerly for havving saut a qworel withe a grate lord—for the opinyon ov the hoast the strain'ger cood be nuthhing les dhan a grate lord—he incisted dhat notwidhstanding hiz weecnes dArtanyan shood

ghet up and depart az qwicly az poscibel. DArtanyan, haaf schupefide, widhout hiz dublet, and withe hiz hed bound up in a linnen cloth, arose then, and erjd bi the hoast, began too decend the staerz; but on ariving at the kitchen, the ferst thhing he sau wauz hiz antaggonist tauking caalmly at the step ov a hevvy carrage, draun bi too larj Norman horcez.

Hiz interlocutor, whoose hed apeerd throo the carrage windo, wauz a woomman ov from twenty too too-and-twenty yeerz. We hav aulreddy observd withe whaut rapiddity dArtanyan ceezd the expreshon ov a countenans. He perceevd then, at a glaans, dhat this woomman wauz yung and butifool; and her stile ov buty struc him moer forcibly from its beying totaly different from dhat ov the suthern cuntrese in which dArtanyan had hitherto resided. She wauz pale and fare, withe long kerlz fauling in profuezhon over her shoalderz, had larj, blu, lan'gwishing ise, rosy lips, and handz ov alabaster. She wauz tauking withe grate animaishon withe the strain'ger.

"Hiz Emminens, then, orderz me—" ced the lady.

"Too retern instantly too In'gland, and too inform him az soone az the juke leevz Lundon."

"And az too mi uther instrucshonz?" aasct the fare travveler.

"Dha ar containd in this box, which u wil not open until u ar on the uther cide ov the Channel."

"Verry wel; and u—whaut wil u doo?"

"I—I retern too Parris."

"Whaut, widhout chastising this insolent boi?" aasct the lady.

The strain'ger wauz about too repli; but at the moment he opend hiz mouth,  
dArtanyan, whoo had herd aul, precippitated himcelf over the threshoald ov the doer.

"This insolent boi chastisez uthertz," cride he; "and I hope dhat this time he whoome he aut too chastise wil not escape him az befoer."

"Wil not escape him?" replide the strain'ger, nitting hiz brou.

"No; befoer a woomman u wood dare not fli, I prezhume?"

"Remember," ced Milady, ceying the strain'ger la hiz hand on hiz soerd,  
"the leest dela ma ruwin evverithing."

"U ar rite," cride the gentelman; "begon then, on yor part, and I wil depart az qwicly on mine." And bouwing too the lady, sprang intoo hiz saddel, while her coachman aplide hiz whip viggorously too hiz horcez. The too interlocutorz dhus cepparated, taking opposite direcshonz, at fool gallop.

"Pa him, booby!" cride the strain'ger too hiz cervant, widhout checking the spede ov hiz hors; and the man, aafter throwing too or thre silver pecez at the foot ov mine hoast, gallopt aafter hiz maaster.

"Bace couward! fauls gentelman!" cride dArtanyan, springing forword, in hiz tern, aafter the cervant. But hiz wuind had renderd him too weke too supoert such an exershon. Scaersly had he gon ten steps when hiz eerz began too tin'ghel, a faintnes ceezd him, a cloud ov blud paast over hiz ise, and he fel in the middel ov the strete, crying stil,  
"Couward! couward! couward!"

"He iz a couward, indede," grumbeld the hoast, drauwing nere too dArtanyan, and endevvoring bi this littel flattery too make up matterz withe the yung man, az the herron ov the fabel did withe the snale he had despiazd the evening befoer.

"Yes, a bace couward," mermerd dArtanyan; "but she—she wauz verry butifool."

"Whaut she?" demaanded the hoast.

"Milady," faulterd dArtanyan, and fainted a cecond time.

"Aa, its aul wun," ced the hoast; "I hav lost too customerz, but this wun remainz, ov whoome I am pritty certane for sum dase too cum. Dhare wil be elevven crounz gaind."

It iz too be rememberd dhat elevven crounz wauz just the sum dhat remaind in dArtanyanz pers.

The hoast had recond uppon elevven dase ov confianment at a croun a da, but he had recond widhout hiz ghest. On the following morning at five oacloc dArtanyan arose, and decending too the kitchen widhout help, aasct, amung uther in'gregents the list ov which haz not cum down too us, for sum oil, sum wine, and sum roazmary, and withe hiz mutherz rescipy in hiz hand compoazd a baulsam, withe which he anointed hiz numerous wuindz, replacing hiz bandagez himcelf, and pozsitiavly refusing the acistans ov enny doctor, dArtanyan wauct about dhat same evening, and wauz aulmoast cuerd bi the moro.

But when the time came too pa for hiz roazmary, this oil, and the wine,

the oonly expens the maaster had inkerd, az he had preservd a strict abstinens—while on the contrary, the yello hors, bi the acount ov the hosler at leest, had eten thre tiamz az much az a hors ov hiz cise cood rezonably supoast too hav dun—dArtanyan found nuthhing in hiz pocket but hiz littel oald velvet pers withe the elevven crounz it containd; for az too the letter adrest too M. de Treveye, it had disapeerd.

The yung man comenst hiz cerch for the letter withe the gratest paishens, terning out hiz pockets ov aul kiandz over and over agane, rummaging and rerummaging in hiz valse, and opening and reyopening hiz pers; but when he found dhat he had cum too the convicshon dhat the letter wauz not too be found, he flu, for the thherd time, intoo such a rage az wauz nere costing him a fresh consumpshon ov wine, oil, and roazmary—for uppon ceying this hot-hedded ueth becum exaasperated and thretten too destroi evverithhing in the establishment if hiz letter wer not found, the hoast ceezd a spit, hiz wife a broome handel, and the cervants the same stix dha had uezd the da befoer.

"Mi letter ov recomendaishon!" cride dArtanyan, "mi letter ov recomendaishon! or, the holy blud, I wil spit u aul like ortolanz!"

Unforchunaitly, dhare wauz wun circumstaans which creyated a pouwerfool obstakel too the acumplishment ov this thret; which wauz, az we hav related, dhat hiz soerd had bene in hiz ferst conflict broken in too, and which he had entiarly forgotten. Hens, it rezulted when dArtanyan proceded too drau hiz soerd in ernest, he found himcelf puerly and simply armd withe a stump ov a soerd about ate or ten inchez in length, which the hoast had caerfooly plaist in the scabbard. Az too the rest ov the blade, the maaster had slily poot dhat on wun cide too make himcelf a larding pin.

But this decepshon wood probbably not hav stopt our firy yung man if the hoast had not reflected dhat the reclamaishon which hiz ghest made wauz perfectly just.

"But, aafter aul," ced he, lowering the point ov hiz spit, "whare iz this letter?"

"Yes, whare iz this letter?" cride dArtanyan. "In the ferst place, I worn u dhat dhat letter iz for Msyer de Treveye, and it must be found, he wil no hou too fiand it."

Hiz thret completed the intimidaishton ov the hoast. Aafter the king and the cardinal, M. de Treveye wauz the man whoose name wauz perhaps moast freeqwently repeted bi the military, and even bi cittisenz. Dhare wauz, too be shure, Faather Josef, but hiz name wauz nevver pronounst but withe a subjude vois, such wauz the terror inspiard bi hiz Gra Emminens, az the cardinalz familleyar wauz cauld.

Throwing doun hiz spit, and ordering hiz wife too doo the same withe her broome handel, and the cervants withe dhare stix, he cet the ferst exaampel ov comencing an earnest cerch for the lost letter.

"Duz the letter contane ennithhing vallubel?" demaanded the hoast, aafter a fu minnuets ov uesles investigaishon.

"Zuindz! I thhinc it duz indede!" cride the Gascon, whoo recond uppon this letter for making hiz wa at coert. "It containd mi forchune!"

"Bilz uppon Spane?" aasct the disterbd hoast.



"Bilz uppon hiz Madgestese private trezhury," aancerd dArtanyan, whoo, recconing uppon entering intoo the kingz cervice in conceqwens ov this recomendaishon, beleevd he cood make this sumwhaut hazzardous repli widhout telling ov a fauls'hood.

"The devvil!" cride the hoast, at hiz wits end.

"But its ov no importans," continnude dArtanyan, withe natchural ashurans; "its ov no importans. The munny iz nuthhing; dhat letter wauz evverithhing. I wood raather hav lost a thousand pistoalz dhan hav lost it." He wood not hav risct moer if he had ced twenty thousand; but a certane juvenile moddesty restraind him.

A ra ov lite aul at wuns broke uppon the miand ov the hoast az he wauz ghivving himcelf too the devvil uppon fianding nuthhing.

"Dhat letter iz not lost!" cride he.

"Whaut!" cride dArtanyan.

"No, it haz bene stolen from u."

"Stolen? Bi whoome?"

"Bi the gentelman whoo wauz here yesterda. He came doun intoo the kitchen, whare yor dublet wauz. He remaind dhare sum time alone. I wood la a wager he haz stolen it."

"Doo u thhinc so?" aancerd dArtanyan, but littel convinst, az he nu better dhan enniwun els hou entiarly personal the vally ov this letter wauz, and wauz nuthhing in it liacly too tempt cupididity. The fact wauz dhat nun ov hiz cervants, nun ov the travvelerz prezsent, cood hav gaind

ennithhing bi beying posest ov this paper.

"Doo u sa," rezhuemd dArtanyan, "dhat u suspect dhat impertinent gentelman?"

"I tel u I am shure ov it," continnude the hoast. "When I informd him dhat yor lordship wauz the protaizha ov Msyer de Treveye, and dhat u even had a letter for dhat ilustreyous gentelman, he apeerd too be verry much disterbd, and aasct me whare dhat letter wauz, and imejaitly came doun intoo the kitchen, whare he nu yor dublet wauz."

"Then dhats mi thhefe," replide dArtanyan. "I wil complane too Msyer de Treveye, and Msyer de Treveye wil complane too the king." He then dru too crounz magesticaly from hiz pers and gave them too the hoast, whoo acumpanede him, cap in hand, too the gate, and remounted hiz

yello hors, which boer him widhout enny ferther axident too the gate ov St. Auntwaan at Parris, whare hiz oner soald him for thre crounz, which wauz a verry good price, conciddering dhat dArtanyan had ridden him hard

juring the laast stage. Dhus the deler too whoome dArtanyan soald him for the nine leevrz did not concele from the yung man dhat he oonly gave dhat enormous sum for him on the acount ov the originallity ov hiz cullor.

Dhus dArtanyan enterd Parris on foot, carreying hiz littel packet under hiz arm, and wauct about til he found an apartment too be let on termz suted too the scantines ov hiz meenz. This chaimber wauz a sort ov garret, citchuwated in the Ru da Foswaa'er, nere the Luxemburg.

Az soone az the earnest munny wauz pade, dArtanyan tooc poseshon ov hiz lodging, and paast the remainder ov the da in sowing ontoo hiz dublet and hose sum ornamental brading which hiz muther had taken of an

aulmoast-nu dublet ov the elder M. dArtanyan, and which she had ghivven her sun ceecretly. Next he went too the Ca de Feraye too hav a nu blade poot too hiz soerd, and then reternd tooword the Luivr, inqwiring ov the ferst Musketere he met for the cichuwaishon ov the hotel ov M. de Treveye, which pruid too be in the Ru du Vyuu-Colombeya; dhat iz too sa, in the imejate vicinnity ov the chaimber hiard bi dArtanyan—a circumstaans which apeerd too fernish a happy augury for the suxes ov hiz gerny.

Aafter this, sattisfide withe the wa in which he had conducted himcelf at Muung, widhout remors for the paast, confident in the prezsent, and fool ov hope for the fuchure, he retiard too bed and slept the slepe ov the brave.

This slepe, provinshal az it wauz, braut him too nine oacloc in the morning; at which our he rose, in order too repare too the rezsidens ov M. de Treveye, the thherd personage in the kingdom, in the paternal estimaishon.

## 2 THE ANTECHAIMBER OV M. DE TREVEYE

M. de Trwaavele, az hiz fammily wauz stil cauld in Gascony, or M. de Treveye, az he haz ended bi stiling himcelf in Parris, had reyaly comenst life az dArtanyan nou did; dhat iz too sa, widhout a soo in hiz pocket, but withe a fund ov audascity, shruednes, and intelligens which maix the poorest Gascon gentelman often derive moer in hiz hope from the paternal inherritans dhan the ritchest Perigorjan or Berrishaun gentelman deriavz in reyallity from hiz. Hiz insolent bravery, hiz stil moer insolent suxes at a time when blose poerd down like hale, had boern him too the top ov dhat difficult ladder cauld Coert Favor, which

he had cliamd foer steps at a time.

He wauz the frend ov the king, whoo onnord hily, az evveriwun nose, the memmory ov hiz faather, Henry 4. The faather ov M. de Treveye had cervd him so faithfooly in hiz worz against the leghe dhat in default ov munny—a thhing too which the Baerna wauz acostomd aul hiz life, and whoo constantly pade hiz dets withe dhat ov which he nevver stood in nede

ov borowing, dhat iz too sa, withe reddy wit—in default ov munny, we repete, he authoriazd him, aafter the reducshon ov Parris, too ashume for hiz armz a goalden liyon passant uppon guelz, withe the motto *FIDELIS ET FORTIS*. This wauz a grate matter in the wa ov onnor, but verry littel in the wa ov welth; so dhat when the ilustreyous companyon ov the grate Henry dide, the oonly inheritans he wauz abel too leve hiz sun wauz hiz soerd and hiz motto. Thanx too this dubbel ghift and the spotles name dhat acumpanede it, M. de Treveye wauz admitted intoo the hous'hoald ov the yung prins whare he made such good uce ov hiz soerd, and wauz so faithfool too hiz motto, dhat Loowy 13, wun ov the good blaidz ov hiz kingdom, wauz acostomd too sa dhat if he had a frend whoo wauz about too fite, he wood advise him too chuse az a cecond, himcelf ferst, and Treveye next—or even, perhaps, befoer himcelf.

Dhus Loowy 13 had a reyal liking for Treveye—a roiyal liking, a celf-interested liking, it iz tru, but stil a liking. At dhat unhappy pereyod it wauz an important concideraishon too be surounded bi such men

az Treveye. Menny mite take for dhare device the eppithhet **STRONG**, which

formd the cecond part ov hiz motto, but verry fu gentelmen cood la clame too the **FAITHFOOL**, which constichuted the ferst. Treveye wauz wun ov

these latter. Hiz wauz wun ov dhose rare organizaishonz, endoud withe an obegent intelligens like dhat ov the dog; withe a bliand vallor, a qwic

i, and a prompt hand; too whoome cite apeerd oonly too be ghivven too ce if the king wer disattisfide withe enniwun, and the hand too strike this displesing personage, whether a Bem, a Morvare, a Polteyo de Mare, or a Veetry. In short, up too this pereyod nuthhing had bene waunting too Treveye but oporchunity; but he wauz evver on the wauch for it, and he faithfooly prommiast himcelf dhat he wood not fale too cese it bi its thre haerz whenevver it came within reche ov hiz hand. At laast Loowy 13 made Treveye the captane ov hiz Musketeerz, whoo wer too Loowy 13 in devotednes, or raather in fanatticism, whaut hiz Ordinarese had bene too Henry 3, and hiz Scoch Gard too Loowy 11.

On hiz part, the cardinal wauz not behiand the king in this respect. When he sau the formiddabel and chosen boddy withe which Loowy 13 had surrounded himcelf, this cecond, or raather this ferst king ov Fraans, became desirous dhat he, too, shood hav hiz gard. He had hiz Musketeerz dhaerfoer, az Loowy 13 had hiz, and these too pouwerfool rivalz vide withe eche uther in procuring, not oonly from aul the provvincez ov Fraans, but even from aul forane staitz, the moast cellebrated soerdzmen. It wauz not uncommon for Reeshlu and Loowy 13 too dispute over dhare evening game ov ches uppon the merrits ov dhare cervants. Eche boasted the baring and the currage ov hiz one pepel. While exclaming loudly against juwelz and braulz, dha exited them ceecretly too qworel, deriving an imodderate satisfacshon or genuwine regret from the suxes or defete ov dhare one combatants. We lern this from the memwarz ov a man whoo wauz concernd in sum fu ov these defeets and in menny ov these victorese.

Treveye had graaspt the weke cide ov hiz maaster; and it wauz too this adres dhat he ode the long and constant favor ov a king whoo haz not left the reputaishon behiand him ov beying verry faithfool in hiz

friendships. He paraded his Musketeers before the Cardinal Armand Duiplescy with an insolent air which made the great moostash of his Eminence's kerl with the ire. Treveye understood admirably the worst method

of that period, in which he who could not live at the expense of the enemy must live at the expense of his compatriots. His soldier formed a lion of devil-ma-care fellows, perfectly undisciplined toward all but himself.

Louise, half-drunken, imposing, the king's Musketeers, or rather M. de Treveze, spread themselves about in the cabarose, in the public waux, and the public sports, shouting, twisting their mustaches, clanking their swords, and taking great pleasure in annoying the Guards of the cardinal whenever they could find fault with them; then drawing in the open streets, as if it were the best of all possible sports; sumptuous kilt, but sure in that case to be both wept and avenged; often killing others, but then certain of not rotting in prison, M. de Treveze being their too common enemy. Thus M. de Treveze was praised too

the highest note by these men, who adored him, and who, ruffians as they

were, trembled before him like scholars before their master, obedient to his least word, and ready to sacrifice themselves to wash out the smallest insult.

M. de Treveze employed this powerful weapon for the king, in the first place, and the friends of the king—and then for himself and his one friend. For the rest, in the memoirs of this period, which have left so many memoirs, you will not find this worthy gentleman blamed even

by his enemies; and he had many such among men of the pen as well as among

men of the sword. In no instance, let us say, was this worthy gentleman accused of deriving personal advantage from the cooperation of his

minyonz. Endoud withe a rare geenyus for intreghe which renderd him the eeqwal ov the aiblest intregherz, he remaind an onnest man. Stil ferther, in spite ov soerd thrusts which weken, and painfool exercisez which fateghe, he had becum wun ov the moast gallant freqwenterz ov revvelz, wun ov the moast incinnuwating ladese men, wun ov the softest whispererz ov interesting nuthhingz ov hiz da; the *BONNES FORTUNES* ov de

Treveye wer tauct ov az dhose ov M. de Basompeyare had bene tauct ov twenty yeerz befoer, and dhat wauz not saying a littel. The captane ov the Musketeerz wauz dhaerfoer admiard, feerd, and luvd; and this constichuets the sennith ov human forchune.

Loowy 14 abzorbd aul the smauler starz ov hiz coert in hiz one vaast rajans; but hiz faather, a sun *PLURIBUS IMPAR*, left hiz personal splendor too eche ov hiz favoriats, hiz individjuwal vallu too eche ov hiz coercherz. In adishon too the leevz ov the king and the cardinal, dhare mite be recond in Parris at dhat time moer dhan too hundred smauler but stil noatwerthy leevz. Amung these too hundred leevz, dhat ov Treveye wauz wun ov the moast saut.

The coert ov hiz hotel, citchuwated in the Ru du Vyuu-Colombeya, resembled a camp from bi cix oacloc in the morning in summer and ate oacloc in winter. From fifty too cixty Musketeerz, whoo apeerd too replace wun anuther in order aulwase too present an imposing number, paraded constantly, armd too the teeth and reddy for ennithing. On wun ov dhose imens staercacez, uppon whose space moddern civilizaishon wood

bild a whole hous, acended and decended the office ceckerz ov Parris, whoo ran aafter enny sort ov favor—gentelmen from the provvincez ancshous

too be enroald, and cervants in aul sorts ov livverese, bringing and carreying messagez betwene dhare maasterz and M. de Treveye. In the antechaimber, uppon long cercular benchez, repoazd the elect; dhat iz

too sa, dhose whoo wer cauld. In this apartment a continnude buzzing prevaild from morning til nite, while M. de Treveye, in hiz office contigguwous too this antechamber, receevd vizsits, liscend too complaints, gave hiz orderz, and like the king in hiz balcony at the Luivr, had oanly too place himcelf at the windo too revu boath hiz men and armz.

The da on which dArtanyan presented himcelf the ascemblage wauz imposing, particcularly for a provinshal just ariving from hiz provvins. It iz tru dhat this provinshal wauz a Gascon; and dhat, particcularly at this pereyod, the compaitreyots ov dArtanyan had the reputaishon ov not beying esily intimmidated. When he had wuns paast the mascive doer cuvverd withe long sqware-hedded nailz, he fel intoo the midst ov a troope ov soerdzmen, whoo crost wun anuther in dhare passage, caulng out, qworeling, and playing trix wun withe anuther. In order too make wunz wa amid these turbulent and conflicting waivz, it wauz nescenary too be an officer, a grate nobel, or a pritty woomman.

It wauz, then, intoo the midst ov this chumult and disorder dhat our yung man advaanst withe a beting hart, rain'ging hiz long rapeyer up hiz lanky leg, and keping wun hand on the ej ov hiz cap, withe dhat haaf-smile ov the embarrast a provinshal whoo wishez too poot on a good face. When he had paast wun groope he began too breathe moer frely; but he cood not help observing dhat dha ternd round too looc at him, and for the ferst time in hiz life dArtanyan, whoo had til dhat da entertaind a verry good opinyon ov himcelf, felt ridiculous.

Ariavd at the staercace, it wauz stil wers. Dhare wer foer Musketeerz on the bottom steps, amusing themcelvz withe the following exercise, while ten or twelv ov dhare comraidz wated uppon the landing place too take dhare tern in the spoert.

Wun ov them, staishond uppon the top stare, naked soerd in hand, prevented, or at leest endevvord too prevent, the thre utherz from



acending.

These thre utherz fenst against him withe dhare adgile soerdz.

DArtanyan at ferst tooc these wepponz for foilz, and beleevd them too be buttond; but he soone perceevd bi certane scratchez dhat evvery weppon wauz pointed and sharpend, and dhat at eche ov these scratchez not oonly the spectatorz, but even the actorz themcelvz, laaft like so menny madmen.

He whoo at the moment occupide the upper step kept hiz adversarese marvelously in chec. A cerkel wauz formd around them. The condishonz reqwiard dhat at evvery hit the man tucht shood qwit the game, yeelding hiz tern for the bennefit ov the adversary whoo had hit him. In five minnuets thre wer sliatly wuinded, wun on the hand, anuther on the ere, bi the defender ov the stare, whoo himcelf remaind intact—a pece ov skil which wauz werth too him, acording too the ruelz agrede uppon, thre ternz ov favor.

Houwevver difficult it mite be, or raather az he pretended it wauz, too astonnish our yung travveler, this paastime reyaly astonnisht him. He had cene in hiz provvins—dhat land in which hedz becum so esily heted—a fu ov the prelimminarese ov juwelz; but the daring ov these foer fencerz apeerd too him the stron'ghest he had evver herd ov even in Gascony. He beleevd himcelf traanspoerted intoo dhat famous cuntry ov giyants intoo which Gulliver aafterword went and wauz so fritend; and yet he had not gaind the gole, for dhare wer stil the landing place and the antechaimber.

On the landing dha wer no lon'gher fiting, but amuezd themcelvz withe stoerese about wimmen, and in the antechaimber, withe stoerese about the coert. On the landing dArtanyan blusht; in the antechaimber he trembeld. Hiz worm and fickel imaginaishon, which in Gascony had renderd

formiddabel too yung chaimbermaidz, and even sumtiamz dhare mistrechez, had nevver dreemd, even in moments ov delereyum, ov haaf the ammorous wunderz or a qworter ov the feets ov gallantry which wer here cet foerth in conecshon withe naimz the best none and withe detailz the leest conceeld. But if hiz moralz wer shoct on the landing, hiz respect for the cardinal wauz scandaliazd in the antechaimber. Dhare, too hiz grate astonishment, dArtanyan herd the pollicy which made aul Urope trembel critticiazd aloud and openly, az wel az the private life ov the cardinal, which so menny grate nobelz had bene punnisht for trying too pri intoo. Dhat grate man whoo wauz so reveerd bi dArtanyan the elder cervd az an obgett ov riddicule too the Musketeerz ov Treveye, whoo cract dhare joax uppon hiz bandy legz and hiz croocked bac. Sum sang balladz about Mme. dAagheyon, hiz mistres, and Mme. Cambala, hiz nece; while utherz formd partese and planz too anoi the pagez and gardz ov the cardinal juke—aul thhingz which apeerd too dArtanyan monstrous impocibillitese.

Nevvertheles, when the name ov the king wauz nou and then utterd unthhinkingly amid aul these cardinal gests, a sort ov gag ceemd too close for a moment on aul these gering mouths. Dha looct hezsitatingly around them, and apeerd too dout the thhicnes ov the partishon betwene them and the office ov M. de Treveye; but a fresh aluezhon soone braut bac the conversaishon too hiz Emminens, and then the laafter recuvverd its loudnes and the lite wauz not widhheld from enny ov hiz acshonz.

"*Certes*, these fellose wil aul iather be imprizzond or hangd," thaut the terrifide dArtanyan, "and I, no dout, withe them; for from the moment I hav iather liscend too or herd them, I shal be held az an acumpllice. Whaut wood mi good faather sa, whoo so strongly pointed out

too me the respect ju too the cardinal, if he nu I wauz in the sociyety ov such paganz?"

We hav no nede, dhaerfoer, too sa dhat dArtanyan daerd not join in the conversaishon, oonly he looct withe aul hiz ise and liscend withe aul hiz eerz, stretching hiz five cencez so az too loose nuthhing; and despite hiz confidens on the paternal admonishonz, he felt himcelf carrede bi hiz taists and led bi hiz instincts too prase raather dhan too blame the unherd-ov thhingz which wer taking place.

Auldho he wauz a perfect strain'ger in the coert ov M. de Treveeyz coercherz, and this hiz ferst aperans in dhat place, he wauz at length notiast, and sumbody came and aasct him whaut he waunted. At this demaand dArtanyan gave hiz name verry moddestly, emfaciazd the titel ov compaitreyot, and begd the cervant whoo had poot the qweschon too him too reqwest a moments augens ov M. de Treveeye—a reqwest which the uther, withe an are ov protecshon, prommiast too traanzmit in ju cezon.

DArtanyan, a littel recuverd from hiz ferst cerprise, had nou lezhure too studdy coschuemz and fiseyonny.

The center ov the moast animated groope wauz a Musketere ov grate hite and hauty countenans, drest in a coschume so peculeyar az too attract genneral atenshon. He did not ware the uniform cloke—which wauz not obliggatoery at dhat epoc ov les libberty but moer independens—but a ceruleyan-blu dublet, a littel faded and woern, and over this a magnificent bauldric, werct in goald, which shon like wauter rippelz in the sun. A long cloke ov crimzon velvet fel in graisfool foaldz from hiz shoalderz, disclosing in frunt the splendid bauldric, from which wauz suspended a gigantic rapeyer. This Musketere had just cum of gard, complaind ov havving a coald, and coft from time too time afectedly. It wauz for this rezon, az he ced too dhose around him, dhat he had poot on hiz cloke; and while he spoke withe a lofty are and twisted hiz mustaash disdainfooly, aul admiard hiz embroiderd bauldric, and

dArtanyan moer dhan enniwun.

"Whaut wood u hav?" ced the Musketere. "This fashon iz cumming in. It iz a folly, I admit, but stil it iz the fashon. Beciadz, wun must la out wunz inherritans sumhou."

"Aa, Porthos!" cride wun ov hiz companyonz, "doant tri too make us beleve u obtaind dhat bauldric bi paternal generoscity. It wauz ghivven too u bi dhat vaild lady I met u withe the uther Sunda, nere the gate St. Onnora."

"No, uppon onnor and bi the faith ov a gentelman, I baut it withe the contents ov mi one pers," aancerd he whoome dha dezsingated bi the name Porthos.

"Yes; about in the same manner," ced anuther Musketere, "dhat I baut this nu pers withe whaut mi mistres poot intoo the oald wun."

"Its tru, dho," ced Porthos; "and the proofe iz dhat I pade twelv pistoalz for it."

The wunder wauz increest, dho the dout continnude too exist.

"Iz it not tru, Arramis?" ced Porthos, terning tooword anuther Musketere.

This uther Musketere formd a perfect contraast too hiz interrogator, whoo had just dezsingated him bi the name ov Arramis. He wauz a stout man, ov about too- or thre-and-twenty, withe an open, in'gennuwous countenans, a blac, miald i, and cheex rosy and douny az an autum peche. Hiz dellicate mustaash marct a perfectly strate line uppon hiz upper lip; he apeerd too dred too lower hiz handz lest dhare vainz shood swel, and he pincht the tips ov hiz eertz from time too time too preserv dhare

delicate pinc transparency. Habitchuwaly he spoke littel and sloly, boud freeqwently, laaft widhout noiz, showing hiz teeth, which wer fine and ov which, az the rest ov hiz person, he apeerd too take grate care. He aancerd the apele ov hiz frend bi an afermative nod ov the hed.

This afermaishon apeerd too dispel aul douts withe regard too the bauldric. Dha continnude too admire it, but ced no moer about it; and withe a rappid chainj ov thaut, the conversaishon paast suddenly too anuther subject.

"Whaut doo u thhinc ov the stoery Shallase esqwire relaits?" aasct anuther Musketerere, widhout adrescing enniwun in particcular, but on the contrary speking too evveriboddy.

"And whaut duz he sa?" aasct Porthos, in a celf-sufishent tone.

"He relaits dhat he met at Bruscelz Roshfor, the *AME DAMNEE* ov the cardinal disghiazd az a Cappuchin, and dhat this kerst Roshfor, thanx too hiz disghise, had trict Msyer de Laghe, like a ninny az he iz."

"A ninny, indede!" ced Porthos; "but iz the matter certane?"

"I had it from Arramis," replide the Musketerere.

"Indede?"

"Whi, u nu it, Porthos," ced Arramis. "I toald u ov it yesterda. Let us sa no moer about it."

"Sa no moer about it? Dhats YOR opinyon!" replide Porthos.

"Sa no moer about it! *PESTE!* U cum too yor concluezhonz qwicly.

Whaut! The cardinal cets a spi uppon a gentelman, haz hiz letterz stolen from him bi meenz ov a trator, a briggand, a raascal-haz, withe the help ov this spi and thanx too this corespondens, Shallase throte cut, under the schupid pretext dhat he waunted too kil the king and marry Msyer too the qwene! Nobody nu a werd ov this enigmaa. U unravveld it yesterda too the grate satisfacshon ov aul; and while we ar stil gaping withe wunder at the nuse, u cum and tel us tooda, Let us sa no moer about it."

"Wel, then, let us tauc about it, cins u desire it," replide Arramis, paishently.

"This Roshfor," cride Porthos, "if I wer the esquire ov poor Shalla, shood paas a minnute or too verry uncumfortably withe me."

"And u—u wood paas raather a sad qworter-our withe the Red Juke," replide Arramis.

"O, the Red Juke! Braavo! Braavo! The Red Juke!" cride Porthos, clapping hiz handz and nodding hiz hed. "The Red Juke iz cappital. Ile cerculate dhat saying, be ashuerd, mi dere fello. Whoo cez this Arramis iz not a wit? Whaut a misforchune it iz u did not follo yor ferst vocaishon; whaut a delishous abba u wood hav made!"

"O, its oonly a temporary poastpoanment," replide Arramis; "I shal be wun sumda. U verry wel no, Porthos, dhat I continnu too studdy ththeyollogy for dhat perpoce."

"He wil be wun, az he cez," cride Porthos; "he wil be wun, sooner or later."

"Sooner." ced Arramis.

"He oonly waits for wun thhing too determine him too rezhume hiz cassoc,

which hangz behiand hiz uniform," ced anuther Musketerere.

"Whaut iz he wating for?" aasct anuther.

"Oanly til the qwene haz ghivven an are too the croun ov Fraans."

"No gesting uppon dhat subgect, gentelmen," ced Porthos; "thanc God the qwene iz stil ov an age too ghiv wun!"

"Dha sa dhat Msyer de Buckingham iz in Fraans," replide Arramis, withe a cignifficant smile which gave too this centens, aparrently so cimpel, a tollerably scandalous mening.

"Arramis, mi good frend, this time u ar rong," interupted Porthos. "Yor wit iz aulwase leding u beyond boundz; if Msyer de Treveye herd u, u wood repent ov speking dhus."

"Ar u gowing too ghiv me a lesson, Porthos?" cride Arramis, from whoose uezhuwaly miald i a flash paast like liatning.

"Mi dere fello, be a Musketerere or an abba. Be wun or the uther, but not boath," replide Porthos. "U no whaut Aithos toald u the uther da; u ete at evveriboddese mes. Aa, doant be an'gry, I beg ov u, dhat wood be uesles; u no whaut iz agrede uppon betwene u, Aithos and me. U go too Madam dAagheyonz, and u pa yor coert too her; u go too Madam de Bwaa-Tracese, the cuzsin ov Madam de Shevruuz, and u paas for beying far advaanst in the good gracez ov dhat lady. O, good Lord! Doant trubbel yorcelf too revele yor good luc; no wun aasx for yor ceecret-aul the werld nose yor disreshon. But cins u poses dhat verchu, whi the devvil doant u make uce ov it withe respect too her Madgesty? Let whoowevver liax tauc ov the king and the cardinal, and hou he liax; but the qwene iz saicred, and if enniwun speex ov her, let it be respectfooly."

"Porthos, u ar az vane az Narcissus; I plainly tel u so," replide Arramis. "U no I hate moralising, exept when it iz dun bi Aithos. Az too u, good cer, u ware too magnifficent a bauldric too be strong on dhat hed. I wil be an abba if it suets me. In the meenwhile I am a Musketere; in dhat qwaulity I sa whaut I plese, and at this moment it plesez me too sa dhat u wery me."

"Arramis!"

"Porthos!"

"Gentelmen! Gentelmen!" cride the surrounding groope.

"Msyer de Treveye awaits Msyer dArtanyan," cride a cervant, throwing open the doer ov the cabbinet.

At this anounsment, juring which the doer remaind open, evveriwun became mute, and amid the genneral cilens the yung man crost part ov the length ov the antechaimber, and enterd the apartment ov the captane ov the Musketeez, con'gratchulating himcelf withe aul hiz hart at havving so narroly escaipt the end ov this strainj qworel.

### 3 THE AUGENS

M. de Treveye wauz at the moment in raather il-humor, nevvertheles he saluted the yung man poliatly, whoo boud too the verry ground; and he smiald on receving dArtanyanz respons, the Baernese axent ov which recauld too him at the same time hiz ueth and hiz cuntry—a dubbel remembrans which maix a man smile at aul agez; but stepping tooword the



antechamber and making a cine too dArtanyan withe hiz hand, az if too  
aasc  
hiz permishon too finnish withe utherz befoer he began withe him, he  
cauld  
thre tiamz, withe a louder vois at eche time, so dhat he ran throo  
the intervening toanz betwene the imperrative axent and the an'gry  
axent.

"Aithos! Porthos! Arramis!"

The too Musketeerz withe whoome we hav aulreddy made aqwaintans,  
and whoo  
aancerd too the laast ov these thre naimz, imejaitly qwitted the groope  
ov which dha had formd a part, and advaanst tooword the cabbinet, the  
doer ov which cloazd aafter them az soone az dha had enterd. Dhare  
aperans, auldho it wauz not qwite at ese, exited bi its  
caerlesnes, at wuns fool ov dignity and submishon, the admiraishon ov  
dArtanyan, whoo beheld in these too men demmigodz, and in dhare leder  
an  
Olimpeyan Jupiter, armd withe aul hiz thunderz.

When the too Musketeerz had enterd; when the doer wauz cloazd behiand  
them; when the buzsing mermer ov the antechamber, too which the  
summonz  
which had bene made had doutles fernisht fresh foode, had recomenst;  
when M. de Treveye had thre or foer tiamz paist in cilens, and withe a  
frouning brou, the whole length ov hiz cabbinet, paacing eche time befoer  
Porthos and Arramis, whoo wer az uprite and cilent az if on parade—he  
stopt aul at wuns fool in frunt ov them, and cuvvering them from hed  
too foot withe an an'gry looc, "Doo u no whaut the king ced too me,"  
cride he, "and dhat no lon'gher ago dhan yesterda evening—doo u no,  
gentelmen?"

"No," replide the too Musketeerz, aafter a moments cilens, "no, cer, we

doo not."

"But I hope dhat u wil doo us the onnor too tel us," added Arramis, in hiz politest tone and withe hiz moast graisfool bou.

"He toald me dhat he shood hensfoerth recrute hiz Musketeerz from amung the Gardz ov Msyer the Cardinal."

"The Gardz ov the cardinal! And whi so?" aasct Porthos, wormly.

"Becauz he plainly perceevz dhat hiz peket\* standz in nede ov beying enlivend bi a mixchure ov good wine."

\*A wauterd liccor, made from the cecond prescing ov the grape.

The too Musketeerz reddend too the whiats ov dhare ise. DArtanyan did not no whare he wauz, and wisht himcelf a hundred fete underground.

"Yes, yes," continnude M. de Treveye, growing wormer az he spoke, "and hiz madgesty wauz rite; for, uppon mi onnor, it iz tru dhat the Musketeerz make but a mizserabel figgure at coert. The cardinal related yesterda while playing withe the king, withe an are ov condolens verry displesing too me, dhat the da befoer yesterda dhose DAMD MUSKETEERZ, dhose DAERDEVVILZ—he dwelt uppon dhose werdz withe an ironnical tone stil moer displesing too me—dhose BRAGGARTS, added he, glaancing at me withe hiz tigher-cats i, had made a riyot in the Ru Fairoo in a cabbara, and dhat a party ov hiz Gardz (I thaut he wauz gowing too laaf in mi face) had bene foerst too arest the riyoterz! *MORBLEU!* U must no sumthhing about it. Arest Musketeerz! U wer amung them—u wer! Doant deni it; u wer reccogniazd, and the cardinal naimd u.

But its aul mi fault; yes, its aul mi fault, becauz it iz micelf whoo celects mi men. U, Arramis, whi the devvil did u aasc me for a uniform when u wood hav bene so much better in a cassoc? And u, Porthos, doo u oonly ware such a fine goalden bauldric too suspend a soerd ov strau from it? And Aithos—I doant ce Aithos. Whare iz he?"

"Il—"

"Verry il, sa u? And ov whaut mallady?"

"It iz feerd dhat it ma be the smaulpox, cer," replide Porthos, desirous ov taking hiz tern in the conversaishon; "and whaut iz cereyous iz dhat it wil certainly spoil hiz face."

"The smaulpox! Dhats a grate stoery too tel me, Porthos! Cic ov the smaulpox at hiz age! No, no; but wuinded widhout dout, kild, perhaps. Aa, if I nu! Sblood! Maisyer Musketeerz, I wil not hav this haunting ov bad placez, this qworeling in the streets, this swordpla at the crosbase; and abuv aul, I wil not hav ocaizhon ghivven for the cardinalz Gardz, whoo ar brave, qwiyet, skilfool men whoo nevver poot themcelvz in a posishon too be arested, and whoo, beciadz, nevver alou themcelvz too be arested, too laaf at u! I am shure ov it—dha wood prefer diyng on the spot too beyng arested or taking bac a step. Too save yorcelvz, too scamper awa, too fle—dhat iz good for the kingz Musketeerz!"

Porthos and Arramis trembeld withe rage. Dha cood willingly hav stran'gheld M. de Treveye, if, at the bottom ov aul this, dha had not felt it wauz the grate luv he boer them which made him speke dhus. Dha stampst uppon the carpet withe dhare fete; dha bit dhare lips til the blud came, and graaspt the hilts ov dhare soerdz withe aul dhare mite. Aul widhout had herd, az we hav ced, Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis cauld, and had ghest, from M. de Treveyz tone ov vois, dhat he

wauz verry an'gry about sumthhing. Ten cureyous hedz wer glude too the tappestry and became pale withe fury; for dhare eerz, cloasly aplide too the doer, did not loose a cillabel ov whaut he ced, while dhare mouths repeted az he went on, the insulting expreshonz ov the captane too aul the pepel in the antechaimber. In an instant, from the doer ov the cabbinet too the strete gate, the whole hotel wauz boiling.

"Aa! The kingz Musketeerz ar arested bi the Gardz ov the cardinal, ar dha?" continnude M. de Treveye, az fureyous at hart az hiz soalgerz, but emfacising hiz werdz and plun'ging them, wun bi wun, so too sa, like so menny blose ov a stiletto, intoo the boozzomz ov hiz auditorz. "Whaut! Cix ov hiz Emminencez Gardz arest cix ov hiz Madgestese Musketeerz! *MORBLEU!* Mi part iz taken! I wil go strate too the luivr; I wil ghiv in mi resignaishon az captane ov the kingz Musketeerz too take a leftennancy in the cardinalz Gardz, and if he refusez me, *MORBLEU!* I wil tern abba."

At these werdz, the mermer widhout became an exploazhon; nuthhing wauz too be herd but oaths and blaasfemese. The *MORBLEUS*, the *SANG DIEUS*, the *MORTS TOUTS LES DIABLES*, crost wun anuther in the are. DArtanyan looct for sum tappestry behiand which he mite hide himcelf, and felt an imens inclinaishon too craul under the tabel.

"Wel, mi Captane," ced Porthos, qwrite becide himcelf, "the trueth iz dhat we wer cix against cix. But we wer not capchuerd bi fare meenz; and befoer we had time too drau our soerdz, too ov our party wer ded, and Aithos, grevously wuinded, wauz verry littel better. For u no Aithos. Wel, Captane, he endevvord twice too ghet up, and fel agane twice. And we did not surrender—no! Dha dragd us awa bi foers. On the wa we escaipt. Az for Aithos, dha beleevd him too be ded, and left him verry qwiyet on the feeld ov battel, not ththinking it werth the trubbel

too carry him awa. Dhats the whole stoery. Whaut the devvil, Captane, wun canot win aul wunz battelz! The grate Pompy lost dhat ov Farsaleyaa; and Fraancis the Ferst, whoo wauz, az I hav herd sa, az good az uther foax, nevvertheles lost the Battel ov Paveyaa."

"And I hav the onnor ov ashuring u dhat I kild wun ov them withe hiz one soerd," ced Arramis; "for mine wauz broken at the ferst parry. Kild him, or ponyarded him, cer, az iz moast agreyabel too u."

"I did not no dhat," replide M. de Treveye, in a sumwhaut softend tone. "The cardinal exadgerated, az I perceve."

"But pra, cer," continnude Arramis, whoo, ceying hiz captane becum apeezd, venchuerd too risc a prare, "doo not sa dhat Aithos iz wuinded. He wood be in despere if dhat shood cum too the eerz ov the king; and az the wuind iz verry cereyous, ceying dhat aafter crosing the shoalder it pennetraits intoo the chest, it iz too be feerd—"

At this instant the tappestry wauz raizd and a nobel and handsum hed, but friatfooly pale, apeerd under the frinj.

"Aithos!" cride the too Musketeerz.

"Aithos!" repeted M. de Treveye himcelf.

"U hav cent for me, cer," ced Aithos too M. de Treveye, in a febel yet perfectly caalm vois, "u hav cent for me, az mi comraidz inform me, and I hav hacend too receve yor orderz. I am here; whaut doo u waunt withe me?"

And at these werdz, the Musketer, in irreprochabel coschume, belted az uezhuwal, withe a tollerably ferm step, enterd the cabbinet. M. de Treveye, muivd too the bottom ov hiz hart bi this prooffe ov currage, sprang tooword

him.

"I wauz about too sa too these gentelmen," added he, "dhat I forbid mi Musketeerz too expose dhare liavz needlesly; for brave men ar verry dere too the king, and the king nose dhat hiz Musketeerz ar the bravest on the erth. Yor hand, Aithos!"

And widhout wating for the aancer ov the nucummer too this prooffe ov afecshon, M. de Treveye ceezd hiz rite hand and prest it withe aul hiz mite, widhout perceving dhat Aithos, whautevver mite be hiz celf-comaand, aloud a slite mermer ov pane too escape him, and if poscibel, gru paler dhan he wauz befoer.

The doer had remaind open, so strong wauz the exiatment projest bi the arival ov Aithos, whoose wuind, dho kept az a ceecret, wauz none too aul. A berst ov satisfacshon haild the laast werdz ov the captane; and too or thre hedz, carrede awa bi the enthuseyazm ov the moment, apeerd throo the openingz ov the tappestry. M. de Treveye wauz about too reprehend this breche ov the ruelz ov ettiket, when he felt the hand ov Aithos, whoo had rallede aul hiz ennergese too contend against pane, at length overcum bi it, fel uppon the floer az if he wer ded.

"A cerjon!" cride M. de Treveye, "mine! The kingz! The best! A cerjon! Or, sblood, mi brave Aithos wil di!"

At the crise ov M. de Treveye, the whole ascemblage rusht intoo the cabbinet, he not ththinking too shut the doer against enniwun, and aul crouded round the wuinded man. But aul this egher atenshon mite hav bene uesles if the doctor so loudly cauld for had not chaanst too be in the hotel. He poosht throo the croud, aproacht Aithos, stil incencibel, and az aul this noiz and comoashon inconveenyenst him graitley, he reqwiard, az the ferst and moast ergent thhing, dhat the Musketeere shood be carrede intoo an adjoining chaimber. Imejaitly M.

de Treveye opened and pointed the way to Porthos and Arramis, who were his comrades in arms. Behind this group waited the serjeant; and behind the serjeant the door closed.

The cabinet of M. de Treveye, generally held so sacred, became in an instant the annex of the antechamber. Evveriwun spoke, harangued, and vociferated, swearing, kicking, and conning the cardinal and his Guards too and the devils.

An instant after, Porthos and Arramis re-entered, the serjeant and M. de Treveye alone remaining with the wounded.

At length, M. de Treveye himself returned. The injured man had recovered his senses. The serjeant declared that the chivalry of the Musketeers had nothing in it to render his friends uneasy, his weakness having been purely and simply caused by loss of blood.

Then M. de Treveye made a sign with his hand, and all retired except d'Artagnan, who did not forget that he had an enemy, and with the tenacity of a Gascon remained in his place.

When all had gone out and the door was closed, M. de Treveye, on turning round, found himself alone with the young man. The event which had occurred had in sum degenerated the thread of his ideas. He inquired what was the will of his persevering visitor. D'Artagnan then repeated his name, and in an instant recovering all his remembrance of the present and the past, M. de Treveye grasped the chivalry.

"Pardon me," said he, smiling, "pardon me my dear compatriot, but I had wholly forgotten you. But what help is there for it! A captain is nothing but a father of a family, charged with even a greater responsibility than the father of an ordinary family. Soldiers are big children; but as I maintain that the orders of the king, and more particularly the orders of the cardinal, should be executed—"

D'Artagnan could not restrain a smile. By this smile M. de Trevéze judged that he had not too dealt with a fool, and changing the conversation, came straight to the point.

"I respected your father very much," said he. "What can I do for the sun? Tell me quickly; my time is not mine."

"My dear," said D'Artagnan, "on quitting Tarbo and coming hither, it was my intention to request of you, in remembrance of the friendship which you have not forgotten, the uniform of a Musketeer; but after all that I have been doing the last two years, I comprehend that such a favor is enormous, and tremble lest I should not merit it."

"It is indeed a favor, young man," replied M. de Trevéze, "but it may not be so far beyond your hopes as you believe, or rather as you appear to believe. But his Majesty's decision is always necessary; and I inform you with regret that no man becomes a Musketeer without the preliminary order of several campaigns, certain brilliant actions, or a service of two years in some other regiment less favored than ours."

D'Artagnan bowed without replying, feeling his desire to don the Musketeer's uniform vastly increased by the great difficulties which preceded the attainment of it.

"But," continued M. de Trevéze, fixing upon his countenance a look so piercing that it might be said he wished to read the thoughts of his heart, "on account of my old companion, your father, as I have said, I will do something for you, young man. Our recruits from Baden are not generally very rich, and I have no reason to think matters have much changed in this respect since I left the province. I dare say you have not brought too large a stock of money with you?"



DArtanyan dru himself up withe a proud are which plainly ced, "I aasc aalmz ov no man."

"O, dhats verry wel, yung man," continnude M. de Treveye, "dhats aul verry wel. I no these aerz; I micelf came too Parris withe foer crounz in mi pers, and wood hav faut withe enniwun whoo daerd too tel me I wauz not in a condishon too perchace the Luivr."

DArtanyanz baring became stil moer imposing. Thanx too the sale ov hiz hors, he comenst hiz carere withe foer moer crounz dhan M. de Treveye posest at the comensment ov hiz.

"U aut, I sa, then, too huzband the meenz u hav, houwevver larj the sum ma be; but u aut aulso too endevvor too perfect yorcelf in the exercizez becumming a gentelman. I wil rite a letter tooda too the Director ov the Roiyal Acaddemy, and toomoro he wil admit u widhout enny expens too yorcelf. Doo not refuse this littel cervice. Our best-born and ritchest gentelmen sumtiamz soliscit it widhout beying abel too obtane it. U wil lern horsmanship, soerdzmanship in aul its braanchez, and daancing. U wil make sum desirabel aqwaintancez; and from time too time u can caul uppon me, just too tel me hou u ar ghetting on, and too sa whether I can be ov ferther cervice too u."

DArtanyan, strain'ger az he wauz too aul the mannerz ov a coert, cood not but perceve a littel coaldnes in this recepshon.

"Alaas, cer," ced he, "I canot but perceve hou sadly I mis the letter ov introducshon which mi faather gave me too present too u."

"I certainly am cerpriazd," replide M. de Treveye, "dhat u shood undertake so long a gerny widhout dhat nescenary paaspoert, the sole rezoers ov us poor Baernese."

"I had wun, cer, and, thanc God, such az I cood wish," cride

dArtanyan; "but it wauz perfidjously stolen from me."

He then related the advenchure ov Muung, descriabd the un'none gentelman withe the gratest minuetnes, and aul withe a wormth and truethfoolnes dhat delited M. de Treveye.

"This iz aul verry strainj," ced M. de Treveye, aafter medditating a minnute; "u menshond mi name, then, aloud?"

"Yes, cer, I certainly comitted dhat imprudens; but whi shood I hav dun utherwise? A name like yorz must be az a bucler too me on mi wa. Juj if I shood not poot micelf under its protecshon."

Flattery wauz at dhat pereyod verry current, and M. de Treveye luvd incens az wel az a king, or even a cardinal. He cood not refrane from a smile ov vizsibel satisfacshon; but this smile soone disapeerd, and reterning too the advenchure ov Muung, "Tel me," continnude he, "had not this gentelman a slite scar on hiz cheke?"

"Yes, such a wun az wood be made bi the grasing ov a baul."

"Wauz he not a fine-loocking man?"

"Yes."

"Ov lofty statchure."

"Yes."

"Ov complecshon and broun hare?"

"Yes, yes, dhat iz he; hou iz it, cer, dhat u ar aqwainted withe this man? If I evver fiand him agane—and I wil fiand him, I sware, wer it in

hel!"

"He wauz wating for a woomman," continnude Treveye.

"He departed imejaitly aafter havving converst for a minnute withe her whoome he awated."

"U no not the subject ov dhare conversaishon?"

"He gave her a box, toald her not too open it exept in Lundon."

"Wauz this woomman In'glish?"

"He cauld her Milady."

"It iz he; it must be he!" mermerd Treveye. "I beleevd him stil at Bruscelz."

"O, cer, if u no whoo this man iz," cride dArtanyan, "tel me whoo he iz, and whens he iz. I wil then relece u from aul yor prommicez—even dhat ov procuring mi admishon intoo the Musketeerz; for befoer evverithhing, I wish too avenj micelf."

"Beware, yung man!" cride Treveye. "If u ce him cumming on wun cide ov the strete, paas bi on the uther. Doo not caast yorcelf against such a roc; he wood brake u like glaas."

"Dhat wil not prevent me," replide dArtanyan, "if evver I fiand him."

"In the meentime," ced Treveye, "ceke him not—if I hav a rite too advise u."

Aul at wuns the captane stopt, az if struc bi a sudden suspishon.

This grate haitred which the yung travveler mannifested so loudly for this man, whoo—a raather improbbabel thhing—had stolen hiz faatherz letter from

him—wauz dhare not sum perfidy conceeld under this haitred? Mite not this yung man be cent bi hiz Emminens? Mite he not hav cum for the perpoce ov laying a snare for him? This pretended dArtanyan—wauz he not

an emmisary ov the cardinal, whoome the cardinal saut too introjuce intoo Treveeyz hous, too place nere him, too win hiz confidens, and aafterword too ruwin him az had bene dun in a thouzand uther instancez? He

fixt hiz ise uppon dArtanyan even moer earnestly dhan befoer. He wauz modderaitly reyashuerd houwevver, bi the aspect ov dhat countenans, fool ov aschute intelligens and afected humillity. "I no he iz a Gascon," reflected he, "but he ma be wun for the cardinal az wel az for me. Let us tri him."

"Mi frend," ced he, sloly, "I wish, az the sun ov an ainshent frend—for I concidder this stoery ov the lost letter perfectly tru—I wish, I sa, in order too repare the coaldnes u ma hav remarct in mi recepshon ov u, too discuvver too u the ceecrets ov our pollicy. The king and the cardinal ar the best ov frendz; dhare aparrent bickeringz ar oonly faints too deceve fuilz. I am not willing dhat a compaitreyot, a handsum cavaleyer, a brave ueth, qwite fit too make hiz wa, shood becum the jupe ov aul these artificez and faul intoo the snare aafter the exaampel ov so menny utherz whoo hav bene ruwind bi it. Be ashuerd dhat

I am devoted too both these aul-pouwerfool maasterz, and dhat mi earnest endevvorz hav no uther ame dhan the cervice ov the king, and aulso the cardinal—wun ov the moast ilustreyous geenyucez dhat Fraans haz ever projuest."

"Nou, yung man, reggulate yor conduct acordingly; and if u entertane, whether from yor fammily, yor relaishonz, or even from yor

instincts, enny ov these enmitese which we ce constantly braking out against the cardinal, bid me aju and let us cepparate. I wil ade u in menny wase, but widhout atatching u too mi person. I hope dhat mi francnes at leest wil make u mi frend; for u ar the oanly yung man too whoome I hav hithertoo spoken az I hav dun too u."

Treveye ced too himcelf: "If the cardinal haz cet this yung fox uppon me, he wil certainly not hav faild—he, whoo nose hou bitterly I execrate him—too tel hiz spi dhat the best meenz ov making hiz coert too me iz too rale at him. Dhaerfoer, in spite ov aul mi protestaishonz, if it be az I suspect, mi cunning goscip wil ashure me dhat he hoaldz hiz Emminens in horror."

It, houwevver, pruivd utherwise. DArtanyan aancerd, withe the gratest simpliscity: "I came too Parris withe exactly such intenshonz. Mi faather adviazd me too stoope too nobody but the king, the cardinal, and yorcelf—whoome he concidderd the ferst thre personagez in Fraans."

DArtanyan added M. de Treveye too the utherz, az ma be perceevd; but he thaut this adishon wood doo no harm.

"I hav the gratest veneraishon for the cardinal," continnude he, "and the moast profound respect for hiz acshonz. So much the better for me, cer, if u speke too me, az u sa, withe francnes—for then u wil doo me the onnor too esteme the resemblans ov our opinyonz; but if u hav entertaind enny dout, az natchuraly u ma, I fele dhat I am ruwining micelf bi speking the trueth. But I stil trust u wil not esteme me the les for it, and dhat iz mi obgect beyond aul utherz."

M. de Treveye wauz cerpriazd too the gratest degry. So much penetraishon, so much francnes, creyated admiraishon, but did not entiarly remooove hiz suspishonz. The moer this yung man wauz supereyor too utherz, the moer he wauz too be dredded if he ment too deceve him; "U ar an

onnest ueth; but at the prezsent moment I can oanly doo for u dhat which I just nou offerd. Mi hotel wil be aulwase open too u. Heraafter, beying abel too aasc for me at aul ourz, and conceqwently too take advaantage ov aul oporchunitese, u wil probbably obtane dhat which u desire."

"Dhat iz too sa," replide dArtanyan, "dhat u wil wate until I hav pruivd micelf werthy ov it. Wel, be ashuerd," added he, withe the famileyarrity ov a Gascon, "u shal not wate long." And he boud in order too retire, and az if he concidderd the fuchure in hiz one handz.

"But wate a minnute," ced M. de Treveye, stopping him. "I prommiast u a letter for the director ov the Acaddemy. Ar u too proud too axept it, yung gentelman?"

"No, cer," ced dArtanyan; "and I wil gard it so caerfooly dhat I wil be swoern it shal arive at its adres, and wo be too him whoo shal atempt too take it from me!"

M. de Treveye smiald at this flurrish; and leving hiz yung man compaitreyot in the embraizhure ov the windo, whare dha had tauct tooghether, he ceted himcelf at a tabel in order too rite the prommiast letter ov recomendaishon. While he wauz doowing this, dArtanyan, havving no better employment, amuezd himcelf withe beting a march uppon the windo and withe loocking at the Musketeerz, whoo went awa, wun aafter anuther, following them withe hiz ise until dha disapeerd.

M. de Treveye, aafter havving ritten the letter, ceeld it, and rising, aproacht the yung man in order too ghiv it too him. But at the verry moment when dArtanyan strecht out hiz hand too receve it, M. de Treveye wauz hily astonnisht too ce hiz protaizha make a sudden spring, becum crimzon withe pashon, and rush from the cabbinet crying, "Sblood, he shal not escape me this time!"

"And whoo?" aasct M. de Treveye.

"He, mi thhefe!" replide dArtanyan. "Aa, the trator!" and he disapeerd.

"The devvil take the madman!" mermerd M. de Treveye, "unles," added he, "this iz a cunning mode ov escaping, ceying dhat he had faild in hiz perpoce!"

#### 4 THE SHOALDER OV AITHOS, THE BAULDRIC OV PORTHOS AND THE HANKERCHEFE OV ARRAMIS

DArtanyan, in a state ov fury, crost the antechamber at thre boundz, and wauz darting tooword the staerz, which he recond uppon decending foer at a time, when, in hiz heedles coers, he ran hed foermoast against a Musketere whoo wauz cumming out ov wun ov M. de Treveeyz private ruimz, and striking hiz shoalder viyolently, made him utter a cri, or raather a houl.

"Excuse me," ced dArtanyan, endeavoring too rezhume hiz coers, "excuse me, but I am in a hurry."

Scaersly had he decended the ferst stare, when a hand ov iarn ceezd him bi the belt and stopt him.

"U ar in a hurry?" ced the Musketere, az pale az a shete. "Under dhat pretens u run against me! U sa. Excuse me,' and u beleve dhat iz sufishment? Not at aul mi yung man. Doo u fancy becauz u hav herd Msyer de Treveye speke too us a littel cavaleyerly

tooda dhat uther pepel ar too trete us az he speex too us? Undeceve yorself, comrade, u ar not Msyer de Treveye."

"Mi faith!" replide dArtanyan, reccognising Aithos, whoo, aafter the drescing performd bi the doctor, wauz reterning too hiz one apartment. "I did not doo it intenshonaly, and not doowing it intenshonaly, I ced Excuse me.' It apeerz too me dhat this iz qwite enuf. I repete too u, houwevver, and this time on mi werd ov onnor—I thhinc perhaps too often—dhat I am in haist, grate haist. Leve yor hoald, then, I beg ov u, and let me go whare mi biznes caulz me."

"Msyer," ced Aithos, letting him go, "u ar not polite; it iz esy too perceve dhat u cum from a distans."

DArtanyan had aulreddy strode doun thre or foer staerz, but at Aithocez laast remarc he stopt short.

"*MORBLEU*, msyer!" ced he, "houwevver far I ma cum, it iz not u whoo can ghiv me a lesson in good mannerz, I worn u."

"Perhaps," ced Aithos.

"Aa! If I wer not in such haist, and if I wer not running aafter sumwun," ced dArtanyan.

"Msyer Man-in-a-hurry, u can fiand me widhout running—ME, u understand?"

"And whare, I pra u?"

"Nere the Carm-Daisho."

"At whaut our?"



"About noone."

"About noone? Dhat wil doo; I wil be dhare."

"Endevvor not too make me wate; for at qworter paast twelv I wil cut of yor eerz az u run."

"Good!" cride dArtanyan, "I wil be dhare ten minnuets befoer twelv." And he cet of running az if the devvil posest him, hoping dhat he mite yet fiand the strain'ger, whoose slo pace cood not hav carrede him far.

But at the strete gate, Porthos wauz tauking withe the soalger on gard. Betwene the too taukerz dhare wauz just enuf roome for a man too paas. DArtanyan thaut it wood sufice for him, and he sprang forword like a dart betwene them. But dArtanyan had recond widhout the wind. Az he wauz about too paas, the wind blu out Porthocoz long cloke, and dArtanyan rusht strate intoo the middel ov it. Widhout dout, Porthos had rezonz for not abandoning this part ov hiz vestments, for insted ov qwitting hiz hoald on the flap in hiz hand, he poold it tooword him, so dhat dArtanyan roald himcelf up in the velvet bi a muivment ov rotaishon explaind bi the percistency ov Porthos.

DArtanyan, hering the Musketere sware, wisht too escape from the cloke, which blianded him, and saut too fiand hiz wa from under the foaldz ov it. He wauz particcularly ancshous too avoid maaring the freshnes

ov the magnifficent bauldric we ar aqwainted withe; but on timmidly opening hiz ise, he found himcelf withe hiz nose fixt betwene the too shoalderz ov Porthos—dhat iz too sa, exactly uppon the bauldric.

Alaas, like moast thhingz in this werld which hav nuthhing in dhare favor but aperancez, the bauldric wauz glittering withe goald in the frunt,

but wauz nuthhing but cimpel buf behiand. Vain' gloereyous az he wauz, Porthos  
cood not afoerd too hav a bauldric wholly ov goald, but had at leest  
haaf. Wun cood comprehend the necescity ov the coald and the ergency ov  
the cloke.

"Bles me!" cride Porthos, making strong efforts too dicembarras himcelf  
ov dArtanyan, whoo wauz rigling about hiz bac; "u must be mad too run  
against pepel in this manner."

"Excuse me," ced dArtanyan, reyapering under the shoalder ov the  
giyant, "but I am in such haist—I wauz running aafter sumwun and—"

"And doo u aulwase forghet yor ise when u run?" aasct Porthos.

"No," replide dArtanyan, peect, "and thanx too mi ise, I can ce whaut  
uther pepel canot ce."

Whether Porthos understood him or did not understand him, ghivving wa  
too  
hiz an'gher, "Msyer," ced he, "u stand a chaans ov ghetting chastiazd  
if u rub Musketeerz in this fashon."

"Chastiazd, Msyer!" ced dArtanyan, "the expreshon iz strong."

"It iz wun dhat becumz a man acustomd too looc hiz ennemese in the  
face."

"Aa, *PARDIEU!* I no fool wel dhat u doant tern yor bac too yorz."

And the yung man, delited withe hiz joke, went awa laafing loudly.

Porthos foamed with the rage, and made a movement too rush after d'Artagnan.

"Presently, presently," cried the latter, "when you have your cloak on."

"At what o'clock, then, behind the Luxembourg."

"Very well, at what o'clock, then," replied d'Artagnan, turning the angle of the street.

But neither in the street he had passed through, nor in the way which his eyes glanced pervaded, could he see any one; however slowly the stranger had walked, he was gone on his way, or perhaps had entered some house. D'Artagnan inquired of every one he met with, went down to the ferry, came up again by the Rue de Sancy, and the Red Cross; but nothing, absolutely nothing! This chase was, however, advantageous to him in every way, for in proportion as the perspiration broke from his forehead, his heart began to cool.

He began to reflect upon the events that had passed; they were numerous and inauspicious. It was scarcely eleven o'clock in the morning, and yet this morning had already brought him into disgrace with M. de Treville, who could not fail to think the manner in which d'Artagnan had left him a little cavalier.

Be that as it may, he had drawn upon himself too good a jewel with too many, each capable of killing three d'Artagnans—with too many Musketeers, in short, with too many of those beings whom he esteemed so greatly that he placed them in his mind and heart above all other men.

The outlook was sad. Surely of being killed by Athos, it may easily be understood that the young man was not very uneasy about Porthos. As

hope, houwevver, iz the laast thhing extin'gwisht in the hart ov man, he finnisht bi hoping dhat he mite cervive, even dho withe terribel wuindz, in boath these juwelz; and in cace ov cerviving, he made the following reprehenshonz uppon hiz one conduct:

"Whaut a madcap I wauz, and whaut a schupid fello I am! Dhat brave and unforchunate Aithos wauz wuinded on dhat verry shoalder against which I must run hed foermoast, like a ram. The oonly thhing dhat astonnishez me iz dhat he did not strike me ded at wuns. He had good cauz too doo so; the pane I gave him must hav bene atroashous. Az too Porthos—o, az too Porthos, faith, dhats a drole afaire!"

And in spite ov himcelf, the yung man began too laaf aloud, loocking round caerfooly, houwevver, too ce dhat hiz sollitary laaf, widhout a cauz in the ise ov paacerz-bi, ofended no wun.

"Az too Porthos, dhat iz certainly drole; but I am not the les a ghiddy foole. Ar pepel too be run against widhout worning? No! And hav I enny rite too go and pepe under dhare cloax too ce whaut iz not dhare? He wood hav pardond me, he wood certainly hav pardond me, if I had not ced ennithhing too him about dhat kerst bauldric—in ambigguwous werdz, it iz tru, but raather droly ambigguwous. Aa, kerst Gascon dhat I am, I ghet from wun hobbel intoo anuther. Frend dArtanyan," continnude he, speking too himcelf withe aul the amenity dhat he thaut ju himcelf, "if u escape, ov which dhare iz not much chaans, I wood advise u too practice perfect poliatnes for the fuchure. U must hensfoerth be admiard and qwoted az a moddel ov it. Too be obliging and polite duz not necesarily make a man a couward. Looc at Arramis, nou; Arramis iz mialdnes and grace personnifide. Wel, did enniboddy evver dreame ov caulng Arramis a

couward? No, certainly not, and from this moment I wil endevvor too moddel micelf aafter him. Aa! Dhats strainj! Here he iz!"

DArtanyan, wauking and solilloqwising, had ariavd within a fu steps ov the hotel dArgheyon and in frunt ov dhat hotel perceevd Arramis, chatting galy withe thre gentelmen; but az he had not forgotten dhat it wauz in prezsens ov this yung man dhat M. de Treveye had bene so an'gry in the morning, and az a witnes ov the rebuke the Musketeerz had receevd wauz not liacly too be at aul agreyabel, he pretended not too ce him. DArtanyan, on the contrary, qwite fool ov hiz planz ov concileyaishon and kertecy, aproacht the yung men withe a profound bou, acumpanede bi a moast graishous smile. Aul foer, beciadz, imejaitly broke of dhare conversaishon.

DArtanyan wauz not so dul az not too perceve dhat he wauz wun too menny; but he wauz not sufishently broken intoo the fashonz ov the ga werld too no hou too extricate himcelf gallantly from a fauls posishon, like dhat ov a man whoo beghinz too min'ghel withe pepel he iz scaersly aqwainted withe and in a conversaishon dhat duz not concern him. He wauz ceking in hiz miand, then, for the leest auqword meenz ov retrete, when he remarct dhat Arramis had let hiz hankerchefe faul, and bi mistake, no dout, had plaist hiz foot uppon it. This apeerd too be a favorabel oporchunity too repare hiz intruezhon. He stuipt, and withe the moast graishous are he cood ashume, dru the hankerchefe from under the foot ov the Musketeere in spite ov the efforts the latter made too detane it, and hoalding it out too him, ced, "I beleve, msyer, dhat this iz a hankerchefe u wood be sory too loose?"

The hankerchefe wauz indede richly embroiderd, and had a coronet and armz at wun ov its cornerz. Arramis blusht exesciavly, and snacht raather dhan tooc the hankerchefe from the hand ov the Gascon.

"Aa, aa!" cride wun ov the Gardz, "wil u percist in saying, moast discrete Arramis, dhat u ar not on good termz withe Madam de Bwaa-Tracy, when dhat graishous lady haz the kiandnes too lend u wun ov her hankercheefs?"

Arramis darted at dArtanyan wun ov dhose loox which inform a man dhat he haz aqwiard a mortal ennemy. Then, rezhuming hiz miald are, "U ar deceevd, gentelmen," ced he, "this hankerchefe iz not mine, and I canot fancy whi Msyer haz taken it intoo hiz hed too offer it too me raather dhan too wun ov u; and az a proofe ov whaut I sa, here iz mine in mi pocket."

So saying, he poold out hiz one hankerchefe, liaqwise a verry ellegant hankerchefe, and ov fine cambric—dho cambric wauz dere at the pereyod—but a hankerchefe widhout embroidery and widhout armz, oonly ornamented withe a cin'ghel cifer, dhat ov its propriyetor.

This time dArtanyan wauz not haisty. He perceevd hiz mistake; but the frendz ov Arramis wer not at aul convinst bi hiz deniyal, and wun ov them adrest the yung Musketere withe afected cereyousnes. "If it wer az u pretend it iz," ced he, "I shood be foerst, mi dere Arramis, too reclame it micelf; for, az u verry wel no, Bwaa-Tracy iz an intimate frend ov mine, and I canot alou the propperty ov hiz wife too be spoerted az a trofy."

"U make the demaand badly," replide Arramis; "and while acnolleging the justice ov yor reclamaishon, I refuse it on acount ov the form."

"The fact iz," hazzarded dArtanyan, timmidly, "I did not ce the hankerchefe faul from the pocket ov Msyer Arramis. He had hiz foot uppon it, dhat iz aul; and I thaut from havving hiz foot uppon it the hankerchefe wauz hiz."

"And u wer deceevd, mi dere cer," replide Arramis, coaldly, verry littel cencibel too the reparaishon. Then terning tooword dhat wun ov the gardz whoo had declaerd himcelf the frend ov Bwaa-Tracy, "Beciadz," continnude he, "I hav reflected, mi dere intimate ov Bwaa-Tracy, dhat I am not les tenderly hiz frend dhan u can poscibly be; so dhat decidedly this hankerchefe iz az liacly too hav faulen from yor pocket az mine."

"No, uppon mi onnor!" cride hiz Madgestese Gardzman.

"U ar about too sware uppon yor onnor and I uppon mi werd, and then it wil be pritty evvident dhat wun ov us wil hav lide. Nou, here, Montaran, we wil doo better dhan dhat—let eche take a haaf."

"Ov the hankerchefe?"

"Yes."

"Perfectly just," cride the uther too Gardzmen, "the jujment ov King Sollomon! Arramis, u certainly ar fool ov wizdom!"

The yung men berst intoo a laaf, and az ma be supoazd, the afare had no uther ceeqwel. In a moment or too the conversaishon ceest, and the thre Gardzmen and the Musketere, aafter havving corjaly shaken handz, cepparated, the Gardzmen gowing wun wa and Arramis anuther.

"Nou iz mi time too make pece withe this gallant man," ced dArtanyan too himcelf, havving stood on wun cide juring the whole ov the latter part ov the conversaishon; and withe this good feling drauwing nere too Arramis, whoo wauz departing widhout paying enny atenshon too him, "Msyer," ced he, "u wil excuse me, I hope."

"Aa, msyer," interrupted Arramis, "permit me too observ too u dhat u hav not acted in this afare az a gallant man aut."

"Whaut, msyer!" cride dArtanyan, "and doo u supose—"

"I supose, msyer dhat u ar not a foole, and dhat u nu verry wel, auldho cumming from Gascony, dhat pepel doo not tred uppon hankercheefs widhout a rezon. Whaut the devvil! Parris iz not paivd withe cambric!"

"Msyer, u act rongly in endevvoring too mortifi me," ced dArtanyan, in whoome the natchural qworelsum spirrit began too speke moer loudly dhan hiz paciffic rezolueshonz. "I am from Gascony, it iz tru; and cins u no it, dhare iz no ocaizhon too tel u dhat Gasconz ar not verry paishent, so dhat when dha hav begd too be excuezd wuns, wer it even for a folly, dha ar convinst dhat dha hav dun aulreddy at leest az much agane az dha aut too hav dun."

"Msyer, whaut I sa too u about the matter," ced Arramis, "iz not for the sake ov ceking a qworel. Thanc God, I am not a braavo! And beying a Musketerere but for a time, I oonly fite when I am foerst too doo so, and aulwase withe grate repugnans; but this time the afare iz cereyous, for here iz a lady compromiazd bi u."

"Bi US, u mene!" cride dArtanyan.

"Whi did u so maladroitley restoer me the hankerchefe?"

"Whi did u so auqwordly let it faul?"

"I hav ced, msyer, and I repete, dhat the hankerchefe did not faul from mi pocket."



"And dhaerbi u hav lide twice, msyer, for I sau it faul."

"Aa, u take it withe dhat tone, doo u, Maaster Gascon? Wel, I wil teche u hou too behave yorcelf."

"And I wil cend u bac too yor Mas booc, Maaster Abba. Drau, if u plese, and instantly—"

"Not so, if u plese, mi good frend—not here, at leest. Doo u not perceve dhat we ar opposite the Hotel dArgheyon, which iz fool ov the cardinalz crechuerz? Hou doo I no dhat this iz not hiz Emminens whoo haz onnord u withe the comishon too procure mi hed? Nou, I entertane a ridicculous parshallity for mi hed, it ceemz too sute mi shoalderz so corectly. I wish too kil u, be at rest az too dhat, but too kil u qwiyetly in a snug, remote place, whare u wil not be abel too boast ov yor deth too enniboddy."

"I agry, msyer; but doo not be too confident. Take yor hankerchefe; whether it belongz too u or anuther, u ma perhaps stand in nede ov it."

"Msyer iz a Gascon?" aasct Arramis.

"Yes. Msyer duz not poastpone an intervü throo prudens?"

"Prudens, msyer, iz a verchu sufishmently uesles too Musketeerz, I no, but indispensabel too cherschmen; and az I am oonly a Musketeere provizhonal, I hoald it good too be prudent. At too oacloc I shal hav the onnor ov expecting u at the hotel ov Msyer de Treveye. Dhare I wil indicate too u the best place and time."

The too yung men boud and cepparated, Arramis acending the strete which led too the Luxemburg, while dArtanyan, perceving the apointed

our wauz aproching, tooc the rode too the Carm-Daisho, saying too himcelf, "Decidedly I caant drau bac; but at leest, if I am kild, I shal be kild bi a Musketere."

## 5 THE KINGZ MUSKETEERZ AND THE CARDINALZ GARDZ

DArtanyan wauz aqwainted withe nobody in Parris. He went dhaerfoer too hiz apointment withe Aithos widhout a cecond, determiand too be sattisfide withe dhose hiz adversary shood chuse. Beciadz, hiz intenshon wauz formd too make the brave Musketere aul sutabel apollogese, but widhout meen'nes or weecnes, fering dhat mite rezult from this juwel which genneraly rezults from an afare ov this kiand, when a yung and viggorous man fiats withe an adversary whoo iz wuinded and wekend—if conkerd, he dubbelz the triymf ov hiz antaggonist; if a conkeror, he iz acuezd ov foul pla and waunt ov currage.

Nou, we must hav badly painted the carracter ov our advenchure ceker, or our rederz must hav aulreddy perceevd dhat dArtanyan wauz not an ordinary man; dhaerfoer, while repeting too himcelf dhat hiz deth wauz inevvitabel, he did not make up hiz miand too di qwiyetly, az wun les corajous and les restraind mite hav dun in hiz place. He reflected uppon the different carracterz ov men he had too fite withe, and began too vu hiz cichuwaishon moer cleerly. He hoapt, bi meenz ov loiyal excucez, too make a frend ov Aithos, whose lordly are and austere baring pleezd him much. He flatterd himcelf he shood be abel too friten Porthos withe the advenchure ov the bauldric, which he mite, if not kild uppon the spot, relate too evveriboddy a recital which, wel mannaijd, wood cuvver Porthos withe riddicule. Az too the aschute Arramis, he did not

entertane much dred ov him; and suposing he shoold be abel too ghet so far, he determiand too dispach him in good stile or at leest, bi hitting him in the face, az Cezar recomended hiz soalgerz doo too dhose ov Pompy, too dammage forevver the buty ov which he wauz so proud.

In adishon too this, dArtanyan posest dhat invincibel stoc ov rezolueshon which the councelz ov hiz faather had implaanted in hiz hart: "Enjure nuthhing from enniwun but the king, the cardinal, and Msyer de Treveye." He flu, then, raather dhan wauct, tooword the convent ov the Carm Deshoce, or raather Daisho, az it wauz cauld at dhat pereyod, a sort ov bilding widhout a windo, surrounded bi barren feeldz—an axessory too the Pro-Claerc, and which wauz genneraly emploid az the place for the juwelz ov men whoo had no time too loose.

When dArtanyan ariavd in cite ov the bare spot ov ground which extended along the foot ov the monnastery, Aithos had bene wating about five minnuets, and twelv oacloc wauz striking. He wauz, then, az puncchuwal az the Samarritan woomman, and the moast riggorous cazhuwist withe regard too juwelz cood hav nuthhing too sa.

Aithos, whoo stil sufferd grevously from hiz wuind, dho it had bene drest anu bi M. de Treveeyz cerjon, wauz ceted on a poast and wating for hiz adversary withe hat in hand, hiz fether even tutching the ground.

"Msyer," ced Aithos, "I hav en'gaijd too ov mi frendz az cecondz; but these too frendz ar not yet cum, at which I am astonnisht, az it iz not at aul dhare custom."

"I hav no cecondz on mi part, msyer," ced dArtanyan; "for havving oanly ariavd yesterda in Parris, I az yet no no wun but Msyer de

Treveye, too whoome I wauz recomended bi mi faather, whoo haz the onnor too  
be, in sum degry, wun ov hiz frendz."

Aithos reflected for an instant. "U no no wun but Msyer de Treveye?" he aasct.

"Yes, msyer, I no oanly him."

"Wel, but then," continnude Aithos, speking haaf too himcelf, "if I kil u, I shal hav the are ov a boi-slayer."

"Not too much so," replide dArtanyan, withe a bou dhat wauz not defishent  
in dignity, "cins u doo me the onnor too drau a soerd withe me while suffering from a wuind which iz verry inconveenyent."

"Verry inconveenyent, uppon mi werd; and u hert me devvilishly, I can tel u. But I wil take the left hand—it iz mi custom in such cercumstaancez. Doo not fancy dhat I doo u a favor; I use iather hand esily. And it wil be even a disadvaantage too u; a left-handed man iz verry trubbelsum too pepel whoo ar not prepaerd for it. I regret I did not inform u sooner ov this cercumstaans."

"U hav truly, msyer," ced dArtanyan, bouwing agane, "a kertecy, for which, I ashure u, I am verry graitfool."

"U confuse me," replide Aithos, withe hiz gentelmanly are; "let us tauc ov sumthhing els, if u plese. Aa, sblood, hou u hav hert me! Mi shoalder qwite bernz."

"If u wood permit me—" ced dArtanyan, withe timiddity.

"Whaut, msyer?"

"I hav a miracculous baulsam for wuindz—a baulsam ghivven too me bi mi muther and ov which I hav made a triyal uppon micelf."

"Wel?"

"Wel, I am shure dhat in les dhan thre dase this baulsam wood cure u; and at the end ov thre dase, when u wood be cuerd—wel, cer, it wood stil doo me a grate onnor too be yor man."

DArtanyan spoke these werdz withe a cimpliscity dhat did onnor too hiz kertecy, widhout throwing the leest dout uppon hiz currage.

"*PARDIEU*, msyer!" ced Aithos, "dhats a proposishon dhat plesez me; not dhat I can axept it, but a leghe of it savorz ov the gentelman. Dhus spoke and acted the gallant niats ov the time ov Sharleman, in whoome evvery cavaleyer aut too ceke hiz moddel. Unforchunaitly, we doo not liv in the tiamz ov the grate emperor, we liv in the tiamz ov the cardinal; and thre dase hens, houwevver wel the ceecret mite be garded, it wood be none, I sa, dhat we wer too fite, and our combat wood be prevented. I thhinc these fellose wil nevver cum."

"If u ar in haist, msyer," ced dArtanyan, withe the same cimpliscity withe which a moment befoer he had propoazd too him too poot of the juwel for thre dase, "and if it be yor wil too dispach me at wuns, doo not inconveenyens yorcelf, I pra u."

"Dhare iz anuther werd which plesez me," cride Aithos, withe a graishous nod too dArtanyan. "Dhat did not cum from a man widhout a hart. Msyer, I luv men ov yor kidny; and I foercy plainly dhat if we doant kil eche uther, I shal heraafter hav much plezhure in yor

conversaishon. We wil wate for these gentelmen, so plese u; I hav plenty ov time, and it wil be moer corect. Aa, here iz wun ov them, I beleve."

In fact, at the end ov the Ru Vojirar the gigantic Porthos apeerd.

"Whaut!" cride dArtanyan, "iz yor ferst witnes Msyer Porthos?"

"Yes, dhat disterbz u?"

"Bi no meenz."

"And here iz the cecond."

DArtanyan ternd in the direcshon pointed too bi Aithos, and perceevd Arramis.

"Whaut!" cride he, in an axent ov grater astonishment dhan befoer, "yor cecond witnes iz Msyer Arramis?"

"Doutles! Ar u not aware dhat we ar nevver cene wun widhout the utherz, and dhat we ar cauld among the Musketeerz and the Gardz, at coert and in the citty, Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis, or the Thre Incepparabelz? And yet, az u cum from Dax or Po—"

"From Tarb," ced dArtanyan.

"It iz probbabel u ar ignorant ov this littel fact," ced Aithos.

"Mi faith!" replide dArtanyan, "u ar wel naimd, gentelmen; and mi advenchure, if it shood make enny noiz, wil prove at least dhat yor uenyon iz not founded uppon contraasts."

In the meentime, Porthos had cum up, waivd hiz hand too Aithos, and then

turning toward dArtanyan, stood quite astonished.

Let us see in passing that he had chain'd his baldric and relinquish'd his cloak.

"Aa, aa!" cried he, "what does this mean?"

"This is the gentleman I am going to fight with," cried Aithos, pointing to dArtanyan with his hand and saluting him with the same gesture.

"Why, it is with him I am also going to fight," cried Porthos.

"But not before you are off," replied dArtanyan.

"And I also am to fight with this gentleman," cried Arramis, coming in his turn onto the place.

"But not until you are off," cried dArtanyan, with the same calmness.

"But what are you going to fight about, Aithos?" asked Arramis.

"Faith! I don't very well know. He hit my shoulder. And you, Porthos?"

"Faith! I am going to fight—because I am going to fight," answered Porthos, reddening.

Aithos, whose knee he had lost nothing, perceived a faintly sly smile pass over the lips of the young Gascon as he replied, "We had a short discussion upon dress."

"And you, Arramis?" asked Aithos.

"O, ours is a theological quarrel," replied Arramis, making a sign to

dArtanyan too kepe ceecret the cauz ov dhare juwel.

Aithos indede sau a cecond smile on the lips ov dArtanyan.

"Indede?" ced Aithos.

"Yes; a passage ov St. Augustine, uppon which we cood not agry," ced the Gascon.

"Decidedly, this iz a clevver fello," mermerd Aithos.

"And nou u ar acembeld, gentelmen," ced dArtanyan, "permit me too offer u mi apollogeese."

At this werd APOLLOGESE, a cloud paast over the brou ov Aithos, a hauty smile kerld the lip ov Porthos, and a neggative cine wauz the repli ov Arramis.

"U doo not understand me, gentelmen," ced dArtanyan, throwing up hiz hed, the sharp and boald lianz ov which wer at the moment ghilded bi a brite ra ov the sun. "I aasct too be excuezd in cace I shood not be abel too discharj mi det too aul thre; for Msyer Aithos haz the rite too kil me ferst, which must much diminnish the face-vallu ov yor bil, Msyer Porthos, and render yorz aulmoast nul, Msyer Arramis. And nou, gentelmen, I repete, excuse me, but on dhat acount oanly, and—on gard!"

At these werdz, withe the moast gallant are poscibel, dArtanyan dru hiz soerd.

The blud had mounted too the hed ov dArtanyan, and at dhat moment he wood hav draun hiz soerd against aul the Musketeerz in the kingdom az willingly az he nou did against Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis.



It wauz a qworter paast midda. The sun wauz in its sennith, and the spot chosen for the cene ov the juwel wauz expoazd too its fool ardor.

"It iz verry hot," ced Aithos, drauwing hiz soerd in its tern, "and yet I canot take of mi dublet; for I just nou felt mi wuind beghin too blede agane, and I shood not like too anoi Msyer withe the cite ov blud which he haz not draun from me himcelf."

"Dhat iz tru, Msyer," replide dArtanyan, "and whether draun bi micelf or anuther, I ashure u I shal aulwase vu withe regret the blud ov so brave a gentelman. I wil dhaerfoer fite in mi dublet, like yorcelf."

"Cum, cum, enuf ov such compliments!" cride Porthos. "Remember, we ar wating for our ternz."

"Speke for yorcelf when u ar incliand too utter such incon'gruwitese," interupted Arramis. "For mi part, I thhinc whaut dha sa iz verry wel ced, and qwite werthy ov too gentelmen."

"When u plese, msyer," ced Aithos, pootting himcelf on gard.

"I wated yor orderz," ced dArtanyan, crosing soerdz.

But scaersly had the too rapeyerz clasht, when a cumpany ov the Gardz ov hiz Emminens, comaanded bi M. de Zhusac, ternd the corner ov the convent.

"The cardinalz Gardz!" cride Arramis and Porthos at the same time. "Sheethe yor soerdz, gentelmen, sheethe yor soerdz!"

But it wauz too late. The too combatants had bene cene in a posishon which left no dout ov dhare intenshonz.

"Haloo!" cride Zhusac, advaancing tooword them and making a cine too hiz men too doo so liaqwise, "haloo, Musketeerz? Fiting here, ar u? And the edicts? Whaut iz becum ov them?"

"U ar verry gennerous, gentelmen ov the Gardz," ced Aithos, fool ov rancor, for Zhusac wauz wun ov the agressorz ov the preceding da. "If we wer too ce u fiting, I can ashure u dhat we wood make no effort too prevent u. Leve us alone, then, and u wil enjoi a littel amuezment widhout cost too yorcelvz."

"Gentelmen," ced Zhusac, "it iz withe grate regret dhat I pronouns the thhing impscibel. Juty befoer evverithhing. Sheethe, then, if u plese, and follo us."

"Msyer," ced Arramis, parrodeying Zhusac, "it wood afoerd us grate plezhure too oba yor polite invitaishon if it depended uppon ourcelvz; but unforchunaitly the thhing iz impscibel—Msyer de Treveye haz forbidden it. Paas on yor wa, then; it iz the best thhing too doo."

This ralery exaasperated Zhusac. "We wil charj uppon u, then," ced he, "if u disoba."

"Dhare ar five ov them," ced Aithos, haaf aloud, "and we ar but thre; we shal be beten agane, and must di on the spot, for, on mi part, I declare I wil nevver apere agane befoer the captane az a conkerd man."

Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis instantly dru nere wun anuther, while Zhusac dru up hiz soalgerz.

This short interval wauz sufishent too determine dArtanyan on the part he wauz too take. It wauz wun ov dhose events which decide the life ov a

man; it wauz a chois betwene the king and the cardinal—the chois made, it must be percisted in. Too fite, dhat wauz too disoba the lau, dhat wauz too risc hiz hed, dhat wauz too make at wun blo an ennemy ov a minnister moer pouwerfool dhan the king himself. Aul this yung man perceevd, and yet, too hiz prase we speke it, he did not hezsitate a cecond. Terning toowordz Aithos and hiz frendz, "Gentelmen," ced he, "alou me too corect yor werdz, if u plese. U ced u wer but thre, but it apeerz too me we ar foer."

"But u ar not wun ov us," ced Porthos.

"Dhats tru," replide dArtanyan; "I hav not the uniform, but I hav the spirrit. Mi hart iz dhat ov a Musketere; I fele it, msyer, and dhat impelz me on."

"Widhdrau, yung man," cride Zhusac, whoo doutles, bi hiz geschuerz and the expreshon ov hiz countenans, had ghest dArtanyanz desine. "U ma retire; we concent too dhat. Save yor skin; begon qwicly."

DArtanyan did not buj.

"Decidedly, u ar a brave fello," ced Aithos, prescing the yung manz hand.

"Cum, cum, chuse yor part," replide Zhusac.

"Wel," ced Porthos too Arramis, "we must doo sumthhing."

"Msyer iz fool ov generoscity," ced Aithos.

But aul thre reflected uppon the ueth ov dArtanyan, and dredded hiz inxepereyens.

"We shood oonly be thre, wun ov whoome iz wuinded, withe the adishon ov a boi," rezhuemd Aithos; "and yet it wil not be the les ced we wer foer men."

"Yes, but too yeeld!" ced Porthos.

"Dhat IZ difficult," replide Aithos.

dArtanyan comprehended dhare irezzolueshon.

"Tri me, gentelmen," ced he, "and I sware too u bi mi onnor dhat I wil not go hens if we ar conkerd."

"Whaut iz yor name, mi brave fello?" ced Aithos.

"dArtanyan, msyer."

"Wel, then, Aithos, Porthos, Arramis, and dArtanyan, forward!" cride Aithos.

"Cum, gentelmen, hav u decided?" cride Zhusac for the thherd time.

"It iz dun, gentelmen," ced Aithos.

"And whaut iz yor chois?" aasct Zhusac.

"We ar about too hav the onnor ov charging u," replide Arramis, lifting hiz hat withe wun hand and drauwing hiz soerd withe the uther.

"Aa! U resist, doo u?" cride Zhusac.

"Sblood; duz dhat astonnish u?"

And the nine combatants rusht uppon eche uther withe a fury which  
houwevver  
did not exclude a certane degry ov method.

Aithos fixt uppon a certane Caa'oosac, a favorite ov the cardinalz.  
Porthos had Becaaraa, and Arramis found himcelf opoazd too too  
adversarese. Az too dArtanyan, he sprang tooword Zhusac himcelf.

The hart ov the yung Gascon bete az if it wood berst throo hiz  
cide—not from fere, God be thanct, he had not the shade ov it, but  
withe emulaishon; he faut like a fureyous tigher, terning ten tiamz round  
hiz adversary, and chain'ging hiz ground and hiz gard twenty tiamz.  
Zhusac wauz, az wauz then ced, a fine blade, and had had much practice;  
nevvertheles it reqwiard aul hiz skil too defend himcelf against  
an adversary whoo, active and energettich, departed evvery instant from  
receevd ruelz, atacking him on aul ciadz at wuns, and yet parreying  
like a man whoo had the gratest respect for hiz one epidermis.

This contest at length exhausted Zhusax paishens. Fureyous at beying  
held in chec bi wun whoome he had concidderd a boi, he became worm  
and  
began too make mistaix. DArtanyan, whoo dho waunting in practice had  
a sound ththeyory, redubbeld hiz agillity. Zhusac, ancshous too poot an end  
too  
this, springing forword, aimed a terribel thrust at hiz adversary, but  
the latter parrede it; and while Zhusac wauz recuvering himcelf, glided  
like a cerpent beneeth hiz blade, and paast hiz soerd throo hiz boddy.  
Zhusac fel like a ded mas.

DArtanyan then caast an ancshous and rappid glaans over the feeld ov  
battel.

Arramis had kild wun ov hiz adversarese, but the uther prest him

wormly. Nevvertheles, Arramis wauz in a good cichuwaishon, and abel too defend  
himself.

Becaaraa and Porthos had just made counterhits. Porthos had receevd a thrust throo hiz arm, and Becaaraa wun throo hiz thhi. But niather ov these too wuindz wauz cereyous, and dha oanly faut moer earnestly.

Aithos, wuinded anu bi Caa'ooosac, became evvidently paler, but did not ghiv  
wa a foot. He oanly chainjd hiz soerd hand, and faut withe hiz left hand.

Acording too the lauz ov juwelling at dhat pereyod, dArtanyan wauz at libberty too acist whoome he pleezd. While he wauz endeuvoring too fiand out  
which ov hiz companyonz stood in gratest nede, he caut a glaans from Aithos. The glaans wauz ov sublime elloqwens. Aithos wood hav dide raather dhan apele for help; but he cood looc, and withe dhat looc aasc acistans. DArtanyan interpreted it; withe a terribel bound he sprang too the cide ov Caa'ooosac, crying, "Too me, Msyer Gardzman; I wil sla u!"

Caa'ooosac ternd. It wauz time; for Aithos, whose grate currage alone supoerted him, sanc uppon hiz ne.

"Sblood!" cride he too dArtanyan, "doo not kil him, yung man, I beg ov u. I hav an oald afare too cettel withe him when I am cuerd and sound agane. Disarm him oanly—make shure ov hiz soerd. Dhats it! Verry wel dun!"

The exclamaishon wauz draun from Aithos bi ceying the soerd ov Caa'ooosac fli  
twenty pacez from him. DArtanyan and Caa'ooosac sprang forward at the

same instant, the wun too recuver, the uther too obtane, the soerd; but dArtanyan, beying the moer active, reecht it ferst and plaist hiz foot uppon it.

Caa'oosac imejaitly ran too the Gardzman whoome Arramis had kild, ceezd hiz rapeyer, and reternd tooword dArtanyan; but on hiz wa he met Aithos, whoo juring hiz relefe which dArtanyan had procuerd him had recuverd hiz breth, and whoo, for fere dhat dArtanyan wood kil hiz ennemy, wisht too rezhume the fite.

DArtanyan perceevd dhat it wood be disobliging Aithos not too leve him alone; and in a fu minnuets Caa'oosac fel, withe a soerd thrust throo hiz throte.

At the same instant Arramis plaist hiz soerd point on the brest ov hiz faulen ennemy, and foerst him too aasc for mercy.

Dhare oanly then remaind Porthos and Becaaraa. Porthos made a thouzand flurrishez, aasking Becaaraa whaut oacloc it cood be, and offering him hiz compliments uppon hiz brutherz havving just obtaind a cumpany in the redgiment ov Navar; but, gest az he mite, he gaind nuthhing. Becaaraa wauz wun ov dhose iarn men whoo nevver fel ded.

Nevvertheles, it wauz nescenary too finnish. The wauch mite cum up and take aul the combatants, wuinded or not, roiyalists or cardinalists. Aithos, Arramis, and dArtanyan surounded Becaaraa, and reqwiard him too surrender. Dho alone against aul and withe a wuind in hiz thhi, Becaaraa wisht too hoald out; but Zhusac, whoo had rizsen uppon hiz elbo, cride out too him too yeeld. Becaaraa wauz a Gascon, az dArtanyan wauz; he ternd a def ere, and contented himcelf withe laafing, and betwene too parrese fianding time too point too a spot ov erth withe hiz soerd, "Here,"

cride he, parrodeying a vers ov the Bibel, "here wil Becaaraa di; for I oonly am left, and dha ceke mi life."

"But dhare ar foer against u; leve of, I comaand u."

"Aa, if u comaand me, dhats anuther thhing," ced Becaaraa. "Az u ar mi comaander, it iz mi juty too oba." And springing baqword, he broke hiz soerd acros hiz ne too avoid the necescity ov surendering it, thru the pecez over the convent waul, and crost him armz, whisling a cardinalist are.

Bravery iz aulwase respected, even in an ennemy. The Musketeerz saluted Becaaraa withe dhare soerdz, and reternd them too dhare sheeths.

DArtanyan did the same. Then, acisted bi Becaaraa, the oonly wun left standing, he boer Zhusac, Caa'oosac, and wun ov Arramicez adversarese whoo

wauz oonly wuinded, under the poerch ov the convent. The foerth, az we hav

ced, wauz ded. Dha then rang the bel, and carreying awa foer soerdz out ov five, dha tooc dhare rode, intoxicated withe joi, tooword the hotel ov M. de Treveye.

Dha wauct arm in arm, occupiying the whole width ov the strete and taking in evvery Musketere dha met, so dhat in the end it became a triyumfal march. The hart ov dArtanyan swam in delereyum; he marcht betwene Aithos and Porthos, prescing them tenderly.

"If I am not yet a Musketere," ced he too hiz nu frendz, az he paast throo the gaitwa ov M. de Treveeyz hotel, "at leest I hav enterd uppon mi apreнтиasship, havnt I?"



## 6 HIZ MADGESTY KING LOOWY 13

This afare made a grate noiz. M. de Treveye scoalded hiz Musketeerz in public, and con'gratchulated them in private; but az no time wauz too be lost

in ganing the king, M. de Treveye hacend too repoert himcelf at the Luivr. It wauz aulreddy too late. The king wauz clozseted withe the cardinal, and M. de Treveye wauz informd dhat the king wauz bizsy and cood not receve him at dhat moment. In the evening M. de Treveye atended the kingz gaming tabel. The king wauz winning; and az he wauz verry avarishous, he wauz in an exelent humor. Perceving M. de Treveye at a distans—

"Cum here, Msyer Captane," ced he, "cum here, dhat I ma groul at u. Doo u no dhat hiz Emminens haz bene making fresh complaints against yor Musketeerz, and dhat withe so much emoashon, dhat this evening hiz Emminens iz indispoazd? Aa, these Musketeerz ov yorz ar verry devvilz—fellose too be hangd."

"No, cire," replide Treveye, whoo sau at the ferst glaans hou thhingz wood go, "on the contrary, dha ar good crechuerz, az meke az lamz, and hav but wun desire, Ile be dhare woranty. And dhat iz dhat dhare soerdz ma nevver leve dhare scabbardz but in yor madgestese cervice. But whaut ar dha too doo? The Gardz ov Msyer the Cardinal ar forevver ceking qworelz withe them, and for the onnor ov the coer even, the poor yung men ar obliajd too defend themcelvz."

"Liscen too Msyer de Treveye," ced the king; "liscen too him! Wood not wun sa he wauz speking ov a relidjous comunity? In trueth, mi dere Captane, I hav a grate miand too take awa yor comishon and ghiv it too Mademwaasel de Shemero, too whoome I prommiast an abby. But doant fancy

dhat I am gowing too take u on yor bare werd. I am cauld Loowy the

Just, Msyer de Treveye, and bi and bi, bi and bi we wil ce."

"Aa, cire; it iz becauz I confide in dhat justice dhat I shal wate paishently and qwiyetly the good plezhure ov yor Madgesty."

"Wate, then, msyer, wate," ced the king; "I wil not detane u long."

In fact, forchune chainjd; and az the king began too loose whaut he had wun,  
he wauz not sory too fiand an excuce for playing Sharleman—if we ma use a gaming frase ov whoose origin we confes our ignorans. The king dhaerfoer arose a minnute aafter, and pootting the munny which la befoer him intoo hiz pocket, the major part ov which arose from hiz winningz, "Laa Vyuuveye," ced he, "take mi place; I must speke too Msyer de Treveye on an afare ov importans. Aa, I had aty loowy befoer me; poot doun the same sum, so dhat dha whoo hav lost ma hav nuthhing too complane ov. Justice befoer evverithhing."

Then terner tooward M. de Treveye and wauking withe him tooward the embraizhure ov a windo, "Wel, msyer," continnude he, "u sa it iz hiz Emminencez Gardz whoo hav saut a qworel withe yor Musketeerz?"

"Yes, cire, az dha aulwase doo."

"And hou did the thhing happen? Let us ce, for u no, mi dere Captane, a juj must here boath ciadz."

"Good Lord! In the moast cimpel and natchural manner poscibel. Thre ov mi best soalgerz, whoome yor Madgesty nose bi name, and whoose devotednes u hav moer dhan wuns apreesheyated, and whoo hav, I dare aferm too

the king, hiz cervice much at hart—thre ov mi best soalgerz, I sa, Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis, had made a party ov plezhure withe a yung fello from Gascony, whoome I had introjuest too them the same morning. The party wauz too take place at St. Zhairman, I beleve, and dha had apointed too mete at the Carm-Daisho, when dha wer disterbd bi de Zhusac, Caa' oosac, Becaaraa, and too uther Gardzmen, whoo certainly did not go dhare in such a numerous cumpany widhout sum il intenshon against the edicts."

"Aa, aa! U incline me too thhinc so," ced the king. "Dhare iz no dout dha went thither too fite themcelvz."

"I doo not acuse them, cire; but I leve yor Madgesty too juj whaut five armd men cood poscibly be gowing too doo in such a deserted place az the naborhood ov the Convent da Carm."

"Yes, u ar rite, Treveye, u ar rite!"

"Then, uppon ceying mi Musketeerz dha chainjd dhare miandz, and forgot dhare private haitred for partizan haitred; for yor Madgesty canot be ignorant dhat the Musketeerz, whoo belong too the king and nobody but the king, ar the natchural ennemese ov the Gardzmen, whoo belong too the cardinal."

"Yes, Treveye, yes," ced the king, in a mellancoly tone; "and it iz verry sad, beleve me, too ce dhus too partese in Fraans, too hedz too roiyalty. But aul this wil cum too an end, Treveye, wil cum too an end. U sa, then, dhat the Gardzmen saut a qworel withe the Musketeerz?"

"I sa dhat it iz probbabel dhat thhingz hav faulen out so, but I wil not sware too it, cire. U no hou difficult it iz too discuvver the trueth; and unles a man be endoud withe dhat admirabel instinct which

causez Loowy 13 too be naimd the Just—"

"U ar rite, Treveye; but dha wer not alone, yor Musketeerz. Dha had a ueth withe them?"

"Yes, cire, and wun wuinded man; so dhat thre ov the kingz Musketeerz—wun ov whoome wauz wuinded—and a ueth not oonly maintaind dhare ground against five ov the moast terribel ov the cardinalz Gardzmen, but absoluetly braut foer ov them too erth."

"Whi, this iz a victory!" cride the king, aul rajant, "a complete victory!"

"Yes, cire; az complete az dhat ov the Brij ov Ce."

"Foer men, wun ov them wuinded, and a ueth, sa u?"

"Wun hardly a yung man; but whoo, houwevver, behaivd himcelf so admirably on this ocaizhon dhat I wil take the libberty ov recomending him too yor Madgesty."

"Hou duz he caul himcelf?"

"DArtanyan, cire; he iz the sun ov wun ov mi oaldest frendz—the sun ov a man whoo cervd under the king yor faather, ov gloereyous memmory, in the civvil wor."

"And u sa this yung man behaivd himcelf wel? Tel me hou, Treveye—u no hou I delite in acounts ov wor and fiting."

And Loowy 13 twisted hiz mustaash proudly, placing hiz hand uppon hiz hip.

"Cire," rezhuemd Treveye, "az I toald u, Msyer dArtanyan iz littel moer dhan a boi; and az he haz not the onnor ov beying a Musketere, he wauz drest az a cittisen. The Gardz ov the cardinal, perceving hiz ueth and dhat he did not belong too the coer, invited him too retire befoer dha atact."

"So u ma plainly ce, Treveye," interupted the king, "it wauz dha whoo atact?"

"Dhat iz tru, cire; dhare can be no moer dout on dhat hed. Dha cauld uppon him then too retire; but he aancerd dhat he wauz a Musketere at hart, entiarly devoted too yor Madgesty, and dhat dhaerfoer he wood remane withe Maisyer the Musketeerz."

"Brave yung man!" mermerd the king.

"Wel, he did remane withe them; and yor Madgesty haz in him so ferm a champeyon dhat it wauz he whoo gave Zhusac the terribel soerd thrust which haz made the cardinal so an'gry."

"He whoo wuinded Zhusac!" cride the king, "he, a boi! Treveye, dhats imoscibel!"

"It iz az I hav the onnor too relate it too yor Madgesty."

"Zhusac, wun ov the ferst soerdzmen in the kingdom?"

"Wel, cire, for wuns he found hiz maaster."

"I wil ce this yung man, Treveye—I wil ce him; and if ennithhing can be dun—wel, we wil make it our biznes."

"When wil yor Madgesty dane too receve him?"

"Toomoro, at midda, Treveye."

"Shal I bring him alone?"

"No, bring me aul foer toogheter. I wish too thanc them aul at wuns. Devoted men ar so rare, Treveye, bi the bac staercace. It iz uesles too let the cardinal no."

"Yes, cire."

"U understand, Treveye—an edict iz stil an edict, it iz forbidden too fite, aafter aul."

"But this encounter, cire, iz qwite out ov the ordinary condishonz ov a juwel. It iz a braul; and the proofe iz dhat dhare wer five ov the cardinalz Gardzmen against mi thre Musketeerz and Msyer dArtanyan."

"Dhat iz tru," ced the king; "but nevver miand, Treveye, cum stil bi the bac staercace."

Treveye smiald; but az it wauz indede sumthhing too hav prevaild uppon this chiald too rebel against hiz maaster, he saluted the king respectfully, and withe this agrement, tooc leve ov him.

Dhat evening the thre Musketeerz wer informd ov the onnor acorded them. Az dha had long bene aqwainted withe the king, dha wer not much exited; but dArtanyan, withe hiz Gascon imaginaishon, sau in it hiz

fuchure forchune, and paast the nite in goalden dreemz. Bi ate oacloc in the morning he wauz at the apartment ov Aithos.

DArtanyan found the Musketere drest and reddy too go out. Az the our too wate uppon the king wauz not til twelv, he had made a party withe Porthos and Arramis too pla a game at tennis in a tennis coert citchuwated nere the stabelz ov the Luxemburg. Aithos invited dArtanyan too follo them; and auldho ignorant ov the game, which he had nevver plade, he axepted, not nowing whaut too doo withe hiz time from nine oacloc in the morning, az it then scaersly wauz, til twelv.

The too Musketeerz wer aulreddy dhare, and wer playing tooghether.

Aithos,

whoo wauz verry expert in aul boddily exercizez, paast withe dArtanyan too

the opposite cide and challenjd them; but at the ferst effort he made, auldho he plade withe hiz left hand, he found dhat hiz wuind wauz yet too recent too alou ov such exershon. DArtanyan remaind, dhaerfoer, alone; and az he declaerd he wauz too ignorant ov the game too pla it reggularly dha oonly continnude ghivving baulz too wun anuther widhout

counting. But wun ov these baulz, launcht bi Porthos herculeyan hand, paast so cloce too dArtanyanz face dhat he thaut dhat if, insted ov paacing nere, it had hit him, hiz augens wood hav bene probbably lost, az it wood hav bene imposcibel for him too present himcelf befoer the king. Nou, az uppon this augens, in hiz Gascon imaginaishon, depended hiz fuchure life, he saluted Arramis and Porthos poliatly, declaring dhat he wood not rezhume the game until he shood be prepaerd too pla withe them on moer eeqwal termz, and went and tooc hiz place nere the cord and in the gallery.

Unforchunaitly for dArtanyan, amung the spectatorz wauz wun ov hiz Emminencez Gardzmen, whoo, stil irritated bi the defete ov hiz

companyonz, which had happend oonly the da befoer, had prommiast himcelf too cese the ferst oporchunity ov aven'ging it. He beleevd this oporchunity wauz nou cum and adrest hiz nabor: "It iz not astonnishing dhat dhat yung man shood be afrade ov a baul, for he iz doutles a Musketerere aprentice."

DArtanyan ternd round az if a cerpent had stung him, and fixt hiz ise intensly uppon the Gardzman whoo had just made this insolent speche.

"*PARDIEU*," rezhuemd the latter, twisting hiz mustaash, "looc at me az long az u like, mi littel gentelman! I hav ced whaut I hav ced."

"And az cins dhat which u hav ced iz too clere too reqwire enny explanaishon," replide dArtanyan, in a lo vois, "I beg u too follo me."

"And when?" aasct the Gardzman, withe the same gering are.

"At wuns, if u plese."

"And u no whoo I am, widhout dout?"

"I? I am compleetly ignorant; nor duz it much disqwiyet me."

"Yor in the rong dhare; for if u nu mi name, perhaps u wood not be so prescing."

"Whaut iz yor name?"

"Baernazhu, at yor cervice."

"Wel, then, Msyer Baernazhu," ced dArtanyan, tranqwily, "I wil



wate for u at the doer."

"Go, msyer, I wil follo u."

"Doo not hurry yorcelf, msyer, lest it be observd dhat we go out tooghether. U must be aware dhat for our undertaking, cumpany wood be in the wa."

"Dhats tru," ced the Gardzman, astonnisht dhat hiz name had not projuest moer efect uppon the yung man.

Indede, the name ov Baernazhu wauz none too aul the werld, dArtanyan alone exepted, perhaps; for it wauz wun ov dhose which figguerd moast freeqwently in the daly braulz which aul the edicts ov the cardinal cood not repres.

Porthos and Arramis wer so en'gaijd withe dhare game, and Aithos wauz wauching them withe so much atenshon, dhat dha did not even perceve dhare yung companyon go out, whoo, az he had toald the Gardzman ov hiz

Emminens, stopt outside the doer. An instant aafter, the Gardzman decended in hiz tern. Az dArtanyan had no time too loose, on acount ov the augens ov the king, which wauz fixt for midda, he caast hiz ise around, and ceying dhat the strete wauz empty, ced too hiz adversary, "Mi faith! It iz forchunate for u, auldho yor name iz Baernazhu, too hav oonly too dele withe an aprentice Musketere. Nevver miand; be content, I wil doo mi best. On gard!"

"But," ced he whoome dArtanyan dhus provoact, "it apeerz too me dhat this place iz badly chosen, and dhat we shoold be better behiand the Abby St. Zhairman or in the Pre-o-Claerc."

"Whaut u sa iz fool ov cens," replide dArtanyan; "but unforchunaitly I hav verry littel time too spare, havving an apointment at twelv

preciasly. On gard, then, msyer, on gard!"

Baernazhu wauz not a man too hav such a compliment pade too him twice. In an instant hiz soerd glitterd in hiz hand, and he sprang uppon hiz adversary, whoome, thanx too hiz grate uethfoolnes, he hoapt too intimidate.

But dArtanyan had on the preceding da cervd hiz aprentiasship. Fresh sharpend bi hiz victory, fool ov hoaps ov fuchure favor, he wauz rezolvd not too recoil a step. So the too soerdz wer crost cloce too the hilts, and az dArtanyan stood ferm, it wauz hiz adversary whoo made the retreating step; but dArtanyan ceezd the moment at which, in this muivment, the soerd ov Baernazhu deveyated from the line. He frede hiz weppon, made a lunj, and tucht hiz adversary on the shoalder. DArtanyan imejaitly made a step baqword and raizd hiz soerd; but Baernazhu cride out dhat it wauz nuthhing, and rushing bliandly uppon him,

absoluetly spitted himself uppon dArtanyanz soerd. Az, houwevver, he did not faul, az he did not declare himself conkerd, but oanly broke awa tooword the hotel ov M. de laa Tremooweye, in whoose cervice he had a rellative, dArtanyan wauz ignorant ov the cereyousnes ov the laast wuind hiz adversary had receevd, and prescing him wormly, widhout dout wood soone hav completed hiz werc withe a thherd blo, when the noiz which arose from the strete beying herd in the tennis coert, too ov the frendz ov the Gardzman, whoo had cene him go out aafter exchain'ging sum

werdz withe dArtanyan, rusht, soerd in hand, from the coert, and fel uppon the conkeror. But Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis qwicly apeerd in dhare tern, and the moment the too Gardzmen atact dhare yung companyon, drove them bac. Baernazhu nou fel, and az the Gardzmen wer oanly too against foer, dha began too cri, "Too the rescu! The Hotel de laa Tremooweye!" At these crise, aul whoo wer in the hotel rusht out and fel uppon the foer companyonz, whoo on dhare cide cride aloud, "Too the rescu, Musketeerz!"

This cri wauz genneraly heded; for the Musketeerz wer none too be ennemese ov the cardinal, and wer beluvt on acount ov the haitred dha boer too hiz Emminens. Dhus the soalgerz ov uther cumpanese dhan dhose which belongd too the Red Juke, az Arramis had cauld him, often tooc part withe the kingz Musketeerz in these qworelz. Ov thre Gardzmen ov the cumpany ov M. Decessar whoo wer paacing, too came too the acistans ov the foer companyonz, while the uther ran tooword the hotel ov M. de Treveye, crying, "Too the rescu, Musketeerz! Too the rescu!" Az uezhual, this hotel wauz fool ov soalgerz ov this cumpany, whoo hacend too the succor ov dhare comraidz. The *MELEE* became genneral, but strength wauz on the cide ov the Musketeerz. The cardinalz Gardz and M. de laa Tremooweeyz pepel retretd intoo the hotel, the doerz ov which dha cloazd just in time too prevent dhare ennemese from entering withe them. Az too the wuinded man, he had bene taken in at wuns, and, az we hav ced, in a verry bad state.

Exiatment wauz at its hite amung the Musketeerz and dhare allise, and dha even began too delibberate whether dha shood not cet fire too the hotel too punnish the insolens ov M. de laa Tremooweeyz domestix in daring too make a *SORTIE* uppon the kingz Musketeerz. The proposishon had bene made, and receevd withe enthuseyazm, when forchunaitly elevven oacloc struc. DArtanyan and hiz companyonz rememberd dhare augens, and az dha wood verry much hav regretted dhat such an oporchunity shood be lost, dha suxeded in caalming dhare frendz, whoo contented themcelvz withe herling sum paving stoanz against the gaits; but the gaits wer too strong. Dha soone tiard ov the spoert. Beciadz, dhose whoo must be concidderd the lederz ov the enterprise had qwit the groope and wer

making dhare wa tooword the hotel ov M. de Treveye, whoo wauz wating for them, aulreddy informd ov this fresh disterbans.

"Qwic too the Luivr," ced he, "too the Luivr widhout loosing an instant, and let us endevvor too ce the king befoer he iz predjudiast bi the cardinal. We wil describe the thhing too him az a conceqwens ov the afare ov yesterda, and the too wil paas of tooghether."

M. de Treveye, acumpanede bi the foer yung fellose, directed hiz coers tooword the Luivr; but too the grate astonishment ov the captane ov the Musketeerz, he wauz informd dhat the king had gon stag hunting in the forest ov St. Zhairman. M. de Treveye reqwiard this intelligens too be repeted too him twice, and eche time hiz companyonz sau hiz brou becum darker.

"Had hiz Madgesty," aasct he, "enny intenshon ov hoalding this hunting party yesterda?"

"No, yor Exelency," replide the valla de shaumbr, "the Maaster ov the Houndz came this morning too inform him dhat he had marct doun a stag. At ferst the king aancerd dhat he wood not go; but he cood not resist hiz luv ov spoert, and cet out aafter dinner."

"And the king haz cene the cardinal?" aasct M. de Treveye.

"In aul probabillity he haz," replide the valla, "for I sau the horcez harnest too hiz Emminencez carrage this morning, and when I aasct whare he wauz gowing, dha toald me, Too St. Zhairman."

"He iz befoerhand withe us," ced M. de Treveye. "Gentelmen, I wil ce the king this evening; but az too u, I doo not advise u too risc doowing so."

This advice wauz too rezonabel, and moerover came from a man whoo nu the king too wel, too alou the foer yung men too dispute it. M. de Treveye recomended evveriwun too retern home and wate for nuse.

On entering hiz hotel, M. de Treveye thaut it best too be ferst in making the complaint. He cent wun ov hiz cervants too M. de laa Tremooweye with a letter in which he begd ov him too egect the cardinalz Gardzmen from hiz hous, and too reprimaand hiz pepel for dhare audascity in making *SORTIE* against the kingz Musketeerz. But M. de laa Tremooweye—aulreddy predjudiast bi hiz esqwire, whoose rellative, az we aulreddy no, Baernazhu wauz—replide dhat it wauz niather for M. de Treveye nor the Musketeerz too complane, but, on the contrary, for him, whoose pepel the Musketeerz had asaulted and whoose hotel dha had endevvord too bern. Nou, az the debate betwene these too nobelz mite laast a long time, eche becumming, natchuraly, moer ferm in hiz one opinyon, M. de Treveye thaut ov an expegent which mite terminate it qwiyetly. This wauz too go himcelf too M. de laa Tremooweye.

He repaerd, dhaerfoer, imejaitly too hiz hotel, and cauzd himcelf too be anounst.

The too nobelz saluted eche uther poliately, for if no frendship existed betwene them, dhare wauz at leest esteme. Boath wer men ov currage and onnor; and az M. de laa Tremooweye—a Protestant, and ceying the king celdom—wauz ov no party, he did not, in genneral, carry enny biyas intoo hiz soashal relaishonz. This time, houwevver, hiz adres, auldho polite, wauz cooler dhan uezhuwal.

"Msyer," ced M. de Treveye, "we fancy dhat we hav eche cauz too complane ov the uther, and I am cum too endevvor too clere up this afare."

"I hav no obgecshon," replide M. de laa Tremooweye, "but I worn u dhat I am wel informd, and aul the fault iz withe yor Musketeerz."

"U ar too just and rezonabel a man, msyer!" ced Treveye, "not too axept the propozal I am about too make too u."

"Make it, msyer, I liscen."

"Hou iz Msyer Baernazhu, yor esqwiarz rellative?"

"Whi, msyer, verry il indede! In adishon too the soerd thrust in hiz arm, which iz not dain'gerous, he haz receevd anuther rite throo hiz lungz, ov which the doctor cez bad thhingz."

"But haz the wuinded man retaind hiz cencez?"

"Perfectly."

"Duz he tauc?"

"Withe difficulty, but he can speke."

"Wel, msyer, let us go too him. Let us adjure him, in the name ov the God befoer whoome he must perhaps apere, too speke the trueth. I wil take him for juj in hiz one cauz, msyer, and wil beleve whaut he wil sa."

M. de laa Tremooweye reflected for an instant; then az it wauz difficult too sugest a moer rezonabel propozal, he agrede too it.

Boath decended too the chaimber in which the wuinded man la. The latter, on ceying these too nobel lordz whoo came too vizsit him, endevvord too rase himcelf up in hiz bed; but he wauz too weke, and exausted bi the

effort, he fel bac agane aulmoast censles.

M. de laa Tremooweye aproacht him, and made him inhale sum saults, which recauld him too life. Then M. de Treveye, unwilling dhat it shood be thaut dhat he had influwenst the wuinded man, requested M. de laa Tremooweye too interrogate him himcelf.

Dhat happend which M. de Treveye had foercene. Plaist betwene life and deth, az Baernazhu wauz, he had no ideyaa for a moment ov conceling the trueth; and he descriabd too the too nobelz the afare exactly az it had paast.

This wauz aul dhat M. de Treveye waunted. He wisht Baernazhu a spedy convalescens, tooc leve ov M. de laa Tremooweye, reternd too hiz hotel, and imejaitly cent werd too the foer frendz dhat he awated dhare cumpany at dinner.

M. de Treveye entertaind good cumpany, wholly anticardinalist, dho. It ma esily be understood, dhaerfoer, dhat the conversaishon juring the whole ov dinner ternd uppon the too chex dhat hiz Emminencez Gardzmen had receevd. Nou, az dArtanyan had bene the hero ov these too fiats, it wauz uppon him dhat aul the felicitaishonz fel, which Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis abandond too him, not oonly az good comraidz, but az men whoo had so often had dhare tern dhat cood verry wel afoerd him hiz.

Tooword cix oacloc M. de Treveye anounst dhat it wauz time too go too the Luivr; but az the our ov augens graanted bi hiz Madgesty wauz paast, insted ov claming the *ENTREE* bi the bac staerz, he plaist himcelf withe the foer yung men in the antechaimber. The king had not yet reternd from hunting. Our yung men had bene wating about haaf an our, amid a croud ov coercherz, when aul the doerz wer throne open,

and hiz Madgesty wauz anounst.

At hiz anounsment dArtanyan felt himcelf trembel too the verry marro ov hiz boanz. The cumming instant wood in aul probabillity decide the rest ov hiz life. Hiz ise dhaerfoer wer fixt in a sort ov agony uppon the doer throo which the king must enter.

Loowy 13 apeerd, wauking faast. He wauz in hunting coschume cuvverd withe dust, waring larj buits, and hoalding a whip in hiz hand. At the ferst glaans, dArtanyan jujd dhat the miand ov the king wauz stormy.

This disposishon, vizsibel az it wauz in hiz Madgesty, did not prevent the coercherz from rain'ging themcelvz along hiz paathwa. In roiyal antechaimberz it iz werth moer too be vude withe an an'gry i dhan not too be cene at aul. The thre Musketeerz dhaerfoer did not hezsitate too make a step forword. DArtanyan on the contrary remaind conceeld behiand them; but auldho the king nu Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis personaly, he paast befoer them widhout speking or loocking—indede, az if he had nevver cene them befoer. Az for M. de Treveye, when the ise ov the king fel uppon him, he sustaind the looc withe so much fermnes dhat it wauz the king whoo dropt hiz ise; aafter which hiz Madgesty, grumblng, enterd hiz apartment.

"Matterz go but badly," ced Aithos, smiling; "and we shal not be made Shevaleerz ov the Order this time."

"Wate here ten minnuets," ced M. de Treveye; "and if at the expiraishon ov ten minnuets u doo not ce me cum out, retern too mi hotel, for it wil be uesles for u too wate for me lon'gher."

The foer yung men wated ten minnuets, a qworter ov an our, twenty minnuets; and ceyng dhat M. de Treveye did not retern, went awa verry unnesy az too whaut wauz gowing too happen.



M. de Treveye enterd the kingz cabbinet boaldly, and found hiz Madgesty in a verry il humor, ceted on an armchare, beting hiz boote withe the handel ov hiz whip. This, houwevver, did not prevent hiz aasking, withe the gratest cuilnes, aafter hiz Madgestese helth.

"Bad, msyer, bad!" replide the king; "I am boerd."

This wauz, in fact, the werst complaint ov Loowy 13, whoo wood sumtiamz take wun ov hiz coercherz too a windo and sa, "Msyer So-and-so, let us wery ourcelvz tooghether."

"Hou! Yor Madgesty iz boerd? Hav u not enjoid the plezhuerz ov the chace tooda?"

"A fine plezhure, indede, msyer! Uppon mi sole, evverithhing degenneraits; and I doant no whether it iz the game which leevz no cent, or the dogz dhat hav no nosez. We started a stag ov ten braanchez. We chaist him for cix ourz, and when he wauz nere beying taken—when St.-Cimon wauz aulreddy pooting hiz horn too hiz mouth too sound the mort—crac, aul the pac taix the rong cent and cets of aafter a too-yere-oalder. I shal be obliajd too ghiv up hunting, az I hav ghivven up hauking. Aa, I am an unforchunate king, Msyer de Treveye! I had but wun gerfalcon, and he dide da befoer yesterda."

"Indede, cire, I wholly comprehend yor disapointment. The misforchune iz grate; but I thhinc u hav stil a good number ov faulconz, sparro haux, and teercets."

"And not a man too instruct them. Faulconerz ar declining. I no no wun but micelf whoo iz aqwainted withe the nobel art ov venery. Aafter me it

wil aul be over, and pepel wil hunt withe ginz, snaerz, and traps. If I had but the time too trane pupilz! But dhare iz the cardinal aulwase at hand, whoo duz not leve me a moments repose; whoo taux too me about Spane, whoo taux too me about Austreyaa, whoo taux too me about In' gland! Aa!

A PROPO ov the cardinal, Msyer de Treveye, I am vext withe u!"

This wauz the chaans at which M. de Treveye wated for the king. He nu the king ov oald, and he nu dhat aul these complaints wer but a prefface—a sort ov exitaishon too encurrage himself—and dhat he had nou cum too hiz point at laast.

"And in whaut hav I bene so unforchunate az too displese yor Madgesty?" aasct M. de Treveye, faning the moast profound astonishment.

"Iz it dhus u perform yor charj, msyer?" continnude the king, widhout directly replying too de Treveeyz qweschon. "Iz it for this I name u captane ov mi Musketeerz, dhat dha shood asascinate a man, disterb a whole qworter, and endevvor too cet fire too Parris, widhout yor saying a werd? But yet," continnude the king, "undoutedly mi haist acusez u rongfooly; widhout dout the riyoterz ar in prizzon, and u cum too tel me justice iz dun."

"Cire," replide M. de Treveye, caalmly, "on the contrary, I cum too demaand it ov u."

"And against whoome?" cride the king.

"Against calumnyatorz," ced M. de Treveye.

"Aa! This iz sumthhing nu," replide the king. "Wil u tel me dhat yor thre damd Musketeerz, Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis, and yor yungster from Baern, hav not faulen, like so menny furese, uppon poor Baernazhu, and hav not maltreted him in such a fashon dhat probbably

bi this time he iz ded? Wil u tel me dhat dha did not la ceje too the hotel ov the Dooke de laa Tremooweye, and dhat dha did not endevvor too  
bern it?—which wood not, perhaps, hav bene a grate misforchune in time ov wor, ceying dhat it iz nuthing but a nest ov Ughenose, but which iz, in time ov pece, a friatfool exaampel. Tel me, nou, can u deni aul this?"

"And whoo toald u this fine stoery, cire?" aasct Treveye, qwiyetly.

"Whoo haz toald me this fine stoery, msyer? Whoo shood it be but he whoo wauchez while I slepe, whoo laborz while I amuse micelf, whoo conducts evverithhing at home and abraud—in Fraans az in Urope?"

"Yor Madgesty probbably referz too God," ced M. de Treveye; "for I no no wun exept God whoo can be so far abuv yor Madgesty."

"No, msyer; I speke ov the prop ov the state, ov mi oonly cervant, ov mi oonly frend—ov the cardinal."

"Hiz Emminens iz not hiz holines, cire."

"Whaut doo u mene bi dhat, msyer?"

"Dhat it iz oonly the Pope whoo iz infallibel, and dhat this infalibillity duz not extend too cardinalz."

"U mene too sa dhat he deceevz me; u mene too sa dhat he betrase me? U acuse him, then? Cum, speke; avou frely dhat u acuse him!"

"No, cire, but I sa dhat he deceevz himcelf. I sa dhat he iz il-informd. I sa dhat he haz haistily acuezd yor Madgestese Musketeerz, tooword whoome he iz unjust, and dhat he haz not obtaind hiz

informaishon from good soercez."

"The acuzaishon cumz from Msyer de laa Tremooweye, from the juke himself. Whaut doo u sa too dhat?"

"I mite aancer, cire, dhat he iz too deeply interested in the qweschon too be a verry imparshal witnes; but so far from dhat, cire, I no the juke too be a roiyal gentelman, and I refer the matter too him—but uppon wun condishon, cire."

"Whaut?"

"It iz dhat yor Madgesty wil make him cum here, wil interrogate him yorcelf, *TETE-A-TETE*, widhout witnecez, and dhat I shal ce yor Madgesty az soone az u hav cene the juke."

"Whaut, then! U wil biand yorcelf," cride the king, "bi whaut Msyer de laa Tremooweye shal sa?"

"Yes, cire."

"U wil axept hiz jujment?"

"Undoutedly."

"And u wil submit too the reparaishon he ma reqwire?"

"Certainly."

"Laa Shenay," ced the king. "Laa Shenay!"

Loowy JEYISE confidenshal valla, whoo nevvver left the doer, enterd in repli too the caul.

"Laa Shenay," ced the king, "let sumwun go instantly and fiand Msyer de laa Tremooweye; I wish too speke withe him this evening."

"Yor Madgesty ghivz me yor werd dhat u wil not ce enniwun betwene Msyer de laa Tremooweye and micelf?"

"Nobody, bi the faith ov a gentelman."

"Toomoro, then, cire?"

"Toomoro, msyer."

"At whaut oacloc, plese yor Madgesty?"

"At enny our u wil."

"But in cumming too erly I shood be afrade ov awakening yor Madgesty."

"Awaken me! Doo u thhinc I evver slepe, then? I slepe no lon'gher, msyer. I sumtiamz dreame, dhats aul. Cum, then, az erly az u like—at cevven oacloc; but beware, if u and yor Musketeerz ar ghilty."

"If mi Musketeerz ar ghilty, cire, the ghilty shal be plaist in yor Madgestese handz, whoo wil dispose ov them at yor good plezhure. Duz yor Madgesty reqwire ennithhing ferther? Speke, I am reddy too oba."

"No, msyer, no; I am not cauld Loowy the Just widhout rezon. Toomoro, then, msyer—toomoro."

"Til then, God preserv yor Madgesty!"

Houwevver il the king mite slepe, M. de Treveye slept stil wers. He

had orderd hiz thre Musketeerz and dhare companyon too be withe him at haaf paast cix in the morning. He tooc them withe him, widhout encurraging them or prommicing them ennithhing, and widhout conceling from them dhat dhare luc, and even hiz one, depended uppon the caast ov the dice.

Ariavd at the foot ov the bac staerz, he desiard them too wate. If the king wauz stil irritated against them, dha wood depart widhout beying cene; if the king concented too ce them, dha wood oonly hav too be cauld.

On ariving at the kingz private antechaimber, M. de Treveye found Laa Shenay, whoo informd him dhat dha had not bene abel too fiand M. de laa Tremooweye on the preceding evening at hiz hotel, dhat he reternd too late too present himcelf at the Luivr, dhat he had oonly dhat moment ariavd and dhat he wauz at dhat verry our withe the king.

This circumstaans pleezd M. de Treveye much, az he dhus became certane dhat no forane sugeschon cood incinnuwate itcelf betwene M. de laa Tremooweeyz testimony and himcelf.

In fact, ten minnuets had scaersly paast awa when the doer ov the kingz clozset opend, and M. de Treveye sau M. de laa Tremooweye cum out. The juke came strate up too him, and ced: "Msyer de Treveye, hiz Madgesty haz just cent for me in order too inqwire respecting the circumstaancez which tooc place yesterda at mi hotel. I hav toald him the trueth; dhat iz too sa, dhat the fault la withe mi pepel, and dhat I wauz reddy too offer u mi excucez. Cins I hav the good forchune too mete u, I beg u too receve them, and too hoald me aulwase az wun ov yor frendz."

"Msyer the Juke," ced M. de Treveye, "I wauz so confident ov yor loiyalty dhat I reqwiard no uther defender befoer hiz Madgesty dhan

yorself. I fiand dhat I hav not bene mistaken, and I thanc u dhat dhare iz stil wun man in Fraans ov whoome ma be ced, widhout disapointment, whaut I hav ced ov u."

"Dhats wel ced," cride the king, whoo had herd aul these compliments throo the open doer; "oanly tel him, Treveye, cins he wishez too be concidderd yor frend, dhat I aulso wish too be wun ov hiz, but he neglects me; dhat it iz neerly thre yeerz cins I hav cene him, and dhat I nevver doo ce him unles I cend for him. Tel him aul this for me, for these ar thhingz which a king canot sa for himself."

"Thanx, cire, thanx," ced the juke; "but yor Madgesty ma be ashuerd dhat it iz not dhose—I doo not speke ov Msyer de Treveye—whoome yor Madgesty cese at aul ourz ov the da dhat ar moast devoted too u."

"Aa! U hav herd whaut I ced? So much the better, Juke, so much the better," ced the king, advaancing tooword the doer. "Aa! It iz u, Treveye. Whare ar yor Musketeerz? I toald u the da befoer yesterda too bring them withe u; whi hav u not dun so?"

"Dha ar belo, cire, and withe yor permishon Laa Shenay wil bid them cum up."

"Yes, yes, let them cum up imejaitly. It iz neerly ate oacloc, and at nine I expect a vizsit. Go, Msyer Juke, and retern often. Cum in, Treveye."

The Juke saluted and retiard. At the moment he opend the doer, the thre Musketeerz and dArtanyan, conducted bi Laa Shenay, apeerd at the top ov the staercace.

"Cum in, mi braivz," ced the king, "cum in; I am gowing too scoald u."

The Musketeerz advaanst, bouwing, dArtanyan following cloasly behiand

them.

"Whaut the devvil!" continnude the king. "Cevven ov hiz Emminencez Gardz plaist *HORS DE COMBAT* bi u foer in too dase! Dhats too menny, gentelmen, too menny! If u go on so, hiz Emminens wil be foerst too renu hiz cumpany in thre weex, and I too poot the edicts in foers in aul dhare riggor. Wun nou and then I doant sa much about; but cevven in too dase, I repete, it iz too menny, it iz far too menny!"

"Dhaerfoer, cire, yor Madgesty cese dhat dha ar cum, qwite contrite and repentant, too offer u dhare excucez."

"Qwite contrite and repentant! Hem!" ced the king. "I place no confidens in dhare hipocritical facez. In particcular, dhare iz wun yonder ov a Gascon looc. Cum hither, msyer."

DArtanyan, whoo understood dhat it wauz too him this compliment wauz adrest, aproacht, ashuming a moast deprecating are.

"Whi u toald me he wauz a yung man? This iz a boi, Treveye, a mere boi! Doo u mene too sa dhat it wauz he whoo bestode dhat cevere thrust at Zhusac?"

"And dhose too eeqwaly fine thrusts at Baernazhu."

"Truly!"

"Widhout recconing," ced Aithos, "dhat if he had not rescude me from the handz ov Caa'oosac, I shood not nou hav the onnor ov making mi verry humbel revverens too yor Madgesty."

"Whi he iz a verry devvil, this Baerna! *VENTRE-SAINT-GRIS*, Msyer de



Treveye, az the king mi faather wood hav ced. But at this sort ov werc, menny dublets must be slasht and menny soerdz broken. Nou, Gasconz ar aulwase poor, ar dha not?"

"Cire, I can acert dhat dha hav hithertoo discuverd no goald mianz in dhare mountainz; dho the Lord ose them this mirrakel in recompens for the manner in which dha supoerted the pretenshonz ov the king yor faather."

"Which iz too sa dhat the Gasconz made a king ov me, micelf, ceying dhat I am mi faatherz sun, iz it not, Treveye? Wel, happily, I doant sa na too it. Laa Shenay, go and ce if bi rummaging aul mi pockets u can fiand forty pistoalz; and if u can fiand them, bring them too me. And nou let us ce, yung man, withe yor hand uppon yor conshens, hou did aul this cum too paas?"

DArtanyan related the advenchure ov the preceding da in aul its detailz; hou, not havving bene abel too slepe for the joi he felt in the expectaishon ov ceying hiz Madgesty, he had gon too hiz thre frendz thre ourz befoer the our ov augens; hou dha had gon tooghether too the tennis coert, and hou, uppon the fere he had mannifested lest he receve a baul in the face, he had bene geerd at bi Baernazhu whoo had neerly pade for hiz gere withe hiz life and M. de laa Tremooweye, whoo had nuthhing too doo withe the matter, withe the los ov hiz hotel.

"This iz aul verry wel," mermerd the king, "yes, this iz just the acount the juke gave me ov the afare. Poor cardinal! Cevven men in too dase, and dhose ov hiz verry best! But dhats qwite enuf, gentelmen; plese too understand, dhats enuf. U hav taken yor revenj for the Ru Fairoo, and even exeded it; u aut too be sattisfide."

"If yor Madgesty iz so," ced Treveye, "we ar."

"O, yes; I am," added the king, taking a handfool ov goald from Laa Shenay, and pootting it intoo the hand ov dArtanyan. "Here," ced he, "iz a proofe ov mi satisfacshon."

At this epoc, the ideyaaz ov pride which ar in fashon in our dase did not prevale. A gentelman receevd, from hand too hand, munny from the king, and wauz not the leest in the werld humilleyated. DArtanyan poot hiz forty pistoalz intoo hiz pocket widhout enny scrupel—on the contrary, thanking hiz Madgesty graitley.

"Dhare," ced the king, loocking at a cloc, "dhare, nou, az it iz haaf paast ate, u ma retire; for az I toald u, I expect sumwun at nine. Thanx for yor devotednes, gentelmen. I ma continnu too reli uppon it, ma I not?"

"O, cire!" cride the foer companyonz, withe wun vois, "we wood alou ourcelvz too be cut too pecez in yor Madgestese cervice."

"Wel, wel, but kepe whole; dhat wil be better, and u wil be moer uesfool too me. Treveye," added the king, in a lo vois, az the utherz wer retiring, "az u hav no roome in the Musketeerz, and az we hav beciadz decided dhat a novishate iz nescenary befoer entering dhat coer, place this yung man in the cumpany ov the Gardz ov Msyer Decessar, yor bruther-in-lau. Aa, *PARDIEU*, Treveye! I enjoi befoerhand the face the cardinal wil make. He wil be fureyous; but I doant care. I am doowing whaut iz rite."

The king waivd hiz hand too Treveye, whoo left him and rejoind the Musketeerz, whoome he found sharing the forty pistoalz withe dArtanyan.

The cardinal, az hiz Madgesty had ced, wauz reyaly fureyous, so fureyous

dhat juring ate dase he abcented himcelf from the kingz gaming tabel. This did not prevent the king from beying az complacent too him az poscibel whenevver he met him, or from aasking in the kiandest tone, "Wel, Msyer Cardinal, hou faerz it withe dhat poor Zhusac and dhat poor Baernazhu ov yorz?"

## 7 THE INTEREYOR OV "THE MUSKETEERZ"

When dArtanyan wauz out ov the Luivr, and consulted hiz frendz uppon the uce he had best make ov hiz share ov the forty pistoalz, Aithos adviazd him too order a good repaast at the Pom-de-Pan, Porthos too en'gage a lacky, and Arramis too provide himcelf withe a sutabel mistres.

The repaast wauz carrede intoo efect dhat verry da, and the lacky wated at tabel. The repaast had bene orderd bi Aithos, and the lacky fernisht bi Porthos. He wauz a Picard, whoome the gloereyous Musketere had pict up on the Brij Toornel, making ringz and plashing in the wauter.

Porthos pretended dhat this ocupaishon wauz prooffe ov a reflective and contemplative organizaishon, and he had braut him awa widhout enny uther recomendaishon. The nobel carrage ov this gentelman, for whoome he beleevd himcelf too be en'gaijd, had wun Plaunsha—dhat wauz the name ov the Picard. He felt a slite disapointment, houwevver, when he sau dhat this place wauz aulreddy taken bi a compere naimd Muiscton, and when Porthos cignifide too him dhat the state ov hiz hous'hoald, dho grate, wood not supoert too cervants, and dhat he must enter intoo the cervice ov dArtanyan. Nevvertheles, when he wated at the dinner ghivven bi hiz maaster, and sau him take out a handfool ov goald too pa for it, he

beleevd hiz forchune made, and reternd thanx too hevven for havving throne him intoo the cervice ov such a Cresus. He preservd this opinyon even aafter the feest, withe the remnants ov which he repaerd hiz one long abstinens; but when in the evening he made hiz maasterz bed, the kimeraaz ov Plaunsha faded awa. The bed wauz the oanly wun in the apartment, which concisted ov an antechaimber and a bedroome. Plaunsha slept in the antechaimber uppon a cuvverlet taken from the bed ov dArtanyan, and which dArtanyan from dhat time made shift too doo widhout.

Aithos, on hiz part, had a valla whoome he had traind in hiz cervice in a thurroly peculeyar fashon, and whoo wauz naimd Gremo. He wauz verry tascitern, this werthy cinyor. Be it understood we ar speking ov Aithos. Juring the five or six yeerz dhat he had livd in the strictest intimacy withe hiz companyonz, Porthos and Arramis, dha cood remember havving often cene him smile, but had nevver herd him laaf. Hiz werdz wer brefe and exprescive, convaying aul dhat wauz ment, and no moer; no embellishments, no embroidery, no arabesx. Hiz conversaishon a matter ov fact, widhout a cin'ghel romans.

Auldho Aithos wauz scaersly thherty yeerz oald, and wauz ov grate personal buty and intelligens ov miand, no wun nu whether he had evver had a mistres. He nevver spoke ov wimmen. He certainly did not prevent utherz from speking ov them befoer him, auldho it wauz esy too perceve dhat this kiand ov conversaishon, in which he oanly min'gheld bi bitter werdz and misanthropic remarx, wauz verry disagreyabel too him. Hiz reserv, hiz rufnes, and hiz cilens made aulmoast an oald man ov him. He had, then, in order not too disterb hiz habits, acustomd Gremo too oba him uppon a cimpel geschure or uppon a cimpel muivment ov hiz lips. He nevver spoke too him, exept under the moast extrordinary ocaizhonz.

Sumtiamz, Gremo, whoo feerd hiz maaster az he did fire, while entertaning a strong atachment too hiz person and a grate veneraishon for hiz tallents, beleevd he perfectly understood whaut he waunted, flu too execute the order receevd, and did preciasly the contrary. Aithos then shrugd hiz shoalderz, and, widhout pootting himcelf in a pashon, thrasht Gremo. On these dase he spoke a littel.

Porthos, az we hav cene, had a carracter exactly opposite too dhat ov Aithos. He not oanly tauct much, but he tauct loudly, littel caring, we must render him dhat justice, whether enniboddy liscend too him or not. He tauct for the plezhure ov tauking and for the plezhure ov hering himcelf tauc. He spoke uppon aul subjects exept the ciyencez, aledging in this respect the invetterate haitred he had boern too scollarz from hiz chiald'hood. He had not so nobel an are az Aithos, and the comensment ov dhare intimacy often renderd him unjust tooword dhat gentelman, whoome

he endevvord too eclips bi hiz splendid dres. But withe hiz cimpel Musketeerz uniform and nuthhing but the manner in which he thru bac hiz hed and advaanst hiz foot, Aithos instantly tooc the place which wauz hiz ju and conciand the ostentaishous Porthos too the cecond ranc. Porthos consoald himcelf bi filling the antechaimber ov M. de Treveye and the gardroome ov the Luivr withe the acounts ov hiz luv scraips, aafter havving paast from profeshonal ladese too millitary ladese, from the lauyerz dame too the barones, dhare wauz qweschon ov nuthhing les withe Porthos dhan a forane princes, whoo wauz enormously fond ov him.

An oald provverb cez, "Like maaster, like man." Let us paas, then, from the valla ov Aithos too the valla ov Porthos, from Gremo too Muiscton.

Muiscton wauz a Norman, whose paciffic name ov Bonnifaas hiz maaster had

chainjd intoo the infiniatly moer sonnorous name ov Muiscton. He had enterd the cervice ov Porthos uppon condishon dhat he shood oanly be

cloadh and lojd, dho in a handsum manner; but he claimd too ourz a da too himcelf, concecrated too an emploiment which wood provide for hiz uther waunts. Porthos agrede too the bargane; the thhing suted him wunderfooly wel. He had dublets cut out ov hiz oald cloadhz and caast-of cloax for Muiscton, and thanx too a verry intelligent talor, whoo made hiz cloadhz looc az good az nu bi terning them, and whoose wife wauz suspected ov wishing too make Porthos decend from hiz aristocrattic habbits, Muiscton made a verry good figgure when atending on hiz maaster.

Az for Arramis, ov whoome we beleve we hav sufishmently explaind the carracter—a carracter which, like dhat ov hiz lacky wauz cauld Bazan. Thanx too the hoaps which hiz maaster entertaind ov sumda entering intoo orderz, he wauz aulwase cloadh in blac, az became the cervant ov a cherschman. He wauz a Berrishon, thherty-five or forty yeerz oald, miald, pesabel, sleke, employing the lezhure hiz maaster left him in the peruzal ov piyous werx, providing riggorously for too a dinner ov fu dishez, but exelent. For the rest, he wauz dum, bliand, and def, and ov unnimpechabel fidellity.

And nou dhat we ar aqwainted, superfishaly at leest, withe the maasterz and the vallase, let us paas on too the dwellingz occupide bi eche ov them.

Aithos dwelt in the Ru Fairoo, within too steps ov the Luxemburg. Hiz apartment concisted ov too smaul chaimberz, verry niasly fitted up, in a fernisht hous, the hoastes ov which, stil yung and stil reyaly handsum, caast tender glaancez ueslesly at him. Sum fragments ov paast splendor apeerd here and dhare uppon the waulz ov this moddest lodging; a soerd, for exaampel, richly embost, which belongd bi its make too the tiamz ov Fraancis I, the hilt ov which alone, encrusted withe preshous stoanz, mite be werth too hundred pistoalz, and which, nevvertheles, in hiz moments ov gratest distres Aithos had nevver plejd or offerd for

sale. It had long bene an object ov ambishon for Porthos. Porthos wood hav ghivven ten yeerz ov hiz life too poses this soerd.

Wun da, when he had an apointment withe a dutches, he endevvord even too boro it ov Aithos. Aithos, widhout saying ennithhing, emptede hiz pockets, got tooghether aul hiz juwelz, percez, aigwilletz, and goald chainz, and offerd them aul too Porthos; but az too the soerd, he ced it wauz ceeld too its place and shood nevver qwit it until its maaster shood himcelf qwit hiz lodgingz. In adishon too the soerd, dhare wauz a poertrate representing a nobelman ov the time ov Henry 3, drest withe the gratest ellegans, and whoo woer the Order ov the Holy Goast; and this poertrate had certane resemblancez ov lianz withe Aithos, certane fammily liacnecez which indicated dhat this grate nobel, a nite ov the Order ov the King, wauz hiz ancestor.

Beciadz these, a caasket ov magnifficent goaldwerc, withe the same armz az the soerd and the poertrate, formd a middel ornament too the mantelpece, and assorted badly withe the rest ov the fernichure. Aithos aulwase carrede the ke ov this coffer about him; but he wun da open it befoer Porthos, and Porthos wauz convinst dhat this coffer containd nuthhing but letterz and paperz—luv letterz and fammily paperz, no dout.

Porthos livd in an apartment, larj in cise and ov verry sumpshous aperans, in the Ru du Vyuu-Colombeya. Evvery time he paast withe a frend befoer hiz windose, at wun ov which Muiscton wauz shure too be plaist in fool livvery, Porthos raizd hiz hed and hiz hand, and ced, "Dhat iz mi abode!" But he wauz nevver too be found at home; he nevver invited enniboddy too go up withe him, and no wun cood form an ideyaa ov whaut hiz sumpshous apartment containd in the shape ov reyal ritchez.

Az too Arramis, he dwelt in a littel lodging compoazd ov a buidwar, an

eting roome, and a bedroome, which roome, citchuwated, az the utherz wer, on the ground floer, looct out uppon a littel fresh grene garden, shady and impennetrabel too the ise ov hiz naborz.

Withe regard too dArtanyan, we no hou he wauz lojd, and we hav aulreddy made aqwaintans withe hiz lacky, Maaster Plaunsha.

DArtanyan, whoo wauz bi nachure verry cureyous—az pepel genneraly ar whoo poses the geenyus ov intreghe—did aul he cood too make out whoo Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis reyaly wer (for under these sudonimz eche ov these yung men conceeld hiz fammily name)—Aithos in particcular, whoo, a leghe awa, savord ov nobillity. He adrest himcelf then too Porthos too gane informaishon respecting Aithos and Arramis, and too Arramis in order too lern sumthhing ov Porthos.

Unforchunaitly Porthos nu nuthhing ov the life ov hiz cilent companyon but whaut reveeld itcelf. It wauz ced Aithos had met withe grate croscez in luv, and dhat a friatfool tretchery had forevver poizond the life ov this gallant man. Whaut cood this tretchery be? Aul the werld wauz ignorant ov it.

Az too Porthos, exept hiz reyal name (az wauz the cace withe dhose ov hiz too comraidz), hiz life wauz verry esily none. Vane and indiscrete, it wauz az esy too ce throo him az throo a cristal. The oonly thhing too mislede the investigator wood hav bene belefe in aul the good thhingz he ced ov himcelf.

Withe respect too Arramis, dho havving the are ov havving nuthhing ceecret about him, he wauz a yung fello made up ov misterese, aancering littel



too qweschonz poot too him about utherz, and havving lernd from him the repoert which prevaild concerning the suxes ov the Musketere withe a princes, wisht too gane a littel incite intoo the ammorous advenchuerz ov hiz interlocutor. "And u, mi dere companyon," ced he, "u speke ov the baronecez, countecez, and princecez ov utherz?"

"*PARDIEU!* I spoke ov them becauz Porthos tauct ov them himcelf, becauz he had paraded aul these fine thhingz befoer me. But be ashuerd, mi dere Msyer dArtanyan, dhat if I had obtaind them from enny uther soers, or if dha had bene confided too me, dhare exists no confessor moer discrete dhan micelf."

"O, I doant dout dhat," replide dArtanyan; "but it ceemz too me dhat u ar tollerably familleyar withe coats ov armz—a certane embroiderd hankerchefe, for instans, too which I o the onnor ov yor aqwaintans?"

This time Arramis wauz not an'gry, but ashuemd the moast moddest are and

replide in a frendly tone, "Mi dere frend, doo not forghet dhat I wish too belong too the Cherch, and dhat I avoid aul mundane oporchunitese. The

hankerchefe u sau had not bene ghivven too me, but it had bene forgotten and left at mi hous bi wun ov mi frendz. I wauz obliajd too pic it up in order not too compromise him and the lady he luvz. Az for micelf, I niather hav, nor desire too hav, a mistres, following in dhat respect the verry judishous exaampel ov Aithos, whoo haz nun enny moer dhan I hav."

"But whaut the devvil! U ar not a preest, u ar a Musketere!"

"A Musketere for a time, mi frend, az the cardinal cez, a Musketere against mi wil, but a cherchman at hart, beleve me. Aithos and

Porthos dragd me intoo this too occupi me. I had, at the moment ov beying ordaind, a littel difficulty withe—But dhat wood not interest u, and I am taking up yor vallubel time."

"Not at aul; it interests me verry much," cride dArtanyan; "and at this moment I hav absoluetly nuthhing too doo."

"Yes, but I hav mi brevveyary too repete," aancerd Arramis; "then sum vercez too compose, which Madam dAgheyon begd ov me. Then I must go too the Ru St. Onnora in order too perchace sum rooje for Madam de Shevruuz. So u ce, mi dere frend, dhat if u ar not in a hurry, I am verry much in a hurry."

Arramis held out hiz hand in a corjal manner too hiz yung companyon, and tooc leve ov him.

Notwidhstanding aul the painz he tooc, dArtanyan wauz unnabel too lern enny moer concerning hiz thre nu-made frendz. He formd, dhaerfoer, the rezolueshon ov beleving for the prezsent aul dhat wauz ced ov dhare paast, hoping for moer certane and extended revelaishonz in the fuchure. In the meenwhile, he looct uppon Aithos az an Akillese, Porthos az an Ajax, and Arramis az a Josef.

Az too the rest, the life ov the foer yung frendz wauz joiyous enuf. Aithos plade, and dhat az a rule unforchunaitly. Nevvertheles, he nevver borode a soo ov hiz companyonz, auldho hiz pers wauz evver at dhare cervice; and when he had plade uppon onnor, he aulwase awakend hiz creditor bi cix oacloc the next morning too pa the det ov the preceding evening.

Porthos had hiz fits. On the dase when he wun he wauz insolent and ostentaishous; if he lost, he disapeerd compleetly for cevveral dase,

aafter which he reyapeerd withe a pale face and thhinner person, but withe munny in hiz pers.

Az too Arramis, he nevver plade. He wauz the werst Musketere and the moast unconviveyal companyon imadginabel. He had aulwase sumthhing or uther too doo. Sumtiamz in the midst ov dinner, when evveriwun, under the atracshon ov wine and in the wormth ov conversaishon, beleevd dha had too or thre ourz lon'gher too enjoi themcelvz at tabel, Arramis looct at hiz wauch, arose withe a bland smile, and tooc leve ov the cumpany, too go, az he ced, too consult a cazhuwist withe whoome he had an apointment. At uther tiamz he wood retern home too rite a tretese, and requested hiz frendz not too disterb him.

At this Aithos wood smile, withe hiz charming, mellancoly smile, which so became hiz nobel countenans, and Porthos wood drinc, swaring dhat Arramis wood nevver be ennithhing but a village *CURÉ*.

Plaunsha, dArtanyanz valla, supoerted hiz good forchune noably. He receevd thherty soose per da, and for a munth he reternd too hiz lodgingz ga az a chaffinch, and affabel tooword hiz maaster. When the wind ov advercity began too blo uppon the houskeping ov the Ru da Foswaa'er—dhat iz too sa, when the forty pistoalz ov King Loowy 13 wer conshuemd or neerly so—he comenst complaints which Aithos thaut nauzhous, Porthos indecent, and Arramis ridicculous. Aithos counceled dArtanyan too dismis the fello; Porthos wauz ov opinyon dhat he shood ghiv him a good thrashing ferst; and Arramis contended dhat a maaster shood nevver atend too ennithhing but the civillitese pade too him.

"This iz aul verry esy for u too sa," replide dArtanyan, "for u, Aithos, whoo liv like a dum man withe Gremo, whoo forbid him too speke,

and conceqwently nevver exchainj il werdz withe him; for u, Porthos, whoo carry matterz in such a magnifficent stile, and ar a god too yor valla, Muiscton; and for u, Arramis, whoo, aulwase abstracted bi yor ththeyolodgical studdese, inspire yor cervant, Bazan, a miald, relidjous man, withe a profound respect; but for me, whoo am widhout enny cetteld meenz and widhout rezoercez—for me, whoo am niather a Musketerer nor even a Gardzman, whaut I am too doo too inspire iather the afecshon, the terror, or the respect in Plaunsha?"

"This iz cereyous," aancerd the thre frendz; "it iz a fammily afare. It iz withe vallase az withe wiavz, dha must be plaist at wuns uppon the footing in which u wish them too remane. Reflect uppon it."

DArtanyan did reflect, and rezolv'd too thrash Plaunsha provizhonal; which he did withe the consheyenshousnes dhat dArtanyan carrede intoo evverithhing. Aafter havving wel beten him, he forbade him too leve hiz cervice widhout hiz permishon. "For," added he, "the fuchure canot fale too mend; I inevvitably looc for better tiamz. Yor forchune iz dhaerfoer made if u remane withe me, and I am too good a maaster too alou u too mis such a chaans bi graanting u the dismissal u reqwire."

This manner ov acting rouzd much respect for dArtanyanz pollicy among the Musketeerz. Plaunsha wauz eeqwaly ceezd withe admiraishon, and ced no moer about gowing awa.

The life ov the foer yung men had becum fraternal. DArtanyan, whoo had no cetteld habbits ov hiz one, az he came from hiz provvins intoo the midst ov hiz werld qwite nu too him, fel esily intoo the habbits ov hiz frendz.

Dha rose about ate oacloc in the winter, about cix in summer,

and went too take the countercine and ce hou thhingz went on at M. de Treveeyz. DArtanyan, auldho he wauz not a Musketere, performd the juty ov wun withe remarcabel puncchuwallity. He went on gard becauz he aulwase kept cumpany withe whoowevver ov hiz frendz wauz on juty. He wauz wel

none at the Hotel ov the Musketeeerz, whare evveriwun concidderd him a good comrade. M. de Treveye, whoo had apreesheyated him at the ferst glaans and whoo boer him a reyaf afecshon, nevver ceest recomending him too the king.

On dhare cide, the thre Musketeeerz wer much atacht too dhare yung comrade. The frendship which united these foer men, and the nede dha felt ov ceying anuther thre or foer tiamz a da, whether for juwelling, biznes, or plezhure, cauzd them too be continnuwaly running aafter wun anuther like shaddose; and the Incepparabelz wer constantly too be met withe ceking wun anuther, from the Luxemburg too the Plaas St. Suilpece, or from the Ru du Vyuu-Colombeya too the Luxemburg.

In the meenwhile the prommicez ov M. de Treveye went on prosperously. Wun fine morning the king comaanded M. de Shevalere Decessar too admit dArtanyan az a cadet in hiz cumpany ov Gardz. DArtanyan, withe a ci, dond hiz uniform, which he wood hav exchainjd for dhat ov a Musketere at the expens ov ten yeerz ov hiz existens. But M. de Treveye prommiast this favor aafter a novishate ov too yeerz—a novishate which mite beciadz be abrijd if an oportchunity shood present itcelf for dArtanyan too render the king enny cignal cervice, or too distin'gwish himcelf bi sum brilleyant acshon. Uppon this prommice dArtanyan widhdru,  
and the next da he began cervice.

Then it became the tern ov Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis too mount gard withe dArtanyan when he wauz on juty. The cumpany ov M. le Shevalere Decessar dhus receevd foer insted ov wun when it admitted dArtanyan.

## 8 CONCERNING A COERT INTREGHE

In the meentime, the forty pistoalz ov King Loowy 13, like aul uther thhingz ov this werld, aafter havving had a beghinning had an end, and aafter this end our foer companyonz began too be sumwhaut embarrast. At ferst, Aithos supoerted the asoasheyaishton for a time withe hiz one meenz.

Porthos suxeded him; and thanx too wun ov dhose disaperancez too which he wauz acostomd, he wauz abel too provide for the waunts ov aul for a fortnite. At laast it became Arramicez tern, whoo performd it withe a good grace and whoo suxeded—az he ced, bi celling sum ththeyolodgical boox—in procuring a fu pistoalz.

Then, az dha had bene acostomd too doo, dha had recors too M. de Treveye, whoo made sum advaancez on dhare pa; but these advaancez cood not go far withe thre Musketeerz whoo wer aulreddy much in areerz and a Gardzman whoo az yet had no pa at aul.

At length when dha found dha wer liacly too be reyaly in waunt, dha got tooghether, az a laast effort, ate or ten pistoalz, withe which Porthos went too the gaming tabel. Unforchunaitly he wauz in a bad vane; he lost aul, tooghether withe twenty-five pistoalz for which he had ghivven hiz werd.

Then the inconveenyens became distres. The hun'gry frendz, follode bi dhare lackese, wer cene haunting the kese and Gard ruimz, picking up amung dhare frendz abraud aul the dinnerz dha cood mete withe; for acording too the advice ov Arramis, it wauz prudent too so repaasts rite and left in prosperrity, in order too repe a fu in time ov nede.

Aithos wauz invited foer tiamz, and eche time tooc hiz frendz and dhare lackese withe him. Porthos had cix ocaizhonz, and contriavd in the same manner dhat hiz frendz shood partake ov them; Arramis had ate ov them. He wauz a man, az must hav bene aulreddy perceevd, whoo made but littel noiz, and yet wauz much saut aafter.

Az too dArtanyan, whoo az yet nu nobody in the cappital, he oonly found wun chocolate brecfast at the hous ov a preest ov hiz one provvins, and wun dinner at the hous ov a cornet ov the Gardz. He tooc hiz army too the preests, whare dha devourd az much provizhon az wood hav laasted him for too munths, and too the cornets, whoo performd wunderz; but az Plaunsha ced, "Pepel doo not ete at wuns for aul time, even when dha ete a good dele."

DArtanyan dhus felt himcelf humilleyated in havving oonly procuerd wun mele and a haaf for hiz companyonz—az the brecfast at the preests cood oonly be counted az haaf a repaast—in retern for the feests which Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis had procuerd him. He fancede himcelf a berden too the sociyety, forghetting in hiz perfectly juvenile good faith dhat he had fed this sociyety for a munth; and he cet hiz miand actiavly too werc. He reflected dhat this cowlishon ov foer yung, brave, enterprising, and active men aut too hav sum uther obgett dhan swagghering waux, fencing lessonz, and practical joax, moer or les witty.

In fact, foer men such az dha wer—foer men devoted too wun anuther,

from dhare percez too dhare liavz; foer men aulwase supoerting wun anuther, nevver yeelding, executing cin'gly or tooghether the rezolueshonz formd in common; foer armz threttening the foer cardinal points, or terning tooword a cin'ghel point—must inevvitably, iather subterainyously, in open da, bi mining, in the trench, bi cunning, or bi foers, open themcelvz a wa tooword the obgett dha wisht too atane, houwevver wel it mite be defended, or houwevver distant it ma ceme. The oonly thhing dhat astonnisht dArtanyan wauz dhat hiz frendz had nevver thaut ov this.

He wauz thhinking bi himcelf, and even cereyously racking hiz brane too fiand a direcshon for this cin'ghel foers foer tiamz multiplide, withe which he did not dout, az withe the lever for which Arkimedese saut, dha shood suxede in mooving the werld, when sumwun tapt gently at hiz doer. DArtanyan awakend Plaunsha and orderd him too open it.

From this frase, "dArtanyan awakend Plaunsha," the reder must not suppose it wauz nite, or dhat da wauz hardly cum. No, it had just struc foer. Plaunsha, too ourz befoer, had aasct hiz maaster for sum dinner, and he had aancerd him withe the provverb, "He whoo sleeps, dianz." And Plaunsha diand bi sleping.

A man wauz introjuest ov cimpel meyen, whoo had the aperans ov a traidzman. Plaunsha, bi wa ov dezsert, wood hav liact too here the conversaishon; but the cittisen declaerd too dArtanyan dhat whaut he had too sa beying important and confidenshal, he desiard too be left alone withe him.

DArtanyan dismist Plaunsha, and requested hiz vizsitor too be ceted. Dhare wauz a moment ov cilens, juring which the too men looct at eche uther, az if too make a preliminary aqwaintans, aafter which dArtanyan boud, az a cine dhat he liscend.



"I hav herd Msyer dArtanyan spoken ov az a verry brave yung man," ced the cittisen; "and this reputaishon which he justly enjoiz had decided me too confide a ceecret too him."

"Speke, msyer, speke," ced dArtanyan, whoo instinctiavly cented sumthhing advaantajous.

The cittisen made a fresh pauz and continnude, "I hav a wife whoo iz ceemstres too the qwene, msyer, and whoo iz not defishent in iather verchu or buty. I wauz injuest too marry her about thre yeerz ago, auldho she had but verry littel doury, becauz Msyer Laaport, the qweenz cloke barer, iz her godfaather, and befrendz her."

"Wel, msyer?" aasct dArtanyan.

"Wel!" rezhuemd the cittisen, "wel, msyer, mi wife wauz abducted yesterda morning, az she wauz cumming out ov her wercroome."

"And bi whoome wauz yor wife abducted?"

"I no nuthing shuerly, msyer, but I suspect sumwun."

"And whoo iz the person whoome u suspect?"

"A man whoo haz pershude her a long time."

"The devvil!"

"But alou me too tel u, msyer," continnude the cittisen, "dhat I am convinst dhat dhare iz les luv dhan pollitix in aul this."

"Les luv dhan pollitix," replide dArtanyan, withe a reflective are; "and whaut doo u suspect?"

"I doo not no whether I aut too tel u whaut I suspect."

"Msyer, I beg u too observ dhat I aasc u absoluetly nuthhing. It iz u whoo hav cum too me. It iz u whoo hav toald me dhat u had a ceecret too confide in me. Act, then, az u thhinc propper; dhare iz stil time too widhdrau."

"No, msyer, no; u apere too be an onnest yung man, and I wil hav confidens in u. I beleve, then, dhat it iz not on acount ov enny intreegz ov her one dhat mi wife haz bene arested, but becauz ov dhose ov a lady much grater dhan hercelf."

"Aa, aa! Can it be on acount ov the amoorz ov Madam de Bwaa-Tracy?" ced dArtanyan, wishing too hav the are, in the ise ov the cittisen, ov beying poasted az too coert afaerz.

"Hiyer, msyer, hiyer."

"Ov Madam dAgheyon?"

"Stil hiyer."

"Ov Madam de Shevruuz?"

"Ov the—" dArtanyan chect himcelf.

"Yes, msyer," replide the terrifide cittisen, in a tone so lo dhat he wauz scaersly audibel.

"And withe whoome?"

"Withe whoome can it be, if not the Juke ov—"

"The Juke ov—"

"Yes, msyer," replide the cittisen, ghivving a stil fainter intonaishon too hiz vois.

"But hou doo u no aul this?"

"Hou doo I no it?"

"Yes, hou doo u no it? No haaf-confidens, or—u understand!"

"I no it from mi wife, msyer—from mi wife hercelf."

"Whoo lernz it from whoome?"

"From Msyer Laaport. Did I not tel u dhat she wauz the goddauter ov Msyer Laaport, the confidenshal man ov the qwene? Wel, Msyer Laaport plaist her nere her Madgesty in order dhat our poor qwene mite at leest hav sumwun in whoome she cood place confidens, abandond az she iz bi the king, waucht az she iz bi the cardinal, betrade az she iz bi evveriboddy."

"Aa, aa! It beghinz too devellop itcelf," ced dArtanyan.

"Nou, mi wife came home foer dase ago, msyer. Wun ov her condishonz wauz dhat she shood cum and ce me twice a weke; for, az I had the onnor too tel u, mi wife luvz me deerly—mi wife, then, came and confided too me dhat the qwene at dhat verry moment entertaind grate feerz."

"Truly!"

"Yes. The cardinal, az it apeerz, pershuse he and percecuetts her moer dhan evver. He canot pardon her the history ov the Sarraband. U no

the history ov the Sarraband?"

"*PARDIEU!* No it!" replide dArtanyan, whoo nu nuthing about it, but whoo wisht too apere too no evverithhing dhat wauz gowing on.

"So dhat nou it iz no lon'gher haitred, but venjans."

"Indede!"

"And the qwene beleevz—"

"Wel, whaut duz the qwene beleve?"

"She beleevz dhat sumwun haz ritten too the Juke ov Buckingham in her name."

"In the qweenz name?"

"Yes, too make him cum too Parris; and when wuns cum too Parris, too drau him intoo sum snare."

"The devvil! But yor wife, msyer, whaut haz she too doo withe aul this?"

"Her devoashon too the qwene iz none; and dha wish iather too remoove her from her mistres, or too intimmidate her, in order too obtane her Madgestese ceecrets, or too cejuce her and make uce ov her az a spi."

"Dhat iz liacly," ced dArtanyan; "but the man whoo haz abducted her—doo u no him?"

"I hav toald u dhat I beleve I no him."

"Hiz name?"

"I doo not no dhat; whaut I doo no iz dhat he iz a crechure ov the cardinal, hiz evil geenyus."

"But u hav cene him?"

"Yes, mi wife pointed him out too me wun da."

"Haz he ennithhing remarcabel about him bi which wun ma reccognise him?"

"O, certainly; he iz a nobel ov verry lofty carrage, blac hare, sworthy complecshon, peercing i, white teeth, and haz a scar on hiz tempel."

"A scar on hiz tempel!" cride dArtanyan; "and withe dhat, white teeth, a peercing i, darc complecshon, blac hare, and hauty carrage—whi, dhats mi man ov Muung."

"He iz yor man, doo u sa?"

"Yes, yes; but dhat haz nuthhing too doo withe it. No, I am rong. On the contrary, dhat cimplifise the matter graitley. If yor man iz mine, withe wun blo I shal obtane too reven'gez, dhats aul; but whare too fiand this man?"

"I no not."

"Hav u no informaishon az too hiz abiding place?"

"Nun. Wun da, az I wauz convaying mi wife bac too the Luivr, he wauz cumming out az she wauz gowing in, and she shode him too me."

"The devvil! The devvil!" mermerd dArtanyan; "aul this iz vaghe enuf. From whoome hav u lernd ov the abducshon ov yor wife?"

"From Msyer Laaport."

"Did he ghiv u enny detailz?"

"He nu nun himcelf."

"And u hav lernd nuthhing from enny uther qworter?"

"Yes, I hav receevd—"

"Whaut?"

"I fere I am comitting a grate imprudens."

"U aulwase cum bac too dhat; but I must make u ce this time dhat it iz too late too retrete."

"I doo not retrete, *MORDIEU!*" cride the cittisen, swaring in order too rouz hiz currage. "Beciadz, bi the faith ov Bonasyuu—"

"U caul yorcelf Bonasyuu?" interupted dArtanyan.

"Yes, dhat iz mi name."

"U ced, then, bi the werd ov Bonasyuu. Pardon me for interupting u, but it apeerz too me dhat dhat name iz familleyar too me."

"Poscibly, msyer. I am yor landlord."

"Aa, aa!" ced dArtanyan, haaf rising and bouwing; "u ar mi

landlord?"

"Yes, msyer, yes. And az it iz thre munths cins u hav bene here, and dho, distracted az u must be in yor important ocupaishonz, u hav forgotten too pa me mi rent—az, I sa, I hav not tormented u a cin'ghel instant, I thaut u wood apreesheyate mi dellicacy."

"Hou can it be uthewise, mi dere Bonasyuu?" replide dArtanyan; "trust me, I am folly graitfool for such unparraleld conduct, and if, az I toald u, I can be ov enny cervice too u—"

"I beleve u, msyer, I beleve u; and az I wauz about too sa, bi the werd ov Bonasyuu, I hav confidens in u."

"Finnish, then, whaut u wer about too sa."

The cittisen tooc a paper from hiz pocket, and presented it too dArtanyan.

"A letter?" ced the yung man.

"Which I receevd this morning."

DArtanyan openid it, and az the da wauz beghinning too decline, he aproacht the windo too rede it. The cittisen follode him.

"Doo not ceke yor wife," red dArtanyan; "she wil be restoerd too u when dhare iz no lon'gher ocaizhon for her. If u make a cin'ghel step too fiand her u ar lost."

"Dhats pritty pozsitive," continnude dArtanyan; "but aafter aul, it iz but a mennace."

"Yes; but dhat mennace terrifise me. I am not a fiting man at aul,

msyer, and I am afrade ov the Bastele."

"Hum!" ced dArtanyan. "I hav no grater regard for the Bastele dhan u. If it wer nuthhing but a soerd thrust, whi then—"

"I hav counted uppon u on this ocaizhon, msyer."

"Yes?"

"Ceying u constantly surounded bi Musketeerz ov a verry superb aperans, and nowing dhat these Musketeerz belong too Msyer de Treveye, and wer conceqwently ennemese ov the cardinal, I thaut dhat u and yor frendz, while rendering justice too yor poor qwene, wood be pleezd too pla hiz Emminens an il tern."

"Widhout dout."

"And then I hav thaut dhat conciddering thre munths lodging, about which I hav ced nuthhing—"

"Yes, yes; u hav aulreddy ghivven me dhat rezon, and I fiand it exelent."

"Reconing stil ferther, dhat az long az u doo me the onnor too remane in mi hous I shal nevver speke too u about rent—"

"Verry kiand!"

"And adding too this, if dhare be nede ov it, mening too offer u fifty pistoalz, if, against aul probabillity, u shood be short at the prezsent moment."

"Admirabel! U ar rich then, mi dere Msyer Bonasyuu?"



"I am comfortably of, msyer, dhats aul; I hav sraipt toogheter sum such thhing az an incum ov too or thre thousand croun in the haberdashery biznes, but moer particcularly in venchuring sum fundz in the laast voiyage ov the cellebrated navigator Zhon Moca; so dhat u understand, msyer—But—" cride the cittisen.

"Whaut!" demaanded dArtanyan.

"Whoome doo I ce yonder?"

"Whare?"

"In the strete, facing yor windo, in the embraizhure ov dhat doer—a man rapt in a cloke."

"It iz he!" cride dArtanyan and the cittisen at the same time, eche havving reccogniazd hiz man.

"Aa, this time," cride dArtanyan, springing too hiz soerd, "this time he wil not escape me!"

Drauwing hiz soerd from its scabbard, he rusht out ov the apartment. On the staercace he met Aithos and Porthos, whoo wer cumming too ce him. Dha

ceparated, and dArtanyan rusht betwene them like a dart.

"Paa! Whare ar u gowing?" cride the too Musketeerz in a breth.

"The man ov Muung!" replide dArtanyan, and disapeerd.

DArtanyan had moer dhan wuns related too hiz frendz hiz advenchure withe

the strain'ger, az wel az the aparishon ov the butifool foraner, too whoome this man had confided sum important miscive.

The opinyon ov Aithos wauz dhat dArtanyan had lost hiz letter in the skermish. A gentelman, in hiz opinyon—and acording too dArtanyanz poertrate ov him, the strain'ger must be a gentelman—wood be incapabel ov the baisnes ov steling a letter.

Porthos sau nuthhing in aul this but a luv meting, ghivven bi a lady too a cavaleyer, or bi a cavaleyer too a lady, which had bene disterbd bi the prezsens ov dArtanyan and hiz yello hors.

Arramis ced dhat az these sorts ov afaerz wer mistereyous, it wauz better not too fadhom them.

Dha understood, then, from the fu werdz which escaipt from dArtanyan, whaut afaer wauz in hand, and az dha thaut dhat overtaking hiz man, or loosing cite ov him, dArtanyan wood retern too hiz ruimz, dha kept on dhare wa.

When dha enterd dArtanyanz chaimber, it wauz empty; the landlord, dredding the conceqwencez ov the encounter which wauz doutles about too take place betwene the yung man and the strain'ger, had, concistent withe the carracter he had ghivven himcelf, jujd it prudent too decamp.

## 9 DARTANYAN SHOSE HIMSELF

Az Aithos and Porthos had foercene, at the expiraishon ov a haaf our, dArtanyan reternd. He had agane mist hiz man, whoo had disapeerd az if bi enchaantment. DArtanyan had run, soerd in hand, throo aul the naboring streets, but had found nobody resembling the man he saut

for. Then he came bac too the point whare, perhaps, he aut too hav begun, and dhat wauz too noc at the doer against which the strain'ger had leend; but this pruivd uesles—for dho he noct ten or twelv tiamz in suxeshon, no wun aancerd, and sum ov the naborz, whoo poot dhare nosez out ov dhare windose or wer braut too dhare doerz bi the noiz, had ashuerd him dhat dhat hous, aul the openingz ov which wer tiatly cloazd, had not bene inhabbited for cix munths.

While dArtanyan wauz running throo the streets and nocking at doerz, Arramis had joind hiz companyonz; so dhat on reterning home dArtanyan found the reyuinyon complete.

"Wel!" cride the thre Musketeerz aul tooggether, on ceying dArtanyan enter withe hiz brou cuvverd withe perspiraishon and hiz countenans upcet withe an'gher.

"Wel!" cride he, throwing hiz soerd uppon the bed, "this man must be the devvil in person; he haz disapeerd like a fantom, like a shade, like a specter."

"Doo u beleve in aparishonz?" aasct Aithos ov Porthos.

"I nevver beleve in ennithhing I hav not cene, and az I nevver hav cene aparishonz, I doant beleve in them."

"The Bibel," ced Arramis, "make our belefe in them a lau; the goast ov Samuwel apeerd too Saul, and it iz an artikel ov faith dhat I shood be verry sory too ce enny dout throne uppon, Porthos."

"At aul events, man or devvil, boddy or shaddo, iluezhon or reyallity, this man iz born for mi damnaishon; for hiz flite haz cauzd us too mis a gloereyous afare, gentelmen—an afare bi which dhare wer a hundred pistoalz, and perhaps moer, too be gaind."

"Hou iz dhat?" cride Porthos and Arramis in a breth.

Az too Aithos, faithfool too hiz cistem ov retticens, he contented himcelf withe interrogating dArtanyan bi a looc.

"Plaunsha," ced dArtanyan too hiz domestic, whoo just then incinnuwated hiz hed throo the haaf-open doer in order too cach sum fragments ov the conversaishon, "go doun too mi landlord, Msyer Bonasyuu, and aasc him too cend me haaf a duzsen bottelz ov Boazhony wine; I prefer dhat."

"Aa, aa! U hav creddit withe yor landlord, then?" aasct Porthos.

"Yes," replide dArtanyan, "from this verry da; and miand, if the wine iz bad, we wil cend him too fiand better."

"We must use, and not abuse," ced Arramis, centenshously.

"I aulwase ced dhat dArtanyan had the lon'ghest hed ov the foer," ced Aithos, whoo, havving utterd hiz opinyon, too which dArtanyan replide withe a bou, imejaitly rezhuemd hiz acustomd cilens.

"But cum, whaut iz this about?" aasct Porthos.

"Yes," ced Arramis, "impart it too us, mi dere frend, unles the onnor ov enny lady be hazzarded bi this confidens; in dhat cace u wood doo better too kepe it too yorcelf."

"Be sattisfide," replide dArtanyan; "the onnor ov no wun wil hav cauz too complane ov whaut I hav too tel."

He then related too hiz frendz, werd for werd, aul dhat had paast

betwene him and hiz hoast, and hou the man whoo had abducted the wife  
ov  
hiz werthy landlord wauz the same withe whoome he had had the  
differens at  
the hostelry ov the Jolly Miller.

"Yor afare iz not bad," ced Aithos, aafter havving taisted like a  
conocer and indicated bi a nod ov hiz hed dhat he thaut the wine  
good; "and wun ma drau fifty or cixty pistoalz from this good man. Then  
dhare oanly remainz too ascertain whether these fifty or cixty pistoalz  
ar werth the risc ov foer hedz."

"But observ," cride dArtanyan, "dhat dhare iz a woomman in the afare—a  
woomman carrede of, a woomman whoo iz doutles threttend, torchuerd  
perhaps, and aul becauz she iz faithfool too her mistres."

"Beware, dArtanyan, beware," ced Arramis. "U gro a littel too worm,  
in mi opinyon, about the fate ov Madam Bonasyuu. Woomman wauz  
creyated for  
our destrucshon, and it iz from her we inherrit aul our mizserese."

At this speche ov Arramis, the brou ov Aithos became clouded and he bit  
hiz lips.

"It iz not Madam Bonasyuu about whoome I am ancshous," cride  
dArtanyan,  
"but the qwene, whoome the king abandonz, whoome the cardinal  
percecuets,  
and whoo cese the hedz ov aul her frendz faul, wun aafter the uther."

"Whi duz she luv whaut we hate moast in the werld, the Spanyardz and  
the  
In'glissh?"

"Spane iz her cuntry," replide dArtanyan; "and it iz verry natchural dhat she shoold luv the Spannish, whoo ar the children ov the same soil az hercelf. Az too the cecond reproche, I hav herd it ced dhat she duz not luv the In'glisch, but an In'glishman."

"Wel, and bi mi faith," ced Aithos, "it must be acnollejd dhat this In'glishman iz werthy ov beying luvd. I nevver sau a man withe a noabler are dhan hiz."

"Widhout recconing dhat he drescez az nobody els can," ced Porthos. "I wauz at the Luivr on the da when he scatterd hiz perlz; and, *PARDIEU*, I pict up too dhat I soald for ten pistoalz eche. Doo u no him, Arramis?"

"Az wel az u doo, gentelmen; for I wauz among dhose whoo ceezd him in the garden at Ammeyon, intoo which Msyer Pootaunzh, the qweenz eqwerry, introjuest me. I wauz at scoole at the time, and the advenchure apeerd too me too be cruwel for the king."

"Which wood not prevent me," ced dArtanyan, "if I nu whare the Juke ov Buckingham wauz, from taking him bi the hand and conducting him too the qwene, wer it oonly too enrage the cardinal, and if we cood fiand meenz too pla him a sharp tern, I vou dhat I wood voluntarily risc mi hed in doowing it."

"And did the mercer\*," rejoind Aithos, "tel u, dArtanyan, dhat the qwene thaut dhat Buckingham had bene braut over bi a foerjd letter?"

\*Habberdasher

"She iz afrade so."

"Wate a minnute, then," ced Arramis.

"Whaut for?" demaanded Porthos.

"Go on, while I endevvor too recaul circumstaancez."

"And nou I am convinst," ced dArtanyan, "dhat this abducshon ov the qweenz woomman iz conected withe the events ov which we ar speking, and perhaps withe the prezsens ov Buckingham in Parris."

"The Gascon iz fool ov ideyaaz," ced Porthos, withe admiraishon.

"I like too here him tauc," ced Aithos; "hiz diyalect amusez me."

"Gentelmen," cride Arramis, "liscen too this."

"Liscen too Arramis," ced hiz thre frendz.

"Yesterda I wauz at the hous ov a doctor ov theyollogy, whoome I sumtiamz consult about mi studdese."

Aithos smiald.

"He resiadz in a qwiyet qworter," continnude Arramis; "hiz taists and hiz profeshon require it. Nou, at the moment when I left hiz hous—"

Here Arramis pauzd.

"Wel," cride hiz auditorz; "at the moment u left hiz hous?"

Arramis apeerd too make a strong inword effort, like a man whoo, in the fool relaishon ov a fauls'hood, fiandz himcelf stopt bi sum unfoercene obstakel; but the ise ov hiz thre companyonz wer fixt uppon him, dhare eerz wer wide open, and dhare wer no meenz ov retrete.

"This doctor haz a nece," continnude Arramis.

"Aa, he haz a nece!" interupted Porthos.

"A verry respectabel lady," ced Arramis.

The thre frendz berst intoo laafter.

"Aa, if u laaf, if u dout me," replide Arramis, "u shal no nuthhing."

"We beleve like Mohammedanz, and ar az mute az tuimstoanz," ced Aithos.

"I wil continnu, then," rezhuemd Arramis. "This nece cumz sumtiamz too ce her unkel; and bi chaans wauz dhare yesterda at the same time dhat I wauz, and it wauz mi juty too offer too conduct her too her carrage."

"Aa! She haz a carrage, then, this nece ov the doctor?" interupted Porthos, wun ov whose faults wauz a grate luisnes ov tung. "A nice aqwaintans, mi frend!"

"Porthos," replide Arramis, "I hav had the ocaizhon too observ too u moer dhan wuns dhat u ar verry indiscrete; and dhat iz injureyous too u amung the wimmen."

"Gentelmen, gentelmen," cride dArtanyan, whoo began too ghet a glimps ov the rezult ov the advenchure, "the thhing iz cereyous. Let us tri not too



gest, if we can. Go on Arramis, go on."

"Aul at wuns, a taul, darc gentelman—just like yorz, dArtanyan."

"The same, perhaps," ced he.

"Poscibly," continnude Arramis, "came tooword me, acumpanede bi five or cix men whoo follode about ten pacez behiand him; and in the politest tone, Msyer Juke,' ced he too me, and u madam,' continnude he, adrescing the lady on mi arm—"

"The doctorz nece?"

"Hoald yor tung, Porthos," ced Aithos; "u ar insupoertabel."

"—wil u enter this carrage, and dhat widhout offering the leest resistans, widhout making the leest noiz?"

"He tooc u for Buckingam!" cride dArtanyan.

"I beleve so," replide Arramis.

"But the lady?" aasct Porthos.

"He tooc her for the qwene!" ced dArtanyan.

"Just so," replide Arramis.

"The Gascon iz the devvil!" cride Aithos; "nuthing escaips him."

"The fact iz," ced Porthos, "Arramis iz ov the same hite, and sumthhing ov the shape ov the juke; but it nevvertheles apeerz too me dhat the dres ov a Musketere—"

"I woer an enormous cloke," ced Arramis.

"In the munth ov Juli? The devvil!" ced Porthos. "Iz the doctor afrade dhat u ma be reccogniazd?"

"I can comprehend dhat the spi ma hav bene deceevd bi the person; but the face—"

"I had a larj hat," ced Arramis.

"O, good lord," cride Porthos, "whaut precaushonz for the studdy ov ththeyollogy!"

"Gentelmen, gentelmen," ced dArtanyan, "doo not let us loose our time in gesting. Let us cepparate, and let us ceke the mercerz wife—dhat iz the ke ov the intreghe."

"A woomman ov such infereyor condishon! Can u beleve so?" ced Porthos, protruding hiz lips withe contempt.

"She iz goddauter too Laaport, the confidenshal valla ov the qwene. Hav I not toald u so, gentelmen? Beciadz, it haz perhaps bene her Madgestese calculaishon too ceke on this ocaizhon for supoert so loly. Hi hedz expose themcelvz from afar, and the cardinal iz longcited."

"Wel," ced Porthos, "in the ferst place make a bargane withe the mercer, and a good bargane."

"Dhats uesles," ced dArtanyan; "for I beleve if he duz not pa us, we shal be wel enuf pade bi anuther party."

At this moment a sudden noiz ov footsteps wauz herd uppon the staerz; the doer wauz throne viyolently open, and the unforchunate mercer rusht

into the chamber in which the council wauz held.

"Save me, gentelmen, for the luv ov hevven, save me!" cride he. "Dhare ar foer men cum too arest me. Save me! Save me!"

Porthos and Arramis arose.

"A moment," cride dArtanyan, making them a cine too replace in the scabbard dhare haaf-draun soerdz. "It iz not currage dhat iz neded; it iz prudens."

"And yet," cride Porthos, "we wil not leve—"

"U wil leve dArtanyan too act az he thhinx propper," ced Aithos. "He haz, I repete, the lon'ghest hed ov the foer, and for mi part I declare dhat I wil oba him. Doo az u thhinc best, dArtanyan."

At this moment the foer Gardz apeerd at the doer ov the antechamber, but ceying foer Musketeerz standing, and dhare soerdz bi dhare ciadz, dha hezsitated about gowing farther.

"Cum in, gentelmen, cum in," cauld dArtanyan; "u ar here in mi apartment, and we ar aul faithfool cervants ov the king and cardinal."

"Then, gentelmen, u wil not opose our executing the orderz we hav receevd?" aasct wun whoo apeerd too be the leder ov the party.

"On the contrary, gentelmen, we wood acist u if it wer nescenary."

"Whaut duz he sa?" grumbeld Porthos.

"U ar a cimpelton," ced Aithos. "Cilens!"

"But u prommiast me—" whisperd the poor mercer.

"We can oonly save u bi beying fre ourcelvz," replide dArtanyan, in a rappid, lo tone; "and if we apere incliand too defend u, dha wil arest us withe u."

"It ceemz, nevvertheles—"

"Cum, gentelmen, cum!" ced dArtanyan, aloud; "I hav no motive for defending Msyer. I sau him tooda for the ferst time, and he can tel u on whaut ocaizhon; he came too demaand the rent ov mi lodging. Iz dhat not tru, Msyer Bonasyuu? Aancer!"

"Dhat iz the verry trueth," cride the mercer; "but Msyer duz not tel u—"

"Cilens, withe respect too me, cilens, withe respect too mi frendz; cilens about the qwene, abuv aul, or u wil ruwin evveriboddy widhout saving yorself! Cum, cum, gentelmen, remoove the fello." And dArtanyan poosht the haaf-schupefide mercer amung the Gardz, saying too him, "U ar a shabby oald fello, mi dere. U cum too demaand munny ov me—ov a Musketerere! Too prizzon withe him! Gentelmen, wuns moer, take him too prizzon, and kepe him under ke az long az poscibel; dhat wil ghiv me time too pa him."

The officerz wer fool ov thanx, and tooc awa dhare pra. Az dha wer gowing doun dArtanyan lade hiz hand on the shoalder ov dhare leder.

"Ma I not drinc too yor helth, and u too mine?" ced dArtanyan, filling too glaacez withe the Boazhoncy wine which he had obtaind from the liberallity ov M. Bonasyuu.

"Dhat wil doo me grate onnor," ced the leder ov the poscy, "and I

axept thancfooly."

"Then too yorz, msyer—whaut iz yor name?"

"Bwaarenar."

"Msyer Bwaarenar."

"Too yorz, mi gentelmen! Whaut iz yor name, in yor tern, if u plese?"

"DArtanyan."

"Too yorz, msyer."

"And abuv aul utherz," cride dArtanyan, az if carrede awa bi hiz enthuseyazm, "too dhat ov the king and the cardinal."

The leder ov the poscy wood perhaps hav douted the cincerrity ov dArtanyan if the wine had bene bad; but the wine wauz good, and he wauz convinst.

"Whaut diyabollical villany u hav performd here," ced Porthos, when the officer had rejoind hiz companyonz and the foer frendz found themcelvz alone. "Shame, shame, for foer Musketeerz too alou an unforchunate fello whoo cride for help too be arested in dhare midst! And a gentelman too hobnob withe a balif!"

"Porthos," ced Arramis, "Aithos haz aulreddy toald u dhat u ar a cimpelton, and I am qwite ov hiz opinyon. DArtanyan, u ar a grate man; and when u occupi Msyer de Treveeyz place, I wil cum and aasc yor influwens too cecure me an abby."

"Wel, I am in a mase," ced Porthos; "doo U aproove ov whaut dArtanyan

haz dun?"

"*PARBLEU!* Indede I doo," ced Aithos; "I not oanly aproove ov whaut he haz dun, but I con'gratchulate him uppon it."

"And nou, gentelmen," ced dArtanyan, widhout stopping too explane hiz conduct too Porthos, "Aul for wun, wun for aul—dhat iz our motto, iz it not?"

"And yet—" ced Porthos.

"Hoald out yor hand and sware!" cride Aithos and Arramis at wuns.

Overcum bi exaampel, grumbling too himcelf, nevvertheles, Porthos strecht out hiz hand, and the foer frendz repeted withe wun vois the formulaa dictated bi dArtanyan:

"Aul for wun, wun for aul."

"Dhats wel! Nou let us evveriwun retire too hiz one home," ced dArtanyan, az if he had dun nuthhing but comaand aul hiz life; "and atenshon! For from this moment we ar at fude withe the cardinal."

## 10 A MOUSTRAP IN THE CEVVENTEENTH CENCHURY

The invenshon ov the moustrap duz not date from our dase; az soone az sociyetese, in forming, had invented enny kiand ov polece, dhat polece invented moustraps.

Az perhaps our rederz ar not familleyar withe the slang ov the Ru de Gerusalem, and az it iz fiftene yeerz cins we aplide this werd for the ferst time too this thhing, alou us too explane too them whaut iz a moustrap.

When in a hous, ov whautevver kiand it ma be, an individjuwal suspected ov enny crime iz arested, the arest iz held ceecret. Foer or five men ar plaist in ambuscade in the ferst roome. The doer iz opend too aul whoo noc. It iz cloazd aafter them, and dha ar arested; so dhat at the end ov too or thre dase dha hav in dhare pouwer aulmoast aul the *HABITUES* ov the establishment. And dhat iz a moustrap.

The apartment ov M. Bonasyuu, then, became a moustrap; and whoowevver apeerd dhare wauz taken and interrogated bi the cardinalz pepel. It must be observd dhat az a ceeparate passage led too the ferst floer, in which dArtanyan lojd, dhose whoo cauld on him wer exempted from this detenshon.

Beciadz, nobody came thither but the thre Musketeerz; dha had aul bene en'gaijd in ernest cerch and inqwirese, but had discuverd nuthhing. Aithos had even gon so far az too qweschon M. de Treveye—a thhing which, conciddering the habitchuwal retticens ov the werthy Musketerere, had verry much astonnisht hiz captane. But M. de Treveye nu nuthhing, exept dhat the laast time he had cene the cardinal, the king, and the qwene, the cardinal looct verry thautfool, the king unnesy, and the rednes ov the qweenz ise donated dhat she had bene sleeples or teerfool. But this laast circumstaans wauz not striking, az the qwene cins her marrage had slept badly and wept much.

M. de Treveye requested Aithos, whatevver mite happen, too be observant ov hiz juty too the king, but particcularly too the qwene, begghing him too conva hiz desiarz too hiz comraidz.

Az too dArtanyan, he did not buj from hiz apartment. He converted hiz chaimber intoo an observatoery. From hiz windose he sau aul the vizsitorz whoo wer caut. Then, havving remuivd a planc from hiz floer, and nuthhing remaning but a cimpel celing betwene him and the roome beneeth, in which the interoggatoerese wer made, he herd aul dhat paast betwene the inqwizsitorz and the acuezd.

The interoggatoerese, preceded bi a minute cerch opperated uppon the personz arested, wer aulmoast aulwase fraimd dhus: "Haz Madam Bonasyuu cent ennithhing too u for her huzband, or enny uther person? Haz Msyer Bonasyuu cent ennithhing too u for hiz wife, or for enny uther person? Haz iather ov them confided ennithhing too u bi werd ov mouth?"

"If dha nu ennithhing, dha wood not qweschon pepel in this manner," ced dArtanyan too himself. "Nou, whaut iz it dha waunt too no? Whi, dha waunt too no if the Juke ov Buckingham iz in Parris, and if he haz had, or iz liacly too hav, an intervuu withe the qwene."

DArtanyan held ontoo this ideyaa, which, from whaut he had herd, wauz not waunting in probabillity.

In the meentime, the moustrap continnude in operaishon, and liaqwise dArtanyanz vidgilans.

On the evening ov the da aafter the arest ov poor Bonasyuu, az Aithos had just left dArtanyan too repoert at M. de Treveeyz, az nine oacloc



had just struc, and az Plaunsha, whoo had not yet made the bed, wauz beghinning hiz taasc, a nocking wauz herd at the strete doer. The doer wauz instantly opend and shut; sumwun wauz taken in the moustrap.

dArtanyan flu too hiz hole, lade himcelf doun on the floer at fool length, and liscend.

Crise wer soone herd, and then moanz, which sumwun apeerd too be endevvoring too stifel. Dhare wer no qweschonz.

"The devvil!" ced dArtanyan too himcelf. "It ceemz like a woomman! Dha cerch her; she resists; dha use foers—the scoundrelz!"

In spite ov hiz prudens, dArtanyan restraind himcelf withe grate difficulty from taking a part in the cene dhat wauz gowing on belo.

"But I tel u dhat I am the mistres ov the hous, gentelmen! I tel u I am Madam Bonasyuu; I tel u I belong too the qwene!" cride the unforchunate woomman.

"Madam Bonasyuu!" mermerd dArtanyan. "Can I be so lucky az too fiand whaut evveriboddy iz ceking for?"

The vois became moer and moer indistinct; a chumulchuwous muivment shooc the partishon. The victim resisted az much az a woomman cood resist foer men.

"Pardon, gentelmen—par—" mermerd the vois, which cood nou oanly be herd in inarticulate soundz.

"Dha ar bianding her; dha ar gowing too drag her awa," cride dArtanyan too himcelf, springing up from the floer. "Mi soerd! Good, it iz bi mi cide! Plaunsha!"

"Msyer."

"Run and ceke Aithos, Porthos and Arramis. Wun ov the thre wil certainly be at home, perhaps aul thre. Tel them too take armz, too cum here, and too run! Aa, I remember, Aithos iz at Msyer de Treveeyz."

"But whare ar u gowing, msyer, whare ar u gowing?"

"I am gowing doun bi the windo, in order too be dhare the sooner," cride dArtanyan. "U poot bac the boerdz, swepe the floer, go out at the doer, and run az I toald u."

"O, msyer! Msyer! U wil kil yorcelf," cride Plaunsha.

"Hoald yor tung, schupid fello," ced dArtanyan; and laying hoald ov the caisment, he let himcelf gently doun from the ferst stoery, which forchunaitly wauz not verry ellevated, widhout doowing himcelf the slitest injury.

He then went strate too the doer and noct, mermering, "I wil go micelf and be caut in the moustrap, but wo be too the cats dhat shal pouns uppon such a mous!"

The nocker had scaersly sounded under the hand ov the yung man befoer the chumult ceest, steps aproacht, the doer wauz opend, and dArtanyan, soerd in hand, rusht intoo the ruimz ov M. Bonasyuu, the doer ov which doutles acted uppon bi a spring, cloazd aafter him.

Then dhose whoo dwelt in Bonasyuuz unforchunate hous, tooghether withe the nerest naborz, herd loud crise, stamping ov fete, clashing ov soerdz, and braking ov fernichure. A moment aafter, dhose whoo, cerpriazd

bi this chumult, had gon too dhare windose too lern the cauz ov it, sau the doer open, and foer men, cloadhd in blac, not CUM out ov it, but FLI, like so menny fritend crose, leving on the ground and on the cornerz ov the fernichure, fetherz from dhare wingz; dhat iz too sa, patchez ov dhare cloadhz and fragments ov dhare cloax.

DArtanyan wauz conkeror—widhout much effort, it must be confest, for oanly wun ov the officerz wauz armd, and even he defended himcelf for formz sake. It iz tru dhat the thre utherz had endevvord too noc the yung man down withe chaerz, stuilz, and crockery; but too or thre scratchez made bi the Gasconz blade terrifide them. Ten minnuets sufiast for dhare defete, and dArtanyan remaind maaster ov the feeld ov battel.

The naborz whoo had opend dhare windose, withe the cuilnes peculeyar too the inhabbitants ov Parris in these tiamz ov perpetchuwal riyots and disterbancez, cloazd them agane az soone az dha sau the foer men in blac fle—dhare instinct telling them dhat for the time aul wauz over. Beciadz, it began too gro late, and then, az tooda, pepel went too bed erly in the qworter ov the Luxemburg.

On beying left alone withe Mme. Bonasyuu, dArtanyan ternd tooword her; the poor woomman recliand whare she had bene left, haaf-fainting uppon an armchare. DArtanyan exammiand her withe a rappid glaans.

She wauz a charming woomman ov twenty-five or twenty-cix yeeرز, withe darc hare, blu ise, and a nose sliatly ternd up, admirabel teeth, and a complecshon marbeld withe rose and opal. Dhare, houwevver, ended the cianz which mite hav confounded her withe a lady ov ranc. The handz wer white, but widhout dellicacy; the fete did not bespeke the woomman ov

qwaulity. Happily, dArtanyan wauz not yet aqwainted withe such nicetese.

While dArtanyan wauz exammining Mme. Bonasyuu, and wauz, az we hav ced,  
cloce too her, he sau on the ground a fine cambric hankerchefe, which he pict up, az wauz hiz habbit, and at the corner ov which he reccogniazd the same cifer he had cene on the hankerchefe which had neerly cauzd him and Arramis too cut eche utherz throte.

From dhat time, dArtanyan had bene caushous withe respect too hankercheefs withe armz on them, and he dhaerfoer plaist in the pocket ov Mme. Bonasyuu the wun he had just pict up.

At dhat moment Mme. Bonasyuu recuverd her cencez. She opend her ise, looct around her withe terror, sau dhat the apartment wauz empty and dhat she wauz alone withe her libberator. She extended her handz too him withe a smile. Mme. Bonasyuu had the swetest smile in the werld.

"Aa, msyer!" ced she, "u hav saivd me; permit me too thanc u."

"Madam," ced dArtanyan, "I hav oonly dun whaut evvery gentelman wood hav dun in mi place; u o me no thanx."

"O, yes, msyer, o, yes; and I hope too proove too u dhat u hav not cervd an in'grate. But whaut cood these men, whoome I at ferst tooc for robberz, waunt withe me, and whi iz Msyer Bonasyuu not here?"

"Madam, dhose men wer moer dain'gerous dhan enny robberz cood hav bene, for dha ar the agents ov the cardinal; and az too yor huzband, Msyer Bonasyuu, he iz not here becauz he wauz yesterda evening conducted too the Bastele."

"Mi huzband in the Bastele!" cride Mme. Bonasyuu. "O, mi God! Whaut haz he dun? Poor dere man, he iz innocens itcelf!"

And sumthhing like a faint smile lited the stil-terrifide fechuerz ov the yung woomman.

"Whaut haz he dun, madam?" ced dArtanyan. "I beleve dhat hiz oanly crime iz too hav at the same time the good forchune and the misforchune too be yor huzband."

"But, msyer, u no then—"

"I no dhat u hav bene abducted, madam."

"And bi whoome? Doo u no him? O, if u no him, tel me!"

"Bi a man ov from forty too forty-five yeerz, withe blac hare, a darc complecshon, and a scar on hiz left tempel."

"Dhat iz he, dhat iz he; but hiz name?"

"Aa, hiz name? I doo not no dhat."

"And did mi huzband no I had bene carrede of?"

"He wauz informd ov it bi a letter, ritten too him bi the abductor himcelf."

"And duz he suspect," ced Mme. Bonasyuu, withe sum embarrasment, "the cauz ov this event?"

"He attribbuted it, I beleve, too a polittical cauz."

"I doubted from the first; and now I think entirely as he does. Then my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Bonasyuu has not suspected me a single instant?"

"So far from it, madam, he was too proud of your prudence, and abstinence, of your love."

A second smile, almost imperceptible, stole over the rosy lips of the pretty young woman.

"But," continued d'Artagnan, "how did you escape?"

"I took advantage of a moment when she left me alone; and as I had no time in the morning the reason of my abduction, with the help of the sheets I let myself down from the window. Then, as I believed my husband would be at home, I had come hither."

"Too place yourself under his protection?"

"O, no, poor dear man! I am very well that he was incapable of defending me; but as he could serve us in other ways, I wished to inform him."

"Of what?"

"O, that is not my secret; I must not, therefore, tell you."

"Be careful," said d'Artagnan, "pardon me, madam, if, as a man, I remind you of prudence—be careful, I believe we are not here in a very proper place for imparting confidence. The men I have put to flight will return very soon; if she finds us here, we are lost. I have sent for three of my friends, but who knows whether they are at home?"

"Yes, yes! You are right," cried the affrighted M<sup>rs</sup>. Bonasyuu; "let us flee! Let us save ourselves."

At these werdz she paast her arm under dhat ov dArtanyan, and erjd him forword egherly.

"But whither shal we fli—whither escape?"

"Let us ferst widhdrau from this hous; aafterword we shal ce."

The yung woomman and the yung man, widhout taking the trubbel too shut the doer aafter them, decended the Ru da Foswaa'er rappidly, ternd intoo the Ru da Fos-Msyer-le-Prins, and did not stop til dha came too the Plaas St. Suilpece.

"And nou whaut ar we too doo, and whare doo u wish me too conduct u?" aasct dArtanyan.

"I am at qwite a los hou too aancer u, I admit," ced Mme. Bonasyuu. "Mi intenshon wauz too inform Msyer Laaport, throo mi huzband, in order dhat Msyer Laaport mite tel us preciasly whaut had taken place at the Luivr in the laast thre dase, and whether dhare iz enny dain'ger in presenting micelf dhare."

"But I," ced dArtanyan, "can go and inform Msyer Laaport."

"No dout u cood, oonly dhare iz wun misforchune, and dhat iz dhat Msyer Bonasyuu iz none at the Luivr, and wood be aloud too paas; wharaz u ar not none dhare, and the gate wood be cloazd against u."

"Aa, baa!" ced dArtanyan; "u hav at sum wicket ov the Luivr a *CONCIERGE* whoo iz devoted too u, and whoo, thanx too a paaswerd, wood—"

Mme. Bonasyuu looct earnestly at the yung man.

"And if I ghiv u this paaswerd," ced she, "wood u forghet it az soone az u uezd it?"

"Bi mi onnor, bi the faith ov a gentelman!" ced dArtanyan, withe an axent so truethfool dhat no wun cood mistake it.

"Then I beleve u. U apere too be a brave yung man; beciadz, yor forchune ma perhaps be the rezult ov yor devotednes."

"I wil doo, widhout a prommice and voluntarily, aul dhat I can doo too cerv the king and be agreyabel too the qwene. Dispose ov me, then, az a frend."

"But I—whare shal I go meenwhile?"

"Iz dhare nobody from whoose hous Msyer Laaport can cum and fech u?"

"No, I can trust nobody."

"Stop," ced dArtanyan; "we ar nere Aithocez doer. Yes, here it iz."

"Whoo iz this Aithos?"

"Wun ov mi frendz."

"But if he shoold be at home and ce me?"

"He iz not at home, and I wil carry awa the ke, aafter havving plaist u in hiz apartment."



"But if he shood retern?"

"O, he woant retern; and if he shood, he wil be toald dhat I hav braut a woomman withe me, and dhat woomman iz in hiz apartment."

"But dhat wil compromise me sadly, u no."

"Ov whaut conceqwens? Nobody nose u. Beciadz, we ar in a cichuwaishon too overllooc cerremony."

"Cum, then, let us go too yor frendz hous. Whare duz he liv?"

"Ru Fairoo, too steps from here."

"Let us go!"

Boath rezhuemd dhare wa. Az dArtanyan had foercene, Aithos wauz not within. He tooc the ke, which wauz customarily ghivven him az wun ov the fammily, acended the staerz, and introjuest Mme. Bonasyuu intoo the littel apartment ov which we hav ghivven a descripshon.

"U ar at home," ced he. "Remane here, faacen the doer incide, and open it too nobody unles u here thre taps like this;" and he tapt thrice—too taps cloce tooghether and pritty hard, the uther aafter an interval, and liter.

"Dhat iz wel," ced Mme. Bonasyuu. "Nou, in mi tern, let me ghiv u mi instrucshonz."

"I am aul atenshon."

"Present yorcelf at the wicket ov the Luivr, on the cide ov the Ru de

LEshel, and aasc for Zhairman."

"Wel, and then?"

"He wil aasc u whaut u waunt, and u wil aancer bi these too werdz, Toor and Bruselz.' He wil at wuns poot himcelf at yor orderz."

"And whaut shal I comaand him?"

"Too go and fech Msyer Laaport, the qweenz *VALET DE CHAMBRE*."

"And when he shal hav informd him, and Msyer Laaport iz cum?"

"U wil cend him too me."

"Dhat iz wel; but whare and hou shal I ce u agane?"

"Doo u wish too ce me agane?"

"Certainly."

"Wel, let dhat care be mine, and be at ese."

"I depend uppon yor werd."

"U ma."

DArtanyan boud too Mme. Bonasyuu, darting at her the moast luvving glaans dhat he cood poscibly concentrate uppon her charming littel person; and while he decended the staerz, he herd the doer cloazd and dubbel-loct. In too boundz he wauz at the Luivr; az he enterd the wicket ov LEshel, ten oacloc struc. Aul the events we hav descriabd had taken place within a haaf our.

Evverithhing fel out az Mme. Bonasyuu proffecide. On hering the paaswerd, Zhairman boud. In a fu minnuets, Laaport wauz at the loj; in too werdz dArtanyan informd him whare Mme. Bonasyuu wauz. Laaport ashuerd himcelf, bi havving it twice repeted, ov the accurate adres, and cet of at a run. Hardly, houwevver, had he taken ten steps befoer he reternd.

"Yung man," ced he too dArtanyan, "a sugeschon."

"Whaut?"

"U ma ghet intoo trubbel bi whaut haz taken place."

"U beleve so?"

"Yes. Hav u enny frend whoose cloc iz too slo?"

"Wel?"

"Go and caul uppon him, in order dhat he ma ghiv evvidens ov yor havving bene withe him at haaf paast nine. In a coert ov justice dhat iz cauld an allibi."

DArtanyan found hiz advice prudent. He tooc too hiz heelz, and wauz soone at M. de Treveeyz; but insted ov gowing intoo the saloone withe the rest ov the croud, he aasct too be introjuest too M. de Treveeyz office. Az dArtanyan so constantly freqwented the hotel, no difficulty wauz made in complying withe hiz reqwest, and a cervant went too inform M. de Treveye

dhat hiz yung compaitreyot, havving sumthhing important too comunciate, soliscited a private augens. Five minnuets aafter, M. de Treveye wauz aasking dArtanyan whaut he cood doo too cerv him, and whaut cauzd hiz vizsit at so late an our.

"Pardon me, msyer," ced dArtanyan, whoo had proffited bi the moment he had bene left alone too poot bac M. de Treveeyz cloc thre-qworterz ov an our, "but I thaut, az it wauz yet oanly twenty-five minnuets paast nine, it wauz not too late too wate uppon u."

"Twenty-five minnuets paast nine!" cride M. de Treveye, loocking at the cloc; "whi, dhats imposcibel!"

"Looc, raather, msyer," ced dArtanyan, "the cloc shose it."

"Dhats tru," ced M. de Treveye; "I beleevd it later. But whaut can I doo for u?"

Then dArtanyan toald M. de Treveye a long history about the qwene. He exprest too him the feerz he entertaind withe respect too her Madgesty; he related too him whaut he had herd ov the prodjects ov the cardinal withe

regard too Buckingham, and aul withe a tranqwillity and candor ov which M.

de Treveye wauz the moer the jupe, from havving himcelf, az we hav ced, observd sumthhing fresh betwene the cardinal, the king, and the qwene.

Az ten oacloc wauz striking, dArtanyan left M. de Treveye, whoo thanct him for hiz informaishon, recomended him too hav the cervice ov the king and qwene aulwase at hart, and reternd too the saloone; but at the foot ov the staerz, dArtanyan rememberd he had forgotten hiz cane. He conceqwently sprang up agane, re-enterd the office, withe a tern ov hiz fin'gher cet the cloc rite agane, dhat it mite not be perceevd the

next da dhat it had bene poot rong, and certane from dhat time dhat he had a witnes too prove hiz allibi, he ran dounstaerz and soone found himcelf in the strete.

## 11 IN WHICH THE PLOT THHICKENZ

Hiz vizsit too M. de Treveye beying pade, the pencive dArtanyan tooc the lon'ghest wa hoamword.

On whaut wauz dArtanyan ththinking, dhat he strade dhus from hiz paath, gasing at the starz ov hevven, and sumtiamz ciying, sumtiamz smiling?

He wauz ththinking ov Mme. Bonasyuu. For an apretnice Musketere the yung

woomman wauz aulmoast an ideyal ov luv. Pritty, mistereyous, inisheyated in

aulmoast aul the ceecrets ov the coert, which reflected such a charming gravvity over her plesing fechuerz, it mite be cermiazd dhat she wauz not wholly unmuivd; and this iz an iresistibel charm too novvicez in luv. Moerover, dArtanyan had delivverd her from the handz ov the demonz whoo wisht too cerch and il trete her; and this important cervice had establisht betwene them wun ov dhose centiments ov grattichude which so esily ashume a moer tender carracter.

DArtanyan aulreddy fancede himcelf, so rappid iz the flite ov our dreemz uppon the wingz ov imaginaishon, acosted bi a mescen'ger from the yung woomman, whoo braut him sum billet apointing a meting, a goald chane, or a dimond. We hav observd dhat yung cavaleyerz receevd prezents from dhare king widhout shame. Let us ad dhat in these tiamz ov lax morallity dha had no moer dellicacy withe respect too the mistrecez; and dhat the latter aulmoast aulwase left them vallubel and jurabel

remembrancez, az if dha essade too conker the fragillity ov dhare centiments bi the soliddity ov dhare ghifts.

Without a blush, men made dhare wa in the werld bi the meenz ov wimmen

blushing. Such az wer oonly butifool gave dhare buty, whens, widhout dout, cumz the provverb, "The moast butifool gherl in the werld can oonly ghiv whaut she haz." Such az wer rich gave in adishon a part ov dhare munny; and a vaast number ov herose ov dhat gallant pereyod ma be cited whoo wood niather hav wun dhare sperz in the ferst place, nor dhare battelz aafterword, widhout the pers, moer or les fernisht, which dhare mistres faacend too the saddel bou.

DArtanyan oand nuthhing. Provinshal diffidens, dhat slite varnish, the efemmeral flouwer, dhat doun ov the peche, had evapporated too the windz throo the littel orthodox councelz which the thre Musketeeرز gave dhare frend. DArtanyan, following the strainj custom ov the tiamz, concidderd himcelf at Parris az on a campane, niather moer nor les dhan if he had bene in Flaanderz—Spane yonder, woomman here. In eche dhare wauz an ennemy too contend withe, and contribueshonz too be levvede.

But, we must sa, at the prezsent moment dArtanyan wauz ruelld bi a feling much moer nobel and dicinterested. The mercer had ced dhat he wauz rich; the yung man mite esily ghes dhat withe so weke a man az M. Bonasyuu; and interest wauz aulmoast forane too this comensment ov luv, which had bene the conceqwens ov it. We sa AULMOAST, for the ideyaa dhat a yung, handsum, kiand, and witty woomman iz at the same time rich taix nuthhing from the beghinning ov luv, but on the contrary strengthhenz it.

Dhare ar in afluwens a croud ov aristocrattic caerz and caprecez which ar hily becumming too buty. A fine and white stocking, a cilken robe,

a lace kerchefe, a pritty slipper on the foot, a taisty ribbon on the hed doo not make an ugly woomman pritty, but dha make a pritty woomman

butifool, widhout recconing the handz, which gane bi aul this; the handz, amung wimmen particcularly, too be butifool must be idel.

Then dArtanyan, az the reder, from whoome we hav not conceeld the state ov hiz forchune, verry wel nose—dArtanyan wauz not a milleyonare; he hoapt too becum wun sumda, but the time which in hiz one miand he fixt uppon for this happy chainj wauz stil far distant. In the meenwhile, hou dis'hartening too ce the woomman wun luvz long for dhose

thouzandz ov nuthhingz which constichute a woommanz happines, and be unnabel too ghiv her dhose thouzandz ov nuthhingz. At leest, when the woomman

iz rich and the luvver iz not, dhat which he canot offer she offerz too hercelf; and auldho it iz genneraly withe her huzbandz munny dhat she procuerz hercelf this indulgens, the grattichude for it celdom reverts too him.

Then dArtanyan, dispoazd too becum the moast tender ov luvverz, wauz at the same time a verry devoted frend, In the midst ov hiz ammorous prodjects for the mercerz wife, he did not forghet hiz frendz. The pritty Mme. Bonasyuu wauz just the woomman too wauc withe in the Plane St.

Dennis or in the fare ov St. Zhairman, in cumpany withe Aithos, Porthos, and

Arramis, too whoome dArtanyan had often remarct this. Then wun cood enjoi

charming littel dinnerz, whare wun tutchez on wun cide the hand ov a frend, and on the uther the foot ov a mistres. Beciadz, on prescing ocaizhonz, in extreme difficultese, dArtanyan wood becum the preserver ov hiz frendz.

And M. Bonasyuu? whoome dArtanyan had poosht intoo the handz ov the officerz, denyinyg him aloud auldho he had prommiast in a whisper too save him. We ar compeld too admit too our rederz dhat dArtanyan thaut nuthhing about him in enny wa; or dhat if he did thhinc ov him, it wauz oanly too sa too himcelf dhat he wauz verry wel whare he wauz, wharevver it mite be. Luv iz the moast celfish ov aul the pashonz.

Let our rederz reyashure themcelvz. IF dArtanyan forghets hiz hoast, or apeerz too forghet him, under the pretens ov not nowinyg whare he haz bene carrede, we wil not forghet him, and we no whare he iz. But for the moment, let us doo az did the ammorous Gascon; we wil ce aafter the werthy mercer later.

DArtanyan, reflecting on hiz fuchure amoorz, adrescing himcelf too the butifool nite, and smiling at the starz, acended the Ru Cherrish-Middy, or Chace-Middy, az it wauz then cauld. Az he found himcelf in the qworter in which Arramis livd, he tooc it intoo hiz hed too pa hiz frend a vizsit in order too explane the motiavz which had led him too cend Plaunsha withe a reqwest dhat he wood cum instantly too the moustrap. Nou, if Arramis had bene at home when Plaunsha came too hiz abode, he had doutles hacend too the Ru da Foswaa'er, and fianding nobody dhare but hiz uther too companyonz perhaps, dha wood not be abel too conceve whaut aul this ment. This mistery reqwiard an explanaishon; at leest, so dArtanyan declaerd too himcelf.

He liaqwise thaut this wauz an oporchunity for tauking about pritty littel Mme. Bonasyuu, ov whoome hiz hed, if not hiz hart, wauz aulreddy fool. We must nevver looc for disreshon in ferst luv. Ferst luv iz acumpanede bi such exescive joi dhat unles the joi be aloud too overflo, it wil stifel u.

Parris for too ourz paast had bene darc, and ceemd a dezsert. Elevelven



oacloc sounded from aul the clox ov the Foboorg St. Zhairman. It wauz deliatfool wether. DArtanyan wauz paacing along a lane on the spot whare the Ru dAssaa iz nou citchuwated, breething the baalmy emanaishonz

which wer boern uppon the wind from the Ru de Vojirar, and which arose from the gardenz refresht bi the juse ov evening and the brese ov nite. From a distans rezounded, deddend, houwevver, bi good shutterz, the songz ov the tiplerz, enjoyiing themcelvz in the cabbarase scatterd along the plane. Ariavd at the end ov the lane, dArtanyan ternd too the left. The hous in which Arramis dwelt wauz citchuwated betwene the Ru Cascet and the Ru Sairvandy.

DArtanyan had just paast the Ru Cascet, and aulreddy perceevd the doer ov hiz frendz hous, shaded bi a mas ov ciccamorz and clematis which formd a vaast arch opposite the frunt ov it, when he perceevd sumthhing like a shaddo ishewing from the Ru Sairvandy. This sumthhing wauz envellopt in a cloke, and dArtanyan at ferst beleevd it wauz a man; but bi the smaules ov the form, the hesitaishon ov the wauc, and the indecizhon ov the step, he soone discuverd dhat it wauz a woomman. Ferther, this woomman, az if not certane ov the hous she wauz ceking, lifted up her ise too looc around her, stopt, went baqword, and then reternd agane. DArtanyan wauz perplex.

"Shal I go and offer her mi cervicez?" thaut he. "Bi her step she must be yung; perhaps she iz pritty. O, yes! But a woomman whoo waunderz in the streets at this our oonly venchuerz out too mete her luvver. If I shood disterb a rondavoo, dhat wood not be the best meenz ov comencing an aqwaintans."

Meentime the yung woomman continnude too advaans, counting the housez and windose. This wauz niather long nor difficult. Dhare wer but thre hotelz in this part ov the strete; and oanly too windose loocking tooword the rode, wun ov which wauz in a pavilleyon parralel too dhat which Arramis occupide, the uther belonging too Arramis himcelf.

"*PARIDIEU!*" ced dArtanyan too himcelf, too whoose miand the nece ov the thheyolojan reverted, "*PARDIEU*, it wood be drole if this belated duv shood be in cerch ov our frendz hous. But on mi sole, it loox so. Aa, mi dere Arramis, this time I shal fiand u out." And dArtanyan, making himcelf az smaul az he cood, conceeld himcelf in the darkest cide ov the strete nere a stone bench plaist at the bac ov a nich.

The yung woomman continnude too advaans; and in adishon too the liatnes ov her step, which had betrade her, she emitted a littel cof which denoted a swete vois. DArtanyan beleevd this cof too be a cignal.

Nevvertheles, whether the cof had bene aancerd bi a cimmilar cignal which had fixt the irezzolueshon ov the nocternal ceker, or whether widhout this ade she sau dhat she had ariavd at the end ov her gerny, she rezzoluetly dru nere too Arramicez shutter, and tapt, at thre eequal intervalz, withe her bent fin'gher.

"This iz aul verry fine, dere Arramis," mermerd dArtanyan. "Aa, Msyer Hippocrite, I understand hou u studdy thheyollogy."

The thre blose wer scaersly struc, when the incide bliand wauz opend and a lite apeerd throo the painz ov the outcide shutter.

"Aa, aa!" ced the liscener, "not throo doerz, but throo windose!"

Aa, this vizsit wauz expected. We shal ce the windose open, and the lady enter bi escalaad. Verry pritty!"

But too the grate astonishment ov dArtanyan, the shutter remaind cloazd. Stil moer, the lite which had shon for an instant disapeerd, and aul wauz agane in obscurity.

DArtanyan thaut this cood not laast long, and continnude too looc withe aul hiz ise and liscen withe aul hiz eerz.

He wauz rite; at the end ov sum cecondz too sharp taps wer herd incide. The yung woomman in the strete replide bi a cin'ghel tap, and the shutter wauz opend a littel wa.

It ma be jujd whether dArtanyan looct or liscend withe aviddity. Unforchunaitly the lite had bene remuivd intoo anuther chaimber; but the ise ov the yung man wer acustomd too the nite. Beciadz, the ise ov the Gasconz hav, az it iz acerted, like dhose ov cats, the facculy ov ceying in the darc.

DArtanyan then sau dhat the yung woomman tooc from her pocket a white obgect, which she unfoalded qwicly, and which tooc the form ov a hankerchefe. She made her interlocutor observ the corner ov this unfoalded obgect.

This imejaitly recauld too dArtanyanz miand the hankerchefe which he had found at the fete ov Mme. Bonasyuu, which had remianded him ov dhat which he had dragd from under the fete ov Arramis.

"Whaut the devvil cood dhat hankerchefe cignifi?"

Plaist whare he wauz, dArtanyan cood not perceve the face ov Arramis. We sa Arramis, becauz the yung man entertaind no dout dhat it wauz

hiz frend whoo held this diyalog from the intereyor withe the lady ov the extereyor. Cureyosity prevaile over prudens; and proffiting bi the preyoccupaishon intoo which the cite ov the hankerchefe apeerd too hav plunjed the too personagez nou on the cene, he stole from hiz hiding place, and qwic az liatning, but stepping withe utmoast caushon, he ran and plaist himself cloce too the an'ghel ov the waul, from which hiz i cood peers the intereyor ov Arramicez roome.

Uppon ganing this advaantage dArtanyan wauz nere uttering a cri ov cerprise; it wauz not Arramis whoo wauz convercing withe the nocturnal vizsitor, it wauz a woomman! DArtanyan, houwevver, cood oanly ce enuf too reccognise the form ov her vestments, not enuf too distin'gwish her fechuerz.

At the same instant the woomman incide dru a cecond hankerchefe from her pocket, and exchainjd it for dhat which had just bene shone too her. Then sum werdz wer spoken bi the too wimmen. At length the shutter cloazd. The woomman whoo wauz outside the windo ternd round, and paast within foer steps ov dArtanyan, pooling doun the hood ov her mantel; but the precaushon wauz too late, dArtanyan had aulreddy reccogniazd Mme. Bonasyuu.

Mme. Bonasyuu! The suspishon dhat it wauz she had crost the miand ov dArtanyan when she dru the hankerchefe from her pocket; but whaut probabillity wauz dhare dhat Mme. Bonasyuu, whoo had cent for M. Laaport in order too be reconducted too the Luivr, shood be running about the streets ov Parris at haaf paast elevven at nite, at the risc ov beying abducted a cecond time?

This must be, then, an afare ov importans; and whaut iz the moast important afare too a woomman ov twenty-five! Luv.

But wauz it on her one acount, or on acount ov anuther, dhat she expoazd hercelf too such hazzardz? This wauz a qweschon the yung man aasct himcelf, whoome the demon ov gelloucy aulreddy naud, beying in hart niather moer nor les dhan an axepted luvver.

Dhare wauz a verry cimpel meenz ov sattisfiying himcelf whither Mme. Bonasyuu wauz gowing; dhat wauz too follo her. This method wauz so cimpel dhat dArtanyan emploid it qwite natchuraly and instinctiavly.

But at the cite ov the yung man, whoo detacht himcelf from the waul like a statchu wauking from its nich, and at the noiz ov the steps which she herd rezound behiand her, Mme. Bonasyuu utterd a littel cri and fled.

DArtanyan ran aafter her. It wauz not difficult for him too overtake a woomman embarrast withe her cloke. He came up withe her befoer she had traverst a thherd ov the strete. The unforchunate woomman wauz exhausted, not bi fateghe, but bi terror, and when dArtanyan plaist hiz hand uppon her shoalder, she sanc uppon wun ne, crying in a choking vois, "Kil me, if u plese, u shal no nuthhing!"

DArtanyan raizd her bi paacing hiz arm round her waist; but az he felt bi her wate she wauz on the point ov fainting, he made haist too reyashure her bi protestaishonz ov devotednes. These protestaishonz wer nuthhing for Mme. Bonasyuu, for such protestaishonz ma be made withe the werst intenshonz in the werld; but the vois wauz aul. Mme. Bonasyuu thaut she reccogniazd the sound ov dhat vois; she reyopend her ise, caast a qwic glaans uppon the man whoo had terrifide her so, and at wuns

perceiving it wauz dArtanyan, she utterd a cri ov joi, "O, it iz u, it iz u! Thanc God, thanc God!"

"Yes, it iz I," ced dArtanyan, "it iz I, whoome God haz cent too wauch over u."

"Wauz it withe dhat intenshon u follode me?" aasct the yung woomman, withe a cokettish smile, whose sumwhaut bantering carracter rezhuemd its influwens, and withe whoome aul fere had disapeerd from the moment in which she reccogniazd a frend in wun she had taken for an ennemy.

"No," ced dArtanyan; "no, I confes it. It wauz chaans dhat thru me in yor wa; I sau a woomman nocking at the windo ov wun ov mi frendz."

"Wun ov yor frendz?" interupted Mme. Bonasyuu.

"Widhout dout; Arramis iz wun ov mi best frendz."

"Arramis! Whoo iz he?"

"Cum, cum, u woant tel me u doant no Arramis?"

"This iz the ferst time I evver herd hiz name pronounst."

"It iz the ferst time, then, dhat u evver went too dhat hous?"

"Undoutedly."

"And u did not no dhat it wauz inhabbited bi a yung man?"

"No."

"Bi a Musketere?"

"No, indede!"

"It wauz not he, then, u came too ceke?"

"Not the leest in the werld. Beciadz, u must hav cene dhat the person too whoome I spoke wauz a woomman."

"Dhat iz tru; but this woomman iz a frend ov Arramis—"

"I no nuthhing ov dhat."

"—cins she lodgez withe him."

"Dhat duz not concern me."

"But whoo iz she?"

"O, dhat iz not mi ceecret."

"Mi dere Madam Bonasyuu, u ar charming; but at the same time u ar wun ov the moast mistereyous wimmen."

"Doo I loose bi dhat?"

"No; u ar, on the contrary, adoerabel."

"Ghiv me yor arm, then."

"Moast willingly. And nou?"

"Nou escort me."

"Whare?"

"Whare I am gowing."

"But whare ar u gowing?"

"U wil ce, becauz u wil leve me at the doer."

"Shal I wate for u?"

"Dhat wil be uesles."

"U wil retern alone, then?"

"Perhaps yes, perhaps no."

"But wil the person whoo shal acumpany u aafterword be a man or a woomman?"

"I doant no yet."

"But I wil no it!"

"Hou so?"

"I wil wate until u cum out."

"In dhat cace, aju."

"Whi so?"

"I doo not waunt u."

"But u hav claimd—"



"The ade ov a gentelman, not the wauchfoolnes ov a spi."

"The werd iz raather hard."

"Hou ar dha cauld whoo follo utherz in spite ov them?"

"Dha ar indiscrete."

"The werd iz too miald."

"Wel, madam, I perceve I must doo az u wish."

"Whi did u deprive yorcelf ov the merrit ov doowing so at wuns?"

"Iz dhare no merrit in repentans?"

"And doo u reyaly repent?"

"I no nuthhing about it micelf. But whaut I no iz dhat I prommice too doo aul u wish if u alou me too acumpany u whare u ar gowing."

"And u wil leve me then?"

"Yes."

"Widhout wating for mi cumming out agane?"

"Yes."

"Werd ov onnor?"

"Bi the faith ov a gentelman. Take mi arm, and let us go."

DArtanyan offerd hiz arm too Mme. Bonasyuu, whoo willingly tooc it,

haaf laafing, haaf trembling, and boath gaind the top ov Ru de laa Arp. Ariving dhare, the yung woomman ceemd too hezsitate, az she had befoer dun in the Ru Vojirar. She ceemd, houwevver, bi certane cianz, too reccognise a doer, and aproching dhat doer, "And nou, msyer," ced she, "it iz here I hav biznes; a thouzand thanx for yor onnorabel cumpany, which haz saivd me from aul the dain'gerz too which, alone I wauz expoazd. But the moment iz cum too kepe yor werd; I hav reecht mi destinaishon."

"And u wil hav nuthhing too fere on yor retern?"

"I shal hav nuthhing too fere but robberz."

"And dhat iz nuthhing?"

"Whaut cood dha take from me? I hav not a penny about me."

"U forghet dhat butifool hankerchefe withe the cote ov armz."

"Which?"

"Dhat which I found at yor fete, and replaist in yor pocket."

"Hoald yor tung, imprudent man! Doo u wish too destroi me?"

"U ce verry plainly dhat dhare iz stil dain'ger for u, cins a cin'ghel werd maix u trembel; and u confes dhat if dhat werd wer herd u wood be ruwind. Cum, cum, madam!" cride dArtanyan, cesing her handz, and cervaying her withe an ardent glaans, "cum, be moer gennerous.

Confide in me. Hav u not red in mi ise dhat dhare iz nuthhing but devoashon and cimpathy in mi hart?"

"Yes," replide Mme. Bonasyuu; "dhaerfoer, aasc mi one ceecrets, and I

wil revele them too u; but dhose ov utherz—dhat iz qwite anuther thhing."

"Verry wel," ced dArtanyan, "I shal discuvver them; az these ceecrets ma hav an influwens over yor life, these ceecrets must becum mine."

"Beware ov whaut u doo!" cride the yung woomman, in a manner so cereyous

az too make dArtanyan start in spite ov himcelf. "O, meddel in nuthhing which concernz me. Doo not ceke too acist me in dhat which I am acumplishing. This I aasc ov u in the name ov the interest withe which I inspire u, in the name ov the cervice u hav renderd me and which I nevver shal forghet while I hav life. Raather, place faith in whaut I tel u. Hav no moer concern about me; I exist no lon'gher for u, enny moer dhan if u had nevver cene me."

"Must Arramis doo az much az I, madam?" ced dArtanyan, deeply peect.

"This iz the cecond or thherd time, msyer, dhat u hav repeted dhat name, and yet I hav toald u dhat I doo not no him."

"U doo not no the man at whoose shutter u hav just noct? Indede, madam, u beleve me too credjulous!"

"Confes dhat it iz for the sake ov making me tauc dhat u invent this stoery and creyate this personage."

"I invent nuthhing, madam; I creyate nuthhing. I oonly speke dhat exact trueth."

"And u sa dhat wun ov yor frendz livz in dhat hous?"

"I sa so, and I repete it for the thherd time; dhat hous iz wun inhabbited bi mi frend, and dhat frend iz Arramis."

"Aul this wil be cleerd up at a later pereyod," mermerd the yung woomman; "no, msyer, be cilent."

"If u cood ce mi hart," ced dArtanyan, "u wood dhare rede so much cureyoscitey dhat u wood pittie me and so much luv dhat u wood instantly sattisfi mi cureyoscitey. We hav nuthhing too fere from dhose whoo luv us."

"U speke verry suddenly ov luv, msyer," ced the yung woomman, shaking her hed.

"Dhat iz becauz luv haz cum suddenly uppon me, and for the ferst time; and becauz I am oanly twenty."

The yung woomman looct at him fertiavly.

"Liscen; I am aulreddy uppon the cent," rezhuemd dArtanyan. "About thre munths ago I wauz nere havving a juwel withe Arramis concerning a hankerchefe resembling the wun u shode too the woomman in hiz hous—for a hankerchefe marct in the same manner, I am shure."

"Msyer," ced the yung woomman, "u wery me verry much, I ashure u, withe yor qweschonz."

"But u, madam, prudent az u ar, thhinc, if u wer too be arested withe dhat hankerchefe, and dhat hankerchefe wer too be ceezd, wood u not be compromiazd?"

"In whaut wa? The inishalz ar oanly mine—C. B., Constans Bonasyuu."

"Or Camele de Bwaa-Tracy."

"Cilens, msyer! Wuns agane, cilens! Aa, cins the dain'gerz I inker

on mi one acount canot stop u, thhinc ov dhose u ma yorcelf run!"

"Me?"

"Yes; dhare iz perril ov imprizzonment, risc ov life in nowing me."

"Then I wil not leve u."

"Msyer!" ced the yung woomman, suplicating him and claasping her handz tooghether, "msyer, in the name ov hevven, bi the onnor ov a soalger, bi the kertecy ov a gentelman, depart! Dhare, dhare midnite soundz! Dhat iz the our when I am expected."

"Madam," ced the yung man, bouwing; "I can refuse nuthhing aasct ov me dhus. Be content; I wil depart."

"But u wil not follo me; u wil not wauch me?"

"I wil retern home instantly."

"Aa, I wauz qwite shure u wer a good and brave yung man," ced Mme. Bonasyuu, hoalding out her hand too him, and placing the uther uppon the nocker ov a littel doer aulmoast hidden in the waul.

DArtanyan ceezd the hand held out too him, and kist it ardently.

"Aa! I wish I had nevver cene u!" cride dArtanyan, withe dhat in'gennuwous rufnes which wimmen often prefer too the afectaishonz ov poliatnes, becauz it betrase the depths ov the thaut and pruiwz dhat feling prevailz over rezon.

"Wel!" rezhuemd Mme. Bonasyuu, in a vois aulmoast carescing, and prescing the hand ov dArtanyan, whoo had not relinqwisht herz, "wel:

I wil not sa az much az u doo; whaut iz lost for tooda ma not be lost forevver. Whoo nose, when I shal be at libberty, dhat I ma not sattisfi yor cureyosity?"

"And wil u make the same prommice too mi luv?" cride dArtanyan, becide himcelf withe joi.

"O, az too dhat, I doo not en'gage micelf. Dhat dependz uppon the centiments withe which u ma inspire me."

"Then tooda, madam—"

"O, tooda, I am no ferther dhan grattichude."

"Aa! U ar too charming," ced dArtanyan, sorofooly; "and u abuse mi luv."

"No, I use yor generosity, dhats aul. But be ov good chere; withe certane pepel, evverithhing cumz round."

"O, u render me the happyest ov men! Doo not forghet this evening—doo not forghet dhat prommice."

"Be sattisfide. In the propper time and place I wil remember evverithhing. Nou then, go, go, in the name ov hevven! I wauz expected at sharp midnite, and I am late."

"Bi five minnuets."

"Yes; but in certane circumstaancez five minnuets ar five agez."

"When wun luvz."

"Wel! And whoo toald u I had no afare withe a luvver?"

"It iz a man, then, whoo expects u?" cride dArtanyan. "A man!"

"The discushon iz gowing too beghin agane!" ced Mme. Bonasyuu, withe a haaf-smile which wauz not exempt from a tinj ov impaishens.

"No, no; I go, I depart! I beleve in u, and I wood hav aul the merrit ov mi devoashon, even if dhat devoashon wer schupiddity. Aju, madam, aju!"

And az if he oanly felt strength too detach himcelf bi a viyolent effort from the hand he held, he sprang awa, running, while Mme. Bonasyuu noct, az at the shutter, thre lite and reggular taps. When he had gaind the an'ghel ov the strete, he ternd. The doer had bene opend, and shut agane; the mercerz pritty wife had disapeerd.

DArtanyan pershude hiz wa. He had ghivven hiz werd not too wauch Mme.

Bonasyuu, and if hiz life had depended uppon the spot too which she wauz

gowing or uppon the person whoo shood acumpany her, dArtanyan wood hav

reternd home, cins he had so prommiast. Five minnuets later he wauz in the Ru da Foswaa'er.

"Poor Aithos!" ced he; "he wil nevver ghes whaut aul this meenz. He wil hav faulen aslepe wating for me, or els he wil hav reternd home, whare he wil hav lernd dhat a woomman had bene dhare. A woomman withe

Aithos! Aafter aul," continnude dArtanyan, "dhare wauz certainly wun withe

Arramis. Aul this iz verry strainj; and I am cureyous too no hou it wil end."

"Badly, msyer, badly!" replide a vois which the yung man reccogniazd az dhat ov Plaunsha; for, solilloqwising aloud, az verry preyoccupide pepel doo, he had enterd the ally, at the end ov which wer the staerz which led too hiz chaimber.

"Hou badly? Whaut doo u mene bi dhat, u iddeyot?" aasct dArtanyan.  
"Whaut haz happend?"

"Aul sorts ov misforchuenz."

"Whaut?"

"In the ferst place, Msyer Aithos iz arested."

"Arested! Aithos arested! Whaut for?"

"He wauz found in yor lodging; dha tooc him for u."

"And bi whoome wauz he arested?"

"Bi Gardz braut bi the men in blac whoome u poot too flite."

"Whi did he not tel them hiz name? Whi did he not tel them he nu nuthhing about this afare?"

"He tooc care not too doo so, msyer; on the contrary, he came up too me and ced, It iz yor maaster dhat needz hiz libberty at this moment and not I, cins he nose evverithhing and I no nuthhing. Dha wil beleve he iz arested, and dhat wil ghiv him time; in thre dase I wil tel them whoo I am, and dha canot fale too let me go."

"Braavo, Aithos! Nobel hart!" mermerd dArtanyan. "I no him wel dhare! And whaut did the officerz doo?"



"Foer convade him awa, I doant no whare—too the Bastele or Foert l'Evéc. Too remaind withe the men in blac, whoo rummajd evvery place and tooc aul the paperz. The laast too mounted gard at the doer juring this examinaishon; then, when aul wauz over, dha went awa, leving the hous empty and expoazd."

"And Porthos and Arramis?"

"I cood not fiand them; dha did not cum."

"But dha ma cum enny moment, for u left werd dhat I awated them?"

"Yes, msyer."

"Wel, doant buj, then; if dha cum, tel them whaut haz happend. Let them wate for me at the Pom-de-Pan. Here it wood be dain'gerous; the hous ma be waucht. I wil run too Msyer de Treveye too tel them aul this, and wil mete them dhare."

"Verry wel, msyer," ced Plaunsha.

"But u wil remane; u ar not afrade?" ced dArtanyan, cumming bac too recomend currage too hiz lacky.

"Be esy, msyer," ced Plaunsha; "u doo not no me yet. I am brave when I cet about it. It iz aul in beghinning. Beciadz, I am a Picard."

"Then it iz understood," ced dArtanyan; "u wood raather be kild dhan desert yor poast?"

"Yes, msyer; and dhare iz nuthhing I wood not doo too prove too Msyer dhat I am atacht too him."

"Good!" ced dArtanyan too himcelf. "It apeerz dhat the method I hav

adopted with this boi iz decidedly the best. I shal use it agane uppon ocaizhon."

And with the aul the swiftnes ov hiz legz, aulreddy a littel fateegd houwevver, with the perambulaishonz ov the da, dArtanyan directed hiz coers tooword M. de Treveeyz.

M. de Treveye wauz not at hiz hotel. Hiz cumpany wauz on gard at the Luivr; he wauz at the Luivr with the hiz cumpany.

It wauz nescenary too reche M. de Treveye; it wauz important dhat he shood be informd ov whaut wauz paacing. DArtanyan rezolvd too tri and enter the Luivr. Hiz coschume ov Gardzman in the cumpany ov M. Decessar aut too be hiz paaspoert.

He dhaerfoer went doun the Ru da Petese Oguistan, and came up too the ke, in order too take the Nu Brij. He had at ferst an ideyaa ov croscing bi the ferry; but on ganing the rivvercide, he had mecannicaly poot hiz hand intoo hiz pocket, and perceevd dhat he had not whaerwidhaul too pa hiz passage.

Az he gaind the top ov the Ru Ganago, he sau too personz cumming out ov the Ru Dofena whoose aperans verry much struc him. Ov the too personz whoo compoazd this groope, wun wauz a man and the uther a woomman.

The woomman had the outline ov Mme. Bonasyuu; the man resembeld Arramis so much az too be mistaken for him.

Beciadz, the woomman woer dhat blac mantel which dArtanyan cood stil ce outliand on the shutter ov the Ru de Vojirar and on the doer ov the Ru de laa Arp; stil ferther, the man woer the uniform ov a Musketer.

The woommanz hood wauz poold doun, and the man held a hankerchefe too hiz face. Boath, az this dubbel precaushon indicated, had an interest in not beying reccogniazd.

Dha tooc the brij. Dhat wauz dArtanyanz rode, az he wauz gowing too the Luivr. DArtanyan follode them.

He had not gon twenty steps befoer he became convinst dhat the woomman wauz reyal Mme. Bonasyuu and dhat the man wauz Arramis.

He felt at dhat instant aul the suspishonz ov gelloucy adgitating hiz hart. He felt himcelf dubly betrade, bi hiz frend and bi her whoome he aulreddy luvd like a mistres. Mme. Bonasyuu had declaerd too him, bi aul the godz, dhat she did not no Arramis; and a qworter ov an our aafter havving made this acershon, he found her hanging on the arm ov Arramis.

DArtanyan did not reflect dhat he had oanly none the mercerz pritty wife for thre ourz; dhat she ode him nuthhing but a littel grattichude for havving delivverd her from the men in blac, whoo wisht too carry her of, and dhat she had prommiast him nuthhing. He concidderd himcelf an outraid, betrade, and riddicueld luvver. Blud and an'gher mounted too hiz face; he wauz rezolvd too unravvel the mistery.

The yung man and yung woomman perceevd dha wer waucht, and redubbeld dhare spede. DArtanyan determiand uppon hiz coers. He paast them, then reternd so az too mete them exactly befoer the Samaritane. Which wauz iluminated bi a lamp which thru its lite over aul dhat part ov the brij.

D'Artagnan stopt befoer them, and d'ha stopt befoer him.

"Whaut doo u waunt, msyer?" demaanded the Musketere, recoiling a step, and withe a forane axent, which pruivd too d'Artagnan dhat he wauz deceevd in wun ov hiz con'gecchuerz.

"It iz not Arramis!" cride he.

"No, msyer, it iz not Arramis; and bi yor exclamaishon I perceve u hav mistaken me for anuther, and pardon u."

"U pardon me?" cride d'Artagnan.

"Yes," replide the strain'ger. "Alou me, then, too paas on, cins it iz not withe me u hav ennithhing too doo."

"U ar rite, msyer, it iz not withe u dhat I hav ennithhing too doo; it iz withe Madam."

"Withe Madam! U doo not no her," replide the strain'ger.

"U ar deceevd, msyer; I no her verry wel."

"Aa," ced Mme. Bonasyuu; in a tone ov reproche, "aa, msyer, I had yor prommice az a soalger and yor werd az a gentelman. I hoapt too be abel too reli uppon dhat."

"And I, madam!" ced d'Artagnan, embarrast; "u prommiast me—"

"Take mi arm, madam," ced the strain'ger, "and let us continnu our wa."

D'Artagnan, houwevver, schupefide, caast doun, aniyilated bi aul dhat happend, stood, withe crost armz, befoer the Musketere and Mme. Bonasyuu.

The Musketere advaanst too steps, and poosht dArtanyan acide withe hiz hand. DArtanyan made a spring baqword and dru hiz soerd. At the same time, and withe the rapiddity ov liatning, the strain'ger dru hiz.

"In the name ov hevven, mi Lord!" cride Mme. Bonasyuu, throwing hercelf betwene the combatants and cesing the soerdz withe her handz.

"Mi Lord!" cride dArtanyan, enlitend bi a sudden ideyaa, "mi Lord! Pardon me, msyer, but u ar not—"

"Mi Lord the Juke ov Buckingham," ced Mme. Bonasyuu, in an undertone; "and nou u ma ruwin us aul."

"Mi Lord, Madam, I aasc a hundred pardonz! But I luv her, mi Lord, and wauz gellous. U no whaut it iz too luv, mi Lord. Pardon me, and then tel me hou I can risc mi life too cerv yor Grace?"

"U ar a brave yung man," ced Buckingham, hoalding out hiz hand too dArtanyan, whoo prest it respectfully. "U offer me yor cervicez; withe the same francnes I axept them. Follo us at a distans ov twenty pacez, az far az the Luivr, and if enniwun wauchez us, sla him!"

DArtanyan plaist hiz naked soerd under hiz arm, aloud the juke and Mme. Bonasyuu too take twenty steps ahed, and then follode them, reddy too execute the instrucshonz ov the nobel and ellegant minnister ov Charlz I.

Forchunaitly, he had no oporchunity too ghiv the juke this prooffe ov hiz devoashon, and the yung woomman and the handsum Musketere enterd the

Luivr bi the wicket ov the Eshel widhout enny interferens.

Az for dArtanyan, he imejaitly repaerd too the cabbara ov the

Pom-de-Pan, where he found Porthos and Arramis awaiting him. Without giving them any explanation of the alarm and inconveniences he had caused

them, he told them that he had terminated the affair alone in which he had for a moment believed he should need assistance.

Meanwhile, carried away as we are by our narrative, we must leave our three friends to themselves, and follow the Duke of Buckingham and his guide through the labyrinths of the Louvre.

## 12 JORJ VILLEYERZ, DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

Mme. Bonasuyou and the duke entered the Louvre without difficulty. Mme. Bonasuyou would not belong to the queen; the duke wore the uniform of the Musketeers of M. de Treville, who, as we have seen, was that evening on guard. Besides, Zairman was in the interests of the queen; and if anything should happen, Mme. Bonasuyou would be accused of having

introduced her lover into the Louvre, that was all. She took the risk upon herself. Her reputation would be lost, it is true; but of what value in the world was the reputation of the little wife of a mercer?

Went within the interior of the court, the duke and the young woman followed the wall for the space of about twenty-five steps. This space past, Mme. Bonasuyou pushed a little servants door, open by day but generally closed at night. The door yielded. Both entered, and found themselves in darkness; but Mme. Bonasuyou was acquainted with the alleys and windings of this part of the Louvre, appropriated for the people of the household. She closed the door after her, took the duke by the hand, and after a few experimental steps, grasped a balustrade, put her foot upon the bottom step, and began to ascend the staircase. The

juke counted too stoerese. She then ternd too the rite, follode the coers ov a long coridor, decended a flite, went a fu steps farther, introjuest a ke intoo a loc, opend a doer, and poosht the juke intoo an apartment lited oanly bi a lamp, saying, "Remane here, mi Lord Juke; sumwun wil cum." She then went out bi the same doer, which she loct, so dhat the juke found himcelf litteraly a prizzoner.

Nevvertheles, isolated az he wauz, we must sa dhat the Juke ov Buckingham did not expereyens an instant ov fere. Wun ov the saleynt points ov hiz carracter wauz the cerch for advenchuerz and a luv ov romans. Brave, rash, and enterprising, this wauz not the ferst time he had risct hiz life in such atempts. He had lernd dhat the pretended message from An ov Austreyaa, uppon the faith ov which he had cum too Parris, wauz a snare; but insted ov reganing In'gland, he had, abusing the posishon in which he had bene plaist, declaerd too the qwene dhat he wood not depart widhout ceying her. The qwene had at ferst pozsitiavly refuezd; but at length became afrade dhat the juke, if exaasperated, wood comit sum folly. She had aulreddy decided uppon ceying him and erging hiz imejate deparchure, when, on the verry evening ov cumming too this decizhon, Mme. Bonasyuu, whoo wauz charjd withe gowing too fech the juke and conducting him too the Luivr, wauz abducted. For too dase no wun nu whaut had becum ov her, and evverithhing remaind in suspens; but wuns fre, and plaist in comunicaishon withe Laaport, matterz rezhuemd dhare coers, and she acumplisht the perrilous enterprise which, but for her arest, wood hav bene executed thre dase erleyer.

Buckingham, left alone, wauct tooword a mirror. Hiz Musketeerz uniform became him marvelously.

At thherty-five, which wauz then hiz age, he paast, withe just titel, for the handsumest gentelman and the moast ellegant cavaleyer ov Fraans or

In' gland.

The favorite ov too kingz, imensly rich, aul-pouwerfool in a kingdom which he disorderd at hiz fancy and caalmd agane at hiz caprece, Jorj Villeyerz, Juke ov Buckingham, had livd wun ov dhose fabbulous existencez which cervive, in the coers ov cenchurese, too astonnish posterrity.

Shure ov himcelf, convinst ov hiz one pouwer, certane dhat the lauz which rule uther men cood not reche him, he went strate too the obgett he aimd at, even wer this obgett wer so ellevated and so dazling dhat it wood hav bene madnes for enny uther even too hav contemplated it. It wauz dhus he had suxeded in aproching cevveral tiamz the butifool and proud An ov Austreyaa, and in making himcelf luvd bi dazling her.

Jorj Villeyerz plaist himcelf befoer the glaas, az we hav ced, restoerd the unjulaishonz too hiz butifool hare, which the wate ov hiz hat had disorderd, twisted hiz mustaash, and, hiz hart swelling withe joi, happy and proud at beying nere the moment he had so long cide for, he smiald uppon himcelf withe pride and hope.

At this moment a doer conceeld in the tappestry opend, and a woomman apeerd. Buckingham sau this aparishon in the glaas; he utterd a cri. It wauz the qwene!

An ov Austreyaa wauz then twenty-cix or twenty-cevven yeerz ov age; dhat iz too sa, she wauz in the fool splendor ov her buty.

Her carrage wauz dhat ov a qwene or a goddes; her ise, which caast the brilleyancy ov emmeraldz, wer perfectly butifool, and yet wer at the same time fool ov sweetnes and madgesty.

Her mouth wauz smaull and rosy; and auldho her underlip, like dhat ov aul princez ov the Hous ov Austreyaa, protruded sliatly beyond



the uther, it wauz emminently luvly in its smile, but az profoundly disdainfool in its contempt.

Her skin wauz admiard for its velvety softnes; her handz and armz wer ov cerpaacing buty, aul the powets ov the time cinging them az incomparabel.

Laastly, her hare, which, from beying lite in her ueth, had becum chesnut, and which she woer kerld verry plainly, and withe much pouder, admirably cet of her face, in which the moast ridgid crittic cood oanly hav desiard a littel les rooje, and the moast fastidjous sculptor a littel moer fian'nes in the nose.

Buckingham remaind for a moment dazseld. Nevver had An ov Austreyaa apeerd too him so butifool, amid baulz, faits, or carouzalz, az she apeerd too him at this moment, drest in a cimpel robe ov white sattin, and acumpanede bi Donnaa Estafaanyaa—the oanly wun ov her Spanish wimmen whoo had not bene drivven from her bi the gelloucy ov the king or bi the percecueshonz ov Reeshlu.

An ov Austreyaa tooc too steps forword. Buckingham thru himself at her fete, and befoer the qwene cood prevent him, kist the hem ov her robe.

"Juke, u aulreddy no dhat it iz not I whoo cauzd u too be ritten too."

"Yes, yes, madam! Yes, yor Madgesty!" cride the juke. "I no dhat I must hav bene mad, censles, too beleve dhat sno wood becum animated or marbel worm; but whaut then! Dha whoo luv beleve esily in luv. Beciadz, I hav lost nuthhing bi this gerny becauz I ce u."

"Yes," replide An, "but u no whi and hou I ce u; becauz,

incencibel too aul mi sufferingz, u percist in remaning in a citty whare, bi remaning, u run the risc ov yor life, and make me run the risc ov mi onnor. I ce u too tel u dhat evverithhing cepparaitz us—the depths ov the ce, the enmity ov kingdomz, the sanctity ov vouz. It iz sacrilege too strugghel against so menny thhingz, mi Lord. In short, I ce u too tel u dhat we must nevver ce eche uther agane."

"Speke on, madam, speke on, Qwene," ced Buckingham; "the sweetnes ov yor vois cuvverz the harshnes ov yor werdz. U tauc ov sacrilege! Whi, the sacrilege iz the ceparashon ov too harts formd bi God for eche uther."

"Mi Lord," cride the qwene, "u forghet dhat I hav nevver ced dhat I luv u."

"But u hav nevver toald me dhat u did not luv me; and trully, too speke such werdz too me wood be, on the part ov yor Madgesty, too grate an in'grattichude. For tel me, whare can u fiand a luv like mine—a luv which niather time, nor abcens, nor despere can extin'gwish, a luv which contents itcelf withe a lost ribbon, a stra looc, or a chaans werd? It iz nou thre yeerz, madam, cins I sau u for the ferst time, and juring dhose thre yeerz I hav luvd u dhus. Shal I tel u eche ornament ov yor toilet? Marc! I ce u nou. U wer ceted uppon cooshonz in the Spannish fashon; u woer a robe ov grene sattin embroiderd withe goald and cilver, hanging sleevz notted uppon yor butifool armz—dhose luvly armz—withe larj dimondz. U woer a cloce ruf, a smaul cap uppon yor hed ov the same cullor az yor robe, and in dhat cap a herronz fether. Hoald! Hoald! I shut mi ise, and I can ce u az u then wer; I open them agane, and I ce whaut u ar nou—a hundred time moer butifool!"

"Whaut folly," mermerd An ov Austreyaa, whoo had not the currence too fiand fault withe the juke for havving so wel preservd her poertrate in hiz

hart, "whaut folly too fede a uesles pashon withe such remembrancez!"

"And uppon whaut then must I liv? I hav nuthhing but memmory. It iz mi happines, mi trezhure, mi hope. Evvery time I ce u iz a fresh dimond which I enclose in the caasket ov mi hart. This iz the foerth which u hav let faul and I hav pict up; for in thre yeerz, madam, I hav oanly cene u foer tiamz—the ferst, which I hav descriabd too u; the cecond, at the manshon ov Madam de Shevruuz; the thherd, in the gardenz ov Ammeyon."

"Juke," ced the qwene, blushing, "nevver speke ov dhat evening."

"O, let us speke ov it; on the contrary, let us speke ov it! Dhat iz the moast happy and brilleyant evening ov mi life! U remember whaut a butifool nite it wauz? Hou soft and perfuemd wauz the are; hou luvly the blu hevvenz and star-enammeld ski! Aa, then, madam, I wauz abel for wun instant too be alone withe u. Then u wer about too tel me aul—the isolaishon ov yor life, the greefs ov yor hart. U leend uppon mi arm—uppon this, madam! I felt, in bending mi hed tooword u, yor butifool hare tuch mi cheke; and evvery time dhat it tucht me I trembeld from hed too foot. O, Qwene! Qwene! U doo not no whaut feliscity from hevven, whaut joiz from parradice, ar compriazd in a moment like dhat. Take mi welth, mi forchune, mi gloery, aul the dase I hav too liv, for such an instant, for a nite like dhat. For dhat nite, madam, dhat nite u luvd me, I wil sware it."

"Mi Lord, yes; it iz poscibel dhat the influwens ov the place, the charm ov the butifool evening, the facinaishon ov yor looc—the thouzand circumstaancez, in short, which sumtiamz unite too destroi a woomman—wer griupt around me on dhat fatal evening; but, mi Lord, u sau the qwene cum too the ade ov the woomman whoo faulterd. At the ferst werd u daerd

too utter, at the ferst fredom too which I had too repli, I cauld for help."

"Yes, yes, dhat iz tru. And enny uther luv but mine wood hav sunc beneeth this ordele; but mi luv came out from it moer ardent and moer eternal. U beleevd dhat u wood fli from me bi reterning too Parris; u beleevd dhat I wood not dare too qwit the trezhure over which mi maaster had charjd me too wauch. Whaut too me wer aul the trezhuerz in the werld, or aul the kingz ov the erth! Ate dase aafter, I wauz bac agane, madam. Dhat time u had nuthhing too sa too me; I had risct mi life and favor too ce u but for a cecond. I did not even tuch yor hand, and u pardond me on ceying me so submiscive and so repentant."

"Yes, but callumny ceezd uppon aul dhose follese in which I tooc no part, az u wel no, mi Lord. The king, exited bi the cardinal, made a terribel clammor. Madam de Vaerna wauz drivven from me, Pootaunzh wauz exiald, Madam de Shevruuz fel intoo disgrace, and when u wisht too cum bac az ambassador too Fraans, the king himcelf—remember, mi lord—the king himcelf opoazd too it."

"Yes, and Fraans iz about too pa for her kingz refuzal withe a wor. I am not aloud too ce u, madam, but u shal evvery da here ov me. Whaut obgect, thhinc u, hav this expedishon too Re and this leghe withe the Protestants ov Laa Roshel which I am progecting? The plezhure ov ceying u. I hav no hope ov pennetrating, soerd in hand, too Parris, I no dhat wel. But this wor ma bring round a pece; this pece wil reqwire a negoasheyator; dhat negoasheyator wil be me. Dha wil not dare too refuse me then; and I wil retern too Parris, and wil ce u agane, and wil be happy for an instant. Thouzandz ov men, it iz tru, wil hav too pa for mi happines withe dhare liavz; but whaut iz dhat too me, provided I ce u agane! Aul this iz perhaps folly—perhaps insannity; but tel me whaut

woomman haz a luvver moer truly in luv; whaut qwene a cervant moer ardent?"

"Mi Lord, mi Lord, u invoke in yor defens thhingz which acuse u moer strongly. Aul these pruijs ov luv which u wood ghiv me ar almoast criamz."

"Becauz u doo not luv me, madam! If u luvd me, u wood vu aul this uthewise. If u luvd me, o, if u luvd me, dhat wood be too grate happines, and I shood run mad. Aa, Madam de Shevruuz wauz les cruwel dhan u. Holland luvd her, and she responded too hiz luv."

"Madam de Shevruuz wauz not qwene," mermerd An ov Austreyaa, overcum, in spite ov hercelf, bi the expreshon ov so profound a pashon.

"U wood luv me, then, if u wer not qwene! Madam, sa dhat u wood luv me then! I can beleve dhat it iz the dignity ov yor ranc alone which maix u cruwel too me; I can beleve dhat u had bene Madam de Shevruuz, poor Buckingham mite hav hoapt. Thanx for dhose swete werdz! O, mi butifool sovverane, a hundred tiamz, thanx!"

"O, mi Lord! U hav il understood, rongly interpreted; I did not mene too sa—"

"Cilens, cilens!" cride the juke. "If I am happy in an error, doo not hav the cruwelly too lift me from it. U hav toald me yorcelf, madam, dhat I hav bene draun intoo a snare; I, perhaps, ma leve mi life in it—for, auldho it ma be strainj, I hav for sum time had a presentiment dhat I shood shortly di." And the juke smiald, withe a smile at wuns sad and charming.

"O, mi God!" cride An ov Austreyaa, withe an axent ov terror which pruid hou much grater an interest she tooc in the juke dhan she

venchuerd too tel.

"I doo not tel u this, madam, too terrifi u; no, it iz even ridicculous for me too name it too u, and, beleve me, I take no hede ov such dreemz. But the werdz u hav just spoken, the hope u hav aulmoast ghivven me, wil hav richly pade aul—wer it mi life."

"O, but I," ced An, "I aulso, juke, hav had presentiments; I aulso hav had dreemz. I dreemd dhat I sau u liying bleding, wuinded."

"In the left cide, wauz it not, and withe a nife?" interupted Buckingham.

"Yes, it wauz so, mi Lord, it wauz so—in the left cide, and withe a nife. Whoo can poscibly hav toald u I had had dhat dreem? I hav imparted it too no wun but mi God, and dhat in mi praerz."

"I aasc for no moer. U luv me, madam; it iz enuf."

"I luv u, I?"

"Yes, yes. Wood God cend the same dreemz too u az too me if u did not luv me? Shood we hav the same presentiments if our existencez did not tuch at the hart? U luv me, mi butifool qwene, and u wil wepe for me?"

"O, mi God, mi God!" cride An ov Austreyaa, "this iz moer dhan I can bare. In the name ov hevven, Juke, leve me, go! I doo not no whether I luv u or luv u not; but whaut I no iz dhat I wil not be perjuerd. Take pittty on me, then, and go! O, if u ar struc in Fraans, if u di in Fraans, if I cood imadgine dhat yor luv for me wauz the cauz ov yor deth, I cood not console micelf; I shood run mad. Depart then, depart, I imploer u!"

"O, hou butifool u ar dhus! O, hou I luv u!" ced Buckingham.

"Go, go, I imploer u, and retern heraafter! Cum bac az ambassador, cum bac az minnister, cum bac surounded withe gardz whoo wil defend u, withe cervants whoo wil wauch over u, and then I shal no lon'gher fere for yor dase, and I shal be happy in ceying u."

"O, iz this tru whaut u sa?"

"Yes."

"O, then, sum plej ov yor indulgens, sum obgect which came from u, and ma remiand me dhat I hav not bene dremin; sumthhing u hav woern, and dhat I ma ware in mi tern—a ring, a neclace, a chane."

"Wil u depart—wil u depart, if I ghiv u dhat u demaand?"

"Yes."

"This verry instant?"

"Yes."

"U wil leve Fraans, u wil retern too In'gland?"

"I wil, I sware too u."

"Wate, then, wate."

An ov Austreyaa re-enterd her apartment, and came out agane aulmoast imejaitly, hoalding a roazwood caasket in her hand, withe her cifer encrusted withe goald.

"Here, mi Lord, here," ced she, "kepe this in memmory ov me."

Buckingham tooc the caasket, and fel a cecond time on hiz nese.

"U hav prommiast me too go," ced the qwene.

"And I kepe mi werd. Yor hand, madam, yor hand, and I depart!"

An ov Austreyaa strecht foerth her hand, closing her ise, and lening  
withe the uther uppon Estafaanyaa, for she felt dhat her strength wauz  
about  
too fale her.

Buckingham prest hiz lips pashonaitly too dhat butifool hand, and  
then rising, ced, "Within cix munths, if I am not ded, I shal hav  
cene u agane, madam—even if I hav too overtern the werld." And  
faithfool too the prommice he had made, he rusht out ov the apartment.

In the coridor he met Mme. Bonasyuu, whoo wated for him, and whoo,  
withe  
the same precaushonz and the same good luc, conducted him out ov the  
Luivr.

### 13 MSYER BONASYUU

Dhare wauz in aul this, az ma hav bene observd, wun personage  
concernd, ov whoome, notwithstanding hiz precareyous posishon, we  
hav apeerd too take but verry littel notice. This personage wauz M.  
Bonasyuu, the respectabel marter ov the polittical and ammorous intreegz  
which entan'gheld themcelvz so niasly tooghether at this gallant and  
shivvaltric pereyod.



Forchunaitly, the reder ma remember, or ma not remember—forchunaitly we hav prommiast not too loose cite ov him.

The officerz whoo arested him conducted him strate too the Bastele, whare he paast trembling befoer a party ov soalgerz whoo wer loding dhare muskets. Thens, introjuest intoo a haaf-subterainyan gallery, he became, on the part ov dhose whoo had braut him, the obgett ov the grocest insults and the harshest treetment. The officerz perceevd dhat dha had not too dele withe a gentelman, and dha treted him like a verry pezzant.

At the end ov haaf an our or dharabouts, a clarc came too poot an end too hiz torchuerz, but not too hiz anxiety, bi ghivving the order too conduct M. Bonasyuu too the Chaimber ov Examinaishon. Ordinarily, prizzonerz wer interrogated in dhare celz; but dha did not doo so withe M. Bonasyuu.

Too gardz atended the mercer whoo made him travers a coert and enter a coridor in which wer thre centinelz, opend a doer and poosht him unceremoanyously intoo a lo roome, whare the oonly fernichure wauz a tabel, a chare, and a commisary. The commisary wauz ceted in the chare, and wauz riting at the tabel.

The too gardz led the prizzoner tooword the tabel, and uppon a cine from the commisary dru bac so far az too be unnabel too here ennithhing.

The commisary, whoo had til this time held hiz hed down over hiz paperz, looct up too ce whaut sort ov person he had too doo withe. This commisary wauz a man ov verry repulcive meyen, withe a pointed nose, withe yello and saleynt cheke boanz, withe ise smaul but kene and pennetrating, and an expreshon ov countenans resembling at wuns the poalcat and the fox. Hiz hed, supoerted bi a long and flexibel nec, ishude from hiz larj blac robe, ballancing itcelf withe a moashon verry

much like dhat ov the tortois thrusting hiz hed out ov hiz shel. He began bi aasking M. Bonasyuu hiz name, age, condishon, and abode.

The acuezd replide dhat hiz name wauz Zhaac Meeshel Bonasyuu, dhat he wauz fifty-wun yeerz oald, a retiard mercer, and livd Ru da Foswaa'er, No. 14.

The commisary then, insted ov continnuwing too interrogate him, made him a long speche uppon the dain'ger dhare iz for an obscure cittisen too meddel withe public matterz. He complicated this exorjum bi an exposishon in which he painted the pouwer and the deedz ov the cardinal, dhat incomparabel minnister, dhat conkeror ov paast minnisterz, dhat exaampel for minnisterz too cum—deedz and pouwer which nun cood thwort withe impunity.

Aafter this cecond part ov hiz discoers, fixing hiz haux i uppon poor Bonasyuu, he bad him reflect uppon the gravvity ov hiz cichuwaishon.

The reflecshonz ov the mercer wer aulreddy made; he kerst the instant when M. Laaport formd the ideyaa ov marreying him too hiz goddauter, and particularly the moment when dhat goddauter had bene receevd az Lady ov the Linnen too her Madgesty.

At bottom the carracter ov M. Bonasyuu wauz wun ov profound celfishnes mixt withe sordid avvarice, the whole cezond withe extreme couwardice. The luv withe which hiz yung wife had inspiard him wauz a cecondary centiment, and wauz not strong enuf too contend withe the primmitive felingz we hav just enumerated. Bonasyuu indede reflected on whaut had just bene ced too him.

"But, Msyer Commisary," ced he, caalmly, "beleve dhat I no and

apreesheyate, moer dhan enniboddy, the merrit ov the incomparabel emminens bi  
whoome we hav the onnor too be guvvernd."

"Indede?" aasct the commisary, withe an are ov dout. "If dhat iz reyaly so, hou came u in the Bastele?"

"Hou I came dhare, or raather whi I am dhare," replide Bonasyuu, "dhat iz entiarly imposcibel for me too tel u, becauz I doant no micelf; but too a certainty it iz not for havving, nowingly at leest, disobliajd Msyer the Cardinal."

"U must, nevvertheles, hav comitted a crime, cins u ar here and ar acuezd ov hi trezon."

"Ov hi trezon!" cride Bonasyuu, terrifide; "ov hi trezon! Hou iz it poscibel for a poor mercer, whoo detests Ughenose and whoo abhorz Spanyardz, too be acuezd ov hi trezon? Concidder, msyer, the thhing iz absolutly imposcibel."

"Msyer Bonasyuu," ced the commisary, loocking at the acuezd az if hiz littel ise had the facculy ov reding too the verry depths ov harts, "u hav a wife?"

"Yes, msyer," replide the mercer, in a trembel, feling dhat it wauz at this point afaerz wer liacly too becum perplexing; "dhat iz too sa, I HAD wun."

"Whaut, u had one? Whaut hav u dun withe her, then, if u hav her no lon'gher?"

"Dha hav abducted her, msyer."

"Dha hav abducted her? Aa!"

Bonasyuu inferd from this "Aa" dhat the afare gru moer and moer intricate.

"Dha hav abducted her," added the commisary; "and doo u no the man whoo haz comitted this dede?"

"I thhinc I no him."

"Whoo iz he?"

"Remember dhat I aferm nuthhing, Msyer the Commisary, and dhat I oanly suspect."

"Whoome doo u suspect? Cum, aancer frely."

M. Bonasyuu wauz in the gratest perplexity poscibel. Had he better deni evverithhing or tel evverithhing? Bi deniying aul, it mite be suspected dhat he must no too much too avou; bi confescing aul he mite proove hiz good wil. He decided, then, too tel aul.

"I suspect," ced he, "a taul, darc man, ov lofty carrage, whoo haz the are ov a grate lord. He haz follode us cevveral tiamz, az I thhinc, when I hav wated for mi wife at the wicket ov the Luivr too escort her home."

The commisary nou apeerd too expereyens a littel unnesines.

"And hiz name?" ced he.

"O, az too hiz name, I no nuthhing about it; but if I wer evver too mete him, I shood reccognise him in an instant, I wil aancer for it, wer he amung a thouzand personz."

The face ov the commisary gru stil darker.

"U shood reccognise him amung a thouzand, sa u?" continnude he.

"Dhat iz too sa," cride Bonasyuu, whoo sau he had taken a fauls step,  
"dhat iz too sa—"

"U hav aancerd dhat u shood reccognise him," ced the commisary.  
"Dhat iz aul verry wel, and enuf for tooda; befoer we procede ferther,  
sumwun must be informd dhat u no the ravvisher ov yor wife."

"But I hav not toald u dhat I no him!" cride Bonasyuu, in despare.  
"I toald u, on the contrary—"

"Take awa the prizzoner," ced the commisary too the too gardz.

"Whare must we place him?" demaanded the chefe.

"In a dunjon."

"Which?"

"Good Lord! In the ferst wun handy, provided it iz safe," ced the  
commisary, withe an indifferens which pennetrated poor Bonasyuu withe  
horor.

"Alaas, alaas!" ced he too himcelf, "misforchune iz over mi hed; mi  
wife must hav comitted sum friatfool crime. Dha beleve me her  
acumplice, and wil punnish me withe her. She must hav spoken; she must  
hav confest everithhing—a woomman iz so weke! A dunjon! The ferst he  
cumz too! Dhats it! A nite iz soone paast; and toomoro too the whele,  
too the gallose! O, mi God, mi God, hav pittty on me!"

Widhout liscening the leest in the werld too the lamentaishonz ov M.

Bonasyuu—lamentaishonz too which, beciadz, dha must hav bene pritty wel acustomd—the too gardz tooc the prizzoner eche bi an arm, and led him awa, while the commisary rote a letter in haist and dispacht it bi an officer in wating.

Bonasyuu cood not close hiz ise; not becauz hiz dunjon wauz so verry disagreyabel, but becauz hiz unnesines wauz so grate. He sat aul nite on hiz stoole, starting at the leest noiz; and when the ferst rase ov the sun pennetrated intoo hiz chaimber, the daun itcelf apeerd too him too hav taken funereyal tints.

Aul at wuns he herd hiz bolts draun, and made a terrifide bound. He beleevd dha wer cum too conduct him too the scaffoard; so dhat when he sau meerly and cimply, insted ov the execueshoner he expected, oonly hiz commisary ov the preceding evening, atended bi hiz clarc, he wauz reddy too embrace them boath.

"Yor afare haz becum moer complicated cins yesterda evening, mi good man, and I advise u too tel the whole trueth; for yor repentans alone can remoove the an'gher ov the cardinal."

"Whi, I am reddy too tel evverithhing," cride Bonasyuu, "at leest, aul dhat I no. Interrogate me, I entrete u!"

"Whare iz yor wife, in the ferst place?"

"Whi, did not I tel u she had bene stolen from me?"

"Yes, but yesterda at five oacloc in the aafternoone, thanx too u, she escaipt."

"Mi wife escaipt!" cride Bonasyuu. "O, unforchunate crechure! Msyer, if she haz escaipt, it iz not mi fault, I sware."

"Whaut biznes had u, then, too go intoo the chaimber ov Msyer dArtanyan, yor nabor, withe whoome u had a long conferens juring the da?"

"Aa, yes, Msyer Commisary; yes, dhat iz tru, and I confes dhat I wauz in the rong. I did go too Msyer dArtanyanz."

"Whaut wauz the ame ov dhat vizsit?"

"Too beg him too acist me in fianding mi wife. I beleevd I had a rite too endevvor too fiand her. I wauz deceevd, az it apeerz, and I aasc yor pardon."

"And whaut did Msyer dArtanyan repli?"

"Msyer dArtanyan prommiast me hiz acistans; but I soone found out dhat he wauz betraying me."

"U impose uppon justice. Msyer dArtanyan made a compact withe u; and in verchu ov dhat compact poot too flite the polece whoo had arested yor wife, and haz plaist her beyond reche."

"Forchunaitly, Msyer dArtanyan iz in our handz, and u shal be confrunted withe him."

"Bi mi faith, I aasc no better," cride Bonasyuu; "I shal not be sory too ce the face ov an aqwaintans."

"Bring in the Msyer dArtanyan," ced the commisary too the gardz. The too gardz led in Aithos.

"Msyer dArtanyan," ced the commisary, adrescing Aithos, "declare aul dhat paast yesterda betwene u and Msyer."

"But," cried Bonasyuu, "this is not Msyer dArtanyan whom you show me."

"What! Not Msyer dArtanyan?" exclaimed the commissary.

"Not the least in the world," replied Bonasyuu.

"What is this gentleman's name?" asked the commissary.

"I cannot tell you; I do not know him."

"How! You do not know him?"

"No."

"Did you never see him?"

"Yes, I have seen him, but I do not know what he calls himself."

"Your name?" replied the commissary.

"Aithos," replied the Musketeer.

"But that is not a man's name; that is the name of a mountain," cried the poor questioner, who began to lose his head.

"That is my name," said Aithos, quietly.

"But you said that your name was dArtanyan."

"Who, I?"

"Yes, you."



"Sumbody ced too me, U ar Msyer dArtanyan?' I aancerd, U thhinc so?' Mi gardz exclaimd dhat dha wer shure ov it. I did not wish too contradict them; beciadz, I mite be deceevd."

"Msyer, u insult the madgesty ov justice."

"Not at aul," ced Aithos, caalmly.

"U ar Msyer dArtanyan."

"U ce, msyer, dhat u sa it agane."

"But I tel u, Msyer Commisary," cride Bonasyuu, in hiz tern, "dhare iz not the leest dout about the matter. Msyer dArtanyan iz mi tennant, auldho he duz not pa me mi rent—and even better on dhat acount aut I too no him. Msyer dArtanyan iz a yung man, scaersly niantene or twenty, and this gentelman must be thherty at leest. Msyer dArtanyan iz in Msyer Decessarz Gardz, and this gentelman iz in the cumpany ov Msyer de Treveeyz Musketeerz. Looc at hiz uniform, Msyer Commisary, looc at hiz uniform!"

"Dhats tru," mermerd the commisary; "*PARDIEU*, dhats tru."

At this moment the doer wauz opend qwicly, and a mescen'ger, introjuest bi wun ov the gaitkeperz ov the Bastele, gave a letter too the commisary.

"O, unhappy woomman!" cride the commisary.

"Hou? Whaut doo u sa? Ov whoome doo u speke? It iz not ov mi wife, I hope!"

"On the contrary, it iz ov her. Yorz iz a pritty biznes."

"But," ced the adgitated mercer, "doo me the plezhure, msyer, too tel me hou mi one propper afare can becum wers bi ennithhing mi wife duz while I am in prizzon?"

"Becauz dhat which she duz iz part ov a plan concerted betwene u—ov an infernal plan."

"I sware too u, Msyer Commisary, dhat u ar in the profoundest error, dhat I no nuthhing in the werld about whaut mi wife had too doo, dhat I am entiarly a strain'ger too whaut she haz dun; and dhat if she haz comitted enny follese, I renouns her, I abjure her, I kers her!"

"Baa!" ced Aithos too the commisary, "if u hav no moer nede ov me, cend me sumwhare. Yor Msyer Bonasyuu iz verry tiarsum."

The commisary dezsignated bi the same geschure Aithos and Bonasyuu, "Let them be garded moer cloasly dhan evver."

"And yet," ced Aithos, withe hiz habitchuwal caalmnes, "if it be Msyer dArtanyan whoo iz concernd in this matter, I doo not perceve hou I can take hiz place."

"Doo az I bad u," cride the commisary, "and preserv absolute ceecrecy. U understand!"

Aithos shrugd hiz shoalderz, and follode hiz gardz cilently, while M. Bonasyuu utterd lamentaishonz enuf too brake the hart ov a tigher.

Dha loct the mercer in the same dunjon whare he had paast the nite, and left him too himcelf juring the da. Bonasyuu wept aul da, like a tru mercer, not beying at aul a millitary man, az he himcelf informd us. In the evening, about nine oacloc, at the moment he had

made up hiz miand too go too bed, he herd steps in hiz coridor. These steps dru nere too hiz dunjon, the doer wauz throne open, and the gardz apeerd.

"Follo me," ced an officer, whoo came up behiand the gardz.

"Follo u!" cride Bonasyuu, "follo u at this our! Whare, mi God?"

"Whare we hav orderz too lede u."

"But dhat iz not an aancer."

"It iz, nevvertheles, the oanly wun we can ghiv."

"Aa, mi God, mi God!" mermerd the poor mercer, "nou, indede, I am lost!" And he follode the gardz whoo came for him, mecannicaly and widhout resistans.

He paast along the same coridor az befoer, crost wun coert, then a cecond cide ov a bilding; at length, at the gate ov the entrans coert he found a carrage surrounded bi foer gardz on horsbac. Dha made him enter this carrage, the officer plaist himcelf bi hiz cide, the doer wauz loct, and dha wer left in a roling prizzon. The carrage wauz poot in moashon az sloly az a funeral car. Throo the cloasly faacend windose the prizzoneer cood perceve the housez and the paivement, dhat wauz aul; but, tru Pareezhan az he wauz, Bonasyuu cood reccognise evvery strete bi the mialstoanz, the cianz, and the lamps. At the moment ov ariving at St. Paul—the spot whare such az wer condemd at the Bastile wer executed—he wauz nere fainting and crost himcelf twice. He thaut the carrage wauz about too stop dhare. The carrage, houwevver, paast on.

Farther on, a stil grater terror ceezd him on paacing bi the cemmetery ov St. Zhon, whare state crimminalz wer berrede. Wun thhing, houwevver,

reyashuerd him; he rememberd dhat befoer dha wer berrede dhare hedz wer genneraly cut of, and he felt dhat hiz hed wauz stil on hiz shoalderz. But when he sau the carrage take the wa too Laa Graev, when he perceevd the pointed roofe ov the Hotel de Veye, and the carrage paast under the arcade, he beleevd it wauz over withe him. He wisht too confes too the officer, and uppon hiz refuzal, utterd such pitteyabel crise dhat the officer toald him dhat if he continnude too deffen him dhus, he shood poot a gag in hiz mouth.

This mezhure sumwhaut reyashuerd Bonasyuu. If dha ment too execute him at Laa Graev, it cood scaersly be werth while too gag him, az dha had neerly reecht the place ov execueshon. Indede, the carrage crost the fatal spot widhout stopping. Dhare remaind, then, no uther place too fere but the Tratorz Cros; the carrage wauz taking the direct rode too it.

This time dhare wauz no lon'gher enny dout; it wauz at the Tratorz Cros dhat lescer crimminalz wer executed. Bonasyuu had flatterd himcelf in beleving himcelf werthy ov St. Paul or ov the Plaas de Graev; it wauz at the Tratorz Cros dhat hiz gerny and hiz destiny wer about too end! He cood not yet ce dhat dredfool cros, but he felt sumhou az if it wer cumming too mete him. When he wauz within twenty pavez ov it, he herd a noiz ov pepel and the carrage stopt. This wauz moer dhan poor Bonasyuu cood enjure, deprest az he wauz bi the suxescive emoashonz which he had expereyenst; he utterd a febel grone which nite hav bene taken for the laast ci ov a diying man, and fainted.

The croud wauz cauzd, not bi the expectaishon ov a man too be hangd, but bi the contemplaishon ov a man whoo wauz hangd.

The carrage, which had bene stopt for a minnute, rezhuemd its wa, paast throo the croud, thredded the Ru St. Onnora, ternd intoo the Ru da Bonz Enfants, and stopt befoer a lo doer.

The doer opend; too gardz receevd Bonasyuu in dhare armz from the officer whoo supoerted him. Dha carrede him throo an ally, up a flite ov staerz, and depozsited him in an antechamber.

Aul these muivments had bene efected mecannicaly, az far az he wauz concernd. He had wauct az wun waux in a dreme; he had a glimps ov obgets az throo a fog. Hiz eerz had perceevd soundz widhout comprehending them; he mite hav bene executed at dhat moment widhout hiz making a cin'ghel geschure in hiz one defens or uttering a cri too imploer mercy.

He remaind on the bench, withe hiz bac lening against the waul and hiz handz hanging doun, exactly on the spot whare the gardz plaist him.

On loocking around him, houwevver, az he cood perceve no threttening obget, az nuthhing indicated dhat he ran enny reyal dain'ger, az the bench wauz cumfortably cuvverd withe a wel-stuft cooshon, az the waul wauz ornamented withe a butifool Cordovaa lether, and az larj red dammasc kertainz, faacend bac bi goald claasps, floted befoer the windo, he perceevd bi degrese dhat hiz fere wauz exadgerated, and he began too tern hiz hed too the rite and the left, upword and dounword.

At this muivment, which nobody opoazd, he rezhuemd a littel currage, and venchuerd too drau up wun leg and then the uther. At length, withe the help ov hiz too handz he lifted himcelf from the bench, and found himcelf on hiz fete.

At this moment an officer with a pleasant face opened a door, continued too exchange some words with a person in the next chamber and then came up to the prisoner. "Is your name Bonasyuu?" said he.

"Yes, My Lord Officer," stammered the mercer, mother dead and alive, "at your service."

"Come in," said the officer.

And he moved out of the way to let the mercer pass. The latter obeyed without reply, and entered the chamber, where he appeared to be expected.

It was a large cabinet, close and stately, with the walls furnished with arms of offence and defence, and in which there was a fire, although it was scarcely the end of the month of September. A square table, covered with books and papers, upon which was unrolled an immense plan of the city of La Rochelle, occupied the center of the room.

Standing before the chimney was a man of middle height, of a haughty, proud mien; with piercing eyes, a large brow, and a thin face, which was made still longer by a ROYAL (or IMPERIAL, as it is now called), surmounted by a pair of mustaches. Although this man was scarcely thirty-six or thirty-seven years of age, here, mustaches, and royal, all

began to be gray. This man, except a sword, had all the appearances of a soldier; and his buff boots still slightly covered with dust, indicated that he had been on horseback in the course of the day.

This man was Armand Jean DuPlessis, Cardinal de Richelieu; not such as

he is now represented—broken down like an old man, suffering like a

marter, hiz boddy bent, hiz vois faling, berrede in a larj armchare az in an antiscipated toome; no lon'gher livving but bi the strength ov hiz geenyus, and no lon'gher maintaning the strugghel withe Urope but bi the eternal aplicaishon ov hiz thauts—but such az he reyalz wauz at this pereyod; dhat iz too sa, an active and gallant cavaleyer, aulreddy weke ov boddy, but sustaind bi dhat moral pouwer which made ov him wun ov the moast extrordinary men dhat evver livd, preparing, aafter havving supoerted the Dooke de Nevair in hiz dutchy ov Manchuwaa, aafter havving taken Neme, Casterz, and Usez, too drive the In'glish from the Ile ov Re and la ceje too Laa Roshel.

At ferst cite, nuthhing denoted the cardinal; and it wauz imposcibel for dhose whoo did not no hiz face too ghes in whoose prezsens dha wer.

The poor mercer remaind standing at the doer, while the ise ov the personage we hav just descriabd wer fixt uppon him, and apeerd too wish too pennetrate even intoo the depths ov the paast.

"Iz this dhat Bonasyuu?" aasct he, aafter a moment ov cilens.

"Yes, moncennure," replide the officer.

"Dhats wel. Ghiv me dhose paperz, and leve us."

The officer tooc from the tabel the paperz pointed out, gave them too him whoo aasct for them, boud too the ground, and retiard.

Bonasyuu reccogniazd in these paperz hiz interoggatoerese ov the Bastele. From time too time the man bi the chimney raizd hiz ise from the ritingz, and plunjd them like ponyardz intoo the hart ov the poor mercer.

At the end ov ten minnuets ov reding and ten cecondz ov examinaishon, the cardinal wauz sattisfide.

"Dhat hed haz nevver conspiard," mermerd he, "but it matterz not; we wil ce."

"U ar acuezd ov hi trezon," ced the cardinal, sloly.

"So I hav bene toald aulreddy, moncennure," cride Bonasyuu, ghivving hiz interrogator the titel he had herd the officer ghiv him, "but I sware too u dhat I no nuthhing about it."

The cardinal represt a smile.

"U hav conspiard withe yor wife, withe Madam de Shevruuz, and withe mi Lord Juke ov Buckingham."

"Indede, moncennure," responded the mercer, "I hav herd her pronouns aul dhose naimz."

"And on whaut ocaizhon?"

"She ced dhat the Cardinal de Reeshlu had draun the Juke ov Buckingham too Parris too ruwin him and too ruwin the qwene."

"She ced dhat?" cride the cardinal, withe viyolens.

"Yes, moncennure, but I toald her she wauz rong too tauc about such thhingz; and dhat hiz Emminens wauz incapabel—"

"Hoald yor tung! U ar schupid," replide the cardinal.

"Dhats exactly whaut mi wife ced, moncennure."



"Doo u no whoo carrede of yor wife?"

"No, moncennure."

"U hav suspishonz, nevvertheles?"

"Yes, moncennure; but these suspishonz apeerd too be disagreyabel too Msyer the Commisary, and I no lon'gher hav them."

"Yor wife haz escaipt. Did u no dhat?"

"No, moncennure. I lernd it cins I hav bene in prizzon, and dhat from the conversaishon ov Msyer the Commisary—an ameyabel man."

The cardinal represt anuther smile.

"Then u ar ignorant ov whaut haz becum ov yor wife cins her flite."

"Absoluetly, moncennure; but she haz moast liacly reternd too the Luivr."

"At wun oacloc this morning she had not reternd."

"Mi God! Whaut can hav becum ov her, then?"

"We shal no, be ashuerd. Nuthhing iz conceeld from the cardinal; the cardinal nose evverithhing."

"In dhat cace, moncennure, doo u beleve the cardinal wil be so kiand az too tel me whaut haz becum ov mi wife?"

"Perhaps he ma; but u must, in the ferst place, revele too the

cardinal aul u no ov yor wiafs relaishonz withe Madam de Shevruuz."

"But, moncennure, I no nuthhing about them; I hav nevver cene her."

"When u went too fech yor wife from the Luivr, did u aulwase retern directly home?"

"Scaersly evver; she had biznes too traanzact withe linnen draperz, too whoose housez I conducted her."

"And hou menny wer dhare ov these linnen draperz?"

"Too, moncennure."

"And whare did dha liv?"

"Wun in Ru de Vojirar, the uther Ru de laa Arp."

"Did u go intoo these housez withe her?"

"Nevver, moncennure; I wated at the doer."

"And whaut excuce did she ghiv u for entering aul alone?"

"She gave me nun; she toald me too wate, and I wated."

"U ar a verry complacent huzband, mi dere Msyer Bonasyuu," ced the cardinal.

"He caulz me hiz dere Msyer," ced the mercer too himcelf. "*PESTE!* Matterz ar gowing aul rite."

"Shood u no dhose doerz agane?"

"Yes."

"Doo u no the numberz?"

"Yes."

"Whaut ar dha?"

"No. 25 in the Ru de Vojirar; 75 in the Ru de laa Arp."

"Dhats wel," ced the cardinal.

At these werdz he tooc up a cilver bel, and rang it; the officer enterd.

"Go," ced he, in a subjude vois, "and fiand Roshfor. Tel him too cum too me imejaitly, if he haz reternd."

"The count iz here," ced the officer, "and reqwests too speke withe yor Emminens instantly."

"Let him cum in, then!" ced the cardinal, qwicly.

The officer sprang out ov the apartment withe dhat alacrity which aul the cervants ov the cardinal displade in obaying him.

"Too yor Emminens!" mermerd Bonasyuu, roling hiz ise round in astonishment.

Five cecondz haz scaersly elapst aafter the disaperans ov the officer, when the doer opend, and a nu personage enterd.

"It iz he!" cride Bonasyuu.

"He! Whaut he?" aasct the cardinal.

"The man whoo abducted mi wife."

The cardinal rang a cecond time. The officer reyapeerd.

"Place this man in the care ov hiz gardz agane, and let him wate til I cend for him."

"No, moncennure, no, it iz not he!" cride Bonasyuu; "no, I wauz deceevd. This iz qwite anuther man, and duz not resembel him at aul. Msyer iz, I am shure, an onnest man."

"Take awa dhat foole!" ced the cardinal.

The officer tooc Bonasyuu bi the arm, and led him intoo the antechamber, whare he found hiz too gardz.

The nuly introjuest personage follode Bonasyuu impaishmently withe hiz ise til he had gon out; and the moment the doer cloazd, "Dha hav cene eche uther;" ced he, aproching the cardinal egherly.

"Whoo?" aasct hiz Emminens.

"He and she."

"The qwene and the juke?" cride Reeshlu.

"Yes."

"Whare?"

"At the Luivr."

"Ar u shure ov it?"

"Perfectly shure."

"Whoo toald u ov it?"

"Madam de Laanwaa, whoo iz devoted too yor Emminens, az u no."

"Whi did she not let me no sooner?"

"Whether bi chaans or mistrust, the qwene made Madam de Soorjy slepe in her chaimber, and detaind her aul da."

"Wel, we ar beten! Nou let us tri too take our revenj."

"I wil acist u withe aul mi hart, moncennure; be ashuerd ov dhat."

"Hou did it cum about?"

"At haaf paast twelv the qwene wauz withe her wimmen—"

"Whare?"

"In her bedchaimber—"

"Go on."

"When sumwun came and braut her a hankerchefe from her laundres."

"And then?"

"The qwene imejaitly exhibbited strong emoashon; and despite the rooje

withe which her face wauz cuvverd evvidently ternd pale—"

"And then, and then?"

"She then arose, and withe aulterd vois, Ladese,' ced she, wate for me ten minnuets, I shal soone retern.' She then opend the doer ov her alcove, and went out."

"Whi did not Madam de Laanwaa cum and inform u instantly?"

"Nuthing wauz certane; beciadz, her Madgesty had ced, Ladese, wate for me,' and she did not dare too disoba the qwene."

"Hou long did the qwene remane out ov the chaimber?"

"Thre-qworterz ov an our."

"Nun ov her wimmen acumpanede her?"

"Oonly Donnaa Estafaanyaa."

"Did she aafterword retern?"

"Yes; but oonly too take a littel roazwood caasket, withe her cifer uppon it, and went out agane imejaitly."

"And when she finaly reternd, did she bring dhat caasket withe her?"

"No."

"Duz Madam de Laanwaa no whaut wauz in dhat caasket?"

"Yes; the dimond studz which hiz Madgesty gave the qwene."

"And she came bac widhout this caasket?"

"Yes."

"Madam de Laanwaa, then, iz ov opinyon dhat she gave them too Buckingham?"

"She iz shure ov it."

"Hou can she be so?"

"In the coers ov the da Madam de Laanwaa, in her qwaulity ov tire-woomman ov the qwene, looct for this caasket, apeerd unnesy at not fianding it, and at length aasct informaishon ov the qwene."

"And then the qwene?"

"The qwene became exedingly red, and replide dhat havving in the evening broken wun ov dhose studz, she had cent it too her goaldsmith too be repaerd."

"He must be cauld uppon, and so ascertain if the thhing be tru or not."

"I hav just bene withe him."

"And the goaldsmith?"

"The goaldsmith haz herd nuthing ov it."

"Wel, wel! Roshfor, aul iz not lost; and perhaps—perhaps evverithing iz for the best."

"The fact iz dhat I doo not dout yor Emminencez geenyus—"

"Wil repare the blunderz ov hiz agent—iz dhat it?"

"Dhat iz exactly whaut I wauz gowing too sa, if yor Emminens had let me finnish mi centens."

"Meenwhile, doo u no whare the Dushes de Shevruuz and the Juke ov Buckingham ar nou conceeld?"

"No, moncennure; mi pepel cood tel me nuthhing on dhat hed."

"But I no."

"U, moncennure?"

"Yes; or at leest I ghes. Dha wer, wun in the Ru de Vojirar, No. 25; the uther in the Ru de laa Arp, No. 75."

"Duz yor Emminens comaand dhat dha boath be instantly arested?"

"It wil be too late; dha wil be gon."

"But stil, we can make shure dhat dha ar so."

"Take ten men ov mi Gardzmen, and cerch the too housez thurroly."

"Instantly, moncennure." And Roshfor went haistily out ov the apartment.

The cardinal beying left alone, reflected for an instant and then rang the bel a thherd time. The same officer apeerd.

"Bring the prizzoner in agane," ced the cardinal.



M. Bonasyuu wauz introjuest afresh, and uppon a cine from the cardinal, the officer retiard.

"U hav deceevd me!" ced the cardinal, sternly.

"I," cride Bonasyuu, "I deceve yor Emminens!"

"Yor wife, in gowing too Ru de Vojirar and Ru de laa Arp, did not go too fiand linnen draperz."

"Then whi did she go, just God?"

"She went too mete the Dushes de Shevruuz and the Juke ov Buckingham."

"Yes," cride Bonasyuu, recauling aul hiz remembrancez ov the cercumstaancez, "yes, dhats it. Yor Emminens iz rite. I toald mi wife cevveral tiamz dhat it wauz cerprising dhat linnen draperz shood liv in such housez az dhose, in housez dhat had no cianz; but she aulwase laaft at me. Aa, moncennure!" continnude Bonasyuu, throwing himcelf at hiz Emminencez fete, "aa, hou truly u ar the cardinal, the grate cardinal, the man ov geenyus whoome aul the werld reveerz!"

The cardinal, houwevver contemptibel mite be the triyumf gaind over so vulgar a beying az Bonasyuu, did not the les enjoi it for an instant; then, aulmoast imejaitly, az if a fresh thaut haz okerd, a smile plade uppon hiz lips, and he ced, offering hiz hand too the mercer, "Rise, mi frend, u ar a werthy man."

"The cardinal haz tucht me withe hiz hand! I hav tucht the hand ov the grate man!" cride Bonasyuu. "The grate man haz cauld me hiz frend!"

"Yes, mi frend, yes," ced the cardinal, withe dhat paternal tone which he sumtiamz nu hou too ashume, but which deceevd nun whoo nu him;

"and az u hav bene unjustly suspected, wel, u must be indemnifide. Here, take this pers ov a hundred pistoalz, and pardon me."

"I pardon u, moncennure!" ced Bonasyuu, hezsitating too take the pers, fering, doutles, dhat this pretended ghift wauz but a plezzantry. "But u ar Abel too hav me arested, u ar Abel too hav me torchuerd, u ar Abel too hav me hangd; u ar the maaster, and I cood not hav the leest werd too sa. Pardon u, moncennure! U canot mene dhat!"

"Aa, mi dere Msyer Bonasyuu, u ar gennerous in this matter. I ce it and I thanc u for it. Dhus, then, u wil take this bag, and u wil go awa widhout beying too malcontent."

"I go awa enchaanted."

"Faerwel, then, or raather, *AU REVOIR!*"

And the cardinal made him a cine withe hiz hand, too which Bonasyuu replide bi bouwing too the ground. He then went out baqword, and when he wauz in the antechamber the cardinal herd him, in hiz enthuseyazm, crying aloud, "Long life too the Moncennure! Long life too hiz Emminens! Long life too the grate cardinal!" The cardinal liscend withe a smile too this vocifferous manifestaishon ov the felingz ov M. Bonasyuu; and then, when Bonasyuuz crise wer no lon'gher audibel, "Good!" ced he, "dhat man wood hensforword la doun hiz life for me." And the cardinal began too exammine withe the gratest atenshon the map ov Laa Roshel, which, az we hav ced, la open on the desc, tracing withe a pencil the line in which the famous dike wauz too paas which, atene munths later, shut up the poert ov the beceezhd city. Az he wauz in the depest ov hiz strategic meditaishonz, the doer open, and Roshfor reternd.

"Wel?" ced the cardinal, egherly, rising withe a promptichude which pruivd the degry ov importans he atacht too the comishon withe which he had charjd the count.

"Wel," ced the latter, "a yung woomman ov about twenty-cix or twenty-ate yeerz ov age, and a man ov from thherty-five too forty, hav indede lojd at the too housez pointed out bi yor Emminens; but the woomman left laast nite, and the man this morning."

"It wauz dha!" cride the cardinal, loocking at the cloc; "and nou it iz too late too hav them pershude. The dutches iz at Toor, and the juke at Booloin. It iz in Lundon dha must be found."

"Whaut ar yor Emminencez orderz?"

"Not a werd ov whaut haz paast. Let the qwene remane in perfect security; let her be ignorant dhat we no her ceecret. Let her beleve dhat we ar in cerch ov sum consperracy or uther. Cend me the keper ov the ceelz, Sagheya."

"And dhat man, whaut haz yor Emminens dun withe him?"

"Whaut man?" aasct the cardinal.

"Dhat Bonasyuu."

"I hav dun withe him aul dhat cood be dun. I hav made him a spi uppon hiz wife."

The Comt de Roshfor boud like a man whoo acnollegez the supereyoryty ov the maaster az grate, and retiard.

Left alone, the cardinal ceted himcelf agane and rote a letter, which

he ceuedr withe hiz speshal cele. Then he rang. The officer enterd for the foerth time.

"Tel Veetra too cum too me," ced he, "and tel him too ghet reddy for a gerny."

An instant aafter, the man he aasct for wauz befoer him, booted and sperd.

"Veetra," ced he, "u wil go withe aul spede too Lundon. U must not stop an instant on the wa. U wil delivver this letter too Milady. Here iz an order for too hundred pistoalz; caul uppon mi trezhurer and ghet the munny. U shal hav az much agane if u ar bac within cix dase, and hav executed yor comishon wel."

The mescen'ger, widhout repliing a cin'ghel werd, boud, tooc the letter, withe the order for the too hundred pistoalz, and retiard.

Here iz whaut the letter containd:

MILADY, Be at the ferst baul at which the Juke ov Buckingham shal be prezsent. He wil ware on hiz dublet twelv dimond studz; ghet az nere too him az u can, and cut of too.

Az soone az these studz shal be in yor poseshon, inform me.

## 15 MEN OV THE ROBE AND MEN OV THE SOERD

On the da aafter these events had taken place, Aithos not havving reyapeerd, M. de Treveye wauz informd bi dArtanyan and Porthos ov the circumstaans. Az too Arramis, he had aasct for leve ov abcens for five

dase, and wauz gon, it wauz ced, too Roowon on fammily biznes.

M. de Treveye wauz the faather ov hiz soalgerz. The lowest or the leest none ov them, az soone az he ashuemd the uniform ov the cumpany, wauz az shure ov hiz ade and supoert az if he had bene hiz one bruther.

He repaerd, then, instantly too the office ov the *LIEUTENANT-CRIMINEL*. The officer whoo comaanded the poast ov the Red Cros wauz cent for, and bi suxescive inqwires dha lernd dhat Aithos wauz then lojd in the Foert lEvec.

Aithos had paast throo aul the examinaishonz we hav cene Bonasyuu undergo.

We wer prezsent at the cene in which the too captiavz wer confrunted with eche uther. Aithos, whoo had til dhat time ced nuthhing for fere dhat dArtanyan, interupted in hiz tern, shood not hav the time nescesary, from this moment declaerd dhat hiz name wauz Aithos, and not dArtanyan. He added dhat he did not no iather M. or Mme. Bonasyuu; dhat he had nevver spoken too the wun or the uther; dhat he had cum, at about ten oacloc in the evening, too pa a vizsit too hiz frend M. dArtanyan, but dhat til dhat our he had bene at M. de Treveeyz, whare he had diand. "Twenty witnecez," added he, "cood attest the fact"; and he naimd cevveral distin'gwisht gentelmen, and amung them wauz M. le Dooke de laa Tremooweye.

The cecond commisary wauz az much bewilderd az the ferst had bene bi the cimpel and ferm declaraishon ov the Musketere, uppon whoome he wauz ancshous too take the revenj which men ov the robe like at aul tiamz too

gane over men ov the soerd; but the name ov M. de Treveye, and dhat ov M. de laa Tremooweye, comaanded a littel reflecshon.

Aithos wauz then cent too the cardinal; but unforchunaitly the cardinal wauz at the Luivr withe the king.

It wauz preciasly at this moment dhat M. de Treveye, on leving the rezsidens ov the *LIEUTENANT-CRIMINEL* and the guvvernor ov the Foert lEvec widhout beying abel too fiand Aithos, ariavd at the pallace.

Az captane ov the Musketeerz, M. de Treveye had the rite ov entry at aul tiamz.

It iz wel none hou viyolent the kingz prejudicez wer against the qwene, and hou caerfooly these prejudicez wer kept up bi the cardinal, whoo in afaerz ov intreghe mistrusted wimmen infiniatly moer dhan men. Wun ov the grand causez ov this prejudice wauz the frendship ov An ov Austreyaa for Mme. de Shevruuz. These too wimmen gave him moer unnesines

dhan the wor withe Spane, the qworel withe In'gland, or the embarrasment ov the financez. In hiz ise and too hiz convicshon, Mme. de Shevruuz not oonly cervd the qwene in her polittical intreegz, but, whaut tormented him stil moer, in her ammorous intreegz.

At the ferst werd the cardinal spoke ov Mme. de Shevruuz—whoo, dho exiald too Toor and beleevd too be in dhat citty, had cum too Parris, remaind dhare five dase, and outwitted the polece—the king flu intoo a fureyous pashon. Caprishous and unfaithfool, the king wisht too be cauld Loowy the Just and Loowy the Chaist. Posterrity wil fiand a difficulty in understanding this carracter, which history explainz oonly bi facts and nevver bi rezon.

But when the cardinal added dhat not oanly Mme. de Shevruuz had bene in Parris, but stil ferther, dhat the qwene had renude withe her wun ov dhose mistereyous corespondencez which at dhat time wauz naimd a CABAL;

when he afermd dhat he, the cardinal, wauz about too unravvel the moast cloasly twisted thred ov this intreghe; dhat at the moment ov aresting in the verry act, withe aul the pruijs about her, the qweenz emmisary too the exiald dutches, a Musketere had daerd too interrupt the coers ov justice viyolently, bi fauling soerd in hand uppon the onnest men ov the lau, charjd withe investigating imparshaly the whole afare in order too place it befoer the ise ov the king—Loowy 13 cood not contane himcelf, and he made a step tooword the qweenz apartment withe dhat pale

and mute indignaishon which, when in broke out, led this prins too the comishon ov the moast pittiles cruwelly. And yet, in aul this, the cardinal had not yet ced a werd about the Juke ov Buckingham.

At this instant M. de Treveye enterd, coole, polite, and in irreprochabel coschume.

Informd ov whaut had paast bi the prezsens ov the cardinal and the alutraishon in the kingz countenans, M. de Treveye felt himcelf sumthhing like Samson befoer the Fillistianz.

Loowy 13 had aulreddy plaist hiz hand on the nob ov the doer; at the noiz ov M. de Treveyez entrans he ternd round. "U arive in good time, msyer," ced the king, whoo, when hiz pashonz wer raizd too a certane point, cood not dicembel; "I hav lernd sum fine thhingz concerning yor Musketeez."

"And I," ced Treveye, coaldly, "I hav sum pritty thhingz too tel yor Madgesty concerning these gounzmen."

"Whaut?" ced the king, withe oter.

"I hav the onnor too inform yor Madgesty," continnude M. de Treveye, in the same tone, "dhat a party ov *PROCUREURS*, commisarese, and men ov the polece—verry estimabel pepel, but verry invetterate, az it apeerz, against the uniform—hav taken uppon themcelvz too arest in a hous, too lede awa thro the open strete, and thro intoo the Foert lEvec, aul uppon an order which dha hav refuezd too sho me, wun ov mi, or raather yor Musketeerz, cire, ov irreprochabel conduct, ov an aulmoast illustreyous reputaishon, and whoome yor Madgesty nose favorably, Msyer Aithos."

"Aithos," ced the king, mecannicaly; "yes, certainly I no dhat name."

"Let yor Madgesty remember," ced Treveye, "dhat Msyer Aithos iz the Musketerere whoo, in the anoiying juwel which u ar aqwainted withe, had the misforchune too wuind Msyer de Caa'ooosac so cereyously. A PROPO, moncennure," continnude Treveye. Adrescing the cardinal, "Msyer de Caa'ooosac iz qwite recuverd, iz he not?"

"Thanc u," ced the cardinal, biting hiz lips withe an'gher.

"Aithos, then, went too pa a vizsit too wun ov hiz frendz abcent at the time," continnude Treveye, "too a yung Baerna, a cadet in hiz Madgestese Gardz, the cumpany ov Msyer Decessar, but scaersly had he ariavd at hiz frendz and taken up a booc, while wating hiz retern, when a mixt croud ov balifs and soalgerz came and lade ceje too the hous, broke open ceveral doerz—"

The cardinal made the king a cine, which cignifide, "Dhat wauz on acount ov the afare about which I spoke too u."

"We aul no dhat," interupted the king; "for aul dhat wauz dun for our



cervice."

"Then," ced Treveye, "it wauz aulso for yor Madgestese cervice dhat wun ov mi Musketeerz, whoo wauz innocent, haz bene ceezd, dhat he haz bene plaist betwene too gardz like a mallefactor, and dhat this gallant man, whoo haz ten tiamz shed hiz blud in yor Madgestese cervice and iz reddy too shed it agane, haz bene paraded throo the midst ov an insolent poppulance?"

"Baa!" ced the king, whoo began too be shaken, "wauz it so mannaijd?"

"Msyer de Treveye," ced the cardinal, withe the gratest flem, "duz not tel yor Madgesty dhat this innocent Musketerere, this gallant man, had oanly an our befoer atact, soerd in hand, foer commisarese ov inqwiry, whoo wer dellegated bi micelf too exammine intoo an afare ov the hiyest importans."

"I defi yor Emminens too proove it," cride Treveye, withe hiz Gascon fredom and millitary francnes; "for wun our befoer, Msyer Aithos, whoo, I wil confide it too yor Madgesty, iz reyaly a man ov the hiyest qwaulity, did me the onnor aafter havving diand withe me too be convercing in the saloone ov mi hotel, withe the Dooke de laa Tremooweye and the Comt de Shaaloo, whoo happend too be dhare."

The king looct at the cardinal.

"A ritten examinaishon attests it," ced the cardinal, repliying aloud too the mute interogaishon ov hiz Madgesty; "and the il-treted pepel hav draun up the following, which I hav the onnor too present too yor Madgesty."

"And iz the ritten repoert ov the gounzmen too be plaist in comparrison

withe the werd ov onnor ov a soerdzman?" replide Treveye hautily.

"Cum, cum, Treveye, hoald yor tung," ced the king.

"If hiz Emminens entertainz enny suspishon against wun ov mi Musketeerz,"  
ced Treveye, "the justice ov Msyer the Cardinal iz so wel none dhat I demaand an inqwiry."

"In the hous in which the judishal inqwiry wauz made," continnude the impascive cardinal, "dhare lodgez, I beleve, a yung Baerna, a frend ov the Musketerere."

"Yor Emminens meenz Msyer dArtanyan."

"I mene a yung man whoome u paitronise, Msyer de Treveye."

"Yes, yor Emminens, it iz the same."

"Doo u not suspect this yung man ov havving ghivven bad councel?"

"Too Aithos, too a man dubbel hiz age?" interupted Treveye. "No, moncennure. Beciadz, dArtanyan paast the evening withe me."

"Wel," ced the cardinal, "evveriboddy ceemz too hav paast the evening withe u."

"Duz yor Emminens dout mi werd?" ced Treveye, withe a brou flusht withe an'gher.

"No, God forbid," ced the cardinal; "oonly, at whaut our wauz he withe u?"

"O, az too dhat I can speke pozsitiavly, yor Emminens; for az he came in

I remarct dhat it wauz but haaf paast nine bi the cloc, auldho I had beleevd it too be later."

"At whaut our did he leve yor hotel?"

"At haaf paast ten—an our aafter the event."

"Wel," replide the cardinal, whoo cood not for an instant suspect the loiyalty ov Treveye, and whoo felt dhat the victory wauz escaping him, "wel, but Aithos WAUZ taken in the hous in the Ru da Foswaa'er."

"Iz wun frend forbidden too vizsit anuther, or a Musketere ov mi cumpany too fraternise withe a Gard ov Decessarz cumpany?"

"Yes, when the hous whare he fraternisez iz suspected."

"Dhat hous iz suspected, Treveye," ced the king; "perhaps u did not no it?"

"Indede, cire, I did not. The hous ma be suspected; but I deni dhat it iz so in the part ov it inhabbited mi Msyer dArtanyan, for I can aferm, cire, if I can beleve whaut he cez, dhat dhare duz not exist a moer devoted cervant ov yor Madgesty, or a moer profound admirer ov Msyer the Cardinal."

"Wauz it not this dArtanyan whoo wuinded Zhusac wun da, in dhat unforchunate encounter which tooc place nere the Convent ov the Carm-Deshoce?" aasct the king, loocking at the cardinal, whoo cullord withe vexaishon.

"And the next da, Baernazhu. Yes, cire, yes, it iz the same; and yor Madgesty haz a good memmory."

"Cum, hou shal we decide?" ced the king.

"Dhat concernz yor Madgesty moer dhan me," ced the cardinal. "I shood aferm the culpability."

"And I deni it," ced Treveye. "But hiz Madgesty haz judgez, and these judgez wil decide."

"Dhat iz best," ced the king. "Cend the cace befoer the judgez; it iz dhare biznes too juj, and dha shal juj."

"Oanly," replide Treveye, "it iz a sad thhing dhat in the unforchunate tiamz in which we liv, the purest life, the moast incontestabel verchu, canot exempt a man from infamy and percecueshon. The army, I wil aancer for it, wil be but littel pleezd at beying expoazd too riggorous treatment on acount ov polece afaerz."

The expreshon wauz imprudent; but M. de Treveye launcht it withe nollej ov hiz cauz. He wauz desirous ov an exploazhon, becauz in dhat cace the mine throse foerth fire, and fire enlitenz.

"Polece afaerz!" cride the king, taking up Treveeyz werdz, "polece afaerz! And whaut doo u no about them, Msyer? Meddel withe yor Musketeerz, and doo not anoi me in this wa. It apeerz, acording too yor acount, dhat if bi mischaans a Musketerere iz arested, Fraans iz in dain'ger. Whaut a noiz about a Musketerere! I wood arest ten ov them, *VENTREBLEU*, a hundred, even, aul the cumpany, and I wood not alou a whisper."

"From the moment dha ar suspected bi yor Madgesty," ced Treveye, "the Musketeerz ar ghilty; dhaerfoer, u ce me prepaerd too surrender mi soerd—for aafter havving acuezd mi soalgerz, dhare can be no dout dhat Msyer the Cardinal wil end bi acusing me. It iz best too constichute micelf at wuns a prizzoner withe Aithos, whoo iz aulreddy

arested, and withe dArtanyan, whoo moast probbably wil be."

"Gascon-hedded man, wil u hav dun?" ced the king.

"Cire," replide Treveye, widhout lowering hiz vois in the leest,  
"iather order mi Musketere too be restoerd too me, or let him be tride."

"He shal be tride," ced the cardinal.

"Wel, so much the better; for in dhat cace I shal demaand ov hiz  
Madgesty permishon too plede for him."

The king feerd an outbrake.

"If hiz Emminens," ced he, "did not hav personal motiavz—"

The cardinal sau whaut the king wauz about too sa and interupted him:

"Pardon me," ced he; "but the instant yor Madgesty concidderz me a  
predjudiast juj, I widhdrau."

"Cum," ced the king, "wil u sware, bi mi faather, dhat Aithos wauz at  
yor rezsidens juring the event and dhat he tooc no part in it?"

"Bi yor gloereyous faather, and bi yorcelf, whoome I luv and vennerate  
abuv aul the werld, I sware it."

"Be so kiand az too reflect, cire," ced the cardinal. "If we relece the  
prizzoner dhus, we shal nevver no the trueth."

"Aithos ma aulwase be found," replide Treveye, "reddy too aancer, when  
it shal plese the gounzmen too interrogate him. He wil not desert,  
Msyer the Cardinal, be ashuerd ov dhat; I wil aancer for him."

"No, he wil not desert," ced the king; "he can aulwase be found, az Treveye cez. Beciadz," added he, lowering hiz vois and loocking withe a supleyant are at the cardinal, "let us ghiv them aparrent cecurity; dhat iz pollicy."

This pollicy ov Loowy 13 made Reeshlu smile.

"Order it az u plese, cire; u poses the rite ov pardon."

"The rite ov pardoning oonly aplise too the ghilty," ced Treveye, whoo wauz determiand too hav the laast werd, "and mi Musketere iz innocent. It iz not mercy, then, dhat u ar about too acord, cire, it iz justice."

"And he iz in the Foert lEvec?" ced the king.

"Yes, cire, in sollitary confianment, in a dunjon, like the lowest crimminal."

"The devvil!" mermerd the king; "whaut must be dun?"

"Cine an order for hiz relece, and aul wil be ced," replide the cardinal. "I beleve withe yor Madgesty dhat Msyer de Treveeyz garanty iz moer dhan sufishent."

Treveye boud verry respectfooly, withe a joi dhat wauz not unmixt withe fere; he wood hav preferd an obstinate resistans on the part ov the cardinal too this sudden yeelding.

The king ciand the order for relece, and Treveye carrede it awa widhout dela. Az he wauz about too leve the prezsens, the cardinal gave him a frendly smile, and ced, "A perfect harmony rainz, cire, betwene the lederz and the soalgerz ov yor Musketeerz, which must be proffitabel for the cervice and onnorabel too aul."

"He wil pla me sum dogz tric or uther, and dhat imejaitly," ced Treveye. "Wun haz nevver the laast werd withe such a man. But let us be qwic—the king ma chainj hiz miand in an our; and at aul events it iz moer difficult too replace a man in the Foert lEvec or the Bastele whoo haz got out, dhan too kepe a prizzoner dhare whoo iz in."

M. de Treveye made hiz entrans triyumfantly intoo the Foert lEvec, whens he delivverd the Musketere, whoose peesfool indifferens had not for a moment abandond him.

The ferst time he sau dArtanyan, "U hav cum of wel," ced he too him; "dhare iz yor Zhusac thrust pade for. Dhare stil remainz dhat ov Baernazhu, but u must not be too confident."

Az too the rest, M. de Treveye had good rezon too mistrust the cardinal and too thhinc dhat aul wauz not over, for scaersly had the captane ov the Musketeerz cloazd the doer aafter him, dhan hiz Emminens ced too the king, "Nou dhat we ar at length bi ourcelvz, we wil, if yor Madgesty plesez, convers cereyously. Cire, Buckingham haz bene in Parris five dase, and oonly left this morning."

16 IN WHICH M. SAGHEYA, KEPER OV THE CEELZ, LOOX MOER  
DHAN WUNS FOR  
THE BEL, IN ORDER TOO RING IT, AZ HE DID BEFOER

It iz impscibel too form an ideyaa ov the impreshon these fu werdz made uppon Loowy 13. He gru pale and red aulternaitly; and the cardinal sau at wuns dhat he had recuvverd bi a cin'ghel blo aul the ground he had lost.

"Buckingham in Parris!" cride he, "and whi duz he cum?"

"Too conspire, no dout, withe yor ennemese, the Ughenose and the Spanyoldz."

"No, *PARDIEU*, no! Too conspire against mi onnor withe Madam de Shevruuz,  
Madam de Lon'gheveye, and the Caund."

"O, cire, whaut an ideyaa! The qwene iz too verchuwous; and beciadz, luvz yor Madgesty too wel."

"Woomman iz weke, Msyer Cardinal," ced the king; "and az too luvving me much, I hav mi one opinyon az too dhat luv."

"I not the les maintane," ced the cardinal, "dhat the Juke ov Buckingham came too Parris for a prodject wholly polittical."

"And I am shure dhat he came for qwite anuther perpoce, Msyer Cardinal; but if the qwene be ghilty, let her trembel!"

"Indede," ced the cardinal, "whautevver repugnans I ma hav too directing mi miand too such a trezon, yor Madgesty compeliz me too thhinc ov  
it. Madam de Laanwaa, whoome, acording too yor Madgestese comaand, I hav  
freeqwently interrogated, toald me this morning dhat the nite befoer laast her Madgesty sat up verry late, dhat this morning she wept much, and  
dhat  
she wauz riting aul da."

"Dhats it!" cride the king; "too him, no dout. Cardinal, I must hav



the qweenz paperz."

"But hou too take them, cire? It ceemz too me dhat it iz niather yor Madgesty nor micelf whoo can charj himcelf withe such a mishon."

"Hou did dha act withe regard too the Mareshaal dAuncr?" cride the king, in the hiyest state ov coller; "ferst her clozsets wer thurroly cercht, and then she hercelf."

"The Mareshaal dAuncr wauz no moer dhan the Mareshaal dAuncr. A Florentine advenchurer, cire, and dhat wauz aul; while the august spous ov yor Madgesty iz An ov Austreyaa, Qwene ov Fraans—dhat iz too sa, wun ov the gratest princecez in the werld."

"She iz not the les ghilty, Msyer Juke! The moer she haz forgotten the hi posishon in which she wauz plaist, the moer degrading iz her faul. Beciadz, I long ago determiand too poot an end too aul these petty intreegz ov pollicy and luv. She haz nere her a certane Laaport."

"Whoo, I beleve, iz the mainspring ov aul this, I confes," ced the cardinal.

"U thhinc then, az I doo, dhat she deceevz me?" ced the king.

"I beleve, and I repete it too yor Madgesty, dhat the qwene conspiarz against the pouwer ov the king, but I hav not ced against hiz onnor."

"And I—I tel u against boath. I tel u the qwene duz not luv me; I tel u she luvz anuther; I tel u she luvz dhat infamous Buckingham! Whi did u not hav him arested while in Parris?"

"Arest the Juke! Arest the prime minnister ov King Charlz I! Thhinc ov it, cire! Whaut a scandal! And if the suspishonz ov yor Madgesty, which

I stil continuu too dout, shood prove too hav enny foundaishon, whaut a terribel discloazhure, whaut a feerfool scandal!"

"But az he expoazd himcelf like a vagabond or a thhefe, he shood hav bene—"

Loowy 13 stopt, terrifide at whaut he wauz about too sa, while Reeshlu, stretching out hiz nec, wated ueslesly for the werd which had dide on the lips ov the king.

"He shood hav bene—?"

"Nuthhing," ced the king, "nuthhing. But aul the time he wauz in Parris, u, ov coers, did not loose cite ov him?"

"No, cire."

"Whare did he loj?"

"Ru de laa Arp. No. 75."

"Whare iz dhat?"

"Bi the cide ov the Luxemburg."

"And u ar certane dhat the qwene and he did not ce eche uther?"

"I beleve the qwene too hav too hi a cens ov her juty, cire."

"But dha hav coresponded; it iz too him dhat the qwene haz bene riting aul the da. Msyer Juke, I must hav dhose letterz!"

"Cire, notwidhstanding—"

"Msyer Juke, at whautevver price it ma be, I wil hav them."

"I wood, houwevver, beg yor Madgesty too observ—"

"Doo u, then, aulso join in betraying me, Msyer Cardinal, bi dhus aulwase oposing mi wil? Ar u aulso in acord withe Spane and In'gland, withe Madam de Shevruuz and the qwene?"

"Cire," replide the cardinal, ciying, "I beleevd micelf cecure from such a suspishon."

"Msyer Cardinal, u hav herd me; I wil hav dhose letterz."

"Dhare iz but wun wa."

"Whaut iz dhat?"

"Dhat wood be too charj Msyer de Sagheya, the keper ov the ceelz, withe this mishon. The matter enterz compleetly intoo the jutese ov the poast."

"Let him be cent for instantly."

"He iz moast liacly at mi hotel. I reqwested him too caul, and when I came too the Luivr I left orderz if he came, too desire him too wate."

"Let him be cent for instantly."

"Yor Madgestese orderz shal be executed; but—"

"But whaut?"

"But the qwene wil perhaps refuse too oba."

"Mi orderz?"

"Yes, if she iz ignorant dhat these orderz cum from the king."

"Wel, dhat she ma hav no dout on dhat hed, I wil go and inform her micelf."

"Yor Madgesty wil not forghet dhat I hav dun evverithhing in mi pouwer too prevent a rupchure."

"Yes, Juke, yes, I no u ar verry indulgent tooword the qwene, too indulgent, perhaps; we shal hav ocaizhon, I worn u, at sum fuchure pereyod too speke ov dhat."

"Whenevver it shal plese yor Madgesty; but I shal be aulwase happy and proud, cire, too sacrifice micelf too the harmony which I desire too ce rane betwene u and the Qwene ov Fraans."

"Verry wel, Cardinal, verry wel; but, meentime, cend for Msyer the Keper ov the Ceelz. I wil go too the qwene."

And Loowy 13, opening the doer ov comunicaishon, paast intoo the coridor which led from hiz apartments too dhose ov An ov Austreyaa.

The qwene wauz in the midst ov her wimmen—Mme. de Gheto, Mme. de Sabel, Mme. de Montbazon, and Mme. de Ghemaen. In a corner wauz the Spanish companyon, Donnaa Estafaanyaa, whoo had follode her from Madrid. Mme.

Ghemaen wauz reding aloud, and evveriboddy wauz liscening too her  
withe  
atenshon withe the exepshon ov the qwene, whoo had, on the contrary,  
desiard this reding in order dhat she mite be abel, while faning too  
liscen, too pershu the thred ov her one thauts.

These thauts, ghilded az dha wer bi a laast reflecshon ov luv, wer  
not the les sad. An ov Austreyaa, depriavd ov the confidens ov her  
huzband, pershude bi the haitred ov the cardinal, whoo cood not pardon  
her  
for havving repulst a moer tender feling, havving befoer her ise the  
exaampel ov the qwene-muther whoome dhat haitred had tormented aul  
her  
life—dho Mary de Medechese, if the memwarz ov the time ar too be  
beleevd, had begun bi acording too the cardinal dhat centiment which  
An ov Austreyaa aulwase refuezd him—An ov Austreyaa had cene her  
moast  
devoted cervants faul around her, her moast intimate confidants, her  
derest favoriats. Like dhose unforchunate personz endoud withe a fatal  
ghift, she braut misforchune uppon evverithhing she tucht. Her frendship  
wauz a fatal cine which cauld down percecueshon. Mme. de Shevruuz  
and Mme. de Berna wer exiald, and Laaport did not concele from hiz  
mistres dhat he expected too be arested evvery instant.

It wauz at the moment when she wauz plunjd in the depest and darkest  
ov these reflecshonz dhat the doer ov the chaimber opend, and the king  
enterd.

The reder husht hercelf instantly. Aul the ladese rose, and dhare  
wauz a profound cilens. Az too the king, he made no demonstraishon ov  
poliatnes, oanly stopping befoer the qwene. "Madam," ced he, "u  
ar about too receve a vizsit from the chaancellor, whoo wil comunicate  
certane matterz too u withe which I hav charjd him."

The unforchunate qwene, whoo wauz constantly threttend withe divoers, exile, and triyal even, ternd pale under her rooje, and cood not refrane from saying, "But whi this vizsit, cire? Whaut can the chaancellor hav too sa too me dhat yor Madgesty cood not sa yorcelf?"

The king ternd uppon hiz hele widhout repli, and aulmoast at the same instant the captane ov the Gardz, M. de Ghetan, anounst the vizsit ov the chaancellor.

When the chaancellor apeerd, the king had aulreddy gon out bi anuther doer.

The chaancellor enterd, haaf smiling, haaf blushing. Az we shal probbably mete withe him agane in the coers ov our history, it ma be wel for our rederz too be made at wuns aqwainted withe him.

This chaancellor wauz a plezzant man. He wauz Da Rosh le Maal, cannon ov Noter Dame, whoo had formerly bene valla ov a bishop, whoo introjuest him too hiz Emminens az a perfectly devout man. The cardinal trusted him, and dharin found hiz advaantage.

Dhare ar menny stoerese related ov him, and amung them this. Aafter a wiald ueth, he had retiard intoo a convent, dhare too expeyate, at leest for sum time, the follese ov adolescens. On entering this holy place, the poor pennitent wauz unnabel too shut the doer so cloce az too prevent the pashonz he fled from entering withe him. He wauz incessantly atact bi them, and the supereyor, too whoome he had confided this misforchune, wishing az much az in him la too fre him from them, had adviazd him, in order too cunjure awa the tempting demon, too hav recors too the bel rope, and ring withe aul hiz mite. At the denunshating sound, the munx wood

be renderd aware dhat temptaishon wauz becejing a bruther, and aul the comunity wood go too praerz.

This advice apeerd good too the fuchure chaancellor. He cunjuerd the evil spirrit withe abundans ov praerz offerd up bi the munx. But the devvil duz not suffer himcelf too be esily disposest from a place in which he haz fixt hiz garrison. In propoershon az dha redubbeld the exorcizmz he redubbeld the temptaishonz; so dhat da and nite the bel wauz ringing fool swing, anouncing the extreme desire for mortificaishon which the pennitent expereyenst.

The munx had no lon'gher an instant ov repose. Bi da dha did nuthhing but acend and decend the steps which led too the chappel; at nite, in adishon too complianz and mattinz, dha wer ferther obliajd too lepe twenty tiamz out ov dhare bedz and prostrate themcelvz on the floer ov dhare celz.

It iz not none whether it wauz the devvil whoo gave wa, or the munx whoo gru tiard; but within thre munths the pennitent reyapeerd in the werld withe the reputaishon ov beying the moast terribel POSEST dhat evver existed.

On leving the convent he enterd intoo the madgistracy, became prezident on the place ov hiz unkel, embraist the cardinalz party, which did not proove waunt ov sagascity, became chaancellor, cervd hiz Emminens withe sele in hiz haitred against the qwene-muther and hiz venjans against An ov Austreyaa, stimulated the judgez in the afare ov Cala, encurraijd the atempts ov M. de Laafemaa, chefe gaimkeper ov Fraans; then, at length, invested withe the entire confidens ov the cardinal—a confidens which he had so wel ernd—he receevd the cin'gular comishon for the execueshon ov which he presented himcelf in the qweenz apartments.

The qwene wauz stil standing when he enterd; but scaersly had she perceevd him then she receted hercelf in her armchare, and made a cine too her wimmen too rezhume dhare cooshonz and stuilz, and withe an are ov

supreme oter, ced, "Whaut doo u desire, msyer, and withe whaut obgect doo u present yorcelf here?"

"Too make, madam, in the name ov the king, and widhout predjudice too the respect which I hav the onnor too o too yor Madgesty a cloce examinaishon intoo aul yor paperz."

"Hou, msyer, an investigaishon ov mi paperz—mine! Truly, this iz an indignity!"

"Be kiand enuf too pardon me, madam; but in this cercumstaans I am but the instrument which the king emploiz. Haz not hiz Madgesty just left u, and haz he not himcelf aasct u too prepare for this vizsit?"

"Cerch, then, msyer! I am a crimminal, az it apeerz. Estafaanyaa, ghiv up the kese ov mi drauwerz and mi desx."

For formz sake the chaancellor pade a vizsit too the pecez ov fernichure naimd; but he wel nu dhat it wauz not in a pece ov fernichure dhat the qwene wood place the important letter she had ritten dhat da.

When the chaancellor had opend and shut twenty tiamz the drauwerz ov the cecretarese, it became nescenary, whautevver hesitaishon he mite expereyens—it became nescenary, I sa, too cum too the concluezhon ov the afare; dhat iz too sa, too cerch the qwene hercelf. The chaancellor advaanst, dhaerfoer, tooword An ov Austreyaa, and ced withe a verry perplext and embarrast are, "And nou it remainz for me too make the principal examinaishon."



"Whaut iz dhat?" aasct the qwene, whoo did not understand, or raather wauz not willing too understand.

"Hiz madgesty iz certane dhat a letter haz bene ritten bi u juring the da; he nose dhat it haz not yet bene cent too its adres. This letter iz not in yor tabel nor in yor cecretary; and yet this letter must be sumwhare."

"Wood u dare too lift yor hand too yor qwene?" ced An ov Austreyaa, drauwng hercelf up too her fool hite, and fixing her ise uppon the chaancellor withe an expreshon aulmoast threttening.

"I am a faithfool subject ov the king, madam, and aul dhat hiz Madgesty comaandz I shal doo."

"Wel, it iz tru!" ced An ov Austreyaa; "and the spise ov the cardinal hav cervd him faithfooly. I hav ritten a letter tooda; dhat letter iz not yet gon. The letter iz here." And the qwene lade her butifool hand on her boozzom.

"Then ghiv me dhat letter, madam," ced the chaancellor.

"I wil ghiv it too nun but the king msyer," ced An.

"If the king had desiard dhat the letter shood be ghivven too him, madam, he wood hav demaanded it ov u himcelf. But I repete too u, I am charjd withe reclaming it; and if u doo not ghiv it up—"

"Wel?"

"He haz, then, charjd me too take it from u."

"Hou! Whaut doo u sa?"

"Dhat mi orderz go far, madam; and dhat I am authoriazd too ceke for the suspected paper, even on the person ov yor Madgesty."

"Whaut horror!" cride the qwene.

"Be kiand enuf, then, madam, too act moer compliyantly."

"The conduct iz infamously viyolent! Doo u no dhat, msyer?"

"The king comaandz it, madam; excuse me."

"I wil not suffer it! No, no, I wood raather di!" cride the qwene, in whoome the impereyous blud ov Spane and Austreyaa began too rise.

The chaancelor made a profound revverens. Then, withe the intenshon qwite patent ov not drauwng bac a foot from the acumplishment ov the comishon withe which he wauz charjd, and az the atendant ov an execuেশoner mite hav dun in the chaimber ov torchure, he aproacht An ov Austreyaa, for whoose ise at the same instant sprang teerz ov rage.

The qwene wauz, az we hav ced, ov grate buty. The comishon mite wel be cauld dellicate; and the king had reecht, in hiz gelloucy ov Buckingham, the point ov not beyng gellous ov enniwun els.

Widhout dout the chaancelor, Sagheya looct about at dhat moment for the rope ov the famous bel; but not fianding it he summond hiz rezolueshon, and strecht foerth hiz handz tooword the place whare the qwene had acnollejd the paper wauz too be found.

An ov Austreyaa tooc wun step baqword, became so pale dhat it mite be ced she wauz diying, and lening withe her left hand uppon a tabel behiand her too kepe hercelf from fauling, she withe her rite hand dru the paper

from her boozom and held it out too the keper ov the ceelz.

"Dhare, msyer, dhare iz dhat letter!" cride the qwene, withe a broken and trembling vois; "take it, and delivver me from yor ojouz prezsens."

The chaancellor, whoo, on hiz part, trembeld withe an emoashon esily too be conceevd, tooc the letter, boud too the ground, and retiard. The doer wauz scaersly cloazd uppon him, when the qwene sanc, haaf fainting, intoo the armz ov her wimmen.

The chaancellor carrede the letter too the king widhout havving red a cin'ghel werd ov it. The king tooc it withe a trembling hand, looct for the adres, which wauz waunting, became verry pale, opend it sloly, then ceying bi the ferst werdz dhat it wauz adrest too the King ov Spane, he red it rappidly.

It wauz nuthhing but a plan ov atac against the cardinal. The qwene prest her bruther and the Emperor ov Austreyaa too apere too be wuinded, az dha reyaly wer, bi the pollicy ov Reeshlu—the eternal obgett ov which wauz the abaisment ov the hous ov Austreyaa—too declare wor against Fraans, and az a condishon ov pece, too incist uppon the dismissal ov the cardinal; but az too luv, dhare wauz not a cin'ghel werd about it in aul the letter.

The king, qwite delited, inqwiard if the cardinal wauz stil at the Luivr; he wauz toald dhat hiz Emminens awated the orderz ov hiz Madgesty in the biznes cabbinet.

The king went strate too him.

"Dhare, Juke," ced he, "u wer rite and I wauz rong. The whole intreghe iz polittical, and dhare iz not the leest qweschon ov luv in this letter; but, on the uthar hand, dhare iz abundant qweschon ov u."

The cardinal tooc the letter, and red it withe the gratest atenshon; then, when he had ariavd at the end ov it, he red it a cecond time. "Wel, yor Madgesty," ced he, "u ce hou far mi ennemese go; dha mennace u withe too worz if u doo not dismis me. In yor place, in trueth, cire, I shood yeeld too such pouwerfool instans; and on mi part, it wood be a reyal happines too widhdrau from public afaerz."

"Whaut sa u, Juke?"

"I sa, cire, dhat mi helth iz cinking under these exescive strugghelz and these nevver-ending laborz. I sa dhat acording too aul probabillity I shal not be abel too undergo the fateegz ov the ceje ov Laa Roshel, and dhat it wood be far better dhat u shood apoint dhare iather Msyer de Cond, Msyer de Basopeyare, or sum valeyant gentelman whoose biznes iz wor, and not me, whoo am a cherschman, and whoo am constantly ternd acide for mi reyal vocaishon too looc aafter matterz for which I hav no aptichude. U wood be the happyer for it at home, cire, and I doo not dout u wood be the grater for it abraud."

"Msyer Juke," ced the king, "I understand u. Be sattisfide, aul whoo ar naimd in dhat letter shal be punnisht az dha deserv, even the qwene hercelf."

"Whaut doo u sa, cire? God forbid dhat the qwene shood suffer the leest inconveenyens or unnesines on mi acount! She haz aulwase beleevd me, cire, too be her ennemy; auldho yor Madgesty can bare witnes dhat I hav aulwase taken her part wormly, even against u. O, if she betrade yor Madgesty on the cide ov yor onnor, it wood be qwite anuther thhing, and I shood be the ferst too sa, No grace, cire—no grace for the

ghilty! Happily, dhare iz nuthhing ov the kiand, and yor Madgesty haz just aqwiard a nu prooffe ov it."

"Dhat iz tru, Msyer Cardinal," ced the king, "and u wer rite, az u aulwase ar; but the qwene, not the les, deservz aul mi an'gher."

"It iz u, cire, whoo hav nou inkerd herz. And even if she wer too be cereyously ofended, I cood wel understand it; yor Madgesty haz treted her withe a ceverrity—"

"It iz dhus I wil aulwase trete mi ennemese and yorz, Juke, houwevver hi dha ma be plaist, and whautevver perril I ma inker in acting ceveerly tooword them."

"The qwene iz mi ennemy, but iz not yorz, cire; on the contrary, she iz a devoted, submiscive, and irreprochabel wife. Alou me, then, cire, too intercede for her withe yor Madgesty."

"Let her humbel hercelf, then, and cum too me ferst."

"On the contrary, cire, cet the exaampel. U hav comitted the ferst rong, cins it wauz u whoo suspected the qwene."

"Whaut! I make the ferst advaancez?" ced the king. "Nevver!"

"Cire, I entrete u too doo so."

"Beciadz, in whaut manner can I make advaancez ferst?"

"Bi doowing a thhing which u no wil be agreyabel too her."

"Whaut iz dhat?"

"Ghiv a baul; u no hou much the qwene luvz daancing. I wil aancer

for it, her resentment wil not hoald out against such an atenshon."

"Msyer Cardinal, u no dhat I doo not like werldly plezhuerz."

"The qwene wil oanly be the moer graitfool too u, az she nose yor antipathy for dhat amuezment; beciadz, it wil be an oporchunity for her too ware dhose butifool dimondz which u gave her recently on her berthda and withe which she haz cins had no ocaizhon too adorn hercelf."

"We shal ce, Msyer Cardinal, we shal ce," ced the king, whoo, in hiz joi at fianding the qwene ghilty ov a crime which he caerd littel about, and innocent ov a fault ov which he had grate dred, wauz reddy too make up aul differencez withe her, "we shal ce, but uppon mi onnor, u ar too indulgent tooword her."

"Cire," ced the cardinal, "leve ceverrity too yor minnisterz. Clemmency iz a roiyal verchu; emploi it, and u wil fiand dhat u derive advaantage dharin."

Dharuppon the cardinal, hering the cloc strike elevven, boud lo, aasking permishon ov the king too retire, and suplicating him too cum too a good understanding withe the qwene.

An ov Austreyaa, whoo, in conceqwens ov the ceezhure ov her letter, expected reprochez, wauz much astonnisht the next da too ce the king make sum atempts at reconcileyaishton withe her. Her ferst muivment wauz repellent. Her woommanly pride and her qweenly dignity had boath bene so cruwely ofended dhat she cood not cum round at the ferst advaans; but, overperswaded bi the advice ov her wimmen, she at laast had the aperans ov beghinning too forghet. The king tooc advaantage ov this favorabel moment too tel her dhat her had the intenshon ov shortly ghivving a fate.

A fate wauz so rare a thhing for poor An ov Austreyaa dhat at this anounsment, az the cardinal had predicted, the laast trace ov her resentment disapeerd, if not from her hart at leest from her countenans. She aasct uppon whaut da this fate wood take place, but the king replide dhat he must consult the cardinal uppon dhat hed.

Indede, evvery da the king aasct the cardinal when this fate shood take place; and evvery da the cardinal, under sum pretext, deferd fixing it. Ten dase paast awa dhus.

On the aith da aafter the cene we hav descriabd, the cardinal receevd a letter withe the Lundo stamp which oanly containd these lianz: "I hav them; but I am unnabel too leve Lundo for waunt ov munny. Cend me five hundred pistoalz, and foer or five dase aafter I hav receevd them I shal be in Parris."

On the same da the cardinal receevd this letter the king poot hiz customary qweschon too him.

Reeshlu counted on hiz fin'gherz, and ced too himself, "She wil arive, she cez, foer or five dase aafter havving receevd the munny. It wil reqwire foer or five dase for the traanzmishon ov the munny, foer or five dase for her too retern; dhat maix ten dase. Nou, alouwing for contrary windz, axidents, and a woommanz weecnes, dhare ar twelv dase."

"Wel, Msyer Juke," ced the king, "hav u made yor calculaishonz?"

"Yes, cire. Tooda iz the twenteyeth ov Ceptember. The auldermen ov the citty ghiv a fate on the thherd ov October. Dhat wil faul in wunderfooly wel; u wil not apere too hav gon out ov yor wa too plese the qwene."

Then the cardinal added, "A PROPO, cire, doo not forghet too tel her Madgesty the evening befoer the fate dhat u shood like too ce hou her dimond studz becum her."

## 17 BONASYUU AT HOME

It wauz the cecond time the cardinal had menshond these dimond studz too the king. Loowy 13 wauz struc withe this incistens, and began too fancy dhat this recomendaishon conceeld sum mistery.

Moer dhan wuns the king had bene humilleyated bi the cardinal, whose polece, widhout havving yet ataind the perfecshon ov the moddern polece, wer exelent, beying better informd dhan himcelf, even uppon whaut wauz gowing on in hiz one hous'hoald. He hoapt, then, in a conversaishon withe An ov Austreyaa, too obtane sum informaishon from dhat conversaishon, and aafterword too cum uppon hiz Emminens withe sum ceecret which the cardinal iather nu or did not no, but which, in iather cace, wood rase him infiniatly in the ise ov hiz minnister.

He went then too the qwene, and acording too custom acosted her withe fresh mennacez against dhose whoo surrounded her. An ov Austreyaa lowerd her hed, aloud the torent too flo on widhout repliing, hoping dhat it wood cece ov itcelf; but this wauz not whaut Loowy 13 ment. Loowy 13 waunted a discushon from which sum lite or uther mite brake, convinst az he wauz dhat the cardinal had sum aafterthaut and wauz



preparing for him wun ov dhose terribel cerprizez which hiz Emminens wauz so skilfool in ghetting up. He ariavd at this end bi hiz percistens in acuzashon.

"But," cride An ov Austreyaa, tiard ov these vaghe atax, "but, cire, u doo not tel me aul dhat u hav in yor hart. Whaut hav I dun, then? Let me no whaut crime I hav comitted. It iz imposcibel dhat yor Madgesty can make aul this adoo about a letter ritten too mi bruther."

The king, atact in a manner so direct, did not no whaut too aancer; and he thaut dhat this wauz the moment for exprescing the desire which he wauz not gowing too hav made until the evening befoer the fate.

"Madam," ced he, withe dignity, "dhare wil shortly be a baul at the Hotel de Veye. I wish, in order too onnor our werthy auldermen, u shood apere in ceremoanyal coschume, and abuv aul, ornamented withe the dimond studz which I gave u on yor berthda. Dhat iz mi aancer."

The aancer wauz terribel. An ov Austreyaa beleevd dhat Loowy 13 nu aul, and dhat the cardinal had perswaded him too emploi this long dicimulaishon ov cevven or ate dase, which, liaqwise, wauz characteristic. She became exesciavly pale, leend her butifool hand uppon a *CONSOLE*, which hand apeerd then like wun ov wax, and loocking at the king withe terror in her ise, she wauz unnabel too repli bi a cin'ghel cillabel.

"U here, madam," ced the king, whoo enjoid the embarrasment too its fool extent, but widhout ghescing the cauz. "U here, madam?"

"Yes, sire, I here," stammerd the qwene.

"U wil apere at this baul?"

"Yes."

"Withe dhose studz?"

"Yes."

The qweenz pailnes, if poscibel, increest; the king perceevd it, and enjoid it withe dhat coald cruwelty which wauz wun ov the werst ciadz ov hiz carracter.

"Then dhat iz agrede," ced the king, "and dhat iz aul I had too sa too u."

"But on whaut da wil this baul take place?" aasct An ov Austreyaa.

Loowy 13 felt instinctiavly dhat he aut not too repli too this qweschon, the qwene havving poot it in an aulmoast diying vois.

"O, verry shortly, madam," ced he; "but I doo not preciasly recolect the date ov the da. I wil aasc the cardinal."

"It wauz the cardinal, then, whoo informd u ov this fate?"

"Yes, madam," replide the astonnisht king; "but whi doo u aasc dhat?"

"It wauz he whoo toald u too invite me too apere withe these studz?"

"Dhat iz too sa, madam—"

"It wauz he, cire, it wauz he!"

"Wel, and whaut duz it cignifi whether it wauz he or I? Iz dhare enny crime in this reqwest?"

"No, cire."

"Then u wil apere?"

"Yes, cire."

"Dhat iz wel," ced the king, retiring, "dhat iz wel; I count uppon it."

The qwene made a kertcy, les from ettiket dhan becauz her nese wer cinking under her. The king went awa enchaanted.

"I am lost," mermerd the qwene, "lost!—for the cardinal nose aul, and it iz he whoo ergez on the king, whoo az yet nose nuthing but wil soone no evverithhing. I am lost! Mi God, mi God, mi God!"

She nelt uppon a cooshon and prade, withe her hed berrede betwene her palpitating armz.

In fact, her posishon wauz terribel. Buckingham had reternd too Lundo; Mme. Shevruuz wauz at Toor. Moer cloasly waucht dhan evver, the qwene felt certane, widhout nowing hou too tel which, dhat wun ov her wimmen had betrade her. Laaport cood not leve the Luivr; she had not a sole in the werld in whoome she cood confide. Dhus, while contemplating the misforchune which threttend her and the abandonment in which she wauz left, she broke out into sobz and teerz.

"Can I be ov cervice too yor Madgesty?" ced aul at wuns a vois fool ov sweetnes and pittty.

The qwene ternd sharply round, for dhare cood be no decepshon in the expreshon ov dhat vois; it wauz a frend whoo spoke dhus.

In fact, at wun ov the doerz which opened intoo the qweenz apartment apeerd the pritty Mme. Bonasyuu. She had bene en'gajd in arain'ging the drescez and linnen in a clozset when the king enterd; she cood not ghet out and had herd aul.

The qwene utterd a peercing cri at fianding hercelf cerpriazd—for in her trubbel she did not at ferst reccognise the yung woomman whoo had bene ghivven too her bi Laaport.

"O, fere nuthhing, madam!" ced the yung woomman, claasping her handz and weping hercelf at the qweenz sorose; "I am yor Madgestese, boddy and sole, and houwevver far I ma be from u, houwevver infereyor ma be mi posishon, I beleve I hav discuverd a meenz ov extricating yor Madgesty from yor trubbel."

"U, o, hevven, u!" cride the qwene; "but looc me in the face. I am betrade on aul ciadz. Can I trust in u?"

"O, madam!" cride the yung woomman, fauling on her nese; "uppon mi sole, I am reddy too di for yor Madgesty!"

This expreshon sprang from the verry bottom ov the hart, and, like the ferst, dhare wauz no mistaking it.

"Yes," continnude Mme. Bonasyuu, "yes, dhare ar tratorz here; but bi the holy name ov the Vergin, I sware dhat no wun iz moer devoted too yor Madgesty dhan I am. Dhose studz which the king speex ov, u gave them too the Juke ov Buckingham, did u not? Dhose studz wer encloazd in a

littel roazwood box which he held under hiz arm? Am I deceevd? Iz it not so, madam?"

"O, mi God, mi God!" mermerd the qwene, whoose teeth chatterd withe frite.

"Wel, dhose studz," continnude Mme. Bonasyuu, "we must hav them bac agane."

"Yes, widhout dout, it iz nescesary," cride the qwene; "but hou am I too act? Hou can it be efected?"

"Sumwun must be cent too the juke."

"But whoo, whoo? In whoome can I trust?"

"Place confidens in me, madam; doo me dhat onnor, mi qwene, and I wil fiand a mescen'ger."

"But I must rite."

"O, yes; dhat iz indispensabel. Too werdz from the hand ov yor Madgesty and yor private cele."

"But these too werdz wood bring about mi condemnaishon, divoers, exile!"

"Yes, if dha fel intoo infamous handz. But I wil aancer for these too werdz beying delivverd too dhare adres."

"O, mi God! I must then place mi life, mi onnor, mi reputaishon, in yor handz?"

"Yes, yes, madam, u must; and I wil save them aul."

"But hou? Tel me at leest the meenz."

"Mi huzband had bene at libberty these too or thre dase. I hav not yet had time too ce him agane. He iz a werthy, onnest man whoo entertainz niather luv nor haitred for enniboddy. He wil doo ennithing I wish. He wil cet out uppon receving an order from me, widhout nowing whaut he carrese, and he wil carry yor Madgestese letter, widhout even nowing it iz from yor Madgesty, too the adres which iz on it."

The qwene tooc the too handz ov the yung woomman withe a berst ov emoashon,  
gaizd at her az if too rede her verry hart, and ceying nuthhing but cincerrity in her butifool ise, embraist her tenderly.

"Doo dhat," cride she, "and u wil hav saivd mi life, u wil hav saivd mi onnor!"

"Doo not exadgerate the cervice I hav the happines too render yor Madgesty. I hav nuthing too save for yor Madgesty; u ar oonly the victim ov perfidjous plots."

"Dhat iz tru, dhat iz tru, mi chiald," ced the qwene, "u ar rite."

"Ghiv me then, dhat letter, madam; time prescez."

The qwene ran too a littel tabel, on which wer inc, paper, and penz. She rote too lianz, ceeld the letter withe her private cele, and gave it too Mme. Bonasyuu.

"And nou," ced the qwene, "we ar forghetting wun verry nescesary thhing."

"Whaut iz dhat, madam?"

"Munny."

Mme. Bonasyuu blusht.

"Yes, dhat iz tru," ced she, "and I wil confes too yor Madgesty dhat mi huzband—"

"Yor huzband haz nun. Iz dhat whaut u wood sa?"

"He haz sum, but he iz verry avarishous; dhat iz hiz fault. Nevvertheles, let not yor Madgesty be unnesy, we wil fiand meenz."

"And I hav nun, iather," ced the qwene. Dhose whoo hav red the MEMWARZ ov Mme. de Motveye wil not be astonnisht at this repli. "But wate a minnute."

An ov Austreyaa ran too her juwel cace.

"Here," ced she, "here iz a ring ov grate vallu, az I hav bene ashuerd. It came from mi bruther, the King ov Spane. It iz mine, and I am at libberty too dispose ov it. Take this ring; rase munny withe it, and let yor huzband cet out."

"In an our u shal be obade."

"U ce the adres," ced the qwene, speking so lo dhat Mme. Bonasyuu cood hardly here whaut she ced, "Too mi Lord Juke ov Buckingham, Lundon."

"The letter shal be ghivven too himcelf."

"Gennerous gherl!" cride An ov Austreyaa.

Mme. Bonasyuu kist the handz ov the qwene, conceeld the paper in the boozzom ov her dres, and disapeerd withe the liatnes ov a berd.

Ten minnuets aafterword she wauz at home. Az she toald the qwene, she had not cene her huzband cins hiz liberaishon; she wauz ignorant ov the chainj dhat had taken place in him withe respect too the cardinal—a chainj which had cins bene strengthend bi too or thre vizsits from the Comt de Roshfor, whoo had becum the best frend ov Bonasyuu, and had perswaded him, widhout much trubbel, wauz pootting hiz hous in order, the fernichure ov which he had found moastly broken and hiz clozsets neerly empty—justice not beying wun ov the thre thhingz which King Sollomon naimz az leving no tracez ov dhare passage. Az too the cervant, she had run awa at the moment ov her maasterz arest. Terror had had such an efect uppon the poor gherl dhat she had never ceest wauking from Parris til she reecht Bergundy, her native place.

The werthy mercer had, imejaitly uppon re-entering hiz hous, informd hiz wife ov hiz happy retern, and hiz wife had replide bi con'gratchulating him, and telling him dhat the ferst moment she cood stele from her jutese shood be devoted too paying him a vizsit.

This ferst moment had bene delade five dase, which, under enny uther circumstaancez, mite hav apeerd raather long too M. Bonasyuu; but he had, in the vizsit he had made too the cardinal and in the vizsits Roshfor had made him, ampel subgects for reflecshon, and az evveriboddy nose, nuthhing maix time paas moer qwicly dhan reflecshon.

This wauz the moer so becauz Bonasyuuz reflecshonz wer aul rose-cullord. Roshfor cauld him hiz frend, hiz dere Bonasyuu, and never ceest telling him dhat the cardinal had a grate respect for him. The mercer fancede himcelf aulreddy on the hi rode too onnorz and forchune.

On her cide Mme. Bonasyuu had aulso reflected; but, it must be admitted,



uppon sumthhing wiadly different from ambishon. In spite ov hercelf her thauts constantly reverted too dhat handsum yung man whoo wauz so brave and apeerd too be so much in luv. Marrede at atene too M. Bonasyuu, havving aulwase livd amung her huzbandz frendz—pepel littel capabel ov inspiring enny centiment whautevver in a yung woomman whoose hart wauz abuv her posishon—Mme. Bonasyuu had remaind incencibel too vulgar ceducshonz; but at this pereyod the titel ov gentelman had grate influwens withe the cittisen claas, and dArtanyan wauz a gentelman. Beciadz, he woer the uniform ov the Gardz, which next too dhat ov the Musketeerz wauz moast admiard bi the ladese. He wauz, we repete, handsum, yung, and boald; he spoke ov luv like a man whoo did luv and wauz ancshous too be luvd in retern. Dhare wauz certainly enuf in aul this too tern a hed oanly twenty-thre yeerz oald, and Mme. Bonasyuu had just ataind dhat happy pereyod ov life.

The cuppel, then, auldho dha had not cene eche uther for ate dase, and juring dhat time cereyous events had taken place in which boath wer concernd, acosted eche uther withe a degry ov preyoccupaishon. Nevvertheles, Bonasyuu mannifested reyal joi, and advaanst tooword hiz wife withe open armz. Madam Bonasyuu presented her cheke too him.

"Let us tauc a littel," ced she.

"Hou!" ced Bonasyuu, astonnisht.

"Yes, I hav sumthhing ov the hiyest importans too tel u."

"Tru," ced he, "and I hav sum qweschonz sufishmently cereyous too poot too u. Describe too me yor abducshon, I pra u."

"O, dhats ov no conceqwens just nou," ced Mme. Bonasyuu.

"And whaut duz it concern, then—mi captivvity?"

"I herd ov it the da it happend; but az u wer not ghilty ov enny crime, az u wer not ghilty ov enny intreghe, az u, in short, nu nuthhing dhat cood compromise yorcelf or enniboddy els, I atacht no moer importans too dhat event dhan it merrited."

"U speke verry much at yor ese, madam," ced Bonasyuu, hert at the littel interest hiz wife shode in him. "Doo u no dhat I wauz plunjd juring a da and nite in a dunjon ov the Bastele?"

"O, a da and nite soone paas awa. Let us retern too the obgett dhat bringz me here."

"Whaut, dhat which bringz u home too me? Iz it not the desire ov ceying a huzband agane from whoome u hav bene cepparated for a weke?" aasct the mercer, peect too the qwic.

"Yes, dhat ferst, and uther thhingz aafterword."

"Speke."

"It iz a thhing ov the hiyest interest, and uppon which our fuchure forchune perhaps dependz."

"The complecshon ov our forchune haz chainjd verry much cins I sau u, Maddam Bonasyuu, and I shood not be astonnisht if in the coers ov a fu munths it wer too exite the envy ov menny foax."

"Yes, particcularly if u follo the instrucshonz I am about too ghiv u."

"Me?"

"Yes, u. Dhare iz good and holy acshon too be performd, msyer, and much munny too be gaind at the same time."

Mme. Bonasyuu nu dhat in tauking ov munny too her huzband, she tooc him on hiz weke cide. But a man, wer he even a mercer, when he had tautct for ten minnuets withe Cardinal Reeshlu, iz no lon'gher the same man.

"Much munny too be gaind?" ced Bonasyuu, protruding hiz lip.

"Yes, much."

"About hou much?"

"A thouzand pistoalz, perhaps."

"Whaut u demaand ov me iz cereyous, then?"

"It iz indede."

"Whaut must be dun?"

"U must go awa imejaitly. I wil ghiv u a paper which u must not part withe on enny acount, and which u wil delivver intoo the propper handz."

"And whither am I too go?"

"Too Lundoon."

"I go too Lundoon? Go too! U gest! I hav no biznes in Lundoon."

"But utherz wish dhat u shood go dhare."

"But whoo ar dhose utherz? I worn u dhat I wil nevver agane werc in the darc, and dhat I wil no not oonly too whaut I expose micelf, but for whoome I expose micelf."

"An ilustreyous person cendz u; an ilustreyous person awaits u. The recompens wil exede yor expectaishonz; dhat iz aul I prommice u."

"Moer intreegz! Nuthhing but intreegz! Thanc u, madam, I am aware ov them nou; Msyer Cardinal haz enlitend me on dhat hed."

"The cardinal?" cride Mme. Bonasyuu. "Hav u cene the cardinal?"

"He cent for me," aancerd the mercer, proudly.

"And u responded too hiz bidding, u imprudent man?"

"Wel, I caant sa I had much chois ov gowing or not gowing, for I wauz taken too him betwene too gardz. It iz tru aulso, dhat az I did not then no hiz Emminens, if I had bene abel too dispens withe the vizsit, I shood hav bene enchaanted."

"He il-treted u, then; he threttend u?"

"He gave me hiz hand, and cauld me hiz frend. Hiz frend! Doo u here dhat, madam? I am the frend ov the grate cardinal!"

"Ov the grate cardinal!"

"Perhaps u wood contest hiz rite too dhat titel, madam?"

"I wood contest nuthhing; but I tel u dhat the favor ov a minnister iz efemmeral, and dhat a man must be mad too atach himcelf too a minnister."

Dhare ar pouwerz abuv hiz which doo not depend uppon a man or the ishu ov an event; it iz too these pouwerz we shood rally."

"I am sorry for it, madam, but I acnollej not her pouwer but dhat ov the grate man whoome I hav the onnor too cerv."

"U cerv the cardinal?"

"Yes, madam; and az hiz cervant, I wil not alou u too be concernd in plots against the saifty ov the state, or too cerv the intreegz ov a woomman whoo iz not French and whoo haz a Spannish hart. Forchunaitly we hav the grate cardinal; hiz vidgilant i wauchez over and pennetraits too the bottom ov the hart."

Bonasyuu wauz repeting, werd for werd, a centens which he had herd from the Comt de Roshfor; but the poor wife, whoo had recond on her huzband, and whoo, in dhat hope, had aancerd for him too the qwene, did not trembel the les, boath at the dain'ger intoo which she had neerly caast hercelf and at the helples state too which she wauz rejuet. Nevvertheles, nowing the weecnes ov her huzband, and moer particcularly hiz cupididity, she did not despare ov bringing him round too her perpoce.

"Aa, u ar a cardinalist, then, msyer, ar u?" cride she; "and u cerv the party ov dhose whoo maltrete yor wife and insult yor qwene?"

"Private interests ar az nuthhing befoer the interests ov aul. I am for dhose whoo save the state," ced Bonasyuu, emfatticaly.

"And whaut doo u no about the state u tauc ov?" ced Mme. Bonasyuu, shrugging her shoalderz. "Be sattisfide withe beying a plane, straitforword cittisen, and tern too dhat cide which offerz the moast

advaantagez."

"A, a!" ced Bonasyuu, slapping a plump, round bag, which reternd a sound a munny; "whaut doo u thhinc ov this, Madam Precher?"

"Whens cumz dhat munny?"

"U doo not ghes?"

"From the cardinal?"

"From him, and from mi frend the Comt de Roshfor."

"The Comt de Roshfor! Whi it wauz he whoo carrede me of!"

"Dhat ma be, madam!"

"And u receve cilver from dhat man?"

"Hav u not ced dhat dhat abducshon wauz entiarly polittical?"

"Yes; but dhat abducshon had for its obgett the betrayal ov mi mistres, too drau from me bi torchure confeshonz dhat mite compromise the onnor, and perhaps the life, ov mi august mistres."

"Madam," replide Bonasyuu, "yor august mistres iz a perfidjous Spanyard, and whaut the cardinal duz iz wel dun."

"Msyer," ced the yung woomman, "I no u too be couwardly, avarishous, and foolish, but I nevver til nou beleevd u infamous!"

"Madam," ced Bonasyuu, whoo had nevver cene hiz wife in a pashon, and whoo recoild befoer this conjugal an'gher, "madam, whaut doo u sa?"

"I sa u ar a mizserabel crechure!" continnude Mme. Bonasyuu, whoo sau she wauz reganing sum littel influwens over her huzband. "U meddel withe pollitix, doo u—and stil moer, withe cardinalist pollitix? Whi, u cel yorcelf, boddy and sole, too the demon, the devvil, for munny!"

"No, too the cardinal."

"Its the same thhing," cride the yung woomman. "Whoo caulz Reeshlu caulz Satan."

"Hoald yor tung, hoald yor tung, madam! U ma be overherd."

"Yes, u ar rite; I shoold be ashaimd for enniwun too no yor baisnes."

"But whaut doo u reqwire ov me, then? Let us ce."

"I hav toald u. U must depart instantly, msyer. U must acumplish loiyaly the comishon withe which I dane too charj u, and on dhat condishon I pardon evverithhing, I forghet evverithhing; and whaut iz moer," and she held out her hand too him, "I restoer mi luv."

Bonasyuu wauz couwardly and avarishous, but he luvd hiz wife. He wauz softend. A man ov fifty canot long bare mallice withe a wife ov twenty-thre. Mme. Bonasyuu sau dhat he hezsitated.

"Cum! Hav u decided?" ced she.

"But, mi dere luv, reflect a littel uppon whaut u reqwire ov me. Lunden iz far from Parris, verry far, and perhaps the comishon withe which u charj me iz not widhout dain'gerz?"

"Whaut matterz it, if u avoid them?"

"Hoald, Madam Bonasyuu," ced the mercer, "hoald! I pozsitiavly refuse; intreegz terrifi me. I hav cene the Bastele. Mi! Whu! Dhats a friatfool place, dhat Bastele! Oonly too thhinc ov it maix mi flesh craul. Dha threttend me withe torchure. Doo u no whaut torchure iz? Wooden points dhat dha stic in betwene yor legz til yor boanz stic out! No, pozsitiavly I wil not go. And, *MORBLEU*, whi doo u not go yorcelf? For in trueth, I thhinc I hav hithertoo bene deceevd in u. I reyaly beleve u ar a man, and a viyolent wun, too."

"And u, u ar a woomman—a mizserabel woomman, schupid and brutal. U ar afrade, ar u? Wel, if u doo not go this verry instant, I wil hav u arested bi the qweenz orderz, and I wil hav u plaist in the Bastele which u dred so much."

Bonasyuu fel intoo a profound reflecshon. He wade the too an'gherz in hiz brane—dhat ov the cardinal and dhat ov the qwene; dhat ov the cardinal predominated enormously.

"Hav me arested on the part ov the qwene," ced he, "and I—I wil apele too hiz Emminens."

At wuns Mme. Bonasyuu sau dhat she had gon too far, and she wauz terrifide at havving comunicated so much. She for a moment contemplated withe frite dhat schupid countenans, imprest withe the invincibel rezolueshon ov a foole dhat iz overcum bi fere.

"Wel, be it so!" ced she. "Perhaps, when aul iz concidderd, u ar rite. In the long run, a man nose moer about pollitix dhan a woomman, particularly such az, like u, Msyer Bonasyuu, hav converst withe the cardinal. And yet it iz verry hard," added she, "dhat a man uppon



whose afecshon I thaut I mite depend, treetts me dhus unkiandly and wil not compli withe enny ov mi fancese."

"Dhat iz becauz yor fancese go too far," replide the triyumfant Bonasyuu, "and I mistrust them."

"Wel, I wil ghiv it up, then," ced the yung woomman, cying. "It iz wel az it iz; sa no moer about it."

"At leest u shood tel me whaut I shood hav too doo in Lundon," replide Bonasyuu, whoo rememberd a littel too late dhat Roshfor had desiard him too endevvor too obtane hiz wiafs ceecrets.

"It iz ov no uce for u too no ennithhing about it," ced the yung woomman, whoome an instinctive mistrust nou impeld too drau bac. "It wauz about wun ov dhose perchacez dhat interest wimmen—a perchace bi which much mite hav bene gaind."

But the moer the yung woomman excuezd hercelf, the moer important Bonasyuu thaut the ceecret which she decliand too confide too him. He rezolvd then too hacen imejaitly too the rezsidens ov the Comt de Roshfor, and tel him dhat the qwene wauz ceking for a mescen'ger too cend too Lundon.

"Pardon me for qwitting u, mi dere Madam Bonasyuu," ced he; "but, not nowing u wood cum too ce me, I had made an en'gaijment withe a frend. I shal soone retern; and if u wil wate oonly a fu minnuets for me, az soone az I hav concluded mi biznes withe dhat frend, az it iz growing late, I wil cum bac and reconduct u too the Luivr."

"Thanc u, msyer, u ar not brave enuf too be ov enny uce too me whautevver," replide Mme. Bonasyuu. "I shal retern verry saifly too the

Luivr aul alone."

"Az u please, Madam Bonasyuu," ced the ex-mercier. "Shal I ce u agane soone?"

"Next weke I hope mi jutese wil afoerd me a littel libberty, and I wil take advaantage ov it too cum and poot thhingz in order here, az dha must necesarily be much derainjd."

"Verry wel; I shal expect u. U ar not an'gry withe me?"

"Not the leest in the werld."

"Til then, then?"

"Til then."

Bonasyuu kist hiz wiafs hand, and cet of at a qwic pace.

"Wel," ced Mme. Bonasyuu, when her huzband had shut the strete doer and she found hercelf alone; "dhat imbecele lact but wun thhing too becum a cardinalist. And I, whoo hav aancerd for him too the qwene—I, whoo hav prommiast mi poor mistres—aa, mi God, mi God! She wil take me for wun ov dhose retchez withe whoome the pallace swarmz and whoo ar plaist about her az spise! Aa, Msyer Bonasyuu, I nevver did luv u much, but nou it iz wers dhan evver. I hate u, and on mi werd u shal pa for this!"

At the moment she spoke these werdz a rap on the celing made her rase her hed, and a vois which reecht her throo the celing cride, "Dere Madam Bonasyuu, open for me the littel doer on the ally, and I wil cum doun too u."

## 18 LUVVER AND HUZBAND

"Aa, Madam," ced dArtanyan, entering bi the doer which the yung woomman opend for him, "alou me too tel u dhat u hav a bad sort ov a huzband."

"U hav, then, overherd our conversaishon?" aasct Mme. Bonasyuu, egherly, and loocking at dArtanyan withe disqwiyet.

"The whole."

"But hou, mi God?"

"Bi a mode ov proceding none too micelf, and bi which I liaqwise overherd the moer animated conversaishon which he had withe the cardinalz polece."

"And whaut did u understand bi whaut we ced?"

"A thouzand thhingz. In the ferst place, dhat, unforchunaitly, yor huzband iz a cimpelton and a foole; in the next place, u ar in trubbel, ov which I am verry glad, az it ghivz me a oportchunity ov placing micelf at yor cervice, and God nose I am reddy too thro micelf intoo the fire for u; finaly, dhat the qwene waunts a brave, intelligent, devoted man too make a gerny too Lundon for her. I hav at leest too ov the thre qwaulitese u stand in nede ov, and here I am."

Mme. Bonasyuu made no repli; but her hart bete withe joi and ceecret hope shon in her ise.

"And whaut garanty wil u ghiv me," aasct she, "if I concent too confide this message too u?"

"Mi luv for u. Speke! Comaand! Whaut iz too be dun?"

"Mi God, mi God!" mermerd the yung woomman, "aut I too confide such a ceecret too u, msyer? U ar aulmoast a boi."

"I ce dhat u reqwire sumwun too aancer for me?"

"I admit dhat wood reyashure me graitly."

"Doo u no Aithos?"

"No."

"Porthos?"

"No."

"Arramis?"

"No. Whoo ar these gentelman?"

"Thre ov the kingz Musketeerz. Doo u no Msyer de Treveye, dhare captane?"

"O, yes, him! I no him; not personaly, but from havving herd the qwene speke ov him moer dhan wuns az a brave and loiyal gentelman."

"U doo not fere lest he shood betra u too the cardinal?"

"O, no, certainly not!"

"Wel, revele yor ceecret too him, and aasc him whether, houwevver important, houwevver vallubel, houwevver terribel it ma be, u ma not confide it too me."

"But this ceecret iz not mine, and I canot revele it in this manner."

"U wer about too confide it too Msyer Bonasyuu," ced dArtanyan, withe shagrin.

"Az wun confiadz a letter too the hollo ov a tre, too the wing ov a pidjon, too the collar ov a dog."

"And yet, me—u ce plainly dhat I luv u."

"U sa so."

"I am an onnorabel man."

"U sa so."

"I am a gallant fello."

"I beleve it."

"I am brave."

"O, I am shure ov dhat!"

"Then, poot me too the proofe."

Mme. Bonasyuu looct at the yung man, restraind for a minnute bi a laast hesitaishon; but dhare wauz such an ardor in hiz ise, such perswaizhon in hiz vois, dhat she felt hercelf constraind too confide in

him. Beciadz, she found herself in circumstances where everything must be risked for the sake of everything. The queen might be as much injured by too much reticence as by too much confidence; and—let us admit it—the involuntary sentiment which she felt for her young protector decided her to speak.

"Listen," said she; "I yield to your protestations, I yield to your assurances. But I swear to you, before God who hears us, that if you betray me, and my enemies pardon me, I will kill myself, while accusing you of my death."

"And I—I swear to you before God, madam," said d'Artagnan, "that if I am taken while accomplishing the orders you give me, I will die sooner than do anything that may compromise myself."

Then the young woman confided in him the terrible secret of which she had already communicated to him in front of the Samaritane. This was a very important declaration of love.

D'Artagnan was radiant with joy and pride. This secret which he possessed, this woman whom he loved! Confidence and love made him a giant.

"I go," said he; "I go at once."

"How, you will go!" said Mme. Bonasuyou; "and your regiment, your captain?"

"By my sole, you had made me forget all that, dear Constans! Yes, you are right; a fool is needed."

"Still another obstacle," murmured Mme. Bonasuyou, sorrowfully.

"Az too dhat," cride dArtanyan, aafter a moment ov reflecshon, "I shal cermount it, be ashuerd."

"Hou so?"

"I wil go this verry evening too Treveye, whoome I wil reqwest too aasc this favor for me ov hiz bruther-in-lau, Msyer Decessar."

"But anuther thhing."

"Whaut?" aasct dArtanyan, ceying dhat Mme. Bonasyuu hezsitated too continnu.

"U hav, perhaps, no munny?"

"PERHAPS iz too much," ced dArtanyan, smiling.

"Then," replide Mme. Bonasyuu, opening a cubbord and taking from it the verry bag which a haaf our befoer her huzband had carest so afecshonaitly, "take this bag."

"The cardinalz?" cride dArtanyan, braking intoo a loud laaf, he havving herd, az ma be rememberd, thanx too the broken boerdz, evvery cillabel ov the conversaishon betwene the mercer and hiz wife.

"The cardinalz," replide Mme. Bonasyuu. "U ce it maix a verry respectabel aperans."

"*PARDIEU*," cride dArtanyan, "it wil be a dubbel amusing afare too save the qwene withe the cardinalz munny!"

"U ar an ameyabel and charming yung man," ced Mme. Bonasyuu. "Be

ashuerd u wil not fiand her Madgesty un'graitfool."

"O, I am aulreddy grandly recompenst!" cride dArtanyan. "I luv u; u permit me too tel u dhat I doo—dhat iz aulreddy moer happines dhan I daerd too hope."

"Cilens!" ced Mme. Bonasyuu, starting.

"Whaut!"

"Sumwun iz tauking in the strete."

"It iz the vois ov—"

"Ov mi huzband! Yes, I reccognise it!"

DArtanyan ran too the doer and poosht the bolt.

"He shal not cum in befoer I am gon," ced he; "and when I am gon, u can open too him."

"But I aut too be gon, too. And the disaperans ov hiz munny; hou am I too justifi it if I am here?"

"U ar rite; we must go out."

"Go out? Hou? He wil ce us if we go out."

"Then u must cum up intoo mi roome."

"Aa," ced Mme. Bonasyuu, "u speke dhat in a tone dhat fritenz me!"

Mme. Bonasyuu pronounst these werdz withe teerz in her ise. DArtanyan sau dhose teerz, and much disterbd, softend, he thru himcelf at her



fete.

"Withe me u wil be az safe az in a tempel; I ghiv u mi werd ov a gentelman."

"Let us go," ced she, "I place fool confidens in u, mi frend!"

dArtanyan dru bac the bolt withe precaushon, and boath, lite az shaddose, glided throo the intereyor doer intoo the passage, acended the staerz az qwiyetly az poscibel, and enterd dArtanyanz chaimberz.

Wuns dhare, for grater ceurity, the yung man barricaded the doer. Dha boath aproacht the windo, and throo a slit in the shutter dha sau Bonasyuu tauking withe a man in a cloke.

At cite ov this man, dArtanyan started, and haaf drauwing hiz soerd, sprang tooword the doer.

It wauz the man ov Muung.

"Whaut ar u gowing too doo?" cride Mme. Bonasyuu; "u wil ruwin us aul!"

"But I hav swoern too kil dhat man!" ced dArtanyan.

"Yor life iz devoted from this moment, and duz not belong too u. In the name ov the qwene I forbid u too thro yorcelf intoo enny perril which iz forane too dhat ov yor gerny."

"And doo u comaand nuthhing in yor one name?"

"In mi name," ced Mme. Bonasyuu, withe grate emoashon, "in mi name I beg u! But liscen; dha apere too be speking ov me."

dArtanyan dru nere the windo, and lent hiz ere.

M. Bonasyuu had opend hiz doer, and ceying the apartment, had reternd too the man in the cloke, whoome he had left alone for an instant.

"She iz gon," ced he; "she must hav reternd too the Luivr."

"U ar shure," replide the strain'ger, "dhat she did not suspect the intenshonz withe which u went out?"

"No," replide Bonasyuu, withe a celf-sufishent are, "she iz too superfishal a woomman."

"Iz the yung Gardzman at home?"

"I doo not thhinc he iz; az u ce, hiz shutter iz cloazd, and u can ce no lite shine throo the chinx ov the shutterz."

"Aul the same, it iz wel too be certane."

"Hou so?"

"Bi nocking at hiz doer. Go."

"I wil aasc hiz cervant."

Bonasyuu re-enterd the hous, paast throo the same doer dhat had afoerded a passage for the too fugitiavz, went up too dArtanyanz doer, and noct.

No wun aancerd. Porthos, in order too make a grater displa, had dhat evening borode Plaunsha. Az too dArtanyan, he tooc care not too ghiv the leest cine ov existens.

The moment the hand ov Bonasyuu sounded on the doer, the too yung pepel felt dhare harts bound within them.

"Dhare iz nobody within," ced Bonasyuu.

"Nevver miand. Let us retern too yor apartment. We shal be safer dhare dhan in the doerwa."

"Aa, mi God!" whisperd Mme. Bonasyuu, "we shal here no moer."

"On the contrary," ced dArtanyan, "we shal here better."

DArtanyan raizd the thre or foer boerdz which made hiz chaimber anuther ere ov Diyoniashus, spred a carpet on the floer, went uppon hiz nese, and made a cine too Mme. Bonasyuu too stoope az he did tooword the opening.

"U ar shure dhare iz nobody dhare?" ced the strain'ger.

"I wil aancer for it," ced Bonasyuu.

"And u thhinc dhat yor wife—"

"Haz reternd too the Luivr."

"Widhout speking too enniwun but yorcelf?"

"I am shure ov it."

"Dhat iz an important point, doo u understand?"

"Then the nuse I braut u iz ov vallu?"

"The gratest, mi dere Bonasyuu; I doant concele this from u."

"Then the cardinal wil be pleezd withe me?"

"I hav no dout ov it."

"The grate cardinal!"

"Ar u shure, in her conversaishon withe u, dhat yor wife menshond no naimz?"

"I thhinc not."

"She did not name Madam de Shevruuz, the Juke ov Buckingham, or Madam de Vaerna?"

"No; she oonly toald me she wisht too cend me too Lundoon too cerv the interests ov an ilustreyous personage."

"The trator!" mermerd Mme. Bonasyuu.

"Cilens!" ced dArtanyan, taking her hand, which, widhout thhinking ov it, she abandond too him.

"Nevver miand," continnude the man in the cloke; "u wer a foole not too hav pretended too axept the mishon. U wood then be in prezsent poseshon ov the letter. The state, which iz nou threttend, wood be safe, and u—"

"And I?"

"Wel u—the cardinal wood hav ghivven u letterz ov nobillity."

"Did he tel u so?"

"Yes, I no dhat he ment too afoerd u dhat agreyabel cerprise."

"Be sattisfide," replide Bonasyuu; "mi wife adoerz me, and dhare iz yet time."

"The ninny!" mermerd Mme. Bonasyuu.

"Cilens!" ced dArtanyan, prescing her hand moer cloasly.

"Hou iz dhare stil time?" aasct the man in the cloke.

"I go too the Luivr; I aasc for Mme. Bonasyuu; I sa dhat I hav reflected; I renu the afare; I obtane the letter, and I run directly too the cardinal."

"Wel, go qwicly! I wil retern soone too lern the rezult ov yor trip."

The strain'ger went out.

"Infamous!" ced Mme. Bonasyuu, adrescing this eppithhet too her huzband.

"Cilens!" ced dArtanyan, prescing her hand stil moer wormly.

A terribel houling interupted these reflecshonz ov dArtanyan and Mme. Bonasyuu. It wauz her huzband, whoo had discuvverd the disaperans ov the munnibag, and wauz crying "Thheevz!"

"O, mi God!" cride Mme. Bonasyuu, "he wil rouz the whole qworter."

Bonasyuu cauld a long time; but az such crise, on acount ov dhare

freeqweny, braut nobody in the Ru da Foswaa'er, and az laitley the mercerz hous had a bad name, fianding dhat nobody came, he went out continnuwing too caul, hiz vois beying herd fainter and fainter az he went in the direcshon ov the Ru du Bac.

"Nou he iz gon, it iz yor tern too ghet out," ced Mme. Bonasyuu.  
"Currage, mi frend, but abuv aul, prudens, and thhinc whaut u o too the qwene."

"Too her and too u!" cride dArtanyan. "Be sattisfide, butifool Constans. I shal becum werthy ov her grattichude; but shal I liaqwise retern werthy ov yor luv?"

The yung woomman oonly replide bi the butifool glo which mounted too her cheex. A fu cecondz aafterword dArtanyan aulso went out envellopt in a larj cloke, which il-conceeld the sheeth ov a long soerd.

Mme. Bonasyuu follode him withe her ise, withe dhat long, fond looc withe which he had ternd the an'ghel ov the strete, she fel on her nese, and claasping her handz, "O, mi God," cride she, "protect the qwene, protect me!"

## 19 PLAN OV CAMPANE

DArtanyan went strate too M. de Treveeyz. He had reflected dhat in a fu minnuets the cardinal wood be wornd bi this kerst strain'ger, whoo apeerd too be hiz agent, and he jujd, withe rezon, he had not a moment too loose.

The hart ov the yung man overflode withe joi. An oporchunity presented

itself too him in which dhare wood be at the same time gloery too be aqward, and munny too be gaind; and az a far hiyer encurraijment, it braut him intoo cloce intimacy withe a woomman he adoerd. This chaans did, then, for him at wuns moer dhan he wood hav daerd too aasc ov Provvidens.

M. de Treveye wauz in hiz saloone withe hiz habitchuwal coert ov gentelmen.

DArtanyan, whoo wauz none az a familleyar ov the hous, went strate too hiz office, and cent werd dhat he wisht too ce him on sumthhing ov importans.

DArtanyan had bene dhare scaersly five minnuets when M. de Treveye enterd. At the ferst glaans, and bi the joi which wauz painted on hiz countenans, the werthy captane plainly perceevd dhat sumthhing nu wauz on foot.

Aul the wa along dArtanyan had bene consulting withe himcelf whether he shood place confidens in M. de Treveye, or whether he shood oanly aasc him too ghiv him *CARTE BLANCHE* for sum ceecret afare. But M. de Treveye had aulwase bene so thurroly hiz frend, had aulwase bene so devoted too the king and qwene, and hated the cardinal so corjaly, dhat the yung man rezolvd too tel him evverithhing.

"Did u aasc for me, mi good frend?" ced M. de Treveye.

"Yes, msyer," ced dArtanyan, lowering hiz vois, "and u wil pardon me, I hope, for havving disterbd u when u no the importans ov mi biznes."

"Speke, then, I am aul atenshon."

"It concernz nuthhing les," ced dArtanyan, "dhan the onnor, perhaps the life ov the qwene."

"Whaut did u sa?" aasct M. de Treveye, glaancing round too ce if dha wer shuerly alone, and then fixing hiz qweschoning looc uppon dArtanyan.

"I sa, msyer, dhat chaans haz renderd me maaster ov a ceecret—"

"Which u wil gard, I hope, yung man, az yor life."

"But which I must impart too u, msyer, for u alone can acist me in the mishon I hav just receevd from her Madgesty."

"Iz this ceecret yor one?"

"No, msyer; it iz her Madgestese."

"Ar u authoriazd bi her Madgesty too comunicate it too me?"

"No, msyer, for, on the contrary, I am desiard too preserv the profoundest mistery."

"Whi, then, ar u about too betra it too me?"

"Becauz, az I ced, widhout u I can doo nuthhing; and I am afrade u wil refuse me the favor I cum too aasc if u doo not no too whaut end I aasc it."

"Kepe yor ceecret, yung man, and tel me whaut u wish."

"I wish u too obtane for me, from Msyer Decessar, leve ov abcens for fiftene dase."



"When?"

"This verry nite."

"U leve Parris?"

"I am gowing on a mishon."

"Ma u tel me whither?"

"Too Lundon."

"Haz enniwun an interest in preventing yor arival dhare?"

"The cardinal, I beleve, wood ghiv the werld too prevent mi suxes."

"And u ar gowing alone?"

"I am gowing alone."

"In dhat cace u wil not ghet beyond Bondy. I tel u so, bi the faith ov de Treveye."

"Hou so?"

"U wil be asascinated."

"And I shal di in the performans ov mi juty."

"But yor mishon wil not be acumplisht."

"Dhat iz tru," replide dArtanyan.

"Beleve me," continnude Treveye, "in enterprizez ov this kiand, in order dhat wun ma arive, foer must cet out."

"Aa, u ar rite, msyer," ced dArtanyan; "but u no Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis, and u no if I can dispose ov them."

"Widhout confiding too them the ceecret which I am not willing too no?"

"We ar swoern, wuns for aul, too impliscit confidens and devotednes against aul proofe. Beciadz, u can tel them dhat u hav fool confidens in me, and dha wil not be moer incredjulous dhan u."

"I can cend too eche ov them leve ov abcens for fiftene dase, dhat iz aul—too Aithos, whose wuind stil maix him suffer, too go too the wauterz ov Forzh; too Porthos and Arramis too acumpany dhare frend, whoome dha ar not willing too abandon in such a painfool condishon. Cending dhare leve ov abcens wil be proofe enuf dhat I authorise dhare gerny."

"Thanx, msyer. U ar a hundred tiamz too good."

"Begon, then, fiand them instantly, and let aul be dun toonite! Haa! But ferst rite yor reqwest too Decessar. Perhaps u had a spi at yor heelz; and yor vizsit, if it shood evver be none too the cardinal, wil dhus ceme legittimate."

DArtanyan dru up hiz reqwest, and M. de Treveye, on receving it, ashuerd him dhat bi too oacloc in the morning the foer leevz ov abcens shood be at the respective dommicialz ov the travvelerz.

"Hav the goodnes too cend mine too Aithocesz rezsidens. I shood dred sum disagreyabel encounter if I wer too go home."

"Be esy. Aju, and a prosperous voiyage. A PROPO," ced M. de

Treveye, caulng him bac.

DArtanyan reternd.

"Hav u enny munny?"

DArtanyan tapt the bag he had in hiz pocket.

"Enuf?" aasct M. de Treveye.

"Thre hundred pistoalz."

"O, plenty! Dhat wood carry u too the end ov the werld. Begon, then!"

DArtanyan saluted M. de Treveye, whoo held out hiz hand too him; dArtanyan prest it withe a respect mixt withe grattichude. Cins hiz ferst arival at Parris, he had had constant ocaizhon too onnor this exelent man, whoome he had aulwase found werthy, loiyal, and grate.

Hiz ferst vizsit wauz too Arramis, at whoose rezidens he had not bene cins the famous evening on which he had follode Mme. Bonasyuu. Stil ferther, he had celdom cene the yung Musketere; but evvery time he had cene him, he had remarct a depe sadnes imprinted on hiz countenans.

This evening, espeshaly, Arramis wauz mellancoly and thautfool. DArtanyan aasct sum qweschonz about this prolongd mellancoly. Arramis pleded az hiz excuce a commentary uppon the ateenth chapter ov St. Augustine, which he wauz foerst too rite in Latin for the following weke, and which preyoccupide him a good dele.

Aafter the too frendz had bene chatting a fu moments, a cervant from M. de Treveye enterd, bringing a ceeld packet.

"Whaut iz dhat?" aasct Arramis.

"The leve ov abcens Msyer haz aasct for," replide the lacky.

"For me! I hav aasct for no leve ov abcens."

"Hoald yor tung and take it!" ced dArtanyan. "And u, mi frend, dhare iz a demipistole for yor trubbel; u wil tel Msyer de Treveye dhat Msyer Arramis iz verry much obliajd too him. Go."

The lacky boud too the ground and departed.

"Whaut duz aul this mene?" aasct Arramis.

"Pac up aul u waunt for a gerny ov a fortnite, and follo me."

"But I canot leve Parris just nou widhout nowing—"

Arramis stopt.

"Whaut iz becum ov her? I supose u mene—" continnude dArtanyan.

"Becum ov whoome?" replide Arramis.

"The woomman whoo wauz here—the woomman withe the embroiderd hankerchefe."

"Whoo toald u dhare wauz a woomman here?" replide Arramis, becumming az pale az deth.

"I sau her."

"And u no whoo she iz?"

"I beleve I can ghes, at leest."

"Liscen!" ced Arramis. "Cins u apere too no so menny thhingz, can u tel me whaut iz becum ov dhat woomman?"

"I prezhume dhat she haz reternd too Toor."

"Too Toor? Yes, dhat ma be. U evvidently no her. But whi did she retern too Toor widhout telling me ennithhing?"

"Becauz she wauz in fere ov beying arested."

"Whi haz she not ritten too me, then?"

"Becauz she wauz afrade ov compromising u."

"dArtanyan, u restoer me too life!" cride Arramis. "I fancede micelf despiazd, betrade. I wauz so delited too ce her agane! I cood not hav beleevd she wood risc her libberty for me, and yet for whaut uther cauz cood she hav reternd too Parris?"

"For the cauz which tooda taix us too In'gland."

"And whaut iz this cauz?" demaanded Arramis.

"O, ule no it sumda, Arramis; but at prezsent I must immitate the discrechon ov the doctorz nece."

Arramis smiald, az he rememberd the tale he had toald hiz frendz on a certane evening. "Wel, then, cins she haz left Parris, and u ar shure ov it, dArtanyan, nuthhing prevents me, and I am reddy too follo u. U sa we ar gowing—"

"Too ce Aithos nou, and if u wil cum thither, I beg u too make haist, for we hav lost much time aulreddy. A PROPO, inform Bazan."

"Wil Bazan go withe us?" aasct Arramis.

"Perhaps so. At aul events, it iz best dhat he shood follo us too Aithocez."

Arramis cauld Bazan, and, aafter havving orderd him too join them at Aithocez rezsidens, ced "Let us go then," at the same time taking hiz cloke, soerd, and thre pistolz, opening ueslesly too or thre drauwerz too ce if he cood not fiand stra coin. When wel ashuerd this cerch wauz superfluwous, he follode dArtanyan, wundering too himcelf hou this yung Gardzman shood no so wel whoo the lady wauz too whoome he had ghivven hospitallity, and dhat he shood no better dhan himcelf whaut had becum ov her.

Oonly az dha went out Arramis plaist hiz hand uppon the arm ov dArtanyan, and loocking at him earnestly, "U hav not spoken ov this lady?" ced he.

"Too nobody in the werld."

"Not even too Aithos or Porthos?"

"I hav not breedhd a cillabel too them."

"Good enuf!"

Tranqwil on this important point, Arramis continnude hiz wa withe dArtanyan, and boath soone ariavd at Aithocez dwelling. Dha found him hoalding hiz leve ov abcens in wun hand, and M. de Treveeyz note in the uther.

"Can u explane too me whaut cignifi this leve ov abcens and this letter, which I hav just receevd?" ced the astonisht Aithos.

Mi dere Aithos,

I wish, az yor helth absolutely reqwiarz it, dhat u shood rest for a fortnite. Go, then, and take the wauterz ov Forzh, or enny dhat ma be moer agreyabel too u, and recuperate yorcelf az qwicly az poscibel.

Yorz afecshonate,

de Treveye

"Wel, this leve ov abcens and dhat letter mene dhat u must follo me, Aithos."

"Too the wauterz ov Forzh?"

"Dhare or elswhare."

"In the kingz cervice?"

"Iather the kingz or the qweenz. Ar we not dhare Madgestese cervants?"

At dhat moment Porthos enterd. "*PARDIEU!*" ced he, "here iz a strainj thhing! Cins when, I wunder, in the Musketeerz, did dha graant men leve ov abcens widhout dhare aasking for it?"

"Cins," ced dArtanyan, "dha hav frendz whoo aasc it for them."

"Aa, aa!" ced Porthos, "it apeerz dhaerz sumthhing fresh here."

"Yes, we ar gowing—" ced Arramis.

"Too whaut cuntry?" demaanded Porthos.

"Mi faith! I doant no much about it," ced Aithos. "Aasc dArtanyan."

"Too Lundoon, gentelmen," ced dArtanyan.

"Too Lundoon!" cride Porthos; "and whaut the devvil ar we gowing too doo in Lundoon?"

"Dhat iz whaut I am not at libberty too tel u, gentelmen; u must trust too me."

"But in order too go too Lundoon," added Porthos, "munny iz neded, and I hav nun."

"Nor I," ced Arramis.

"Nor I," ced Aithos.

"I hav," replide dArtanyan, pooling out hiz trezhure from hiz pocket, and placing it on the tabel. "Dhare ar in this bag thre hundred pistoalz. Let eche take cevventy-five; dhat iz enuf too take us too Lundoon and bac. Beciadz, make yorcelvz esy; we shal not aul arive at Lundoon."

"Whi so?"

"Becauz, in aul probabillity, sum wun ov us wil be left on the rode."



"Iz this, then, a campane uppon which we ar nou entering?"

"Wun ov a moast dain'gerous kiand, I ghiv u notice."

"Aa! But if we doo risc beying kild," ced Porthos, "at leest I shood like too no whaut for."

"U wood be aul the wiser," ced Aithos.

"And yet," ced Arramis, "I am sumwhaut ov Porthociez opinyon."

"Iz the king acustomd too ghiv u such rezonz? No. He cez too u jauntily, Gentelmen, dhare iz fiting gowing on in Gascony or in Flaanderz; go and fite,' and u go dhare. Whi? U nede ghiv yorcelvz no moer unnesines about this."

"DArtanyan iz rite," ced Aithos; "here ar our thre leevz ov abcens which came from Msyer de Treveye, and here ar thre hundred pistoalz which came from I doant no whare. So let us go and ghet kild whare we ar toald too go. Iz life werth the trubbel ov so menny qweschonz?  
DArtanyan, I am reddy too follo u."

"And I aulso," ced Porthos.

"And I aulso," ced Arramis. "And, indede, I am not sory too qwit Parris; I had nede ov distracshon."

"Wel, u wil hav distracshonz enuf, gentelmen, be ashuerd," ced dArtanyan.

"And, nou, when ar we too go?" aasct Aithos.

"Imejaitly," replide dArtanyan; "we hav not a minnute too loose."

"Hello, Gremo! Plaunsha! Muiscton! Bazan!" cride the foer yung men, caulng dhare lackese, "clene mi buits, and fech the horcez from the hotel."

Eche Musketere wauz acustomd too leve at the genneral hotel, az at a barrac, hiz one hors and dhat ov hiz lacky. Plaunsha, Gremo, Muiscton, and Bazan cet of at fool spede.

"Nou let us la doun the plan ov campane," ced Porthos. "Whare doo we go ferst?"

"Too Cala," ced dArtanyan; "dhat iz the moast direct line too Lundon."

"Wel," ced Porthos, "this iz mi advice—"

"Speke!"

"Foer men traveling toogheter wood be suspected. DArtanyan wil ghiv eche ov us hiz instrucshonz. I wil go bi the wa ov Booloin too clere the wa; Aithos wil cet out too ourz aafter, bi dhat ov Ammeyon; Arramis wil follo us bi dhat ov Nwaa'on; az too dArtanyan, he wil go bi whaut roote he thhinx iz best, in Plaunshase cloadhz, while Plaunsha wil follo us like dArtanyan, in the uniform ov the Gardz."

"Gentelmen," ced Aithos, "mi opinyon iz dhat it iz not propper too alou lackese too hav ennithhing too doo in such an afare. A ceecret ma, bi chaans, be betrade bi gentelmen; but it iz aulmoast aulwase soald bi lackese."

"Porthoccez plan apeerz too me too be impracticabel," ced dArtanyan, "inazmuch az I am micelf ignorant ov whaut instrucshonz I can ghiv u. I am the barer ov a letter, dhat iz aul. I hav not, and I canot make

thre coppese ov dhat letter, becauz it iz ceeld. We must, then, az it apeerz too me, travvel in cumpany. This letter iz here, in this pocket," and he pointed too the pocket which containd the letter. "If I shood be kild, wun ov u must take it, and continu the roote; if he be kild, it wil be anutherz tern, and so on—provided a cin'ghel wun ariavz, dhat iz aul dhat iz reqwiard."

"Braavo, dArtanyan, yor opinyon iz mine," cride Aithos, "Beciadz, we must be concistent; I am gowing too take the wauterz, u wil acumpany me. Insted ov taking the wauterz ov Forzh, I go and take ce wauterz; I am fre too doo so. If enniwun wishez too stop us, I wil sho Msyer de Treveeyz letter, and u wil sho yor leevz ov abcens. If we ar atact, we wil defend ourcelvz; if we ar tride, we wil stoutly maintane dhat we wer oonly ancshous too dip ourcelvz a certane number ov tiamz in the ce. Dha wood hav an esy bargane ov foer isolated men; wharaz foer men tooghether make a troope. We wil arm our foer lackese withe pistolz and musketuinz; if dha cend an army out against us, we wil ghiv battel, and the cervivor, az dArtanyan cez, wil carry the letter."

"Wel ced," cride Arramis; "u doant often speke, Aithos, but when u doo speke, it iz like St. Jon ov the Goalden Mouth. I agry too Aithocez plan. And u, Porthos?"

"I agry too it, too," ced Porthos, "if dArtanyan apruivz ov it. DArtanyan, beying the barer ov the letter, iz natchuraly the hed ov the enterprise; let him decide, and we wil execute."

"Wel," ced dArtanyan, "I decide dhat we shood adopt Aithocez plan, and dhat we cet of in haaf an our."

"Agrede!" shouted the thre Musketeerz in coerus.

Eche wun, stretching out hiz hand too the bag, tooc hiz cevventy-five pistoalz, and made hiz preparaishonz too cet out at the time apointed.

## 20 THE GERNY

At too oacloc in the morning, our foer advenchurerz left Parris bi the Bareyare St. Dennis. Az long az it wauz darc dha remaind cilent; in spite ov themcelvz dha submitted too the influwens ov the obscurity, and apprehended ambooshez on evvery cide.

Withe the ferst rase ov da dhare tungz wer loocend; withe the sun gayety reviavd. It wauz like the eve ov a battel; the hart bete, the ise laaft, and dha felt dhat the life dha wer perhaps gowing too loose, wauz, aafter aul, a good thhing.

Beciadz, the aperans ov the carravan wauz formiddabel. The blac horcez ov the Musketeerz, dhare marshal carrage, withe the regimental step ov these nobel companyonz ov the soalger, wood hav betrade the moast strict incogneto. The lackese follode, armd too the teeth.

Aul went wel til dha ariavd at Shaantilly, which dha reecht about ate oacloc in the morning. Dha neded breccfast, and alited at the doer ov an *AUBERGE*, recomended bi a cine representing St. Martin ghivving haaf hiz cloke too a poor man. Dha orderd the lackese not too unsaddel the horcez, and too hoald themcelvz in reddines too cet of agane imejaitly.

Dha enterd the common haul, and plaist themcelvz at tabel. A gentelman, whoo had just ariavd bi the roote ov Damartan, wauz ceted at

the same tabel, and wauz brecfasting. He opend the conversaishon about rane and fine wether; the travvelerz replide. He dranc too dhare good helth, and the travvelerz reternd hiz poliatnes.

But at the moment Muiscton came too anouns dhat the horcez wer reddy, and dha wer arising from tabel, the strain'ger propoazd too Porthos too drinc the helth ov the cardinal. Porthos replide dhat he aasct no better if the strain'ger, in hiz tern, wood drinc the helth ov the king. The strain'ger cride dhat he acnollejd no uther king but hiz Emminens. Porthos cauld him drunc, and the strain'ger dru hiz soerd.

"U hav comitted a pece ov folly," ced Aithos, "but it caant be helpt; dhare iz no drauwing bac. Kil the fello, and rejoin us az soone az u can."

Aul thre remounted dhare horcez, and cet out at a good pace, while Porthos wauz prommicig hiz adversary too perforate him withe aul the thrusts none in the fencing scuilz.

"Dhare gose wun!" cride Aithos, at the end ov five hundred pavez.

"But whi did dhat man atac Porthos raather dhan enny uther wun ov us?" aasct Arramis.

"Becauz, az Porthos wauz tauking louder dhan the rest ov us, he tooc him for the chefe," ced dArtanyan.

"I aulwase ced dhat this cadet from Gascony wauz a wel ov wizdom," mermerd Aithos; and the travvelerz continnude dhare roote.

At Bova dha stopt too ourz, az wel too breathe dhare horcez a littel az too wate for Porthos. At the end ov too ourz, az Porthos did not cum, not enny nuse ov him, dha rezhuemd dhare gerny.

At a leghe from Bova, whare the rode wauz confiand betwene too hi banx, dha fel in withe ate or ten men whoo, taking advaantage ov the rode beying unpaivd in this spot, apeerd too be emploid in digghing hoalz and filling up the ruts withe mud.

Arramis, not liking too soil hiz buits withe this artifishal mortar, apostrofiazd them raather sharply. Aithos wisht too restrane him, but it wauz too late. The laborerz began too gere the travvelerz and bi dhare insolens disterbd the eqwanimmity even ov the coole Aithos, whoo erjd on hiz hors against wun ov them.

Then eche ov these men retretd az far az the dich, from which eche tooc a conceeld musket; the rezult wauz dhat our cevven travvelerz wer outnumberd in wepponz. Arramis receevd a baul which paast throo hiz shoalder, and Muiscton anuther baul which lojd in the fleshy part which prolongz the lower porshon ov the loinz. Dhaerfoer Muiscton alone fel from hiz hors, not becauz he wauz ceveerly wuinded, but not beying abel too ce the wuind, he jujd it too be moer cereyous dhan it reyaly wauz.

"It wauz an ambuscade!" shouted dArtanyan. "Doant waist a charj! Forward!"

Arramis, wuinded az he wauz, ceezd the mane ov hiz hors, which carrede him on withe the utherz. Muisctonz hors rejoind them, and gallopt bi the cide ov hiz companyonz.

"Dhat wil cerv us for a rela," ced Aithos.

"I wood raather hav had a hat," ced dArtanyan. "Mine wauz carrede awa bi a baul. Bi mi faith, it iz verry forchunate dhat the letter wauz not in it."

"Dhale kil poor Porthos when he cumz up," ced Arramis.

"If Porthos wer on hiz legz, he wood hav rejoind us bi this time," ced Aithos. "Mi opinyon iz dhat on the ground the drunken man wauz not intoxicated."

Dha continnude at dhare best spede for too ourz, auldho the horcez wer so fateegd dhat it wauz too be feerd dha wood soone refuse cervice.

The travvelerz had chosen crosroadz in the hope dhat dha mite mete withe les interupshon; but at Crevker, Arramis declaerd he cood procede no farther. In fact, it reqwiard aul the currage which he conceeld beneeth hiz ellegant form and pollisht mannerz too bare him so far. He gru moer pale evvery minnute, and dha wer obliajd too supoert him on hiz hors. Dha lifted him of at the doer ov a cabbara, left Bazan withe him, whoo, beciadz, in a skermish wauz moer embarrassing dhan uesfool, and cet forword agane in the hope ov sleping at Ammeyon.

"*MORBLEU*," ced Aithos, az soone az dha wer agane in moashon, "rejest too too maasterz and Gremo and Plaunsha! *MORBLEU*! I woant be dhare jupe, I wil aancer for it. I wil niather open mi mouth nor drau mi soerd betwene this and Cala. I sware bi—"

"Doant waist time in swaring," ced dArtanyan; "let us gallop, if our horcez wil concent."

And the travvelerz berrede dhare rouwelz in dhare horcez flanx, whoo dhus vigorously stimulated recuvverd dhare ennergese. Dha ariavd at Ammeyon at midnite, and alited at the *AUBERGE* ov the Goalden Lilly.

The hoast had the aperans ov az onnest a man az enny on erth. He receevd the travvelerz withe hiz candelstic in wun hand and hiz cotton niatcap in the uther. He wisht too loj the too travvelerz eche in a charming chaimber; but unforchunaitly these charming chaimberz wer at the

opposite extremmitese ov the hotel. DArtanyan and Aithos refuezd them. The hoast replide dhat he had no uther werthy ov dhare Exelencese; but the travvelerz declaerd dha wood slepe in the common chaimber, eche on a matres which mite be throne uppon the ground. The hoast incisted; but the travvelerz wer ferm, and he wauz obliajd too doo az dha wisht.

Dha had just prepaerd dhare bedz and barricaded dhare doer within, when sumwun noct at the yard shutter; dha demaanded whoo wauz dhare, and reccognising the voicez ov dhare lackese, opend the shutter. It wauz indede Plaunsha and Gremo.

"Gremo can take care ov the horcez," ced Plaunsha. "If u ar willing, gentelmen, I wil slepe acros yor doerwa, and u wil then be certane dhat nobody can reche u."

"And on whaut wil u slepe?" ced dArtanyan.

"Here iz mi bed," replide Plaunsha, projucing a bundel ov strau.

"Cum, then," ced dArtanyan, "u ar rite. Mine hoasts face duz not plese me at aul; it iz too graishous."

"Nor me iather," ced Aithos.

Plaunsha mounted bi the windo and instauld himcelf acros the doerwa, while Gremo went and shut himcelf up in the stabel, undertaking dhat bi five oacloc in the morning he and the foer horcez shood be reddy.



The nite wauz qwiyet enuf. Tooword too oacloc in the morning sumbody endevvord too open the doer; but az Plaunsha awoke in an instant and cride, "Whoo gose dhare?" sumbody replide dhat he wauz mistaken, and went awa.

At foer oacloc in the morning dha herd a terribel riyot in the stabelz. Gremo had tride too waken the stabel boiz, and the stabel boiz had beten him. When dha opend the windo, dha sau the poor lad liying censles, withe hiz hed split bi a blo withe a pichforc.

Plaunsha went doun intoo the yard, and wisht too saddel the horcez; but the horcez wer aul uezd up. Muisctonz hors which had travveld for five or cix ourz widhout a rider the da befoer, mite hav bene abel too pershu the gerny; but bi an inconcevabel error the vetterinary cerjon, whoo had bene cent for, az it apeerd, too blede wun ov the hoasts horcez, had bled Muisctonz.

This began too be anoiying. Aul these suxescive axidents wer perhaps the rezult ov chaans; but dha mite be the fruets ov a plot. Aithos and dArtanyan went out, while Plaunsha wauz cent too inqwire if dhare wer not thre horcez for sale in the naborhood. At the doer stood too horcez, fresh, strong, and foolly eqwipt. These wood just hav suted them. He aasct whare dhare maasterz wer, and wauz informd dhat dha had paast the nite in the in, and wer then cetling dhare bil withe the hoast.

Aithos went doun too pa the recconing, while dArtanyan and Plaunsha stood at the strete doer. The hoast wauz in a lower and bac roome, too which Aithos wauz requested too go.

Aithos enterd widhout the leest mistrust, and tooc out too pistoalz too pa the bil. The hoast wauz alone, ceted befoer hiz desc, wun ov the

drauwerz ov which wauz partly open. He tooc the munny which Aithos offerd too him, and aafter terning and terning it over and over in hiz handz, suddenly cride out dhat it wauz bad, and dhat he wood hav him and hiz companyonz arested az foergerz.

"U blacgard!" cride Aithos, gowing tooword him, "Ile cut yor eerz of!"

At the same instant, foer men, armd too the teeth, enterd bi cide doerz, and rusht uppon Aithos.

"I am taken!" shouted Aithos, withe aul the pouwer ov hiz lungz. "Go on, dArtanyan! Sper, sper!" and he fiard too pistolz.

DArtanyan and Plaunsha did not reqwire twice bidding; dha unfaacend the too horcez dhat wer wating at the doer, leept uppon them, berrede dhare sperz in dhare ciadz, and cet of at fool gallop.

"Doo u no whaut haz becum ov Aithos?" aasct dArtanyan ov Plaunsha, az dha gallopt on.

"Aa, msyer," ced Plaunsha, "I sau wun faul at eche ov hiz too shots, and he apeerd too me, throo the glaas doer, too be fiting withe hiz soerd withe the utherz."

"Brave Aithos!" mermerd dArtanyan, "and too thhinc dhat we ar compeld too leve him; maby the same fate awaits us too pacez hens. Forward, Plaunsha, forward! U ar a brave fello."

"Az I toald u, msyer," replide Plaunsha, "Picardz ar found out bi beying uezd. Beciadz, I am here in mi one cuntry, and dhat exiats me."

And boath, withe fre uce ov the sper, ariavd at St. Oma widhout drauwing

bit. At St. Oma dha breedhd dhare horcez withe the bridelz paast under dhare armz for fere ov axident, and ate a morcel from dhare handz on the stoanz ov the strete, aafter dha departed agane.

At a hundred pacez from the gaits ov Cala, dArtanyanz hors gave out, and cood not bi enny meenz be made too ghet up agane, the blud flowing from hiz ise and hiz nose. Dhare stil remaind Plaunshase hors; but he stopt short, and cood not be made too moove a step.

Forchunaitly, az we hav ced, dha wer within a hundred pacez ov the citty; dha left dhare too nagz uppon the hi rode, and ran tooword the ke. Plaunsha cauld hiz maasterz atenshon too a gentelman whoo had just ariavd withe hiz lacky, and oonly preceded them bi about fifty pacez. Dha made aul spede too cum up too this gentelman, whoo apeerd too be in grate haist. Hiz buits wer cuvverd withe dust, and he inqwiard if he cood not instantly cros over too In'gland.

"Nuthing wood be moer esy," ced the captane ov a vescel reddy too cet sale, "but this morning came an order too let no wun leve widhout expres permishon from the cardinal."

"I hav dhat permishon," ced the gentelman, drauwing the paper from hiz pocket; "here it iz."

"Hav it exammiand bi the guvvernor ov the poert," ced the shipmaaster, "and ghiv me the prefferens."

"Whare shal I fiand the guvvernor?"

"At hiz cuntry hous."

"And dhat iz citchuwated?"

"At a qworter ov a leghe from the citty. Looc, u ma ce it from

here—at the foot ov dhat littel hil, dhat slated roofe."

"Verry wel," ced the gentelman. And, withe hiz lacky, he tooc the rode too the guvvernorz cuntry hous.

DArtanyan and Plaunsha follode the gentelman at a distans ov five hundred pacez. Wuns outside the citty, dArtanyan overtooc the gentelman az he wauz entering a littel wood.

"Msyer, u apere too be in grate haist?"

"No wun can be moer so, msyer."

"I am sorry for dhat," ced dArtanyan; "for az I am in grate haist liaqwise, I wish too beg u too render me a cervice."

"Whaut?"

"Too let me sale ferst."

"Dhats imposcibel," ced the gentelman; "I hav travveld cixty leegz in forty ourz, and bi toomoro at midda I must be in Lundon."

"I hav performd dhat same distans in forty ourz, and bi ten oacloc in the morning I must be in Lundon."

"Verry sorry, msyer; but I wauz here ferst, and wil not sale cecond."

"I am sorry, too, msyer; but I ariavd cecond, and must sale ferst."

"The kingz cervice!" ced the gentelman.

"Mi one cervice!" ced dArtanyan.

"But this iz a needles qworel u ceke withe me, az it ceemz too me."

"*PARBLEU!* Whaut doo u desire it too be?"

"Whaut doo u waunt?"

"Wood u like too no?"

"Certainly."

"Wel, then, I wish dhat order ov which u ar barer, ceying dhat I hav not wun ov mi one and must hav wun."

"U gest, I prezhume."

"I nevver gest."

"Let me paas!"

"U shal not paas."

"Mi brave yung man, I wil blo out yor brainz. *HOLA*, Luban, mi pistolz!"

"Plaunsha," cauld out dArtanyan, "take care ov the lacky; I wil mannage the maaster."

Plaunsha, emboldend bi the ferst exploit, sprang uppon Luban; and beying strong and viggorous, he soone got him on the braud ov hiz bac, and plaist hiz ne uppon hiz brest.

"Go on withe yor afare, msyer," cride Plaunsha; "I hav finnisht mine."

Ceying this, the gentelman dru hiz soerd, and sprang uppon dArtanyan; but he had too strong an adversary. In thre cecondz dArtanyan had wuinded him thre tiamz, exclaiming at eche thrust, "Wun for Aithos, wun for Porthos; and wun for Arramis!"

At the thherd hit the gentelman fel like a log. DArtanyan beleevd him too be ded, or at leest incencibel, and went tooword him for the perpoce ov taking the order; but the moment he extended hiz hand too cerch for it, the wuinded man, whoo had not dropt hiz soerd, plunjd the point intoo dArtanyanz brest, crying, "Wun for u!"

"And wun for me—the best for laast!" cride dArtanyan, fureyous, naling him too the erth withe a foerth thrust throo hiz boddy.

This time the gentelman cloazd hiz ise and fainted. DArtanyan cercht hiz pockets, and tooc from wun ov them the order for the passage. It wauz in the name ov Comt de Vard.

Then, caasting a glaans on the handsum yung man, whoo wauz scaersly twenty-five yeerz ov age, and whoome he wauz leving in hiz goer, depriavd ov cens and perhaps ded, he gave a ci for dhat unnacountabel destiny which leedz men too destroi eche uther for the interests ov pepel whoo ar strain'gerz too them and whoo often doo not even no dhat dha exist. But he wauz soone arouzd from these reflecshonz bi Luban, whoo uttered loud crise and screemd for help withe aul hiz mite.

Plaunsha graaspt him bi the throte, and prest az hard az he cood. "Msyer," ced he, "az long az I hoald him in this manner, he caant cri, Ile be bound; but az soone az I let go he wil houl agane. I no him for a Norman, and Normanz ar obstinate."

In fact, tiatly held az he wauz, Luban endevvord stil too cri out.

"Sta!" ced dArtanyan; and taking out hiz hankerchefe, he gagd him.

"Nou," ced Plaunsha, "let us biand him too a tre."

This beying properly dun, dha dru the Comt de Vard cloce too hiz cervant; and az nite wauz aproching, and az the wuinded man and the bound man wer at sum littel distans within the wood, it wauz evvident dha wer liacly too remane dhare til the next da.

"And nou," ced dArtanyan, "too the Guvvernorz."

"But u ar wuinded, it ceemz," ced Plaunsha.

"O, dhats nuthhing! Let us atend too whaut iz moer prescing ferst, and then we wil atend too mi wuind; beciadz, it duz not ceme verry dain'gerous."

And dha boath cet forword az faast az dha cood tooword the cuntry hous ov the werthy funcshonary.

The Comt de Vard wauz anounst, and dArtanyan wauz introjuest.

"U hav an order ciand bi the cardinal?" ced the guvvernor.

"Yes, msyer," replide dArtanyan; "here it iz."

"Aa, aa! It iz qwite reggular and expliscit," ced the guvvernor.

"Moast liacly," ced dArtanyan; "I am wun ov hiz moast faithfool cervants."

"It apeerz dhat hiz Emminens iz ancshous too prevent sumwun from crosing too In'gland?"

"Yes; a certane dArtanyan, a Baernese gentelman whoo left Parris in cumpany withe thre ov hiz frendz, withe the intenshon ov gowing too Lunden."

"Doo u no him personaly?" aasct the guvvernor.

"Whoome?"

"This dArtanyan."

"Perfectly wel."

"Describe him too me, then."

"Nuthing moer esy."

And dArtanyan gave, fechure for fechure, a descriphon ov the Comt de Vard.

"Iz he acumpanede?"

"Yes; bi a lacky naimd Luban."

"We wil kepe a sharp loocout for them; and if we la handz on them hiz Emminens ma be ashuerd dha wil be reconducted too Parris under a good escort."

"And bi doowing so, Msyer the Guvvernor," ced dArtanyan, "u wil deserv wel ov the cardinal."

"Shal u ce him on yor retern, Msyer Count?"

"Widhout a dout."



"Tel him, I beg u, dhat I am hiz humbel cervant."

"I wil not fale."

Delited withe this ashurans the guvvernor counterciand the paaspoert and delivverd it too dArtanyan. DArtanyan lost no time in uesles compliments. He thanct the guvvernor, boud, and departed. Wuns outcide, he and Plaunsha cet of az faast az dha cood; and bi making a long detoor avoided the wood and reyenterd the citty bi anuther gate.

The vescel wauz qwite reddy too sale, and the captane wauz wating on the whorf. "Wel?" ced he, on perceving dArtanyan.

"Here iz mi paas counterciand," ced the latter.

"And dhat uther gentelman?"

"He wil not go tooda," ced dArtanyan; "but here, Ile pa u for us too."

"In dhat cace let us go," ced the shipmaaster.

"Let us go," repeted dArtanyan.

He leept withe Plaunsha intoo the bote, and five minnuets aafter dha wer on boerd. It wauz time; for dha had scaersly saild haaf a leghe, when dArtanyan sau a flash and herd a detonaishon. It wauz the cannon which anounst the closing ov the poert.

He had nou lezhure too looc too hiz wuind. Forchunaitly, az dArtanyan had thaut, it wauz not dain'gerous. The point ov the soerd had tucht a rib, and glaanst along the bone. Stil ferther, hiz shert had stuc too the

wuind, and he had lost oarly a fu drops ov blud.

DArtanyan wauz woern out withe fateghe. A matres wauz lade uppon the dec  
for him. He thru himcelf uppon it, and fel aslepe.

On the moro, at brake ov da, dha wer stil thre or foer leegz  
from the coast ov In'gland. The brese had bene so lite aul nite, dha  
had made but littel proagres. At ten oacloc the vescel caast ancor in  
the harbor ov Dover, and at haaf paast ten dArtanyan plaist hiz foot on  
In'glish land, crying, "Here I am at laast!"

But dhat wauz not aul; dha must ghet too Lundo. In In'gland the poast  
wauz wel cervd. DArtanyan and Plaunsha tooc eche a poast hors, and a  
postilleyon rode befoer them. In a fu ourz dha wer in the cappital.

DArtanyan did not no Lundo; he did not no a werd ov In'glish;  
but he rote the name ov Buckingham on a pece ov paper, and everiwun  
pointed out too him the wa too the juex hotel.

The juke wauz at Winzor hunting withe the king. DArtanyan inqwiard for  
the confidenshal valla ov the juke, whoo, havving acumpanede him in aul  
hiz voiyagez, spoke French perfectly wel; he toald him dhat he came from  
Parris on an afare ov life and deth, and dhat he must speke withe hiz  
maaster instantly.

The confidens withe which dArtanyan spoke convinst Patric, which wauz  
the name ov this minnister ov the minnister. He orderd too horcez too  
be saddeld, and himcelf went az ghide too the yung Gardzman. Az for  
Plaunsha, he had bene lifted from hiz hors az stif az a rush; the poor  
ladz strength wauz aulmoast exhausted. DArtanyan ceemd iarn.

On dhare arival at the caacel dha lernd dhat Buckingham and the king  
wer hauking in the marshez too or thre leegz awa. In twenty minnuets

dha wer on the spot naimd. Patric soone caut the sound ov hiz maasterz vois caulng hiz faulcon.

"Whoome must I anouns too mi Lord Juke?" aasct Patric.

"The yung man whoo won evening saut a qworel withe him on the Pont Nuuf, opposite the Samaritane."

"A cin'gular introducshon!"

"U wil fiand dhat it iz az good az anuther."

Patric gallopt of, reecht the juke, and anounst too him in the termz directed dhat a mescen'ger awated him.

Buckingham at wuns rememberd the cercumstaans, and suspecting dhat sumthhing wauz gowing on in Fraans ov which it wauz nescenary he shood be informd, he oonly tooc the time too inqwire whare the mescen'ger wauz, and reccognising from afar the uniform ov the Gardz, he poot hiz hors intoo a gallop, and rode strate up too dArtanyan. Patric discreetly kept in the bacground.

"No misforchune haz happend too the qwene?" cride Buckingham, the instant he came up, throwing aul hiz fere and luv intoo the qweschon.

"I beleve not; nevvertheles I beleve she runz sum grate perril from which yor Grace alone can extricate her."

"I!" cride Buckingham. "Whaut iz it? I shood be too happy too be ov enny cervice too her. Speke, speke!"

"Take this letter," ced dArtanyan.

"This letter! From whoome cumz this letter?"

"From her Madgesty, az I thhinc."

"From her Madgesty!" ced Buckingham, becumming so pale dhat dArtanyan feerd he wood faint az he broke the cele.

"Whaut iz this rent?" ced he, showing dArtanyan a place whare it had bene peerst throo.

"Aa," ced dArtanyan, "I did not ce dhat; it wauz the soerd ov the Comt de Vard which made dhat hole, when he gave me a good thrust in the brest."

"U ar wuinded?" aasct Buckingham, az he opend the letter.

"O, nuthhing but a scrach," ced dArtanyan.

"Just hevven, whaut hav I red?" cride the juke. "Patric, remane here, or raather join the king, wharevver he ma be, and tel hiz Madgesty dhat I humbly beg him too excuse me, but an afare ov the gratest importans recaulz me too Lundon. Cum, msyer, cum!" and boath cet of toowordz the cappital at fool gallop.

## 21 THE COUNTES DE WINTER

Az dha rode along, the juke endevvord too drau from dArtanyan, not aul dhat had happend, but whaut dArtanyan himcelf nu. Bi adding aul dhat

he herd from the mouth ov the yung man too hiz one remembrancez, he wauz

enabeld too form a pritty exact ideyaa ov a posishon ov the cereyousnes ov which, for the rest, the qweenz letter, short but expliscit, gave him the clu. But dhat which astonnisht him moast wauz dhat the cardinal, so deeply interested in preventing this yung man from cetting hiz foot in In'gland, had not suxeded in aresting him on the rode. It wauz then, uppon the manifestaishon ov this astonnishment, dhat dArtanyan related too

him the precaushon taken, and hou, thanx too the devoashon ov hiz thre frendz, whoome he had left scatterd and bleding on the rode, he had suxeded in cumming of withe a cin'ghel soerd thrust, which had peerst the qweenz letter and for which he had repade M. de Vard withe such terribel coin. While he wauz liscening too this recital, delivverd withe the gratest simpliscity, the juke looct from time too time at the yung man withe astonnishment, az if he cood not comprehend hou so much

prudens, currage, and devotednes cood be allide withe a countenans which indicated not moer dhan twenty yeerz.

The horcez went like the wind, and in a fu minnuets dha wer at the gaits ov Lundon. DArtanyan imadgiand dhat on ariving in toun the juke wood slacken hiz pace, but it wauz not so. He kept on hiz wa at the same rate, heedles about upcetting dhose whoome he met on the rode. In fact, in crosing the citty too or thre axidents ov this kiand happend; but Buckingham did not even tern hiz hed too ce whaut became ov dhose he had noct doun. DArtanyan follode him amid crise which strongly resembeld kercez.

On entering the coert ov hiz hotel, Buckingham sprang from hiz hors, and widhout thhinking whaut became ov the annimal, thru the bridel on hiz

hiz, and sprang tooword the vestibule. DArtanyan did the same, withe a littel moer concern, houwevver, for the nobel crechuerz, whose merrits he

foolly apreesheyated; but he had the satisfacshon ov ceying thre or foer gruimz run from the kitchenz and the stabelz, and bizsy themcelvz withe the steedz.

The juke wauct so faast dhat dArtanyan had sum trubbel in keping up withe him. He paast throo cevveral apartments, ov an ellegans ov which even the gratest nobelz ov Fraans had not even an ideyaa, and ariavd at length in a bedchaimber which wauz at wuns a mirrakel ov taist and ov richnes. In the alcove ov this chaimber wauz a doer conceeld in the tappestry which the juke opend withe a littel goald ke which he woer suspended from hiz nec bi a chane ov the same mettal. Withe disreshon dArtanyan remaind behiand; but at the moment when Buckingham crost the threshoald, he ternd round, and ceying the hesitaishon ov the yung man, "Cum in!" cride he, "and if u hav the good forchune too be admitted too her Madgestese prezsens, tel her whaut u hav cene."

Encurraijd bi this invitaishon, dArtanyan follode the juke, whoo cloazd the doer aafter them. The too found themcelvz in a smaul chappel cuvverd withe a tappestry ov Perzhan cilc werct withe goald, and brilleyantly lited withe a vaast number ov candelz. Over a speeshese ov aultar, and beneeth a cannopy ov blu velvet, cermounted bi white and red pluemz, wauz

a fool-length poertrate ov An ov Austreyaa, so perfect in its resemblans dhat dArtanyan utterd a cri ov cerprise on behoalding it. Wun mite beleve the qwene wauz about too speke. On the aultar, and beneeth the poertrate, wauz the caasket contaning the dimond studz.

The juke aproacht the aultar, nelt az a preest mite hav dun befoer a crucifix, and opend the caasket. "Dhare," ced he, drauwing from the caasket a larj bo ov blu ribbon aul sparcling withe dimondz, "dhare ar the preshous studz which I hav taken an oath shood be berrede withe me. The qwene gave them too me, the qwene reqwiarz them agane. Her wil be dun, like dhat ov God, in aul thhingz."

Then, he began too kis, wun aafter the uther, dhose dere studz withe which he wauz about too part. Aul at wuns he utterd a terribel cri.

"Whaut iz the matter?" exclaimd dArtanyan, ancshously; "whaut haz happend too u, mi Lord?"

"Aul iz lost!" cride Buckingham, becumming az pale az a corps; "too ov the studz ar waunting, dhare ar oonly ten."

"Can u hav lost them, mi Lord, or doo u thhinc dha hav bene stolen?"

"Dha hav bene stolen," replide the juke, "and it iz the cardinal whoo haz delt this blo. Hoald; ce! The ribbonz which held them hav bene cut withe cizzorz."

"If mi Lord suspects dha hav bene stolen, perhaps the person whoo stole them stil haz them in hiz handz."

"Wate, wate!" ced the juke. "The oonly time I hav woern these studz wauz at a baul ghivven bi the king ate dase ago at Winzor. The Comtes de Winter, withe whoome I had qworeld, became reconciald too me at dhat baul.

Dhat reconcilyaishon wauz nuthhing but the venjans ov a gellous woomman.

I hav nevver cene her from dhat da. The woomman iz an agent ov the cardinal."

"He haz agents, then, throowout the werld?" cride dArtanyan.

"O, yes," ced Buckingham, grating hiz teeth withe rage. "Yes, he iz a terribel antaggonist. But when iz this baul too take place?"

"Munda next."

"Munda next! Stil five dase befoer us. Dhats moer time dhan we waunt. Patric!" cride the juke, opening the doer ov the chappel, "Patric!" Hiz confidenshal valla apeerd.

"Mi juweler and mi cecretary."

The valla went out withe a mute promptichude which shode him acustomd too oba bliandly and widhout repli.

But auldho the juweler had bene menshond ferst, it wauz the cecretary whoo ferst made hiz aperans. This wauz cimply becauz he livd in the hotel. He found Buckingham ceted at a tabel in hiz bedchaimber, riting orderz withe hiz one hand.

"Mr. Jaxon," ced he, "go instantly too the Lord Chaancellor, and tel him dhat I charj him withe the execueshon ov these orderz. I wish them too be promulgated imejaitly."

"But, mi Lord, if the Lord Chaancellor interrogaits me uppon the motiavz which ma hav led yor Grace too adopt such an extrordinary mezhure, whaut shal I repli?"

"Dhat such iz mi plezhure, and dhat I aancer for mi wil too no man."

"Wil dhat be the aancer," replide the cecretary, smiling, "which he must traanzmit too hiz Madgesty if, bi chaans, hiz Madgesty shood hav the cureyosity too no whi no vescel iz too leve enny ov the poerts ov Grate Brittain?"

"U ar rite, Mr. Jaxon," replide Buckingham. "He wil sa, in dhat cace, too the king dhat I am determiand on wor, and dhat this mezhure iz mi ferst act ov hostility against Fraans."



The secretary boud and retiard.

"We ar safe on dhat cide," ced Buckingham, terning tooword dArtanyan.  
"If the studz ar not yet gon too Parris, dha wil not arive til aafter  
u."

"Hou so?"

"I hav just plaist an embargo on aul vescelz at prezsent in hiz  
Madgestese poerts, and widhout particcular permishon, not wun dare lift  
an  
ancor."

DArtanyan looct withe schupefacshon at a man whoo dhus emploid the  
unlimmited pouwer withe which he wauz cloadhd bi the confidens ov a  
king  
in the procecueshon ov hiz intreegz. Buckingham sau bi the expreshon ov  
the yung manz face whaut wauz paacing in hiz miand, and he smiald.

"Yes," ced he, "yes, An ov Austreyaa iz mi tru qwene. Uppon a werd from  
her, I wood betra mi cuntry, I wood betra mi king, I wood betra  
mi God. She aasct me not too cend the Protestants ov Laa Roshel the  
acistans I prommiast them; I hav not dun so. I broke mi werd, it iz  
tru; but whaut cignifise dhat? I obade mi luv; and hav I not bene  
richly pade for dhat obegens? It wauz too dhat obegens I o her  
poertrate."

DArtanyan wauz amaizd too note bi whaut fradgile and un'none thredz  
the  
destinese ov naishonz and the liavz ov men ar suspended. He wauz lost in  
these reflecshonz when the goaldsmith enterd. He wauz an Irishman—wun  
ov  
the moast skilfool ov hiz craaft, and whoo himcelf confest dhat he gaind  
a hundred thouzand leevrz a yere bi the Juke ov Buckingham.

"Mr. ORily," ced the juke, leding him intoo the chappel, "looc at these dimond studz, and tel me whaut dha ar werth apece."

The goaldsmith caast a glaans at the ellegant manner in which dha wer cet, calculated, wun withe anuther, whaut the dimondz wer werth, and widhout hesitaishon ced, "Fiftene hundred pistoalz eche, mi Lord."

"Hou menny dase wood it reqwire too make too studz exactly like them? U ce dhare ar too waunting."

"Ate dase, mi Lord."

"I wil ghiv u thre thousand pistoalz apece if I can hav them bi the da aafter toomoro."

"Mi Lord, dha shal be yorz."

"U ar a jewel ov a man, Mr. ORily; but dhat iz not aul. These studz canot be trusted too enniboddy; it must be dun in the pallace."

"Imposcibel, mi Lord! Dhare iz no wun but micelf can so execute them dhat wun canot tel the nu from the oald."

"Dhaerfoer, mi dere Mr. ORily, u ar mi prizzoner. And if u wish evver too leve mi pallace, u canot; so make the best ov it. Name too me such ov yor wercmen az u nede, and point out the tuilz dha must bring."

The goaldsmith nu the juke. He nu aul obgecshon wood be uesles, and instantly determiand hou too act.

"Ma I be permitted too inform mi wife?" ced he.

"O, u ma even ce her if u like, mi dere Mr. ORily. Yor captivvity shal be miald, be ashuerd; and az evvery inconveenyens deservz its indemnicaiashon, here iz, in adishon too the price ov the studz, an order for a thousand pistoalz, too make u forghet the anoiyans I cauz u."

DArtanyan cood not ghet over the cerprise creyated in him bi this minnister, whoo dhus open-handed, spoerted withe men and milleyonz.

Az too the goaldsmith, he rote too hiz wife, cending her the order for the thousand pistoalz, and charging her too cend him, in exchainj, hiz moast skilfool aprentice, an assortment ov dimondz, ov which he gave the naimz and the wate, and the nescesary tuilz.

Buckingham conducted the goaldsmith too the chaimber destiand for him, and

which, at the end ov haaf an our, wauz traansformd intoo a wereshop.

Then

he plaist a centinel at eche doer, withe an order too admit nobody uppon enny pretens but hiz *VALET DE CHAMBRE*, Patric. We nede not ad dhat the goaldsmith, ORily, and hiz acistant, wer prohibbited from gowing out under enny pretext. This point, cetteld, the juke ternd too dArtanyan. "Nou, mi yung frend," ced he, "In'gland iz aul our one. Whaut doo u wish for? Whaut doo u desire?"

"A bed, mi Lord," replide dArtanyan. "At prezsent, I confes, dhat iz the thhing I stand moast in nede ov."

Buckingham gave dArtanyan a chaimber ajoining hiz one. He wisht too hav the yung man at hand—not dhat he at aul mistrusted him, but for the sake ov havving sumwun too whoome he cood constantly tauc ov the qwene.

In wun our aafter, the ordinans wauz publisht in Lundon dhat no vescel bound for Fraans shood leve poert, not even the packet bote withe letterz. In the ise ov evveriboddy this wauz a declaraishon ov wor betwene the too kingdomz.

On the da aafter the moro, bi elevven oacloc, the too dimond studz wer finnisht, and dha wer so compleetly immitated, so perfectly alike, dhat Buckingham cood not tel the nu wunz from the oald wunz, and experts in such matterz wood hav bene deceevd az he wauz. He imejaitly cauld dArtanyan. "Here," ced he too him, "ar the dimond studz dhat u came too bring; and be mi witnes dhat I hav dun aul dhat human pouwer cood doo."

"Be sattisfide, mi Lord, I wil tel aul dhat I hav cene. But duz yor Grace mene too ghiv me the studz widhout the caasket?"

"The caasket wood encumber u. Beciadz, the caasket iz the moer preshous from beying aul dhat iz left too me. U wil sa dhat I kepe it."

"I wil perform yor comishon, werd for werd, mi Lord."

"And nou," rezhuemd Buckingham, loocking earnestly at the yung man, "hou shal I evver aqwit micelf ov the det I o u?"

DArtanyan blusht up too the whiats ov hiz ise. He sau dhat the juke wauz cerching for a meenz ov making him axept sumthhing and the ideyaa dhat the blud ov hiz frendz and himcelf wauz about too be pade for withe In'glish goald wauz strainjly repugnant too him.

"Let us understand eche uther, mi Lord," replide dArtanyan, "and let us make thhingz clere befoerhand in order dhat dhare ma be no mistake. I am in the cervice ov the King and Qwene ov Fraans, and form part ov the cumpany ov Msyer Decessar, whoo, az wel az hiz bruther-in-lau,

Msyer de Treveye, iz particularly atacht too dhare Madgestese. Whaut I hav dun, then, haz bene for the qwene, and not at aul for yor Grace. And stil ferther, it iz verry probbabel I shood not hav dun ennithhing ov this, if it had not bene too make micelf agreyabel too sumwun whoo iz mi lady, az the qwene iz yorz."

"Yes," ced the juke, smiling, "and I even beleve dhat I no dhat uther person; it iz—"

"Mi Lord, I hav not naimd her!" interupted the yung man, wormly.

"Dhat iz tru," ced the juke; "and it iz too this person I am bound too discharj mi det ov grattichude."

"U hav ced, mi Lord; for truly, at this moment when dhare iz qweschon ov wor, I confes too u dhat I ce nuthhing in yor Grace but an In'GLISHMAN, and conceqwently an ennemy whoome I shood hav much grater plezhure in meting on the feeld ov battel dhan in the parc at Winzor or the coridorz ov the Luivr—aul which, houwevver, wil not prevent me from executing too the verry point mi comishon or from laying doun mi life, if dhare be nede ov it, too acumplish it; but I repete it too yor Grace, widhout yor havving personaly on dhat acount moer too thanc me for in this cecond interv u dhan for whaut I did for u in the ferst."

"We sa, Proud az a Scotsman," mermerd the Juke ov Buckingham.

"And we sa, Proud az a Gascon," replide dArtanyan. "The Gasconz ar the Scots ov Fraans."

DArtanyan boud too the juke, and wauz retiring.

"Wel, ar u gowing awa in dhat manner? Whare, and hou?"

"Dhats tru!"

"Foer Gad, these Frenchmen hav no concideraishon!"

"I had forgotten dhat In'gland wauz an iland, and dhat u wer the king ov it."

"Go too the rivvercide, aasc for the brig *SUND*, and ghiv this letter too the captane; he wil conva u too a littel poert, whare certainly u ar not expected, and which iz ordinarily oanly freqwented bi fishermen."

"The name ov dhat poert?"

"St. Valery; but liscen. When u hav ariavd dhare u wil go too a mene tavvern, widhout a name and widhout a cine—a mere fishermanz hut.

U cannot be mistaken; dhare iz but wun."

"Aafterword?"

"U wil aasc for the hoast, and wil repete too him the werd Forward!"

"Which meenz?"

"In French, *EN AVANT*. It iz the paaswerd. He wil ghiv u a hors aul saddeld, and wil point out too u the rode u aut too take. U wil fiand, in the same wa, foer relase on yor roote. If u wil ghiv at eche ov these relase yor adres in Parris, the foer horcez wil follo u thither. U aulreddy no too ov them, and u apeerd too apreesheyate them like a juj. Dha wer dhose we rode on; and u ma reli uppon me for the uthertz not beying infereyor too them. These horcez ar eqwipt for the feeld. Houwevver proud u ma be, u wil not refuse too

axept wun ov them, and too reqwest yor thre companyonz too axept the utherz—dhat iz, in order too make wor against us. Beciadz, the end justifide the meenz, az u Frenchmen sa, duz it not?"

"Yes, mi Lord, I axept them," ced dArtanyan; "and if it plese God, we wil make a good uce ov yor prezents."

"Wel, nou, yor hand, yung man. Perhaps we shal soone mete on the feeld ov battel; but in the meentime we shal part good frendz, I hope."

"Yes, mi Lord; but withe the hope ov soone becumming ennemese."

"Be sattisfide; I prommice u dhat."

"I depend uppon yor werd, mi Lord."

DArtanyan boud too the juke, and made hiz wa az qwicly az poscibel too the rivvercide. Opposite the Touwer ov Lunden he found the vescel dhat had bene naimd too him, delivverd hiz letter too the captane, whoo aafter havving it exammiand bi the guvvernor ov the poert made imejate preparaishonz too sale.

Fifty vescelz wer wating too cet out. Paacing alongcide wun ov them, dArtanyan fancede he perceevd on boerd it the woomman ov Muung—the same whoome the un'none gentelman had cauld Milady, and whoome dArtanyan had thaut so handsum; but thanx too the current ov the streme and a fare wind, hiz vescel paast so qwicly dhat he had littel moer dhan a glimps ov her.

The next da about nine oacloc in the morning, he landed at St. Valery. DArtanyan went instantly in cerch ov the in, and esily discuvverd it bi the riyotous noiz which rezounded from it. Wor betwene In'gland and Fraans wauz tauct ov az nere and certane, and the jolly salorz wer havving a carouzal.

DArtanyan made hiz wa throo the croud, advaanst tooword the hoast, and pronounst the werd "Forword!" The hoast instantly made him a cine too follo, went out withe him bi a doer which opend intoo a yard, led him too the stabel, whare a saddeld hors awated him, and aasct him if he stood in nede ov ennithhing els.

"I waunt too no the roote I am too follo," ced dArtanyan.

"Go from hens too Blaun'gy, and from Blaun'gy too Nuufshaatel. At Nuufshaatel, go too the tavvern ov the Goalden Harro, ghiv the paaswerd too the landlord, and u wil fiand, az u hav here, a hors reddy saddeld."

"Hav I ennithhing too pa?" demaanded dArtanyan.

"Evverithhing iz pade," replide the hoast, "and libberaly. Begon, and ma God ghide u!"

"Amen!" cride the yung man, and cet of at fool gallop.

Foer ourz later he wauz in Nuufshaatel. He strictly follode the instrucshonz he had receevd. At Nuufshaatel, az at St. Valery, he found a hors qwite reddy and awating him. He wauz about too remooove the pistolz from the saddel he had qwit too the wun he wauz about too fil, but he found the hoalsterz fernisht withe cimmilar pistolz.



"Yor adres at Parris?"

"Hotel ov the Gardz, cumpany ov Decessar."

"Enuf," replide the qweschoner.

"Which roote must I take?" demaanded dArtanyan, in hiz tern.

"Dhat ov Roowon; but u wil leve the citty on yor rite. U must stop at the littel village ov Eqwy, in which dhare iz but wun tavvern—the Sheeld ov Fraans. Doant condem it from aperancez; u wil fiand a hors in the stabelz qwite az good az this."

"The same paaswerd?"

"Exactly."

"Aju, maaster!"

"A good gerny, gentelmen! Doo u waunt ennithhing?"

DArtanyan shooc hiz hed, and cet of at fool spede. At Eqwy, the same cene wauz repeted. He found az provvident a hoast and a fresh hors. He left hiz adres az he had dun befoer, and cet of agane at the same pace for Pontwaaz. At Pontwaaz he chainjd hiz hors for the laast time, and at nine oacloc gallopt intoo the yard ov Treveeyz hotel. He had made neerly cixty leegz in littel moer dhan twelv ourz.

M. de Treveye receevd him az if he had cene him dhat same morning; oonly, when prescing hiz hand a littel moer wormly dhan uezhuwal, he informd him dhat the cumpany ov Decessar wauz on juty at the Luivr, and dhat he mite repare at wuns too hiz poast.

## 22 THE BALLA OV LAA MAERLAZON

On the moro, nuthhing wauz tauct ov in Parris but the baul which the auldermen ov the citty wer too ghiv too the king and qwene, and in which dhare Madgestese wer too daans the famous Laa Maerlazon—the favorite balla ov the king.

Ate dase had bene occupide in preparaishonz at the Hotel de Veye for this important evening. The citty carpenterz had erected scaffoldz uppon which the invited ladese wer too be plaist; the citty grocer had ornamented the chaimberz withe too hundred *FLAMBEAUX* ov white wax, a pece ov lucshury unherd ov at dhat pereyod; and twenty viyolinz wer orderd, and the price for them fixt at dubbel the uezhual rate, uppon condishon, ced the repoert, dhat dha shood be plade aul nite.

At ten oacloc in the morning the Syer de laa Cost, encine in the kingz Gardz, follode bi too officerz and cevveral archerz ov dhat boddy, came too the citty registrar, naimd Clamon, and demaanded ov him aul the kese ov the ruimz and officez ov the hotel. These kese wer ghivven up too him instantly. Eche ov them had ticket atacht too it, bi which it mite be reccogniazd; and from dhat moment the Syer de laa Cost wauz charjd withe the care ov aul the doerz and aul the avvenue.

At elevven oacloc came in hiz tern Juhaley, captane ov the Gardz, bringing withe him fifty archerz, whoo wer distribbuted imejaitly throo the Hotel de Veye, at the doerz aciand them.

At thre oacloc came too cumpanese ov the Gardz, wun French, the

uther Swis. The cumpany ov French gardz wauz compoazd ov haaf ov M. Juhaleyertz men and haaf ov M. Decessarz men.

At six in the evening the ghests began too cum. Az faast az dha enterd, dha wer plaist in the grand saloone, on the platformz prepaerd for them.

At nine oacloc Madam laa Premeyare Presidont ariavd. Az next too the qwene, she wauz the moast concidderabel personage ov the fate, she wauz receevd bi the citty ofishalz, and plaist in a box opposite too dhat which the qwene wauz too occupi.

At ten oacloc, the kingz colaishon, concisting ov preservz and uther dellicacese, wauz prepaerd in the littel roome on the cide ov the chersch ov St. Zhon, in frunt ov the silver buffa ov the citty, which wauz garded bi foer archerz.

At midnite grate crise and loud aclamaishonz wer herd. It wauz the king, whoo wauz paacing throo the streets which led from the Luivr too the Hotel de Veye, and which wer aul iluminated withe cullord lanternz.

Imejaitly the auldermen, cloadhd in dhare cloth roabz and preceded bi six sarjants, eche hoalding a *FLAMBEAU* in hiz hand, went too atend uppon the king, whoome dha met on the steps, whare the provvost ov the merchants made him the speche ov welcum—a compliment too which hiz Madgesty replide withe an apollogy for cumming so late, laying the blame uppon the cardinal, whoo had detaind him til elevven oacloc, tauking ov afaerz ov state.

Hiz Madgesty, in fool dres, wauz acumpanede bi hiz roiyal Hines, M. le

Comt de Swaason, bi the Grand Priyor, bi the Dooke de Lon'gheveye, bi the Dooke dUbuuf, bi the Comt dArcoor, bi the Comt de laa Rosh-Gheyon, bi M. de Leyancoor, bi M. de Baaraadaa, bi the Comt de Cramay, and bi the Shevalere de Soovera. Evveriboddy notiast dhat the king looct dul and preyoccupide.

A private roome had bene prepaerd for the king and anuther for Msyer. In eche ov these clozsets wer plaist maaskerade drescez. The same had bene dun for the qwene and Madam the Prezident. The nobelz and ladese ov dhare Madgestese sweets wer too dres, too bi too, in chaimberz prepaerd for the perpoce. Befoer entering hiz clozset the king desiard too be informd the moment the cardinal ariavd.

Haaf an our aafter the entrans ov the king, fresh aclamaishonz wer herd; these anounst the arival ov the qwene. The auldermen did az dha had dun befoer, and preceded bi dhare sarjants, advaanst too receive dhare ilustreyous ghest. The qwene enterd the grate haul; and it wauz remarct dhat, like the king, she looct dul and even wery.

At the moment she enterd, the kertane ov a smaul gallery which too dhat time had bene cloazd, wauz draun, and the pale face ov the cardinal apeerd, he beying drest az a Spannish cavaleyer. Hiz ise wer fixt uppon dhose ov the qwene, and a smile ov terribel joi paast over hiz lips; the qwene did not ware her dimond studz.

The qwene remaind for a short time too receive the compliments ov the citty dignitarse and too repli too the salutaishonz ov the ladese. Aul at wuns the king apeerd withe the cardinal at wun ov the doerz ov the haul. The cardinal wauz speking too him in a lo vois, and the king wauz verry pale.

The king made hiz wa throo the croud widhout a maasc, and the ribbonz ov hiz dublet scaersly tide. He went strate too the qwene, and in an aulterd vois ced, "Whi, madam, hav u not thaut propper too

ware yor dimond studz, when u no it wood ghiv me so much gratificaishon?"

The qwene caast a glaans around her, and sau the cardinal behiand, withe a diyabollical smile on hiz countenans.

"Cire," replide the qwene, withe a faultering vois, "becauz, in the midst ov such a croud az this, I feerd sum axident mite happen too them."

"And u wer rong, madam. If I made u dhat present it wauz dhat u mite adorn yorcelf dhaerwithe. I tel u dhat u wer rong."

The vois ov the king wauz tremmulous withe an'gher. Evveriboddy looct and liscend withe astonishment, comprehending nuthhing ov whaut paast.

"Cire," ced the qwene, "I can cend for them too the Luivr, whare dha ar, and dhus yor Madgestese wishez wil be complide withe."

"Doo so, madam, doo so, and dhat at wuns; for within an our the balla wil comens."

The qwene bent in token ov submishon, and follode the ladese whoo wer too conduct her too her roome. On hiz part the king reternd too hiz apartment.

Dhare wauz a moment ov trubbel and confuezhon in the acembly.

Evveriboddy

had remarct dhat sumthhing had paast betwene the king and qwene; but both ov them had spoken so lo dhat evveriboddy, out ov respect, widhdru cevveral steps, so dhat nobody had herd ennithhing. The viyolinz began too

sound withe aul dhare mite, but nobody liscend too them.

The king came out first from his room. He was in a most elegant hunting costume; and Msyer and the other nobles were dressed like him. This was the costume that best became the king. So dressed, he reappeared the first gentleman of his kingdom.

The cardinal drew near to the king, and placed in his hand a small casket. The king opened it, and found in it two diamonds.

"What do these mean?" demanded he of the cardinal.

"Nothing," replied the latter; "only, if the queen has the diamonds, which I very much doubt, count them, sire, and if you only find ten, alas! her Majesty who can have stolen from her the two diamonds that are here."

The king looked at the cardinal as if to interrogate him; but he had not time to address any question to him—a cry of admiration burst from every mouth. If the king appeared to be the first gentleman of his kingdom, the queen was without doubt the most beautiful woman in France.

It is true that the habit of a huntress became her admirably. She wore a bonnet with blue feathers, a certain quantity of gray-pearl velvet, fastened with diamonds clasps, and a petticoat of blue satin, embroidered with silver. On her left shoulder sparkled the diamond diamond, on a bow of the same color as the plumes and the petticoat.

The king trembled with joy and the cardinal with vexation; although, distant as they were from the queen, they could not count the diamonds. The queen had them. The only question was, had she ten or twelve?

At that moment the violins sounded the signal for the ball. The king

advaanst tooword Madam the Prezident, withe whoome he wauz too daans, and hiz Hines Msyer withe the qwene. Dha tooc dhare placez, and the balla began.

The king daanst facing the qwene, and evvery time he paast bi her, he devourd withe hiz ise dhose studz ov which he cood not ascertane the number. A coald swet cuvverd the brou ov the cardinal.

The balla laasted an our, and had cixtene *ENTREES*. The balla ended amid the aplauz ov the whole ascemblage, and evveriwun reconducted hiz lady too her place; but the king tooc advaantage ov the privvilege he had ov leving hiz lady, too advaans egherly tooword the qwene.

"I thanc u, madam," ced he, "for the defferens u hav shone too mi wishez, but I thhinc u waunt too ov the studz, and I bring them bac too u."

Withe these werdz he held out too the qwene the too studz the cardinal had ghivven him.

"Hou, cire?" cride the yung qwene, afecting cerprise, "u ar ghivving me, then, too moer: I shal hav foertene."

In fact the king counted them, and the twelv studz wer aul on her Madgestese shoalder.

The king cauld the cardinal.

"Whaut duz this mene, Msyer Cardinal?" aasct the king in a cevere tone.

"This meenz, cire," replide the cardinal, "dhat I wauz desirous ov

presenting her Madgesty withe these too studz, and dhat not daring too offer them micelf, I adopted this meenz ov injucing her too axept them."

"And I am the moer graitfool too yor Emminens," replide An ov Austreyaa, withe a smile dhat pruivd she wauz not the jupe ov this in'geenyous gallantry, "from beying certane dhat these too studz alone hav cost u az much az aul the utherz cost hiz Madgesty."

Then saluting the king and the cardinal, the qwene rezhuemd her wa too the chaimber in which she had drest, and whare she wauz too take of her coschume.

The atenshon which we hav bene obliajd too ghiv, juring the comensment ov the chapter, too the ilustreyous personagez we hav introjuest intoo it, haz diverted us for an instant from him too whoome An ov Austreyaa ode the extrordinary triyumf she had obtaind over the cardinal; and whoo, confounded, un'none, lost in the croud gatherd at wun ov the doerz, looct on at this cene, comprehencibel oonly too foer personz—the king, the qwene, hiz Emminens, and himcelf.

The qwene had just regaind her chaimber, and dArtanyan wauz about too retire, when he felt hiz shoalder liatly tucht. He ternd and sau a yung woomman, whoo made him a cine too follo her. The face ov this yung woomman wauz cuverrd withe a blac velvet maasc; but notwidhstanding this precaushon, which wauz in fact taken raather against utherz dhan against him, he at wuns reccogniazd hiz uezhuwal ghide, the lite and intelligent Mme. Bonasyuu.

On the evening befoer, dha had scaersly cene eche uther for a moment at the apartment ov the Swis gard, Zhairman, whither dArtanyan had cent for her. The haist which the yung woomman wauz in too conva too the qwene the exelent nuse ov the happy retern ov her mescen'ger prevented the



too luvverz from exchain'ging moer dhan a fu werdz. DArtanyan  
dhaerfoer

follode Mme. Bonasyuu muivd bi a dubbel centiment—luv and  
cureyosity.

Aul the wa, and in propoershon az the coridorz became moer deserted,  
dArtanyan wisht too stop the yung woomman, cese her and gase uppon  
her,

wer it oonly for a minnute; but qwic az a berd she glided betwene hiz  
handz, and when he wisht too speke too her, her fin'gher plaist uppon her  
mouth, withe a littel imperrative geschure fool ov grace, remianded him  
dhat he wauz under the comaand ov a pouwer which he must bliandly  
oba, and

which forbade him even too make the slitest complaint. At length, aafter  
wianding about for a minnute or too, Mme. Bonasyuu opend the doer ov a  
clozset, which wauz entiarly darc, and led dArtanyan intoo it. Dhare she  
made a fresh cine ov cilens, and opend a cecond doer conceeld bi  
tappetry. The opening ov this doer discloazd a brilleyant lite, and she  
disapeerd.

DArtanyan remaind for a moment moashonles, aasking himcelf whare he  
cood be; but soone a ra ov lite which pennetrated throo the chaimber,  
tooghether withe the worm and perfuemd are which reecht him from the  
same

aperchure, the conversaishon ov too ov thre ladese in lan'gwage at wuns  
respectfool and refiand, and the werd "Madgesty" cevveral tiamz repeted,  
indicated cleerly dhat he wauz in a clozset atacht too the qweenz  
apartment. The yung man wated in comparrative darcnes and liscend.

The qwene apeerd cheerfool and happy, which ceemd too astonnish the  
personz whoo surrounded her and whoo wer acustomd too ce her aulmoast  
aulwase sad and fool ov care. The qwene atribbuted this joiyous feling  
too the buty ov the fate, too the plezhure she had expereyenst in the  
balla; and az it iz not permiscibel too contradict a qwene, whether she

smile or wepe, evveriboddy expaishated on the gallantry ov the auldermen  
ov  
the citty ov Parris.

Auldho dArtanyan did not at aul no the qwene, he soone distin'gwisht  
her vois from the utherz, at ferst bi a sliatly forane axent, and  
next bi dhat tone ov dominaishon natchuraly imprest uppon aul roiyal  
werdz. He herd her aproche and widhdrau from the parshaly open doer;  
and twice or thre tiamz he even sau the shaddo ov a person intercept  
the lite.

At length a hand and an arm, cerpaacingly butifool in dhare form and  
whiatnes, glided throo the tappestry. DArtanyan at wuns comprehended  
dhat this wauz hiz recompens. He caast himcelf on hiz nese, ceezd  
the hand, and tucht it respectfully withe hiz lips. Then the hand wauz  
widhdraun, leving in hiz an obgett which he perceevd too be a ring. The  
doer imejaitly cloazd, and dArtanyan found himcelf agane in complete  
obscurity.

DArtanyan plaist the ring on hiz fin'gher, and agane wated; it wauz  
evvident dhat aul wauz not yet over. Aafter the reword ov hiz devoashon,  
dhat ov hiz luv wauz too cum. Beciadz, auldho the balla wauz daanst,  
the evening had scaersly begun. Supper wauz too be cervd at thre, and  
the cloc ov St. Zhon had struc thre qworterz paast too.

The sound ov voicez diminnisht bi degrese in the ajoining chaimber. The  
cumpany wauz then herd departing; then the doer ov the clozset in which  
dArtanyan wauz, wauz opend, and Mme. Bonasyuu enterd.

"U at laast?" cride dArtanyan.

"Cilens!" ced the yung woomman, placing her hand uppon hiz lips;  
"cilens, and go the same wa u came!"

"But whare and when shal I ce u agane?" cride dArtanyan.

"A note which u wil fiand at home wil tel u. Begon, begon!"

At these werdz she opend the doer ov the coridor, and poosht dArtanyan out ov the roome. DArtanyan obade like a chiald, widhout the leest resistans or obgecshon, which pruivd dhat he wauz reyaly in luv.

## 23 THE RONDAVOO

DArtanyan ran home imejaitly, and auldho it wauz thre oacloc in the morning and he had sum ov the werst qworterz ov Parris too travers, he met withe no misadvenchure. Evveriwun nose dhat druncardz and luvverz hav a protecting deyity.

He found the doer ov hiz passage open, sprang up the staerz and noct softly in a manner agrede uppon betwene him and hiz lacky. Plaunsha\*, whoome he had cent home too ourz befoer from the Hotel de Veye, telling him too cit up for him, opend the doer for him.

\*The reder ma aasc, "Hou came Plaunsha here?" when he wauz left "stif az a rush" in Lunden. In the intervening time Buckingham perhaps cent him too Parris, az he did the horcez.

"Haz enniwun braut a letter for me?" aasct dArtanyan, egherly.

"No wun haz BRAUT a letter, msyer," replide Plaunsha; "but wun haz cum ov itcelf."

"Whaut doo u mene, bloc'hed?"

"I mene too sa dhat when I came in, auldho I had the ke ov yor apartment in mi pocket, and dhat ke had nevver qwit me, I found a letter on the grene tabel cuvver in yor bedroome."

"And whare iz dhat letter?"

"I left it whare I found it, msyer. It iz not natchural for letterz too enter pepelz housez in this manner. If the windo had bene open or even ajar, I shood thhinc nuthhing ov it; but, no—aul wauz hermettically ceeld. Beware, msyer; dhare iz certainly sum madgic underneeth."

Meenwhile, the yung man had darted in too hiz chaimber, and opend the letter. It wauz from Mme. Bonasyuu, and wauz exprest in these termz:

"Dhare ar menny thanx too be offerd too u, and too be traanzmitted too u. Be this evening about ten oacloc at St. Cloud, in frunt ov the pavilleyon which standz at the corner ov the hous ov M. dEstra.—C.B."

While reding this letter, dArtanyan felt hiz hart dilated and comprest bi dhat delishous spazm which torchuerz and carescez the harts ov luvverz.

It wauz the ferst billet he had receevd; it wauz the ferst rondavoo dhat had bene graanted him. Hiz hart, sweld bi the intoxicashon ov joi, felt reddy too dizolv awa at the verry gate ov dhat terestreyal parradice cauld Luv!

"Wel, msyer," ced Plaunsha, whoo had observd hiz maaster gro red and pale suxesciavly, "did I not ghes truly? Iz it not sum bad afare?"

"U ar mistaken, Plaunsha," replide dArtanyan; "and az a prooffe, dhare iz a croun too drinc mi helth."

"I am much obliajd too Msyer for the croun he had ghivven me, and I prommice him too follo hiz instrucshonz exactly; but it iz not the les tru dhat letterz which cum in this wa intoo shut-up housez—"

"Faul from hevven, mi frend, faul from hevven."

"Then Msyer iz sattisfide?" aasct Plaunsha.

"Mi dere Plaunsha, I am the happyest ov men!"

"And I ma proffit bi Msyerz happines, and go too bed?"

"Yes, go."

"Ma the blescings ov hevven faul uppon Msyer! But it iz not the les tru dhat dhat letter—"

And Plaunsha retiard, shaking hiz hed withe an are ov dout, which the liberallity ov dArtanyan had not entiarly effaist.

Left alone, dArtanyan red and rerede hiz billet. Then he kist and rekist twenty tiamz the lianz traist bi the hand ov hiz butifool mistres. At length he went too bed, fel aslepe, and had goalden dreemz.

At cevven oacloc in the morning he arose and cauld Plaunsha, whoo at the cecond summonz open the doer, hiz countenans not yet qwite frede from the anxyety ov the preceding nite.

"Plaunsha," ced dArtanyan, "I am gowing out for aul da, perhaps. U ar, dhaerfoer, yor one maaster til cevven oacloc in the evening; but at cevven oacloc u must hoald yorcelf in reddines withe too horcez."

"Dhare!" ced Plaunsha. "We ar gowing agane, it apeerz, too hav our

hiadz peerst in aul sorts ov wase."

"U wil take yor musketoone and yor pistolz."

"Dhare, nou! Didnt I sa so?" cride Plaunsha. "I wauz shure ov it—the kerst letter!"

"Doant be afrade, u iddeyot; dhare iz nuthhing in hand but a party ov plezhure."

"Aa, like the charming gerny the uther da, when it rained boollets and projuest a crop ov stele traps!"

"Wel, if u ar reyaly afrade, Msyer Plaunsha," rezhuemd dArtanyan, "I wil go widhout u. I prefer travveling alone too havving a companyon whoo entertainz the leest fere."

"Msyer duz me rong," ced Plaunsha; "I thaut he had cene me at werc."

"Yes, but I thaut perhaps u had woern out aul yor currage the ferst time."

"Msyer shal ce dhat uppon ocaizhon I hav sum left; oanly I beg Msyer not too be too proddigal ov it if he wishez it too laast long."

"Doo u beleve u hav stil a certane amount ov it too expend this evening?"

"I hope so, msyer."

"Wel, then, I count on u."

"At the apointed our I shal be reddy; oanly I beleevd dhat Msyer

had but wun hors in the Gard stabelz."

"Perhaps dhare iz but wun at this moment; but bi this evening dhare wil be foer."

"It apeerz dhat our gerny wauz a remounting gerny, then?"

"Exactly so," ced dArtanyan; and nodding too Plaunsha, he went out.

M. Bonasyuu wauz at hiz doer. DArtanyanz intenshon wauz too go out widhout speking too the werthy mercer; but the latter made so polite and frendly a salutaishon dhat hiz tennant felt obliajd, not oonly too stop, but too enter intoo conversaishon withe him.

Beciadz, hou iz it poscibel too avoid a littel condecenshon tooword a huzband whose pritty wife haz apointed a meting withe u dhat same evening at St. Cloud, opposite DEstrase pavilleyon? DArtanyan aproacht him withe the moast ameyabel are he cood ashume.

The conversaishon natchuraly fel uppon the incarceration ov the poor man. M. Bonasyuu, whoo wauz ignorant dhat dArtanyan had overherd hiz conversaishon withe the strain'ger ov Muung, related too hiz yung tennant the percecueshonz ov dhat monster, M. de Laafemaa, whoome he nevver ceest too dezsinate, juring hiz acount, bi the titel ov the "cardinalz execueshoner," and expaishated at grate length uppon the Bastele, the bolts, the wickets, the dunjonz, the gratingz, the instruments ov torchure.

DArtanyan liscend too him withe exemplary complasans, and when he had finnisht ced, "And Madam Bonasyuu, doo u no whoo carrede her of?—For I doo not forghet dhat I o too dhat unplezzant cercumstaans the good forchune ov havving made yor aqwaintans."

"Aa!" ced Bonasyuu, "dha tooc good care not too tel me dhat; and mi wife, on her part, haz swoern too me bi aul dhats saicred dhat she duz not no. But u," continnude M. Bonasyuu, in a tine ov perfect good felloaship, "whaut haz becum ov u aul these dase? I hav not cene u nor yor frendz, and I doant thhinc u cood gather aul dhat dust dhat I sau Plaunsha brush of yor buits yesterda from the paivment ov Parris."

"U ar rite, mi dere Msyer Bonasyuu, mi frendz and I hav bene on a littel gerny."

"Far from here?"

"O, Lord, no! About forty leegz oonly. We went too take Msyer Aithos too the wauterz ov Forzh, whare mi frendz stil remane."

"And u hav reternd, hav u not?" replide M. Bonasyuu, ghivving too hiz countenans a moast sli are. "A handsum yung fello like u duz not obtane long leevz ov abcens from hiz mistres; and we wer impaishently wated for at Parris, wer we not?"

"Mi faith!" ced the yung man, laafing, "I confes it, and so much moer the reddily, mi dere Bonasyuu, az I ce dhare iz no conceling ennithhing from u. Yes, I wauz expected, and verry impaishently, I acnollej."

A slite shade paast over the brou ov Bonasyuu, but so slite dhat dArtanyan did not perceve it.

"And we ar gowing too be recompenst for our dilligens?" continnude the mercer, withe a triafling aulteraishon in hiz vois—so triafling, indede, dhat dArtanyan did not perceve it enny moer dhan he had the momentary shade which, an instant befoer, had darkend the countenans ov the werthy man.



"Aa, ma u be a tru proffet!" ced dArtanyan, laafing.

"No; whaut I sa," replide Bonasyuu, "iz oarly dhat I ma no whether I am delaying u."

"Whi dhat qweschon, mi dere hoast?" aasct dArtanyan. "Doo u intend too cit up for me?"

"No; but cins mi arest and the robbery dhat wauz comitted in mi hous, I am alarmd evvery time I here a doer open, particulary in the nite. Whaut the juce can u expect? I am no soerdzman."

"Wel, doant be alarmd if I retern at wun, too or thre oacloc in the morning; indede, doo not be alarmd if I doo not cum at aul."

This time Bonasyuu became so pale dhat dArtanyan cood not help perceving it, and aasct him whaut wauz the matter.

"Nuthhing," replide Bonasyuu, "nuthhing. Cins mi misforchuenz I hav bene subject too faintnecez, which cese me aul at wuns, and I hav just felt a coald shivver. Pa no atenshon too it; u hav nuthhing too occupi yorcelf withe but beying happy."

"Then I hav fool ocupaishon, for I am so."

"Not yet; wate a littel! This evening, u ced."

"Wel, this evening wil cum, thanc God! And perhaps u looc for it withe az much impaishens az I doo; perhaps this evening Madam Bonasyuu wil vizsit the conjugal dommicile."

"Madam Bonasyuu iz not at libberty this evening," replide the huzband,

cereyously; "she iz detaind at the Luivr this evening bi her jutese."

"So much the wers for u, mi dere hoast, so much the wers! When I am happy, I wish aul the werld too be so; but it apeerz dhat iz not poscibel."

The yung man departed, laafing at the joke, which he thaut he alone cood comprehend.

"Amuse yorcelf wel!" replide Bonasyuu, in a cepulcral tone.

But dArtanyan wauz too far of too here him; and if he had herd him in the disposishon ov miand he then enjoid, he certainly wood not hav remarct it.

He tooc hiz wa tooword the hotel ov M. de Treveye; hiz vizsit ov the da befoer, it iz too be rememberd, had bene verry short and verry littel expliccative.

He found Treveye in a joifool moode. He had thaut the king and qwene charming at the baul. It iz tru the cardinal had bene particcularly il-temperd. He had retiard at wun oacloc under the pretens ov beying indispoazd. Az too dhare Madgestese, dha did not retern too the Luivr til cix oacloc in the morning.

"Nou," ced Treveye, lowering hiz vois, and loocking intoo evvery corner ov the apartment too ce if dha wer alone, "nou let us tauc about yorcelf, mi yung frend; for it iz evvident dhat yor happy retern haz sumthhing too doo withe the joi ov the king, the triyumf ov the qwene, and the humileyaishon ov hiz Emminens. U must looc out for yorcelf."

"Whaut hav I too fere," replide dArtanyan, "az long az I shal hav the luc too enjoi the favor ov dhare Madgestese?"

"Evverithing, beleve me. The cardinal iz not the man too forghet a mistificaishon until he haz cetteld acount withe the mistifiyer; and the mistifiyer apeerz too me too hav the are ov beying a certane yung Gascon ov mi aqwaintans."

"Doo u beleve dhat the cardinal iz az wel poasted az yorcelf, and nose dhat I hav bene too Lundon?"

"The devvil! U hav bene too Lundon! Wauz it from Lundon u braut dhat butifool dimond dhat glitterz on yor fin'gher? Beware, mi dere dArtanyan! A prezsent from an ennemy iz not a good thhing. Ar dhare not sum Latin vercez uppon dhat subget? Stop!"

"Yes, doutles," replide dArtanyan, whoo had nevver bene abel too cram the ferst rudiments ov dhat lan'gwage intoo hiz hed, and whoo had bi hiz ignorans drivven hiz maaster too despare, "yes, doutles dhare iz wun."

"Dhare certainly iz wun," ced M. de Treveye, whoo had a tincchure ov litterachure, "and Msyer de Bonceraad wauz qwoting it too me the uther da. Stop a minnute—aa, this iz it: *Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*, which meenz, 'Beware ov the ennemy whoo maix u presents."

"This dimond duz not cum from an ennemy, msyer," replide dArtanyan, "it cumz from the qwene."

"From the qwene! O, o!" ced M. de Treveye. "Whi, it iz indede a tru roiyal juwel, which iz werth a thousand pistoalz if it iz werth a denya. Bi whoome did the qwene cend u this juwel?"

"She gave it too me hercelf."

"Whare?"

"In the roome adjoining the chamber in which she chainjd her toilet."

"Hou?"

"Ghivving me her hand too kis."

"U hav kist the qweenz hand?" ced M. de Treveye, loocking earnestly at dArtanyan.

"Her Madgesty did me the onnor too graant me dhat favor."

"And dhat in the prezsens ov witnecez! Imprudent, thrice imprudent!"

"No, msyer, be sattisfide; nobody sau her," replide dArtanyan, and he related too M. de Treveye hou the afare came too paas.

"O, the wimmen, the wimmen!" cride the oald soalger. "I no them bi dhare romantic imaginaishon. Evverithhing dhat savorz ov mistery charmz them. So u hav cene the arm, dhat wauz aul. U wood mete the qwene, and she wood not no whoo u ar?"

"No; but thanx too this dimond," replide the yung man.

"Liscen," ced M. de Treveye; "shal I ghiv u counsel, good counsel, the counsel ov a frend?"

"U wil doo me onnor, msyer," ced dArtanyan.

"Wel, then, of too the nerest goaldsmiths, and cel dhat dimond for the hiyest price u can ghet from him. Houwevver much ov a Ju he ma be, he wil ghiv u at leest ate hundred pistoalz. Pistoalz hav no name, yung man, and dhat ring haz a terribel wun, which ma betra him whoo waerz it."

"Cel this ring, a ring which cumz from mi sovverane? Nevver!" ced dArtanyan.

"Then, at leest tern the gem incide, u cilly fello; for evveriboddy must be aware dhat a cadet from Gascony duz not fiand such stoanz in hiz mutherz juwel cace."

"U thhinc, then, I hav sumthhing too dred?" aasct dArtanyan.

"I mene too sa, yung man, dhat he whoo sleeps over a mine the mach ov which iz aulreddy lited, ma concidder himcelf in saifty in comparrison withe u."

"The devvil!" ced dArtanyan, whoome the pozsitive tone ov M. de Treveye began too disqwiyet, "the devvil! Whaut must I doo?"

"Abuv aul thhingz be aulwase on yor gard. The cardinal haz a tenaishous memmory and a long arm; u ma depend uppon it, he wil repa u bi sum il tern."

"But ov whaut sort?"

"A! Hou can I tel? Haz he not aul the trix ov a demon at hiz comaand? The leest dhat can be expected iz dhat u wil be arested."

"Whaut! Wil dha dare too arest a man in hiz Madgestese cervice?"

"*PARDIEU!* Dha did not scrupel much in the cace ov Aithos. At aul events, yung man, reli uppon wun whoo haz bene thherty yeez at coert. Doo not lul yorcelf in cecurity, or u wil be lost; but, on the contrary—and it iz I whoo sa it—ce ennemese in aul direcshonz. If enniwun ceex a

qworel withe u, shun it, wer it withe a chiald ov ten yeerz oald. If u ar atact bi da or bi nite, fite, but retrete, widhout shame; if u cros a brij, fele evvery planc ov it withe yor foot, lest wun shood ghiv wa beneeth u; if u paas befoer a hous which iz beying bilt, looc up, for fere a stone shood faul uppon yor hed; if u sta out late, be aulwase follode bi yor lacky, and let yor lacky be armd—if, bi the bi, u can be shure ov yor lacky. Mistrust evveriboddy, yor frend, yor bruther, yor mistres—yor mistres abuv aul."

DArtanyan blusht.

"Mi mistres abuv aul," repeted he, mecannicaly; "and whi her raather dhan anuther?"

"Becauz a mistres iz wun ov the cardinalz favorite meenz; he haz not wun dhat iz moer expedishous. A woomman wil cel u for ten pistoalz, witnes Delilaa. U ar aqwainted withe the Scripchuerz?"

DArtanyan thaut ov the apointment Mme. Bonasyuu had made withe him for dhat verry evening; but we ar bound too sa, too the credit ov our hero, dhat the bad opinyon entertaind bi M. de Treveye ov wimmen in genneral, did not inspire him withe the leest suspishon ov hiz pritty hoastes.

"But, A PROPO," rezhuemd M. de Treveye, "whaut haz becum ov yor thre companyonz?"

"I wauz about too aasc u if u had herd enny nuse ov them?"

"Nun, msyer."

"Wel, I left them on mi rode—Porthos at Shaantilly, withe a juwel on hiz handz; Arramis at Crevker, withe a baul in hiz shoalder; and Aithos at

Ammeyon, detain'd bi an acuzaishon ov coining."

"Ce dhare, nou!" ced M. de Treveye; "and hou the devvil did u escape?"

"Bi a mirrakel, msyer, I must acnollej, withe a soerd thrust in mi brest, and bi naling the Comt de Vard on the birode too Cala, like a butterfli on a tappestry."

"Dhare agane! De Vard, wun ov the cardinalz men, a cuzsin ov Roshfor! Stop, mi frend, I hav an ideyaa."

"Speke, msyer."

"In yor place, I wood doo wun thhing."

"Whaut?"

"While hiz Emminens wauz ceking for me in Parris, I wood take, widhout sound ov drum or trumpet, the rode too Piccardy, and wood go and make sum inqwirse concerning mi thre companyonz. Whaut the devvil! Dha merrit richly dhat pece ov atenshon on yor part."

"The advice iz good, msyer, and toomoro I wil cet out."

"Toomoro! Enny whi not this evening?"

"This evening, msyer, I am detain'd in Parris bi indispensabel biznes."

"Aa, yung man, yung man, sum flertaishon or uther. Take care, I repete too u, take care. It iz woomman whoo haz ruwind us, stil ruwinz us, and wil ruwin us, az long az the werld standz. Take mi advice and cet out this evening."

"Imposcibel, msyer."

"U hav ghivven yor werd, then?"

"Yes, msyer."

"Aa, dhats qwite anuther thhing; but prommice me, if u shood not be kild toonite, dhat u wil go toomoro."

"I prommice it."

"Doo u nede munny?"

"I hav stil fifty pistoalz. Dhat, I thhinc, iz az much az I shal waunt."

"But yor companyonz?"

"I doant thhinc dha can be in nede ov enny. We left Parris, eche withe cevventy-five pistoalz in hiz pocket."

"Shal I ce u agane befoer yor deparchure?"

"I thhinc not, msyer, unles sumthhing nu shood happen."

"Wel, a plezzant gerny."

"Thanx, msyer."

DArtanyan left M. de Treveye, tucht moer dhan evver bi hiz paternal soliscichude for hiz Musketeerz.

He cauld suxesciavly at the aboadz ov Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis.



Niather ov them had reternd. Dhare lackese liaqwise wer abcent, and nuthhing had bene herd ov iather the wun or the uther. He wood hav inqwiard aafter them ov dhare mistrecez, but he wauz niather aqwainted withe Porthocez nor Arramicez, and az too Aithos, he had nun.

Az he paast the Hotel da Gard, he tooc a glaans in too the stabelz. Thre ov the foer horcez had aulreddy ariavd. Plaunsha, aul astonishment, wauz bizsy grooming them, and had aulreddy finnisht too.

"Aa, msyer," ced Plaunsha, on perceving dArtanyan, "hou glad I am too ce u."

"Whi so, Plaunsha?" aasct the yung man.

"Doo u place confidens in our landlord—Msyer Bonasyuu?"

"I? Not the leest in the werld."

"O, u doo qwite rite, msyer."

"But whi this qweschon?"

"Becauz, while u wer tauking withe him, I waucht u widhout liscening too u; and, msyer, hiz countenans chainjd cullor too or thre tiamz!"

"Baa!"

"Preyoccupide az Msyer wauz withe the letter he had receevd, he did not observ dhat; but I, whoome the strainj fashon in which dhat letter came intoo the hous had plaist on mi gard—I did not loose a muivment ov hiz fechuerz."

"And u found it?"

"Tratorous, msyer."

"Indede!"

"Stil moer; az soone az Msyer had left and disapeerd round the corner ov the strete, Msyer Bonasyuu tooc hiz hat, shut hiz doer, and cet of at a qwic pace in an opposite direcshon."

"It ceemz u ar rite, Plaunsha; aul this apeerz too be a littel mistereyous; and be ashuerd dhat we wil not pa him our rent until the matter shal be categorically explaind too us."

"Msyer gests, but Msyer wil ce."

"Whaut wood u hav, Plaunsha? Whaut must cum iz ritten."

"Msyer duz not then renouns hiz exkerzhon for this evening?"

"Qwite the contrary, Plaunsha; the moer il wil I hav tooword Msyer Bonasyuu, the moer puncchuwal I shal be in keping the apointment made bi dhat letter which maix u so unnesy."

"Then dhat iz Msyerz determinaihon?"

"Undeniyably, mi frend. At nine oacloc, then, be reddy here at the hotel, I wil cum and take u."

Plaunsha ceying dhare wauz no lon'gher enny hope ov making hiz maaster renouns hiz prodgect, heevd a profound ci and cet too werc too groome the thherd hors.

Az too dArtanyan, beying at bottom a prudent ueth, insted ov reterning home, went and diand withe the Gascon preest, whoo, at the time ov the

distres ov the foer frendz, had ghivven them a brefast ov chocolate.

## 24 THE PAVILLEYON

At nine oacloc dArtanyan wauz at the Hotel da Gard; he found Plaunsha aul reddy. The foerth hors had ariavd.

Plaunsha wauz armd withe hiz musketoone and a pistol. DArtanyan had hiz soerd and plaist too pistolz in hiz belt; then boath mounted and departed qwiyetly. It wauz qwite darc, and no wun sau them go out. Plaunsha tooc place behiand hiz maaster, and kept at a distans ov ten pacez from him.

DArtanyan crost the kese, went out bi the gate ov Laa Conferens and follode the rode, much moer butifool then dhan it iz nou, which leedz too St. Cloud.

Az long az he wauz in the citty, Plaunsha kept at the respectfool distans he had impoazd uppon himcelf; but az soone az the rode began too be moer loanly and darc, he dru softly nerer, so dhat when dha enterd the Bwaa de Booloin he found himcelf riding qwite natchuraly cide bi cide withe hiz maaster. In fact, we must not dicembel dhat the ocilaishon ov the taul trese and the reflecshon ov the moone in the darc underwood gave him cereyous unnesines. DArtanyan cood not help perceving dhat sumthhing moer dhan uezhuwal wauz paacing in the miand ov hiz lacky and ced, "Wel, Msyer Plaunsha, whaut iz the matter withe us nou?"

"Doant u thhinc, msyer, dhat woodz ar like cherchez?"

"Hou so, Plaunsha?"

"Becauz we dare not speke aloud in wun or the uther."

"But whi did u not dare too speke aloud, Plaunsha—becauz u ar afrade?"

"Afrade ov beying herd? Yes, msyer."

"Afrade ov beying herd! Whi, dhare iz nuthhing improper in our conversaishon, mi dere Plaunsha, and no wun cood fiand fault withe it."

"Aa, msyer!" replide Plaunsha, recuuring too hiz becetting ideyaa, "dhat Msyer Bonasyuu haz sumthhing vishous in hiz iabrouz, and sumthhing verry unplezzant in the pla ov hiz lips."

"Whaut the devvil maix u thhinc ov Bonasyuu?"

"Msyer, we thhinc ov whaut we can, and not ov whaut we wil."

"Becauz u ar a couward, Plaunsha."

"Msyer, we must not confound prudens withe couwardice; prudens iz a verchu."

"And u ar verry verchuwous, ar u not, Plaunsha?"

"Msyer, iz not dhat the barrel ov a musket which glitterz yonder? Had we not better lower our hedz?"

"In trueth," mermerd dArtanyan, too whoome M. de Treveeyz recomendaishon rekerd, "this annimal wil end bi making me afrade." And he poot hiz hors intoo a trot.

Plaunsha follode the muivments ov hiz maaster az if he had bene hiz shaddo, and wauz soone trotting bi hiz cide.

"Ar we gowing too continnu this pace aul nite?" aasct Plaunsha.

"No; u ar at yor gernese end."

"Hou, msyer! And u?"

"I am gowing a fu steps farther."

"And Msyer leevz me here alone?"

"U ar afrade, Plaunsha?"

"No; I oanly beg leve too observ too Msyer dhat the nite wil be verry coald, dhat chilz bring on rumatizm, and dhat a lacky whoo haz the rumatizm maix but a poor cervant, particullarly too a maaster az active az Msyer."

"Wel, if u ar coald, Plaunsha, u can go intoo wun ov dhose cabbarase dhat u ce yonder, and be in wating for me at the doer bi cix oacloc in the morning."

"Msyer, I hav eten and drunc respectfooly the croun u gave me this morning, so dhat I hav not a soo left in cace I shood be coald."

"Heerz haaf a pistole. Toomoro morning."

DArtanyan sprang from hiz hors, thru the bridel too Plaunsha, and departed at a qwic pace, foalding hiz cloke around him.

"Good Lord, hou coald I am!" cride Plaunsha, az soone az he had lost cite

ov hiz maaster; and in such haist wauz he too worm himcelf dhat he went strate too a hous cet out withe aul the atribuets ov a suberban tavvern, and noct at the doer.

In the meentime dArtanyan, whoo had plunjd intoo a bipaath, continnude hiz roote and reecht St. Cloud; but insted ov following the mane strete he ternd behiand the shaato, reecht a sort ov retiard lane, and found himcelf soone in frunt ov the pavilleyon naimd. It wauz citchuwated in a verry private spot. A hi waul, at the an'ghel ov which wauz the pavilleyon, ran along wun cide ov this lane, and on the uther wauz a littel garden conected withe a poor cottage which wauz protected bi a hej from paacerz-bi.

He gaind the place apointed, and az no cignal had bene ghivven him bi which too anouns hiz prezsens, he wated.

Not the leest noiz wauz too be herd; it mite be imadgiand dhat he wauz a hundred mialz from the cappital. DArtanyan leend against the hej, aafter havving caast a glaans behiand it. Beyond dhat hej, dhat garden, and dhat cottage, a darc mist envellopt withe its foaldz dhat imencity whare Parris slept—a vaast void from which glitterd a fu luminous points, the funeral starz ov dhat hel!

But for dArtanyan aul aspects wer cloadhd happily, aul ideyaaz woer a smile, aul shaidz wer diyaffanous. The apointed our wauz about too strike. In fact, at the end ov a fu minnuets the belfry ov St. Cloud let faul sloly ten stroax from its sonnorous jauz. Dhare wauz sumthhing mellancoly in this brasen vois poering out its lamentaishonz in the middel ov the nite; but eche ov dhose stroax, which made up the expected our, viabrated harmoanyously too the hart ov the yung man.

Hiz ise wer fixt uppon the littel pavilleyon citchuwated at the an'ghel ov

the waul, ov which aul the windose wer cloazd withe shutterz, exept wun on the ferst stoery. Throo this windo shon a miald lite which cilverd the foleyage ov too or thre linden trese which formd a groope outside the parc. Dhare cood be no dout dhat behiand this littel windo, which thru foerth such frendly beemz, the pritty Mme. Bonasyuu expected him.

Rapt in this swete ideyaa, dArtanyan wated haaf an our widhout the leest impaishens, hiz ise fixt uppon dhat charming littel abode ov which he cood perceve a part ov the celing withe its ghilded moaldingz, attesting the ellegans ov the rest ov the apartment.

The belfry ov St. Cloud sounded haaf paast ten.

This time, widhout nowing whi, dArtanyan felt a coald shivver run throo hiz vainz. Perhaps the coald began too afect him, and he tooc a perfectly fizsical censaishon for a moral impreshon.

Then the ideyaa ceezd him dhat he had red incorectly, and dhat the apointment wauz for elevven oacloc. He dru nere too the windo, and placing himcelf so dhat a ra ov lite shood faul uppon the letter az he held it, he dru it from hiz pocket and red it agane; but he had not bene mistaken, the apointment wauz for ten oacloc. He went and rezhuemd hiz poast, beghinning too be raather unnesy at this cilens and this sollichude.

Elevven oacloc sounded.

DArtanyan began nou reyaly too fere dhat sumthhing had happend too Mme.

Bonasyuu. He clapt hiz handz thre tiamz—the ordinary cignal ov luvverz; but nobody replide too him, not even an ecco.

He then thaut, withe a tuch ov vexaishon, dhat perhaps the yung woomman had faulen aslepe while wating for him. He aproacht the waul, and tride too clime it; but the waul had bene recently pointed, and dArtanyan cood ghet no hoald.

At dhat moment he thaut ov the trese, uppon whose leevz the lite stil shon; and az wun ov them druipt over the rode, he thaut dhat from its braanchez he mite ghet a glimps ov the intereyor ov the pavilleyon.

The tre wauz esy too clime. Beciadz, dArtanyan wauz but twenty yeeرز oald, and conceqwently had not yet forgotten hiz scoolboi habbits. In an instant he wauz among the braanchez, and hiz kene ise plunj d throo the traansparent painz intoo the intereyor ov the pavilleyon.

It wauz a strainj thhing, and wun which made dArtanyan trembel from the sole ov hiz foot too the ruits ov hiz hare, too fiand dhat this soft lite, this caalm lamp, enlitend a cene ov feerfool disorder. Wun ov the windose wauz broken, the doer ov the chaimber had bene beten in and hung, split in too, on its hin'gez. A tabel, which had bene cuvverd withe an ellegant supper, wauz overternd. The decanterz broken in pecez, and the fruets crusht, strude the floer. Evverithhing in the apartment gave evvidens ov a viyolent and desperate strugghel. DArtanyan even fancede he cood reccognise amid this strainj disorder, fragments ov garments, and sum bluddy spots staning the cloth and the kertainz. He hacend too decend intoo the strete, withe a friatfool beting at hiz hart; he wisht too ce if he cood fiand uther tracez ov viyolens.

The littel soft lite shon on in the caalmnes ov the nite. DArtanyan then perceevd a thhing dhat he had not befoer remarct—for nuthhing had led him too the examinaishon—dhat the ground, trampeld here and



huifmarct dhare, presented confuezd tracez ov men and horcez. Beciadz, the wheelz ov a carrage, which apeerd too hav cum from Parris, had made a depe impreshon in the soft erth, which did not extend beyond the pavilleyon, but ternd agane tooword Parris.

At length dArtanyan, in pershuwing hiz recerchez, found nere the waul a woommanz toern gluv. This gluv, wharevver it had not tucht the muddy ground, wauz ov irreprochabel odor. It wauz wun ov dhose perfuemd gluvz dhat luvverz like too snach from a pritty hand.

Az dArtanyan pershude hiz investigaishonz, a moer abundant and moer icy swet roald in larj drops from hiz foerhed; hiz hart wauz oprest bi a horibel an'gwish; hiz respiraishon wauz broken and short. And yet he ced, too reyashure himcelf, dhat this pavilleyon perhaps had nuthhing in common withe Mme. Bonasyuu; dhat the yung woomman had made an apointment withe him befoer the pavilleyon, and not in the pavilleyon; dhat she mite hav bene detaind in Parris bi her jutese, or perhaps bi the gelloucy ov her huzband.

But aul these rezonz wer combated, destroid, overthrone, bi dhat feling ov intimate pane which, on certane ocaizhonz, taix poseshon ov our beying, and crise too us so az too be understood unmistacably dhat sum grate misforchune iz hanging over us.

Then dArtanyan became aulmoast wiald. He ran along the hi rode, tooc the paath he had befoer taken, and reching the ferry, interrogated the boatman.

About cevven oacloc in the evening, the boatman had taken over a yung

woomman, rapt in a blac mantel, whoo apeerd too be verry ancshous not too  
be reccogniazd; but entiarly on acount ov her precaushonz, the boatman  
had pade moer atenshon too her and discuvverd dhat she wauz yung and  
pritty.

Dhare wer then, az nou, a croud ov yung and pritty wimmen whoo came  
too  
St. Cloud, and whoo had rezonz for not beying cene, and yet dArtanyan  
did not for an instant dout dhat it wauz Mme. Bonasyuu whoome the  
boatman  
had notiast.

DArtanyan tooc advaantage ov the lamp which bernd in the cabbin ov the  
ferriman too rede the billet ov Mme. Bonasyuu wuns agane, and sattisfi  
himself dhat he had not bene mistaken, dhat the apointment wauz at St.  
Cloud and not elswere, befoer the DEstrase pavilleyon and not in  
anuther strete. Evverithhing conspiard too proove too dArtanyan dhat hiz  
presentiments had not deceevd him, and dhat a grate misforchune had  
happend.

He agane ran bac too the shaato. It apeerd too him dhat sumthhing  
mite hav happend at the pavilleyon in hiz abcens, and dhat fresh  
informaishon awated him. The lane wauz stil deserted, and the same caalm  
soft lite shon throo the windo.

DArtanyan then thaut ov dhat cottage, cilent and obscure, which had  
no dout cene aul, and cood tel its tale. The gate ov the encloazhure  
wauz shut; but he leept over the hej, and in spite ov the barking ov a  
chained-up dog, went up too the cabbin.

No wun aancerd too hiz ferst nocking. A cilens ov deth raind in  
the cabbin az in the pavilleyon; but az the cabbin wauz hiz laast rezoers, he  
noct agane.

It soone apeed too him dhat he herd a slite noiz within—a timmid noiz which ceemd too trembel lest it shood be herd.

Then dArtanyan ceest nocking, and prade withe an axent so fool ov anxiety and prommicez, terror and cajolery, dhat hiz vois wauz ov a nachure too reyashure the moast feerfool. At length an oald, werm-eten shutter wauz opend, or raather poosht ajar, but cloazd agane az soone az the lite from a mizserabel lamp which bernd in the corner had shon uppon the bauldric, soerd belt, and pistol pommelz ov dArtanyan. Nevvertheles, rappid az the muivment had bene, dArtanyan had had time too ghet a glimps ov the hed ov an oald man.

"In the name ov hevven!" cride he, "liscen too me; I hav bene wating for sumwun whoo haz not cum. I am diying withe anxiety. Haz ennithhing particcular happend in the naborhood? Speke!"

The windo wauz agane opend sloly, and the same face apeed, only it wauz nou stil moer pale dhan befoer.

DArtanyan related hiz stoery cimply, withe the omishon ov naimz. He toald hou he had a rondavoo withe a yung woomman befoer dhat pavilleyon, and hou, not ceying her cum, he had cliamd the linden tre, and bi the lite ov the lamp had cene the disorder ov the chaimber.

The oald man liscend atentiavly, making a cine oonly dhat it wauz aul so; and then, when dArtanyan had ended, he shooc hiz hed withe an are dhat anounst nuthhing good.

"Whaut doo u mene?" cride dArtanyan. "In the name ov hevven, explane

yourself!"

"O! Msyer," ced the oald man, "aasc me nuthhing; for if I daerd tel u whaut I hav cene, certainly no good wood befaul me."

"U hav, then, cene sumthhing?" replide dArtanyan. "In dhat cace, in the name ov hevven," continnude he, throwing him a pistole, "tel me whaut u hav cene, and I wil plej u the werd ov a gentelman dhat not wun ov yor werdz shal escape from mi hart."

The oald man rede so much trueth and so much grefe in the face ov the yung man dhat he made him a cine too liscen, and repeted in a lo vois: "It wauz scaersly nine oacloc when I herd a noiz in the strete, and wauz wundering whaut it cood be, when on cumming too mi doer, I found

dhat sumbody wauz endevvoring too open it. Az I am verry poor and am not

afrade ov beying robd, I went and opend the gate and sau thre men at a fu pacez from it. In the shaddo wauz a carrage withe too horcez, and sum saddel'horcez. These horcez evvidently belongd too the thre men, whoo

wer drest az cavaleyerz. Aa, mi werthy gentelmen,' cride I, whaut doo u waunt?' U must hav a ladder?' ced he whoo apeerd too be the leder ov the party. Yes, msyer, the wun withe which I gather mi frute.' Lend it too us, and go intoo yor hous agane; dhare iz a croun for the anoiyans we hav cauzd u. Oonly remember this—if u speke a werd ov whaut u ma ce or whaut u ma here (for u wil looc and u wil liscen, I am qwite shure, houwevver we ma thretten u), u ar lost.' At these werdz he thru me a croun, which I pict up, and he tooc the ladder. Aafter shutting the gate behiand them, I pretended too retern too the hous, but I imejaitly went out a bac doer, and steling along in the shade ov the hej, I gaind yonder clump ov elder, from which I cood here and ce evverithhing. The thre men braut the carrage up qwiyetly, and tooc out ov it a littel man, stout, short,

elderly, and commonly drest in cloadhz ov a darc cullor, whoo acended the ladder verry caerfooly, looct suspishously in at the windo ov the pavilleyon, came doun az qwiyetly az he had gon up, and whisperd, 'It iz she!' Imejaitly, he whoo had spoken too me aproacht the doer ov the pavilleyon, opened it withe a ke he had in hiz hand, cloazd the doer and disapeerd, while at the same time the uther too men acended the ladder. The littel oald man remaind at the coche doer; the coachman tooc care ov hiz horcez, the lacky held the saddel'horcez. Aul at wuns grate crise rezounded in the pavilleyon, and a woomman came too the windo, and opened it, az if too thro herself out ov it; but az soone az she perceevd the uther too men, she fel bac and dha went intoo the chaimber. Then I sau no moer; but I herd the noiz ov braking fernichure. The woomman screemd, and cride for help; but her crise wer soone stifeld. Too ov the men apeerd, baring the woomman in dhare armz, and carrede her too the carrage, intoo which the littel oald man got aafter her. The leder cloazd the windo, came out an instant aafter bi the doer, and sattisfide himcelf dhat the woomman wauz in the carrage. Hiz too companyonz wer aulreddy on horsbac. He sprang intoo hiz saddel; the lacky tooc hiz place bi the coachman; the carrage went of at a qwic pace, escorted bi the thre horsmen, and aul wauz over. From dhat moment I hav niather cene nor herd ennithhing."

DArtanyan, entiarly overcum bi this terribel stoery, remaind moashonles and mute, while aul the demonz ov an'gher and gelloucy wer houling in hiz hart.

"But, mi good gentelman," rezhuemd the oald man, uppon whoome this mute despere certainly projuest a grater efect dhan crise and teerz wood hav dun, "doo not take on so; dha did not kil her, and dhats a cumfort."

"Can u ghes," ced dArtanyan, "whoo wauz the man whoo hedded this

infernal expediton?"

"I doant no him."

"But az u spoke too him u must hav cene him."

"O, its a descriphon u waunt?"

"Exactly so."

"A taul, darc man, withe blac mustaashez, darc ise, and the are ov a gentelman."

"Dhats the man!" cride dArtanyan, "agane he, forevver he! He iz mi demon, aparrently. And the uther?"

"Which?"

"The short wun."

"O, he wauz not a gentelman, Ile aancer for it; beciadz, he did not ware a soerd, and the utherz treted him withe smaul concideraishon."

"Sum lacky," mermerd dArtanyan. "Poor woomman, poor woomman, whaut hav dha dun withe u?"

"U hav prommiast too be ceecret, mi good msyer?" ced the oald man.

"And I renu mi prommice. Be esy, I am a gentelman. A gentelman haz but hiz werd, and I hav ghivven u mine."

Withe a hevvy hart, dArtanyan agane bent hiz wa tooword the ferry. Sumtiamz he hoapt it cood not be Mme. Bonasyuu, and dhat he shood

fiand her next da at the Luivr; sumtiamz he feerd she had had an intreghe withe anuther, whoo, in a gellous fit, had cerpriazd her and carrede her of. Hiz miand wauz toern bi dout, grefe, and despare.

"O, if I had mi thre frendz here," cride he, "I shood hav, at leest, sum hoaps ov fianding her; but whoo nose whaut haz becum ov them?"

It wauz paast midnite; the next thhing wauz too fiand Plaunsha.

DArtanyan

went suxesciavly intoo aul the cabbarase in which dhare wauz a lite, but cood not fiand Plaunsha in enny ov them.

At the cixth he began too reflect dhat the cerch wauz raather jubeyous. DArtanyan had apointed cix oacloc in the morning for hiz lacky, and wharevver he mite be, he wauz rite.

Beciadz, it came intoo the yung manz miand dhat bi remaning in the environz ov the spot on which this sad event had paast, he wood, perhaps, hav sum lite throne uppon the mistereyous afare. At the cixth cabbara, then, az we ced, dArtanyan stopt, aasct for a bottel ov wine ov the best qwaulity, and placing himcelf in the darkest corner ov the roome, determiand dhus too wate til dalite; but this time agane hiz hoaps wer disapointed, and auldho he liscend withe aul hiz eerz, he herd nuthhing, amid the oaths, coers joax, and abuce which paast betwene the laborerz, cervants, and carterz whoo compriazd the onnorabel sociyety ov which he formd a part, which cood poot him uppon the leest trac ov her whoo had bene stolen from him. He wauz compeld, then, aafter havving swaulode the contents ov hiz bottel, too paas the time az wel az too evade suspishon, too faul intoo the eseyest posishon in hiz corner and too slepe, whether wel or il. DArtanyan, be it rememberd, wauz oonly twenty yeez oald, and at dhat age slepe haz its imprescriptibel riats which it impereyously incists uppon, even withe the saddest harts.

Tooword six oacloc dArtanyan awoke withe dhat uncumfortabel feling which genneraly acumpanese the brake ov da aafter a bad nite. He wauz not long in making hiz toilet. He exammiand himcelf too ce if advaantage had bene taken ov hiz slepe, and havving found hiz dimond ring on hiz fin' gher, hiz pers in hiz pocket, and hiz pistolz in hiz belt, he rose, pade for hiz bottel, and went out too tri if he cood hav enny better luc in hiz cerch aafter hiz lacky dhan he had had the nite befoer. The ferst thhing he perceevd throo the damp gra mist wauz onnest Plaunsha, whoo, withe the too horcez in hand, awated him at the doer ov a littel bliand cabbara, befoer which dArtanyan had paast widhout even a suspishon ov its existens.

## 25 PORTHOS

Insted ov reterning directly home, dArtanyan alited at the doer ov M. de Treveye, and ran qwicly up the staerz. This time he had decided too relate aul dhat had paast. M. de Treveye wood doutles ghiv him good advice az too the whole afare. Beciadz, az M. de Treveye sau the qwene aulmoast daly, he mite be abel too drau from her Madgesty sum intelligens ov the poor yung woomman, whoome dha wer doutles making pa verry deerly for her devotednes too her mistres.

M. de Treveye liscend too the yung manz acount withe a cereyousnes which pruivd dhat he sau sumthhing els in this advenchure beciadz a luv afare. When dArtanyan had finnisht, he ced, "Hum! Aul this savorz ov hiz Emminens, a leghe of."

"But whaut iz too be dun?" ced dArtanyan.

"Nuthhing, absolutly nuthhing, at prezsent, but qwitting Parris, az I toald u, az soone az poscibel. I wil ce the qwene; I wil relate too her



the detailz ov the disaperans ov this poor woomman, ov which she iz no dout ignorant. These detailz wil ghide her on her part, and on yor retern, I shal perhaps hav sum good nuse too tel u. Reli on me."

dArtanyan nu dhat, auldho a Gascon, M. de Treveye wauz not in the habbit ov making prommicez, and dhat when bi chaans he did prommice, he

moer dhan kept hiz werd. He boud too him, then, fool ov grattichude for the paast and for the fuchure; and the werthy captane, whoo on hiz cide felt a liavly interest in this yung man, so brave and so rezzolute, prest hiz hand kiandly, wishing him a plezzant gerny.

Determiand too poot the advice ov M. de Treveye in practice instantly, dArtanyan directed hiz coers tooword the Ru da Foswaa'er, in order too superintend the packing ov hiz vales. On aproching the hous, he perceevd M. Bonasyuu in morning coschume, standing at hiz threshoald. Aul dhat the prudent Plaunsha had ced too him the preceding evening about the cinnister carracter ov the oald man rekerd too the miand ov dArtanyan, whoo looct at him withe moer atenshon dhan he had dun befoer. In fact, in adishon too dhat yello, cicly pailnes which indicaits the incinuwaishon ov the bile in the blud, and which mite, beciadz, be axidental, dArtanyan remarct sumthhing perfidjously cignifficant in the pla ov the rinkeld fechuerz ov hiz countenans. A roghe duz not laaf in the same wa dhat an onnest man duz; a hippocrite duz not shed the teerz ov a man ov good faith. Aul fauls'hood iz a maasc; and houwevver wel made the maasc ma be, withe a littel atenshon we ma aulwase suxede in distin'gwishing it from the tru face.

It apeerd, then, too dArtanyan dhat M. Bonasyuu woer a maasc, and liaqwise dhat dhat maasc wauz moast disagreyabel too looc uppon. In conceqwens ov this feling ov repugnans, he wauz about too paas widhout speking too him, but, az he had dun the da befoer, M. Bonasyuu acosted him.

"Wel, yung man," ced he, "we apere too paas raather ga niats! Cevven oacloc in the morning! *PESTE!* U ceme too revers ordinary customz, and cum home at the our when uther pepel ar gowing out."

"No wun can reproche u for ennithhing ov the kiand, Msyer Bonasyuu," ced the yung man; "u ar a moddel for reggular pepel. It iz tru dhat when a man posescez a yung and pritty wife, he haz no nede too ceke happines elshware. Happines cumz too mete him, duz it not, Msyer Bonasyuu?"

Bonasyuu became az pale az deth, and grind a gaastly smile.

"Aa, aa!" ced Bonasyuu, "u ar a jocular companyon! But whare the devvil wer u gladding laast nite, mi yung maaster? It duz not apere too be verry clene in the crosroadz."

dArtanyan glaanst doun at hiz buits, aul cuverd withe mud; but dhat same glaans fel uppon the shoose and stockingz ov the mercer, and it mite hav bene ced dha had bene dipt in the same mud hepe. Boath wer staind withe splashez ov mud ov the same aperans.

Then a sudden ideyaa crost the miand ov dArtanyan. Dhat littel stout man, short and elderly, dhat sort ov lacky, drest in darc cloadhz, treted widhout cerremoney bi the men waring soerdz whoo compoazd the escort, wauz Bonasyuu himcelf. The huzband had presided at the abducshon ov hiz wife.

A terribel inclinaishon ceezd dArtanyan too graasp the mercer bi the throte and stran'ghel him; but, az we hav ced, he wauz a verry prudent ueth, and he restraind himcelf. Houwevver, the revolueshon which apeerd uppon hiz countenans wauz so vizsibel dhat Bonasyuu wauz terrifide at it, and he endevvord too drau bac a step or too; but az he wauz standing

before the haaf ov the doer which wauz shut, the obstakel compeld him too kepe hiz place.

"Aa, but u ar joking, mi werthy man!" ced dArtanyan. "It apeerz too me dhat if mi buits nede a spunj, yor stockingz and shoose stand in eeqwal nede ov a brush. Ma u not hav bene filandering a littel aulso, Msyer Bonasyuu? O, the devvil! Dhats unpardonabel in a man ov yor age, and whoo beciadz, haz such a pritty wife az yorz."

"O, Lord! no," ced Bonasyuu, "but yesterda I went too St. Mand too make sum inqwirese aafter a cervant, az I canot poscibly doo widhout wun; and the roadz wer so bad dhat I braut bac aul this mud, which I hav not yet had time too remoove."

The place naimd bi Bonasyuu az dhat which had bene the obgett ov hiz gerny wauz a fresh prooffe in supoert ov the suspishonz dArtanyan had conceevd. Bonasyuu had naimd Mand becauz Mand wauz in an exactly opposite direcshon from St. Cloud. This probabillity afoerded him hiz ferst consolaishon. If Bonasyuu nu whare hiz wife wauz, wun mite, bi extreme meenz, foers the mercer too open hiz teeth and let hiz ceecret escape. The qweschon, then, wauz hou too chainj this probabillity intoo a certainty.

"Pardon, mi dere Msyer Bonasyuu, if I doant stand uppon cerremony," ced dArtanyan, "but nuthhing maix wun so thhersty az waunt ov slepe. I am parcht withe thherst. Alou me too take a glaas ov wauter in yor apartment; u no dhat iz nevver refuezd amung naborz."

Widhout wating for the permishon ov hiz hoast, dArtanyan went qwicly intoo the hous, and caast a rappid glaans at the bed. It had not bene uezd. Bonasyuu had not bene abed. He had oanly bene bac an our or too; he had acumpanede hiz wife too the place ov her confianment, or els at leest too the ferst rela.

"Thanx, Msyer Bonasyuu," ced dArtanyan, empteying hiz glaas, "dhat iz aul I waunted ov u. I wil nou go up intoo mi apartment. I wil make Plaunsha brush mi buits; and when he haz dun, I wil, if u like, cend him too u too brush yor shoose."

He left the mercer qwite astonnisht at hiz cin'gular faerwel, and aasking himcelf if he had not bene a littel inconcidderate.

At the top ov the staerz he found Plaunsha in a grate frite.

"Aa, msyer!" cride Plaunsha, az soone az he perceevd hiz maaster, "here iz moer trubbel. I thaut u wood nevver cum in."

"Whauts the matter nou, Plaunsha?" demaanded dArtanyan.

"O! I ghiv u a hundred, I ghiv u a thousand tiamz too ghes, msyer, the vizsit I receevd in yor abcens."

"When?"

"About haaf an our ago, while u wer at Msyer de Treveeyz."

"Whoo haz bene here? Cum, speke."

"Msyer de Cavwaa."

"Msyer de Cavwaa?"

"In person."

"The captane ov the cardinalz Gardz?"

"Himcelf."

"Did he cum too arest me?"

"I hav no dout dhat he did, msyer, for aul hiz wheedling manner."

"Wauz he so swete, then?"

"Indede, he wauz aul hunny, msyer."

"Indede!"

"He came, he ced, on the part ov hiz Emminens, whoo wisht u wel, and too beg u too follo him too the Palla-Roiyal." [\*]

\*It wauz cauld the Palla-Cardinal befoer Reeshlu gave it too the King.

"Whaut did u aancer him?"

"Dhat the thhing wauz imposcibel, ceying dhat u wer not at home, az he cood ce."

"Wel, whaut did he sa then?"

"Dhat u must not fale too caul uppon him in the coers ov the da; and then he added in a lo vois, Tel yor maaster dhat hiz Emminens iz verry wel dispoazd tooword him, and dhat hiz forchune perhaps dependz uppon this intervü."

"The snare iz raather *MALADROIT* for the cardinal," replide the yung man, smiling.

"O, I sau the snare, and I aancerd u wood be qwite in despare on

yor retern."

"Whare haz he gon?' aasct Msyer de Cavwaa."

"Too Trwaa, in Champagne,' I aancerd."

"And when did he cet out?"

"Yesterda evening."

"Plaunsha, mi frend," interrupted dArtanyan, "u ar reyaly a preshous fello."

"U wil understand, msyer, I thaut dhare wood be stil time, if u wish, too ce Msyer de Cavwaa too contradict me bi saying u wer not yet gon. The fauls'hood wood then li at mi doer, and az I am not a gentelman, I ma be aloud too li."

"Be ov good hart, Plaunsha, u shal preserv yor reputaishon az a veraishous man. In a qworter ov an our we cet of."

"Dhats the advice I wauz about too ghiv Msyer; and whare ar we gowing, ma I aasc, widhout beying too cureyous?"

"*PARDIEU!* In the opposite direcshon too dhat which u ced I wauz gon. Beciadz, ar u not az ancshous too lern nuse ov Gremo, Muiscton, and Bazan az I am too no whaut haz becum ov Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis?"

"Yes, msyer," ced Plaunsha, "and I wil go az soone az u plese. Indede, I thhinc provinshal are wil sute us much better just nou dhan the are ov Parris. So then—"

"So then, pac up our luggage, Plaunsha, and let us be of. On mi part, I wil go out withe mi handz in mi pockets, dhat nuthhing ma be suspected. U ma join me at the Hotel da Gard. Bi the wa, Plaunsha, I thhinc u ar rite withe respect too our hoast, and dhat he iz decidedly a friatfooly lo rech."

"Aa, msyer, u ma take mi werd when I tel u ennithing. I am a fiseyonomist, I ashure u."

DArtanyan went out ferst, az had bene agrede uppon. Then, in order dhat he mite hav nuthhing too reproche himcelf withe, he directed hiz steps, for the laast time, tooword the rezsidencez ov hiz thre frendz. No nuse had bene receevd ov them; oanly a letter, aul perfuemd and ov an ellegant riting in smaul carracterz, had cum for Arramis. DArtanyan tooc charj ov it. Ten minnuets aafterword Plaunsha joind him at the stabelz ov the Hotel da Gard. DArtanyan, in order dhat dhare mite be no time lost, had saddeld hiz hors himcelf.

"Dhats wel," ced he too Plaunsha, when the latter added the portmanto too the eqwipment. "Nou saddel the uther thre horcez."

"Doo u thhinc, then, msyer, dhat we shal travvel faaster withe too horcez apece?" ced Plaunsha, withe hiz shrude are.

"No, Msyer Gester," replide dArtanyan; "but withe our foer horcez we ma bring bac our thre frendz, if we shood hav the good forchune too fiand them livving."

"Which iz a grate chaans," replide Plaunsha, "but we must not despere ov the mercy ov God."

"Amen!" ced dArtanyan, ghetting intoo hiz saddel.

Az dha went from the Hotel da Gard, dha cepparated, leving the

strete at opposite endz, wun havving too qwit Parris bi the Bareyare de laa Veyet and the uther bi the Bareyare Monmartr, too mete agane beyond St. Dennis—a strategic manuver which, havving bene executed withe eeqwal puncchuwallity, wauz cround withe the moast forchunate rezults. DArtanyan and Plaunsha enterd Peyaerfete tooghether.

Plaunsha wauz moer corajous, it must be admitted, bi da dhan bi nite. Hiz natchural prudens, houwevver, nevver forsooc him for a cin'ghel instant.

He had forgotten not wun ov the incidents ov the ferst gerny, and he looct uppon evveriboddy he met on the rode az an ennemy. It follode dhat hiz hat wauz forevver in hiz hand, which procuerd him sum cevere reprimaandz from dArtanyan, whoo feerd dhat hiz exes ov poliatnes wood lede pepel too thhinc he wauz the lacky ov a man ov no conceqwens.

Nevvertheles, whether the pascen'gerz wer reyaly tucht bi the erbannity ov Plaunsha or whether this time nobody wauz poasted on the yung manz rode, our too travvelerz ariavd at Shaantilly widhout enny axident, and alited at the tavvern ov Grate St. Martin, the same at which dha had stopt on dhare ferst gerny.

The hoast, on ceying a yung man follode bi a lacky withe too extraa horcez, advaanst respectfooly too the doer. Nou, az dha had aulreddy travveld elevven leegz, dArtanyan thaut it time too stop, whether Porthos wer or wer not in the in. Perhaps it wood not be prudent too aasc at wuns whaut had becum ov the Musketerere. The rezult ov these reflexshonz wauz dhat dArtanyan, widhout aasking informaishon ov enny kiand, alited, comended the horcez too the care ov hiz lacky, enterd a smaul roome destiand too receve dhose whoo wisht too be alone, and desiard the hoast too bring him a bottel ov hiz best wine and az good a breccfast



az poscibel—a desire which ferther corobborated the hi opinyon the inkeper had formd ov the travveler at ferst cite.

dArtanyan wauz dhaerfoer cervd withe miracculous celerrity. The redgiment ov the Gardz wauz recruted amung the ferst gentelmen ov the kingdom; and dArtanyan, follode bi a lacky, and travveling withe foer magnifficent horcez, despite the cimplyscity ov hiz uniform, cood not fale too make a censaishon. The hoast desiard himself too cerv him; which dArtanyan perceving, orderd too glaacez too be braut, and comenst the following conversaishon.

"Mi faith, mi good hoast," ced dArtanyan, filling the too glaacez, "I aasct for a bottel ov yor best wine, and if u hav deceevd me, u wil be punnisht in whaut u hav cind; for ceying dhat I hate drinking mi micelf, u shal drinc withe me. Take yor glaas, then, and let us drinc. But whaut shal we drinc too, so az too avoid wuinding enny susceptibillity? Let us drinc too the prosperrity ov yor establishment."

"Yor Lordship duz me much onnor," ced the hoast, "and I thanc u sinceerly for yor kiand wish."

"But doant mistake," ced dArtanyan, "dhare iz moer celfishnes in mi toast dhan perhaps u ma thhinc—for it iz oonly in prosperous establishments dhat wun iz wel receevd. In hotelz dhat doo not flurrish, evverithhing iz in confuezhon, and the travveler iz a victim too the embarrasments ov hiz hoast. Nou, I travvel a grate dele, particcularly on this rode, and I wish too ce aul inkeperz making a forchune."

"It ceemz too me," ced the hoast, "dhat this iz not the ferst time I hav had the onnor ov ceying Msyer."

"Baa, I hav paast perhaps ten tiamz throo Shaantilly, and out ov the ten tiamz I hav stopt thre or foer tiamz at yor hous at leest. Whi

I wauz here oanly ten or twelv dase ago. I wauz conducting sum frendz, Musketeerz, wun ov whoome, bi the bi, had a dispute withe a strain'ger—a man whoo saut a qworel withe him, for I doant no whaut."

"Exactly so," ced the hoast; "I remember it perfectly. It iz not Msyer Porthos dhat yor Lordship meenz?"

"Yes, dhat iz mi companyonz name. Mi God, mi dere hoast, tel me if ennithing haz happend too him?"

"Yor Lordship must hav observd dhat he cood not continnu hiz gerny."

"Whi, too be shure, he prommiast too rejoin us, and we hav cene nuthhing ov him."

"He haz dun us the onnor too remane here."

"Whaut, he had dun u the onnor too remane here?"

"Yes, msyer, in this hous; and we ar even a littel unnesy—"

"On whaut acount?"

"Ov certane expencez he haz contracted."

"Wel, but whautevver expencez he ma hav inkerd, I am shure he iz in a condishon too pa them."

"Aa, msyer, u infuse genuwine baalm intoo mi blud. We hav made concidderabel advaancez; and this verry morning the cerjon declaerd dhat if Msyer Porthos did not pa him, he shood looc too me, az it wauz I

whoo had cent for him."

"Porthos iz wuinded, then?"

"I canot tel u, msyer."

"Whaut! U canot tel me? Shuerly u aut too be Abel too tel me better dhan enny uther person."

"Yes; but in our cichuwaishon we must not sa aul we no—particularly az we hav bene wornd dhat our eerz shood aancer for our tungz."

"Wel, can I ce Porthos?"

"Certainly, msyer. Take the staerz on yor rite; go up the ferst flite and noc at Number Wun. Oanly worn him dhat it iz u."

"Whi shood I doo dhat?"

"Becauz, msyer, sum mischefe mite happen too u."

"Ov whaut kiand, in the name ov wunder?"

"Msyer Porthos ma imadgine u belong too the hous, and in a fit ov pashon mite run hiz soerd throo u or blo out yor brainz."

"Whaut hav u dun too him, then?"

"We hav aasct him for munny."

"The devvil! Aa, I can understand dhat. It iz a demaand dhat Porthos taix verry il when he iz not in fundz; but I no he must be so at prezsent."

"We thaut so, too, msyer. Az our hous iz carrede on verry

reggularly, and we make out our bilz evvery weke, at the end ov ate dase we presented our acount; but it apeerd we had chosen an unlucky moment, for at the ferst werd on the subject, he cent us too aul the devvilz. It iz tru he had bene playing the da befoer."

"Playing the da befoer! And withe whoome?"

"Lord, whoo can sa, msyer? Withe sum gentelman whoo wauz travveling this wa, too whoome he propoazd a game ov *LANSQUENET*."

"Dhats it, then, and the foolish fello lost aul he had?"

"Even too hiz hors, msyer; for when the gentelman wauz about too cet out, we perceevd dhat hiz lacky wauz sadling Msyer Porthocoz hors, az wel az hiz maasterz. When we observd this too him, he toald us aul too trubbel ourcelvz about our one biznes, az this hors belongd too him. We aulso informd Msyer Porthos ov whaut wauz gowing on; but he toald us we wer scoundrelz too dout a gentelmanz werd, and dhat az he had ced the hors wauz hiz, it must be so."

"Dhats Porthos aul over," mermerd dArtanyan.

"Then," continnude the hoast, "I replide dhat az from the moment we ceemd not liacly too cum too a good understanding withe respect too pament, I hoapt dhat he wood hav at leest the kiandnes too graant the favor ov hiz custom too mi bruther hoast ov the Goalden Eghel; but Msyer Porthos replide dhat, mi hous beying the best, he shood remane whare he wauz. This repli wauz too flattering too alou me too incist on hiz deparchure. I confiand micelf then too begghing him too ghiv up hiz chaimber, which iz the

handsomest in the hotel, and too be satisfide withe a pritty littel roome on the thherd floer; but too this Msyer Porthos replide dhat az he evvery moment expected hiz mistres, whoo wauz wun ov the gratest ladese

in the coert, I mite esily comprehend dhat the chaimber he did me the onnor too occupi in mi hous wauz itcelf verry mene for the vizsit ov such a personage. Nevvertheles, while acnolleging the trueth ov whaut he ced, I thaut propper too incist; but widhout even ghivving himcelf the trubbel too enter intoo enny discushon withe me, he tooc wun ov hiz pistolz, lade it on hiz tabel, da and nite, and ced dhat at the ferst werd dhat shood be spoken too him about remooving, iather within the hous or out ov it, he wood blo out the brainz ov the person whoo shood be so imprudent az too meddel withe a matter which oanly concernd himcelf.

Cins

dhat time, msyer, nobody enterd hiz chaimber but hiz cervant."

"Whaut! Muiscton iz here, then?"

"O, yes, msyer. Five dase aafter yor deparchure, he came bac, and in a verry bad condishon, too. It apeerz dhat he had met withe disagreyabelnes, liaqwise, on hiz gerny. Unforchunaitly, he iz moer nimbil dhan hiz maaster; so dhat for the sake ov hiz maaster, he poots us aul under hiz fete, and az he thhinx we mite refuse whaut he aasct for, he taix aul he waunts widhout aasking at aul."

"The fact iz," ced dArtanyan, "I hav aulwase observd a grate degry ov intelligens and devotednes in Muiscton."

"Dhat iz poscibel, msyer; but supose I shood happen too be braut in contact, even foer tiamz a yere, withe such intelligens and devotednes—whi, I shood be a ruwind man!"

"No, for Porthos wil pa u."

"Hum!" ced the hoast, in a doutfool tone.

"The favorite ov a grate lady wil not be aloud too be inconveenyenst for such a paultry sum az he ose u."

"If I derst sa whaut I beleve on dhat hed—"

"Whaut u beleve?"

"I aut raather too sa, whaut I no."

"Whaut u no?"

"And even whaut I am shure ov."

"And ov whaut ar u so shure?"

"I wood sa dhat I no this grate lady."

"U?"

"Yes; I."

"And hou doo u no her?"

"O, msyer, if I cood beleve I mite trust in yor discredhon."

"Speke! Bi the werd ov a gentelman, u shal hav no cauz too repent ov yor confidens."

"Wel, msyer, u understand dhat unnesines maix us doo menny thhingz."

"Whaut hav u dun?"

"O, nuthhing which wauz not rite in the carracter ov a credditor."

"Wel?"

"Msyer Porthos gave us a note for hiz dutches, ordering us too poot it in the poast. This wauz befoer hiz cervant came. Az he cood not leve hiz chaimber, it wauz nescesary too charj us withe this comishon."

"And then?"

"Insted ov pooting the letter in the poast, which iz nevver safe, I tooc advaantage ov the gerny ov wun ov mi ladz too Parris, and orderd him too conva the letter too this dutches himcelf. This wauz foolfilling the intenshonz ov Msyer Porthos, whoo had desiard us too be so caerfool ov this letter, wauz it not?"

"Neerly so."

"Wel, msyer, doo u no whoo this grate lady iz?"

"No; I hav herd Porthos speke ov her, dhats aul."

"Doo u no whoo this pretended dutches iz?"

"I repete too u, I doant no her."

"Whi, she iz the oald wife ov a procurator\* ov the Shatela, msyer, naimd Madam Cokenar, whoo, auldho she iz at leest fifty, stil ghivz hercelf gellous aerz. It struc me az verry od dhat a princes shood liv in the Ru ose Oors."

\*Aterny

"But hou doo u no aul this?"

"Becauz she flu intoo a grate pashon on receving the letter, saying dhat Msyer Porthos wauz a wethercoc, and dhat she wauz shure it wauz for sum woomman he had receevd this wuind."

"Haz he bene wuinded, then?"

"O, good Lord! Whaut hav I ced?"

"U ced dhat Porthos had receevd a soerd cut."

"Yes, but he haz forbidden me so strictly too sa so."

"And whi so."

"Zuindz, msyer! Becauz he had boasted dhat he wood perforate the strain'ger withe whoome u left him in dispute; wharaz the strain'ger, on the contrary, in spite ov aul hiz rodomontaidz qwicly thru him on hiz bac. Az Msyer Porthos iz a verry boastfool man, he incists dhat nobody shal no he haz receevd this wuind exopt the dutches, whoome he endevvord too interest bi an acount ov hiz advenchure."

"It iz a wuind dhat confianz him too hiz bed?"

"Aa, and a maaster stroke, too, I ashure u. Yor frendz sole must stic tite too hiz boddy."

"Wer u dhare, then?"

"Msyer, I follode them from cureyosity, so dhat I sau the combat widhout the combatants ceying me."

"And whaut tooc place?"



"O! The afare wauz not long, I ashure u. Dha plaist themcelvz on gard; the strain'ger made a faint and a lunj, and dhat so rappidly dhat when Msyer Porthos came too the *PARADE*, he had aulreddy thre inchez ov stele in hiz brest. He imejaitly fel baqword. The strain'ger plaist the point ov hiz soerd at hiz throte; and Msyer Porthos, fianding himcelf at the mercy ov hiz adversary, acnollejd himcelf conkerd. Uppon which the strain'ger aasct hiz name, and lerning dhat it wauz Porthos, and not dArtanyan, he acisted him too rise, braut him bac too the hotel, mounted hiz hors, and disapeerd."

"So it wauz withe Msyer dArtanyan this strain'ger ment too qworel?"

"It apeerz so."

"And doo u no whaut haz becum ov him?"

"No, I nevver sau him until dhat moment, and hav not cene him cins."

"Verry wel; I no aul dhat I wish too no. Porthociez chaimber iz, u sa, on the ferst stoery, Number Wun?"

"Yes, msyer, the handsumest in the in—a chaimber dhat I cood hav let ten tiamz over."

"Baa! Be sattisfide," ced dArtanyan, laafing, "Porthos wil pa u withe the munny ov the Dutches Cokenar."

"O, msyer, procuratorz wife or dutches, if she wil but loocen her pers'stringz, it wil be aul the same; but she pozsitiavly aancerd dhat she wauz tiard ov the exidgencese and infidellitese ov Msyer Porthos, and dhat she wood not cend him a denya."

"And did u conva this aancer too yor ghest?"

"We tooc good care not too doo dhat; he wood hav found in whaut fashon we had executed hiz comishon."

"So dhat he stil expects hiz munny?"

"O, Lord, yes, msyer! Yesterda he rote agane; but it wauz hiz cervant whoo this time poot the letter in the poast."

"Doo u sa the procuratorz wife iz oald and ugly?"

"Fifty at leest, msyer, and not at aul handsum, acording too Patoadz acount."

"In dhat cace, u ma be qwite at ese; she wil soone be softend. Beciadz, Porthos canot o u much."

"Hou, not much! Twenty good pistoalz, aulreddy, widhout recconing the doctor. He denise himcelf nuthhing; it ma esily be cene he haz bene acustomd too liv wel."

"Nevver miand; if hiz mistres abandonz him, he wil fiand frendz, I wil aancer for it. So, mi dere hoast, be not unnesy, and continnu too take aul the care ov him dhat hiz cichuwaishon reqwiarz."

"Msyer haz prommiast me not too open hiz mouth about the procuratorz wife, and not too sa a werd ov the wuind?"

"Dhats agrede; u hav mi werd."

"O, he wood kil me!"

"Doant be afrade; he iz not so much ov a devvil az he apeerz."

Saying these werdz, dArtanyan went upstaerz, leving hiz hoast a littel better sattisfide withe respect too too thhingz in which he apeerd too be verry much interested—hiz det and hiz life.

At the top ov the staerz, uppon the moast conspicuwous doer ov the coridor, wauz traist in blac inc a gigantic number "1." DArtanyan noct, and uppon the bidding too cum in which came from incide, he enterd the chaimber.

Porthos wauz in bed, and wauz playing a game at *LANSQUENET* withe Muiscton, too kepe hiz hand in; while a spit loded withe partrigez wauz terning befoer the fire, and on eche cide ov a larj chimnipece, over too chafing dishez, wer boiling too schupanz, from which exhaild a dubbel odor ov rabbit and fish schuse, rejoicing too the smel. In adishon too this he perceevd dhat the top ov a wordrobe and the marbel ov a commode wer cuvverd withe empty bottelz.

At the cite ov hiz frend, Porthos utterd a loud cri ov joi; and Muiscton, rising respectfooly, yeelded hiz place too him, and went too ghiv an i too the too schupanz, ov which he apeerd too hav the particcular inspecshon.

"Aa, *PARDIEU!* Iz dhat u?" ced Porthos too dArtanyan. "U ar rite welcum. Excuse mi not cumming too mete u; but," added he, loocking at dArtanyan withe a certane degry ov unnesines, "u no whaut haz happend too me?"

"No."

"Haz the hoast toald u nuthhing, then?"

"I aasct aafter u, and came up az soone az I cood."

Porthos ceemd too breethe moer frely.

"And whaut haz happend too u, mi dere Porthos?" continnude dArtanyan.

"Whi, on making a thrust at mi adversary, whoome I had aulreddy hit thre tiamz, and whoome I ment too finnish withe the foerth, I poot mi foot on a stone, slipt, and straind mi ne."

"Truly?"

"Onnor! Luckily for the raascal, for I shood hav left him ded on the spot, I ashure u."

"And whaut haz became ov him?"

"O, I doant no; he had enuf, and cet of widhout wating for the rest. But u, mi dere dArtanyan, whaut haz happend too u?"

"So dhat this strane ov the ne," continnude dArtanyan, "mi dere Porthos, keeps u in bed?"

"Mi God, dhats aul. I shal be about agane in a fu dase."

"Whi did u not hav yorcelf convade too Parris? U must be cruwely boerd here."

"Dhat wauz mi intenshon; but, mi dere frend, I hav wun thhing too confes too u."

"Whauts dhat?"

"It iz dhat az I wauz cruwely boerd, az u sa, and az I had the

sevventy-five pistoalz in mi pocket which u had distribbuted too me, in order too amuse micelf I invited a gentelman whoo wauz travveling this wa

too wauc up, and propoazd a caast ov dice. He axepted mi challenj, and, mi faith, mi sevventy-five pistoalz paast from mi pocket too hiz, widhout recconing mi hors, which he wun intoo the bargane. But u, mi dere dArtanyan?"

"Whaut can u expect, mi dere Porthos; a man iz not privvileejd in aul wase," ced dArtanyan. "U no the provverb Unlucky at pla, lucky in luv.' U ar too forchunate in yor luv for pla not too take its revenj. Whaut conceqwens can the revercez ov forchune be too u? Hav u not, happy roghe dhat u ar—hav u not yor dutches, whoo canot fale too cum too yor ade?"

"Wel, u ce, mi dere dArtanyan, withe whaut il luc I pla," replide Porthos, withe the moast caerles are in the werld. "I rote too her too cend me fifty loowy or so, ov which I stood absoluetly in nede on acount ov mi axident."

"Wel?"

"Wel, she must be at her cuntry cete, for she haz not aancerd me."

"Truly?"

"No; so I yesterda adrest anuther episcel too her, stil moer prescing dhan the ferst. But u ar here, mi dere fello, let us speke ov u. I confes I began too be verry unnesy on yor acount."

"But yor hoast behaivz verry wel tooword u, az it apeerz, mi dere Porthos," ced dArtanyan, directing the cic manz atenshon too the fool schupanz and the empty bottelz.

"So, so," replide Porthos. "Oonly thre or foer dase ago the impertinent jaccanaips gave me hiz bil, and I wauz foerst too tern boath him and hiz bil out ov the doer; so dhat I am here sumthhing in the fashon ov a conkeror, hoalding mi posishon, az it wer, mi conqwest. So u ce, beying in constant fere ov beying foerst from dhat posishon, I am armd too the teeth."

"And yet," ced dArtanyan, laafing, "it apeerz too me dhat from time too time u must make *SORTIES*." And he agane pointed too the bottelz and the schupanz.

"Not I, unforchunaitly!" ced Porthos. "This mizserabel strane confianz me too mi bed; but Muiscton foragez, and bringz in provizhonz. Frend Muiscton, u ce dhat we hav a reyinforsment, and we must hav an increce ov suplise."

"Muiscton," ced dArtanyan, "u must render me a cervice."

"Whaut, msyer?"

"U must ghiv yor rescipy too Plaunsha. I ma be beceezhd in mi tern, and I shal not be sory for him too be abel too let me enjoi the same advaantagez withe which u grattifi yor maaster."

"Lord, msyer! Dhare iz nuthhing moer esy," ced Muiscton, withe a moddest are. "Wun oonly needz too be sharp, dhats aul. I wauz braut up in the cuntry, and mi faather in hiz lezhure time wauz sumthhing ov a pocher."

"And whaut did he doo the rest ov hiz time?"

"Msyer, he carrede on a trade which I hav aulwase thaut satisfactory."

"Which?"

"Az it wauz a time ov wor betwene the Catholix and the Ughenose, and az he sau the Catholix exterminate the Ughenose and the Ughenose exterminate the Catholix—aul in the name ov relidjon—he adopted a mixt belefe which permitted him too be sumtiamz Catholic, sumtiamz a Ugheno. Nou, he wauz acustomd too wauc withe hiz fouling pece on hiz shoalder, behiand the hedgez which border the roadz, and when he sau a Catholic cumming alone, the Protestant relidjon imejaitly prevaild in hiz miand. He lowerd hiz gun in the direcshon ov the travveler; then, when he wauz within ten pavez ov him, he comenst a conversaishon which aulmoast aulwase ended bi the travvelerz abandoning hiz pers too save hiz life. It gose widhout saying dhat when he sau a Ugheno cumming, he felt himcelf fild withe such ardent Catholic sele dhat he cood not understand hou, a qworter ov an our befoer, he had bene abel too hav enny douts uppon the supereyority ov our holy relidjon. For mi part, msyer, I am Catholic—mi faather, faithfool too hiz principelz, havving made mi elder bruther a Ugheno."

"And whaut wauz the end ov this werthy man?" aasct dArtanyan.

"O, ov the moast unforchunate kiand, msyer. Wun da he wauz cerpriazd in a loanly rode betwene a Ugheno and a Catholic, withe boath ov whoome he had befoer had biznes, and whoo boath nu him agane; so dha united against him and hangd him on a tre. Then dha came and boasted ov dhare fine exploit in the cabbara ov the next village, whare mi bruther and I wer drinking."

"And whaut did u doo?" ced dArtanyan.

"We let them tel dhare stoery out," replide Muiscton. "Then, az in leving the cabbara dha tooc different direcshonz, mi bruther went and hid himcelf on the rode ov the Catholic, and I on dhat ov the Ugheno."

Too ourz aafter, aul wauz over; we had dun the biznes ov boath, admiring the foercite ov our poor faather, whoo had taken the precaushon too bring eche ov us up in a different relidjon."

"Wel, I must alou, az u sa, yor faather wauz a verry intelligent fello. And u sa in hiz lezhure moments the werthy man wauz a pocher?"

"Yes, msyer, and it wauz he whoo taut me too la a snare and ground a line. The conceqwens iz dhat when I sau our laborerz, which did not at aul sute too such delicate stummax az ourz, I had recors too a littel ov mi oald trade. While wauking nere the wood ov Msyer le Prins, I lade a fu snare in the runz; and while reclining on the banx ov hiz Hinecez pecez ov wauter, I slipt a fu lianz intoo hiz fish pondz. So dhat nou, thanx be too God, we doo not waunt, az Msyer can testifi, for partrigez, rabbits, carp or eelz—aul lite, whoalsum foode, sutabel for the cic."

"But the wine," ced dArtanyan, "whoo fernishez the wine? Yor hoast?"

"Dhat iz too sa, yes and no."

"Hou yes and no?"

"He fernishez it, it iz tru, but he duz not no dhat he haz dhat onnor."

"Explane yorself, Muiscton; yor conversaishon iz fool ov instructive thhingz."

"Dhat iz it, msyer. It haz so chaanst dhat I met withe a Spanyard in mi peregrinaishonz whoo had cene menny cuntrese, and among them the Nu  
Werld."



"Whaut conecshon can the Nu Werld hav withe the bottelz which ar on the commode and the wordrobe?"

"Paishens, msyer, evverithhing wil cum in its tern."

"This Spanyard had in hiz cervice a lacky whoo had acumpanede him in hiz voiyage too Mexico. This lacky wauz mi compaitreyot; and we became the

moer intimate from dhare beying menny resemblancez ov carracter betwene

us. We luvd spoerting ov aul kiandz better dhan ennithhing; so dhat he related too me hou in the plainz ov the Pampas the natiavz hunt the tigher and the wiald bool withe cimpel running noocez which dha thro too a distans ov twenty or thherty pacez the end ov a cord withe such nicety; but in face ov the proofe I wauz obliajd too acnollej the trueth ov the recital. Mi frend plaist a bottel at the distans ov thherty pacez, and at eche caast he caut the nec ov the bottel in hiz running nooce.

I practiast this exercise, and az nachure haz endoud me withe sum faccultese, at this da I can thro the lasso withe enny man in the werld.

Wel, doo u understand, msyer? Our hoast haz a wel-fernisht cellar the ke ov which nevver leevz him; oonly this cellar haz a ventilating hole. Nou throo this ventilating hole I thro mi lasso, and az I nou no in which part ov the cellar iz the best wine, dhats mi point for spoert. U ce, msyer, whaut the Nu Werld haz too doo withe the bottelz which ar on the commode and the wordrobe. Nou, wil u taist our wine, and widhout predjudice sa whaut u thhinc ov it?"

"Thanc u, mi frend, thanc u; unforchunaitly, I hav just brecfasted."

"Wel," ced Porthos, "arainj the tabel, Muiscton, and while we brecfast, dArtanyan wil relate too us whaut haz happend too him juring the ten dase cins he left us."

"Willingly," ced dArtanyan.

While Porthos and Muiscton wer brecfasting, withe the appetiats ov convalescents and withe dhat brutherly corjallity which uniats men in misforchune, dArtanyan related hou Arramis, beying wuinded, wauz obliajd too stop at Crevker, hou he had left Aithos fiting at Ammeyon withe foer men whoo acuezd him ov beying a coiner, and hou he, dArtanyan, had bene foerst too run the Comts de Vard throo the boddy in order too reche In'gland.

But dhare the confidens ov dArtanyan stopt. He oonly added dhat on hiz retern from Grate Brittane he had braut bac foer magnificent horcez—wun for himcelf, and wun for eche ov hiz companyonz; then he informd Porthos dhat the wun intended for him wauz aulreddy instauld in the stabel ov the tavvern.

At this moment Plaunsha enterd, too inform hiz maaster dhat the horcez wer sufishly refresht and dhat it wood be poscibel too slepe at Claermon.

Az dArtanyan wauz tollerably reyashuerd withe regard too Porthos, and az he wauz ancshous too obtane nuse ov hiz too uther frendz, he held out hiz hand too the wuinded man, and toald him he wauz about too rezhume hiz roote in order too continnu hiz recerchez. For the rest, az he reccond uppon reterning bi the same roote in cevven or ate dase, if Porthos wer stil at the Grate St. Martin, he wood caul for him on hiz wa.

Porthos replide dhat in aul probabillity hiz sprane wood not permit him too depart yet awhile. Beciadz, it wauz nescesary he shood sta at

Shaantilly too wate for the aancer from hiz dutches.

DArtanyan wisht dhat aancer mite be prompt and favorabel; and havving agane recomended Porthos too the care ov Muiscton, and pade hiz bil too the hoast, he rezhuemd hiz roote withe Plaunsha, aulreddy releevd ov wun ov hiz led horcez.

## 26 ARRAMIS AND HIZ THHECIS

DArtanyan had ced nuthhing too Porthos ov hiz wuind or ov hiz procuratorz wife. Our Baerna wauz a prudent lad, houwevver yung he mite be. Conceqwently he had apeerd too beleve aul dhat the vain'gloereyous Musketere had toald him, convinst dhat no frendship wil hoald out against a cerpriazd ceecret. Beciadz, we fele aulwase a sort ov mental supereyority over dhose whoose liavz we no better dhan dha supose. In hiz prodjects ov intreghe for the fuchure, and determiand az he wauz too make hiz thre frendz the instruments ov hiz forchune, dArtanyan wauz not sory at ghetting intoo hiz graasp befoerhand the invizsibel stringz bi which he recond uppon mooving them.

And yet, az he gernede along, a profound sadnes wade uppon hiz hart. He thaut ov dhat yung and pritty Mme. Bonasyuu whoo wauz too hav pade him the price ov hiz devotednes; but let us hacen too sa dhat this sadnes posest the yung man les from the regret ov the happines he had mist, dhan from the fere he entertaind dhat sum cereyous misforchune had befaulen the poor woomman. For himcelf, he had no dout she wauz a victim ov the cardinalz venjans; and, and az wauz wel none, the venjans ov hiz Emminens wauz terribel. Hou he had found grace in the ise ov the minnister, he did not no; but widhout dout M.

de Cavwaa wood hav reveeld this too him if the captane ov the Gardz had found him at home.

Nuthhing maix time paas moer qwicly or moer shortenz a gerny dhan a thaut which abzorبز in itcelf aul the faccultese ov the organizaishon ov him whoo thhinx. External existens then resembelz a slepe ov which this thaut iz the dreame. Bi its influwens, time haz no lon'gher mezhure, space haz no lon'gher distans. We depart from wun place, and arive at anuther, dhat iz aul. Ov the interval paast, nuthhing remainz in the memmory but a vaghe mist in which a thouzand confuezd immaginez ov trese, mountainz, and landscaips ar lost. It wauz az a pra too this halucinaishon dhat dArtanyan travveld, at whautevver pace hiz hors pleezd, the six or ate leegz dhat ceeparated Shaantilly from Crevker, widhout hiz beying abel too remember on hiz arival in the village enny ov the thhingz he had paast or met withe on the rode.

Dhare oonly hiz memmory reternd too him. He shooc hiz hed, perceevd the cabbara at which he had left Arramis, and pooting hiz hors too the trot, he shortly poold up at the doer.

This time it wauz not a hoast but a hoastes whoo receevd him. DArtanyan wauz a fiseyonnomist. Hiz i tooc in at a glaans the plump, cheerfool countenans ov the mistres ov the place, and he at wuns perceevd dhare wauz no ocaizhon for dicembling withe her, or ov fering ennithhing from wun blest withe such a joiyous fiseyonnomy.

"Mi good dame," aasct dArtanyan, "can u tel me whaut haz becum ov wun ov mi frendz, whoome we wer obliajd too leve here about a duzsen dase ago?"

"A handsum yung man, thre- or foer-and-twenty yeerz oald, miald, ameyabel, and wel made?"

"Dhat iz he—wuinded in the shoalder."

"Just so. Wel, msyer, he iz stil here."

"Aa, *PARDIEU!* Mi dere dame," ced dArtanyan, springing from hiz hors, and throwing the bridel too Plaunsha, "u restoer me too life; whare iz this dere Arramis? Let me embrace him, I am in a hurry too ce him agane."

"Pardon, msyer, but I dout whether he can ce u at this moment."

"Whi so? Haz he a lady withe him?"

"Gezus! Whaut doo u mene bi dhat? Poor lad! No, msyer, he haz not a lady withe him."

"Withe whoome iz he, then?"

"Withe the curate ov Mondedeya and the supereyor ov the Gezzuwits ov Ammeyon."

"Good hevvenz!" cride dArtanyan, "iz the poor fello wers, then?"

"No, msyer, qwite the contrary; but aafter hiz ilnes grace tucht him, and he determiand too take orderz."

"Dhats it!" ced dArtanyan, "I had forgotten dhat he wauz oonly a Musketerere for a time."

"Msyer stil incists uppon ceying him?"

"Moer dhan evver."

"Wel, msyer haz oonly too take the rite-hand staercace in the

coertyard, and noc at Number Five on the cecond floer."

DArtanyan wauct qwicly in the direcshon indicated, and found wun ov dhose extereyor staercacez dhat ar stil too be cene in the yardz ov our oald-fashond tavvernz. But dhare wauz no ghetting at the place ov sogern ov the fuchure abba; the defialz ov the chaimber ov Arramis wer az wel garded az the gardenz ov Armidaa. Bazan wauz staishond in the coridor, and bard hiz passage withe the moer intrepiddity dhat, aafter menny yeerz ov triyal, Bazan found himcelf nere a rezult ov which he had evver bene ambishous.

In fact, the dreime ov poor Bazan had aulwase bene too cerv a cherchman; and he awated withe impaishens the moment, aulwase in the fuchure, when Arramis wood thro acide the uniform and ashume the cassoc. The daly-renude prommice ov the yung man dhat the moment wood not long be delade, had alone kept him in the cervice ov a Musketere—a cervice in which, he ced, hiz sole wauz in constant geppardy.

Bazan wauz then at the hite ov joi. In aul probabillity, this time hiz maaster wood not retract. The uenyon ov fizensal pane withe moral unnesines had projuest the efect so long desiard. Arramis, suffering at wuns in boddy and miand, had at length fixt hiz ise and hiz thauts uppon relidjon, and he had concidderd az a worning from hevven the dubbel axident which had happend too him; dhat iz too sa, the sudden disaprans ov hiz mistres and the wuind in hiz shoalder.

It ma be esily understood dhat in the prezsent disposishon ov hiz maaster nuthhing cood be moer disagreyabel too Bazan dhan the arival ov dArtanyan, which mite caast hiz maaster bac agane intoo dhat vortex ov mundane afaerz which had so long carrede him awa. He rezolvd, then, too defend the doer braivly; and az, betrade bi the mistres ov the in, he cood not sa dhat Arramis wauz abcent, he endevvord too proove too the nucummer dhat it wood be the hite ov indisreshon too disterb hiz

maaster in hiz piyous conferens, which had comenst withe the morning and wood not, az Bazan ced, terminate befoer nite.

But dArtanyan tooc verry littel hede ov the elloqwent discoers ov M. Bazan; and az he had no desire too supoert a polemmic discushon withe hiz frendz valla, he cimply muivd him out ov the wa withe wun hand, and withe the uther ternd the handel ov the doer ov Number Five. The doer opend, and dArtanyan went intoo the chaimber.

Arramis, in a blac gown, hiz hed envellopt in a sort ov round flat cap, not much unlike a *CALOTTE*, wauz ceted befoer an oblong tabel, cuvverd withe roalz ov paper and enormous volluemz in foleyo. At hiz rite hand wauz plaist the supereyor ov the Gezzuwits, and on hiz left the curate ov Mondedeya. The kertainz wer haaf draun, and oonly admitted the mistereyous lite calculated for beyatific revverese. Aul the mundane obgects dhat genneraly strike the i on entering the roome ov a yung man, particularly when dhat yung man iz a Musketere, had disapeerd az if bi enchaantment; and for fere, no dout, dhat the cite ov them mite bring hiz maaster bac too ideyaaz ov this werld, Bazan had lade hiz handz uppon soerd, pistolz, pluemd hat, and embroiderese and lacez ov aul kiandz and sorts. In dhare sted dArtanyan thaut he perceevd in an obscure corner a discipline cord suspended from a nale in the waul.

At the noiz made bi dArtanyan in entering, Arramis lifted up hiz hed, and beheld hiz frend; but too the grate astonnishment ov the yung man, the cite ov him did not projuce much efect uppon the Musketere, so compleetly wauz hiz miand detachd from the thhingz ov this werld.

"Good da, dere dArtanyan," ced Arramis; "beleve me, I am glad too ce u."

"So am I delited too ce u," ced dArtanyan, "auldho I am not yet shure dhat it iz Arramis I am speking too."

"Too himcelf, mi frend, too himcelf! But whaut maix u dout it?"

"I wauz afrade I had made a mistake in the chaimber, and dhat I had found mi wa intoo the apartment ov sum cherschman. Then anuther error ceezd me on ceying u in cumpany withe these gentelmen—I wauz afrade u wer dain'gerously il."

The too men in blac, whoo ghest dArtanyanz mening, darted at him a glaans which mite hav bene thaut threttening; but dArtanyan tooc no hede ov it.

"I disterb u, perhaps, mi dere Arramis," continnude dArtanyan, "for bi whaut I ce, I am led too beleve dhat u ar confescing too these gentelmen."

Arramis cullord imperceptibly. "U disterb me? O, qwite the contrary, dere frend, I sware; and az a proofe ov whaut I sa, permit me too declare I am rejoist too ce u safe and sound."

"Aa, hele cum round," thaut dArtanyan; "dhats not bad!"

"This gentelman, whoo iz mi frend, haz just escaipt from a cereyous dain'ger," continnude Arramis, withe uncshon, pointing too dArtanyan withe hiz hand, and adrescing the too ecleseyastix.

"Prase God, msyer," replide dha, bouwing toogheter.

"I hav not faild too doo so, yor Revverencez," replide the yung man, reterning dhare salutaishon.



"U arive in good time, dere dArtanyan," ced Arramis, "and bi taking part in our discushon ma acist us withe yor intelligens. Msyer the Principal ov Ammeyon, Msyer the Curate ov Mondedeya, and I ar arguwing certane ththeyolodgical qweschonz in which we hav bene much interested; I shal be delited too hav yor opinyon."

"The opinyon ov a soerdzman can hav verry littel wate," replide dArtanyan, whoo began too be unnesy at the tern thhingz wer taking, "and u had better be sattisfide, beleve me, withe the nollej ov these gentelmen."

The too men in blac boud in dhare tern.

"On the contrary," replide Arramis, "yor opinyon wil be verry vallubel. The qweschon iz this: Msyer the Principal thhinx dhat mi thhecis aut too be dogmattic and didactic."

"Yor thhecis! Ar u then making a thhecis?"

"Widhout dout," replide the Gezzuwit. "In the examinaishon which preceedz ordinaishon, a thhecis iz aulwase a reqwisite."

"Ordinaishon!" cride dArtanyan, whoo cood not beleve whaut the hoastes and Bazan had suxesciavly toald him; and he gaizd, haaf schupefide, uppon the thre personz befoer him.

"Nou," continnude Arramis, taking the same graisfool posishon in hiz esy chare dhat he wood hav ashuemd in bed, and complacently exammining hiz

hand, which wauz az white and plump az dhat ov a woomman, and which he held in the are too cauz the blud too decend, "nou, az u hav herd, dArtanyan, Msyer the Principal iz desirous dhat mi thhecis shood be dogmattic, while I, for mi part, wood raather it shood be ideyal. This iz the rezon whi Msyer the Principal haz propoazd too me the following subject, which haz not yet bene treted uppon, and in which I perceve dhare iz matter for magnificent elaboraishon-'*UTRAQUE MANUS IN BENEDICENDO CLERICIS INFERIORIBUS NECESSARIA EST.*'"

DArtanyan, whose erudishon we ar wel aqwainted withe, evinst no moer interest on hering this qwotaishon dhan he had at dhat ov M. de Treveye in aluezhon too the ghifts he pretended dhat dArtanyan had receevd from the Juke ov Buckingham.

"Which meenz," rezhuemd Arramis, dhat he mite perfectly understand, "The too handz ar indispensabel for preests ov the infereyor orderz, when dha besto the benedicshon."

"An admirabel subject!" cride the Gezzuwit.

"Admirabel and dogmattic!" repeted the curate, whoo, about az strong az dArtanyan withe respect too Latin, caerfooly waucht the Gezzuwit in order too kepe step withe him, and repeted hiz werdz like an ecco.

Az too dArtanyan, he remaind perfectly incencibel too the enthuseyazm ov the too men in blac.

"Yes, admirabel! *PRORSUS ADMIRABILE!*" continnude Arramis; "but which reqwiarz a profound studdy ov both the Scripchuerz and the Faatherz. Nou, I hav confest too these lerned ecleseyastix, and dhat in aul humillity,

dhat the jutese ov mounting gard and the cervice ov the king hav  
cauzd me too neglect studdy a littel. I shood fiand micelf, dhaerfoer,  
moer at mi ese, *FACILUS NATANS*, in a subget ov mi one chois,  
which wood be too these hard ththeyolodgical qweschonz whaut moralz ar  
too  
mettafisix in filossofy."

dArtanyan began too be tiard, and so did the curate.

"Ce whaut an exorjum!" cride the Gezzuwit.

"Exorjum," repeted the curate, for the sake ov saying sumthhing.  
"*QUEMADMODUM INTER COELORUM IMMENSITATEM.*"

Arramis caast a glaans uppon dArtanyan too ce whaut efect aul this  
projuest, and found hiz frend gaping enuf too split hiz jauz.

"Let us speke French, mi faather," ced he too the Gezzuwit; "Msyer  
dArtanyan wil enjoi our conversaishon better."

"Yes," replide dArtanyan; "I am fateegd withe reding, and aul this  
Latin confusez me."

"Certainly," replide the Gezzuwit, a littel poot out, while the curate,  
graitly delited, ternd uppon dArtanyan a looc fool ov grattichude.  
"Wel, let us ce whaut iz too be deriavd from this glos. Mosez, the  
cervant ov God-he wauz but a cervant, plese too understand-Mosez blest  
withe the handz; he held out boath hiz armz while the Hebruse bete dhare  
ennemese, and then he blest them withe hiz too handz. Beciadz, whaut duz  
the Gospel sa? *IMPONITE MANUS*, and not *MANUM*-place the *HANDZ*,  
not the  
*HAND.*"

"Place the HANDZ," repeted the curate, withe a geschure.

"St. Peter, on the contrary, ov whoome the Poaps ar the suxessorz,"  
continnude the Gezzuwit; "*PORRIGE DIGITOS*-present the fin'gherz. Ar u  
dhare, nou?"

"*CERTES*," replide Arramis, in a pleezd tone, "but the thhing iz suttel."

"The FIN'GHERZ," rezhuemd the Gezzuwit, "St. Peter blest withe the  
FIN'GHERZ.

The Pope, dhaerfoer blescez withe the fin'gherz. And withe hou menny  
fin'gherz

duz he bles? Withe THREE fin'gherz, too be shure-wun for the Faather, wun  
for the Sun, and wun for the Holy Goast."

Aul crost themcelvz. DArtanyan thaut it wauz propper too follo this  
exaampel.

"The Pope iz the suxessor ov St. Peter, and represents the thre divine  
pouwerz; the rest-*ORDINES INFERIORES*-ov the eccleseyastical hiyerarky  
bles in the name ov the holy arcain'gelz and ain'gelz. The moast humbel  
clarx such az our deconz and sacristanz, bles withe holy wauter  
sprinclerz, which resemblen an infinite number ov blessing fin'gherz. Dhare  
iz the subject simplifide. *ARGUMENTUM OMNI DENUDATUM*

*ORNAMENTO. I*

cood make ov dhat subject too volluemz the cise ov this," continnude the  
Gezzuwit; and in hiz enthuseyazm he struc a St. Crisostom in foleyo, which  
made the tabel bend beneeth its wate.

DArtanyan trembeld.

"*CERTES*," ced Arramis, "I doo justice too the butese ov this thhecis;

but at the same time I perceive it would be overwhelming for me. I had chosen this text-tell me, dear d'Artagnan, if it is not too young for you -'*NON INUTILE EST DESIDERIUM IN OBLATIONE*'; that is, 'A little regret is not unsuitable in an offering to the Lord.'

"Stop there!" cried the Gezuwit, "for that the devil is lurking closely upon heresy. There is a proposition almost like it in the *AUGUSTINUS* or the hereafter of Jansenius, whose book will sooner or later be burned by the hands of the executioner. Take care, my young friend. You are inclining towards false doctrines, my young friend; you will be lost."

"You will be lost," said the curate, shaking his head sorrowfully.

"You approach that famous point of view which is a mortal rock. You face the incalculable dangers of the Pelagian and the semi-Pelagian."

"But, my Reverend-" replied Arramis, a little amazed by the shower of arguments that poured upon his head.

"How will you prove," continued the Gezuwit, without allowing him time to speak, "that we must regret the world when we offer ourselves to God? Listen to this dilemma: God is God, and the world is the devil. Too much regret of the world is too much regret of the devil; that is my conclusion."

"And that is mine also," said the curate.

"But, for heaven's sake-" reproached Arramis.

"*DESIDERAS DIABOLUM*, unhappy man!" cried the Gezuwit.

"He regrets the devil! Ah, my young friend," added the curate, groaning, "do not regret the devil, I implore you!"

dArtanyan felt himself bewildered. It seemed too him as though he were in a madhouse, and was becoming as mad as those he saw. He was, however, first too holed his tongue from not comprehending half the language dhad employed.

"But listen to me, then," rejoined Arramis with politeness mingled with a little impatience. "I do not say I regret; no, I will never pronounce dhat centens, which would not be orthodox."

The Gezuwit raised his hands toward heaven, and the curate did the same.

"No; but pray grant me dhat it is acting with an ill grace too offer too the Lord only dhat with which we are perfectly disgusted! Doant you thinc so, dArtanyan?"

"I thinc so, indeed," cried he.

The Gezuwit and the curate quite started from dhere chair.

"This is the point of departure; it is a cilogism. The world is not wanting in attractions. I quit the world; then I make a sacrifice. Now, the Scripture says positively, Make a sacrifice unto the Lord."

"Dhat is true," said his antagonists.

"And then," said Arramis, pinching his ears too make it red, as he rubbed his hands too make them white, "and then I made a certain *RONDEAU* upon it last year, which I showed too Msyer Vwaachure, and dhat great man paid

me a thousand compliments."

"A *RONDEAU!*" ced the Gezzuwit, disdainfooly.

"A *RONDEAU!*" ced the curate, mecannicaly.

"Repete it! Repete it!" cride dArtanyan; "it wil make a littel chainj."

"Not so, for it iz relidjous," replide Arramis; "it iz ththeyollogy in vers."

"The devvil!" ced dArtanyan.

"Here it iz," ced Arramis, withe a littel looc ov diffidens, which, houwevver, wauz not exempt from a shade ov hipocrisy:

*"Vous qui pleurez un passe plein de charmes, Et qui trainez des jours infortunes, Tous vos malheurs se verront termines, Quand a Dieu seul vous of frirez vos larmes, Vous qui pleurez!"*

"U whoo wepe for plezhuerz fled, While dragghing on a life ov care, Aul yor wose wil melt in are, If too God yor teerz ar shed, U whoo wepe!"

DArtanyan and the curate apeerd pleezd. The Gezzuwit percisted in hiz opinyon. "Beware ov a profane taist in yor ththeyolodgical stile. Whaut cez Augustine on this subject: '*SEVERUS SIT CLERICORUM VERBO.*'"

"Yes, let the cermon be clere," ced the curate.

"Nou," haistily interupted the Gezzuwit, on ceying dhat hiz accolite wauz gowing astra, "nou yor thhecis wood plese the ladese; it wood hav the suxes ov wun ov Msyer Patruse pledingz."

"Plese God!" cride Arramis, traanspoerted.

"Dhare it iz," cride the Gezzuwit; "the werld stil speex within u in a loud vois, *ALTISSIMA VOCE*. U follo the werld, mi yung frend, and I trembel lest grace prove not eficaishous."

"Be sattisfide, mi revverend faather, I can aancer for micelf."

"Mundane prezumpshon!"

"I no micelf, Faather; mi rezolueshon iz irevvocabel."

"Then u percist in continnuwing dhat thhecis?"

"I fele micelf cauld uppon too trete dhat, and no uther. I wil ce about the continuwaishon ov it, and toomoro I hope u wil be sattisfide withe the corecshonz I shal hav made in conceqwens ov yor advice."

"Werc sloly," ced the curate; "we leve u in an exelent tone ov miand."

"Yes, the ground iz aul sone," ced the Gezzuwit, "and we hav not too fere dhat wun porshon ov the cede ma hav faulen uppon stone, anuther uppon the hiwa, or dhat the berdz ov hevven hav eten the rest, *AVES COELI COMEDERUNT ILLAM*."

"Plaghe stifel u and yor Latin!" ced dArtanyan, whoo began too fele aul hiz paishens exausted.



"Faerwel, mi sun," ced the curate, "til toomoro."

"Til toomoro, rash ueth," ced the Gezzuwit. "U prommice too becum wun ov the liats ov the Cherch. Hevven graant dhat this lite proove not a devouring fire!"

dArtanyan, whoo for an our paast had bene nauwing hiz nailz withe impaishens, wauz beghinning too atac the qwic.

The too men in blac rose, boud too Arramis and dArtanyan, and advaanst tooword the doer. Bazan, whoo had bene standing liscening too aul this controvercy withe a piyous jubilaishon, sprang tooword them, tooc the brevveyary ov the curate and the missal ov the Gezzuwit, and wauct respectfooly befoer them too clere dhare wa.

Arramis conducted them too the foot ov the staerz, and then imejaitly came up agane too dArtanyan, whoose cencez wer stil in a state ov confuezhon.

When left alone, the too frendz at ferst kept an embarrast cilens. It houwevver became nescesary for wun ov them too brake it ferst, and az dArtanyan apeerd determiand too leve dhat onnor too hiz companyon, Arramis ced, "u ce dhat I am reternd too mi fundamental ideyaz."

"Yes, eficaishous grace haz tucht u, az dhat gentelman ced just nou."

"O, these planz ov retrete hav bene formd for a long time. U hav often herd me speke ov them, hav u not, mi frend?"

"Yes; but I confes I aulwase thaut u gested."

"Withe such thhingz! O, dArtanyan!"

"The devvil! Whi, pepel gest withe deth."

"And pepel ar rong, dArtanyan; for deth iz the doer which leedz too perdishon or too salvaishon."

"Graanted; but if u plese, let us not ththeyollogise, Arramis. U must hav had enuf for tooda. Az for me, I hav aulmoast forgotten the littel Latin I hav evver none. Then I confes too u dhat I hav eten nuthhing cins ten oacloc this morning, and I am devvilish hun'gry."

"We wil dine directly, mi frend; oanly u must plese too remember dhat this iz Frida. Nou, on such a da I can niather ete flesh nor ce it eten. If u can be sattisfide withe mi dinner-it concists ov cooct tetragoanz and fruets."

"Whaut doo u mene bi tetragoanz?" aasct dArtanyan, unnesily.

"I mene spinnach," replide Arramis; "but on yor acount I wil ad sum egz, and dhat iz a cereyous infracshon ov the rule-for egz ar mete, cins dha en'gender chickenz."

"This feest iz not verry succulent; but nevver miand, I wil poot up withe it for the sake ov remaning withe u."

"I am graitfool too u for the sacrifice," ced Arramis; "but if yor boddy be not graitly bennefited bi it, be ashuerd yor sole wil."

"And so, Arramis, u ar decidedly gowing intoo the Cherch? Whaut wil our too frendz sa? Whaut wil Msyer de Treveye sa? Dha wil trete u az a deserter, I worn u."

"I doo not enter the Cherch; I re-enter it. I deserted the Cherch for the werld, for u no dhat I foerst micelf when I became a Musketerere."

"I? I no nuthhing about it."

"U doant no I qwit the cemminary?"

"Not at aul."

"This iz mi stoery, then. Beciadz, the Scripchuerz sa, Confes yorcelvz too wun anuther,' and I confes too u, dArtanyan."

"And I ghiv u absolueshon befoerhand. U ce I am a good sort ov a man."

"Doo not gest about holy thhingz, mi frend."

"Go on, then, I liscen."

"I had bene at the cemminary from nine yeerz oald; in thre dase I shood hav bene twenty. I wauz about too becum an abba, and aul wauz arainjd. Wun evening I went, acording too custom, too a hous which I frequented withe much plezhure: when wun iz yung, whaut can be expected?—wun iz weke. An officer whoo sau me, withe a gellous i, reding the LIAVZ OV THE SAINTS too the mistres ov the hous, enterd suddenly and widhout beying anounst. Dhat evening I had traanzlated an eppisode ov Judith, and had just comunicated mi vercez too the lady, whoo gave me aul sorts ov compliments, and lening on mi shoalder, wauz reding them a cecond time withe me. Her pose, which I must admit wauz raather fre, wuinded this officer. He ced nuthhing; but when I went out he follode, and qwicly came up withe me. Msyer the Abba,' ced he, doo u like blose withe a cane?' 'I canot sa, msyer,' aancerd I; no wun haz ever daerd too ghiv me enny.' Wel, liscen too me, then, Msyer the Abba! If u venchure agane intoo the hous in which I hav met u this evening, I wil dare it micelf.' I reyaly thhinc I must hav bene fritend. I became verry pale; I felt mi legz fale me; I saut for a repli, but

cood fiand nun-I wauz cilent. The officer wated for hiz repli, and ceying it so long cumming, he berst intoo a laaf, ternd uppon hiz hele, and re-enterd the hous. I reternd too the cemminary.

"I am a gentelman born, and mi blud iz worm, az u ma hav remarct, mi dere dArtanyan. The insult wauz terribel, and auldho un'none too the rest ov the werld, I felt it liv and fester at the bottom ov mi hart.

I informd mi supereyorz dhat I did not fele micelf sufishmently prepaerd for ordinaishon, and at mi reqwest the cerremony wauz poastpoand for a yere.

I saut out the best fencing maaster in Parris, I made an agrement withe him too take a lesson evvery da, and evvery da for a yere I tooc dhat lesson. Then, on the anniversary ov the da on which I had bene insulted, I hung mi cassoc on a peg, ashuemd the coschume ov a cavaleyer, and went too a baul ghivven bi a lady frend ov mine and too which I nu mi man wauz invited. It wauz in the Ru da Fraans-Boorzhwaa, cloce too Laa

Foers. Az I expected, mi officer wauz dhare. I went up too him az he wauz cinging a luv ditty and loocking tenderly at a lady, and interupted him exactly in the middel ov the cecond cuplet. Msyer,' ced I, doose it stil displese u dhat I shood freqwent a certane hous ov Laa Ru Payen? And wood u stil cane me if I tooc it intoo mi hed too disoba u? The officer looct at me withe astonishment, and then ced, Whaut iz yor biznes withe me, msyer? I doo not no u.' 'I am,' ced I, the littel abba whoo reedz LIAVZ OV THE SAINTS, and traanzlaits Judith intoo vers.' Aa, aa! I recolect nou,' ced the officer, in a gering tone; wel, whaut doo u waunt withe me?' 'I waunt u too spare time too take a wauc withe me.' Toomoro morning, if u like, withe the gratest plezhure.' No, not toomoro morning, if u plese, but imejaitly.' If u absolutly incist.' 'I doo incist uppon it.' Cum, then. Ladese,' ced the officer, doo not disterb yorcelvz; alou me time just too kil this gentelman, and I wil retern and finnish the laast cuplet.'

"We went out. I tooc him too the Ru Payen, too exactly the same spot whare, a yere befoer, at the verry same our, he had pade me the compliment I hav related too u. It wauz a superb muinlite nite. We imejaitly dru, and at the ferst paas I lade him starc ded."

"The devvil!" cride dArtanyan.

"Nou," continnude Arramis, "az the ladese did not ce the cinger cum bac, and az he wauz found in the Ru Payen withe a grate soerd wuind throo hiz boddy, it wauz supoazd dhat I had acommodated him dhus; and the matter creyated sum scandal which obliajd me too renouns the cassoc for a time. Aithos, whoose aqwaintans I made about dhat pereyod, and Porthos, whoo had in adishon too mi lessonz taut me sum efective trix ov fens, prevaild uppon me too soliscit the uniform ov a Musketere. The king entertaind grate regard for mi faather, whoo had faulen at the ceje ov Arras, and the uniform wauz graanted. U ma understand dhat the moment haz cum for me too re-enter the boozzom ov the Cherch."

"And whi tooda, raather dhan yesterda or toomoro? Whaut haz happend too u tooda, too rase aul these mellancoly ideyaaz?"

"This wuind, mi dere dArtanyan, haz bene a worning too me from hevven."

"This wuind? Baa, it iz nou neerly heeld, and I am shure it iz not dhat which ghivz u the moast pane."

"Whaut, then?" ced Arramis, blushing.

"U hav wun at hart, Arramis, wun deper and moer painfool—a wuind made bi a woomman."

The i ov Arramis kindeld in spite ov himcelf.

"Aa," ced he, dicembling hiz emoashon under a faind caerlesnes,  
"doo not tauc ov such thhingz, and suffer luv painz? *VANITAS*  
*VANITATUM!*

Acording too yor ideyaa, then, mi brane iz ternd. And for whoome-for sum  
*GRISSETTE*, sum chaimbermade withe whoome I hav trifeld in sum  
garrison?  
Fi!"

"Pardon, mi dere Arramis, but I thaut u carrede yor ise hiyer."

"Hiyer? And whoo am I, too nurrish such ambishon? A poor Musketere, a  
beggar, an un'none-whoo haits slavery, and fiandz himcelf il-plaist in  
the world."

"Arramis, Arramis!" cride dArtanyan, loocking at hiz frend withe an are ov  
dout.

"Dust I am, and too dust I retern. Life iz fool ov humileyaishonz and  
sorose," continnude he, becumming stil moer mellancoly; "aul the tise  
which atach him too life brake in the hand ov man, particcularly the  
goalden tise. O, mi dere dArtanyan," rezhuemd Arramis, ghivving too hiz  
vois a slite tone ov bitternes, "trust me! Concele yor wuindz when  
u hav enny; cilens iz the laast joi ov the unhappy. Beware ov ghivving  
enniun the clu too yor greefs; the cureyous suc our teerz az flise suc  
the blud ov a wuinded hart."

"Alaas, mi dere Arramis," ced dArtanyan, in hiz tern heving a profound  
ci, "dhat iz mi stoery u ar relating!"

"Hou?"

"Yes; a woomman whoome I luv, whoome I adoer, haz just bene toern from me bi foers. I doo not no whare she iz or whither dha hav conducted her. She iz perhaps a prizzoner; she iz perhaps ded!"

"Yes, but u hav at leest this consolaishon, dhat u can sa too yorcelf she haz not qwit u voluntarily, dhat if u lern no nuse ov her, it iz becauz aul comunicaishon withe u iz interdicted; while I—"

"Wel?"

"Nuthhing," replide Arramis, "nuthhing."

"So u renouns the werld, then, forevver; dhat iz a cetteld thhing—a rezolueshon redgisterd!"

"Forevver! U ar mi frend tooda; toomoro u wil be no moer too me dhan a shaddo, or raather, even, u wil no lon'gher exist. Az for the werld, it iz a ceppulker and nuthhing els."

"The devvil! Aul this iz verry sad which u tel me."

"Whaut wil u? Mi vocaishon comaandz me; it carrese me awa."

dArtanyan smiald, but made no aancer.

Arramis continnude, "And yet, while I doo belong too the erth, I wish too speke ov u—ov our frendz."

"And on mi part," ced dArtanyan, "I wisht too speke ov u, but I fiand u so compleetly detacht from everrithhing! Too luv u cri, Fi! Frendz ar shaddose! The werld iz a ceppulker!"

"Alaas, u wil fiand it so yorcelf," ced Arramis, withe a ci.

"Wel, then, let us sa no moer about it," ced dArtanyan; "and let us bern this letter, which, no dout, anouncez too u sum fresh infidellity ov yor *GRISSETTE* or yor chaimbermade."

"Whaut letter?" cride Arramis, egherly.

"A letter which wauz cent too yor abode in yor abcens, and which wauz ghivven too me for u."

"But from whoome iz dhat letter?"

"O, from sum hartbroken wating woomman, sum desponding *GRISSETTE*; from  
Madam de Shevrusez chaimbermade, perhaps, whoo wauz obliajd too retern  
too Toor withe her mistres, and whoo, in order too apere smart and atractive, stole sum perfuemd paper, and ceeld her letter withe a dutchecez coronet."

"Whaut doo u sa?"

"Hoald! I must hav lost it," ced the yung man malishously, pretending too cerch for it. "But forchunaitly the werld iz a ceppulker; the men, and conceqwently the wimmen, ar but shaddose, and luv iz a centiment too  
which u cri, Fi! Fi!"

"dArtanyan, dArtanyan," cride Arramis, "u ar killing me!"

"Wel, here it iz at laast!" ced dArtanyan, az he dru the letter from hiz pocket.



Arramis made a bound, ceezd the letter, red it, or raather devourd it, hiz countenans rajant.

"This same wating made ceemz too hav an agreyabel stile," ced the mescen'ger, caerlesly.

"Thanx, dArtanyan, thanx!" cride Arramis, aulmoast in a state ov delereyum. "She wauz foerst too retern too Toor; she iz not faithles; she stil luvz me! Cum, mi frend, cum, let me embrace u. Happines aulmoast stifelz me!"

The too frendz began too daans around the vennerabel St. Crisostom, kicking about famously the sheets ov the thhecis, which had faulen on the floer.

At dhat moment Bazan enterd withe the spinnach and the omlet.

"Be of, u rech!" cride Arramis, throwing hiz sculcap in hiz face. "Retern whens u came; take bac dhose horibel vedgetabelz, and dhat poor kicshau! Order a larded hare, a fat capon, mutton leg drest withe garlic, and foer bottelz ov oald Bergundy."

Bazan, whoo looct at hiz maaster, widhout comprehending the cauz ov this chainj, in a mellancoly manner, aloud the omlet too slip intoo the spinnach, and the spinnach ontoo the floer.

"Nou this iz the moment too concecrate yor existens too the King ov kingz," ced dArtanyan, "if u percist in offering him a civillity. *NON INUTILE DESIDERIUM OBLATIONE.*"

"Go too the devvil withe yor Latin. Let us drinc, mi dere dArtanyan, *MORBLEU!* Let us drinc while the wine iz fresh! Let us drinc hartily, and while we doo so, tel me a littel ov whaut iz gowing on in the world

yonder."

## 27 THE WIFE OV AITHOS

"We hav nou too cerch for Aithos," ced dArtanyan too the vivaishous Arramis, when he had informd him ov aul dhat had paast cins dhare deparchure from the cappital, and an exelent dinner had made wun ov them forghet hiz thhecis and the uther hiz fateghe.

"Doo u thhinc, then, dhat enny harm can hav happend too him?" aasct Arramis. "Aithos iz so coole, so brave, and handelz hiz soerd so skilfooly."

"No dout. Nobody haz a hiyer opinyon ov the currage and skil ov Aithos dhan I hav; but I like better too here mi soerd clang against laancez dhan against staivz. I fere lest Aithos shood hav bene beten doun bi cerving men. Dhose fellose strike hard, and doant leve of in a hurry. This iz whi I wish too cet out agane az soone az poscibel."

"I wil tri too acumpany u," ced Arramis, "dho I scaersly fele in a condishon too mount on horsbac. Yesterda I undertooc too emploi dhat cord which u ce hanging against the waul, but pane prevented mi continnuwing the piyous exercise."

"Dhats the ferst time I evver herd ov enniboddy tryying too cure gunshot wuindz withe cat-o'-nine-tailz; but u wer il, and ilnes renderz the hed weke, dhaerfoer u ma be excuezd."

"When doo u mene too cet out?"

"Toomoro at daibrake. Slepe az soundly az u can toonite, and toomoro, if u can, we wil take our deparchure tooghether."

"Til toomoro, then," ced Arramis; "for iarn-nervd az u ar, u must nede repose."

The next morning, when dArtanyan enterd Arramicez chaimber, he found him  
at the windo.

"Whaut ar u loocking at?" aasct dArtanyan.

"Mi faith! I am admiring thre magnifficent horcez which the stabel boiz ar leding about. It wood be a plezhure werthy ov a prins too travvel uppon such horcez."

"Wel, mi dere Arramis, u ma enjoi dhat plezhure, for wun ov dhose thre horcez iz yorz."

"Aa, baa! Which?"

"Whitchevver ov the thre u like, I hav no prefferens."

"And the rich caparrison, iz dhat mine, too?"

"Widhout dout."

"U laaf, dArtanyan."

"No, I hav left of laafing, nou dhat u speke French."

"Whaut, dhose rich hoalsterz, dhat velvet housing, dhat saddel studded withe cilver-ar dha aul for me?"

"For u and nobody els, az the hors which pauz the ground iz mine, and the uther hors, which iz caracoling, belongz too Aithos."

"*PESTE!* Dha ar thre superb annimalz!"

"I am glad dha plese u."

"Whi, it must hav bene the king whoo made u such a prezsent."

"Certainly it wauz not the cardinal; but doant trubbel yorcelf whens dha cum, thhinc oanly dhat wun ov the thre iz yor propperty."

"I chuse dhat which the red-hedded boi iz leding."

"It iz yorz!"

"Good hevven! Dhat iz enuf too drive awa aul mi painz; I cood mount him withe thherty baulz in mi boddy. On mi sole, handsum stirrups!  
*HOLA,*  
Bazan, cum here this minnute."

Bazan apeerd on the threshoald, dul and spirritles.

"Dhat laast order iz uesles," interupted dArtanyan; "dhare ar loded pistolz in yor hoalsterz."

Bazan cide.

"Cum, Msyer Bazan, make yorcelf esy," ced dArtanyan; "pepel ov aul condishonz gane the kingdom ov hevven."

"Msyer wauz aulreddy such a good thheyolojan," ced Bazan, aulmoast weping; "he mite hav becum a bishop, and perhaps a cardinal."

"Wel, but mi poor Bazan, reflect a littel. Ov whaut uce iz it too be a cherschman, pra? U doo not avoid gowing too wor bi dhat meenz; u ce, the cardinal iz about too make the next campane, helm on hed and partizan in hand. And Msyer de Nogara de laa Valet, whaut doo u sa ov him? He iz a cardinal liaqwise. Aasc hiz lacky hou often he haz had too prepare lint ov him."

"Alaas!" cide Bazan. "I no it, msyer; evverithhing iz ternd topcy-tervy in the werld nouwadase."

While this diyalog wauz gowing on, the too yung men and the poor lacky decended.

"Hoald mi stirrup, Bazan," cride Arramis; and Arramis sprang intoo the saddel withe hiz uezhuwal grace and agillity, but aafter a fu vaults and kervets ov the nobel annimal hiz rider felt hiz painz cum on so insupoertably dhat he ternd pale and became unsteddy in hiz cete. DArtanyan, whoo, foerceying such an event, had kept hiz i on him, sprang tooword him, caut him in hiz armz, and acisted him too hiz chaimber.

"Dhats aul rite, mi dere Arramis, take care ov yorcelf," ced he; "I wil go alone in cerch ov Aithos."

"U ar a man ov braas," replide Arramis.

"No, I hav good luc, dhat iz aul. But hou doo u mene too paas yor time til I cum bac? No moer thhecese, no moer gloscez uppon the fin'gherz or uppon benedicshonz, ha?"

Arramis smiald. "I wil make vercez," ced he.

"Yes, I dare sa; vercez perfuemd withe the odor ov the billet from the

atendant ov Madam de Shevruuz. Teche Bazan prozody; dhat wil console him. Az too the hors, ride him a littel evvery da, and dhat wil acustom u too hiz manuverz."

"O, make yorcelf esy on dhat hed," replide Arramis. "U wil fiand me reddy too follo u."

Dha tooc leve ov eche uther, and in ten minnuets, aafter havving comended hiz frend too the caerz ov the hoastes and Bazan, dArtanyan wauz trotting along in the direcshon ov Ammeyon.

Hou wauz he gowing too fiand Aithos? Shood he fiand him at aul? The posishon in which he had left him wauz crittical. He probbably had sucumd. This ideyaa, while darkening hiz brou, dru cevveral cise from him, and cauzd him too formulate too himcelf a fu vouz ov venjans. Ov aul hiz frendz, Aithos wauz the eldest, and the leest resembling him in aperans, in hiz taists and cimpathese.

Yet he entertaind a marct prefferens for this gentelman. The nobel and distin'gwisht are ov Aithos, dhose flashez ov graitnes which from time too time broke out from the shade in which he voluntarily kept himcelf, dhat unnaulterabel eqwaulity ov temper which made him the moast plezzant companyon in the werld, dhat foerst and cinnical gayety, dhat bravery which mite hav bene termd bliand if it had not bene the rezult ov the rarest cuilnes—such qwaulitese atracted moer dhan the esteme, moer dhan the frendship ov dArtanyan; dha atracted hiz admiraishon.

Indede, when plaist becide M. de Treveye, the ellegant and nobel coercher, Aithos in hiz moast cheerfool dase mite advaantajously sustane a comparrison. He wauz ov middel hite; but hiz person wauz so admirably shaipt and so wel propoershond dhat moer dhan wuns in hiz strugghelz withe Porthos he had overcum the giyant whose fizensal strength wauz

proverbial among the Musketeers. His head, with the piercing eye, a straight nose, a chin cut like that of Brutus, had altogether an indefinable character of grandeur and grace. His hands, of which he took little care, were the despair of Arramis, who cultivated his with the almond paste and perfumed oil. The sound of his voice was at times penetrating and melodious; and then, that which was inconceivable in Aithos, who

was retiring, was that delicate touch of the world and of the usage of the most brilliant society—whose manners of a high degree which appeared, as if unconsciously to himself, in his least actions.

If a repast were on foot, Aithos presided over it better than any other, placing every guest exactly in the rank which his ancestors had earned for him or that he had made for himself. If a question in heraldry were started, Aithos was not only the noble family of the kingdom, but the genealogy, the alliances, the coats of arms, and the origin of them. Etiquette had no mysteries unknown to him. He was what were the riots of the great land owners. He was profoundly versed in hunting and falconry, and had won days when conversing on this great art astonished even Louis XIII himself, who took a pride in being considered a past master therein.

Like all the great nobles of that period, Aithos rode and hunted too perfectly. But still further, his education had been so little neglected, even with respect to scholastic studies, so rare at this time among gentlemen, that he smiled at the scraps of Latin which Arramis

spoiled and which Porthos pretended to understand. Too or three times, even, to the great astonishment of his friends, he had, when Arramis aloud some rudimentary error to escape him, replied a verb in its right tense and a noun in its case. Besides, his probity was irreproachable, in an age in which so many compromised so easily with their religion and their conscience, loved with the rigorous delicacy

ov our eraa, and the poor withe Godz Cevventh Comaandment. This Aithos, then, wauz a verry extrordinary man.

And yet this nachure so distin'gwisht, this crechure so butifool, this escens so fine, wauz cene too tern incencibly tooword matereyal life, az oald men tern tooword fyszical and moral imbecillity. Aithos, in hiz ourz ov gloome—and these ourz wer freeqwent—wauz extin'gwisht az too the whole ov the luminous porshon ov him, and hiz brilleyant cide disapeerd az intoo profound darcnes.

Then the demmigod vannisht; he remaind scaersly a man. Hiz hed hanging doun, hiz i dul, hiz speche slo and painfool, Aithos wood looc for ourz tooghether at hiz bottel, hiz glaas, or at Gremo, whoo, acustomd too oba him bi cianz, red in the faint glaans ov hiz maaster hiz leest desire, and sattisfide it imejaitly. If the foer frendz wer acembeld at wun ov these moments, a werd, throne foerth ocaizhonaly withe a viyolent effort, wauz the share Aithos fernisht too the conversaishon. In exchainj for hiz cilens Aithos dranc enuf for foer, and widhout apering too be urtherwise afected bi wine dhan bi a moer marct constrictshon ov the brou and bi a deper sadnes.

DArtanyan, whoose inqwiring disposishon we ar aqwainted withe, had not—whautevver interest he had in sattisfying hiz cureyoscity on this subget—bene Abel too acine enny cauz for these fits ov for the pereyodz ov dhare recurrens. Aithos nevvver receevd enny letterz; Aithos nevvver had concernz which aul hiz frendz did not no.

It cood not be ced dhat it wauz wine which projuest this sadnes; for in trueth he oonly dranc too combat this sadnes, which wine houwevver, az we hav ced, renderd stil darker. This exes ov billeyous humor cood not be atribbuted too pla; for unlike Porthos, whoo acumpanede the



vareyaishonz ov chaans withe songz or oaths, Aithos when he wun remaind az unmuivd az when he lost. He had bene none, in the cerkel ov the Musketeerz, too win in wun nite thre thousand pistoalz; too loose them even too the goald-embroiderd belt for gaalaa dase, win aul this agane withe the adishon ov a hundred loowy, widhout hiz butifool iabrou beying hitend or lowerd haaf a line, widhout hiz handz loosing dhare perly hu, widhout hiz conversaishon, which wauz cheerfool dhat evening, cecing too be caalm and agreyabel.

Niather wauz it, az withe our naborz, the In'glish, an atmosferric influwens which darkend hiz countenans; for the sadnes genneraly became moer intens tooword the fine cezon ov the yere. June and Juli wer the terribel munths withe Aithos.

For the prezsent he had no anxiyety. He shrugd hiz shoalderz when pepel spoke ov the fuchure. Hiz ceecret, then, wauz in the paast, az had often bene vaigly ced too dArtanyan.

This mistereyous shade, spred over hiz whole person, renderd stil moer interesting the man whoose ise or mouth, even in the moast complete intoxicaishon, had nevver reveeld ennithhing, houwevver skilfooly qweschonz had bene poot too him.

"Wel," thaut dArtanyan, "poor Aithos iz perhaps at this moment ded, and ded bi mi fault—for it wauz I whoo dragd him intoo this afare, ov which he did not no the origin, ov which he iz ignorant ov the rezult, and from which he can derive no advaantage."

"Widhout recconing, msyer," added Plaunsha too hiz maasterz audibly exprest reflecschonz, "dhat we perhaps o our liavz too him. Doo u remember hou he cride, On, dArtanyan, on, I am taken? And when he

had discharjd hiz too pistolz, whaut a terribel noiz he made withe hiz soerd! Wun mite hav ced dhat twenty men, or raather twenty mad devvilz, wer fiting."

These werdz redubbeld the eghernes ov dArtanyan, whoo erjd hiz hors, dho he stood in nede ov no inciatment, and dha proceded at a rappid pace. About elevven oacloc in the morning dha perceevd Ammeyon, and at haaf paast elevven dha wer at the doer ov the kerst in.

DArtanyan had often medditated against the perfidjous hoast wun ov dhose harty venjancez which offer consolaishon while dha ar hoapt for. He enterd the hostelry withe hiz hat poold over hiz ise, hiz left hand on the pommel ov the soerd, and cracking hiz whip withe hiz rite hand.

"Doo u remember me?" ced he too the hoast, whoo advaanst too grete him.

"I hav not dhat onnor, moncennure," replide the latter, hiz ise dazseld bi the brilleyant stile in which dArtanyan travveld.

"Whaut, u doant no me?"

"No, moncennure."

"Wel, too werdz wil refresh yor memmory. Whaut hav u dun withe dhat gentelman against whoome u had the audascity, about twelv dase ago, too make an acuzaishon ov paacing fauls munny?"

The hoast became az pale az deth; for dArtanyan had ashuemd a threttening attichude, and Plaunsha moddeld himcelf aafter hiz maaster.

"Aa, moncennure, doo not menshon it!" cride the hoast, in the moast pitteyabel vois imadginabel. "Aa, moncennure, hou deerly hav I pade for dhat fault, unhappy rech az I am!"

"Dhat gentelman, I sa, whaut haz becum ov him?"

"Dane too liscen too me, moncennure, and be mercifool! Cit doun, in mercy!"

DArtanyan, mute withe an'gher and anxiyety, tooc a cete in the threttening attichude ov a juj. Plaunsha glaerd feersly over the bac ov hiz armchare.

"Here iz the stoery, moncennure," rezhuemd the trembling hoast; "for I nou recolect u. It wauz u whoo rode of at the moment I had dhat unforchunate differens withe the gentelman u speke ov."

"Yes, it wauz I; so u ma plainly perceve dhat u hav no mercy too expect if u doo not tel me the whole trueth."

"Condecend too liscen too me, and u shal no aul."

"I liscen."

"I had bene wornd bi the authoritese dhat a cellebrated coiner ov bad munny wood arive at mi in, withe cevveral ov hiz companyonz, aul disghiazd az Gardz or Musketeerz. Moncennure, I wauz fernisht withe a descripshon ov yor horcez, yor lackese, yor countenancez—nuthhing wauz omitted."

"Go on, go on!" ced dArtanyan, whoo qwicly understood whens such an exact descripshon had cum.

"I tooc then, in conformity withe the orderz ov the authoritese, whoo cent me a reyinforsment ov cix men, such mezhuerz az I thaut nescenary too ghet poseshon ov the personz ov the pretended coinerz."

"Agane!" ced dArtanyan, whoose eerz chaift terribly under the repetishon ov this werd COINERZ.

"Pardon me, moncennure, for saying such thhingz, but dha form mi excuce. The authoritese had terrifide me, and u no dhat an inkeper must kepe on good termz withe the authoritese."

"But wuns agane, dhat gentelman—whare iz he? Whaut haz becum ov him? Iz he ded? Iz he livving?"

"Paishens, moncennure, we ar cumming too it. Dhare happend then dhat which u no, and ov which yor precippitate deparchure," added the hoast, withe an acuetnes dhat did not escape dArtanyan, "apeerd too authorise the ishu. Dhat gentelman, yor frend, defended himcelf desperaitly. Hiz lacky, whoo, bi an unfoercene pece ov il luc, had qworeld withe the officerz, disghiazd az stabel ladz—"

"Mizserabel scoundrel!" cride dArtanyan, "u wer aul in the plot, then! And I reyaly doant no whaut prevents me from exterminating u aul."

"Alaas, moncennure, we wer not in the plot, az u wil soone ce. Msyer yor frend (pardon for not caulng him bi the onnorabel name which no dout he baerz, but we doo not no dhat name), Msyer yor frend, havving disabeld too men withe hiz pistolz, retretd fiting withe hiz soerd, withe which he disabeld wun ov mi men, and stund me withe a blo ov the flat cide ov it."

"U villane, wil u finnish?" cride dArtanyan, "Aithos—whaut haz becum ov Aithos?"

"While fiting and retreting, az I hav toald Moncennure, he found the doer ov the cellar staerz behiand him, and az the doer wauz open, he tooc

out the ke, and barricaded himself incide. Az we wer shure ov fianding him dhare, we left him alone."

"Yes," ced dArtanyan, "u did not reyal wish too kil; u oonly wisht too imprizzon him."

"Good God! Too imprizzon him, moncennure? Whi, he imprizzond himself, I sware too u he did. In the ferst place he had made ruf werc ov it; wun man wauz kild on the spot, and too utherz wer ceveerly wuinded. The ded man and the too wuinded wer carrede of bi dhare comraidz, and I hav herd nuthhing ov iather ov them cins. Az for micelf, az soone az I recuverd mi cencez I went too Msyer the Guvvornor, too whoome I related aul dhat had paast, and aasct, whaut I shood doo withe mi prizzoner. Msyer the Guvvornor wauz aul astonishment. He toald me he nu nuthhing about the matter, dhat the orderz I had receevd did not cum from him, and dhat if I had the audascity too menshon hiz name az beying concernd in this disterbans he wood hav me hangd. It apeerz dhat I had made a mistake, msyer, dhat I had arested the rong person, and dhat he whoome I aut too hav arested had escaipt."

"But Aithos!" cride dArtanyan, whose impaishens wauz increest bi the disregard ov the authoritese, "Aithos, whare iz he?"

"Az I wauz ancshous too repare the rongz I had dun the prizzoner," rezhuemd the inkeper, "I tooc mi wa strate too the cellar in order too cet him at libberty. Aa, msyer, he wauz no lon'gher a man, he wauz a devvil! Too mi offer ov libberty, he replide dhat it wauz nuthhing but a snare, and dhat befoer he came out he intended too impose hiz one condishonz. I toald him

verry humbly—for I cood not concele from micelf the scrape I had got intoo bi laying handz on wun ov hiz Madgestese Musketeerz—I toald him I wauz qwite reddy too submit too hiz condishonz."

"In the ferst place,' ced he, 'I wish mi lacky plaist withe me, foolly armd.' We hacend too oba this order; for u wil plese too understand, msyer, we wer dispoazd too doo evverithhing yor frend cood desire. Msyer Gremo (he toald us hiz name, auldho he duz not tauc much)—Msyer Gremo, then, went down too the cellar, wuinded az he wauz; then hiz maaster, havving admitted him, barricaded the doer afresh, and orderd us too remane qwiyetly in our one bar."

"But whare iz Aithos nou?" cride dArtanyan. "Whare iz Aithos?"

"In the cellar, msyer."

"Whaut, u scoundrel! Hav u kept him in the cellar aul this time?"

"Mercifool hevven! No, msyer! We kepe him in the cellar! U doo not no whaut he iz about in the cellar. Aa! If u cood but perswade him too cum out, msyer, I shood o u the grattichude ov mi whole life; I shood adoer u az mi paitron saint!"

"Then he iz dhare? I shal fiand him dhare?"

"Widhout dout u wil, msyer; he percists in remaning dhare. We evvery da paas throo the are hole sum bred at the end ov a forc, and sum mete when he aasx for it; but alaas! It iz not ov bred and mete ov which he maix the gratest consumpshon. I wuns endevvord too go doun withe too ov mi cervants; but he flu intoo terribel rage. I herd the noiz he made in loding hiz pistolz, and hiz cervant in loding hiz musketoone. Then, when we aasct them whaut wer dhare intenshonz, the maaster replide dhat he had forty chargez too fire, and dhat he and hiz

lucky wood fire too the laast wun befoer he wood alou a cin'ghel sole ov us too cet foot in the cellar. Uppon this I went and complained too the guvvernor, whoo replide dhat I oanly had whaut I deservd, and dhat it wood teche me too insult onnorabel gentelmen whoo tooc up dhare abode in mi hous."

"So dhat cins dhat time—" replide dArtanyan, totaly unnabel too refrane from laafing at the pitteyabel face ov the hoast.

"So from dhat time, msyer," continnude the latter, "we hav led the moast mizserabel life imadginabel; for u must no, msyer, dhat aul our provizhonz ar in the cellar. Dhare iz our wine in bottelz, and our wine in caasx; the bere, the oil, and the spicez, the bacon, and sausagez. And az we ar prevented from gowing doun dhare, we ar foerst too refuse foode and drinc too the travvelerz whoo cum too the hous; so dhat our hostelry iz daly gowing too ruwin. If yor frend remainz anuther weke in mi cellar I shal be a ruwind man."

"And not moer dhan justice, iather, u as! Cood u not perceve bi our aperans dhat we wer pepel ov qwaulity, and not coinerz—sa?"

"Yes, msyer, u ar rite," ced the hoast. "But, harc, harc! Dhare he iz!"

"Sumbody haz disterbd him, widhout dout," ced dArtanyan.

"But he must be disterbd," cride the hoast; "Here ar too In'glis gentelmen just ariavd."

"Wel?"

"Wel, the In'glis like good wine, az u ma no, msyer; these hav

aasct for the best. Mi wife haz perhaps reqwested permishon ov Msyer Aithos too go intoo the cellar too sattisfi these gentelmen; and he, az uezhuwal, haz refuezd. Aa, good hevven! Dhare iz the hullabaloo louder dhan evver!"

dArtanyan, in fact, herd a grate noiz on the cide next the cellar. He rose, and preceded bi the hoast ringing hiz handz, and follode bi Plaunsha withe hiz musketoone reddy for uce, he aproacht the cene ov acshon.

The too gentelmen wer exaasperated; dha had had a long ride, and wer diying withe hun'gher and thherst.

"But this iz tirrorany!" cride wun ov them, in verry good French, dho withe a forane axent, "dhat this madman wil not alou these good pepel axes too dhare one wine! Noncens, let us brake open the doer, and if he iz too far gon in hiz madnes, wel, we wil kil him!"

"Softly, gentelmen!" ced dArtanyan, drauwing hiz pistolz from hiz belt, "u wil kil nobody, if u plese!"

"Good, good!" cride the caalm vois ov Aithos, from the uther cide ov the doer, "let them just cum in, these devourerz ov littel children, and we shal ce!"

Brave az dha apeerd too be, the too In'glish gentelmen looct at eche uther hezsitatingly. Wun mite hav thaut dhare wauz in dhat cellar wun ov dhose fammisht ogherz—the gigantic herose ov poppular ledgendz, intoo whose cavvern nobody cood foers dhare wa withe impunity.

Dhare wauz a moment ov cilens; but at length the too In'glishmen felt ashaimd too drau bac, and the an'greyer wun decended the five or cix



steps which led too the cellar, and gave a kic against the doer enuf too split a waul.

"Plaunsha," ced dArtanyan, cocking hiz pistolz, "I wil take charj ov the wun at the top; u looc too the wun belo. Aa, gentelmen, u waunt battel; and u shal hav it."

"Good God!" cride the hollo vois ov Aithos, "I can here dArtanyan, I thhinc."

"Yes," cride dArtanyan, rasing hiz vois in tern, "I am here, mi frend."

"Aa, good, then," replide Aithos, "we wil teche them, these doer brakerz!"

The gentelmen had draun dhare soerdz, but dha found themcelvz taken betwene too fiarz. Dha stil hezsitated an instant; but, az befoer, pride prevaild, and a cecond kic split the doer from bottom too top.

"Stand on wun cide, dArtanyan, stand on wun cide," cride Aithos. "I am gowing too fire!"

"Gentelmen," exclaimd dArtanyan, whoome reflecshon nevver abandond, "gentelmen, thhinc ov whaut u ar about. Paishens, Aithos! U ar running yor hedz intoo a verry cilly afare; u wil be riddeld. Mi lacky and I wil hav thre shots at u, and u wil ghet az menny from the cellar. U wil then hav our soerdz, withe which, I can ashure u, mi frend and I can pla tollerably wel. Let me conduct yor biznes and mi one. U shal soone hav sumthhing too drinc; I ghiv u mi werd."

"If dhare iz enny left," grumbeld the gering vois ov Aithos.

The hoast felt a coald swet crepe doun hiz bac.

"Hou! If dhare iz enny left!" mermerd he.

"Whaut the devvil! Dhare must be plenty left," replide dArtanyan.

"Be sattisfide ov dhat; these too canot hav drunc aul the cellar.  
Gentelmen, retern yor soerdz too dhare scabbardz."

"Wel, provided u replace yor pistolz in yor belt."

"Willingly."

And dArtanyan cet the exaampel. Then, tarning tooword Plaunsha, he  
made  
him a cine too uncoc hiz musketoone.

The In'glisshmen, convinst ov these peesfool proceedingz, sheedhd dhare  
soerdz grumblingly. The history ov Aithocez imprizzonment wauz then  
related  
too them; and az dha wer reyaly gentelmen, dha pronounst the hoast in  
the rong.

"Nou, gentelmen," ced dArtanyan, "go up too yor roome agane; and in ten  
minnuets, I wil aancer for it, u shal hav aul u desire."

The In'glisshmen boud and went upstaerz.

"Nou I am alone, mi dere Aithos," ced dArtanyan; "open the doer, I beg  
ov u."

"Instantly," ced Aithos.

Then wauz herd a grate noiz ov faggots beying remuivd and ov the  
groning  
ov poasts; these wer the counterscarps and baschonz ov Aithos, which the

beceezhd himcelf demollisht.

An instant aafter, the broken doer wauz remuivd, and the pale face ov Aithos apeerd, whoo withe a rappid glaans tooc a cerva ov the surroundingz.

DArtanyan thru himcelf on hiz nec and embraist him tenderly. He then tride too drau him from hiz moist abode, but too hiz cerprise he perceevd dhat Aithos staggherd.

"U ar wuinded," ced he.

"I! Not at aul. I am ded drunc, dhats aul, and nevver did a man moer strongly cet about ghetting so. Bi the Lord, mi good hoast! I must at leest hav drunc for mi part a hundred and fifty bottelz."

"Mercy!" cride the hoast, "if the lacky haz drunc oanly haaf az much az the maaster, I am a ruwind man."

"Gremo iz a wel-bred lacky. He wood nevver thhinc ov faring in the same manner az hiz maaster; he oanly dranc from the caasc. Harc! I doant thhinc he poot the faucet in agane. Doo u here it? It iz running nou."

DArtanyan berst intoo a laaf which chainjd the shivver ov the hoast intoo a barning fever.

In the meentime, Gremo apeerd in hiz tern behiand hiz maaster, withe the musketoone on hiz shoalder, and hiz hed shaking. Like wun ov dhose drunken saterz in the picchuerz ov Rubenz. He wauz moicend befoer and behiand withe a grecy liqwid which the hoast reccogniazd az hiz best ollive oil.

The foer crost the public roome and proceded too take poseshon ov the best apartment in the hous, which dArtanyan occupide withe authority.

In the meentime the hoast and hiz wife hurrede doun withe lamps intoo the cellar, which had so long bene interdicated too them and whare a friatfool spectakel awated them.

Beyond the fortificaishonz throo which Aithos had made a breche in order too ghet out, and which wer compoazd ov faggots, planx, and empty caasx, heept up acording too aul the ruelz ov the strategic art, dha found, swimming in puddelz ov oil and wine, the boanz and fragments ov aul the hamz dha had eten; while a hepe ov broken bottelz fild the whole left-hand corner ov the cellar, and a tun, the coc ov which wauz left running, wauz yeelding, bi this meenz, the laast drop ov its blud. "The immagine ov devastaishon and deth," az the ainshent powet cez, "raind az over a feeld ov battel."

Ov fifty larj sausagez, suspended from the joists, scaersly ten remaind.

Then the lamentaishonz ov the hoast and hoastes peerst the vault ov the cellar. DArtanyan himself wauz muivd bi them. Aithos did not even tern hiz hed.

Too grefe suxeded rage. The hoast armd himself withe a spit, and rusht intoo the chaimber occupide bi the too frendz.

"Sum wine!" ced Aithos, on perceving the hoast.

"Sum wine!" cride the schupefide hoast, "sum wine? Whi u hav drunc moer dhan a hundred pistoalz werth! I am a ruwind man, lost, destroid!"

"Baa," ced Aithos, "we wer aulwase dri."

"If u had bene contented withe drinking, wel and good; but u hav broken aul the bottelz."

"U poosht me uppon a hepe which roald doun. Dhat wauz yor fault."

"Aul mi oil iz lost!"

"Oil iz a sovverane baalm for wuindz; and mi poor Gremo here wauz obliajd too dres dhose u had inflicted on him."

"Aul mi sausagez ar naud!"

"Dhare iz an enormous qwauntity ov rats in dhat cellar."

"U shal pa me for aul this," cride the exaasperated hoast.

"Trippel as!" ced Aithos, rising; but he sanc doun agane imejaitly. He had tride hiz strength too the utmoast. DArtanyan came too hiz relefe withe hiz whip in hiz hand.

The hoast dru bac and berst intoo teerz.

"This wil teche u," ced dArtanyan, "too trete the ghests God cendz u in a moer kerchous fashon."

"God? Sa the devvil!"

"Mi dere frend," ced dArtanyan, "if u anoi us in this manner we wil aul foer go and shut ourcelvz up in yor cellar, and we wil ce if the mischefe iz az grate az u sa."

"O, gentelmen," ced the hoast, "I hav bene rong. I confes it, but pardon too evvery cin! U ar gentelmen, and I am a poor inkeper. U

wil hav pittty on me."

"Aa, if u speke in dhat wa," ced Aithos, "u wil brake mi hart, and the teerz wil flo from mi ise az the wine flode from the caasc. We ar not such devvilz az we apere too be. Cum hither, and let us tauc."

The hoast aproacht withe hesitaishon.

"Cum hither, I sa, and doant be afrade," continnude Aithos. "At the verry moment when I wauz about too pa u, I had plaist mi pers on the tabel."

"Yes, msyer."

"Dhat pers containd cixty pistoalz; whare iz it?"

"Depozsited withe the justice; dha ced it wauz bad munny."

"Verry wel; ghet me mi pers bac and kepe the cixty pistoalz."

"But Moncennure nose verry wel dhat justice nevver lets go dhat which it wuns lase hoald ov. If it wer bad munny, dhare mite be sum hoaps; but unforchunaitly, dhose wer aul good pecez."

"Mannage the matter az wel az u can, mi good man; it duz not concern me, the moer so az I hav not a leevr left."

"Cum," ced dArtanyan, "let us inqwire ferther. Aithocez hors, whare iz dhat?"

"In the stabel."

"Hou much iz it werth?"

"Fifty pistoalz at moast."

"Its werth aty. Take it, and dhare endz the matter."

"Whaut," cride Aithos, "ar u celling mi hors—mi Bazhaza? And pra uppon whaut shal I make mi campane; uppon Gremo?"

"I hav braut u anuther," ced dArtanyan.

"Anuther?"

"And a magnificent wun!" cride the hoast.

"Wel, cins dhare iz anuther finer and yun'gher, whi, u ma take the oald wun; and let us drinc."

"Whaut?" aasct the hoast, qwite cheerfool agane.

"Sum ov dhat at the bottom, nere the laaths. Dhare ar twenty-five bottelz ov it left; aul the rest wer broken bi mi faul. Bring cix ov them."

"Whi, this man iz a caasc!" ced the hoast, acide. "If he oonly remainz here a fortnite, and pase for whaut he drinx, I shal soone re-establish mi biznes."

"And doant forghet," ced dArtanyan, "too bring up foer bottelz ov the same sort for the too In'glish gentelmen."

"And nou," ced Aithos, "while dha bring the wine, tel me, dArtanyan, whaut haz becum ov the utherz, cum!"

DArtanyan related hou he had found Porthos in bed withe a straind ne, and Arramis at a tabel betwene too ththeyolojanz. Az he finnisht, the hoast

entered with the wine order and a ham which, fortunately for him, had been left out of the cellar.

"That's well!" said Aithos, filling his glass and that of his friend; "heerz too Porthos and Arramis! But u, dArtanyan, what iz the matter with u, and what haz happend too u personally? U hav a sad are."

"Alas," said dArtanyan, "it iz becauz I am the moast unforchunate."

"Tel me."

"Presently," said dArtanyan.

"Presently! And whi presently? Becauz u thhinc I am drunc? dArtanyan, remember this! Mi ideyaaz ar nevver so clere az when I hav had plenty ov wine. Speke, then, I am aul eerz."

dArtanyan related his adventure with Mme. Bonasyuu. Aithos listened too him without a frown; and when he had finished, said, "Trifelz, oonly trifelz!" That wauz his favorite werd.

"U aulwase sa TRIFELZ, mi dere Aithos!" said dArtanyan, "and dhat cum verry il from u, whoo hav nevver luvd."

The drink-deddend i ov Aithos flasht out, but oonly for a moment; it became az dul and vacant az befoer.

"That's tru," said he, quietly, "for mi part I hav nevver luvd."

"Acnollej, then, u stony hart," said dArtanyan, "dhat u ar rong too be so hard uppon us tender harts."

"Tender harts! Peerst harts!" said Aithos.



"Whaut doo u sa?"

"I sa dhat luv iz a lottery in which he whoo winz, winz deth! U ar verry forchunate too hav lost, beleve me, mi dere dArtanyan. And if I hav enny councel too ghiv, it iz, aulwase loose!"

"She ceemd too luv me so!"

"She CEEMD, did she?"

"O, she DID luv me!"

"U chiald, whi, dhare iz not a man whoo haz not beleevd, az u doo, dhat hiz mistres luvd him, and dhare liavz not a man whoo haz not bene deceevd bi hiz mistres."

"Exept u, Aithos, whoo nevver had wun."

"Dhats tru," ced Aithos, aafter a moments cilens, "dhats tru! I nevver had wun! Let us drinc!"

"But then, filossofer dhat u ar," ced dArtanyan, "instruct me, supoert me. I stand in nede ov beying taut and consoald."

"Consoald for whaut?"

"For mi misforchune."

"Yor misforchune iz laafabel," ced Aithos, shrugghing hiz shoalderz; "I shood like too no whaut u wood sa if I wer too relate too u a reyal tale ov luv!"

"Which haz happend too u?"

"Or wun ov mi frendz, whaut matterz?"

"Tel it, Aithos, tel it."

"Better if I drinc."

"Drinc and relate, then."

"Not a bad ideyaa!" ced Aithos, empteying and refilling hiz glaas. "The too thhingz agry marvelously wel."

"I am aul atenshon," ced dArtanyan.

Aithos colected himcelf, and in propoershon az he did so, dArtanyan sau dhat he became pale. He wauz at dhat pereyod ov intoxicaishon in which vulgar drinkerz faul on the floer and go too slepe. He kept himcelf uprite and dreemd, widhout sleping. This somnambulizm ov drunken'nes had sumthhing friatfool in it.

"U particcularly wish it?" aasct he.

"I pra for it," ced dArtanyan.

"Be it then az u desire. Wun ov mi frendz—wun ov mi frendz, plese too observ, not micelf," ced Aithos, interrupting himcelf withe a mellancoly smile, "wun ov the counts ov mi provvins—dhat iz too sa, ov Berry—nobel az a Dandolo or a Monmoroncy, at twenty-five yeerz ov age fel in luv withe a gherl ov cixtene, butifool az fancy can paint. Throo the in'genuwousnes ov her age beemd an ardent miand, not ov the woomman, but ov the powet. She did not plese; she intoxicated. She livd in a smaul toun withe her bruther, whoo wauz a curate. Boath had recently cum intoo the cuntry. Dha came nobody nu whens; but when ceying her so luvly and her bruther so piyous, nobody thaut ov aasking whens dha

came. Dha wer ced, houwevver, too be ov good extracshon. Mi frend, whoo wauz sainer ov the cuntry, mite hav cejust her, or taken her bi foers, at hiz wil—for he wauz maaster. Whoo wood hav cum too the acistans ov too strain'gerz, too un'none personz? Unforchunaitly he wauz an onnorabel man; he marrede her. The foole! The as! The iddeyot!"

"Hou so, if he luv her?" aasct dArtanyan.

"Wate," ced Aithos. "He tooc her too hiz shaato, and made her the ferst lady in the provvins; and in justice it must be aloud dhat she supoerted her ranc becummingly."

"Wel?" aasct dArtanyan.

"Wel, wun da when she wauz hunting withe her huzband," continnude Aithos, in a lo vois, and speking verry qwicly, "she fel from her hors and fainted. The count flu too her too help, and az she apeerd too be oprest bi her cloadhz, he ript them open withe hiz ponyard, and in so doowing lade bare her shoalder. DArtanyan," ced Aithos, withe a maniyacal berst ov laafter, "ghes whaut she had on her shoalder."

"Hou can I tel?" ced dArtanyan.

"A *FLEUR-DE-LIS*," ced Aithos. "She wauz branded."

Aithos emptede at a cin'ghel draaft the glaas he held in hiz hand.

"Horor!" cride dArtanyan. "Whaut doo u tel me?"

"Trueth, mi frend. The ain'gel wauz a demon; the poor yung gherl had stolen the saicred vescelz from a cherch."

"And whaut did the count doo?"

"The count wauz ov the hiyest nobillity. He had on hiz estaits the riats ov hi and lo tribunalz. He toer the dres ov the countes too pecez; he tide her handz behiand her, and hangd her on a tre."

"Hevvenz, Aithos, a merder?" cride dArtanyan.

"No les," ced Aithos, az pale az a corps. "But methhinx I nede wine!" and he ceezd bi the nec the laast bottel dhat wauz left, poot it too hiz mouth, and emptede it at a cin'ghel draaft, az he wood hav emptede an ordinary glaas.

Then he let hiz hed cinc uppon hiz too handz, while dArtanyan stood befoer him, schupefide.

"Dhat haz cuerd me ov butifool, powettical, and luvving wimmen," ced Aithos, aafter a concidderabel pauz, rasing hiz hed, and forghetting too continnu the ficshon ov the count. "God graant u az much! Let us drinc."

"Then she iz ded?" stammerd dArtanyan.

"*PARBLEU!*" ced Aithos. "But hoald out yor glaas. Sum ham, mi boi, or we caant drinc."

"And her bruther?" added dArtanyan, timmidly.

"Her bruther?" replide Aithos.

"Yes, the preest."

"O, I inqwiard aafter him for the perpoce ov hanging him liaqwise; but he wauz befoerhand withe me, he had qwit the curacy the nite befoer."

"Wauz it evver none whoo this mizserabel fello wauz?"

"He wauz doutles the ferst luvver and acumplice ov the fare lady. A werthy man, whoo had pretended too be a curate for the perpoce ov ghetting hiz mistres marrede, and ceuring her a posishon. He haz bene hangd and qworterd, I hope."

"Mi God, mi God!" cride dArtanyan, qwite stund bi the relaishon ov this horibel advenchure.

"Taist sum ov this ham, dArtanyan; it iz exqwizsite," ced Aithos, cutting a slice, which he plaist on the yung manz plate.

"Whaut a pitty it iz dhare wer oonly foer like this in the cellar. I cood hav drunc fifty bottelz moer."

DArtanyan cood no lon'gher enjure this conversaishon, which had made him bewilderd. Alouwing hiz hed too cinc uppon hiz too handz, he pretended too slepe.

"These yung fellose can nun ov them drinc," ced Aithos, loocking at him withe pitty, "and yet this iz wun ov the best!"

## 28 THE RETERN

DArtanyan wauz astounded bi the terribel confidens ov Aithos; yet menny

thhingz apeerd verry obscure too him in this haaf revelaishon. In the ferst place it had bene made bi a man qwite drunc too wun whoo wauz haaf

drunc; and yet, in spite ov the uncertainty which the vapor ov thre or foer bottelz ov Bergundy carrese withe it too the brane, dArtanyan, when awaking on the following morning, had aul the werdz ov Aithos az prezsent

too hiz memmory az if dha then fel from hiz mouth—dha had bene so imprest uppon hiz miand. Aul this dout oanly gave rise too a moer liavly desire ov ariving at a certainty, and he went intoo hiz frendz chaimber withe a fixt determinaishon ov renuwing the conversaishon ov the preceding

evening; but he found Aithos qwite himcelf agane—dhat iz too sa, the moast shrude and impennetrabel ov men. Beciadz which, the Musketere, aafter havving exchainjd a harty shake ov the hand withe him, broacht the matter ferst.

"I wauz pritty drunc yesterda, dArtanyan," ced he, "I can tel dhat bi mi tung, which wauz swollen and hot this morning, and bi mi puls, which wauz verry tremmulous. I wager dhat I utterd a thousand extravvagancez."

While saying this he looct at hiz frend withe an earnestnes dhat embarrast him.

"No," replide dArtanyan, "if I recolect wel whaut u ced, it wauz nuthhing out ov the common wa."

"Aa, u cerprise me. I thaut I had toald u a moast lammentabel stoery." And he looct at the yung man az if he wood rede the bottom ov hiz hart.

"Mi faith," ced dArtanyan, "it apeerz dhat I wauz moer drunc dhan u, cins I remember nuthhing ov the kiand."

Aithos did not trust this repli, and he rezhuemd; "u canot hav faild too remarck, mi dere frend, dhat evveriwun haz hiz particcular kiand ov drunken'nes, sad or ga. Mi drunken'nes iz aulwase sad, and when I am thurroly drunc mi mainyaa iz too relate aul the lugubreyous stoerese which mi foolish ners inculcated intoo mi brane. Dhat iz mi faling—a cappital faling, I admit; but withe dhat exepshon, I am a good drinker."

Aithos spoke this in so natchural a manner dhat dArtanyan wauz shaken in hiz convicshon.

"It iz dhat, then," replide the yung man, ancshous too fiand out the trueth, "it iz dhat, then, I remember az we remember a dreme. We wer speking ov hanging."

"Aa, u ce hou it iz," ced Aithos, becumming stil paler, but yet atempting too laaf; "I wauz shure it wauz so—the hanging ov pepel iz mi niatmare."

"Yes, yes," replide dArtanyan. "I remember nou; yes, it wauz about—stop a minnute—yes, it wauz about a woomman."

"Dhats it," replide Aithos, becumming aulmoast livvid; "dhat iz mi grand stoery ov the fare lady, and when I relate dhat, I must be verry drunc."

"Yes, dhat wauz it," ced dArtanyan, "the stoery ov a taul, fare lady, withe blu ise."

"Yes, whoo wauz hangd."

"Bi her huzband, whoo wauz a nobelman ov yor aqwaintans," continnude dArtanyan, loocking intently at Aithos.

"Wel, u ce hou a man ma compromise himcelf when he duz not no whaut he cez," replide Aithos, shrugging hiz shoalderz az if he thaut himcelf an obgett ov pittty. "I certainly nevver wil ghet drunc agane, dArtanyan; it iz too bad a habbit."

DArtanyan remaind cilent; and then chain'ging the conversaishon aul at wuns, Aithos ced:

"Bi the bi, I thanc u for the hors u hav braut me."

"Iz it too yor miand?" aasct dArtanyan.

"Yes; but it iz not a hors for hard werc."

"U ar mistaken; I rode him neerly ten leegz in les dhan an our and a haaf, and he apeerd no moer distrest dhan if he had oanly made the toor ov the Plaas St. Suilpece."

"Aa, u beghin too awaken mi regret."

"Regret?"

"Yes; I hav parted withe him."

"Hou?"

"Whi, here iz the cimpel fact. This morning I awoke at six oacloc. U wer stil faast aslepe, and I did not no whaut too doo withe micelf; I wauz stil schupid from our yesterdase debauch. Az I came intoo the public roome, I sau wun ov our In'glishman barganing withe a deler for a hors, hiz one havving dide yesterda from bleding. I dru nere, and found he wauz bidding a hundred pistoalz for a chesnut nag. '*PARDIEU*,' ced I, mi good gentelman, I hav a hors too cel, too.' I, and a verry fine



wun! I sau him yesterda; yor frendz lacky wauz leding him.' Doo u thhinc he iz werth a hundred pistoalz?' Yes! Wil u cel him too me for dhat sum?' No; but I wil pla for him.' Whaut?' At dice.' No sooner ced dhan dun, and I lost the hors. Aa, aa! But plese too observ I wun bac the eqwipage," cride Aithos.

DArtanyan looct much disconcerted.

"This vexez u?" ced Aithos.

"Wel, I must confes it duz," replide dArtanyan. "Dhat hors wauz too hav identifide us in the da ov battel. It wauz a plej, a remembrans. Aithos, u hav dun rong."

"But, mi dere frend, poot yorcelf in mi place," replide the Musketerere. "I wauz hipt too deth; and stil ferther, uppon mi onnor, I doant like In' glish horcez. If it iz oonly too be reccogniazd, whi the saddel wil sufice for dhat; it iz qwite remarcabel enuf. Az too the hors, we can esily fiand sum excuce for its disaperans. Whi the devvil! A hors iz mortal; suppose mine had had the glanderz or the farcy?"

DArtanyan did not smile.

"It vexez me graitly," continnude Aithos, "dhat u atach so much importans too these annimalz, for I am not yet at the end ov mi stoery."

"Whaut els hav u dun."

"Aafter havving lost mi one hors, nine against ten—ce hou nere—I formd an ideyaa ov staking yorz."

"Yes; but u stopt at the ideyaa, I hope?"

"No; for I poot it in execueshon dhat verry minnute."

"And the conceqwens?" ced dArtanyan, in grate anxiety.

"I thru, and I lost."

"Whaut, mi hors?"

"Yor hors, cevven against ate; a point short—u no the provverb."

"Aithos, u ar not in yor rite cencez, I sware."

"Mi dere lad, dhat wauz yesterda, when I wauz telling u cilly stoerese, it wauz propper too tel me dhat, and not this morning. I lost him then, withe aul hiz apointments and fernichure."

"Reyaly, this iz friatfool."

"Stop a minnute; u doant no aul yet. I shood make an exelent gambler if I wer not too hot-hedded; but I wauz hot-hedded, just az if I had bene drinking. Wel, I wauz not hot-hedded then—"

"Wel, but whaut els cood u pla for? U had nuthing left?"

"O, yes, mi frend; dhare wauz stil dhat dimond left which sparkelz on yor fin'gher, and which I had observd yesterda."

"This dimond!" ced dArtanyan, placing hiz hand egherly on hiz ring.

"And az I am a conocer in such thhingz, havving had a fu ov mi one wuns, I estimated it at a thouzand pistoalz."

"I hope," ced dArtanyan, haaf ded withe frite, "u made no menshon ov mi dimond?"

"On the contrary, mi dere friend, this dimond became our oonly rezoers; withe it I mite regane our horcez and dhare harnecez, and even munny too pa our expencez on the rode."

"Aithos, u make me trembel!" cride dArtanyan.

"I menshond yor dimond then too mi adversary, whoo had liaqwise remarct it. Whaut the devvil, mi dere, doo u thhinc u can ware a star from hevven on yor fin'gher, and nobody observ it? Imposcibel!"

"Go on, go on, mi dere fello!" ced dArtanyan; "for uppon mi onnor, u wil kil me withe yor indifferens."

"We divided, then, this dimond intoo ten parts ov a hundred pistoalz eche."

"U ar laafing at me, and waunt too tri me!" ced dArtanyan, whoome an'gher began too take bi the hare, az Minervaa taix Akillese, in the ILLEYAD.

"No, I doo not gest, *MORDIEU!* I shood like too hav cene u in mi place! I had bene fiftene dase widhout ceying a human face, and had bene left too brutalise micelf in the cumpany ov bottelz."

"Dhat wauz no rezon for staking mi dimond!" replide dArtanyan, closing hiz hand withe a nervous spazm.

"Here the end. Ten parts ov a hundred pistoalz eche, in ten throse, widhout revenj; in thhertene throse I had lost aul—in thhertene throse. The number thhertene wauz aulwase fatal too me; it wauz on the thherteenth ov Juli dhat—"

"*VENTREBLEU!*" cride dArtanyan, rising from the tabel, the stoery ov the prezsent da making him forghet dhat ov the preceding wun.

"Paishens!" ced Aithos; "I had a plan. The In'glishman wauz an oridginal; I had cene him convercing dhat morning withe Gremo, and Gremo had toald me dhat he had made him propozalz too enter intoo hiz cervice. I staict Gremo, the cilent Gremo, divided intoo ten porshonz."

"Wel, whaut next?" ced dArtanyan, laafing in spite ov himcelf.

"Gremo himcelf, understand; and withe the ten parts ov Gremo, which ar not werth a ducatoone, I regaind the dimond. Tel me, nou, if percistens iz not a verchu?"

"Mi faith! But this iz drole," cride dArtanyan, consoald, and hoalding hiz ciadz withe laafter.

"U ma ghes, fianding the luc ternd, dhat I agane staict the dimond."

"The devvil!" ced dArtanyan, becumming an'gry agane.

"I wun bac yor harnes, then yor hors, then mi harnes, then mi hors, and then I lost agane. In brefe, I regaind yor harnes and then mine. Dhats whare we ar. Dhat wauz a superb thro, so I left of dhare."

DArtanyan breedhd az if the whole hostelry had bene remuivd from hiz brest.

"Then the dimond iz safe?" ced he, timmidly.

"Intact, mi dere frend; beciadz the harnes ov yor Bucefalus and

mine."

"But whaut iz the uce ov harnecez widhout horceez?"

"I hav an ideyaa about them."

"Aithos, u make me shudder."

"Liscen too me. U hav not plade for a long time, dArtanyan."

"And I hav no inclinaishon too pla."

"Sware too nuthhing. U hav not plade for a long time, I ced; u aut, then, too hav a good hand."

"Wel, whaut then?"

"Wel; the In' glishman and hiz companyon ar stil here. I remarct dhat he regretted the hors fernichure verry much. U apere too thhinc much ov yor hors. In yor place I wood stake the fernichure against the hors."

"But he wil not wish for oonly wun harnes."

"Stake boath, *PARDIEU!* I am not celfish, az u ar."

"U wood doo so?" ced dArtanyan, undecided, so strongly did the confidens ov Aithos beghin too prevale, in spite ov himcelf.

"On mi onnor, in wun cin'ghel thro."

"But havving lost the horceez, I am particcularly ancshous too preserv the harnecez."

"Stake yor dimond, then."

"This? Dhats anuther matter. Nevver, nevver!"

"The devvil!" ced Aithos. "I wood propose too u too stake Plaunsha, but az dhat haz aulreddy bene dun, the In'glisnman wood not, perhaps, be willing."

"Decidedly, mi dere Aithos," ced dArtanyan, "I shood like better not too risc ennithhing."

"Dhats a pittty," ced Aithos, cooly. "The In'glisnman iz overflowing withe pistoalz. Good Lord, tri wun thro! Wun thro iz soone made!"

"And if I loose?"

"U wil win."

"But if I loose?"

"Wel, u wil surrender the harnecez."

"Hav withe u for wun thro!" ced dArtanyan.

Aithos went in qwest ov the In'glisnman, whoome he found in the stabel, exammining the harnecez withe a gredy i. The oporchunity wauz good. He propoazd the condishonz—the too harnecez, iather against wun hors or a hundred pistoalz. The In'glisnman calculated faast; the too harnecez wer werth thre hundred pistoalz. He concented.

DArtanyan thru the dice withe a trembling hand, and ternd up the number thre; hiz pailnes terrifide Aithos, whoo, houwevver, concented himcelf withe saying, "Dhats a sad thro, comrade; u wil hav the

horcez foolly eqwipt, msyer."

The In'glisnman, qwhite triyumfant, did not even ghiv himcelf the trubbel too shake the dice. He thru them on the tabel widhout loocking at them, so shure wauz he ov victory; dArtanyan ternd acide too concele hiz il humor.

"Hoald, hoald, hoald!" ced Aithos, wit hiz qwiyet tone; "dhat thro ov the dice iz extrordinary. I hav not cene such a wun foer tiamz in mi life. Too acez!"

The In'glisnman looct, and wauz ceezd withe astonnishment. DArtanyan looct, and wauz ceezd withe plezhure.

"Yes," continnude Aithos, "foer tiamz oanly; wuns at the hous ov Msyer Crecky; anuther time at mi one hous in the cuntry, in mi shaato at—when I had a shaato; a thherd time at Msyer de Treveeyz whare it cerpriazd us aul; and the foerth time at a cabbara, whare it fel too mi lot, and whare I lost a hundred loowy and a supper on it."

"Then Msyer taix hiz hors bac agane," ced the In'glisnman.

"Certainly," ced dArtanyan.

"Then dhare iz no revenj?"

"Our condishonz ced, No revenj,' u wil plese too recolect."

"Dhat iz tru; the hors shal be restoerd too yor lacky, msyer."

"A moment," ced Aithos; "withe yor permishon, msyer, I wish too speke a werd withe mi frend."

"Sa on."

Aithos dru dArtanyan acide.

"Wel, Tempter, whaut moer doo u waunt withe me?" ced dArtanyan. "U waunt me too thro agane, doo u not?"

"No, I wood wish u too reflect."

"On whaut?"

"U mene too take yor hors?"

"Widhout dout."

"U ar rong, then. I wood take the hundred pistoalz. U no u hav staict the harnecez against the hors or a hundred pistoalz, at yor chois."

"Yes."

"Wel, then, I repete, u ar rong. Whaut iz the uce ov wun hors for us too? I cood not ride behiand. We shood looc like the too sunz ov Anmon, whoo had lost dhare bruther. U canot thhinc ov humilleyating me bi praancing along bi mi cide on dhat magnifficent charger. For mi part, I shood not hezsitate a moment; I shood take the hundred pistoalz. We waunt munny for our retern too Parris."

"I am much atacht too dhat hors, Aithos."

"And dhare agane u ar rong. A hors slips and injuerz a joint; a hors stumbelez and braix hiz nese too the bone; a hors eets out ov a main'ger in which a glanderd hors haz eten. Dhare iz a hors, while on the contrary, the hundred pistoalz fede dhare maaster."



"But hou shal we ghet bac?"

"Uppon our lackese horcez, *PARDIEU*. Enniboddy ma ce bi our baring dhat we ar pepel ov condishon."

"Pritty figguerz we shal cut on ponese while Arramis and Porthos caracole on dhare steedz."

"Arramis! Porthos!" cride Aithos, and laaft aloud.

"Whaut iz it?" aasct dArtanyan, whoo did not at aul comprehend the hilarrity ov hiz frend.

"Nuthhing, nuthhing! Go on!"

"Yor advice, then?"

"Too take the hundred pistoalz, dArtanyan. Withe the hundred pistoalz we can liv wel too the end ov the munth. We hav undergon a grate dele ov fateghe, remember, and a littel rest wil doo no harm."

"I rest? O, no, Aithos. Wuns in Parris, I shal proscecute mi cerch for dhat unforchunate woomman!"

"Wel, u ma be ashuerd dhat yor hors wil not be haaf so cervisabel too u for dhat perpoce az good goalden loowy. Take the hundred pistoalz, mi frend; take the hundred pistoalz!"

DArtanyan oanly reqwiard wun rezon too be sattisfide. This laast rezon apeerd convincing. Beciadz, he feerd dhat bi resisting lon'gher he shood apere celfish in the ise ov Aithos. He aqweyest, dhaerfoer, and chose the hundred pistoalz, which the In'glishman pade down on the spot.

Dha then determiand too depart. Pece withe the landlord, in adishon too Aithocez oald hors, cost cix pistoalz. DArtanyan and Aithos tooc the nagz ov Plaunsha and Gremo, and the too lackese started on foot, carreying the saddelz on dhare hedz.

Houwevver il our too frendz wer mounted, dha wer soone far in advaans ov dhare cervants, and ariavd at Crevker. From a distans dha perceevd Arramis, ceted in a mellancoly manner at hiz windo, loocking out, like Cister An, at the dust in the horizon.

"*HOLA*, Arramis! Whaut the devvil ar u doowing dhare?" cride the too frendz.

"Aa, iz dhat u, dArtanyan, and u, Aithos?" ced the yung man. "I wauz reflecting uppon the rapiddity withe which the blescingz ov this world leve us. Mi In'glish hors, which haz just disapeerd amid a cloud ov dust, haz fernisht me withe a livving immage ov the fragillity ov the thhingz ov the erth. Life itcelf ma be rezolvd intoo thre werdz: *ERAT, EST, FUIT.*"

"Which meenz—" ced dArtanyan, whoo began too suspect the trueth.

"Which meenz dhat I hav just bene juept-cixty loowy for a hors which bi the manner ov hiz gate can doo at leest five leegz an our."

DArtanyan and Aithos laaft aloud.

"Mi dere dArtanyan," ced Arramis, "doant be too an'gry withe me, I beg. Necescity haz no lau; beciadz, I am the person punnisht, az dhat raascaly horsdeler haz robd me ov fifty loowy, at leest. Aa, u fellose ar good mannagerz! U ride on our lackese horceez, and hav

yor one gallant steedz led along caerfooly bi hand, at short stagez."

At the same instant a market cart, which sum minnuets befoer had apeerd uppon the Ammeyon rode, poold up at the in, and Plaunsha and Gremo came out ov it withe the saddelz on dhare hedz. The cart wauz reterning empty too Parris, and the too lackese had agrede, for dhare traanspoert, too slake the waggonerz thherst along the route.

"Whaut iz this?" ced Arramis, on ceying them arive. "Nuthhing but saddelz?"

"Nou doo u understand?" ced Aithos.

"Mi frendz, dhats exactly like me! I retaind mi harnes bi instinct. *HOLA*, Bazan! Bring mi nu saddel and carry it along withe dhose ov these gentelmen."

"And whaut hav u dun withe yor ecleseystix?" aasct dArtanyan.

"Mi dere fello, I invited them too a dinner the next da," replide Arramis. "Dha hav sum cappital wine here—plese too observ dhat in paacing. I did mi best too make them drunc. Then the curate forbade me too qwit mi uniform, and the Gezzuwit entreted me too ghet him made a Musketerere."

"Widhout a thhecis?" cride dArtanyan, "widhout a thhecis? I demaand the supreshon ov the thhecis."

"Cins then," continnude Arramis, "I hav livd verry agreyably. I hav begun a powem in vercez ov wun cillabel. Dhat iz raather difficult, but the merrit in aul thhingz concists in the difficulty. The matter iz gallant. I wil rede u the ferst canto. It haz foer hundred lianz, and laasts a minnute."

"Mi faith, mi dere Arramis," ced dArtanyan, whoo detested vercez aulmoast az much az he did Latin, "ad too the merrit ov the difficulty dhat ov the brevity, and u ar shure dhat yor powem wil at leest hav too merrits."

"U wil ce," continnude Arramis, "dhat it breedhz irreprochabel pashon. And so, mi frendz, we retern too Parris? Braavo! I am reddy. We ar gowing too rejoin dhat good fello, Porthos. So much the better. U caant thhinc hou I hav mist him, the grate cimpelton. Too ce him so self-sattisfide reconcialz me withe micelf. He wood not cel hiz hors; not for a kingdom! I thhinc I can ce him nou, mounted uppon hiz superb annimal and ceted in hiz handsum saddel. I am shure he wil looc like the Grate Mogul!"

Dha made a halt for an our too refresh dhare horcez. Arramis discharjd hiz bil, plaist Bazan in the cart withe hiz comraidz, and dha cet forword too join Porthos.

Dha found him up, les pale dhan when dArtanyan left him aafter hiz ferst vizsit, and ceted at a tabel on which, dho he wauz alone, wauz spred enuf for foer personz. This dinner concisted ov meets niasly drest, chois wianz, and superb frute.

"Aa, *PARDIEU!*" ced he, rising, "u cum in the nic ov time, gentelmen. I wauz just beghinning the soope, and u wil dine withe me."

"O, o!" ced dArtanyan, "Muiscton haz not caut these bottelz withe hiz lasso. Beciadz, here iz a pecaant *FRICANDEAU* and a fillet ov befe."

"I am recrutng micelf," ced Porthos, "I am recrutng micelf. Nuthhing wekenz a man moer dhan these devvilish strainz. Did u evver suffer from a strane, Aithos?"

"Nevver! Dho I remember, in our afare ov the Ru Fairoo, I receevd a soerd wuind which at the end ov fiftene or atene dase projuest the same efect."

"But this dinner wauz not intended for u alone, Porthos?" ced Arramis.

"No," ced Porthos, "I expected sum gentelmen ov the naborhood, whoo hav just cent me werd dha cood not cum. U wil take dhare placez and I shal not loose bi the exchainj. *HOLA*, Muiscton, ceets, and order dubbel the bottelz!"

"Doo u no whaut we ar eting here?" ced Aithos, at the end ov ten minnuets.

"*PARDIEU!*" replide dArtanyan, "for mi part, I am eting vele garnisht withe shrimps and vedgetabelz."

"And I sum lam chops," ced Porthos.

"And I a plane chicken," ced Arramis.

"U ar aul mistaken, gentelmen," aancerd Aithos, graivly; "u ar eting hors."

"Eting whaut?" ced dArtanyan.

"Hors!" ced Arramis, withe a grimface ov disgust.

Porthos alone made no repli.

"Yes, hors. Ar we not eting a hors, Porthos? And perhaps hiz saddel, dhaerwithe."

"No, gentlemen, I hav kept the harnes," ced Porthos.

"Mi faith," ced Arramis, "we ar aul alike. Wun wood thhinc we had tipt the winc."

"Whaut cood I doo?" ced Porthos. "This hors made mi vizsitorz ashaimd ov dhaerz, and I doant like too humilleyate pepel."

"Then yor dutches iz stil at the wauterz?" aasct dArtanyan.

"Stil," replide Porthos. "And, mi faith, the guvvernor ov the provvins—wun ov the gentlemen I expected tooda—ceemd too hav such a wish for him, dhat I gave him too him."

"Gave him?" cride dArtanyan.

"Mi God, yes, GAVE, dhat iz the werd," ced Porthos; "for the annimal wauz werth at leest a hundred and fifty loowy, and the stin'gy fello wood oanly ghiv me aty."

"Widhout the saddel?" ced Arramis.

"Yes, widhout the saddel."

"U wil observ, gentlemen," ced Aithos, "dhat Porthos haz made the best bargane ov enny ov us."

And then comenst a roer ov laafter in which dha aul joind, too the astonishment ov poor Porthos; but when he wauz informd ov the cauz ov dhare hilarrity, he shaerd it vocifferously acording too hiz custom.

"Dhare iz wun cumfort, we ar aul in cash," ced dArtanyan.

"Wel, for mi part," ced Aithos, "I found Arramicez Spannish wine so good dhat I cent on a hamper ov cixty bottelz ov it in the waggon withe the lackese. Dhat haz wekend mi pers."

"And I," ced Arramis, "imadgiand dhat I had ghivven aulmoast mi laast soo too the cherch ov Mondedeya and the Gezzuwits ov Ammeyon, withe whoome I had made en'gaijments which I aut too hav kept. I hav orderd Mascez for micelf, and for u, gentelmen, which wil be ced, gentelmen, for which I hav not the leest dout u wil be marvelously bennefited."

"And I," ced Porthos, "doo u thhinc mi strane cost me nuthhing?—widhout recconing Muisctonz wuind, for which I had too hav the cerjon twice a da, and whoo charjd me dubbel on acount ov dhat foolish Muiscton havving aloud himcelf a baul in a part which pepel genneraly oonly sho too an apothhecary; so I adviazd him too tri nevver too ghet wuinded dhare enny moer."

"I, i!" ced Aithos, exchain'ging a smile withe dArtanyan and Arramis, "it iz verry clere u acted noably withe regard too the poor lad; dhat iz like a good maaster."

"In short," ced Porthos, "when aul mi expencez ar pade, I shal hav, at moast, thherty crounz left."

"And I about ten pistoalz," ced Arramis.

"Wel, then it apeerz dhat we ar the Cresucez ov the sociyety. Hou much hav u left ov yor hundred pistoalz, dArtanyan?"

"Ov mi hundred pistoalz? Whi, in the ferst place I gave u fifty."

"U thhinc so?"

"*PARDIEU!*"

"Aa, dhat iz tru. I recolect."

"Then I pade the hoast cix."

"Whaut a brute ov a hoast! Whi did u ghiv him cix pistoalz?"

"U toald me too ghiv them too him."

"It iz tru; I am too good-nachuerd. In brefe, hou much remainz?"

"Twenty-five pistoalz," ced dArtanyan.

"And I," ced Aithos, taking sum smaul chainj from hiz pocket, "I—"

"U? Nuthhing!"

"Mi faith! So littel dhat it iz not werth recconing withe the genneral stoc."

"Nou, then, let us calculate hou much we poscez in aul."

"Porthos?"

"Thherty crounz."

"Arramis?"

"Ten pistoalz."



"And u, dArtanyan?"

"Twenty-five."

"Dhat maix in aul?" ced Aithos.

"Foer hundred and cevventy-five leevrz," ced dArtanyan, whoo recond like Arkimedese.

"On our arival in Parris, we shal stil hav foer hundred, beciadz the harnecez," ced Porthos.

"But our troope horcez?" ced Arramis.

"Wel, ov the foer horcez ov our lackese we wil make too for the maasterz, for which we wil drau lots. Withe the foer hundred leevrz we wil make the haaf ov wun for wun ov the unmounted, and then we wil ghiv the terningz out ov our pockets too dArtanyan, whoo haz a stedy hand, and wil go and pla in the ferst gaming hous we cum too. Dhare!"

"Let us dine, then," ced Porthos; "it iz ghetting coald."

The frendz, at ese withe regard too the fuchure, did onnor too the repaast, the remainz ov which wer abandond too Muiscton, Bazan, Plaunsha, and Gremo.

On ariving in Parris, dArtanyan found a letter from M. de Treveye, which informd him dhat, at hiz reqwest, the king had prommiast dhat he shood enter the cumpany ov the Musketeerz.

Az this wauz the hite ov dArtanyanz werldly ambishon—apart, be it wel understood, from hiz desire ov fianding Mme. Bonasyuu—he ran, fool ov joi, too ceke hiz comraidz, whoome he had left oanly haaf an our befoer,

but whoome he found verry sad and deeply preyoccupide. Dha wer acembeld in council at the rezsidens ov Aithos, which aulwase indicated an event ov sum gravvity. M. de Treveye had intimated too them hiz Madgestese fixt intenshon too open the campane on the ferst ov Ma, and dha must imejaitly prepare dhare outfits.

The foer filossoferz looct at wun anuther in a state ov bewilderment. M. de Treveye nevver gested in matterz relating too discipline.

"And whaut doo u recon yor outfit wil cost?" ced dArtanyan.

"O, we can scaersly sa. We hav made our calculaishonz withe Spartan economy, and we eche reqwire fiftene hundred leevrz."

"Foer tiamz fiftene maix cixty—cix thousand leevrz," ced Aithos.

"It ceemz too me," ced dArtanyan, "withe a thousand leevrz eche—I doo not speke az a Spartan, but az a procurator—"

This werd PROCURATOR rouzd Porthos. "Stop," ced he, "I hav an ideyaa."

"Wel, dhats sumthhing, for I hav not the shaddo ov wun," ced Aithos cooly; "but az too dArtanyan, gentelmen, the ideyaa ov belonging too OURZ

haz drivven him out ov hiz cencez. A thousand leevrz! For mi part, I declare I waunt too thousand."

"Foer tiamz too maix ate," then ced Arramis; "it iz ate thousand dhat we waunt too complete our outfits, tooword which, it iz tru, we hav aulreddy the saddelz."

"Beciadz," ced Aithos, wating til dArtanyan, whoo went too thanc

Msyer de Treveye, had shut the doer, "beciadz, dhare iz dhat butifool ring which beemz from the fin'gher ov our frend. Whaut the devvil! DArtanyan iz too good a comrade too leve hiz brutherz in embarrasment while he waerz the ransom ov a king on hiz fin'gher."

## 29 HUNTING FOR THE EQWIPMENTS

The moast preyoccupide ov the foer frendz wauz certainly dArtanyan, auldho he, in hiz qwaulity ov Gardzman, wood be much moer esily eqwipt dhan Maisyer the Musketeez, whoo wer aul ov hi ranc; but our Gascon cadet wauz, az ma hav bene observd, ov a provvident and aulmoast avarishous carracter, and withe dhat (explane the contradicshon) so vane az aulmoast too rival Porthos. Too this preyoccupaishon ov hiz vannity, dArtanyan at this moment joinde an unnesines much les celfish. Notwidhstanding aul hiz inqwirese respecting Mme. Bonasyuu, he cood obtane no intelligens ov her. M. de Treveye had spoken ov her too the qwene. The qwene wauz ignorant whare the mercerz yung wife wauz, but had prommiast too hav her saut for; but this prommice wauz verry vaghe and did not at aul reyashure dArtanyan.

Aithos did not leve hiz chaimber; he made up hiz miand not too take a cin'ghel step too eqwip himcelf.

"We hav stil fiftene dase befoer us," ced he too hiz frendz, "wel, if at the end ov a fortnite I hav found nuthhing, or raather if nuthhing haz cum too fiand me, az I, too good a Catholic too kil micelf withe a pistol boollet, I wil ceke a good qworel withe the foer ov hiz Eminencez Gardz or withe ate In'glisshmen, and I wil fite until wun ov them haz

kild me, which, considdering the number, canot fale too happen. It wil then be ced ov me dhat I dide for the king; so dhat I shal hav performd mi juty widhout the expens ov an outfit."

Porthos continnude too wauc about withe hiz handz behiand him, toscing hiz hed and repeting, "I shal follo up on mi ideyaa."

Arramis, ancshous and negligently drest, ced nuthhing.

It ma be cene bi these dizaastrous detailz dhat dezolaishon raind in the comunity.

The lackese on dhare part, like the coercez ov Hipollitus, shaerd the sadnes ov dhare maasterz. Muiscton colected a stoer ov crusts; Bazan, whoo had aulwase bene incliand too devoashon, nevver qwit the cherchez; Plaunsha waucht the flite ov flise; and Gremo, whoome the genneral distres cood not injuce too brake the cilens impoazd bi hiz maaster, heevd cise enuf too soften the stoanz.

The thre frendz—for, az we hav ced, Aithos had swoern not too ster a foot too eqwip himself—went out erly in the morning, and reternd late at nite. Dha waunderd about the streets, loocking at the paivment az if too ce whether the pascen'gerz had not left a pers behiand them. Dha mite hav bene supoast too be following trax, so observant wer dha wharevver dha went. When dha met dha looct dezzolaitly at wun anuther, az much az too sa, "Hav u found ennithhing?"

Houwevver, az Porthos had ferst found an ideyaa, and had thaut ov it earnestly aafterword, he wauz the ferst too act. He wauz a man ov execueshon, this werthy Porthos. DArtanyan perceevd him wun da wauking tooword the cherch ov St. Lu, and follode him instinctiavly. He enterd, aafter

having twisted his mustaash and elon'gated his impereyal, which  
aulwase  
anounst on his part the moast triyumfant rezolueshonz. Az dArtanyan  
tooc sum precaushonz too concele himcelf, Porthos beleevd he had  
not bene cene. DArtanyan enterd behiand him. Porthos went and leend  
against the cide ov a pillar. DArtanyan, stil unperceevd, supoerted  
himcelf against the uther cide.

Dhare happend too be a cermon, which made the cherch verry fool ov  
pepel. Porthos tooo advaantage ov this cercumstaans too oghel the  
wimmen.

Thanx too the caerz ov Muiscton, the extereyor wauz far from anouncing  
the distres ov the intereyor. Hiz hat wauz a littel naples, hiz fether  
wauz a littel faded, hiz goald lace wauz a littel tarnisht, hiz lacez wer  
a trifel frade; but in the obscurity ov the cherch these thhingz wer  
not cene, and Porthos wauz stil the handsum Porthos.

DArtanyan observd, on the bench nerest too the pillar against which  
Porthos leend, a sort ov ripe buty, raather yello and raather dri,  
but erect and hauty under her blac hood. The ise ov Porthos wer  
fertiavly caast uppon this lady, and then roavd about at larj over the  
nave.

On her cide the lady, whoo from time too time blusht, darted withe the  
rapiddity ov liatning a glaans tooword the inconstant Porthos; and then  
imejaitly the ise ov Porthos waunderd ancshously. It wauz plane dhat  
this mode ov proceding peect the lady in the blac hood, for she bit  
her lips til dha bled, scracht the end ov her nose, and cood not  
cit stil in her cete.

Porthos, ceying this, retwisted his mustaash, elon'gated his impereyal a  
cecond time, and began too make cignalz too a butifool lady whoo wauz  
nere  
the qwire, and whoo not oonly wauz a butifool lady, but stil ferther, no

dout, a grate lady—for she had behiand her a Neegro boi whoo had braut the cooshon on which she nelt, and a female cervant whoo held the emblazond bag in which wauz plaist the booc from which she red the Mas.

The lady withe the blac hood follode throo aul dhare waunderingz the loox ov Porthos, and perceevd dhat dha rested uppon the lady withe the velvet cooshon, the littel Neegro, and the made-cervant.

Juring this time Porthos plade cloce. It wauz aulmoast imperceptibel moashonz ov hiz ise, fin'gherz plaist uppon the lips, littel asascinating smialz, which reyaly did asascinate the disdained buty.

Then she cride, "Ahem!" under cuvver ov the *MEA CULPA*, striking her brest so viggorously dhat evveriboddy, even the lady withe the red cooshon, ternd round tooword her. Porthos pade no atenshon. Nevvertheles, he understood it aul, but wauz def.

The lady withe the red cooshon projuest a grate efect—for she wauz verry handsum—uppon the lady withe the blac hood, whoo sau in her a rival reyaly too be dredded; a grate efect uppon Porthos, whoo thaut her much pritteyer dhan the lady withe the blac hood; a grate efect uppon dArtanyan, whoo reccogniazd in her the lady ov Muung, ov Cala, and ov Dover, whoome hiz percecutor, the man withe the scar, had saluted bi the name ov Milady.

DArtanyan, widhout loosing cite ov the lady ov the red cooshon, continnude too wauch the procedingz ov Porthos, which amuezd him graitley.

He ghest dhat the lady ov the blac hood wauz the procuratorz wife ov the Ru ose Oors, which wauz the moer probbabel from the cherch ov St. Lu

being not far from dhat locality.

He ghest, liaqwise, bi inducshon, dhat Porthos wauz taking hiz revenj for the defete ov Shaantilly, when the procuratorz wife had pruivd so refractory withe respect too her pers.

Amid aul this, dArtanyan remarct aulso dhat not wun countenans responded too the gallantrese ov Porthos. Dhare wer oonly kimeraz and iluezhonz; but for reyal luv, for tru gelloucy, iz dhare enny reyallity exept iluezhonz and kimeraz?

The cermon over, the procuratorz wife advaanst tooword the holy font. Porthos went befoer her, and insted ov a fin'gher, dipt hiz whole hand in. The procuratorz wife smiald, thhinking dhat it wauz for her Porthos had poot himcelf too this trubbel; but she wauz cruwely and promptly undeceevd. When she wauz oonly about thre steps from him, he ternd hiz hed round, fixing hiz ise stedfaastly uppon the lady withe the red cooshon, whoo had rizsen and wauz aproching, follode bi her blac boi and her woomman.

When the lady ov the red cooshon came cloce too Porthos, Porthos dru hiz dripping hand from the font. The fare wershiper tucht the grate hand ov Porthos withe her dellicate fin'gherz, smiald, made the cine ov the cros, and left the cherch.

This wauz too much for the procuratorz wife; she doutd not dhare wauz an intreghe betwene this lady and Porthos. If she had bene a grate lady she wood hav fainted; but az she wauz oonly a procuratorz wife, she contented hercelf saying too the Musketere withe concentrated fury, "A, Msyer Porthos, u doant offer me enny holy wauter?"

Porthos, at the sound ov dhat vois, started like a man awakend from a slepe ov a hundred yeerz.

"Maa-madam!" cride he; "iz dhat u? Hou iz yor huzband, our dere Msyer Cokenar? Iz he stil az stin'gy az evver? Whare can mi ise hav bene not too hav cene u juring the too ourz ov the cermon?"

"I wauz within too pacez ov u, msyer," replide the procuratorz wife; "but u did not perceve me becauz u had no ise but for the pritty lady too whoome u just nou gave the holy wauter."

Porthos pretended too be confuezd. "Aa," ced he, "u hav remarct—"

"I must hav bene bliand not too hav cene."

"Yes," ced Porthos, "dhat iz a dutches ov mi aqwaintans whoome I hav grate trubbel too mete on acount ov the gelloucy ov her huzband, and whoo cent me werd dhat she shood cum tooda too this poor cherch, berrede in this vile qworter, soly for the sake ov ceying me."

"Msyer Porthos," ced the procuratorz wife, "wil u hav the kiandnes too offer me yor arm for five minnuets? I hav sumthhing too sa too u."

"Certainly, madam," ced Porthos, winking too himcelf, az a gambler duz whoo laafs at the jupe he iz about too pluc.

At dhat moment dArtanyan paast in persute ov Milady; he caast a paacing glaans at Porthos, and beheld this triyumfant looc.

"A, a!" ced he, rezoning too himcelf acording too the strainjly esy morallity ov dhat gallant pereyod, "dhare iz wun whoo wil be eqwipt in good time!"

Porthos, yeelding too the preshure ov the arm ov the procuratorz wife, az a barc yeeldz too the rudder, ariavd at the cloister St. Maalywar—a



littel-freqwented passage, encloazd withe a ternstile at eche end. In the datime nobody wauz cene dhare but mendicants devouring dhare crusts, and children at pla.

"Aa, Msyer Porthos," cride the procuratorz wife, when she wauz ashuerd dhat no wun whoo wauz a strain'ger too the populaishon ov the locality cood iather ce or here her, "aa, Msyer Porthos, u ar a grate conkeror, az it apeerz!"

"I, madam?" ced Porthos, drauwing himcelf up proudly; "hou so?"

"The cianz just nou, and the holy wauter! But dhat must be a princes, at leest—dhat lady withe her Neegro boi and her made!"

"Mi God! Madam, u ar deceevd," ced Porthos; "she iz cimply a dutches."

"And dhat running footman whoo wated at the doer, and dhat carrage withe a coachman in grand livvery whoo sat wating on hiz cete?"

Porthos had cene niather the footman nor the carrage, but withe the i ov a gellous woomman, Mme. Cokenar had cene evverithhing.

Porthos regretted dhat he had not at wuns made the lady ov the red cooshon a princes.

"Aa, u ar qwite the pet ov the ladese, Msyer Porthos!" rezhuemd the procuratorz wife, withe a ci.

"Wel," responded Porthos, "u ma imadgine, withe the fiseke withe which nachure haz endoud me, I am not in waunt ov good luc."

"Good Lord, hou qwicly men forghet!" cride the procuratorz wife, rasing her ise tooword hevven.

"Les qwicly dhan the wimmen, it ceemz too me," replide Porthos; "for I, madam, I ma sa I wauz yor victim, when wuinded, diying, I wauz abandond bi the cerjonz. I, the ofspring ov a nobel fammily, whoo plaist reliyans uppon yor frendship—I wauz nere diying ov mi wuindz at ferst, and ov hun'gher aafterword, in a beggarly in at Shaantilly, widhout u evver daning wuns too repli too the barning letterz I adrest too u."

"But, Msyer Porthos," mermerd the procuratorz wife, whoo began too fele dhat, too juj bi the conduct ov the grate ladese ov the time, she wauz rong.

"I, whoo had sacrificast for u the Baron de—"

"I no it wel."

"The Comtes de—"

"Msyer Porthos, be gennerous!"

"U ar rite, madam, and I wil not finnish."

"But it wauz mi huzband whoo wood not here ov lending."

"Madam Cokenar," ced Porthos, "remember the ferst letter u rote me, and which I preserv en'graivd in mi memmory."

The procuratorz wife utterd a grone.

"Beciadz," ced she, "the sum u reqwiard me too boro wauz raather

larj."

"Madam Cokenar, I gave u the prefferens. I had but too rite too the Dushes—but I woant repete her name, for I am incapabel ov compromising a woomman; but this I no, dhat I had but too rite too her and she wood hav cent me fiftene hundred."

The procuratorz wife shed a tere.

"Msyer Porthos," ced she, "I can ashure u dhat u hav ceveerly punnisht me; and if in the time too cum u shood fiand yorcelf in a cimmilar cichuwaishon, u hav but too apli too me."

"Fi, madam, fi!" ced Porthos, az if disgusted. "Let us not tauc about munny, if u plese; it iz humilleyating."

"Then u no lon' gher luv me!" ced the procuratorz wife, sloly and sadly.

Porthos maintaind a magestic cilens.

"And dhat iz the oanly repli u make? Alaas, I understand."

"Thhinc ov the offens u hav comitted tooword me, madam! It remainz HERE!" ced Porthos, placing hiz hand on hiz hart, and prescing it strongly.

"I wil repare it, indede I wil, mi dere Porthos."

"Beciadz, whaut did I aasc ov u?" rezhuemd Porthos, withe a muivment ov the shoalderz fool ov good felloaship. "A lone, nuthhing moer! Aafter aul, I am not an unrezonabel man. I no u ar not rich, Madam Cokenar, and dhat yor huzband iz obliajd too blede hiz poor cliyents too sqwese a fu paultry crounz from them. O! If u wer a dutches, a marsheyones,

or a countess, it would be quite a different thing; it would be unpardonable."

The procurator's wife was peevish.

"Please too no, Monsieur Porthos," said she, "that my strongbox, the strongbox of a procurator's wife who it may be, is better filled than those of your affected minxes."

"This doubles the offense," said Porthos, disengaging his arm from that of the procurator's wife; "for if you are rich, Madam Cokenar, then there is no excuse for your refusal."

"When I said rich," replied the procurator's wife, who saw that she had gone too far, "you must not take the word literally. I am not precisely rich, but I am pretty well off."

"Hold, madam," said Porthos, "let us say no more upon the subject, I beg of you. You have misunderstood me, and all sympathy is extinct between us."

"Ingrate that you are!"

"Ah! I advise you to comply!" said Porthos.

"Begone, then, to your butiful duties; I will detain you no longer."

"And she is not to be despised, in my opinion."

"Nou, Monsieur Porthos, wuns moer, and this is the laast! Doo you luv me stil?"

"Ah, madam," said Porthos, in the most melancholy tone he could assume, "when we are about to enter upon a campaign—a campaign, in which my

presentiments tel me I shal be kild—"

"O, doant tauc ov such thhingz!" cride the procuratorz wife, bersting intoo teerz.

"Sumthhing whisperz me so," continnude Porthos, becumming moer and moer mellancoly.

"Raather sa dhat u hav a nu luv."

"Not so; I speke francly too u. No obgett affects me; and I even fele here, at the bottom ov mi hart, sumthhing which speex for u. But in fiftene dase, az u no, or az u doo not no, this fatal campane iz too open. I shal be feerfooly preyoccupide withe mi outfit. Then I must make a gerny too ce mi fammily, in the lower part ov Brittany, too obtane the sum nescenary for mi deparchure."

Porthos observd a laast strugghel betwene luv and avvarice.

"And az," continnude he, "the dutches whoome u sau at the cherch haz estaits nere too dhose ov mi fammily, we mene too make the gerny tooghether. Gernese, u no, apere much shorter when we travvel too in cumpany."

"Hav u no frendz in Parris, then, Msyer Porthos?" ced the procuratorz wife.

"I thaut I had," ced Porthos, rezhuming hiz mellancoly are; "but I hav bene taut mi mistake."

"U hav sum!" cride the procuratorz wife, in a traanspoert dhat cerpriazd even hercelf. "Cum too our hous toomoro. U ar the sun ov mi aant, conceqwently mi cuzsin; u cum from Nwaa'on, in Piccardy; u

hav cevveral lausuets and no aterny. Can u recolect aul dhat?"

"Perfectly, madam."

"Cum at dinnertime."

"Verry wel."

"And be uppon yor gard befoer mi huzband, whoo iz raather shrude, notwithstanding hiz cevventy-cix yeerz."

"Cevventy-cix yeerz! *PESTE!* Dhats a fine age!" replide Porthos.

"A grate age, u mene, Msyer Porthos. Yes, the poor man ma be expected too leve me a widdo, enny our," continnude she, throwing a cignifficant glaans at Porthos. "Forchunaitly, bi our marrage contract, the cervivor taix evverithhing."

"Aul?"

"Yes, aul."

"U ar a woomman ov precaushon, I ce, mi dere Madam Cokenar," ced Porthos, sqwesing the hand ov the procuratorz wife tenderly.

"We ar then reconciald, dere Msyer Porthos?" ced she, cimpering.

"For life," replide Porthos, in the same manner.

"Til we mete agane, then, dere trator!"

"Til we mete agane, mi forghetfool charmer!"

"Toomoro, mi ain'gel!"

"Toomoro, flame ov mi life!"

### 30 DARTANYAN AND THE IN'GLISHMAN

DArtanyan follode Milady widhout beying perceevd bi her. He sau her ghet intoo her carrage, and herd her order the coachman too drive too St. Zhairman.

It wauz uesles too tri too kepe pace on foot withe a carrage draun bi too pouwerfool horcez. DArtanyan dhaerfoer reternd too the Ru Fairoo.

In the Ru de Sane he met Plaunsha, whoo had stopt befoer the hous ov a paistry cooc, and wauz contemplating withe extacy a cake ov the moast appetising aperans.

He orderd him too go and saddel too horcez in M. de Treveeyz stabelz—wun for himcelf, dArtanyan, and wun for Plaunsha—and bring them too Athhensez place. Wuns for aul, Treveye had plaist hiz stabel at dArtanyanz cervice.

Plaunsha proceded tooword the Ru du Colombeya, and dArtanyan tooword the Ru Fairoo. Aithos wauz at home, empteying sadly a bottel ov the famous Spannish wine he had braut bac withe him from hiz gerny intoo Piccardy. He made a cine for Gremo too bring a glaas for dArtanyan, and Gremo obade az uezhual.

dArtanyan related too Aithos aul dhat had paast at the chersch betwene Porthos and the procuratorz wife, and hou dhare comrade wauz probbably bi dhat time in a fare wa too be eqwipt.

"Az for me," replide Aithos too this recital, "I am qwite at mi ese; it wil not be wimmen dhat wil defra the expans ov mi outfit."

"Handsum, wel-bred, nobel lord az u ar, mi dere Aithos, niather princecez nor qweenz wood be ceure from yor ammorous sollicitaishonz."

"Hou yung this dArtanyan iz!" ced Aithos, shrugging hiz shoalderz; and he made a cine too Gremo too bring anuther bottel.

At dhat moment Plaunsha poot hiz hed moddestly in at the haaf-open doer, and toald hiz maaster dhat the horcez wer reddy.

"Whaut horcez?" aasct Aithos.

"Too horcez dhat Msyer de Treveye lendz me at mi plezhure, and withe which I am nou gowing too take a ride too St. Zhairman."

"Wel, and whaut ar u gowing too doo at St. Zhairman?" then demaanded Aithos.

Then dArtanyan descriabd the meting which he had at the chersch, and hou he had found dhat lady whoo, withe the sainyer in the blac cloke and withe the scar nere hiz tempel, fild hiz miand constantly.

"Dhat iz too sa, u ar in luv withe this lady az u wer withe Madam Bonasyuu," ced Aithos, shrugging hiz shoalderz contempchuwously, az if he



pittede human weecnes.

"I? not at aul!" ced dArtanyan. "I am oonly cureyous too unravvel the mistery too which she iz atacht. I doo not no whi, but I imadgine dhat this woomman, wholy un'none too me az she iz, and wholy un'none too her az

I am, haz an influwens over mi life."

"Wel, perhaps u ar rite," ced Aithos. "I doo not no a woomman dhat iz werth the trubbel ov beying saut for when she iz wuns lost. Madam Bonasyuu iz lost; so much the wers for her if she iz found."

"No, Aithos, no, u ar mistaken," ced dArtanyan; "I luv mi poor Constans moer dhan evver, and if I nu the place in which she iz, wer it at the end ov the werld, I wood go too fre her from the handz ov her ennemese; but I am ignorant. Aul mi recherchez hav bene uesles. Whaut iz too be ced? I must divert mi atenshon!"

"Amuse yorcelf withe Milady, mi dere dArtanyan; I wish u ma withe aul mi hart, if dhat wil amuse u."

"Here me, Aithos," ced dArtanyan. "Insted ov shutting yorcelf up here az if u wer under arest, ghet on horsbac and cum and take a ride withe me too St. Zhairman."

"Mi dere fello," ced Aithos, "I ride horcez when I hav enny; when I hav nun, I go afoot."

"Wel," ced dArtanyan, smiling at the misanthropy ov Aithos, which from enny uther person wood hav ofended him, "I ride whaut I can ghet; I am not so proud az u. So *AU REVOIR*, dere Aithos."

"*AU REVOIR*," ced the Musketere, making a cine too Gremo too uncorc the

bottel he had just braut.

DArtanyan and Plaunsha mounted, and tooc the rode too St. Zhairman.

Aul along the rode, whaut Aithos had ced respecting Mme. Bonasyuu rekerd too the miand ov the yung man. Auldho dArtanyan wauz not ov a verry centimental carracter, the mercerz pritty wife had made a reyal impreshon uppon hiz hart. Az he ced, he wauz reddy too go too the end ov the werld too ceke her; but the werld, beying round, haz menny endz, so

dhat he did not no which wa too tern. Meentime, he wauz gowing too tri too fiand out Milady. Milady had spoken too the man in the blac cloke; dhaerfoer she nu him. Nou, in the opinyon ov dArtanyan, it wauz certainly the man in the blac cloke whoo had carrede of Mme. Bonasyuu the cecond time, az he had carrede her of the ferst. DArtanyan then oonly haaf-lide, which iz liying but littel, when he ced dhat bi gowing in cerch ov Milady he at the same time went in cerch ov Constans.

Thhinking ov aul this, and from time too time ghivving a tuch ov the sper too hiz hors, dArtanyan completed hiz short gerny, and ariavd at St. Zhairman. He had just paast bi the pavilleyon in which ten yeerz later Loowy 14 wauz born. He rode up a verry qwiyet strete, loocking too the rite and the left too ce if he cood cach enny vestige ov hiz butifool In'gliswoomman, when from the ground floer ov a pritty hous, which, acording too the fashon ov the time, had no windo tooword the strete, he sau a face pepe out withe which he thaut he wauz aqwainted. This person wauct along the terrace, which wauz ornamented withe flouwerz. Plaunsha reccogniazd him ferst.

"A, msyer!" ced he, adrescing dArtanyan, "doant u remember dhat face which iz blinking yonder?"

"No," ced dArtanyan, "and yet I am certane it iz not the ferst time I

hav cene dhat vizzage."

"*PARBLEU*, I beleve it iz not," ced Plaunsha. "Whi, it iz poor Luban, the lacky ov the Comt de Vard—he whoome u tooc such good care ov a munth ago at Cala, on the rode too the guvvernorz cuntry hous!"

"So it iz!" ced dArtanyan; "I no him nou. Doo u thhinc he wood recolect u?"

"Mi faith, msyer, he wauz in such trubbel dhat I dout if he can hav retaind a verry clere recolecshon ov me."

"Wel, go and tauc withe the boi," ced dArtanyan, "and make out if u can from hiz conversaishon whether hiz maaster iz ded."

Plaunsha dismounted and went strate up too Luban, whoo did not at aul remember him, and the too lackese began too chat withe the best understanding poscibel; while dArtanyan ternd the too horcez intoo a lane, went round the hous, and came bac too wauch the conferens from behiand a hej ov filberts.

At the end ov an instants observaishon he herd the noiz ov a veyikel, and sau Miladese carrage stop opposite too him. He cood not be mistaken; Milady wauz in it. DArtanyan leend uppon the nec ov hiz hors, in order dhat he mite ce widhout beying cene.

Milady poot her charming blond hed out at the windo, and gave her orderz too her made.

The latter—a pritty gherl ov about twenty or twenty-too yeerz, active and liavly, the tru *SOUBRETTE* ov a grate lady—jumpt from the step uppon which, acording too the custom ov the time, she wauz ceted, and tooc her wa tooword the terrace uppon which dArtanyan had perceevd

Luban.

dArtanyan follode the *soubrette* withe hiz ise, and sau her go tooword the terrace; but it happend dhat sumwun in the hous cauld Luban, so dhat Plaunsha remaind alone, loocking in aul direcshonz for the rode whare dArtanyan had disapeerd.

The made aproacht Plaunsha, whoome she tooc for Luban, and hoalding out a littel billet too him ced, "For yor maaster."

"For mi maaster?" replide Plaunsha, astonnisht.

"Yes, and important. Take it qwicly."

Dharuppon she ran tooword the carrage, which had ternd round tooword the wa it came, jumpt uppon the step, and the carrage drove of.

Plaunsha ternd and reternd the billet. Then, acustomd too pascive obegens, he jumpt doun from the terrace, ran tooword the lane, and at the end ov twenty pavez met dArtanyan, whoo, havving cene aul, wauz cumming too him.

"For u, msyer," ced Plaunsha, presenting the billet too the yung man.

"For me?" ced dArtanyan; "ar u shure ov dhat?"

"*PARDIEU*, msyer, I caant be moer shure. The *SOUBRETTE* ced, For yor maaster.' I hav no uther maaster but u; so—a pritty littel las, mi faith, iz dhat *SOUBRETTE*!"

dArtanyan opened the letter, and read these words:

"A person who has more interest in you than she is willing to confess wishes too not on what day it will suit you to wait in the forest? Tomorrow, at the Hotel Field over the Cloth over Goad, a lackey in black and red will wait for your reply."

"O!" cried dArtanyan, "this is rather worm; it appears that Milady and I are anxious about the health of the same person. Well, Plaunsha, how is the good Msyer de Vard? He is not dead, then?"

"No, msyer, he is as well as a man can be with the fever soerd wound in his body; for you, without question, inflicted fever upon the dear gentleman, and he is still very weak, having lost almost all his blood. As I said, msyer, Luban did not tell me, and told me our adventure from the end to the other."

"Well then, Plaunsha! you are the king of lackeys. Now jump onto your horse, and let us overtake the carriage."

This did not take long. At the end of five minutes she perceived the carriage drawn up by the roadside; a cavalier, richly dressed, was close to the door.

The conversation between Milady and the cavalier was so animated that dArtanyan stopped on the other side of the carriage without even a word but the pretty *SOUBRETTE* perceiving his presence.

The conversation took place in English—a language which dArtanyan

could not understand; but by the axent the yung man plainly saw that the butifool In'glisooman was in a grate rage. She terminated it by an action which left no doubt as to the nature of this conversation; this was a blow with her fan, applied with such force that the little feminine weapon flew into a thousand pieces.

The cavalier laughed aloud, which appeared too exasperate Milady still more.

D'Artagnan thought this was the moment to interfere. He approached the other door, and taking off his hat respectfully, said, "Madam, will you permit me to offer you my services? It appears to me that this cavalier has made you very angry. Speak your word, madam, and I take upon myself to punish him for his want of courtesy."

At the first word Milady turned, looking at the young man with astonishment; and when he had finished, she said in very good French, "My dear, I should with great confidence place myself under your protection if the person with whom I quarrel were not my brother."

"Ah, excuse me, then," said d'Artagnan. "You must be aware that I was ignorant of that, madam."

"What is that stupid fellow troubling himself about?" cried the cavalier, whom Milady had designated as her brother, stooping down to the height of the carriage window. "Why does not he go about his business?"

"Stupid fellow yourself!" said d'Artagnan, stooping in his turn on the neck of his horse, and leaning on his side through the carriage window. "I do not go on because it pleases me to stop here."

The cavalier addressed some words in English to his sister.

"I speke too u in French," ced dArtanyan; "be kiand enuf, then, too repli too me in the same lan'gwage. U ar Madamz bruther, I lern—be it so; but forchunaitly u ar not mine."

It mite be thaut dhat Milady, timmid az wimmen ar in genneral, wood hav interpoazd in this comensment ov muchuwal provocaishonz in order too

prevent the qworel from gowing too far; but on the contrary, she thru hercelf bac in her carrage, and cauld out cooly too the coachman, "Go on—home!"

The pritty *SOUBRETTE* caast an ancshous glaans at dArtanyan, whose good loox ceemd too hav made an impreshon on her.

The carrage went on, and left the too men facing eche uther; no matereyal obstakel cepparated them.

The cavaleyer made a muivment az if too follo the carrage; but dArtanyan, whose an'gher, aulreddy exited, wauz much increest bi reccognising in him the In'GLISHMAN ov Ammeyon whoo had wun hiz hors and had bene verry nere winning hiz dimond ov Aithos, caut at hiz bridel and stopt him.

"Wel, msyer," ced he, "u apere too be moer schupid dhan I am, for u forghet dhare iz a littel qworel too arainj betwene us too."

"Aa," ced the In'GLISHMAN, "iz it u, mi maaster? It ceemz u must aulwase be playing sum game or uther."

"Yes; and dhat remiandz me dhat I hav a revenj too take. We wil ce, mi

dere msyer, if u can handel a soerd az skilfooly az u can a dice box."

"U ce plainly dhat I hav no soerd," ced the In'glisnman. "Doo u wish too pla the braggart withe an unnarmd man?"

"I hope u hav a soerd at home; but at aul events, I hav too, and if u like, I wil thro withe u for wun ov them."

"Needles," ced the In'glisnman; "I am wel fernisht withe such plaithingz."

"Verry wel, mi werthy gentelman," replide dArtanyan, "pic out the lon'ghest, and cum and sho it too me this evening."

"Whare, if u plese?"

"Behiand the Luxemburg; dhats a charming spot for such amuezments az the wun I propose too u."

"Dhat wil doo; I wil be dhare."

"Yor our?"

"Cix oacloc."

"A PROPO, u hav probbably wun or too frendz?"

"I hav thre, whoo wood be onnord bi joining in the spoert withe me."

"Thre? Marvelous! Dhat faulz out odly! Thre iz just mi number!"

"Nou, then, whoo ar u?" aasct the In'glisnman.



"I am Msyer dArtanyan, a Gascon gentelman, cerving in the kingz Musketeerz. And u?"

"I am Lord de Winter, Barron Sheffeeld."

"Wel, then, I am yor cervant, Msyer Barron," ced dArtanyan, "dho u hav naimz raather difficult too recolect." And tutching hiz hors withe the sper, he canterd bac too Parris. Az he wauz acustomd too doo in aul cacez ov enny conceqwens, dArtanyan went strate too the rezsidens ov Aithos.

He found Aithos reclining uppon a larj sofaa, whare he wauz wating, az he ced, for hiz outfit too cum and fiand him. He related too Aithos aul dhat had paast, exopt the letter too M. de Vard.

Aithos wauz delited too fiand he wauz gowing too fite an In'glisshman. We mite sa dhat wauz hiz dreime.

Dha imejaitly cent dhare lackese for Porthos and Arramis, and on dhare arival made them aqwainted withe the cichuwaishon.

Porthos dru hiz soerd from the scabbard, and made paacez at the waul, springing bac from time too time, and making contorshonz like a daancer.

Arramis, whoo wauz constantly at werc at hiz powem, shut himcelf up in Aithocez clozset, and begd not too be disterbd befoer the moment ov drauwing soerdz.

Aithos, bi cianz, desiard Gremo too bring anuther bottel ov wine.

DArtanyan emloid himcelf in arain'ging a littel plan, ov which we shal heraafter ce the execueshon, and which prommiast him sum agreyabel advenchure, az mite be cene bi the smialz which from time too time paast over hiz countenans, whoose thautfoolnes dha annimated.

## 31 IN'GLISH AND FRENCH

The our havving cum, dha went withe dhare foer lackese too a spot behiand the Luxemburg ghivven up too the feding ov goats. Aithos thru a pece ov munny too the goatkeper too widhdrau. The lackese wer orderd too act az centinelz.

A cilent party soone dru nere too the same encloazhure, enterd, and joind the Musketeerz. Then, acording too forane custom, the presentaishonz tooc place.

The In'glisshmen wer aul men ov ranc; conceqwently the od naimz ov dhare adversarese wer for them not oonly a matter ov cerprise, but ov anoiyans.

"But aafter aul," ced Lord de Winter, when the thre frendz had bene naimd, "we doo not no whoo u ar. We canot fite withe such naimz; dha ar naimz ov shepherdz."

"Dhaerfoer yor lordship ma suppose dha ar oonly ashuemd naimz," ced Aithos.

"Which oonly ghivz us a grater desire too no the reyal wunz," replide the In'glisshman.

"U plade verry willingly withe us widhout nowing our naimz," ced Aithos, "bi the same token dhat u wun our horcez."

"Dhat iz tru, but we then oanly risct our pistoalz; this time we risc our blud. Wun plase withe enniboddy; but wun fiats oanly withe eeqwalz."

"And dhat iz but just," ced Aithos, and he tooc acide the wun ov the foer In'glisshmen withe whoome he wauz too fite, and comunicated hiz name in a lo vois.

Porthos and Arramis did the same.

"Duz dhat sattisfi u?" ced Aithos too hiz adversary. "Doo u fiand me ov sufisshent ranc too doo me the onnor ov crosching soerdz withe me?"

"Yes, msyer," ced the In'glisshman, bouwing.

"Wel! nou shal I tel u sumthhing?" added Aithos, cooly.

"Whaut?" replide the In'glisshman.

"Whi, dhat iz dhat u wood hav acted much moer wiazly if u had not reqwiard me too make micelf none."

"Whi so?"

"Becauz I am beleevd too be ded, and hav rezonz for wishing nobody too no I am livving; so dhat I shal be obliajd too kil u too prevent mi ceecret from roming over the feeldz."

The In'glisshman looct at Aithos, beleving dhat he gested, but Aithos did not gest the leest in the werld.

"Gentelmen," ced Aithos, adrescing at the same time hiz companyonz and dhare adversarese, "ar we reddy?"

"Yes!" answered the Englishmen and the Frenchmen, as with one voice.

"On guard, then!" cried Aithos.

Immediately the sword glittered in the rays of the setting sun, and the combat began with an animosity very natural between men twice enemies.

Aithos fought with as much calmness and method as if he had been practicing in a fencing school.

Porthos, abated, no doubt, of his too-great confidence by his adventure of Shaantilly, played with skill and prudence. Arramis, who had the third canto of his poem too finished, behaved like a man in haste.

Aithos killed his adversary first. He hit him but once, but as he had foretold, that hit was a mortal wound; the sword pierced his heart.

Second, Porthos stretched his upon the grass with a wound through his thigh, as the Englishman, without making any further resistance, then surrendered his sword, Porthos took him up in his arms and bore him to his carriage.

Arramis pushed his so vigorously that after going back fifty paces, the man ended by fairly taking to his heels, and disappeared amid the hooting of the lackeys.

As too d'Artagnan, he fought bravely and simply on the defensive; and when he saw his adversary pretty well fatigued, with a vigorous side thrust sent his sword flying. The baron, finding himself disarmed, took two or three steps back, but in this movement his foot slipped and he fell backward.

DArtanyan wauz over him at a bound, and ced too the In'glisnman, pointing  
hiz soerd too hiz throte, "I cood kil u, mi Lord, u ar compleetly  
in mi handz; but I spare yor life for the sake ov yor cister."

DArtanyan wauz at the hite ov joi; he had reyaliazd the plan he had  
imadgiand befoerhand, whoose picchuring had projuest the smialz we  
noted  
uppon hiz face.

The In'glisnman, delited at havving too doo withe a gentelman ov such a  
kiand disposishon, prest dArtanyan in hiz armz, and pade a thouzand  
compliments too the thre Musketeerz, and az Porthocez adversary wauz  
aulreddy instauld in the carrage, and az Arramicez had taken too hiz  
heelz, dha had nuthhing too thhinc about but the ded.

Az Porthos and Arramis wer undrescing him, in the hope ov fianding hiz  
wuind not mortal, a larj pers dropt from hiz cloadhz. DArtanyan  
pict it up and offerd it too Lord de Winter.

"Whaut the devvil wood u hav me doo withe dhat?" ced the In'glisnman.

"U can restoer it too hiz fammily," ced dArtanyan.

"Hiz fammily wil care much about such a trifel az dhat! Hiz fammily wil  
inherrit fiftene thouzand loowy a yere from him. Kepe the pers for yor  
lackese."

DArtanyan poot the pers intoo hiz pocket.

"And nou, mi yung frend, for u wil permit me, I hope, too ghiv u  
dhat name," ced Lord de Winter, "on this verry evening, if agreyabel too  
u, I wil present u too mi cister, Milady Claric, for I am desirous  
dhat she shood take u intoo her good gracez; and az she iz not in bad

odor at coert, she ma perhaps on sum fuchure da speke a werd dhat wil not proove uesles too u."

dArtanyan blusht withe plezhure, and boud a cine ov acent.

At this time Aithos came up too dArtanyan.

"Whaut doo u mene too doo withe dhat pers?" whisperd he.

"Whi, I ment too paas it over too u, mi dere Aithos."

"Me! whi too me?"

"Whi, u kild him! Dha ar the spoilz ov victory."

"I, the are ov an ennemy!" ced Aithos; "for whoome, then, doo u take me?"

"It iz the custom in wor," ced dArtanyan, "whi shood it not be the custom in a juwel?"

"Even on the feeld ov battel, I hav nevver dun dhat."

Porthos shrugd hiz shoalderz; Arramis bi a muivment ov hiz lips endorst Aithos.

"Then," ced dArtanyan, "let us ghiv the munny too the lackese, az Lord de Winter desiard us too doo."

"Yes," ced Aithos; "let us ghiv the munny too the lackese—not too our lackese, but too the lackese ov the In'glisshmen."

Aithos tooc the pers, and thru it intoo the hand ov the coachman. "For u and yor comraidz."

This graitnes ov spirrit in a man whoo wauz qwite destichute struc even Porthos; and this French generoscity, repeted bi Lord de Winter and hiz frend, wauz hily aplauded, exept bi MM. Gremo, Bazan, Muiscton and Plaunsha.

Lord de Winter, on qwitting dArtanyan, gave him hiz cisterz adres. She livd in the Plaas Roiyaal—then the fashonabel qworter—at Number 6, and he undertoo too caul and take dArtanyan withe him in order too introjue him. DArtanyan apointed ate oacloc at Aithocez rezsidens.

This introducshon too Milady Claric occupide the hed ov our Gascon graitly. He rememberd in whaut a strainj manner this woomman had hithertoo

bene mixt up in hiz destiny. Acording too hiz convicshon, she wauz sum crechure ov the cardinal, and yet he felt himcelf invincibly draun tooword her bi wun ov dhose centiments for which we canot acount. Hiz oonly fere wauz dhat Milady wood reccognise in him the man ov Muung and ov

Dover. Then she nu dhat he wauz wun ov the frendz ov M. de Treveye, and conceqwently, dhat he belongd boddy and sole too the king; which wood make him loose a part ov hiz advaantage, cins when none too Milady az he nu her, he plade oonly an eeqwal game withe her. Az too the comensment ov an intreghe betwene her and M. de Vard, our prezumpshous hero gave but littel hede too dhat, auldho the marqwis wauz

yung, handsum, rich, and hi in the cardinalz favor. It iz not for nuthing we ar but twenty yeez oald, abuv aul if we wer born at Tarb.

DArtanyan began bi making hiz moast splendid toilet, then reternd too Aithocez, and acording too custom, related everithing too him.

Aithos

liscend too hiz prodjects, then shooc hiz hed, and recomended prudens too him withe a shade ov bitternes.

"Whaut!" ced he, "u hav just lost wun woomman, whoome u caul good, charming, perfect; and here u ar, running hedlong aafter anuther."

dArtanyan felt the trueth ov this reproche.

"I luvd Madam Bonasyuu withe mi hart, while I oonly luv Milady withe mi hed," ced he. "In ghetting introjuest too her, mi principal obgett iz too ascertain whaut part she plase at coert."

"The part she plase, *PARDIEU!* It iz not difficult too divine dhat, aafter aul u hav toald me. She iz sum emmisary ov the cardinal; a woomman whoo wil drau u intoo a snare in which u wil leve yor hed."

"The devvil! mi dere Aithos, u vu thhingz on the darc cide, methhinx."

"Mi dere fello, I mistrust wimmen. Can it be utherwise? I baut mi expereyens deerly—particcularly fare wimmen. Milady iz fare, u sa?"

"She haz the moast butifool lite hare imadginabel!"

"Aa, mi poor dArtanyan!" ced Aithos.

"Liscen too me! I waunt too be enlitend on a subject; then, when I shal hav lernd whaut I desire too no, I wil widhdrau."

"Be enlitend!" ced Aithos, flegmatticaly.

Lord de Winter ariavd at the apointed time; but Aithos, beying wornd ov hiz cumming, went intoo the uther chaimber. He dhaerfoer found dArtanyan alone, and az it wauz neerly ate oacloc he tooc the yung man withe



him.

An elegant carriage waded below, and as it waded drawn by too excellent horses, they were soon at the Plaza Roial.

Milady Claric received d'Artagnan ceremoniously. Her hotel was remarkably sumptuous, and while the most part of the English had quit, or were about to quit, France on account of the war, Milady had just been laying out much money upon her residence; which proved that the general measure which drove the English from France did not affect her.

"U ce," said Lord de Winter, presenting d'Artagnan to his sister, "a young gentleman who has held my life in his hands, and who has not abused his advantage, although we have been twice enemies, although it was I who insulted him, and although I am an Englishman. Thank him, then, madam, if you have any affection for me."

Milady frowned slightly; a scarcely visible cloud passed over her brow, and so peculiarly a smile appeared upon her lips that the young man, who saw and observed this triple shade, almost shuddered at it.

The brother did not perceive this; he had turned round too late with the Milady's favorite monkey, which had pulled him by the doublet.

"You are welcome, my dear," said Milady, in a voice whose singular sweetness contrasted with the simplicity of d'Artagnan's had just remarked; "you have today acquired eternal debts to my gratitude."

The Englishman then turned round and described the combat without omitting a single detail. Milady listened with the greatest attention, and yet it was easily to be perceived, whatever effort she made to conceal her impressions, that this recital was not agreeable to her. The blood rose to her head, and her little feet were with impatience

beneeth her robe.

Lord de Winter perceevd nuthhing ov this. When he had finnisht, he went too a tabel uppon which wauz a salver withe Spanish wine and glaacez.

He

fild too glaacez, and bi a cine invited dArtanyan too drinc.

DArtanyan nu it wauz concidderd disobliging bi an In'glisshman too refuse too plej him. He dhaerfoer dru nere too the tabel and tooc the cecond glaas. He did not, houwevver, loose cite ov Milady, and in a mirror he perceevd the chainj dhat came over her face. Nou dhat she beleevd hercelf too be no lon'gher observd, a centiment resembling ferocity animated her countenans. She bit her hankerchefe withe her butifool teeth.

Dhat pritty littel *SOUBRETTE* whoome dArtanyan had aulreddy observd then came in. She spoke sum werdz too Lord de Winter in In'glissh, whoo dharuppon requested dArtanyanz permishon too retire, excusing himcelf on acount ov the ergency ov the biznes dhat had cauld him awa, and charging hiz cister too obtane hiz pardon.

DArtanyan exchainjd a shake ov the hand withe Lord de Winter, and then reternd too Milady. Her countenans, withe cerprising mobillity, had recuvverd its graishous expreshon; but sum littel red spots on her hankerchefe indicated dhat she had bitten her lips til the blud came. Dhose lips wer magnifficent; dha mite be ced too be ov coral.

The conversaishon tooc a cheerfool tern. Milady apeerd too hav entiarly recuvverd. She toald dArtanyan dhat Lord de Winter wauz her bruther-in-lau, and not her bruther. She had marrede a yun'gher bruther ov the fammily, whoo had left her a widdo withe wun chiald. This chiald wauz

the oonly are too Lord de Winter, if Lord de Winter did not marry. Aul

this shode dArtanyan dhat dhare wauz a vale which conceeld sumthhing; but he cood not yet ce under this vale.

In adishon too this, aafter a haaf ourz conversaishon dArtanyan wauz convinst dhat Milady wauz hiz compaitreyot; she spoke French withe an ellegans and a purity dhat left no dout on dhat hed.

DArtanyan wauz profuce in gallant spechez and protestaishonz ov devoashon. Too aul the cimpel thhingz which escaipt our Gascon, Milady replide withe a smile ov kiandnes. The our came for him too retire. DArtanyan tooc leve ov Milady, and left the saloone the happyest ov men.

On the staercace he met the pritty *SOUBRETTE*, whoo brusht gently against him az she paast, and then, blushing too the ise, aasct hiz pardon for havving tucht him in a vois so swete dhat the pardon wauz graanted instantly.

DArtanyan came agane on the moro, and wauz stil better receevd dhan on the evening befoer. Lord de Winter wauz not at home; and it wauz Milady whoo this time did aul the onnorz ov the evening. She apeerd too take a grate interest in him, aasct him whens he came, whoo wer hiz frendz, and whether he had not sumtiamz thaut ov atatching himcelf too the cardinal.

DArtanyan, whoo, az we hav ced, wauz exedingly prudent for a yung man ov twenty, then rememberd hiz suspishonz regarding Milady. He launcht intoo a ulogy ov hiz Emminens, and ced dhat he shood not hav faild too enter intoo the Gardz ov the cardinal insted ov the kingz Gardz if he had happend too no M. de Cavwaa insted ov M. de Treveye.

Milady chainjd the conversaishon widhout enny aperans ov afectaishon, and aasct dArtanyan in the moast caerles manner poscibel if he had evver bene in In'gland.

DArtanyan replide dhat he had bene cent thither bi M. de Treveye too trete for a supli ov horcez, and dhat he had braut bac foer az spescimenz.

Milady in the coers ov the conversaishon twice or thrice bit her lips; she had too dele withe a Gascon whoo plade cloce.

At the same our az on the preceding evening, dArtanyan retiard. In the coridor he agane met the pritty Kitty; dhat wauz the name ov the *SOUBRETTE*. She looct at him withe an expreshon ov kiandnes which it wauz imposcibel too mistake; but dArtanyan wauz so preyoccupide bi the mistres dhat he notiast absolutly nuthhing but her.

DArtanyan came agane on the moro and the da aafter dhat, and eche da Milady gave him a moer graishous recepshon.

Evvery evening, iather in the antechaimber, the coridor, or on the staerz, he met the pritty *SOUBRETTE*. But, az we hav ced, dArtanyan pade no atenshon too this percistens ov poor Kitty.

### 32 A PROCURATORZ DINNER

Houwevver brilleyant had bene the part plade bi Porthos in the juwel, it had not made him forghet the dinner ov the procuratorz wife.

On the moro he receevd the laast tutchéz ov Muisctonz brush for an our, and tooc hiz wa tooword the Ru ose Oors withe the steps ov a man whoo wauz dubly in favor withe forchune.

Hiz hart beté, but not like dArtanyanz withe a yung and impaishent luv. No; a moer matereyal interest sterd hiz blud. He wauz about at laast too paas dhat mistereyous threshoald, too clime dhose un'none staerz bi which, wun bi wun, the oald crounz ov M. Cokenar had acended. He wauz about too ce in reyallity a certane coffer ov which he had twenty tiamz beheld the immagine in hiz dreemz—a coffer long and depe, loct, bolted, faacend in the waul; a coffer ov which he had so often herd, and which the handz—a littel rinkeld, it iz tru, but stil not widhout ellegans—ov the procuratorz wife wer about too open too hiz admiring loox.

And then he—a waunderer on the erth, a man widhout forchune, a man widhout fammily, a soalger acustomd too inz, cabbarase, tavvernz, and restorants, a luvver ov wine foerst too depend uppon chaans treets—wauz about too partake ov fammily meelz, too enjoi the plezhuerz ov a cumfortabel establishment, and too ghiv himcelf up too dhose littel atenshonz which "the harder wun iz, the moer dha plese," az oald soalgerz sa.

Too cum in the capascity ov a cuzsin, and cete himcelf evvery da at a good tabel; too smuithe the yello, rinkeld brou ov the oald procurator; too pluc the clarx a littel bi teching them *BASSETTE*, *PASSE-DIX*, and *LANSQUENET*, in dhare utmoast nicety, and winning from them, bi wa ov fe for the lesson he wood ghiv them in an our, dhare savingz ov a munth—aul this wauz enormously deliatfool too Porthos.

The Musketere cood not forghet the evil repoerts which then prevaild,

and which indede hav cerviavd them, ov the procuratorz ov the pereyod—meen'nes, stin'gines, faasts; but az, aafter aul, exeping sum fu acts ov econnomy which Porthos had aulwase found verry uncezonabel, the procuratorz wife had bene tollerably libberal—dhat iz, be it understood, for a procuratorz wife—he hoapt too ce a hous'hoald ov a hily cumfortabel kiand.

And yet, at the verry doer the Musketere began too entertane sum douts. The aproche wauz not such az too preposes pepel—an il-smelling, darc passage, a staercace haaf-lited bi barz throo which stole a glimmer from a naboring yard; on the ferst floer a lo doer studded withe enormous nailz, like the principal gate ov the Grand Shatela.

Porthos noct withe hiz hand. A taul, pale clarc, hiz face shaded bi a forest ov vergin hare, opend the doer, and boud withe the are ov a man foerst at wuns too respect in anuther lofty statchure, which indicated strength, the millitary dres, which indicated ranc, and a ruddy countenans, which indicated famileyarrity withe good livving.

A shorter clarc came behiand the ferst, a tauler clarc behiand the cecond, a stripling ov a duzen yeerz rising behiand the thherd. In aul, thre clarx and a haaf, which, for the time, argude a verry extencive cliyentage.

Auldho the Musketere wauz not expected befoer wun oacloc, the procuratorz wife had bene on the wauch evver cins midda, recconing dhat the hart, or perhaps the stummac, ov her luvver wood bring him befoer hiz time.

Mme. Cokenar dhaerfoer enterd the office from the hous at the same moment her ghest enterd from the staerz, and the aperans ov the werthy lady releevd him from an auqword embarrasment. The clarc cervade him withe grate cureyosity, and he, not nowing wel whaut too sa too this acending and decending scale, remaind tung-tide.

"It iz mi cuzsin!" cride the procuratorz wife. "Cum in, cum in, Msyer Porthos!"

The name ov Porthos projest its efect uppon the clarx, whoo began too laaf; but Porthos ternd sharply round, and evvery countenans qwicly recuvverd its gravvity.

Dha reecht the office ov the procurator aafter havving paast throo the antechaimber in which the clarx wer, and the studdy in which dha aut too hav bene. This laast apartment wauz a sort ov darc roome, litterd withe paperz. On qwitting the studdy dha left the kitchen on the rite, and enterd the recepshon roome.

Aul these ruimz, which comunicated withe wun anuther, did not inspire Porthos favorably. Werdz mite be herd at a distans throo aul these open doerz. Then, while paacing, he had caast a rappid, investigating glaans intoo the kitchen; and he wauz obliajd too confes too himcelf, too the shame ov the procuratorz wife and hiz one regret, dhat he did not ce dhat fire, dhat animaishon, dhat buscel, which when a good repaast iz on foot prevailz genneraly in dhat sancchuwary ov good livving.

The procurator had widhout dout bene wornd ov hiz vizsit, az he exprest no cerprise at the cite ov Porthos, whoo advaanst tooword him withe a sufishmently esy are, and saluted him kerchously.

"We ar cuzsinz, it apeerz, Msyer Porthos?" ced the procurator, rising, yet supoerting hiz wate uppon the armz ov hiz cane chare.

The oald man, rapt in a larj blac dublet, in which the whole ov hiz slender boddy wauz conceeld, wauz brisc and dri. Hiz littel gra ise shon like carbunkelz, and apeerd, withe hiz grinning mouth, too be the oonly part ov hiz face in which life cerviavd. Unforchunaitly the legz began too refuse dhare cervice too this bony mashene. Juring the laast five

or six months that this weecnes had bene felt, the werthy procurator had neerly becum the slave ov hiz wife.

The cuzsin wauz receevd withe resignaishon, dhat wauz aul. M. Cokenar, ferm uppon hiz legz, wood hav decliand aul relaishonship withe M. Porthos.

"Yes, msyer, we ar cuzsinz," ced Porthos, widhout beying disconcerted, az he had nevver recond uppon beying receevd enthuseyaasticaly bi the huzband.

"Bi the female cide, I beleve?" ced the procurator, malishously.

Porthos did not fele the riddicule ov this, and tooc it for a pece ov simpliscity, at which he laaft in hiz larj mustaash. Mme. Cokenar, whoo nu dhat a cimpel-mianded procurator wauz a verry rare varyyety in the speeshese, smiald a littel, and cullord a grate dele.

M. Cokenar had, cins the arival ov Porthos, freeqwently caast hiz ise withe grate unnesines uppon a larj chest plaist in frunt ov hiz oke desc. Porthos comprehended dhat this chest, auldho it did not corespond in shape withe dhat which he had cene in hiz dreemz, must be the blesced coffer, and he con'gratchulated himcelf dhat the reyallity wauz cevveral fete hiyer dhan the dreme.

M. Cokenar did not carry hiz geneyalodgical investigaishonz enny ferther; but widhdrauwng hiz anchous looc from the chest and fixing it uppon Porthos, he contented himcelf withe saying, "Msyer our cuzsin wil doo us the favor ov dining withe us wuns befoer hiz deparchure for the campane, wil he not, Madam Cokenar?"

This time Porthos receevd the blo rite in hiz stummac, and felt it. It apeerd liaqwise dhat Mme. Cokenar wauz not les afected bi it on



her part, for she added, "Mi cuzsin wil not retern if he fiandz dhat we doo not trete him kiandly; but uthewise he haz so littel time too paas in Parris, and conceqwently too spare too us, dhat we must entrete him too ghiv us evvery instant he can caul hiz one preveyous too hiz deparchure."

"O, mi legz, mi poor legz! whare ar u?" mermerd Cokenar, and he tride too smile.

This succor, which came too Porthos at the moment in which he wauz atact in hiz gastronommic hoaps, inspiard much grattichude in the Musketerere tooword the procuratorz wife.

The our ov dinner soone ariavd. Dha paast intoo the eting roome—a larj darc roome citchuwated opposite the kitchen.

The clarx, whoo, az it apeerd, had smeld unnuezhuwal perfuemz in the hous, wer ov millitary puncchuwallity, and held dhare stuilz in hand qwite reddy too cit down. Dhare jauz muivd preliminarily withe feerfool thretteningz.

"Indede!" thaut Porthos, caasting a glaans at the thre hun'gry clarx—for the errand boi, az mite be expected, wauz not admitted too the onnorz ov the magistereyal tabel, "in mi cuzsinz place, I wood not kepe such goormandz! Dha looc like shiprect salorz whoo hav not eten for cix weex."

M. Cokenar enterd, poosht along uppon hiz armchare withe caasterz bi Mme. Cokenar, whoome Porthos acisted in roling her huzband up too the tabel. He had scaersly enterd when he began too adgitate hiz nose and hiz jauz aafter the exaampel ov hiz clarx.

"O, o!" ced he; "here iz a soope which iz raather inviting."

"Whaut the devvil can dha smel so extraordinary in this soope?" ced Porthos, at the cite ov a pale liqwid, abundant but entiarly fre from mete, on the cerface ov which a fu crusts swam about az rare az the ilandz ov an arkipellago.

Mme. Cokenar smiald, and uppon a cine from her evveriwun egherly tooc hiz cete.

M. Cokenar wauz cervd ferst, then Porthos. Aafterword Mme. Cokenar fild her one plate, and distribbuted the crusts widhout soope too the impaishent clarx. At this moment the doer ov the dining roome uncloazd withe a creke, and Porthos perceevd throo the haaf-open flap the littel clarc whoo, not beying aloud too take part in the feest, ate hiz dri bred in the passage withe the dubbel odor ov the dining roome and kitchen.

Aafter the soope the made braut a boild foul—a pece ov magnificens which cauzd the ise ov the dinerz too dilate in such a manner dhat dha ceemd reddy too berst.

"Wun ma ce dhat u luv yor fammily, Madam Cokenar," ced the procurator, withe a smile dhat wauz aulmoast tradgic. "U ar certainly treeting yor cuzsin verry handsumly!"

The poor foul wauz thhin, and cuvverd withe wun ov dhose thhic, brisly skinz throo which the teeth canot pennetrate withe aul dhare efforts. The foul must hav bene saut for a long time on the perch, too which it had retiard too di ov oald age.

"The devvil!" thaut Porthos, "this iz poor werc. I respect oald age, but I doant much like it boild or roasted."

And he looct round too ce if enniboddy partooc ov hiz opinyon; but on the contrary, he sau nuthhing but egher ise which wer devouring, in

anticipaishon, dhat sublime foul which wauz the obgett ov hiz contempt.

Mme. Cokenar dru the dish tooword her, skilfooly detacht the too grate blac fete, which she plaist uppon her huzbandz plate, cut of the nec, which withe the hed she poot on wun cide for hercelf, raizd the wing for Porthos, and then reternd the berd uthewise intact too the cervant whoo had braut it in, whoo disapeerd withe it befoer the Musketerere had time too exammine the vareyaishonz which disapointment projucez uppon facez, acording too the carracterz and temperaments ov dhose whoo expereyens it.

In the place ov the foul a dish ov harrico beenz made its aperans—an enormous dish in which sum boanz ov mutton dhat at ferst cite wun mite hav beleevd too hav sum mete on them pretended too sho themcelvz.

But the clarx wer not the jueps ov this decete, and dhare lugubreyous loox cetteld doun intoo resiand countenancez.

Mme. Cokenar distribbuted this dish too the yung men withe the moderaishon ov a good houswife.

The time for wine came. M. Cokenar poerd from a verry smaul stone bottel the thherd ov a glaas for eche ov the yung men, cervd himcelf in about the same propoershon, and paast the bottel too Porthos and Mme. Cokenar.

The yung men fild up dhare thherd ov a glaas withe wauter; then, when dha had drunc haaf the glaas, dha fild it up agane, and continnude too doo so. This braut them, bi the end ov the repaast, too swaulowing a drinc which from the cullor ov the ruby had paast too dhat ov a pale topaz.

Porthos ate hiz wing ov the foul timmidly, and shudderd when he felt the

ne ov the procuratorz wife under the tabel, az it came in cerch ov hiz. He aulso dranc haaf a glaas ov this sparingly cervd wine, and found it too be nuthhing but dhat horibel Montruye—the terror ov aul expert pallaits.

M. Cokenar sau him swaulowing this wine undiluted, and cide deeply.

"Wil u ete enny ov these beenz, Cuzsin Porthos?" ced Mme. Cokenar, in dhat tone which cez, "Take mi advice, doant tuch them."

"Devvil take me if I taist wun ov them!" mermerd Porthos too himcelf, and then ced aloud, "Thanc u, mi cuzsin, I am no lon'gher hun'gry."

Dhare wauz cilens. Porthos cood hardly kepe hiz countenans.

The procurator repeted cevveral tiamz, "Aa, Madam Cokenar! Axept mi compliments; yor dinner haz bene a reyal feest. Lord, hou I hav eten!"

M. Cokenar had eten hiz soope, the blac fete ov the foul, and the oonly mutton bone on which dhare wauz the leest aperans ov mete.

Porthos fancede dha wer mistifiying him, and began too kerl hiz mustaash and nit hiz iabrouz; but the ne ov Mme. Cokenar gently adviazd him too be paishent.

This cilens and this interupshon in cerving, which wer unnintelligibel too Porthos, had, on the contrary, a terribel mening for the clarx. Uppon a looc from the procurator, acumpanede bi a smile from Mme. Cokenar, dha arose sloly from the tabel, foalded dhare napkinz moer sloly stil, boud, and retiard.

"Go, yung men! go and promote digeschon bi werking," ced the procurator, graivly.

The clark gon, Mme. Cokenar rose and tooc from a buffa a pece ov chese, sum preservd qwincez, and a cake which she had hercelf made ov aalmondz and hunny.

M. Cokenar nit hiz iabrouz becauz dhare wer too menny good thhingz. Porthos bit hiz lips becauz he sau not the whaerwidhaul too dine. He looct too ce if the dish ov beenz wauz stil dhare; the dish ov beenz had disapeerd.

"A pozsitive feest!" cride M. Cokenar, terning about in hiz chare, "a reyal feest, *EPULCE EPULORUM*. Lucullus dianz withe Lucullus."

Porthos looct at the bottel, which wauz nere him, and hoapt dhat withe wine, bred, and chese, he mite make a dinner; but wine wauz waunting, the bottel wauz empty. M. and Mme. Cokenar did not ceme too observ it.

"This iz fine!" ced Porthos too himcelf; "I am prittily caut!"

He paast hiz tung over a spuinfool ov preservz, and stuc hiz teeth intoo the sticky paistry ov Mme. Cokenar.

"Nou," ced he, "the sacrifice iz consumated! Aa! if I had not the hope ov peping withe Madam Cokenar intoo her huzbandz chest!"

M. Cokenar, aafter the lucshurese ov such a repaast, which he cauld an exes, felt the waunt ov a ceyestaa. Porthos began too hope dhat the thhing wood take place at the prezsent citting, and in dhat same locallity; but the procurator wood liscen too nuthhing, he wood be taken too hiz roome, and wauz not sattisfide til he wauz cloce too hiz chest, uppon the ej ov which, for stil grater precaushon, he plaist hiz fete.

The procuratorz wife tooc Porthos intoo an adjoining roome, and dha began too la the bacis ov a reconcileyashon.

"U can cum and dine thre tiamz a weke," ced Mme. Cokenar.

"Thanx, madam!" ced Porthos, "but I doant like too abuse yor kiandnes; beciadz, I must thhinc ov mi outfit!"

"Dhats tru," ced the procuratorz wife, groning, "dhat unforchunate outfit!"

"Alaas, yes," ced Porthos, "it iz so."

"But ov whaut, then, duz the eqwipment ov yor cumpany concist, Msyer Porthos?"

"O, ov menny thhingz!" ced Porthos. "The Musketeerz ar, az u no, pict soalgerz, and dha reqwire menny thhingz uesles too the Gardzmen or the Swis."

"But yet, detale them too me."

"Whi, dha ma amount too—", ced Porthos, whoo preferd discusing the total too taking them wun bi wun.

The procuratorz wife wated tremblingly.

"Too hou much?" ced she. "I hope it duz not exede—" She stopt; speche faild her.

"O, no," ced Porthos, "it duz not exede too thouzand five hundred leevrz! I even thhinc dhat withe econnomy I cood mannage it withe too thouzand leevrz."

"Good God!" cride she, "too thouzand leevrz! Whi, dhat iz a forchune!"

Porthos made a moast cignifficant grimface; Mme. Cokenar understood it.

"I wisht too no the detale," ced she, "becauz, havving menny rellatiavz in biznes, I wauz aulmoast shure ov obtaning thhingz at a hundred per cent les dhan u wood pa yorcelf."

"Aa, aa!" ced Porthos, "dhat iz whaut u ment too sa!"

"Yes, dere Msyer Porthos. Dhus, for instans, doant u in the ferst place waunt a hors?"

"Yes, a hors."

"Wel, then! I can just sute u."

"Aa!" ced Porthos, britening, "dhats wel az regardz mi hors; but I must hav the apointments complete, az dha include obgets which a Musketere alone can perchace, and which wil not amount, beciadz, too moer dhan thre hundred leevrz."

"Thre hundred leevrz? Then poot doun thre hundred leevrz," ced the procuratorz wife, withe a ci.

Porthos smiald. It ma be rememberd dhat he had the saddel which came from Buckingham. These thre hundred leevrz he recond uppon pooting snugly intoo hiz pocket.

"Then," continnude he, "dhare iz a hors for mi lacky, and mi valesse. Az too mi armz, it iz uesles too trubbel u about them; I hav them."

"A hors for yor lacky?" rezhuemd the procuratorz wife, hezsitatingly; "but dhat iz doowing thhingz in lordly stile, mi frend."

"Aa, madam!" ced Porthos, hautily; "doo u take me for a beggar?"

"No; I oonly thaut dhat a pritty mule maix sumtiamz az good an aperans az a hors, and it ceemd too me dhat bi ghetting a pritty mule for Muiscton—"

"Wel, agrede for a pritty mule," ced Porthos; "u ar rite, I hav cene verry grate Spannish nobelz whoose whole swete wer mounted on muelz.

But then u understand, Madam Cokenar, a mule withe fetherz and belz."

"Be sattisfide," ced the procuratorz wife.

"Dhare remainz the valse," added Porthos.

"O, doant let dhat disterb u," cride Mme. Cokenar. "Mi huzband haz five or cix valsez; u shal chuse the best. Dhare iz wun in particular which he preferz in hiz gernese, larj enuf too hoald aul the werld."

"Yor valse iz then empty?" aasct Porthos, withe cimpliscity.

"Certainly it iz empty," replide the procuratorz wife, in reyal innocens.

"Aa, but the valse I waunt," cride Porthos, "iz a wel-fild wun, mi dere."

Madam utterd fresh cise. Moleyare had not ritten hiz cene in "LAvare" then. Mme. Cokenar wauz in the dilemmaa ov Arpagan.

Finally, the rest ov the eqwipment wauz suxesciavly debated in the same manner; and the rezult ov the citting wauz dhat the procuratorz wife



shood ghiv ate hundred leevrz in munny, and shood fernish the hors and the mule which shood hav the onnor ov carreying Porthos and Muiscton too gloery.

These condishonz beying agrede too, Porthos tooc leve ov Mme. Cokenar. The latter wisht too detane him bi darting certane tender glaancez; but Porthos erjd the comaandz ov juty, and the procuratorz wife wauz obliajd too ghiv place too the king.

The Musketere reternd home hun'gry and in bad humor.

### 33 *SOUBRETTE* AND MISTRES

Meentime, az we hav ced, despite the crise ov hiz conshens and the wise councelz ov Aithos, dArtanyan became ourly moer in luv withe Milady. Dhus he nevver faild too pa hiz diyernal coert too her; and the self-sattisfide Gascon wauz convinst dhat sooner or later she cood not fale too respond.

Wun da, when he ariavd withe hiz hed in the are, and az lite at hart az a man whoo awaits a shouwer ov goald, he found the *SOUBRETTE* under the gaitwa ov the hotel; but this time the pritty Kitty wauz not contented withe tutching him az he paast, she tooc him gently bi the hand.

"Good!" thaut dArtanyan, "She iz charjd withe sum message for me from her mistres; she iz about too apoint sum rondavoo ov which she had not currage too speke." And he looct doun at the pritty gherl withe the moast triyumfant are imadginabel.

"I wish too sa thre werdz too u, Msyer Shevalere," stammerd the *SOUBRETTE*.

"Speke, mi chiald, speke," ced dArtanyan; "I liscen."

"Here? Imposcibel! Dhat which I hav too sa iz too long, and abuv aul, too ceecret."

"Wel, whaut iz too be dun?"

"If Msyer Shevalere wood follo me?" ced Kitty, timidly.

"Whare u plese, mi dere chiald."

"Cum, then."

And Kitty, whoo had not let go the hand ov dArtanyan, led him up a littel darc, wianding staercace, and aafter acending about fiftene steps, opend a doer.

"Cum in here, Msyer Shevalere," ced she; "here we shal be alone, and can tauc."

"And whoose roome iz this, mi dere chiald?"

"It iz mine, Msyer Shevalere; it comunicaits withe mi mistrecez bi dhat doer. But u nede not fere. She wil not here whaut we sa; she nevver gose too bed befoer midnite."

DArtanyan caast a glaans around him. The littel apartment wauz charming for its taist and neetnes; but in spite ov himcelf, hiz ise wer directed too dhat doer which Kitty ced led too Miladese chaimber.

Kitty ghest whaut wauz paacing in the miand ov the yung man, and heevd a depe ci.

"U luv mi mistres, then, verry deerly, Msyer Shevalere?" ced she.

"O, moer dhan I can sa, Kitty! I am mad for her!"

Kitty breedhd a cecond ci.

"Alaas, msyer," ced she, "dhat iz too bad."

"Whaut the devvil doo u ce so bad in it?" ced dArtanyan.

"Becauz, msyer," replide Kitty, "mi mistres luvz u not at aul."

"*HEIN!*" ced dArtanyan, "can she hav charjd u too tel me so?"

"O, no, msyer; but out ov the regard I hav for u, I hav taken the rezolueshon too tel u so."

"Much obliajd, mi dere Kitty; but for the intenshon oonly—for the informaishon, u must agry, iz not liacly too be at aul agreyabel."

"Dhat iz too sa, u doant beleve whaut I hav toald u; iz it not so?"

"We hav aulwase sum difficulty in beleving such thhingz, mi pritty dere, wer it oonly from celf-luv."

"Then u doant beleve me?"

"I confes dhat unles u dane too ghiv me sum proofe ov whaut u advaans—"

"Whaut doo u thhinc ov this?"

Kitty dru a littel note from her boozom.

"For me?" ced dArtanyan, cesing the letter.

"No; for anuther."

"For anuther?"

"Yes."

"Hiz name; hiz name!" cride dArtanyan.

"Red the adres."

"Msyer El Comt de Vard."

The remembrans ov the cene at St. Zhairman presented itcelf too the miand ov the prezumpshous Gascon. Az qwic az thaut, he toer open the letter, in spite ov the cri which Kitty utterd on ceying whaut he wauz gowing too doo, or raather, whaut he wauz doowing.

"O, good Lord, Msyer Shevalere," ced she, "whaut ar u doowing?"

"I?" ced dArtanyan; "nuthhing," and he red,

"U hav not aancerd mi ferst note. Ar u indispoazd, or hav u forgotten the glaancez u favord me withe at the baul ov Mme. de Ghise? U hav an oporchunity nou, Count; doo not alou it too escape."

DArtanyan became verry pale; he wauz wuinded in hiz CELF-luv: he thaut

dhat it wauz in hiz LUV.

"Poor dere Msyer dArtanyan," ced Kitty, in a vois fool ov compashon, and prescing anu the yung manz hand.

"U pitty me, littel wun?" ced dArtanyan.

"O, yes, and withe aul mi hart; for I no whaut it iz too be in luv."

"U no whaut it iz too be in luv?" ced dArtanyan, loocking at her for the ferst time withe much atenshon.

"Alaas, yes."

"Wel, then, insted ov pitteying me, u wood doo much better too acist me in aven'ging micelf on yor mistres."

"And whaut sort ov revenj wood u take?"

"I wood triyumf over her, and suplaant mi rival."

"I wil nevver help u in dhat, Msyer Shevalere," ced Kitty, wormly.

"And whi not?" demaanded dArtanyan.

"For too rezonz."

"Whaut wunz?"

"The ferst iz dhat mi mistres wil nevver luv u."

"Hou doo u no dhat?"

"U hav cut her too the hart."

"I? In whaut can I hav ofended her—I whoo evver cins I hav none her hav livd at her fete like a slave? Speke, I beg u!"

"I wil nevver confes dhat but too the man—whoo shood rede too the bottom ov mi sole!"

dArtanyan looct at Kitty for the cecond time. The yung gherl had freshnes and buty which menny dutchecez wood hav perchaist withe dhare coronets.

"Kitty," ced he, "I wil rede too the bottom ov yor sole when-evver u like; doant let dhat disterb u." And he gave her a kis at which the poor gherl became az red az a cherry.

"O, no," ced Kitty, "it iz not me u luv! It iz mi mistres u luv; u toald me so just nou."

"And duz dhat hinder u from letting me no the cecond rezon?"

"The cecond rezon, Msyer the Shevalere," replide Kitty, emboldend bi the kis in the ferst place, and stil ferther bi the expreshon ov the ise ov the yung man, "iz dhat in luv, evveriwun for hercelf!"

Then oanly dArtanyan rememberd the lan'gwishing glaancez ov Kitty, her constantly meting him in the antechaimber, the coridor, or on the staerz, dhose tutchez ov the hand evvery time she met him, and her depe cise; but abzorbd bi hiz desire too plese the grate lady, he had disdained the *soubrette*. He whoose game iz the eghel taix no hede ov the sparro.

But this time our Gascon sau at a glaans aul the advaantage too be deriavd

from the luv which Kitty had just confest so innocently, or so boaldly: the intercepshon ov letterz adrest too the Comt de Vard, nuse on the spot, entrans at aul ourz intoo Kittese chaimber, which wauz contigguwous too her mistrecez. The perfidjous decever wauz, az ma plainly be perceevd, aulreddy sacrificing, in intenshon, the poor gherl in order too obtane Milady, willy-nilly.

"Wel," ced he too the yung gherl, "ar u willing, mi dere Kitty, dhat I shood ghiv u a proofe ov dhat luv which u dout?"

"Whaut luv?" aasct the yung gherl.

"Ov dhat which I am reddy too fele tooword u."

"And whaut iz dhat proofe?"

"Ar u willing dhat I shood this evening paas withe u the time I genneraly spend withe yor mistres?"

"O, yes," ced Kitty, clapping her handz, "verry willing."

"Wel, then, cum here, mi dere," ced dArtanyan, establishing himself in an esy chare; "cum, and let me tel u dhat u ar the prittetest *Soubrette* I evver sau!"

And he did tel her so much, and so wel, dhat the poor gherl, whoo aasct nuthhing better dhan too beleve him, did beleve him. Nevvertheles, too dArtanyanz grate astonishment, the pritty Kitty defended herself rezzoluetly.

Time paacez qwicly when it iz paast in atax and defencez. Midnite sounded, and aulmoast at the same time the bel wauz rung in Miladese chaimber.

"Good God," cried Kitty, "d'you are iz mi mistress caulding me! Go; go directly!"

D'Artagnan rose, took his hat, as if it had been his intention too, then, opening quickly the door of a large closet instead of that leading to the staircase, he hurried himself amid the robes and dressing gowns of Milady.

"What are you doing?" cried Kitty.

D'Artagnan, who had secured the key, shut himself up in the closet without reply.

"Well," cried Milady, in a sharp voice. "Are you asleep, that you do not answer when I ring?"

And d'Artagnan heard the door of communication open violently.

"Here am I, Milady, here am I!" cried Kitty, springing forward to meet her mistress.

Both went into the bedroom, and as the door of communication remained open, d'Artagnan could hear Milady for some time scolding her maid. She was at length appeased, and the conversation turned upon him while Kitty was assisting her mistress.

"Well," said Milady, "I have not seen our Gascon this evening."

"What, Milady! has he not come?" said Kitty. "Can he be inconstant before being happy?"



"O, no; he must hav bene prevented bi Msyer de Treveye or Msyer Decessar. I understand mi game, Kitty; I hav this wun safe."

"Whaut wil u doo withe him, madam?"

"Whaut wil I doo withe him? Be esy, Kitty, dhare iz sumthhing betwene dhat man and me dhat he iz qwite ignorant ov: he neerly made me loose mi credit withe hiz Emminens. O, I wil be revenjd!"

"I beleevd dhat Madam luvd him."

"I luv him? I detest him! An iddeyot, whoo held the life ov Lord de Winter in hiz handz and did not kil him, bi which I mist thre hundred thouzand leevrz incum."

"Dhats tru," ced Kitty; "yor sun wauz the oonly are ov hiz unkel, and until hiz majority u wood hav had the enjoiment ov hiz forchune."

dArtanyan shudderd too the marro at hering this swaav crechure reproche him, withe dhat sharp vois which she tooc such painz too concele in conversaishon, for not havving kild a man whoome he had cene lode her withe kiandnecez.

"For aul this," continnude Milady, "I shood long ago hav revenjd micelf on him if, and I doant no whi, the cardinal had not requested me too concilleyate him."

"O, yes; but Madam haz not concilleyated dhat littel woomman he wauz so fond ov."

"Whaut, the mercerz wife ov the Ru da Foswaa'er? Haz he not aulreddy forgotten she evver existed? Fine venjans dhat, on mi faith!"

A coald swet broke from dArtanyanz brou. Whi, this woomman wauz a

monster! He rezhuemd hiz liscening, but unforchunaitly the toilet wauz finnisht.

"Dhat wil doo," ced Milady; "go intoo yor one roome, and toomoro endevvor agane too ghet me an aancer too the letter I gave u."

"For Msyer de Vard?" ced Kitty.

"Too be shure; for Msyer de Vard."

"Nou, dhare iz wun," ced Kitty, "whoo apeerz too me qwite a different sort ov a man from dhat poor Msyer dArtanyan."

"Go too bed, mademwaasel," ced Milady; "I doant like comments."

dArtanyan herd the doer cloce; then the noiz ov too bolts bi which Milady faacend hercelf in. On her cide, but az softly az poscibel, Kitty ternd the ke ov the loc, and then dArtanyan opend the clozset doer.

"O, good Lord!" ced Kitty, in a lo vois, "whaut iz the matter withe u? Hou pale u ar!"

"The abomminabel crechure," mermerd dArtanyan.

"Cilens, cilens, begon!" ced Kitty. "Dhare iz nuthhing but a wainscot betwene mi chaimber and Miladese; evvery werd dhat iz utterd in wun can be herd in the uther."

"Dhats exactly the rezon I woant go," ced dArtanyan.

"Whaut!" ced Kitty, blushing.

"Or, at leest, I wil go—later."

He dru Kitty too him. She had the les motive too resist, resistans wood make so much noiz. Dhaerfoer Kitty surrenderd.

It wauz a muivment ov venjans uppon Milady. DArtanyan beleevd it rite too sa dhat venjans iz the plezhure ov the godz. Withe a littel moer hart, he mite hav bene contented withe this nu conqwest; but the principal fechuerz ov hiz carracter wer ambishon and pride. It must, houwevver, be confest in hiz justificaishon dhat the ferst uce he made ov hiz influwens over Kitty wauz too tri and fiand out whaut had becum ov Mme.

Bonasyuu; but the poor gherl swoer uppon the crucifix too dArtanyan dhat she wauz entiarly ignorant on dhat hed, her mistres nevver admitting her intoo haaf her ceecrets—oonly she beleevd she cood sa she wauz not ded.

Az too the cauz which wauz nere making Milady loose her creddit withe the cardinal, Kitty nu nuthhing about it; but this time dArtanyan wauz better informd dhan she wauz. Az he had cene Milady on boerd a vescel at the moment he wauz leving In'gland, he suspected dhat it wauz, aulmoast widhout a dout, on acount ov the dimond studz.

But whaut wauz clerest in aul this wauz dhat the tru haitred, the profound haitred, the invetterate haitred ov Milady, wauz increest bi hiz not havving kild her bruther-in-lau.

DArtanyan came the next da too Miladese, and fianding her in a verry il-humor, had no dout dhat it wauz lac ov an aancer from M. de Vard dhat provoact her dhus. Kitty came in, but Milady wauz verry cros withe her. The poor gherl venchuerd a glaans at dArtanyan which ced, "Ce hou I suffer on yor acount!"

Tooword the end ov the evening, houwevver, the butifool liyones became

mialder; she smilingly liscend too the soft spechez ov dArtanyan, and even gave him her hand too kis.

DArtanyan departed, scaersly nowing whaut too thhinc, but az he wauz a ueth whoo did not esily loose hiz hed, while continnuwing too pa hiz coert too Milady, he had fraimnd a littel plan in hiz miand.

He found Kitty at the gate, and, az on the preceding evening, went up too her chaimber. Kitty had bene acuezd ov negligens and ceveerly scoalded. Milady cood not at aul comprehend the cilens ov the Comt de Vard, and she orderd Kitty too cum at nine oacloc in the morning too take a thherd letter.

DArtanyan made Kitty prommice too bring him dhat letter on the following morning. The poor gherl prommiast aul her luvver desiard; she wauz mad.

Thhingz paast az on the nite befoer. DArtanyan conceeld himself in hiz clozset; Milady cauld, undrest, cent awa Kitty, and shut the doer. Az the nite befoer, dArtanyan did not retern home til five oacloc in the morning.

At elevven oacloc Kitty came too him. She held in her hand a fresh billet from Milady. This time the poor gherl did not even argu withe dArtanyan; she gave it too him at wuns. She belongd boddy and sole too her handsum soalger.

DArtanyan opend the letter and red az follose:

This iz the thherd time I hav ritten too u too tel u dhat I luv u. Beware dhat I doo not rite too u a foerth time too tel u dhat I detest u.

If u repent ov the manner in which u hav acted tooword me, the yung gherl whoo bringz u this wil tel u hou a man ov spirrit ma obtane hiz pardon.

DArtanyan cullord and gru pale cevveral tiamz in reding this billet.

"O, u luv her stil," ced Kitty, whoo had not taken her ise of the yung manz countenans for an instant.

"No, Kitty, u ar mistaken. I doo not luv her, but I wil avenj micelf for her contempt."

"O, yes, I no whaut sort ov venjans! U toald me dhat!"

"Whaut matterz it too u, Kitty? U no it iz u alone whoome I luv."

"Hou can I no dhat?"

"Bi the scorn I wil thro uppon her."

DArtanyan tooc a pen and rote:

Madam, Until the prezsent moment I cood not beleve dhat it wauz too me yor ferst too letterz wer adrest, so unwerthy did I fele micelf ov such an onnor; beciadz, I wauz so cereyously indispoazd dhat I cood not in enny cace hav replide too them.

But nou I am foerst too beleve in the exes ov yor kiandnes, cins not oonly yor letter but yor cervant ashuerz me dhat I hav the good forchune too be belugd bi u.

She haz no ocaizhon too teche me the wa in which a man ov spirrit ma

obtane hiz pardon. I wil cum and aasc mine at elevven oacloc this evening.

Too dela it a cin'ghel da wood be in mi ise nou too comit a fresh offens.

From him whoome u hav renderd the happyest ov men, Comt de Vard

This note wauz in the ferst place a forgery; it wauz liaqwise an indellicacy. It wauz even, acording too our prezsent mannerz, sumthhing like an infamous acshon; but at dhat pereyod pepel did not mannage afaerz az dha doo tooda. Beciadz, dArtanyan from her one admishon nu Milady culpabel ov tretchery in matterz moer important, and cood entertane no respect for her. And yet, notwidhstanding this waunt ov respect, he felt an uncontrolabel pashon for this woomman boiling in hiz vainz—pashon drunc withe contempt; but pashon or thherst, az the reder plesez.

DArtanyanz plan wauz verry cimpel. Bi Kittese chaimber he cood gane dhat ov her mistres. He wood take advaantage ov the ferst moment ov cerprise, shame, and terror, too triyumf over her. He mite fale, but sumthhing must be left too chaans. In ate dase the campane wood open, and he wood be compeld too leve Parris; dArtanyan had no time for a prolongd luv ceje.

"Dhare," ced the yung man, handing Kitty the letter ceeld; "ghiv dhat too Milady. It iz the counts repli."

Poor Kitty became az pale az deth; she suspected whaut the letter containd.

"Liscen, mi dere gherl," ced dArtanyan; "u canot but perceve dhat aul this must end, sum wa or uther. Milady ma discuvver dhat u gave

the ferst billet too mi lacky insted ov too the counts; dhat it iz I whoo hav opend the utherz which aut too hav bene opend bi de Vard. Milady wil then tern u out ov doerz, and u no she iz not the woomman too limmit her venjans."

"Alaas!" ced Kitty, "for whoome hav I expoazd micelf too aul dhat?"

"For me, I wel no, mi swete gherl," ced dArtanyan. "But I am graitfool, I sware too u."

"But whaut duz this note contane?"

"Milady wil tel u."

"Aa, u doo not luv me!" cride Kitty, "and I am verry retched."

Too this reproche dhare iz aulwase wun respons which deluedz wimmen. DArtanyan replide in such a manner dhat Kitty remaind in her grate deluezhon. Auldho she cride frely befoer deciding too traanzmit the letter too her mistres, she did at laast so decide, which wauz aul dArtanyan wisht. Finaly he prommiast dhat he wood leve her mistrecez prezsens at an erly our dhat evening, and dhat when he left the mistres he wood acend withe the made. This prommice completed poor Kittese consolaishon.

#### 34 IN WHICH THE EQWIPMENT OV ARRAMIS AND PORTHOS IZ TRETED OV

Cins the foer frendz had bene eche in cerch ov hiz eqwipments, dhare had bene no fixt meting betwene them. Dha diand apart from wun anuther, wharevver dha mite happen too be, or raather whare dha cood.

Juty liaqwise on its part tooc a porshon ov dhat preshous time which wauz gliding awa so rappidly—oonly dha had agrede too mete wuns a weke, about

wun oacloc, at the rezsidens ov Aithos, ceying dhat he, in agreement withe the vou he had formd, did not paas over the threshoald ov hiz doer.

This da ov reyuinyon wauz the same da az dhat on which Kitty came too fiand

dArtanyan. Soone az Kitty left him, dArtanyan directed hiz steps tooword the Ru Fairoo.

He found Aithos and Arramis filossofising. Arramis had sum slite inclinaishon too rezhume the cassoc. Aithos, acording too hiz cistem, niather encurraijd nor diswaded him. Aithos beleevd dhat evveriwun shood be left too hiz one fre wil. He nevver gave advice but when it wauz aasct, and even then he reqwiard too be aasct twice.

"Pepel, in genneral," he ced, "oonly aasc advice not too follo it; or if dha doo follo it, it iz for the sake ov havving sumwun too blame for havving ghivven it."

Porthos ariavd a minnute aafter dArtanyan. The foer frendz wer reyunited.

The foer countenancez exprest foer different felingz: dhat ov Porthos, tranqwillity; dhat ov dArtanyan, hope; dhat ov Arramis, unnesines; dhat ov Aithos, caerlesnes.

At the end ov a moments conversaishon, in which Porthos hinted dhat a lady ov ellevated ranc had condecended too releve him from hiz embarrasment, Muiscton enterd. He came too request hiz maaster too retern too hiz lodgingz, whare hiz prezsens wauz ergent, az he pitchously ced.



"Iz it mi eqwipment?"

"Yes and no," replide Muiscton.

"Wel, but caant u speke?"

"Cum, msyer."

Porthos rose, saluted hiz frendz, and follode Muiscton. An instant aafter, Bazan made hiz aperans at the doer.

"Whaut doo u waunt withe me, mi frend?" ced Arramis, withe dhat mialdnes ov lan'gwage which wauz observabel in him evvery time dhat hiz ideyaaz wer directed tooword the Cherch.

"A man wishez too ce Msyer at home," replide Bazan.

"A man! Whaut man?"

"A mendicant."

"Ghiv him aalmz, Bazan, and bid him pra for a poor cinner."

"This mendicant incists uppon speking too u, and pretendz dhat u wil be verry glad too ce him."

"Haz he cent no particcular message for me?"

"Yes. If Msyer Arramis hezsitaitz too cum," he ced, "tel him I am from Toor."

"From Toor!" cride Arramis. "A thouzand pardonz, gentelmen; but no dout

this man bringz me the nuse I expected." And rising aulso, he went of at a qwic pace. Dhare remaind Aithos and dArtanyan.

"I beleve these fellose hav mannaijd dhare biznes. Whaut doo u thhinc, dArtanyan?" ced Aithos.

"I no dhat Porthos wauz in a fare wa," replide dArtanyan; "and az too Arramis too tel u the trueth, I hav nevver bene cereyously unnesy on hiz acount. But u, mi dere Aithos—u, whoo so gennerously distribbuted the In'glismanz pistoalz, which wer our legittimate propperty—whaut doo u mene too doo?"

"I am sattisfide withe havving kild dhat fello, mi boi, ceying dhat it iz blest bred too kil an In'glisman; but if I had pocketed hiz pistoalz, dha wood hav wade me doun like a remors.

"Go too, mi dere Aithos; u hav truly inconcevabel ideyaaz."

"Let it paas. Whaut doo u thhinc ov Msyer de Treveye telling me, when he did me the onnor too caul uppon me yesterda, dhat u asoasheyated withe the suspected In'glis, whoome the cardinal protects?"

"Dhat iz too sa, I vizsit an In'gliswoomman—the wun I naimd."

"O, i! the fare woomman on whose acount I gave u advice, which natchuraly u tooc care not too adopt."

"I gave u mi rezonz."

"Yes; u looc dhare for yor outfit, I thhinc u ced."

"Not at aul. I hav aqwiard certane nollej dhat dhat woomman wauz concernd in the abducshon ov Madam Bonasyuu."

"Yes, I understand nou: too fiand wun woomman, u coert anuther. It iz the lon'ghest rode, but certainly the moast amusing."

DArtanyan wauz on the point ov telling Aithos aul; but wun concideraishon restraind him. Aithos wauz a gentelman, punctilleyous in points ov onnor; and dhare wer in the plan which our luvver had deviazd for Milady, he wauz shure, certane thhingz dhat wood not obtane the acent ov this Puritan. He wauz dhaerfoer cilent; and az Aithos wauz the leest inqwizsitive ov enny man on erth, dArtanyanz confidens stopt dhare. We wil dhaerfoer leve the too frendz, whoo had nuthhing important too sa too eche uther, and follo Arramis.

Uppon beying informd dhat the person whoo waunted too speke too him came from Toor, we hav cene withe whaut rapiddity the yung man follode, or raather went befoer, Bazan; he ran widhout stopping from the Ru Fairoo too the Ru de Vojirar. On entering he found a man ov short statchure and intelligent ise, but cuvverd withe ragz.

"U hav aasct for me?" ced the Musketere.

"I wish too speke withe Msyer Arramis. Iz dhat yor name, msyer?"

"Mi verry one. U hav braut me sumthhing?"

"Yes, if u sho me a certane embroiderd hankerchefe."

"Here it iz," ced Arramis, taking a smaul ke from hiz brest and opening a littel ebbony box inlade withe muther ov perl, "here it iz. Looc."

"Dhat iz rite," replide the mendicant; "dismis yor lacky."

In fact, Bazan, cureyous too no whaut the mendicant cood waunt withe hiz maaster, kept pace withe him az wel az he cood, and ariavd aulmoast at the same time he did; but hiz qwicnes wauz not ov much uce too him. At the hint from the mendicant hiz maaster made him a cine too retire, and he wauz obliajd too oba.

Bazan gon, the mendicant caast a rappid glaans around him in order too be shure dhat nobody cood iather ce or here him, and opening hiz ragghed vest, badly held tooghether bi a lether strap, he began too rip the upper part ov hiz dublet, from which he dru a letter.

Arramis utterd a cri ov joi at the cite ov the cele, kist the superscripshon withe an aulmoast relidjous respect, and opend the episcel, which containd whaut follose:

"Mi Frend, it iz the wil ov fate dhat we shood be stil for sum time ceeparated; but the deliatfool dase ov ueth ar not lost beyond retern. Perform yor juty in camp; I wil doo mine elswhare. Axept dhat which the barer bringz u; make the campane like a handsum tru gentelman, and thhinc ov me, whoo kiscez tenderly yor blac ise.

"Aju; or raather, *AU REVOIR*."

The mendicant continnude too rip hiz garments; and dru from amid hiz ragz a hundred and fifty Spannish dubbel pistoalz, which he lade down on the tabel; then he opend the doer, boud, and went out befoer the yung man, schupefide bi hiz letter, had venchuerd too adres a werd too him.

Arramis then reperuezd the letter, and perceevd a poastscript:

P.S. U ma behave poliatly too the barer, whoo iz a count and a grandy ov Spane!

"Goalden dreemz!" cride Arramis. "O, butifool life! Yes, we ar yung; yes, we shal yet hav happy dase! Mi luv, mi blud, mi life! aul, aul, aul, ar thine, mi adoerd mistres!"

And he kist the letter withe pashon, widhout even vouchsafing a looc at the goald which sparkeld on the tabel.

Bazan scracht at the doer, and az Arramis had no lon'gher enny rezon too exclude him, he bad him cum in.

Bazan wauz schupefide at the cite ov the goald, and forgot dhat he came too anouns dArtanyan, whoo, cureyous too no whoo the mendicant cood be, came too Arramis on leving Aithos.

Nou, az dArtanyan uezd no cerremony withe Arramis, ceying dhat Bazan forgot too anouns him, he anounst himcelf.

"The devvil! mi dere Arramis," ced dArtanyan, "if these ar the pruenz dhat ar cent too u from Toor, I beg u wil make mi compliments too the gardener whoo gatherz them."

"U ar mistaken, frend dArtanyan," ced Arramis, aulwase on hiz gard; "this iz from mi publisher, whoo haz just cent me the price ov dhat powem in wun-cillabel vers which I began yonder."

"Aa, indede," ced dArtanyan. "Wel, yor publisher iz verry gennerous, mi dere Arramis, dhats aul I can sa."

"Hou, msyer?" cride Bazan, "a powem cel so dere az dhat! It iz increddibel! O, msyer, u can rite az much az u like; u ma becum eeqwal too Msyer de Vwaachure and Msyer de Bonceraad. I like dhat. A powet iz az good az an abba. Aa! Msyer Arramis, becum a powet, I beg ov u."

"Bazan, mi frend," ced Arramis, "I beleve u meddel withe mi conversaishon."

Bazan perceevd he wauz rong; he boud and went out.

"Aa!" ced dArtanyan withe a smile, "u cel yor producshonz at dhare wate in goald. U ar verry forchunate, mi frend; but take care or u wil loose dhat letter which iz peping from yor dublet, and which aulso cumz, no dout, from yor publisher."

Arramis blusht too the ise, cramd in the letter, and re-buttond hiz dublet.

"Mi dere dArtanyan," ced he, "if u plese, we wil join our frendz; az I am rich, we wil tooda beghin too dine tooghether agane, expecting dhat u wil be rich in yor tern."

"Mi faith!" ced dArtanyan, withe grate plezhure. "It iz long cins we hav had a good dinner; and I, for mi part, hav a sumwhaut hazzardous expedishon for this evening, and shal not be sory, I confes, too fortifi micelf withe a fu glaacez ov good oald Bergundy."

"Agrede, az too the oald Bergundy; I hav no obgecshon too dhat," ced Arramis, from whoome the letter and the goald had remuivd, az bi madgic, hiz ideyaaz ov converzhon.

And havving poot thre or foer dubbel pistoalz intoo hiz pocket too aancer the needz ov the moment, he plaist the uthertz in the ebbony box, inlade withe muther ov perl, in which wauz the famous hankerchefe which cervd him az a tallizman.

The too frendz repaerd too Aithocez, and he, faithfool too hiz vou ov not gowing out, tooc uppon him too order dinner too be braut too them. Az he wauz perfectly aqwainted withe the detailz ov gastronnomy, dArtanyan and Arramis made no obgecshon too abandoning this important care too him.

Dha went too fiand Porthos, and at the corner ov the Ru Bac met Muiscton, whoo, withe a moast pitteyabel are, wauz driving befoer him a mule and a hors.

DArtanyan utterd a cri ov cerprise, which wauz not qwite fre from joi.

"Aa, mi yello hors," cride he. "Arramis, looc at dhat hors!"

"O, the friatfool brute!" ced Arramis.

"Aa, mi dere," replide dArtanyan, "uppon dhat verry hors I came too Parris."

"Whaut, duz Msyer no this hors?" ced Muiscton.

"It iz ov an oridginal cullor," ced Arramis; "I nevver sau wun withe such a hide in mi life."

"I can wel beleve it," replide dArtanyan, "and dhat wauz whi I got thre crounz for him. It must hav bene for hiz hide, for, *CERTES*, the

carcas iz not werth atene leevrz. But hou did this hors cum intoo yor bandz, Muiscton?"

"Pra," ced the lacky, "sa nuthing about it, msyer; it iz a friatfool tric ov the huzband ov our dutches!"

"Hou iz dhat, Muiscton?"

"Whi, we ar looct uppon withe a raather favorabel i bi a lady ov qwaulity, the Dushes de—but, yor pardon; mi maaster haz comaanded me too be discrete. She had foerst us too axept a littel soovenere, a magnifficent Spannish JENA and an Andaluezhan mule, which wer butifool too looc uppon. The huzband herd ov the afare; on dhare wa he confiscated the too magnifficent beests which wer beying cent too us, and substichuted these horibel annimalz."

"Which u ar taking bac too him?" ced dArtanyan.

"Exactly!" replide Muiscton. "U ma wel beleve dhat we wil not axept such steedz az these in exchainj for dhose which had bene prommiast too us."

"No, *PARDIEU*; dho I shood like too hav cene Porthos on mi yello hors. Dhat wood ghiv me an ideyaa ov hou I looct when I ariavd in Parris. But doant let us hinder u, Muiscton; go and perform yor maasterz orderz. Iz he at home?"

"Yes, msyer," ced Muiscton, "but in a verry il humor. Ghet up!"

He continnude hiz wa tooword the Ca da Graun Oguistan, while the too frendz went too ring at the bel ov the unforchunate Porthos. He, havving cene them crosing the yard, tooc care not too aancer, and dha rang in



vane.

Meenwhile Muiscton continnude on hiz wa, and crosing the Pont Nuuf, stil driving the too sory annimalz befoer him, he reecht the Ru ose Oors. Ariavd dhare, he faacend, acording too the orderz ov hiz maaster, boath hors and mule too the nocker ov the procuratorz doer; then, widhout taking enny thaut for dhare fuchure, he reternd too Porthos, and toald him dhat hiz comishon wauz completed.

In a short time the too unforchunate beests, whoo had not eten ennithhing cins the morning, made such a noiz in rasing and letting faul the nocker dhat the procurator orderd hiz errand boi too go and inqwire in the naborhood too whoome this hors and mule belongd.

Mme. Cokenar reccogniazd her prezsent, and cood not at ferst comprehend this restichueshon; but the vizsit ov Porthos soone enlitend her. The an'gher which fiard the ise ov the Musketere, in spite ov hiz efforts too supres it, terrifide hiz cencitive inamoraataa. In fact, Muiscton had not conceeld from hiz maaster dhat he had met dArtanyan and Arramis, and dhat dArtanyan in the yello hors had reccogniazd the Baernese pony uppon which he had cum too Parris, and which he had soald for thre crounz.

Porthos went awa aafter havving apointed a meting withe the procuratorz wife in the cloister ov St. Maalywar. The procurator, ceying he wauz gowing, invited him too dinner—an invitaishon which the Musketere refuezd withe a magestic are.

Mme. Cokenar repaerd trembling too the cloister ov St. Maalywar, for she ghest the reprochez dhat awated her dhare; but she wauz fascinated bi the lofty aerz ov Porthos.

Aul dhat which a man wuinded in hiz celf-luv cood let faul in the

shape ov imprecaishonz and reprochez uppon the hed ov a woomman  
Porthos  
let faul uppon the boud hed ov the procuratorz wife.

"Alaas," ced she, "I did aul for the best! Wun ov our cliyents iz a  
horsdeler; he ose munny too the office, and iz baqword in hiz pa. I  
tooc the mule and the hors for whaut he ode us; he ashuerd me dhat dha  
wer too nobel steedz."

"Wel, madam," ced Porthos, "if he ode u moer dhan five crounz,  
yor horsdeler iz a thhefe."

"Dhare iz no harm in triying too bi thhingz chepe, Msyer Porthos," ced  
the procuratorz wife, ceking too excuse hercelf.

"No, madam; but dha whoo so acidjuwously tri too bi thhingz chepe aut  
too permit utherz too ceke moer gennerous frendz." And Porthos, terning  
on  
hiz hele, made a step too retire.

"Msyer Porthos! Msyer Porthos!" cride the procuratorz wife. "I  
hav bene rong; I ce it. I aut not too hav drivven a bargane when it  
wauz too eqwip a cavaleyer like u."

Porthos, widhout repli, retretd a cecond step. The procuratorz wife  
fancede she sau him in a brilleyant cloud, aul surounded bi dutchecez  
and marsheyonecez, whoo caast bagz ov munny at hiz fete.

"Stop, in the name ov hevven, Msyer Porthos!" cride she. "Stop, and  
let us tauc."

"Tauking withe u bringz me misforchune," ced Porthos.

"But, tel me, whaut doo u aasc?"

"Nuthhing; for dhat amounts too the same thhing az if I aasct u for sumthhing."

The procuratorz wife hung uppon the arm ov Porthos, and in the viyolens ov her grefe she cride out, "Msyer Porthos, I am ignorant ov aul such matterz! Hou shood I no whaut a hors iz? Hou shood I no whaut hors fernichure iz?"

"U shood hav left it too me, then, madam, whoo no whaut dha ar; but u wisht too be frugal, and conceqwently too lend at uezhury."

"It wauz rong, Msyer Porthos; but I wil repare dhat rong, uppon mi werd ov onnor."

"Hou so?" aasct the Musketere.

"Liscen. This evening M. Cokenar iz gowing too the hous ov the Dooke de Shone, whoo haz cent for him. It iz for a consultaishon, which wil laast thre ourz at leest. Cum! We shal be alone, and can make up our accounts."

"In good time. Nou u tauc, mi dere."

"U pardon me?"

"We shal ce," ced Porthos, magesticaly; and the too ceeparated saying, "Til this evening."

"The devvil!" thaut Porthos, az he wauct awa, "it apeerz I am ghetting nerer too Msyer Cokenarz strongbox at laast."

### 35 A GASCON A MACH FOR CUPID

The evening so impaishently wated for bi Porthos and bi dArtanyan at laast ariavd.

Az wauz hiz custom, dArtanyan presented himcelf at Miladese at about nine oacloc. He found her in a charming humor. Nevver had he bene so wel receevd. Our Gascon nu, bi the ferst glaans ov hiz i, dhat hiz billet had bene delivverd, and dhat this billet had had its efect.

Kitty enterd too bring sum sherbet. Her mistres poot on a charming face, and smiald on her graishously; but alaas! the poor gherl wauz so sad dhat she did not even notice Miladese condecenshon.

DArtanyan looct at the too wimmen, wun aafter the uther, and wauz foerst too acnollej dhat in hiz opinyon Dame Nachure had made a mistake in dhare formaishon. Too the grate lady she had ghivven a hart vile and venal; too the *SOUBRETTE* she had ghivven the hart ov a dutches.

At ten oacloc Milady began too apere restles. DArtanyan nu whaut she waunted. She looct at the cloc, rose, receted hercelf, smiald at dArtanyan withe an are which ced, "U ar verry ameyabel, no dout, but u wood be charming if u wood oanly depart."

DArtanyan rose and tooc hiz hat; Milady gave him her hand too kis. The yung man felt her pres hiz hand, and comprehended dhat this wauz a centiment, not ov coketry, but ov grattichude becauz ov hiz deparchure.

"She luvz him devvilishly," he mermerd. Then he went out.

This time Kitty wauz noawhare wating for him; niather in the antechaimber, nor in the coridor, nor beneeth the grate doer. It wauz nescesary dhat dArtanyan shood fiand alone the staerface and the littel chaimber. She herd him enter, but she did not rase her hed. The yung man went too her and tooc her handz; then she sobd aloud.

Az dArtanyan had prezhuemd, on receving hiz letter, Milady in a delereyum ov joi had toald her cervant evverithhing; and bi wa ov recompens for the manner in which she had this time executed the comishon, she had ghivven Kitty a pers.

Reterning too her one roome, Kitty had throne the pers intoo a corner, whare it la open, disgorging thre or foer goald pecez on the carpet. The poor gherl, under the carescez ov dArtanyan, lifted her hed. DArtanyan himcelf wauz fritend bi the chainj in her countenans. She joinde her handz withe a supleyant are, but widhout venchuring too speke a werd. Az littel cencitive az wauz the hart ov dArtanyan, he wauz tucht bi this mute soro; but he held too tenaishously too hiz prodjects, abuv aul too this wun, too chainj the proogram which he had lade out in advaans.

He did not dhaerfoer alou her enny hope dhat he wood flinch; oanly he represented hiz acshon az wun ov cimpel venjans.

For the rest this venjans wauz verry esy; for Milady, doutles too concele her blushez from her luvver, had orderd Kitty too extin'gwish aul the liats in the apartment, and even in the littel chaimber itcelf. Befoer daibrake M. de Vard must take hiz deparchure, stil in obscurity.

Prezsently dha herd Milady retire too her roome. DArtanyan slipt intoo the wordrobe. Hardly wauz he conceeld when the littel bel sounded. Kitty went too her mistres, and did not leve the doer open; but the partishon wauz so thhin dhat wun cood here neerly aul dhat paast betwene

the too wimmen.

Milady ceemd overcum withe joi, and made Kitty repete the smaulest detailz ov the pretended intervü ov the *soubrette* withe de Vard when he receevd the letter; hou he had responded; whaut wauz the expreshon ov hiz face; if he ceemd verry ammorous. And too aul these qweschonz poor

Kitty, foerst too poot on a plezzant face, responded in a stifeld vois whoose dollorous axent her mistres did not houwevver remarç, soly becauz happines iz egotistical.

Finally, az the our for her intervü withe the count aproacht, Milady had evverithhing about her darkend, and orderd Kitty too retern too her one chaimber, and introjuce de Vard whenever he presented himcelf.

Kittese detenshon wauz not long. Hardly had dArtanyan cene, throo a crevvice in hiz clozset, dhat the whole apartment wauz in obscurity, dhan he slipt out ov hiz conceelment, at the verry moment when Kitty recloazd the doer ov comunicaishon.

"Whaut iz dhat noiz?" demaanded Milady.

"It iz I," ced dArtanyan in a subjude vois, "I, the Comt de Vard."

"O, mi God, mi God!" mermerd Kitty, "he haz not even wated for the our he himcelf naimd!"

"Wel," ced Milady, in a trembling vois, "whi doo u not enter? Count, Count," added she, "u no dhat I wate for u."

At this apele dArtanyan dru Kitty qwiyetly awa, and slipt intoo the chaimber.

If rage or soro evver torchure the hart, it iz when a luvver receevz under a name which iz not hiz one protestaishonz ov luv adrest too hiz happy rival. DArtanyan wauz in a dollorous cichuwaishon which he had not foercene. Gelloucy naud hiz hart; and he sufferd aulmoast az much az poor Kitty, whoo at dhat verry moment wauz crying in the next chaimber.

"Yes, Count," ced Milady, in her softest vois, and prescing hiz hand in her one, "I am happy in the luv which yor loox and yor werdz hav exprest too me evvery time we hav met. I aulso—I luv u. O, toomoro, toomoro, I must hav sum plej from u which wil proove dhat u thhinc ov me; and dhat u ma not forghet me, take this!" and she slipt a ring from her fin'gher ontoo dArtanyanz. DArtanyan rememberd havving cene this ring on the fin'gher ov Milady; it wauz a magnificent saffire, encerkeld withe brilleyants.

The ferst muivment ov dArtanyan wauz too retern it, but Milady added, "No, no! Kepe dhat ring for luv ov me. Beciadz, in axepting it," she added, in a vois fool ov emoashon, "u render me a much grater cervice dhan u imadgine."

"This woomman iz fool ov misterese," mermerd dArtanyan too himcelf. At dhat instant he felt himcelf reddy too revele aul. He even opennd hiz mouth too tel Milady whoo he wauz, and withe whaut a revenjfool perpoce he had cum; but she added, "Poor ain'gel, whoome dhat monster ov a Gascon baerly faild too kil."

The monster wauz himcelf.

"O," continnude Milady, "doo yor wuindz stil make u suffer?"

"Yes, much," ced dArtanyan, whoo did not wel no hou too aancer.

"Be tranqwil," mermerd Milady; "I wil avenj u—and cruwely!"

"PESTE!" ced dArtanyan too himcelf, "the moment for confidencenez haz not yet cum."

It tooc sum time for dArtanyan too rezhume this littel diyalog; but then aul the ideyaaz ov venjans which he had braut withe him had compleetly vannisht. This woomman exerciazd over him an unnaccountabel pouwer; he hated and adoerd her at the same time. He wood not hav beleevd dhat too centiments so opposite cood dwel in the same hart, and bi dhare uenyon constichute a pashon so strainj, and az it wer, diyabollical.

Prezsently it sounded wun oacloc. It wauz nescenary too ceeparate. DArtanyan at the moment ov qwitting Milady felt oanly the liavleyest regret at the parting; and az dha adrest eche uther in a reciprocally pashonate aju, anuther intervuwauz arainjd for the following weke.

Poor Kitty hoapt too speke a fu werdz too dArtanyan when he paast throo her chaimber; but Milady hercelf reconducted him throo the darcnes, and oanly qwit him at the staercace.

The next morning dArtanyan ran too fiand Aithos. He wauz en'gaijd in an advenchure so cin'gular dhat he wisht for council. He dhaerfoer toald him aul.

"Yor Milady," ced he, "apeerz too be an infamous crechure, but not the les u hav dun rong too deceve her. In wun fashon or anuther u hav a terribel ennemy on yor handz."

While dhus speking Aithos regarded withe atenshon the saffire cet



withe dimondz which had taken, on dArtanyanz fin'gher, the place ov the qweenz ring, caerfooly kept in a caasket.

"U notice mi ring?" ced the Gascon, proud too displa so rich a ghift in the ise ov hiz frendz.

"Yes," ced Aithos, "it remiandz me ov a fammily juwel."

"It iz butifool, iz it not?" ced dArtanyan.

"Yes," ced Aithos, "magnifficent. I did not thhinc too saffiarz ov such a fine wauter existed. Hav u traded it for yor dimond?"

"No. It iz a ghift from mi butifool In'glishwoomman, or raather Frenchwoomman—for I am convinst she wauz born in Fraans, dho I hav not qweschond her."

"Dhat ring cumz from Milady?" cride Aithos, withe a vois in which it wauz esy too detect strong emoashon.

"Her verry celf; she gave it me laast nite. Here it iz," replide dArtanyan, taking it from hiz fin'gher.

Aithos exammiand it and became verry pale. He tride it on hiz left hand; it fit hiz fin'gher az if made for it.

A shade ov an'gher and venjans paast across the uezhuwaly caalm brou ov this gentelman.

"It iz imposcibel it can be she," ced be. "Hou cood this ring cum intoo the handz ov Milady Claric? And yet it iz difficult too suppose such a resemblans shood exist betwene too juwelz."

"Doo u no this ring?" ced dArtanyan.

"I thaut I did," replide Aithos; "but no dout I wauz mistaken." And he reternd dArtanyan the ring widhout, houwevver, cecing too looc at it.

"Pra, dArtanyan," ced Aithos, aafter a minnute, "iather take of dhat ring or tern the mounting incide; it recaulz such cruwel recolecshonz dhat I shal hav no hed too convers withe u. Doant aasc me for council; doant tel me u ar perplext whaut too doo. But stop! let me looc at dhat saffire agane; the wun I menshond too u had wun ov its facez scracht bi axident."

DArtanyan tooc of the ring, ghivving it agane too Aithos.

Aithos started. "Looc," ced he, "iz it not strainj?" and he pointed out too dArtanyan the scrach he had rememberd.

"But from whoome did this ring cum too u, Aithos?"

"From mi muther, whoo inherrited it from her muther. Az I toald u, it iz an oald fammily juwel."

"And u—soald it?" aasct dArtanyan, hezsitatingly.

"No," replide Aithos, withe a cin'gular smile. "I gave it awa in a nite ov luv, az it haz bene ghivven too u."

DArtanyan became pencive in hiz tern; it apeerd az if dhare wer abiscez in Miladese sole whoose depths wer darc and un'none. He tooc bac the ring, but poot it in hiz pocket and not on hiz fin'gher.

"DArtanyan," ced Aithos, taking hiz hand, "u no I luv u; if I had a sun I cood not luv him better. Take mi advice, renouns this woomman. I doo not no her, but a sort ov inchuwishon telz me she iz a lost crechure, and dhat dhare iz sumthhing fatal about her."

"U ar rite," ced dArtanyan; "I wil hav dun withe her. I one dhat this woomman terrifise me."

"Shal u hav the currage?" ced Aithos.

"I shal," replide dArtanyan, "and instantly."

"In trueth, mi yung frend, u wil act riatly," ced the gentelman, prescing the Gasconz hand withe an afecshon aulmoast paternal; "and God graant dhat this woomman, whoo haz scaersly enterd intoo yor life, ma not leve a terribel trace in it!" And Aithos boud too dArtanyan like a man whoo wishez it understood dhat he wood not be sory too be left alone withe hiz thauts.

On reching home dArtanyan found Kitty wating for him. A munth ov fever cood not hav chainjd her moer dhan this wun nite ov sleeplesnes and soro.

She wauz cent bi her mistres too the fauls de Vard. Her mistres wauz mad withe luv, intoxicated withe joi. She wisht too no when her luvver wood mete her a cecond nite; and poor Kitty, pale and trembling, awated dArtanyanz repli. The councelz ov hiz frend, joind too the crise ov hiz one hart, made him determine, nou hiz pride wauz saivd and hiz venjans sattisfide, not too ce Milady agane. Az a repli, he rote the following letter:

Doo not depend uppon me, madam, for the next meting. Cins mi convalescens I hav so menny afaerz ov this kiand on mi handz dhat I am foerst too reggulate them a littel. When yor tern cumz, I shal hav the onnor too inform u ov it. I kis yor handz.

Comt de Vard

Not a word about the saffire. Wauz the Gascon determiand too kepe it az a weppon against Milady, or els, let us be franc, did he not reserv the saffire az a laast rezoers for hiz outfit? It wood be rong too juj the acshonz ov wun pereyod from the point ov vu ov anuther. Dhat which wood nou be concidderd az disgraisfool too a gentelman wauz at dhat time qwite a cimpel and natchural afare, and the yun'gher sunz ov the best fammilese wer freeqwently supoerted bi dhare mistrecez. DArtanyan gave the open letter too Kitty, whoo at ferst wauz unnabel too comprehend it, but whoo became aulmoast wiald withe joi on reding it a cecond time. She cood scaersly beleve in her happines; and dArtanyan wauz foerst too renu withe the livving vois the ashurancez which he had ritten. And whautevver mite be—conciddering the viyolent carracter ov Milady—the dain'ger which the poor gherl inkerd in ghivving this billet too her mistres, she ran bac too the Plaas Roiyaal az faast az her legz cood carry her.

The hart ov the best woomman iz pittiles tooword the sorose ov a rival.

Milady open the letter withe eghernes eequal too Kittese in bringing it; but at the ferst werdz she red she became livvid. She crusht the paper in her hand, and terning withe flashing ise uppon Kitty, she cride, "Whaut iz this letter?"

"The aancer too Madamz," replide Kitty, aul in a trembel.

"Imposcibel!" cride Milady. "It iz imposcibel a gentelman cood hav ritten such a letter too a woomman." Then aul at wuns, starting, she cride, "Mi God! can he hav—" and she stopt. She ground her teeth; she wauz ov the cullor ov ashez. She tride too go tooword the windo for are, but she cood oonly stretch foerth her armz; her legz faild her, and

she sank into an armchair. Kitty, fearing she would fall, hastened toward her and would have begun to open her dress; but Milady started up, pushing her away. "What do you want with me?" said she, "and why do you place your hand on me?"

"I thought that Madam would fall, and I wished to bring her help," responded the maid, frowning at the terrible expression which had come over her mistress's face.

"I faint? I? I? Do you take me for half a woman? When I am insulted I do not faint; I avenge myself!"

And she made a sign for Kitty to leave the room.

### 36 DREME OV VENJANS

That evening Milady gave orders that when M. d'Artagnan came as usual, he should be immediately admitted; but he did not come.

The next day Kitty went to see the young man again, and related to him all that had passed on the preceding evening. D'Artagnan smiled; this galling answer of Milady would have his revenge.

That evening Milady was still more impatient than on the preceding evening. She renewed the order relative to the Gascon; but as before she expected him in vain.

The next morning, when Kitty presented herself at d'Artagnan's, she

wauz no lon'gher joiyous and alert az on the too preceding dase; but on the contrary sad az deth.

DArtanyan aasct the poor gherl whaut wauz the matter withe her; but she, az her oonly repli, dru a letter from her pocket and gave it too him.

This letter wauz in Miladese handriting; oonly this time it wauz adrest too M. dArtanyan, and not too M. de Vard.

He opend it and red az follose:

Dere M. dArtanyan, It iz rong dhus too neglect yor frendz, particularly at the moment u ar about too leve them for so long a time. Mi bruther-in-lau and micelf expected u yesterda and the da befoer, but in vane. Wil it be the same this evening?

Yor verry graitfool, Milady Claric

"Dhats aul verry cimpel," ced dArtanyan; "I expected this letter. Mi credit risez bi the faul ov dhat ov the Comt de Vard."

"And wil u go?" aasct Kitty.

"Liscen too me, mi dere gherl," ced the Gascon, whoo saut for an excuce in hiz one ise for braking the prommice he had made Aithos; "u must understand it wood be impollitic not too axept such a pozsitive invitaishon. Milady, not ceying me cum agane, wood not be abel too understand whaut cood cauz the interupshon ov mi vizsits, and mite suspect sumthhing; whoo cood sa hou far the venjans ov such a woomman wood go?"

"O, mi God!" ced Kitty, "u no hou too represent thhingz in such a wa dhat u ar aulwase in the rite. U ar gowing nou too pa yor coert too her agane, and if this time u suxede in plesing her in yor one name and withe yor one face, it wil be much wers dhan befoer."

Instinct made poor Kitty ghes a part ov whaut wauz too happen.

dArtanyan

reyashuerd her az wel az he cood, and prommiast too remane incencibel too

the ceducshonz ov Milady.

He desiard Kitty too tel her mistres dhat he cood not be moer graitfool for her kiandnecez dhan he wauz, and dhat he wood be obegent too her orderz. He did not dare too rite for fere ov not beying abel—too such expereyenst ise az dhose ov Milady—too disghise hiz riting sufishmently.

Az nine oacloc sounded, dArtanyan wauz at the Plaas Roiyaal. It wauz evvident dhat the cervants whoo wated in the antechaimber wer wornd, for

az soone az dArtanyan apeerd, befoer even he had aasct if Milady wer vizsibel, wun ov them ran too anouns him.

"Sho him in," ced Milady, in a qwic tone, but so peercing dhat dArtanyan herd her in the antechaimber.

He wauz introjuest.

"I am at home too nobody," ced Milady; "observ, too nobody." The cervant went out.

dArtanyan caast an inqwiring glaans at Milady. She wauz pale, and looct fateegd, iather from teerz or waunt ov slepe. The number ov liats had

bene intenshonalaly diminnisht, but the yung woomman cood not concele the tracez ov the fever which had devourd her for too dase.

DArtanyan aproacht her withe hiz uezhuwal gallantry. She then made an extrordinary effort too receve him, but nevver did a moer distrest countenans ghiv the li too a moer ameyabel smile.

Too the qweschonz which dArtanyan poot concerning her helth, she replide, "Bad, verry bad."

"Then," replide he, "mi vizsit iz il-tiamd; u, no dout, stand in nede ov repose, and I wil widhdrau."

"No, no!" ced Milady. "On the contrary, sta, Msyer dArtanyan; yor agreyabel cumpany wil divert me."

"O, o!" thaut dArtanyan. "She haz nevver bene so kiand befoer. On gard!"

Milady ashuemd the moast agreyabel are poscibel, and converst withe moer dhan her uezhuwal brilleyancy. At the same time the fever, which for an instant abandond her, reternd too ghiv luster too her ise, cullor too her cheex, and vermilleyon too her lips. DArtanyan wauz agane in the prezsens ov the Cercy whoo had befoer surounded him withe her enchaantments. Hiz luv, which he beleevd too be extinct but which wauz oanly aslepe, awoke agane in hiz hart. Milady smiald, and dArtanyan felt dhat he cood dam himcelf for dhat smile. Dhare wauz a moment at which he felt sumthhing like remors.

Bi degrese, Milady became moer comunicative. She aasct dArtanyan if he



had a mistress.

"Alas!" cried d'Artagnan, with the most sentimental air he could assume, "can you be cruel enough to put such a question to me—to me, who, from the moment I saw you, have only breathed and died through you and for you?"

Milady smiled with a strained smile.

"Then you love me?" cried she.

"Have I any need to tell you so? Have you not perceived it?"

"It may be; but you know the more hearts are worth the capture, the more difficult they are to be won."

"O, difficult they do not frighten me," cried d'Artagnan. "I shrink before nothing but impossibilities."

"Nothing is impossible," replied Milady, "too true love."

"Nothing, madam?"

"Nothing," replied Milady.

"The devil!" thought d'Artagnan. "The note is plain. Is she going to fail in love with me, by chance, this fair inconstant; and will she be disposed to give me myself another sapphire like that which she gave me for de Vard?"

d'Artagnan rapidly drew his eyes nearer to Milady's.

"Well, now," she said, "let us see what you would do to prove this love

ov which u speke."

"Aul dhat cood be reqwiard ov me. Order; I am reddy."

"For evverithhing?"

"For evverithhing," cride dArtanyan, whoo nu befoerhand dhat he had not much too risc in en'gaging himcelf dhus.

"Wel, nou let us tauc a littel cereyously," ced Milady, in her tern drauwing her armchare nerer too dArtanyanz chare.

"I am aul atenshon, madam," ced he.

Milady remaind thautfool and undecided for a moment; then, az if apering too hav formd a rezolueshon, she ced, "I hav an ennemy."

"U, madam!" ced dArtanyan, afecting cerprise; "iz dhat poscibel, mi God?—good and butifool az u ar!"

"A mortal ennemy."

"Indede!"

"An ennemy whoo haz insulted me so cruwely dhat betwene him and me it iz wor too the deth. Ma I recon on u az an auxilleyary?"

DArtanyan at wuns perceevd the ground which the vindictive crechure wisht too reche.

"U ma, madam," ced he, withe emfacis. "Mi arm and mi life belong too u, like mi luv."

"Then," ced Milady, "cins u ar az gennerous az u ar luvving—"

She stopt.

"Wel?" demaanded dArtanyan.

"Wel," replide Milady, aafter a moment ov cilens, "from the prezsent time, cece too tauc ov impocibillitese."

"Doo not overwhelm me withe happines," cride dArtanyan, throwing himcelf on hiz nese, and cuvvering withe kiscez the handz abandond too him.

"Avenj me ov dhat infamous de Vard," ced Milady, betwene her teeth, "and I shal soone no hou too ghet rid ov u—u dubbel iddeyot, u annimated soerd blade!"

"Faul voluntarily intoo mi armz, hipocritical and dain'gerous woomman," ced dArtanyan, liaqwise too himcelf, "aafter havving abuezd me withe such efruntery, and aafterword I wil laaf at u withe him whoome u wish me too kil."

DArtanyan lifted up hiz hed.

"I am reddy," ced he.

"U hav understood me, then, dere Msyer dArtanyan," ced Milady.

"I cood interpret wun ov yor loox."

"Then u wood emploi for me yor arm which haz aulreddy aqwiard so much renoun?"

"Instantly!"

"But on mi part," ced Milady, "hou shood I repa such a cervice? I no these luvverz. Dha ar men whoo doo nuthhing for nuthhing."

"U no the oonly repli dhat I desire," ced dArtanyan, "the oonly wun werthy ov u and ov me!"

And he dru nerer too her.

She scaersly resisted.

"Interested man!" cride she, smiling.

"Aa," cride dArtanyan, reyaly carrede awa bi the pashon this woomman had the pouwer too kindel in hiz hart, "aa, dhat iz becauz mi happines apeerz so imposcibel too me; and I hav such fere dhat it shood fli awa from me like a dreme dhat I pant too make a reyallity ov it."

"Wel, merrit this pretended happines, then!"

"I am at yor orderz," ced dArtanyan.

"Qwite certane?" ced Milady, withe a laast dout.

"Oonly name too me the bace man dhat haz braut teerz intoo yor butifool ise!"

"Whoo toald u dhat I had bene weping?" ced she.

"It apeerd too me—"

"Such wimmen az I nevver wepe," ced Milady.

"So much the better! Cum, tel me hiz name!"

"Remember dhat hiz name iz aul mi ceecret."

"Yet I must no hiz name."

"Yes, u must; ce whaut confidens I hav in u!"

"U overwhelm me withe joi. Whaut iz hiz name?"

"U no him."

"Indede."

"Yes."

"It iz shuerly not wun ov mi frendz?" replide dArtanyan, afecting hesitaishon in order too make her beleve him ignorant.

"If it wer wun ov yor frendz u wood hezsitate, then?" cride Milady; and a threttening glaans darted from her ise.

"Not if it wer mi one bruther!" cride dArtanyan, az if carrede awa bi hiz enthuseyazm.

Our Gascon prommiast this widhout risc, for he nu aul dhat wauz ment.

"I luv yor devotednes," ced Milady.

"Alaas, doo u luv nuthhing els in me?" aasct dArtanyan.

"I luv u aulso, U!" ced she, taking hiz hand.

The worm preshure made dArtanyan trembel, az if bi the tuch dhat fever

which consuemd Milady atact himcelf.

"U luv me, u!" cride he. "O, if dhat wer so, I shood loose mi rezon!"

And he foalded her in hiz armz. She made no effort too remoove her lips from hiz kiscez; oonly she did not respond too them. Her lips wer coald; it apeerd too dArtanyan dhat he had embraist a statchu.

He wauz not the les intoxicated withe joi, electrifide bi luv. He aulmoast beleevd in the tendernes ov Milady; he aulmoast beleevd in the crime ov de Vard. If de Vard had at dhat moment bene under hiz hand, he wood hav kild him.

Milady ceezd the ocaizhon.

"Hiz name iz—" ced she, in her tern.

"De Vard; I no it," cride dArtanyan.

"And hou doo u no it?" aasct Milady, cesing boath hiz handz, and endevvoring too rede withe her ise too the bottom ov hiz hart.

DArtanyan felt he had aloud himcelf too be carrede awa, and dhat he had comitted an error.

"Tel me, tel me, tel me, I sa," repeted Milady, "hou doo u no it?"

"Hou doo I no it?" ced dArtanyan.

"Yes."

"I no it becauz yesterda Msyer de Vard, in a saloone whare I

wauz, shode a ring which he ced he had receevd from u."

"Rech!" cride Milady.

The eppithhet, az ma be esily understood, rezounded too the verry bottom ov dArtanyanz hart.

"Wel?" continnude she.

"Wel, I wil avenj u ov this rech," replide dArtanyan, ghivving himcelf the aerz ov Don Zhaafa ov Armeenya.

"Thanx, mi brave frend!" cride Milady; "and when shal I be avenjd?"

"Toomoro—imejaitly—when u plese!"

Milady wauz about too cri out, "Imejaitly," but she reflected dhat such precipitaishon wood not be verry graishous tooword dArtanyan.

Beciadz, she had a thouzand precaushonz too take, a thouzand councelz too ghiv too her defender, in order dhat he mite avoid explanaishonz withe the count befoer witnecez. Aul this wauz aancerd bi an expreshon ov dArtanyanz. "Toomoro," ced he, "u wil be avenjd, or I shal be ded."

"No," ced she, "u wil avenj me; but u wil not be ded. He iz a couward."

"Withe wimmen, perhaps; but not withe men. I no sumthhing ov him."

"But it ceemz u had not much rezon too complane ov yor forchune in yor contest withe him."

"Forchune iz a cortezan; favorabel yesterda, she ma tern her bac toomoro."

"Which meenz dhat u nou hezsitate?"

"No, I doo not hezsitate; God forbid! But wood it be just too alou me too go too a poscibel deth widhout havving ghivven me at leest sumthing moer dhan hope?"

Milady aancerd bi a glaans which ced, "Iz dhat aul?—speke, then." And then acumpanying the glaans withe explanatory werdz, "Dhat iz but too just," ced she, tenderly.

"O, u ar an ain'gel!" exclaimd the yung man.

"Then aul iz agrede?" ced she.

"Exept dhat which I aasc ov u, dere luv."

"But when I ashure u dhat u ma reli on mi tendernes?"

"I canot wate til toomoro."

"Cilens! I here mi bruther. It wil be uesles for him too fiand u here."

She rang the bel and Kitty apeerd.

"Go out this wa," ced she, opening a smaul private doer, "and cum bac at elevven oacloc; we wil then terminate this conversaishon. Kitty wil conduct u too mi chaimber."

The poor gherl aulmoast fainted at hering these werdz.



"Wel, mademwaasel, whaut ar u thhinking about, standing dhare like a stachu? Doo az I bid u: sho the shevalere out; and this evening at elevven oacloc—u hav herd whaut I ced."

"It apeerz dhat these apointments ar aul made for elevven oacloc," thaut dArtanyan; "dhats a cetteld custom."

Milady held out her hand too him, which he kist tenderly.

"But," ced he, az he retiard az qwicly az poscibel from the reprochez ov Kitty, "I must not pla the foole. This woomman iz certainly a grate liyar. I must take care."

### 37 MILADESE CEECRET

DArtanyan left the hotel insted ov gowing up at wuns too Kittese chaimber, az she endevvord too perswade him too doo—and dhat for too rezonz: the ferst, becauz bi this meenz he shood escape reprochez, recriminaishonz, and praerz; the cecond, becauz he wauz not sory too hav an oporchunity ov reding hiz one thauts and endevvoring, if poscibel, too fadhom dhose ov this woomman.

Whaut wauz moast clere in the matter wauz dhat dArtanyan luvd Milady like

a madman, and dhat she did not luv him at aul. In an instant dArtanyan perceevd dhat the best wa in which he cood act wood be too go home and rite Milady a long letter, in which he wood confes too her dhat he and de Vard wer, up too the prezsent moment absoluetly the same, and dhat conceqwently he cood not undertake, widhout comitting suwicide, too kil the Comt de Vard. But he aulso wauz sperd on bi a feroashous

desire ov venjans. He wisht too subju this woomman in hiz one name; and az this venjans apeerd too him too hav a certane sweetnes in it, he cood not make up hiz miand too renouns it.

He wauct cix or cevven tiamz round the Plaas Roiyaal, terning at evvery ten steps too looc at the lite in Miladese apartment, which wauz too be cene throo the bliandz. It wauz evvident dhat this time the yung woomman wauz not in such haist too retire too her apartment az she had bene the ferst.

At length the lite disapeerd. Withe this lite wauz extin'gwisht the laast irezzolueshon in the hart ov dArtanyan. He recauld too hiz miand the detailz ov the ferst nite, and withe a beting hart and a brane on fire he re-enterd the hotel and flu tooword Kittese chaimber.

The poor gherl, pale az deth and trembling in aul her limz, wisht too dela her luvver; but Milady, withe her ere on the wauch, had herd the noiz dArtanyan had made, and opening the doer, ced, "Cum in."

Aul this wauz ov such increddibel immodesty, ov such monstrous efruntery, dhat dArtanyan cood scaersly beleve whaut he sau or whaut he herd. He imadgiand himcelf too be draun intoo wun ov dhose fantastic intreegz wun meets in dreemz. He, houwevver, darted not the les qwicly tooword Milady, yeelding too dhat magnettic atracshon which the loadstone exercisez over iarn.

Az the doer cloazd aafter them Kitty rusht tooword it. Gelloucy, fury, ofended pride, aul the pashonz in short dhat dispute the hart ov an outrajd woomman in luv, erjd her too make a revelaishon; but she reflected dhat she wood be totaly lost if she confest havving acisted in such a mashenaishon, and abuv aul, dhat dArtanyan wood aulso be lost too her forevver. This laast thaut ov luv counceled her too

make this laast sacrifice.

DArtanyan, on hiz part, had gaind the summit ov aul hiz wishez. It wauz no lon'gher a rival whoo wauz beluud; it wauz himcelf whoo wauz aparrently beluud. A ceecret vois whisperd too him, at the bottom ov hiz hart, dhat he wauz but an instrument ov venjans, dhat he wauz oonly carest til he had ghivven deth; but pride, but celf-luv, but madnes cilenst this vois and stifeld its mermerz. And then our Gascon, withe dhat larj qwauntity ov concete which we no he posest, compaerd himcelf withe de Vard, and aasct himcelf whi, aafter aul, he shood not be beluud for himcelf?

He wauz abzorbd entiarly bi the censaishonz ov the moment. Milady wauz no lon'gher for him dhat woomman ov fatal intenshonz whoo had for a moment terrifide him; she wauz an ardent, pashonate mistres, abandoning hercelf too luv which she aulso ceemd too fele. Too ourz dhus glided awa. When the traanspoerts ov the too luvverz wer caalmer, Milady, whoo had not the same motiavz for forghetfoolnes dhat dArtanyan had, wauz the ferst too retern too reyallity, and aasct the yung man if the meenz which wer on the moro too bring on the encounter betwene him and de Vard wer aulreddy arainjd in hiz miand.

But dArtanyan, whose ideyaaz had taken qwite anuther coers, forgot himcelf like a foole, and aancerd gallantly dhat it wauz too late too thhinc about juwelz and soerd thrusts.

This coaldnes tooword the oonly interests dhat occupide her miand terrifide Milady, whose qweschonz became moer prescing.

Then dArtanyan, whoo had nevver cereyously thaut ov this imposcibel

juwel, endevvord too tern the conversaishon; but he cood not suxede. Milady kept him within the limmits she had traist befoerhand withe her iredistibel spirrit and her iarn wil.

DArtanyan fancede himcelf verry cunning when advising Milady too renouns, bi pardoning de Vard, the fureyous prodjects she had formd.

But at the ferst werd the yung woomman started, and exclaimd in a sharp, bantering tone, which sounded strainjly in the darcnes, "Ar u afrade, dere Msyer dArtanyan?"

"U canot thhinc so, dere luv!" replide dArtanyan; "but nou, suppose this poor Comt de Vard wer les ghilty dhan u thhinc him?"

"At aul events," ced Milady, cereyously, "he haz deceevd me, and from the moment he deceevd me, he merrited deth."

"He shal di, then, cins u condem him!" ced dArtanyan, in so ferm a tone dhat it apeerd too Milady an undouted prooffe ov devoashon. This reyashuerd her.

We canot sa hou long the nite ceemd too Milady, but dArtanyan beleevd it too be hardly too ourz befoer the dalite peept throo the windo bliandz, and invaded the chaimber withe its pailnes. Ceying dArtanyan about too leve her, Milady recauld hiz prommice too avenj her on the Comt de Vard.

"I am qwite reddy," ced dArtanyan; "but in the ferst place I shood like too be certane ov wun thhing."

"And whaut iz dhat?" aasct Milady.

"Dhat iz, whether u reyaly luv me?"

"I hav ghivven u prooffe ov dhat, it ceemz too me."

"And I am yorz, boddy and sole!"

"Thanx, mi brave luvver; but az u ar sattisfide ov mi luv, u must, in yor tern, sattisfi me ov yorz. Iz it not so?"

"Certainly; but if u luv me az much az u sa," replide dArtanyan, "doo u not entertane a littel fere on mi acount?"

"Whaut hav I too fere?"

"Whi, dhat I ma be dain'gerously wuinded—kild even."

"Imposcibel!" cride Milady, "u ar such a valeyant man, and such an expert soerdzman."

"U wood not, then, prefer a method," rezhuemd dArtanyan, "which wood eeqwaly avenj u while rendering the combat uesles?"

Milady looct at her luvver in cilens. The pale lite ov the ferst rase ov da gave too her clere ise a strainjly friatfool expreshon.

"Reyaly," ced she, "I beleve u nou beghin too hezsitate."

"No, I doo not hezsitate; but I reyaly pitty this poor Comt de Vard, cins u hav ceest too luv him. I thhinc dhat a man must be so ceveerly punnisht bi the los ov yor luv dhat he standz in nede ov no uther chastiazment."

"Whoo toald u dhat I luvd him?" aasct Milady, sharply.

"At leest, I am nou at libberty too beleve, widhout too much fachuwity, dhat u luv anuther," ced the yung man, in a carescing tone, "and I

repete dhat I am reyalv interested for the count."

"U?" aasct Milady.

"Yes, I."

"And whi U?"

"Becauz I alone no—"

"Whaut?"

"Dhat he iz far from beying, or raather havving bene, so ghilty tooword u az he apeerz."

"Indede!" ced Milady, in an ancshous tone; "explane yorcelf, for I reyalv canot tel whaut u mene."

And she looct at dArtanyan, whoo embraist her tenderly, withe ise which ceemd too bern themcelvz awa.

"Yes; I am a man ov onnor," ced dArtanyan, determiand too cum too an end, "and cins yor luv iz mine, and I am sattisfide I poses it—for I doo poses it, doo I not?"

"Entiarly; go on."

"Wel, I fele az if traansformd—a confeshon wase on mi miand."

"A confeshon!"

"If I had the leest dout ov yor luv I wood not make it, but u luv me, mi butifool mistres, doo u not?"

"Widhout dout."

"Then if throo exes ov luv I hav renderd micelf culpabel tooword u, u wil pardon me?"

"Perhaps."

DArtanyan tride withe hiz swetest smile too tuch hiz lips too Miladese, but she evaded him.

"This confeshon," ced she, growing paler, "whaut iz this confeshon?"

"U gave de Vard a meting on Thherzda laast in this verry roome, did u not?"

"No, no! It iz not tru," ced Milady, in a tone ov vois so ferm, and withe a countenans so unchainjd, dhat if dArtanyan had not bene in such perfect poseshon ov the fact, he wood hav douted.

"Doo not li, mi ain'gel," ced dArtanyan, smiling; "dhat wood be uesles."

"Whaut doo u mene? Speke! u kil me."

"Be sattisfide; u ar not ghilty tooword me, and I hav aulreddy pardond u."

"Whaut next? whaut next?"

"De Vard canot boast ov ennithhing."

"Hou iz dhat? U toald me yorcelf dhat dhat ring—"

"Dhat ring I hav! The Comt de Vard ov Thherzda and the dArtanyan ov

tooda ar the same person."

The imprudent yung man expected a cerprise, mixt withe shame—a slite storm which wood rezolv itcelf intoo teerz; but he wauz strainjly deceevd, and hiz error wauz not ov long juraishon.

Pale and trembling, Milady repulst dArtanyanz atempted embrace bi a viyolent blo on the chest, az she sprang out ov bed.

It wauz aulmoast braud dalite.

dArtanyan detaind her bi her nite dres ov fine Injaa linnen, too imploer her pardon; but she, withe a strong muivment, tride too escape. Then the cambric wauz toern from her butifool shoalderz; and on wun ov dhose luvly shoalderz, round and white, dArtanyan reccogniazd, withe inexprescibel astonishment, the *FLEUR-DE-LIS*—dhat indellibel marc which the hand ov the infamous execueshoner had imprinted.

"Grate God!" cride dArtanyan, loocing hiz hoald ov her dres, and remaning mute, moashonles, and frosen.

But Milady felt hercelf denounst even bi hiz terror. He had doutles cene aul. The yung man nou nu her ceecret, her terribel ceecret—the ceecret she conceeld even from her made withe such care, the ceecret ov which aul the werld wauz ignorant, exept himcelf.

She ternd uppon him, no lon'gher like a fureyous woomman, but like a wuinded panthher.

"Aa, rech!" cride she, "u hav baisly betrade me, and stil moer, u hav mi ceecret! U shal di."



And she flu too a littel inlade caasket which stood uppon the drescing tabel, opend it withe a feverish and trembling band, dru from it a smaul ponyard, withe a goalden haaft and a sharp thhin blade, and then thru hercelf withe a bound uppon dArtanyan.

Auldho the yung man wauz brave, az we no, he wauz terrifide at dhat wiald countenans, dhose terribly dilated pupilz, dhose pale cheex, and dhose bleding lips. He recoild too the uther cide ov the roome az he wood hav dun from a serpent which wauz crawling tooword him, and hiz soerd cumming in contact withe hiz nervous hand, he dru it aulmoast unconshously from the scabbard. But widhout taking enny hede ov the soerd, Milady endevvord too ghet nere enuf too him too stab him, and did not stop til she felt the sharp point at her throte.

She then tride too cese the soerd withe her handz; but dArtanyan kept it fre from her graasp, and presenting the point, sumtiamz at her ise, sumtiamz at her brest, compeld her too glide behiand the bedsted, while he aimd at making hiz retrete bi the doer which led too Kittese apartment.

Milady juring this time continnude too strike at him withe horibel fury, screeming in a formiddabel wa.

Az aul this, houwevver, boer sum resemblans too a juwel, dArtanyan began too recuvver himcelf littel bi littel.

"Wel, butifool lady, verry wel," ced he; "but, *PARDIEU*, if u doant caalm yorcelf, I wil desine a cecond *FLEUR-DE-LIS* uppon wun ov dhose pritty cheex!"

"Scoundrel, infamous scoundrel!" hould Milady.

But dArtanyan, stil keping on the defencive, dru nere too Kittese doer. At the noiz dha made, she in overternig the fernichure in her efforts too ghet at him, he in screning himcelf behiand the fernichure too kepe out ov her reche, Kitty opend the doer. DArtanyan, whoo had uncecingly manuverd too gane this point, wauz not at moer dhan thre pacez from it. Withe wun spring he flu from the chaimber ov Milady intoo dhat ov the made, and qwic az liatning, he slamd too the doer, and plaist aul hiz wate against it, while Kitty poosht the bolts.

Then Milady atempted too tare doun the doercace, withe a strength aparrently abuv dhat ov a woomman; but fianding she cood not acumplish this, she in her fury stabd at the doer withe her ponyard, the point ov which repetedly glitterd throo the wood. Evvery blo wauz acumpanede withe terribel imprecaishonz.

"Qwic, Kitty, qwic!" ced dArtanyan, in a lo vois, az soone az the bolts wer faast, "let me ghet out ov the hotel; for if we leve her time too tern round, she wil hav me kild bi the cervants."

"But u caant go out so," ced Kitty; "u ar naked."

"Dhats tru," ced dArtanyan, then ferst thhinking ov the coschume he found himcelf in, "dhats tru. But dres me az wel az u ar abel, oanly make haist; thhinc, mi dere gherl, its life and deth!"

Kitty wauz but too wel aware ov dhat. In a tern ov the hand she muffeld him up in a flouwerd robe, a larj hood, and a cloke. She gave him sum slipperz, in which he plaist hiz naked fete, and then conducted him doun the staerz. It wauz time. Milady had aulreddy rung her bel, and rouzd the whole hotel. The poerter wauz drauwing the cord at the moment Milady cride from her windo, "Doant open!"

The yung man fled while she wauz stil threttening him withe an impotent geschure. The moment she lost cite ov him, Milady tumbeld fainting intoo her chaimber.

38 HOU, WIDHOUT INCOMMODOING HIMCELF, AITHOS PROCUERZ  
HIZ EQWIPMENT

DArtanyan wauz so compleetly bewilderd dhat widhout taking enny hede ov whaut mite becum ov Kitty he ran at fool spede acros haaf Parris, and did not stop til he came too Aithocez doer. The confuezhon ov hiz miand, the terror which sperd him on, the crise ov sum ov the patrole whoo started in persute ov him, and the hooting ov the pepel whoo, notwithstanding the erly our, wer gowing too dhare werc, oonly made him precippitate hiz coers.

He crost the coert, ran up the too fliats too Aithocez apartment, and noct at the doer enuf too brake it down.

Gremo came, rubbing hiz haaf-open ise, too aancer this noisy summonz, and dArtanyan sprang withe such viyolens intoo the roome az neerly too overtern the astonnisht lacky.

In spite ov hiz habitchuwal cilens, the poor lad this time found hiz speche.

"Hollo, dhare!" cride he; "whaut doo u waunt, u strumpet? Whauts yor biznes here, u huscy?"

DArtanyan thru of hiz hood, and dicen'gaijd hiz handz from the foaldz

ov the cloke. At cite ov the mustaashez and the naked soerd, the poor devvil perceevd he had too dele withe a man. He then concluded it must be an asascin.

"Help! merder! help!" cride he.

"Hoald yor tung, u schupid fello!" ced the yung man; "I am dArtanyan; doant u no me? Whare iz yor maaster?"

"U, Msyer dArtanyan!" cride Gremo, "imposcibel."

"Gremo," ced Aithos, cumming out ov hiz apartment in a drescing gown, "Gremo, I thaut I herd u permitting yorcelf too speke?"

"Aa, msyer, it iz—"

"Cilens!"

Gremo contented himcelf withe pointing dArtanyan out too hiz maaster withe hiz fin'gher.

Aithos reccogniazd hiz comrade, and flegmattic az he wauz, he berst intoo a laaf which wauz qwite excuezd bi the strainj maaskerade befoer hiz ise—petticoats fauling over hiz shoose, sleevez tuct up, and mustaashez stif withe agitaishon.

"Doant laaf, mi frend!" cride dArtanyan; "for hevvenz sake, doant laaf, for uppon mi sole, its no laafing matter!"

And he pronounst these werdz withe such a sollem are and withe such a reyral aperans ov terror, dhat Aithos egherly ceezd hiz hand, crying, "Ar u wuinded, mi frend? Hou pale u ar!"

"No, but I hav just met withe a terribel advenchure! Ar u alone,

Aithos?"

"*PARBLEU!* whoome doo u expect too fiand withe me at this our?"

"Wel, wel!" and dArtanyan rusht intoo Aithochez chaimber.

"Cum, speke!" ced the latter, closing the doer and bolting it, dhat dha mite not be disterbd. "Iz the king ded? Hav u kild the cardinal? U ar qwite upcet! Cum, cum, tel me; I am diying withe cureyosity and unnesines!"

"Aithos," ced dArtanyan, ghetting rid ov hiz female garments, and apering in hiz shert, "prepare yorcelf too here an increddibel, an unherd-ov stoery."

"Wel, but poot on this drescing gown ferst," ced the Musketere too hiz frend.

DArtanyan dond the robe az qwicly az he cood, mistaking wun sleve for the uther, so graity wauz he stil adgitated.

"Wel?" ced Aithos.

"Wel," replide dArtanyan, bending hiz mouth too Aithochez ere, and lowering hiz vois, "Milady iz marct withe a *FLEUR-DE-LIS* uppon her shoalder!"

"Aa!" cride the Musketere, az if he had receevd a baul in hiz hart.

"Let us ce," ced dArtanyan. "Ar u SHURE dhat the U<sup>T</sup>HER iz ded?"

"THE U<sup>T</sup>HER?" ced Aithos, in so stifeld a vois dhat dArtanyan scaersly herd him.

"Yes, she ov whoome u toald me wun da at Ammeyon."

Aithos utterd a grone, and let hiz hed cinc on hiz handz.

"This iz a woomman ov twenty-cix or twenty-ate yeerz."

"Fare," ced Aithos, "iz she not?"

"Verry."

"Blu and clere ise, ov a strainj brilleancy, withe blac ilidz and iabrouz?"

"Yes."

"Taul, wel-made? She haz lost a tuith, next too the ituith on the left?"

"Yes."

"The *FLEUR-DE-LIS* iz smaul, rosy in cullor, and loox az if efforts had bene made too efface it bi the applicaishon ov poulticez?"

"Yes."

"But u sa she iz In'glish?"

"She iz cauld Milady, but she ma be French. Lord de Winter iz oanly her bruther-in-lau."

"I wil ce her, dArtanyan!"

"Beware, Aithos, beware. U tride too kil her; she iz a woomman too retern u the like, and not too fale."

"She wil not dare too sa ennithhing; dhat wood be too denouns hercelf."

"She iz capabel ov ennithhing or evverithhing. Did u evver ce her fureyous?"

"No," ced Aithos.

"A tiagres, a panthher! Aa, mi dere Aithos, I am graitly afrade I hav draun a terribel venjans on boath ov us!"

DArtanyan then related aul—the mad pashon ov Milady and her mennacez ov deth.

"U ar rite; and uppon mi sole, I wood ghiv mi life for a hare," ced Aithos. "Forchunaitly, the da aafter toomoro we leve Parris. We ar gowing acording too aul probabillity too Laa Roshel, and wuns gon—"

"She wil follo u too the end ov the werld, Aithos, if she reccognizez u. Let her, then, exhaust her venjans on me alone!"

"Mi dere frend, ov whaut conceqwens iz it if she kilz me?" ced Aithos. "Doo u, perchaans, thhinc I cet enny grate stoer bi life?"

"Dhare iz sumthhing horibly mistereyous under aul this, Aithos; this woomman iz wun ov the cardinalz spise, I am shure ov dhat."

"In dhat cace, take care! If the cardinal duz not hoald u in hi admiraishon for the afare ov Lundon, he entertainz a grate haitred for u; but az, conciddering evverithhing, he canot acuse u openly, and az haitred must be sattisfide, particcularly when its a cardinalz haitred,

take care ov yorcelf. If u go out, doo not go out alone; when u ete, use evvery precaushon. Mistrust evverithhing, in short, even yor one shaddo."

"Forchunaitly," ced dArtanyan, "aul this wil be oanly nescesary til aafter toomoro evening, for when wuns withe the army, we shal hav, I hope, oanly men too dred."

"In the meentime," ced Aithos, "I renouns mi plan ov cecluezhon, and wharevver u go, I wil go withe u. U must retern too the Ru da Foswaa'er; I wil acumpany u."

"But houwevver nere it ma be," replide dArtanyan, "I canot go thither in this ghise."

"Dhats tru," ced Aithos, and he rang the bel.

Gremo enterd.

Aithos made him a cine too go too dArtanyanz rezsidens, and bring bac sum cloadhz. Gremo replide bi anuther cine dhat he understood perfectly, and cet of.

"Aul this wil not advaans yor outfit," ced Aithos; "for if I am not mistaken, u hav left the best ov yor aparrel withe Milady, and she wil certainly not hav the poliatnes too retern it too u. Forchunaitly, u hav the saffire."

"The juwel iz yorz, mi dere Aithos! Did u not tel me it wauz a fammily juwel?"

"Yes, mi grandfaather gave too thousand crounz for it, az he wuns toald me. It formd part ov the nupshal prezsent he made hiz wife, and it iz magnifficent. Mi muther gave it too me, and I, foole az I wauz, insted ov



keping the ring az a holy rellic, gave it too this rech."

"Then, mi frend, take bac this ring, too which I ce u atach much vally."

"I take bac the ring, aafter it haz paast throo the handz ov dhat infamous crechure? Nevver; dhat ring iz defiald, dArtanyan."

"Cel it, then."

"Cel a juwel which came from mi muther! I vou I shood concidder it a profanaishon."

"Plej it, then; u can boro at leest a thouzand crounz on it. Withe dhat sum u can extricate yorcelf from yor prezsent difficultese; and when u ar fool ov munny agane, u can redeme it, and take it bac clenzd from its ainshent stainz, az it wil hav paast throo the handz ov uezhurerz."

Aithos smiald.

"U ar a cappital companyon, dArtanyan," ced be; "yor nevver-faling cheerfoolnes rasez poor soalz in aflicshon. Wel, let us plej the ring, but uppon wun condishon."

"Whaut?"

"Dhat dhare shal be five hundred crounz for u, and five hundred crounz for me."

"Doant dreme it, Aithos. I doant nede the qworter ov such a sum—I whoo am stil oonly in the Gardz—and bi celling mi saddelz, I shal procure it. Whaut doo I waunt? A hors for Plaunsha, dhats aul. Beciadz, u forghet

dhat I hav a ring liaqwise."

"Too which u atach moer vallu, it ceemz, dhan I doo too mine; at leest, I hav thaut so."

"Yes, for in enny extreme cercumstaans it mite not oonly extricate us from sum grate embarrasment, but even a grate dain'ger. It iz not oonly a vallubel dimond, but it iz an enchaanted tallizman."

"I doant at aul understand u, but I beleve aul u sa too be tru. Let us retern too mi ring, or raather too yorz. U shal take haaf the sum dhat wil be advaanst uppon it, or I wil thro it intoo the Sane; and I dout, az wauz the cace withe Policratese, whether enny fish wil be sufishly complazant too bring it bac too us."

"Wel, I wil take it, then," ced dArtanyan.

At this moment Gremo reternd, acumpanede bi Plaunsha; the latter, ancshous about hiz maaster and cureyous too no whaut had happend too him, had taken advaantage ov the oporchunity and braut the garments himcelf.

DArtanyan drest himcelf, and Aithos did the same. When the too wer reddy too go out, the latter made Gremo the cine ov a man taking ame, and the lacky imejaitly tooc down hiz musketoone, and prepaerd too follo hiz maaster.

Dha ariavd widhout axident at the Ru da Foswaa'er. Bonasyuu wauz standing at the doer, and looct at dArtanyan haitfooly.

"Make haist, dere lodger," ced he; "dhare iz a verry pritty gherl wating for u upstaerz; and u no wimmen doant like too be kept wating."

"Dhats Kitty!" ced dArtanyan too himcelf, and darted intoo the passage.

Shure enuf! Uppon the landing leding too the chaimber, and crouching against the doer, he found the poor gherl, aul in a trembel. Az soone az she perceevd him, she cride, "U hav prommiast yor protecshon; u hav prommiast too save me from her an'gher. Remember, it iz u whoo hav ruwind me!"

"Yes, yes, too be shure, Kitty," ced dArtanyan; "be at ese, mi gherl. But whaut happend aafter mi deparchure?"

"Hou can I tel!" ced Kitty. "The lackese wer braut bi the crise she made. She wauz mad withe pashon. Dhare exist no imprecaishonz she did not poer out against u. Then I thaut she wood remember it wauz throo mi chaimber u had pennetrated herz, and dhat then she wood supose I wauz yor acumpllice; so I tooc whaut littel munny I had and the best ov mi thhingz, and I got awa."

"Poor dere gherl! But whaut can I doo withe u? I am gowing awa the da aafter toomoro."

"Doo whaut u plese, Msyer Shevalere. Help me out ov Parris; help me out ov Fraans!"

"I canot take u, houwevver, too the ceje ov Laa Roshel," ade dArtanyan.

"No; but u can place me in wun ov the provvincez withe sum lady ov yor aqwaintans—in yor one cuntry, for instans."

"Mi dere littel luv! In mi cuntry the ladese doo widhout chaimbermaidz. But stop! I can mannage yor biznes for u. Plaunsha, go and fiand Arramis. Reqwest him too cum here directly. We hav sumthhing verry

important too sa too him."

"I understand," ced Aithos; "but whi not Porthos? I shood hav thaut dhat hiz dutches—"

"O, Porthociez dutches iz drest bi her huzbandz clarx," ced dArtanyan, laafing. "Beciadz, Kitty wood not like too liv in the Ru ose Oors. Iznt it so, Kitty?"

"I doo not care whare I liv," ced Kitty, "provided I am wel conceeld, and nobody nose whare I am."

"Meenwhile, Kitty, when we ar about too cepparate, and u ar no lon'gher gellous ov me—"

"Msyer Shevalere, far of or nere," ced Kitty, "I shal aulwase luv u."

"Whare the devvil wil constancy nich itcelf next?" mermerd Aithos.

"And I, aulso," ced dArtanyan, "I aulso. I shal aulwase luv u; be shure ov dhat. But nou aancer me. I atach grate importans too the qweschon I am about too poot too u. Did u nevver here tauc ov a yung woomman whoo wauz carrede of wun nite?"

"Dhare, nou! O, Msyer Shevalere, doo u luv dhat woomman stil?"

"No, no; it iz wun ov mi frendz whoo luvz her—Msyer Aithos, this gentelman here."

"I?" cride Aithos, withe an axent like dhat ov a man whoo perceevz he iz about too tred uppon an adder.

"U, too be shure!" ced dArtanyan, prescing Aithociez hand. "U no

the interest we boath take in this poor littel Madam Bonasyuu. Beciadz, Kitty wil tel nuthhing; wil u, Kitty? U understand, mi dere gherl," continnude dArtanyan, "she iz the wife ov dhat friatfool baboone u sau at the doer az u came in."

"O, mi God! U remiand me ov mi frite! If he shood hav none me agane!"

"Hou? no u agane? Did u evver ce dhat man befoer?"

"He came twice too Miladese."

"Dhats it. About whaut time?"

"Whi, about fiftene or atene dase ago."

"Exactly so."

"And yesterda evening he came agane."

"Yesterda evening?"

"Yes, just befoer u came."

"Mi dere Aithos, we ar envellopt in a netwerc ov spise. And doo u beleve he nu u agane, Kitty?"

"I poold doun mi hood az soone az I sau him, but perhaps it wauz too late."

"Go doun, Aithos—he mistrusts u les dhan me—and ce if he be stil at hiz doer."

Aithos went doun and reternd imejaitly.

"He haz gon," ced he, "and the hous doer iz shut."

"He haz gon too make hiz repoert, and too sa dhat aul the pidjonz ar at this moment in the duvcot."

"Wel, then, let us aul fli," ced Aithos, "and leve nobody here but Plaunsha too bring us nuse."

"A minnute. Arramis, whoome we hav cent for!"

"Dhats tru," ced Aithos; "we must wate for Arramis."

At dhat moment Arramis enterd.

The matter wauz aul explaind too him, and the frendz gave him too understand dhat amung aul hiz hi conecshonz he must fiand a place for Kitty.

Arramis reflected for a minnute, and then ced, culloring, "Wil it be reyaly rendering u a cervice, dArtanyan?"

"I shal be graitfool too u aul mi life."

"Verry wel. Madam de Bwaa-Tracy aasct me, for wun ov her frendz whoo resiadz in the provvincez, I beleve, for a trustwerthy made. If u can, mi dere dArtanyan, aancer for Mademwaasel-"

"O, msyer, be ashuerd dhat I shal be entiarly devoted too the person whoo wil ghiv me the meenz ov qwitting Parris."

"Then," ced Arramis, "this faulz out verry wel."

He plaist himcelf at the tabel and rote a littel note which he ceeld

with a ring, and gave the billet too Kitty.

"And nou, mi dere gherl," ced dArtanyan, "u no dhat it iz not good for enny ov us too be here. Dhaerfoer let us cepparate. We shal mete agane in better dase."

"And whenever we fiand eche uther, in whautevver place it ma be," ced Kitty, "u wil fiand me luvving u az I luv u tooda."

"Dicerz oaths!" ced Aithos, while dArtanyan went too conduct Kitty dounstaerz.

An instant aafterword the thre yung men cepparated, agreying too mete agane at foer oacloc with Aithos, and leving Plaunsha too gard the hous.

Arramis reternd home, and Aithos and dArtanyan bizside themcelvz about pledging the saffire.

Az the Gascon had foercene, dha esily obtaind thre hundred pistoalz on the ring. Stil ferther, the Ju toald them dhat if dha wood cel it too him, az it wood make a magnifficent pendant for eringz, he wood ghiv five hundred pistoalz for it.

Aithos and dArtanyan, with the activvity ov too soalgerz and the nollej ov too conocerz, hardly reqwiard thre ourz too perchace the entire eqwipment ov the Musketerere. Beciadz, Aithos wauz verry esy, and a nobel too hiz fin'gherz endz. When a thhing suted him he pade the price demaanded, without ththinking too aasc for enny abaitment. DArtanyan wood hav remmonstrated at this; but Aithos poot hiz hand uppon hiz shoalder, with a smile, and dArtanyan understood dhat it wauz aul verry wel for

such a littel Gascon gentelman az himcelf too drive a bargane, but not for a man whoo had the baring ov a prins. The Musketere met withe a superb Andaluezhan hors, blac az get, nostrilz ov fire, legz clene and ellegant, rising cix yeerz. He exammiand him, and found him sound and widhout blemmish. Dha aasct a thouzand leevrz for him.

He mite perhaps hav bene baut for les; but while dArtanyan wauz discusing the price withe the deler, Aithos wauz counting out the munny on the tabel.

Gremo had a stout, short Picard cob, which cost thre hundred leevrz.

But when the saddel and armz for Gremo wer perchaist, Aithos had not a soo left ov hiz hundred and fifty pistoalz. DArtanyan offerd hiz frend a part ov hiz share which he shood retern when conveyent.

But Aithos oanly replide too this propozal bi shrugging hiz shoalderz.

"Hou much did the Ju sa he wood ghiv for the saffire if be perchaist it?" ced Aithos.

"Five hundred pistoalz."

"Dhat iz too sa, too hundred moer—a hundred pistoalz for u and a hundred pistoalz for me. Wel, nou, dhat wood be a reyal forchune too us, mi frend; let us go bac too the Juse agane."

"Whaut! wil u—"

"This ring wood certainly oanly recaul verry bitter remembrancez; then we shal nevver be maasterz ov thre hundred pistoalz too redeme it, so dhat we reyalz shood loose too hundred pistoalz bi the bargane. Go and tel him the ring iz hiz, dArtanyan, and bring bac the too hundred pistoalz



withe u."

"Reflect, Aithos!"

"Reddy munny iz needfool for the prezsent time, and we must lern hou too make sacrificez. Go, dArtanyan, go; Gremo wil acumpany u withe hiz musketoone."

A haaf our aafterword, dArtanyan reternd withe the too thousand leevrz, and widhout havving met withe enny axident.

It wauz dhus Aithos found at home rezoercez which he did not expect.

### 39 A VIZHON

At foer oacloc the foer frendz wer aul acembeld withe Aithos. Dhare anxiety about dhare outfits had aul disapeerd, and eche countenans oonly preservd the expreshon ov its one ceecret disqwiyet—for behiand aul prezsent happines iz conceeld a fere for the fuchure.

Suddenly Plaunsha enterd, bringing too letterz for dArtanyan.

The wun wauz a littel billet, gently foalded, withe a pritty cele in grene wax on which wauz imprest a duv baring a grene braanch.

The uther wauz a larj sqware episcel, resplendent withe the terribel armz ov hiz Emminens the cardinal juke.

At the cite ov the littel letter the hart ov dArtanyan bounded, for he beleevd he reccogniazd the handriting, and auldho he had cene dhat riting but wuns, the memmory ov it remaind at the bottom ov hiz hart.

He dhaerfoer ceezd the littel episcel, and opend it egherly.

"Be," ced the letter, "on Thherzda next, at from cix too cevven oacloc in the evening, on the rode too Shiyo, and looc caerfooly intoo the carragez dhat paas; but if u hav enny concideraishon for yor one life or dhat ov dhose whoo luv u, doo not speke a cin'ghel werd, doo not make a muivment which ma lede enniwun too beleve u hav reccogniazd her whoo exposez hercelf too evverithhing for the sake ov ceying u but for an instant."

No cignachure.

"Dhats a snare," ced Aithos; "doant go, dArtanyan."

"And yet," replide dArtanyan, "I thhinc I reccognise the riting."

"It ma be counterfete," ced Aithos. "Betwene cix and cevven oacloc the rode ov Shiyo iz qwite deserted; u mite az wel go and ride in the forest ov Bondy."

"But supose we aul go," ced dArtanyan; "whaut the devvil! Dha woant devour us aul foer, foer lackese, horcez, armz, and aul!"

"And beciadz, it wil be a chaans for displaying our nu eqwipments," ced Porthos.

"But if it iz a woomman whoo riats," ced Arramis, "and dhat woomman desiarz not too be cene, remember, u compromise her, dArtanyan; which iz not the part ov a gentelman."

"We wil remane in the bacground," ced Porthos, "and he wil advaans alone."

"Yes; but a pistol shot iz esily fiard from a carrage which gose at a gallop."

"Baa!" ced dArtanyan, "dha wil mis me; if dha fire we wil ride aafter the carrage, and exterminate dhose whoo ma be in it. Dha must be ennemese."

"He iz rite," ced Porthos; "battel. Beciadz, we must tri our one armz."

"Baa, let us enjoi dhat plezhure," ced Arramis, withe hiz miald and caerles manner.

"Az u plese," ced Aithos.

"Gentelmen," ced dArtanyan, "it iz haaf paast foer, and we hav scaersly time too be on the rode ov Shiyo bi cix."

"Beciadz, if we go out too late, nobody wil ce us," ced Porthos, "and dhat wil be a pittty. Let us ghet reddy, gentelmen."

"But this cecond letter," ced Aithos, "u forghet dhat; it apeerz too me, houwevver, dhat the cele denoats dhat it deservz too be opend. For mi part, I declare, dArtanyan, I thhinc it ov much moer conceqwens dhan the littel pece ov waist paper u hav so cunningly slipt intoo yor boozzom."

DArtanyan blusht.

"Wel," ced he, "let us ce, gentelmen, whaut ar hiz Emminencez comaandz," and dArtanyan unceeld the letter and red,

"M. dArtanyan, ov the kingz Gardz, cumpany Decessar, iz expected at the Palla-Cardinal this evening, at ate oacloc."

"Laa Oodanyare, CAPTANE OV THE GARDZ"

"The devvil!" ced Aithos; "heerz a rondavoo much moer cereyous dhan the uther."

"I wil go too the cecond aafter atending the ferst," ced dArtanyan.  
"Wun iz for cevven oacloc, and the uther for ate; dhare wil be time for boath."

"Hum! I wood not go at aul," ced Arramis. "A gallant nite canot decline a rondavoo withe a lady; but a prudent gentelman ma excuse himcelf from not wating on hiz Emminens, particcularly when he haz rezon too beleve he iz not invited too make hiz compliments."

"I am ov Arramicez opinyon," ced Porthos.

"Gentelmen," replide dArtanyan, "I hav aulreddy receevd bi Msyer de Cavwaa a cimmilar invitaishon from hiz Emminens. I neglected it, and on the moro a cereyous misforchune happend too me—Constans disapeerd. Whautevver ma ensu, I wil go."

"If u ar determiand," ced Aithos, "doo so."

"But the Bastele?" ced Arramis.

"Baa! u wil ghet me out if dha poot me dhare," ced dArtanyan.

"Too be shure we wil," replide Arramis and Porthos, withe admirabel promptnes and decizhon, az if dhat wer the cimpest thhing in the werld, "too be shure we wil ghet u out; but meentime, az we ar too cet of the da aafter toomoro, u wood doo much better not too risc this Bastele."

"Let us doo better dhan dhat," ced Aithos; "doo not let us leve him juring the whole evening. Let eche ov us wate at a gate ov the pallace withe thre Musketeerz behiand him; if we ce a cloce carrage, at aul suspishous in aperans, cum out, let us faul uppon it. It iz a long time cins we hav had a skermish withe the Gardz ov Msyer the Cardinal; Msyer de Treveye must thhinc us ded."

"Too a certainty, Aithos," ced Arramis, "u wer ment too be a genneral ov the army! Whaut doo u thhinc ov the plan, gentelmen?"

"Admirabel!" replide the yung men in coerus.

"Wel," ced Porthos, "I wil run too the hotel, and en'gage our comraidz too hoald themcelvz in reddines bi ate oacloc; the rondavoo, the Plaas du Palla-Cardinal. Meentime, u ce dhat the lackese saddel the horcez."

"I hav no hors," ced dArtanyan; "but dhat iz ov no conceqwens, I can take wun ov Msyer de Treveeyz."

"Dhat iz not werth while," ced Arramis, "u can hav wun ov mine."

"Wun ov yorz! hou menny hav u, then?" aasct dArtanyan.

"Thre," replide Arramis, smiling.

"*Certes*," cride Aithos, "u ar the best-mounted powet ov Fraans or

Navar."

"Wel, mi dere Arramis, u doant waunt thre horcez? I canot comprehend whaut injuest u too bi thre!"

"Dhaerfoer I oanly perchaist too," ced Arramis.

"The thherd, then, fel from the cloudz, I supose?"

"No, the thherd wauz braut too me this verry morning bi a groome out ov livvery, whoo wood not tel me in whoose cervice he wauz, and whoo ced he had receevd orderz from hiz maaster."

"Or hiz mistres," interupted dArtanyan.

"Dhat maix no differens," ced Arramis, culloring; "and whoo afermd, az I ced, dhat he had receevd orderz from hiz maaster or mistres too place the hors in mi stabel, widhout informing me whens it came."

"It iz oanly too powets dhat such thhingz happen," ced Aithos, graivly.

"Wel, in dhat cace, we can mannage famously," ced dArtanyan; "which ov the too horcez wil u ride—dhat which u baut or the wun dhat wauz ghivven too u?"

"Dhat which wauz ghivven too me, ashuerdly. U canot for a moment imadgine, dArtanyan, dhat I wood comit such an offens tooword—"

"The un'none ghivver," interupted dArtanyan.

"Or the mistereyous benefactres," ced Aithos.

"The wun u baut wil then becum uesles too u?"

"Neerly so."

"And u celected it yorcelf?"

"Withe the gratest care. The saifty ov the horsman, u no, dependz aulmoast aulwase uppon the goodnes ov hiz hors."

"Wel, traansfer it too me at the price it cost u?"

"I wauz gowing too make u the offer, mi dere dArtanyan, ghivving u aul the time nescesary for repaying me such a trifel."

"Hou much did it cost u?"

"Ate hundred leevrz."

"Here ar forty dubbel pistoalz, mi dere frend," ced dArtanyan, taking the sum from hiz pocket; "I no dhat iz the coin in which u wer pade for yor powemz."

"U ar rich, then?" ced Arramis.

"Rich? Ritchest, mi dere fello!"

And dArtanyan chinct the remainder ov hiz pistoalz in hiz pocket.

"Cend yor saddel, then, too the hotel ov the Musketeeرز, and yor hors can be braut bac withe ourz."

"Verry wel; but it iz aulreddy five oacloc, so make haist."

A qworter ov an our aafterword Porthos apeerd at the end ov the Ru

Fairoo on a verry handsum jena. Muiscton follode him uppon an Ovaern hors, smaull but verry handsum. Porthos wauz resplendent withe joi and pride.

At the same time, Arramis made hiz aperans at the uther end ov the strete uppon a superb In'glish charger. Bazan follode him uppon a rone, hoalding bi the haulter a viggorous Meclenberg hors; this wauz dArtanyan mount.

The too Musketeerz met at the gate. Aithos and dArtanyan waucht dhare aproche from the windo.

"The devvil!" cride Arramis, "u hav a magnifficent hors dhare, Porthos."

"Yes," replide Porthos, "it iz the wun dhat aut too hav bene cent too me at ferst. A bad joke ov the huzbandz substichuted the uther; but the huzband haz bene punnisht cins, and I hav obtaind fool satisfacshon."

Plaunsha and Gremo apeerd in dhare tern, leding dhare maasterz steedz. DArtanyan and Aithos poot themcelvz intoo saddel withe dhare companyonz, and aul foer cet forword; Aithos uppon a hors he ode too a woomman, Arramis on a hors he ode too hiz mistres, Porthos on a hors he ode too hiz procuratorz wife, and dArtanyan on a hors he ode too hiz good forchune—the best mistres poscibel.

The lackese follode.

Az Porthos had foercene, the cavalcade projuest a good efect; and if Mme. Cokenar had met Porthos and cene whaut a superb aperans he made uppon hiz handsum Spannish jena, she wood not hav regretted the bleding she had inflicted uppon the strongbox ov her huzband.

Nere the Luivr the foer frendz met withe M. de Treveye, whoo wauz



reterning from St. Zhairman; he stopt them too offer hiz compliments uppon dhare apointments, which in an instant dru round them a hundred gaperz.

DArtanyan proffited bi the cercumstaans too speke too M. de Treveye ov the letter withe the grate red cele and the cardinalz armz. It iz wel understood dhat he did not breathe a werd about the uther.

M. de Treveye apruivd ov the rezolueshon he had adopted, and ashuerd him dhat if on the moro he did not apere, he himcelf wood undertake too fiand him, let him be whare he mite.

At this moment the cloc ov Laa Samaritane struc cix; the foer frendz pleded an en'gajment, and tooc leve ov M. de Treveye.

A short gallop braut them too the rode ov Shiyo; the da began too decline, carragez wer paacing and repaacing. DArtanyan, keping at sum distans from hiz frendz, darted a scrutinising glaans intoo evvery carrage dhat apeerd, but sau no face withe which he wauz aqwainted.

At length, aafter wating a qworter ov an our and just az twilite wauz beghinning too thicken, a carrage apeerd, cumming at a qwic pace on the rode ov Cever. A presentiment instantly toald dArtanyan dhat this carrage containd the person whoo had apointed the rondavoo; the yung man wauz himcelf astonnisht too fiand hiz hart bete so viyolently. Aulmoast instantly a female hed wauz poot out at the windo, withe too fin'gherz plaist uppon her mouth, iather too enjoin cilens or too cend him a kis. DArtanyan utterd a slite cri ov joi; this woomman, or raather this aparishon—for the carrage paast withe the rapiddity ov a vizhon—wauz Mme. Bonasyuu.

Bi an involluntary muivment and in spite ov the injuncshon ghivven, dArtanyan poot hiz hors intoo a gallop, and in a fu striadz overtooc the carrage; but the windo wauz hermettically cloazd, the vizhon had

disapeerd.

DArtanyan then rememberd the injuncshon: "If u vallu yor one life or dhat ov dhose whoo luv u, remane moashonles, and az if u had cene nuthhing."

He stopt, dhaerfoer, trembling not for himcelf but for the poor woomman whoo had evvidently expoazd hercelf too grate dain'ger bi apointing this rondavoo.

The carrage pershude its wa, stil gowing at a grate pace, til it dasht intoo Parris, and disapeerd.

DArtanyan remaind fixt too the spot, astounded and not nowing whaut too thhinc. If it wauz Mme. Bonasyuu and if she wauz reterning too Parris, whi this fugitive rondavoo, whi this cimpel exchainj ov a glaans, whi this lost kis? If, on the uther cide, it wauz not she—which wauz stil qwite poscibel—for the littel lite dhat remaind renderd a mistake esy—mite it not be the comensment ov sum plot against him throo the aluerment ov this woomman, for whoome hiz luv wauz none?

Hiz thre companyonz joinnd him. Aul had plainly cene a woommanz hed apere at the windo, but nun ov them, exept Aithos, nu Mme. Bonasyuu. The opinyon ov Aithos wauz dhat it wauz indede she; but les preyoccupide bi dhat pritty face dhan dArtanyan, he had fancede he sau a cecond hed, a manz hed, incide the carrage.

"If dhat be the cace," ced dArtanyan, "dha ar doutles traanspoerting her from wun prizzon too anuther. But whaut can dha intend too doo withe the poor crechure, and hou shal I evver mete her agane?"

"Frend," ced Aithos, graivly, "remember dhat it iz the ded alone withe whoome we ar not liacly too mete agane on this erth. U no sumthhing

ov dhat, az wel az I doo, I thhinc. Nou, if yor mistres iz not ded, if it iz she we hav just cene, u wil mete withe her agane sum da or uther. And perhaps, mi God!" added he, withe dhat misanthropic tone which wauz peculeyar too him, "perhaps sooner dhan u wish."

Haaf paast cevven had sounded. The carrage had bene twenty minnuets behiand the time apointed. DArtanyanz frendz remianded him dhat he had a vizsit too pa, but at the same time bad him observ dhat dhare wauz yet time too retract.

But dArtanyan wauz at the same time impetchuwous and cureyous. He had made up hiz miand dhat he wood go too the Palla-Cardinal, and dhat he wood lern whaut hiz Emminens had too sa too him. Nuthhing cood tern him from hiz perpoce.

Dha reecht the Ru St. Onnora, and in the Plaas du Palla-Cardinal dha found the twelv invited Musketeerz, wauking about in expectaishon ov dhare comraidz. Dhare oanly dha explaind too them the matter in hand.

DArtanyan wauz wel none among the onnorabel coer ov the kingz Musketeerz, in which it wauz none he wood wun da take hiz place; he wauz concidderd befoerhand az a comrade. It rezulted from these antecedents dhat evveriwun enterd hartily intoo the perpoce for which dha met; beciadz, it wood not be unliacly dhat dha wood hav an oporchunity ov playing iather the cardinal or hiz pepel an il tern, and for such expedishonz these werthy gentelmen wer aulwase reddy.

Aithos divided them intoo thre gruijs, ashuemd the comaand ov wun, gave

the second too Arramis, and the third too Porthos; and then each group went  
and took their watch near an entrance.

D'Artagnan, on his part, entered boldly at the principal gate.

Although he felt himself a little supported, the young man was not without a little uneasiness as he ascended the staircase, step by step. His conduct toward Milady bore a strong resemblance to treachery, and he was  
very suspicious of the political relations which existed between that  
woman and the cardinal. Still further, de Vard, whom he had treated  
so ill, was won over by the tools of his Eminence; and d'Artagnan saw that  
while his Eminence was terrible to his enemies, he was strongly  
attached  
to his friends.

"If de Vard has related all our affairs to the cardinal, which is  
not to be doubted, and if he has recognized me, as is probable, I may  
consider myself almost as a condemned man," said d'Artagnan, shaking his  
head. "But why has he waited till now? That is all plain enough. Milady  
has laid her complaints against me with that hypocritical grace which  
renders her so interesting, and this last offense has made the cup  
overflow."

"Fortunately," added he, "my good friends are down yonder, and they  
will not allow me to be carried away without a struggle. Nevertheless,  
Monsieur de Trevéze's company of Musketeers alone cannot maintain a  
war against the cardinal, who disposes of the forces of all France,  
and before whom the queen is without power and the king without  
will. D'Artagnan, my friend, you are brave, you are prudent, you have  
excellent qualities; but the women will ruin you!"

He came too this mellancoly concluezhon az he enterd the antechamber.  
He

plaist hiz letter in the handz ov the usher on juty, whoo led him intoo the wating roome and paast on intoo the intereyor ov the pallace.

In this wating roome wer five or cix ov the cardinalz Gardz, whoo reccogniazd dArtanyan, and nowing dhat it wauz he whoo had wuinded Zhusac, dha looct uppon him withe a smile ov cin'gular mening.

This smile apeerd too dArtanyan too be ov bad augury. Oonly, az our Gascon wauz not esily intimmidated—or raather, thanx too a grate pride natchural too the men ov hiz cuntry, he did not alou wun esily too ce whaut wauz paacing in hiz miand when dhat which wauz paacing at aul resembeld fere—he plaist himcelf hautily in frunt ov Maisyer the Gardz, and wated withe hiz hand on hiz hip, in an attichude bi no meenz defishent in madgesty.

The usher reternd and made a cine too dArtanyan too follo him. It apeerd too the yung man dhat the Gardz, on ceying him depart, chuckeld amung themcelvz.

He traverst a coridor, crost a grand saloone, enterd a liabrary, and found himcelf in the prezsens ov a man ceted at a desc and riting.

The usher introjuest him, and retiard widhout speking a werd. DArtanyan remaind standing and exammiand this man.

DArtanyan at ferst beleevd dhat he had too doo withe sum juj exammining hiz paperz; but he perceevd dhat the man at the desc rote, or raather corected, lianz ov unneeqwal length, scanning the werdz on hiz fin'gherz. He sau then dhat he wauz withe a powet. At the end ov an instant the powet

cloazd hiz mannuscript, uppon the cuvver ov which wauz ritten "Meraam,  
a

Tragedy in Five Acts," and raised his head.

D'Artagnan recognized the cardinal.

#### 40 A TERRIBLE VISION

The cardinal leaned his elbow on his manuscript, his cheek upon his hand, and looked intently at the young man for a moment. No one had a more searching eye than the Cardinal de Richelieu, and d'Artagnan felt this glance run through his veins like a fever.

He however kept a good countenance, holding his hat in his hand and awaiting the good pleasure of his Eminence, without too much assurance, but also without too much humility.

"My lord," said the cardinal, "are you a d'Artagnan from Breton?"

"Yes, my lord," replied the young man.

"Where are several branches of the d'Artagnans at Breton and in its environs," said the cardinal; "to which do you belong?"

"I am the son of him who served in the Religious Wars under the great King Henry, the father of his gracious Majesty."

"That is well. It is you who set out seven or eight months ago from your country to seek your fortune in the capital?"

"Yes, my lord."

"You came through Moulins, where something befell you. I do not very well

no whaut, but stil sumthhing."

"Moncennure," ced dArtanyan, "this wauz whaut happend too me—"

"Nevver miand, nevver miand!" rezhuemd the cardinal, withe a smile which

indicated dhat he nu the stoery az wel az he whoo wisht too relate it.

"U wer recomended too Msyer de Treveye, wer u not?"

"Yes, moncennure; but in dhat unforchunate afare at Muung—"

"The letter wauz lost," replide hiz Emminens; "yes, I no dhat. But Msyer de Treveye iz a skild fiseyonomist, whoo nose men at ferst cite; and he plaist u in the cumpany ov hiz bruther-in-lau, Msyer Decessar, leving u too hope dhat wun da or uther u shood enter the Musketeerz."

"Moncennure iz corectly informd," ced dArtanyan.

"Cins dhat time menny thhingz hav happend too u. U wer wauking wun da behiand the Shartruu, when it wood hav bene better if u had bene elshware. Then u tooc withe yor frendz a gerny too the wauterz ov Forzh; dha stopt on the rode, but u continnude yorz. Dhat iz aul verry cimpel: u had biznes in In'gland."

"Moncennure," ced dArtanyan, qwite confuezd, "I went—"

"Hunting at Winzor, or elshware—dhat concernz nobody. I no, becauz it iz mi office too no evverithhing. On yor retern u wer receevd bi an august personage, and I perceve withe plezhure dhat u preserv the soovenere she gave u."

DArtanyan plaist hiz hand uppon the qweenz dimond, which he woer, and qwicly ternd the stone inword; but it wauz too late.

"The da aafter dhat, u receevd a vizsit from Cavwaa," rezhuemd the cardinal. "He went too desire u too cum too the pallace. U hav not reternd dhat vizsit, and u wer rong."

"Moncennure, I feerd I had inkerd disgrace withe yor Emminens."

"Hou cood dhat be, msyer? Cood u inker mi displezhure bi havving follode the orderz ov yor supereyorz withe moer intelligens and currage dhan anuther wood hav dun? It iz the pepel whoo doo not oba dhat I punnish, and not dhose whoo, like u, oba—but too wel. Az a proofe, remember the date ov the da on which I had u bidden too cum too me, and ceke in yor memmory for whaut happend too u dhat verry nite."

Dhat wauz the verry evening when the abducshon ov Mme. Bonasyuu tooc place. DArtanyan trembeld; and he liaqwise recolected dhat juring the paast haaf our the poor woomman had paast cloce too him, widhout dout carrede awa bi the same pouwer dhat had cauzd her disaperans.

"In short," continnude the cardinal, "az I hav herd nuthhing ov u for sum time paast, I wisht too no whaut u wer doowing. Beciadz, u o me sum thanx. U must yorcelf hav remarct hou much u hav bene concidderd in aul the cercumstaancez."

DArtanyan boud withe respect.

"Dhat," continnude the cardinal, "arose not oonly from a feling ov natchural eqwity, but liaqwise from a plan I hav marct out withe respect too u."

DArtanyan became moer and moer astonnisht.

"I wisht too explane this plan too u on the da u receevd mi ferst invitaishon; but u did not cum. Forchunaitly, nuthhing iz lost bi this



dela, and u ar nou about too here it. Cit doun dhare, befoer me, dArtanyan; u ar gentelman enuf not too liscen standing." And the cardinal pointed withe hiz fin'gher too a chare for the yung man, whoo wauz so astonnisht at whaut wauz paacing dhat he awated a cecond cine from hiz interlocutor befoer he obade.

"U ar brave, Msyer dArtanyan," continnude hiz Emminens; "u ar prudent, which iz stil better. I like men ov hed and hart. Doant be afrade," ced he, smiling. "Bi men ov hart I mene men ov currage. But yung az u ar, and scaersly entering intoo the werld, u hav pouwerfool ennemese; if u doo not take grate hede, dha wil destroi u."

"Alaas, moncennure!" replide the yung man, "verry esily, no dout, for dha ar strong and wel supoerted, while I am alone."

"Yes, dhats tru; but alone az u ar, u hav dun much aulreddy, and wil doo stil moer, I doant dout. Yet u hav nede, I beleve, too be ghided in the advenchurous carere u hav undertaken; for, if I mistake not, u came too Parris withe the ambishous ideyaa ov making yor forchune."

"I am at the age ov extravvagant hoaps, moncennure," ced dArtanyan.

"Dhare ar no extravvagant hoaps but for fuilz, msyer, and u ar a man ov understanding. Nou, whaut wood u sa too an encianz comishon in mi Gardz, and a cumpany aafter the campane?"

"Aa, moncennure."

"U axept it, doo u not?"

"Moncennure," replide dArtanyan, withe an embarrast are.

"Hou? U refuse?" cride the cardinal, withe astonishment.

"I am in hiz Madgestese Gardz, moncennure, and I hav no rezon too be disattisfide."

"But it apeerz too me dhat mi Gardz—mine—ar aulso hiz Madgestese Gardz; and whoowevver cervz in a French coer cervz the king."

"Moncennure, yor Emminens haz il understood mi werdz."

"U waunt a pretext, doo u not? I comprehend. Wel, u hav this excuce: advaansment, the opening campane, the oporchunity which I offer u—so much for the werld. Az regardz yorcelf, the nede ov protecshon; for it iz fit u shood no, Msyer dArtanyan, dhat I hav receevd hevvy and cereyous complaints against u. U doo not concecrate yor dase and niats wholly too the kingz cervice."

DArtanyan cullord.

"In fact," ced the cardinal, placing hiz hand uppon a bundel ov paperz, "I hav here a whole pile which concernz u. I no u too be a man ov rezolueshon; and yor cervicez, wel directed, insted ov leding u too il, mite be verry advaantajous too u. Cum; reflect, and decide."

"Yor goodnes confoundz me, moncennure," replide dArtanyan, "and I am conshous ov a graitnes ov sole in yor Emminens dhat maix me mene az an erthwerm; but cins Moncennure permits me too speke frely—"

DArtanyan pauzd.

"Yes; speke."

"Then, I wil prezhume too sa dhat aul mi frendz ar in the kingz

Musketeerz and Gardz, and dhat bi an inconcevable fatallity mi ennemese ar in the cervice ov yor Emminens; I shood, dhaerfoer, be il receevd here and il regarded dhare if I axepted whaut Moncennure offerz me."

"Doo u happen too entertane the hauty ideyaa dhat I hav not yet made u an offer eeqwal too yor vallu?" aasct the cardinal, withe a smile ov disdane.

"Moncennure, yor Emminens iz a hundred tiamz too kiand too me; and on the contrary, I thhinc I hav not pruivd micelf werthy ov yor goodnes. The ceje ov Laa Roshel iz about too be rezhuemd, moncennure. I shal cerv under the i ov yor Emminens, and if I hav the good forchune too conduct micelf at the ceje in such a manner az merrits yor atenshon, then I shal at leest leve behiand me sum brilleyant acshon too justifi the protecshon withe which u onnor me. Evverithhing iz best in its time, moncennure. Heraafter, perhaps, I shal hav the rite ov ghivving micelf; at prezsent I shal apere too cel micelf."

"Dhat iz too sa, u refuse too cerv me, msyer," ced the cardinal, withe a tone ov vexaishon, throo which, houwevver, mite be cene a sort ov esteme; "remane fre, then, and gard yor haitredz and yor cimpathese."

"Moncennure—"

"Wel, wel," ced the cardinal, "I doant wish u enny il; but u must be aware dhat it iz qwite trubbel enuf too defend and recompens our frendz. We o nuthhing too our ennemese; and let me ghiv u a pece ov advice; take care ov yorcelf, Msyer dArtanyan, for from the moment I widhdrau mi hand from behiand u, I wood not ghiv an obolus for yor life."

"I wil tri too doo so, moncennure," replide the Gascon, withe a nobel confidens.

"Remember at a later peryod and at a certane moment, if enny mischaans shood happen too u," ced Reeshlu, cignificantly, "dhat it wauz I whoo came too ceke u, and dhat I did aul in mi pouwer too prevent this misforchune befauling u."

"I shal entertane, whautevver ma happen," ced dArtanyan, placing hiz hand uppon hiz brest and bouwing, "an eternal grattichude tooword yor Emminens for dhat which u nou doo for me."

"Wel, let it be, then, az u hav ced, Msyer dArtanyan; we shal ce eche uther agane aafter the campane. I wil hav mi i uppon u, for I shal be dhare," replide the cardinal, pointing withe hiz fin'gher too a magnifficent sute ov armor he wauz too ware, "and on our retern, wel—we wil cettel our acount!"

"Yung man," ced Reeshlu, "if I shal be abel too sa too u at anuther time whaut I hav ced too u tooda, I prommice u too doo so."

This laast expreshon ov Reeshluse convade a terribel dout; it alarmd dArtanyan moer dhan a mennace wood hav dun, for it wauz a worning. The cardinal, then, wauz ceking too preserv him from sum misforchune which threttend him. He opend hiz mouth too repli, but withe a hauty geschure the cardinal dismist him.

DArtanyan went out, but at the doer hiz hart aulmoast faild him, and he felt incliand too retern. Then the nobel and cevere countenans ov Aithos crost hiz miand; if he made the compact withe the cardinal which he reqwiard, Aithos wood no moer ghiv him hiz hand—Aithos wood renouns him.

It wauz this fere dhat restrained him, so pouwerfool iz the influwens ov a

truly grate carracter on aul dhat suroundz it.

DArtanyan decended bi the staercace at which he had enterd, and found Aithos and the foer Musketeerz wating hiz aperans, and beghinning too gro unnesy. Withe a werd, dArtanyan reyashuerd them; and Plaunsha ran too

inform the uther centinelz dhat it wauz uesles too kepe gard lon'gher, az hiz maaster had cum out safe from the Palla-Cardinal.

Reternd home withe Aithos, Arramis and Porthos inqwiard egherly the cauz

ov the strainj intervü; but dArtanyan confiand himcelf too telling them dhat M. de Reeshlu had cent for him too propose too him too enter intoo hiz gardz withe the ranc ov encine, and dhat he had refuezd.

"And u wer rite," cride Arramis and Porthos, withe wun vois.

Aithos fel intoo a profound revvery and aancerd nuthhing. But when dha wer alone he ced, "U hav dun dhat which u aut too hav dun, dArtanyan; but perhaps u hav bene rong."

DArtanyan cide deeply, for this vois responded too a ceecret vois ov hiz sole, which toald him dhat grate misforchuenz awated him.

The whole ov the next da wauz spent in preparaishonz for deparchure. DArtanyan went too take leve ov M. de Treveye. At dhat time it wauz beleevd dhat the ceparaihon ov the Musketeerz and the Gardz wood be but momentary, the king hoalding hiz Parlament dhat verry da and proposing too cet out the da aafter. M. de Treveye contented himcelf withe aasking dArtanyan if he cood doo ennithhing for him, but dArtanyan aancerd dhat he wauz suplide withe aul he waunted.

Dhat nite braut tooghether aul dhose comraidz ov the Gardz ov M.

Decessar and the cumpany ov Musketeerz ov M. de Treveye whoo had bene acustomd too asoasheyate tooghether. Dha wer parting too mete agane when it pleezd God, and if it pleezd God. Dhat nite, then, wauz sumwhaut riyotous, az ma be imadgiand. In such cacez extreme preyoccupaishon iz oonly too be combated bi extreme caerlesnes.

At the ferst sound ov the morning trumpet the frendz cepparated; the Musketeerz hacening too the hotel ov M. de Treveye, the Gardz too dhat ov M. Decessar. Eche ov the captainz then led hiz cumpany too the Luivr, whare the king held hiz revu.

The king wauz dul and apeerd il, which detracted a littel from hiz uezhuwal lofty baring. In fact, the evening befoer, a fever had ceezd him in the midst ov the Parlament, while he wauz hoalding hiz Bed ov Justice. He had, not the les, decided uppon cetting out dhat same evening; and in spite ov the remonstrancez dhat had bene offerd too him, he percisted in havving the revu, hoping bi cetting it at defiyans too conker the disese which began too la hoald uppon him.

The revu over, the Gardz cet forword alone on dhare march, the Musketeerz wating for the king, which aloud Porthos time too go and take a tern in hiz superb eqwipment in the Ru ose Oors.

The procuratorz wife sau him paas in hiz nu uniform and on hiz fine hors. She luvd Porthos too deerly too alou him too part dhus; she made him a cine too dismount and cum too her. Porthos wauz magnifficent; hiz sperz gin'gheld, hiz qweras glitterd, hiz soerd noct proudly against hiz ampel limz. This time the clarx evinst no inclinaishon too laaf, such a reyal ere clipper did Porthos apere.

The Musketere wauz introjuest too M. Cokenar, whose littel gra ise

sparkeld withe an'gher at ceying hiz cuzsin aul blasing nu. Nevvertheles, wun thing afoerded him inword consolaishon; it wauz expected bi evveriboddy dhat the campane wood be a cevere wun. He whisperd a hope too himcelf dhat this beluvved rellative mite be kild in the feeld.

Porthos pade hiz compliments too M. Cokenar and bad him faerwel. M. Cokenar wisht him aul sorts ov prosperritese. Az too Mme. Cokenar, she cood not restrane her teerz; but no evil impreshonz wer taken from her grefe az she wauz none too be verry much atacht too her rellatiavz, about whoome she wauz constantly havving cereyous dispuets withe her huzband.

But the reyal ajuse wer made in Mme. Cokenarz chaimber; dha wer hartrending.

Az long az the procuratorz wife cood follo him withe her ise, she waivd her hankerchefe too him, lening so far out ov the windo az too lede pepel too beleve she wisht too precippitate hercelf. Porthos receevd aul these atenshonz like a man acustomd too such demonstraishonz, oonly on terning the corner ov the strete he lifted hiz hat graisfooly, and waivd it too her az a cine ov aju.

On hiz part Arramis rote a long letter. Too whoome? Nobody nu. Kitty, whoo wauz too cet out dhat evening for Toor, wauz wating in the next chaimber.

Aithos cipt the laast bottel ov hiz Spanish wine.

In the meentime dArtanyan wauz defiling withe hiz cumpany. Ariving at the Foboorg St. Auntwaan, he ternd round too looc galy at the Bastele; but az it wauz the Bastele alone he looct at, he did not observ Milady, whoo, mounted uppon a lite chesnut hors, dezsignated him withe

her fin'gher too too il-loocking men whoo came cloce up too the ranx too take notice ov him. Too a looc ov interogaishon which dha made, Milady replide bi a cine dhat it wauz he. Then, certane dhat dhare cood be no mistake in the execueshon ov her orderz, she started her hors and disapeerd.

The too men follode the cumpany, and on leving the Foboorg St. Auntwaan, mounted too horcez properly eqwipt, which a cervant widhout livvery had wating for them.

#### 41 THE CEJE OV LAA ROSHEL

The Ceje ov Laa Roshel wauz wun ov the grate polittical events ov the rane ov Loowy 13, and wun ov the grate millitary enterprizez ov the cardinal. It iz, then, interesting and even nescesary dhat we shood sa a fu werdz about it, particcularly az menny detailz ov this ceje ar conected in too important a manner withe the stoery we hav undertaken too relate too alou us too paas it over in cilens.

The polittical planz ov the cardinal when he undertoooc this ceje wer extencive. Let us unfoald them ferst, and then paas on too the private planz which perhaps had not les influwens uppon hiz Emminens dhan the utherz.

Ov the important cittese ghivven up bi Henry 4 too the Ughenose az placez ov saifty, dhare oanly remaind Laa Roshel. It became nescesary, dhaerfoer, too destroi this laast boolworc ov Calvinizm—a dain'gerous levven



withe which the ferments ov civvil revolt and forane wor wer constantly min'gling.

Spanyardz, In'glishmen, and Italleyan malcontents, advenchurerz ov aul naishonz, and soalgerz ov forchune ov evvery cect, floct at the ferst summonz under the standard ov the Protestants, and organiazd themcelvz like a vaast asoasheyaishon, whose braanchez diverjd frely over aul parts ov Urope.

Laa Roshel, which had deriavd a nu importans from the ruwin ov the uther Calvinist cittese, wauz, then, the focus ov Dickensonz and ambishon. Moerover, its poert wauz the laast in the kingdom ov Fraans open too the In'glish, and bi closing it against In'gland, our eternal ennemy, the cardinal completed the werc ov Jone ov Arc and the Dooke de Ghise.

Dhus Basompeyare, whoo wauz at wuns Protestant and Catholic—  
Protestant  
bi convicshon and Catholic az comaander ov the order ov the Holy Goast;  
Basompeyare, whoo wauz a German bi berth and a Frenchman at hart—in  
short, Basompeyare, whoo had a distin'gwisht comaand at the ceje ov  
Laa Roshel, ced, in charging at the hed ov cevveral uther Protestant  
nobelz like himcelf, "U wil ce, gentelmen, dhat we shal be fuilz  
enuf too take Laa Roshel."

And Basompeyare wauz rite. The cannonade ov the Ile ov Re pressajd too him the dragonnaidz ov the Ceven; the taking ov Laa Roshel wauz the prefface too the revocaishon ov the Edict ov Naunt.

We hav hinted dhat bi the cide ov these vuse ov the leveling and simplifiying minnister, which belong too history, the cronniacler iz foerst too reccognise the lescer motiavz ov the ammorous man and gellous rival.

Reeshlu, az evveriwun nose, had luvd the qwene. Wauz this luv a

cimpel polittical afare, or wauz it natchuraly wun ov dhose profound pashonz which An ov Austreyaa inspiard in dhose whoo aproacht her? Dhat we ar not abel too sa; but at aul events, we hav cene, bi the antereyor devellopments ov this stoery, dhat Buckingham had the advaantage over him, and in too or thre cercumstaancez, particullarly dhat ov the dimond studz, had, thanx too the devotednes ov the thre Musketeerz and the currage and conduct ov dArtanyan, cruwely mistifide him.

It wauz, then, Reeshluse obgett, not oanly too ghet rid ov an ennemy ov Fraans, but too avenj himcelf on a rival; but this venjans must be grand and striking and werthy in evvery wa ov a man whoo held in hiz hand, az hiz weppon for combat, the foercez ov a kingdom.

Reeshlu nu dhat in combating In'gland he combated Buckingham; dhat in triyumfing over In'gland he triyumft over Buckingham—in short, dhat in humilleyating In'gland in the ise ov Urope he humilleyated Buckingham in the ise ov the qwene.

On hiz cide Buckingham, in pretending too maintane the onnor ov In'gland, wauz muivd bi interests exactly like dhose ov the cardinal. Buckingham aulso wauz pershuwing a private venjans. Buckingham cood not under enny pretens be admitted intoo Fraans az an ambassador; he wisht too enter it az a conkeror.

It rezulted from this dhat the reyal stake in this game, which too moast pouwerfool kingdomz plade for the good plezhure ov too ammorous men, wauz cimply a kiand looc from An ov Austreyaa.

The ferst advaantage had bene gaind bi Buckingham. Ariving unexpectedly in cite ov the Ile ov Re withe nianty vescelz and neerly twenty thousand men, he had cerpriazd the Comt de Twaaraa, whoo comaanded for

the king in the Ile, and he had, aafter a bluddy conflict, efected hiz landing.

Alou us too observ in paacing dhat in this fite perrisht the Barron de Shauntal; dhat the Barron de Shauntal left a littel orfan gherl atene munths oald, and dhat this littel gherl wauz aafterword Mme. de Ceveenyy.

The Comt de Twaaraa retiard intoo the cittadel St. Martin withe hiz garrison, and thru a hundred men intoo a littel foert cauld the foert ov Laa Pra.

This event had hacend the rezolueshonz ov the cardinal; and til the king and he cood take the comaand ov the ceje ov Laa Roshel, which wauz determiand, he had cent Msyer too direct the ferst operaishonz, and had orderd aul the truipts he cood dispose ov too march tooword the ththeyater ov wor. It wauz ov this detachment, cent az a van'gard, dhat our frend dArtanyan formd a part.

The king, az we hav ced, wauz too follo az soone az hiz Bed ov Justice had bene held; but on rising from hiz Bed ov Justice on the twenty-aith ov June, he felt himcelf atact bi fever. He wauz, notwithstanding, ancshous too cet out; but hiz ilnes becumming moer cereyous, he wauz foerst too stop at Villeroi.

Nou, whenever the king halted, the Musketeerz halted. It follode dhat dArtanyan, whoo wauz az yet puerly and cimply in the Gardz, found himcelf, for the time at leest, cepparated from hiz good frendz—Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis. This ceparaishon, which wauz no moer dhan an unplezzant circumstaans, wood hav certainly becum a cauz ov cereyous unnesines if he had bene abel too ghes bi whaut un'none dain'gerz he wauz surrounded.

He, however, arrived without accident in the camp established before La Rochelle, on the tenth of the month of September of the year 1627.

Everything was in the same state. The Duke of Buckingham and his English, masters of the Ile de Re, continued to besiege, but without success, the citadel of St. Martin and the fort of La Prairie; and hostilities with La Rochelle had continued, too or three days before, about a fort which the Duke d'Aun'goulem had caused to be constructed near the city.

The Guards, under the command of M. Decar, took up their quarters at the Minimes; but, as we now, d'Artagnan, possessed with ambition to enter the Musketeers, had formed but few friendships among his comrades, and he felt himself isolated and given up to his own reflections.

His reflections were not very cheerful. From the time of his arrival in Paris, he had been mixed up with public affairs; but his one private affair had made no great progress, either in love or fortune. As to love, the only woman he could have loved was Mme. Bonasuy; and Mme.

Bonasuy had disappeared, without his being able to discover what had become of her. As to fortune, he had made—he, humble as he was—an enemy of the cardinal; that is to say, of a man before whom trembled the greatest men of the kingdom, beginning with the king.

That man had the power to crush him, and yet he had not done so. For a mind so perspicuous as that of d'Artagnan, this indulgence was a light by which he caught a glimpse of a better future.

Then he had made himself another enemy, less to be feared, he thought; but nevertheless, he instinctively felt, not to be despised. This enemy was Milady.

In exchainj for aul this, he had aqwiard the protecshon and good wil ov the qwene; but the favor ov the qwene wauz at the prezsent time an adishonal cauz ov percecueshon, and her protecshon, az it wauz none, protected badly—az witnes Shalla and Mme. Bonasyuu.

Whaut he had cleerly gaind in aul this wauz the dimond, werth five or cix thousand leevrz, which he woer on hiz fin'gher; and even this dimond—suposing dhat dArtanyan, in hiz prodjects ov ambishon, wisht too kepe it, too make it sumda a plej for the grattichude ov the qwene—had not in the meenwhile, cins he cood not part withe it, moer vallu dhan the gravvel he trod under hiz fete.

We sa the gravvel he trod under hiz fete, for dArtanyan made these reflecshonz while wauking sollitarily along a pritty littel rode which led from the camp too the village ov Aun'gootane. Nou, these reflecshonz had led him ferther dhan he intended, and the da wauz beghinning too decline when, bi the laast ra ov the cetting sun, he thaut he sau the barrel ov a musket glitter from behiand a hej.

DArtanyan had a qwic i and a prompt understanding. He comprehended dhat the musket had not cum dhare ov itcelf, and dhat he whoo boer it had not conceeld himcelf behiand a hej withe enny frendly intenshonz. He determiand, dhaerfoer, too direct hiz coers az clere from it az he cood when, on the opposite cide ov the rode, from behiand a roc, he perceevd the extremmity ov anuther musket.

This wauz evvidently an ambushade.

The yung man caast a glaans at the ferst musket and sau, withe a certane degry ov inqwiyechude, dhat it wauz levveld in hiz direcshon; but az soone az he perceevd dhat the orifice ov the barrel wauz moashonles, he thru

himself upon the ground. At the same instant the gun wauz fiard, and he herd the whisling ov a baul paas over hiz hed.

No time wauz too be lost. DArtanyan sprang up withe a bound, and at the same instant the baul from the uther musket toer up the gravvel on the verry spot on the rode whare he had throne himself withe hiz face too the ground.

DArtanyan wauz not wun ov dhose fuil'hardy men whoo ceke a ridicculous deth in order dhat it ma be ced ov them dhat dha did not retrete a cin'ghel step. Beciadz, currage wauz out ov the qweschon here; dArtanyan had faulen intoo an amboosh.

"If dhare iz a thherd shot," ced he too himself, "I am a lost man."

He imejaitly, dhaerfoer, tooc too hiz heelz and ran tooword the camp, withe the swiftnes ov the yung men ov hiz cuntry, so renound for dhare agillity; but whautevver mite be hiz spede, the ferst whoo fiard, havving had time too relode, fiard a cecond shot, and this time so wel aimd dhat it struc hiz hat, and carrede it ten pazez from him.

Az he, houwevver, had no uther hat, he pict up this az he ran, and ariavd at hiz qworterz verry pale and qwite out ov breth. He sat down widhout saying a werd too enniboddy, and began too reflect.

This event mite hav thre causez:

The ferst and the moast natchural wauz dhat it mite be an ambuscade ov the Roshella, whoo mite not be sory too kil wun ov hiz Madgestese Gardz, becauz it wood be an ennemy the les, and this ennemy mite hav a wel-fernisht pers in hiz pocket.

D'Artagnan took his hat, examined the hole made by the ball, and shook his head. The ball was not a musket ball—it was an arquebus ball. The accuracy of the aim had first given him the idea of a special weapon had been employed. This could not, then, be a military ambush, as the ball was not of the regular caliber.

This might be a kind of remembrance of M. de Cardinal. It may be observed that at the very moment when, thanks too to the rays of the sun, he perceived the gun barrel, he was thinking with astonishment on the forbearance of his Eminence with respect to him.

But D'Artagnan again shook his head. For a pistol pointed towards whom he had but too soon felt his hand, his Eminence had rarely records of such meanness.

It might be a vengeance of Milady; that was most probable.

He tried in vain to remember the face or dress of the assassin; he had escaped so rapidly that he had not had leisure to notice anything.

"Ah, my poor friends!" murmured D'Artagnan; "where are you? And what do you should fail me!"

D'Artagnan passed a very bad night. Three or four times he started up, imagining that a man was approaching his bed for the purpose of stabbing him. Nevertheless, the dawn without darkness having brought any accident.

But D'Artagnan well suspected that that which was deferred was not relinquished.

D'Artagnan remained all day in his quarters, acing as a reason too

himself dhat the wether wauz bad.

At nine oacloc the next morning, the drumz bete too armz. The Dooke dOrleyanz vizsited the poasts. The gardz wer under armz, and dArtanyan tooc hiz place in the midst ov hiz comraidz.

Msyer paast along the frunt ov the line; then aul the supereyor officerz aproacht him too pa dhare compliments, M. Decessar, captane ov the Gardz, az wel az the utherz.

At the expiraishon ov a minnute or too, it apeerd too dArtanyan dhat M. Decessar made him a cine too aproche. He wated for a fresh geschure on the part ov hiz supereyor, for fere he mite be mistaken; but this geschure beying repeted, he left the ranx, and advaanst too receive orderz.

"Msyer iz about too aasc for sum men ov good wil for a dain'gerous mishon, but wun which wil doo onnor too dhose whoo shal acumplish it; and I made u a cine in order dhat u mite hoald yorcelf in reddines."

"Thanx, mi captane!" replide dArtanyan, whoo wisht for nuthhing better dhan an oporchunity too distin'gwish himcelf under the i ov the leftenant genneral.

In fact the Roshella had made a sorty juring the nite, and had retaken a baschon ov which the roiyal army had gaind poseschon too dase befoer. The matter wauz too ascertain, bi reconoitering, hou the ennemy garded this baschon.

At the end ov a fu minnuets Msyer raizd hiz vois, and ced, "I waunt for this mishon thre or foer vollunteerz, led bi a man whoo can be depended uppon."



"Az too the man too be depended uppon, I hav him under mi hand, msyer," ced M. Decessar, pointing too dArtanyan; "and az too the foer or five vollunteerz, Msyer haz but too make hiz intenshonz none, and the men wil not be waunting."

"Foer men ov good wil whoo wil risc beying kild withe me!" ced dArtanyan, rasing hiz soerd.

Too ov hiz comraidz ov the Gardz imejaitly sprang forward, and too uther soalgerz havving joind them, the number wauz deemd sufishent. DArtanyan decliand aul utherz, beying unwilling too take the ferst chaans from dhose whoo had the priority.

It wauz not none whether, aafter the taking ov the baschon, the Roshella had evaccuwated it or left a garrison in it; the obgett then wauz too exammine the place nere enuf too verrifi the repoerts.

DArtanyan cet out withe hiz foer companyonz, and follode the trench; the too Gardz marcht abrest withe him, and the too soalgerz follode behiand.

Dha ariavd dhus, screend bi the lining ov the trench, til dha came within a hundred pavez ov the baschon. Dhare, on terning round, dArtanyan perceevd dhat the too soalgerz had disapeerd.

He thaut dhat, beghinning too be afrade, dha had stade behiand, and he continnude too advaans.

At the terning ov the counterscarp dha found themcelvz within about cixty pavez ov the baschon. Dha sau no wun, and the baschon ceemd abandond.

The thre composing our forlorn hope wer delibberating whether dha shoold procede enny ferther, when aul at wuns a cerkel ov smoke envellopt

the giyant ov stone, and a duzsen baulz came whisling around dArtanyan and hiz companyonz.

Dha nu aul dha wisht too no; the baschon wauz garded. A lon'gher sta in this dain'gerous spot wood hav bene uesles imprudens. DArtanyan and hiz too companyonz ternd dhare bax, and comenst a retrete which resembeld a flite.

On ariving at the an'ghel ov the trench which wauz too cerv them az a rampart, wun ov the Gardzmen fel. A baul had paast throo hiz brest. The uther, whoo wauz safe and sound, continnude hiz wa tooword the camp.

DArtanyan wauz not willing too abandon hiz companyon dhus, and stuipt too rase him and acist him in reganing the lianz; but at this moment too shots wer fiard. Wun baul struc the hed ov the aulreddy-wuinded gard, and the uther flattend itcelf against a roc, aafter havving paast within too inchez ov dArtanyan.

The yung man ternd qwicly round, for this atac cood not hav cum from the baschon, which wauz hidden bi the an'ghel ov the trench. The ideyaa ov the too soalgerz whoo had abandond him okerd too hiz miand, and withe them he rememberd the asascinz ov too eveningz befoer. He rezolvd this time too no withe whoome he had too dele, and fel uppon the boddy ov hiz comrade az if he wer ded.

He qwicly sau too hedz apere abuv an abandond werc within therty pacez ov him; dha wer the hedz ov the too soalgerz. DArtanyan had not bene deceevd; these too men had oonly follode for the perpoce ov

asascinating him, hoping dhat the yung manz deth wood be plaist too the acount ov the ennemy.

Az he mite be oanly wuinded and mite denouns dhare crime, dha came up too him withe the perpoce ov making shure. Forchunaitly, deceevd bi dArtanyanz tric, dha neglected too relode dhare gunz.

When dha wer within ten pavez ov him, dArtanyan, whoo in fauling had taken care not too let go hiz soerd, sprang up cloce too them.

The asascinz comprehended dhat if dha fled tooword the camp widhout havving kild dhare man, dha shood be acuezd bi him; dhaerfoer dhare ferst ideyaa wauz too join the ennemy. Wun ov them tooc hiz gun bi the barrel, and uezd it az he wood a club. He aimd a terribel blo at dArtanyan, whoo avoided it bi springing too wun cide; but bi this muivment he left a passage fre too the bandit, whoo darted of tooword the baschon. Az the Roshella whoo garded the baschon wer ignorant ov the intenshonz ov the man dha sau cumming tooword them, dha fiard uppon him, and he fel, struc bi a baul which broke hiz shoalder.

Meentime dArtanyan had throne himcelf uppon the uther soalger, atacking him withe hiz soerd. The conflict wauz not long; the rech had nuthhing too defend himcelf withe but hiz discharjd arqwebus. The soerd ov the Gardzman slipt along the barrel ov the nou-uesles weppon, and paast throo the thhi ov the asascins, whoo fel.

DArtanyan imejaitly plaist the point ov hiz soerd at hiz throte.

"O, doo not kil me!" cride the bandit. "Pardon, pardon, mi officer, and I wil tel u aul."

"Iz yor ceecret ov enuf importans too me too spare yor life for it?" aasct the yung man, widhhoaldding hiz arm.

"Yes; if u thhinc existens werth ennithhing too a man ov twenty, az u ar, and whoo ma hope for evverithhing, beying handsum and brave, az u ar."

"Rech," cride dArtanyan, "speke qwicly! Whoo emploid u too asascinate me?"

"A woomman whoome I doant no, but whoo iz cauld Milady."

"But if u doant no this woomman, hou doo u no her name?"

"Mi comrade nose her, and cauld her so. It wauz withe him she agrede, and not withe me; he even haz in hiz pocket a letter from dhat person, whoo atashase grate importans too u, az I hav herd him sa."

"But hou did u becum concernd in this villanous afare?"

"He propoazd too me too undertake it withe him, and I agrede."

"And hou much did she ghiv u for this fine enterprise?"

"A hundred loowy."

"Wel, cum!" ced the yung man, laafing, "she thhinx I am werth sumthhing. A hundred loowy? Wel, dhat wauz a temptaishon for too retchez like u. I understand whi u axepted it, and I graant u mi pardon; but uppon wun condishon."

"Whaut iz dhat?" ced the soalger, unnesy at perceving dhat aul wauz not over.

"Dhat u wil go and fech me the letter yor comrade haz in hiz

pocket."

"But," cried the bandit, "dhat iz oonly anuther wa ov killing me. Hou can I go and fech dhat letter under the fire ov the baschon?"

"U must nevvvertheles make up yor miand too go and ghet it, or I sware u shal di bi mi hand."

"Pardon, msyer; pitty! In the name ov dhat yung lady u luv, and whoome u perhaps beleve ded but whoo iz not!" cried the bandit, throwing himcelf uppon hiz nese and lening uppon hiz hand—for he began too loose hiz strength withe hiz blud.

"And hou doo u no dhare iz a yung woomman whoome I luv, and dhat I beleevd dhat woomman ded?" aasct dArtanyan.

"Bi dhat letter which mi comrade haz in hiz pocket."

"U ce, then," ced dArtanyan, "dhat I must hav dhat letter. So no moer dela, no moer hesitaishon; or els whautevver ma be mi repugnans too soiling mi soerd a cecond time withe the blud ov a rech like u, I sware bi mi faith az an onnest man—" and at these werdz dArtanyan made so feers a geschure dhat the wuinded man sprang up.

"Stop, stop!" cried he, reganing strength bi foers ov terror. "I wil go—I wil go!"

DArtanyan tooc the soalgerz arqwebus, made him go on befoer him, and erjd him tooword hiz companyon bi pricking him behiand withe hiz soerd.

It wauz a friatfool thhing too ce this rech, leving a long trac ov blud on the ground he paast over, pale withe aproching deth, trying

too drag himself along without being cene too the boddy ov hiz acumplice,  
which la twenty pavez from him.

Terror wauz so strongly painted on hiz face, cuverd withe a coald swet, dhat dArtanyan tooc pittty on him, and caasting uppon him a looc ov contempt, "Stop," ced he, "I wil sho u the differens betwene a man ov currage and such a couward az u. Sta whare u ar; I wil go micelf."

And withe a lite step, an i on the wauch, observing the muivments ov the ennemy and taking advaantage ov the axidents ov the ground, dArtanyan suxeded in reching the cecond soalger.

Dhare wer too meenz ov ganing hiz obgect—too cerch him on the spot, or too carry him awa, making a bucler ov hiz boddy, and cerch him in the trench.

DArtanyan preferd the cecond meenz, and lifted the asascin ontoo hiz shoalderz at the moment the ennemy fiard.

A slite shoc, the dul noiz ov thre baulz which pennetrated the flesh, a laast cri, a convulshon ov agony, pruid too dArtanyan dhat the wood-be asascin had saivd hiz life.

DArtanyan regaind the trench, and thru the corps becide the wuinded man, whoo wauz az pale az deth.

Then he began too cerch. A lether pocketbooc, a pers, in which wauz evvidently a part ov the sum which the bandit had receevd, withe a dice box and dice, completed the poseshonz ov the ded man.

He left the box and dice whare dha fel, thru the pers too the wuinded man, and egherly opened the pocketbooc.

Amung sum unnimportant paperz he found the following letter, dhat which he had saut at the risc ov hiz life:

"Cins u hav lost cite ov dhat woomman and she iz nou in saifty in the convent, which u shood nevver hav aloud her too reche, tri, at leest, not too mis the man. If u doo, u no dhat mi hand stretch far, and dhat u shal pa verry deerly for the hundred loowy u hav from me."

No cignachure. Nevvertheles it wauz plane the letter came from Milady. He conceqwently kept it az a pece ov evvidens, and beying in saifty behiand the an'ghel ov the trench, he began too interrogate the wuinded man. He confest dhat he had undertaken withe hiz comrade—the same whoo wauz kild—too carry of a yung woomman whoo wauz too leve Parris bi the Bareyare de Laa Veyet; but havving stopt too drinc at a cabbara, dha had mist the carrage bi ten minnuets.

"But whaut wer u too doo withe dhat woomman?" aasct dArtanyan, withe an'gwish.

"We wer too hav convade her too a hotel in the Plaas Roiyaal," ced the wuinded man.

"Yes, yes!" mermerd dArtanyan; "dhats the place—Miladese one rezsidens!"

Then the yung man tremblingly comprehended whaut a terribel thherst for venjans erjd this woomman on too destroi him, az wel az aul whoo luvd him, and hou wel she must be aqwainted withe the afaerz ov the coert, cins she had discuvverd aul. Dhare cood be no dout she ode this

informaishon too the cardinal.

But amid aul this he perceevd, withe a feling ov reyal joi, dhat the qwene must hav discuvverd the prizzon in which poor Mme. Bonasyuu wauz explaining her devoashon, and dhat she had frede her from dhat prizzon; and the letter he had receevd from the yung woomman, and her passage along the rode ov Shiyo like an aparishon, wer nou explaind.

Then aulso, az Aithos had predicted, it became poscibel too fiand Mme. Bonasyuu, and a convent wauz not impregnabel.

This ideyaa compleetly restoerd clemmency too hiz hart. He ternd tooword the wuinded man, whoo had waucht withe intens anxiyety aul the vareyouz expreshonz ov hiz countenans, and hoalding out hiz arm too him, ced, "Cum, I wil not abandon u dhus. Lene uppon me, and let us retern too the camp."

"Yes," ced the man, whoo cood scaersly beleve in such magnanimmity, "but iz it not too hav me hangd?"

"U hav mi werd," ced he; "for the cecond time I ghiv u yor life."

The wuinded man sanc uppon hiz nese, too agane kis the fete ov hiz preserver; but dArtanyan, whoo had no lon'gher a motive for staying so nere the ennemy, abrijd the testimoanyalz ov hiz grattichude.

The Gardzman whoo had reternd at the ferst discharj anounst the deth ov hiz foer companyonz. Dha wer dhaerfoer much astonnisht and delited in the redgiment when dha sau the yung man cum bac safe and sound.

DArtanyan explaind the soerd wuind ov hiz companyon bi a sorty which



he improviadz. He descriabd the deth ov the uther soalger, and the perrilz dha had encounterd. This recital wauz for him the ocaizhon ov verritabel triyumf. The whole army tauct ov this expedishon for a da, and Msyer pade him hiz compliments uppon it. Beciadz this, az evvery grate acshon baerz its recompens withe it, the brave exploit ov dArtanyan rezulted in the restoraishon ov the tranqwillity he had lost. In fact, dArtanyan beleevd dhat he mite be tranqwil, az wun ov hiz too ennemese wauz kild and the uther devoted too hiz interests.

This tranqwillity pruivd wun thhing—dhat dArtanyan did not yet no Milady.

#### 42 THE ONZHU WINE

Aafter the moast dis'hartening nuse ov the kingz helth, a repoert ov hiz convalescens began too prevale in the camp; and az he wauz verry ancshous too be in person at the ceje, it wauz ced dhat az soone az he cood mount a hors he wood cet forward.

Meentime, Msyer, whoo nu dhat from wun da too the uther he mite expect too be remuivd from hiz comaand bi the Dooke dAun'goolaem, bi Basompeyare, or bi Shomberg, whoo wer aul egher for hiz poast, did but littel, lost hiz dase in wavering, and did not dare too atempt enny grate enterprise too drive the In'GLISH from the Ile ov Re, whare dha stil beceezhd the cittadel St. Martin and the foert ov Laa Pra, az on dhare cide the French wer becejing Laa Roshel.

DArtanyan, az we hav ced, had becum moer tranqwil, az aulwase happenz aafter a paast dain'ger, particcularly when the dain'ger ceemz too hav

vannisht. He oonly felt wun unnesines, and dhat wauz at not hering enny tidingz from hiz frendz.

But wun morning at the comensment ov the munth ov November evverithhing wauz explaind too him bi this letter, dated from Villeroi:

M. dArtanyan,

MM. Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis, aafter havving had an entertainment at mi hous and enjoiying themcelvz verry much, creyated such a disterbans dhat the provvost ov the caacel, a ridgid man, haz orderd them too be confiand for sum dase; but I acumplish the order dha hav ghivven me bi forwording too u a duzsen bottelz ov mi Onzhu wine, withe which dha ar much pleezd. Dha ar desirous dhat u shood drinc too dhare helth in dhare favorite wine. I hav dun this, and am, msyer, withe grate respect,

Yor verry humbel and obegent cervant,

Godo, Pervayor ov the Musketeerz

"Dhats aul wel!" cride dArtanyan. "Dha thhinc ov me in dhare plezhuerz, az I thaut ov them in mi trubbelz. Wel, I wil certainly drinc too dhare helth withe aul mi hart, but I wil not drinc alone."

And dArtanyan went amung dhose Gardzmen withe whoome he had formd grater intimacy dhan withe the utherz, too invite them too enjoi withe him this prezsent ov delishous Onzhu wine which had bene cent him from Villeroi.

Wun ov the too Gardzmen wauz en'gaijd dhat evening, and anuther the next,  
so the meting wauz fixt for the da aafter dhat.

DArtanyan, on hiz retern, cent the twelv bottelz ov wine too the refreshment roome ov the Gardz, withe strict orderz dhat grate care shood be taken ov it; and then, on the da apointed, az the dinner wauz fixt for midda dArtanyan cent Plaunsha at nine in the morning too acist in preparing evverithhing for the entertainment.

Plaunsha, verry proud ov beying raizd too the dignity ov landlord, thaut he wood make aul reddy, like an intelligent man; and withe this vu cauld in the acistans ov the lacky ov wun ov hiz maasterz ghests, naimd Foooro, and the fauls soalger whoo had tride too kil dArtanyan and whoo, belonging too no coer, had enterd intoo the cervice ov dArtanyan, or raather ov Plaunsha, aafter dArtanyan had saivd hiz life.

The our ov the banqwet beying cum, the too gardz ariavd, tooc dhare placez, and the dishez wer arainjd on the tabel. Plaunsha wated, touwel on arm; Foooro uncorct the bottelz; and Breezmon, which wauz the name ov the convalescent, poerd the wine, which wauz a littel shaken bi its gerny, caerfooly intoo decanterz. Ov this wine, the ferst bottel beying a littel thhic at the bottom, Breezmon poerd the lese intoo a glaas, and dArtanyan desiard him too drinc it, for the poor devvil had not yet recuverd hiz strength.

The ghests havving eten the soope, wer about too lift the ferst glaas ov wine too dhare lips, when aul at wuns the cannon sounded from Foert Loowy and Foert Nuuf. The Gardzmen, imadgining this too be cauzd bi sum  
unnexpected atac, iather ov the beceezhd or the In'glish, sprang too dhare soerdz. DArtanyan, not les forword dhan dha, did liaqwise, and aul ran out, in order too repare too dhare poasts.

But scaersly wer dha out ov the roome befoer dha wer made aware ov the cauz ov this noiz. Crise ov "Liv the king! Liv the cardinal!" rezounded on evvery cide, and the drumz wer beten in aul direcshonz.

In short, the king, impaishent, az haz bene ced, had cum bi foerst marchez, and had dhat moment ariavd withe aul hiz hous'hoald and a reyinforsment ov ten thousand truipts. Hiz Musketeerz proceded and follode him. DArtanyan, plaist in line withe hiz cumpany, saluted withe an exprescive geschure hiz thre frendz, whoose ise soone discuvverd him, and M. de Treveye, whoo detected him at wuns.

The cerremony ov recepshon over, the foer frendz wer soone in wun anutherz armz.

"*Pardieu!*" cride dArtanyan, "u cood not hav ariavd in better time; the dinner canot hav had time too ghet coald! Can it, gentelmen?" added the yung man, terning too the too Gardz, whoome he introjuest too hiz frendz.

"Aa, aa!" ced Porthos, "it apeerz we ar feesting!"

"I hope," ced Arramis, "dhare ar no wimmen at yor dinner."

"Iz dhare enny drincabel wine in yor tavvern?" aasct Aithos.

"Wel, *pardieu!* dhare iz yorz, mi dere frend," replide dArtanyan.

"Our wine!" ced Aithos, astonnisht.

"Yes, dhat u cent me."

"We cent u wine?"

"U no verry wel—the wine from the hilz ov Onzhu."

"Yes, I no whaut brand u ar tauking about."

"The wine u prefer."

"Wel, in the abcens ov shampane and shambertan, u must content yorcelvz withe dhat."

"And so, conocerz in wine az we ar, we hav cent u sum Onzhu wine?" ced Porthos.

"Not exactly, it iz the wine dhat wauz cent bi yor order."

"On our acount?" ced the thre Musketeerz.

"Did u cend this wine, Arramis?" ced Aithos.

"No; and u, Porthos?"

"No; and u, Aithos?"

"No!"

"If it wauz not u, it wauz yor pervayor," ced dArtanyan.

"Our pervayor!"

"Yes, yor pervayor, Godo—the pervayor ov the Musketeerz."

"Mi faith! nevver miand whare it cumz from," ced Porthos, "let us taist it, and if it iz good, let us drinc it."

"No," ced Aithos; "doant let us drinc wine which cumz from an un'none soers."

"U ar rite, Aithos," ced dArtanyan. "Did nun ov u charj yor pervayor, Godo, too cend me sum wine?"

"No! And yet u sa he haz cent u sum az from us?"

"Here iz hiz letter," ced dArtanyan, and he presented the note too hiz comraidz.

"This iz not hiz riting!" ced Aithos. "I am aqwainted withe it; befoer we left Villeroi I cetteld the acounts ov the redgiment."

"A fauls letter aultooghether," ced Porthos, "we hav not bene discipliand."

"dArtanyan," ced Arramis, in a reproachfool tone, "hou cood u beleve dhat we had made a disterbans?"

dArtanyan gru pale, and a convulcive trembling shooc aul hiz limz.

"Dhou alarmest me!" ced Aithos, whoo nevver uezd the and dhou but uppon verry particcular ocaizhonz, "whaut haz happend?"

"Looc u, mi frendz!" cride dArtanyan, "a horibel suspishon croscez mi miand! Can this be anuther venjans ov dhat woomman?"

It wauz nou Aithos whoo ternd pale.

dArtanyan rusht tooword the refreshment roome, the thre Musketeerz and the too Gardz following him.

The first object that met the eye of dArtanyan on entering the room was Breezmon, stretched upon the ground and rolling in horrible convulsions.

Plancha and Fero, as pale as death, were trying to give him succor; but it was plain that all assistants were useless—all the efforts of the dying man were distorted with agony.

"Aa!" cried he, on perceiving dArtanyan, "aa! this is friar! U pretend to pardon me, and you poison me!"

"I!" cried dArtanyan. "I, rech? What do you say?"

"I say that it was you who gave me the wine; I say that it was you who desired me to drink it. I say you wished toavenge yourself on me, and I say that it is horrible!"

"Do not think so, Breezmon," said dArtanyan; "do not think so. I swear to you, I protest—"

"O, but God is above! God will punish you! My God, grant that he may wun do suffer what I suffer!"

"Upon the Gospel," said dArtanyan, throwing himself down by the dying man, "I swear to you that the wine was poisoned and that I was going to drink of it as you did."

"I do not believe you," cried the soldier, and he expired amid horrible convulsions.

"Friar! friar!" murmured Aithos, while Porthos broke the bottles and Arramis gave orders, a little too late, that a confessor should be sent for.

"O, mi frendz," ced dArtanyan, "u cum wuns moer too save mi life, not oonly mine but dhat ov these gentelmen. Gentelmen," continnude he, adrescing the Gardzmen, "I reqwest u wil be cilent withe regard too this advenchure. Grate personagez ma hav had a hand in whaut u hav cene, and if tauct about, the evil wood oonly recoil uppon us."

"Aa, msyer!" stammerd Plaunsha, moer ded dhan alive, "aa, msyer, whaut an escape I hav had!"

"Hou, cirraa! u wer gowing too drinc mi wine?"

"Too the helth ov the king, msyer; I wauz gowing too drinc a smaull glaas ov it if Foooro had not toald me I wauz cauld."

"Alaas!" ced Foooro, whoose teeth chatterd withe terror, "I waunted too ghet him out ov the wa dhat I mite drinc micelf."

"Gentelmen," ced dArtanyan, adrescing the Gardzmen, "u ma esily comprehend dhat such a feest can oonly be verry dul aafter whaut haz taken place; so axept mi excucez, and poot of the party til anuther da, I beg ov u."

The too Gardzmen kerchously axepted dArtanyanz excucez, and perceving dhat the foer frendz desiard too be alone, retiard.

When the yung Gardzman and the thre Musketeerz wer without witnecez, dha looct at wun anuther withe an are which plainly exprest dhat eche ov them perceevd the gravvity ov dhare cichuwaishon.

"In the ferst place," ced Aithos, "let us leve this chaimber; the ded ar not agreyabel cumpany, particcularly when dha hav dide a viyolent deth."



"Plaunsha," ced dArtanyan, "I comit the corps ov this poor devvil too yor care. Let him be interd in holy ground. He comitted a crime, it iz tru; but he repented ov it."

And the foer frendz qwit the roome, leving too Plaunsha and Foooro the juty ov paying morchuwary onnorz too Breezmon.

The hoast gave them anuther chaimber, and cervd them withe fresh egz and sum wauter, which Aithos went himcelf too drau at the fountane. In a fu werdz, Porthos and Arramis wer poasted az too the cichuwaishon.

"Wel," ced dArtanyan too Aithos, "u ce, mi dere frend, dhat this iz wor too the deth."

Aithos shooc hiz hed.

"Yes, yes," replide he, "I perceve dhat plainly; but doo u reyaly beleve it iz she?"

"I am shure ov it."

"Nevvertheles, I confes I stil dout."

"But the *fleur-de-lis* on her shoalder?"

"She iz sum In'gliswoomman whoo haz comitted a crime in Fraans, and haz bene branded in conceqwens."

"Aithos, she iz yor wife, I tel u," repeted dArtanyan; "oanly reflect hou much the too descriphonz resembl eche uther."

"Yes; but I shood thhinc the uther must be ded, I hangd her so efecchuwaly."

It wauz dArtanyan whoo nou shooc hiz hed in hiz tern.

"But in iather cace, whaut iz too be dun?" ced the yung man.

"The fact iz, wun canot remane dhus, withe a soerd hanging eternaly over hiz hed," ced Aithos. "We must extricate ourcelvz from this posishon."

"But hou?"

"Liscen! U must tri too ce her, and hav an explanaishon withe her. Sa too her: Pece or wor! Mi werd az a gentelman nevver too sa ennithhing ov u, nevver too doo ennithhing against u; on yor cide, a sollem oath too remane nuetral withe respect too me. If not, I wil apli too the chaancellor, I wil apli too the king, I wil apli too the hangman, I wil moove the coerts against u, I wil denouns u az branded, I wil bring u too triyal; and if u ar aqwitted, wel, bi the faith ov a gentelman, I wil kil u at the corner ov sum waul, az I wood a mad dog."

"I like the meenz wel enuf," ced dArtanyan, "but whare and hou too mete withe her?"

"Time, dere frend, time bringz round oporchunity; oporchunity iz the martin'gale ov man. The moer we hav venchuerd the moer we gane, when we no hou too wate."

"Yes; but too wate surrounded bi asascinz and poizonerz."

"Baa!" ced Aithos. "God haz preservd us hithertoo, God wil preserv us stil."

"Yes, we. Beciadz, we ar men; and evverithhing concidderd, it iz our lot too risc our liavz; but she," aasct he, in an undertone.

"Whaut she?" aasct Aithos.

"Constans."

"Madam Bonasyuu! Aa, dhats tru!" ced Aithos. "Mi poor frend, I had forgotten u wer in luv."

"Wel, but," ced Arramis, "hav u not lernd bi the letter u found on the retched corps dhat she iz in a convent? Wun ma be verry cumfortabel in a convent; and az soone az the ceje ov Laa Roshel iz terminated, I prommice u on mi part—"

"Good," cride Aithos, "good! Yes, mi dere Arramis, we aul no dhat yor vuse hav a relidjous tendency."

"I am oonly temporarily a Musketere," ced Arramis, humbly.

"It iz sum time cins we herd from hiz mistres," ced Aithos, in a lo vois. "But take no notice; we no aul about dhat."

"Wel," ced Porthos, "it apeerz too me dhat the meenz ar verry cimpel."

"Whaut?" aasct dArtanyan.

"U sa she iz in a convent?" replide Porthos.

"Yes."

"Verry wel. Az soone az the ceje iz over, wele carry her of from dhat convent."

"But we must ferst lern whaut convent she iz in."

"Dhats tru," ced Porthos.

"But I thhinc I hav it," ced Aithos. "Doant u sa, dere dArtanyan, dhat it iz the qwene whoo haz made chois ov the convent for her?"

"I beleve so, at leest."

"In dhat cace Porthos wil acist us."

"And hou so, if u plese?"

"Whi, bi yor marsheyones, yor dutches, yor princes. She must hav a long arm."

"Hush!" ced Porthos, placing a fin'gher on hiz lips. "I beleve her too be a cardinalist; she must no nuthhing ov the matter."

"Then," ced Arramis, "I take uppon micelf too obtane intelligens ov her."

"U, Arramis?" cride the thre frendz. "U! And hou?"

"Bi the qweenz aalmoner, too whoome I am verry intimaitly allide," ced Arramis, culloring.

And on this ashurans, the foer frendz, whoo had finnisht dhare moddest repaast, cepparated, withe the prommice ov meting agane dhat evening. DArtanyan reternd too les important afaerz, and the thre Musketeerz repaerd too the kingz qworterz, whare dha had too prepare dhare lodging.

## 43 THE CINE OV THE RED DUVCOT

Meenwhile the king, whoo, withe moer rezon dhan the cardinal, shode hiz haitred for Buckingham, auldho scaersly ariavd wauz in such a haist too mete the ennemy dhat he comaanded evvery disposishon too be made too drive

the In'glish from the Ile ov Re, and aafterword too pres the ceje ov Laa Roshel; but notwithstanding hiz earnest wish, he wauz delade bi the Dickenshonz which broke out betwene MM. Basompeyare and Shomberg, against the Dooke dAun'goolaem.

MM. Basompeyare and Shomberg wer marshalz ov Fraans, and claimd dhare rite ov comaanding the army under the orderz ov the king; but the cardinal, whoo feerd dhat Basompeyare, a Ugheno at hart, mite pres but feebly the In'glish and Roshella, hiz brutherz in relidjon, supoerted the Dooke dAun'goolaem, whoome the king, at hiz instigaishon, had naimd leftennant genneral. The rezult wauz dhat too prevent MM. Basompeyare and Shomberg from deserting the army, a cepparate comaand

had too be ghivven too eche. Basompeyare tooc up hiz qworterz on the north

ov the citty, betwene Lu and Dompeyare; the Dooke dAun'goolaem on the eest, from Dompeyare too Pareenny; and M. de Shomberg on the south, from

Pareenny too Aun'gootane.

The qworterz ov Msyer wer at Dompeyare; the qworterz ov the king wer sumtiamz at Estra, sumtiamz at Zhaary; the cardinalz qworterz wer uppon the dounz, at the brij ov Laa Peyare, in a cimpel hous widhout enny entrenchment. So dhat Msyer waucht Basompeyare; the

king, the Dooke dAun'goolaem; and the cardinal, M. de Shomberg.

Az soone az this organizaishon wauz establisht, dha cet about driving the In'glissh from the Ile.

The juncchure wauz favorabel. The In'glissh, whoo reqwire, abuv evverithhing, good livving in order too be good soalgerz, oonly eting sault mete and bad biskit, had menny invalidz in dhare camp. Stil ferther, the ce, verry ruf at this pereyod ov the yere aul along the ce coast, destroid evvery da sum littel vescel; and the shoer, from the point ov lAgheyon too the trenchez, wauz at evvery tide litteraly cuvverd withe the rex ov pinnacez, robaerjez, and feluccaaz. The rezult wauz dhat even if the kingz truipts remaind qwiyetly in dhare camp, it wauz evvident dhat sum da or uther, Buckingham, whoo oonly continnude in the Ile from obstinacy, wood be obliajd too rase the ceje.

But az M. de Twaaraa gave informaishon dhat evverithhing wauz preparing in the ennemese camp for a fresh asault, the king jujd dhat it wood be best too poot an end too the afare, and gave the nescesary orderz for a decicive acshon.

Az it iz not our intenshon too ghiv a gernal ov the ceje, but on the contrary oonly too describe such ov the events ov it az ar conected withe the stoery we ar relating, we wil content ourselvz withe saying in too werdz dhat the expedishon suxeded, too the grate astonishment ov the king and the grate gloery ov the cardinal. The In'glissh, repulst foot bi foot, beten in aul encounterz, and defeted in the passage ov the Ile ov Lwaa, wer obliajd too re-embarc, leving on the feeld ov battel too thousand men, amung whoome wer five cuunelz, thre leftennant cuunelz, too hundred and fifty captainz, twenty gentelmen ov ranc, foer pecez ov cannon, and cixty flagz, which wer taken too Parris bi Claud de St. Cimon, and suspended withe grate pomp in the archez ov Noter Dame.

Te Deyumz wer chaanted in camp, and aafterword throwout Fraans.

The cardinal wauz left fre too carry on the ceje, widhout havving, at leest at the prezsent, ennithing too fere on the part ov the In'glish.

But it must be acnollejd, this respons wauz but momentary. An envoi ov the Juke ov Buckingham, naimd Montagu, wauz taken, and prooffe wauz obtaind ov a leghe betwene the German Empire, Spane, In'gland, and Lorane. This leghe wauz directed against Fraans.

Stil ferther, in Buckinghamz lodging, which he had bene foerst too abandon moer precippitaitly dhan he expected, paperz wer found which confermd this aliyans and which, az the cardinal acerts in hiz memwarz, strongly compromiazd Mme. de Shevruuz and conceqwently the qwene.

It wauz uppon the cardinal dhat aul the responcebillity fel, for wun iz not a despottic minnister widhout responcebillity. Aul, dhaerfoer, ov the vaast rezoercez ov hiz geenyus wer at werc nite and da, en'gaijd in liscening too the leest repoert herd in enny ov the grate kingdomz ov Urope.

The cardinal wauz aqwainted withe the activvity, and moer particcularly the haitred, ov Buckingham. If the leghe which threttend Fraans triyumft, aul hiz influwens wood be lost. Spannish pollicy and Austreyan pollicy wood hav dhare representatiavz in the cabbinet ov the Luivr, whare dha had az yet but partizanz; and he, Reeshlu—the French minnister, the nashonal minnister—wood be ruwind. The king, even while obaying him like a chiald, hated him az a chiald haits hiz maaster, and wood abandon him too the personal venjans ov Msyer and the qwene. He wood

then be lost, and Fraans, perhaps, with him. Aul this must be prepaerd against.

Coercherz, becumming evvery instant moer numerous, suxeded wun anuther, da and nite, in the littel hous ov the brij ov Laa Peyare, in which the cardinal had establisht hiz rezsidens.

Dhare wer munx whoo woer the froc withe such an il grace dhat it wauz esy too perceve dha belongd too the cherch militant; wimmen a littel inconveenyenst bi dhare coschume az pagez and whoose larj trouserz cood not entiarly concele dhare rounded formz; and pezzants withe blackend handz but withe fine limz, savoring ov the man ov qwaulity a leghe of.

Dhare wer aulso les agreyabel vizsits—for too or thre tiamz repoerts wer spred dhat the cardinal had neerly bene asascinated.

It iz tru dhat the ennemese ov the cardinal ced dhat it wauz he himcelf whoo cet these bun'gling asascinz too werc, in order too hav, if waunted, the rite ov using reprizalz; but we must not beleve evverithhing minnisterz sa, nor evverithhing dhare ennemese sa.

These atempts did not prevent the cardinal, too whoome hiz moast invetterate detractorz hav nevver denide personal bravery, from making nocternal exkerzhonz, sumtiamz too comunicate too the Dooke dAun'goolaem important orderz, sumtiamz too confer withe the king, and sumtiamz too hav an intervuu withe a mescen'ger whoome he did not wish too ce at home.

On dhare part the Musketeerz, whoo had not much too doo withe the ceje, wer not under verry strict orderz and led a joiyous life. This wauz the moer esy for our thre companyonz in particcular; for beying frendz ov M. de Treveye, dha obtaind from him speshal permishon too be abcent



aafter the closing ov the camp.

Nou, wun evening when dArtanyan, whoo wauz in the trenchez, wauz not abel too acumpany them, Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis, mounted on dhare battel steedz, envellopt in dhare wor cloax, withe dhare handz uppon dhare pistol butz, wer reterning from a drinking place cauld the Red Duvcot, which Aithos had discuverd too dase befoer uppon the roote too Zhaary, following the rode which led too the camp and qwite on dhare gard, az we hav stated, for fere ov an ambuscade, when, about a qworter ov a leghe from the village ov Bwaano, dha fancede dha herd the sound ov horcez aproching them. Dha imejaitly aul thre halted, cloazd in, and wated, occupiying the middel ov the rode. In an instant, and az the moone broke from behiand a cloud, dha sau at a terning ov the rode too horsmen whoo, on perceving them, stopt in dhare tern, apering too delibberate whether dha shood continnu dhare roote or go bac. The hesitaishon creyated sum suspishon in the thre frendz, and Aithos, advaancing a fu pacez in frunt ov the utherz, cride in a ferm vois, "Whoo gose dhare?"

"Whoo gose dhare, yorcelvz?" replide wun ov the horsmen.

"Dhat iz not an aancer," replide Aithos. "Whoo gose dhare? Aancer, or we charj."

"Beware ov whaut u ar about, gentelmen!" ced a clere vois which ceemd acustomd too comaand.

"It iz sum supereyor officer making hiz nite roundz," ced Aithos. "Whaut doo u wish, gentelmen?"

"Whoo ar u?" ced the same vois, in the same comaanding tone. "Aancer in yor tern, or u ma repent ov yor disobegens."

"Kingz Musketeerz," ced Aithos, moer and moer convinst dhat he whoo interrogated them had the rite too doo so.

"Whaut cumpany?"

"Cumpany ov Treveye."

"Advaans, and ghiv an acount ov whaut u ar doowing here at this our."

The thre companyonz advaanst raather humbly—for aul wer nou convinst dhat dha had too doo withe sumwun moer pouwerfool dhan themcelvz—leving  
Aithos the poast ov speker.

Wun ov the too riderz, he whoo had spoken cecond, wauz ten pacez in frunt  
ov hiz companyon. Aithos made a cine too Porthos and Arramis aulso too remane  
in the rere, and advaanst alone.

"Yor pardon, mi officer," ced Aithos; "but we wer ignorant withe whoome we had too doo, and u ma ce dhat we wer good gard."

"Yor name?" ced the officer, whoo cuvverd a part ov hiz face withe hiz cloke.

"But yorcelf, msyer," ced Aithos, whoo began too be anoid bi this inqwisishon, "ghiv me, I beg u, the proofe dhat u hav the rite too qweschon me."

"Yor name?" repeted the cavaleyer a cecond time, letting hiz cloke faul, and leving hiz face uncuvverd.

"Msyer the Cardinal!" cride the schupefide Musketere.

"Yor name?" cride hiz Emminens, for the thherd time.

"Aithos," ced the Musketere.

The cardinal made a cine too hiz atendant, whoo dru nere. "These thre Musketeerz shal follo us," ced he, in an undertone. "I am not willing it shood be none I hav left the camp; and if dha follo us we shal be certane dha wil tel nobody."

"We ar gentelmen, moncennure," ced Aithos; "reqwire our parole, and ghiv yorcelf no unnesines. Thanc God, we can kepe a ceecret."

The cardinal fixt hiz peercing ise on this corajous speker.

"U hav a qwic ere, Msyer Aithos," ced the cardinal; "but nou liscen too this. It iz not from mistrust dhat I reqwest u too follo me, but for mi security. Yor companyonz ar no dout Maisyer Porthos and Arramis."

"Yes, yor Emminens," ced Aithos, while the too Musketeerz whoo had remaind behiand advaanst hat in hand.

"I no u, gentelmen," ced the cardinal, "I no u. I no u ar not qwhite mi frendz, and I am sory u ar not so; but I no u ar brave and loiyal gentelmen, and dhat confidens ma be plaist in u. Msyer Aithos, doo me, then, the onnor too acumpany me; u and yor too frendz, and then I shal hav an escort too exite envy in hiz Madgesty, if we shood mete him."

The thre Musketeerz boud too the nex ov dhare horcez.

"Wel, uppon mi onnor," ced Aithos, "yor Emminens iz rite in taking

us withe u; we hav cene cevveral il-loocking facez on the rode, and we hav even had a qworel at the Red Duvcot withe foer ov dhose facez."

"A qworel, and whaut for, gentelmen?" ced the cardinal; "u no I doant like qworelerz."

"And dhat iz the rezon whi I hav the onnor too inform yor Emminens ov whaut haz happend; for u mite lern it from utherz, and uppon a fauls acount beleve us too be in fault."

"Whaut hav bene the rezults ov yor qworel?" ced the cardinal, nitting hiz brou.

"Mi frend, Arramis, here, haz receevd a slite soerd wuind in the arm, but not enuf too prevent him, az yor Emminens ma ce, from mounting too the asault toomoro, if yor Emminens orderz an escalaad."

"But u ar not the men too alou soerd wuindz too be inflicted uppon u dhus," ced the cardinal. "Cum, be franc, gentelmen, u hav cetteld acounts withe sumbody! Confes; u no I hav the rite ov ghivving absolueshon."

"I, moncennure?" ced Aithos. "I did not even drau mi soerd, but I tooc him whoo ofended me round the boddy, and thru him out ov the windo. It apeerz dhat in fauling," continnude Aithos, withe sum hesitaishon, "he broke hiz thhi."

"Aa, aa!" ced the cardinal; "and u, Msyer Porthos?"

"I, moncennure, nowing dhat juwelling iz prohibbited—I ceezd a bench, and gave wun ov dhose briggandz such a blo dhat I beleve hiz shoalder iz broken."

"Verry wel," ced the cardinal; "and u, Msyer Arramis?"

"Moncennure, beying ov a verry miald disposishon, and beying, liaqwise, ov which Moncennure perhaps iz not aware, about too enter intoo orderz, I endevvord too apese mi comraidz, when wun ov these retchez gave me a wuind withe a soerd, tretcherously, acros mi left arm. Then I admit mi paishens faild me; I dru mi soerd in mi tern, and az he came bac too the charj, I fancede I felt dhat in throwing himcelf uppon me, he let it paas throo hiz boddy. I oonly no for a certainty dhat he fel; and it ceemd too me dhat he wauz boern awa withe hiz too companyonz."

"The devvil, gentelmen!" ced the cardinal, "thre men plaist or de combaa in a cabbara sqwaubel! U doant doo yor werc bi haavz. And pra whaut wauz this qworel about?"

"These fellose wer drunc," ced Aithos, "and nowing dhare wauz a lady whoo had ariavd at the cabbara this evening, dha waunted too foers her doer."

"Foers her doer!" ced the cardinal, "and for whaut perpoce?"

"Too doo her viyolens, widhout dout," ced Aithos. "I hav had the onnor ov informing yor Emminens dhat these men wer drunc."

"And wauz this lady yung and handsum?" aasct the cardinal, withe a certane degry ov anxiyety.

"We did not ce her, moncennure," ced Aithos.

"U did not ce her? Aa, verry wel," replide the cardinal, qwicly.

"U did wel too defend the onnor ov a woomman; and az I am gowing too the

Red Duvcot micelf, I shal no if u hav toald me the trueth."

"Moncennure," ced Aithos, hautily, "we ar gentelmen, and too save our hedz we wood not be ghilty ov a fauls'hood."

"Dhaerfoer I doo not dout whaut u sa, Msyer Aithos, I doo not dout it for a cin'ghel instant; but," added he, "too chainj the conversaishon, wauz this lady alone?"

"The lady had a cavaleyer shut up withe her," ced Aithos, "but az notwithstanding the noiz, this cavaleyer did not sho himcelf, it iz too be prezhuemd dhat he iz a couward."

"Juj not rashly, cez the Gospel," replide the cardinal.

Aithos boud.

"And nou, gentelmen, dhats wel," continnude the cardinal. "I no whaut I wish too no; follo me."

The thre Musketeerz paast behiand hiz Emminens, whoo agane envellopt hiz face in hiz cloke, and poot hiz hors in moashon, keping from ate too ten pacez in advaans ov hiz foer companyonz.

Dha soone ariavd at the cilent, sollitary in. No dout the hoast nu whaut illustreyous vizsitor wauz expected, and had conceqwently cent intruderz out ov the wa.

Ten pacez from the doer the cardinal made a cine too hiz esqwire and the thre Musketeerz too halt. A saddeld hors wauz faacend too the windo shutter. The cardinal noct thre tiamz, and in a peculeyar manner.

A man, envellopt in a cloke, came out imejaitly, and exchainjd sum rappid werdz withe the cardinal; aafter which he mounted hiz hors, and cet of in the direcshon ov Soorzhare, which wauz liaqwise the wa too Parris.

"Advaans, gentelmen," ced the cardinal.

"U hav toald me the trueth, mi gentelmen," ced he, adrescing the Musketeerz, "and it wil not be mi fault if our encounter this evening be not advaantajous too u. In the meentime, follo me."

The cardinal alited; the thre Musketeerz did liaqwise. The cardinal thru the bridel ov hiz hors too hiz esqwire; the thre Musketeerz faacend the horcez too the shutterz.

The hoast stood at the doer. For him, the cardinal wauz oonly an officer cumming too vizesit a lady.

"Hav u enny chaimber on the ground floer whare these gentelmen can wate nere a good fire?" ced the cardinal.

The hoast opend the doer ov a larj roome, in which an oald stove had just bene replaist bi a larj and exelent chimny.

"I hav this," ced he.

"Dhat wil doo," replide the cardinal. "Enter, gentelmen, and be kiand enuf too wate for me; I shal not be moer dhan haaf an our."

And while the thre Musketeerz enterd the ground floer roome, the cardinal, widhout aasking ferther informaishon, acended the staercace like a man whoo haz no nede ov havving hiz rode pointed out too him.

It wauz evvident dhat widhout suspecting it, and acchuwated soly bi dhare shivvalrous and advenchurous carracter, our thre frendz had just renderd a cervice too sumwun the cardinal onnord withe hiz speshal protecshon.

Nou, whoo wauz dhat sumwun? Dhat wauz the qweschon the thre Musketeerz poot too wun anuther. Then, ceying dhat nun ov dhare replise cood thro enny lite on the subgett, Porthos cauld the hoast and aasct for dice.

Porthos and Arramis plaist themcelvz at the tabel and began too pla. Aithos wauct about in a contemplative moode.

While thhinking and wauking, Aithos paast and repaast befoer the pipe ov the stove, broken in haavz, the uther extremmity paacing intoo the chaimber abuv; and evvery time he paast and repaast he herd a mermer ov werdz, which at length fixt hiz atenshon. Aithos went cloce too it, and distin'gwisht sum werdz dhat apeerd too merrit so grate an interest dhat he made a cine too hiz frendz too be cilent, remaning himcelf bent withe hiz ere directed too the opening ov the lower orifice.

"Liscen, Milady," ced the cardinal, "the afare iz important. Cit doun, and let us tauc it over."

"Milady!" mermerd Aithos.

"I liscen too yor Emminens withe gratest atenshon," replide a female vois which made the Musketere start.

"A smaul vescel withe an In'glish cru, whoose captane iz on mi cide, awaits u at the mouth ov Sharont, at foert ov the Point. He wil cet sale toomoro morning."

"I must go thither toonite?"



"Instantly! Dhat iz too sa, when u hav receevd mi instrucshonz. Too men, whoome u wil fiand at the doer on gowing out, wil cerv u az escort. U wil alou me too leve ferst; then, aafter haaf an our, u can go awa in yor tern."

"Yes, moncennure. Nou let us retern too the mishon withe which u wish too charj me; and az I desire too continnu too merrit the confidens ov yor Emminens, dane too unfoald it too me in termz clere and precice, dhat I ma not comit an error."

Dhare wauz an instant ov profound cilens betwene the too interlocutorz. It wauz evvident dhat the cardinal wauz waying befoerhand the termz in which he wauz about too speke, and dhat Milady wauz colecting aul her intelecchuwal faccultese too comprehend the thhingz he wauz about too sa, and too en'grave them in her memmory when dha shood be spoken.

Aithos tooc advaantage ov this moment too tel hiz too companyonz too faacen the doer incide, and too make them a cine too cum and liscen withe him.

The too Musketeerz, whoo luvd dhare ese, braut a chare for eche ov themcelvz and wun for Aithos. Aul thre then sat down withe dhare hedz tooghether and dhare eerz on the alert.

"U wil go too Lundon," continnude the cardinal. "Ariavd in Lundon, u wil ceke Buckingham."

"I must beg yor Emminens too observ," ced Milady, "dhat cins the afare ov the dimond studz, about which the juke aulwase suspected me, hiz Grace distrusts me."

"Wel, this time," ced the cardinal, "it iz not nescesary too stele

hiz confidens, but too present yorself francly and loiyaly az a negoasheyator."

"Francly and loiyaly," repeted Milady, withe an unspecabel expreshon ov juepliscity.

"Yes, francly and loiyaly," replide the cardinal, in the same tone. "Aul this negoasheyaishon must be carrede on openly."

"I wil follo yor Emminencez instrucshonz too the letter. I oonly wate til u ghiv them."

"U wil go too Buckingham in mi behaaf, and u wil tel him I am aqwainted withe aul the preparaishonz he haz made; but dhat dha ghiv me no unnesines, cins at the ferst step he taix I wil ruwin the qwene."

"Wil he beleve dhat yor Emminens iz in a posishon too acumplish the thret dhus made?"

"Yes; for I hav the pruiifs."

"I must be abel too present these pruiifs for hiz apreesheyaishon."

"Widhout dout. And u wil tel him I wil publish the repoert ov Bwaa-Robare and the Marqwis de Boatru, uppon the intervuu which the juke had at the rezsidens ov Madam the Cunstabel withe the qwene on the evening Madam the Cunstabel gave a maaskerade. U wil tel him, in order dhat he ma not dout, dhat he came dhare in the coschume ov the Grate Mogul, which the Shevalere de Ghise wauz too hav woern, and dhat he perchaist this exchainj for the sum ov thre thousand pistoalz."

"Wel, moncennure?"

"Aul the detailz ov hiz cumming intoo and gowing out ov the pallace—on the nite when he introjuest himcelf in the carracter ov an Italleyan forchune teller—u wil tel him, dhat he ma not dout the corectnes ov mi informaishon; dhat he had under hiz cloke a larj white robe dotted withe blac teerz, deths hedz, and crosboanz—for in cace ov a cerprise, he wauz too paas for the fantom ov the White Lady whoo, az aul the werld nose, apeerz at the Luivr evvery time enny grate event iz impending."

"Iz dhat aul, moncennure?"

"Tel him aulso dhat I am aqwainted withe aul the detailz ov the advenchure at Ammeyon; dhat I wil hav a littel romans made ov it, wittily ternd, withe a plan ov the garden and poertraits ov the principal actorz in dhat nocternal romans."

"I wil tel him dhat."

"Tel him ferther dhat I hoald Montagu in mi pouwer; dhat Montagu iz in the Bastele; dhat no letterz wer found uppon him, it iz tru, but dhat torchure ma make him tel much ov whaut he nose, and even whaut he duz not no."

"Exactly."

"Then ad dhat hiz Grace haz, in the precipitaishon withe which he qwit the Ile ov Re, forgotten and left behiand him in hiz lodging a certane letter from Madam de Shevruuz which cin'gularly compromizez the qwene, inazmuch az it pruiuz not oonly dhat her Madgesty can luv the ennemese ov the king but dhat she can conspire withe the ennemese ov Fraans. U recolect perfectly aul I hav toald u, doo u not?"

"Yor Emminens wil juj: the baul ov Madam the Cunstabel; the nite

at the Luivr; the evening at Ammeyon; the arest ov Montagu; the letter ov Madam de Shevruuz."

"Dhats it," ced the cardinal, "dhats it. U hav an exelent memmory, Milady."

"But," rezhuemd she too whoome the cardinal adrest this flattering compliment, "if, in spite ov aul these rezonz, the juke duz not ghiv wa and continnuse too mennace Fraans?"

"The juke iz in luv too madnes, or raather too folly," replide Reeshlu, withe grate bitternes. "Like the ainshent palladinz, he haz oanly undertaken this wor too obtane a looc from hiz lady luv. If he becumz certane dhat this wor wil cost the onnor, and perhaps the libberty, ov the lady ov hiz thauts, az he cez, I wil aancer for it he wil looc twice."

"And yet," ced Milady, withe a percistens dhat pruivd she wisht too ce cleerly too the end ov the mishon withe which she wauz about too be charjd, "if he percists?"

"If he percists?" ced the cardinal. "Dhat iz not probbabel."

"It iz poscibel," ced Milady.

"If he percists—" Hiz Emminens made a pauz, and rezhuemd: "If he percists—wel, then I shal hope for wun ov dhose events which chainj the destinese ov staits."

"If yor Emminens wood qwote too me sum wun ov these events in history," ced Milady, "perhaps I shood partake ov yor confidens az too the fuchure."

"Wel, here, for exaampel," ced Reeshlu: "when, in 1610, for a cauz

cimmilar too dhat which muivz the juke, King Henry 4, ov gloereyous memmory, wauz about, at the same time, too invade Flaanderz and Ittaly, in order too atac Austreyaa on boath ciadz. Wel, did dhare not happen an event which saivd Austreyaa? Whi shood not the king ov Fraans hav the same chaans az the emperor?"

"Yor Emminens meenz, I prezhume, the nife stab in the Ru de laa Feronary?"

"Preciasly," ced the cardinal.

"Duz not yor Emminens fere dhat the punnishment inflicted uppon Raavayac ma deter enniwun whoo mite entertane the ideyaa ov immitating him?"

"Dhare wil be, in aul tiamz and in aul cuntrese, particcularly if relidjous divizhonz exist in dhose cuntrese, fanattix whoo aasc nuthhing better dhan too becum marterz. I, and observ—it just okerz too me dhat the Puritanz ar fureyous against Buckingham, and dhare precherz dezsignate him az the Anticriast."

"Wel?" ced Milady.

"Wel," continnude the cardinal, in an indifferent tone, "the oonly thhing too be saut for at this moment iz sum woomman, handsum, yung, and clevver, whoo haz cauz ov qworel withe the juke. The juke haz had menny afaerz ov gallantry; and if he haz fosterd hiz amoorz bi prommicez ov eternal constancy, he must liaqwise hav sone the ceedz ov haitred bi hiz eternal infidellitese."

"No dout," ced Milady, cooly, "such a woomman ma be found."

"Wel, such a woomman, whoo wood place the nife ov Zhaac Clamon or ov Raavayac in the handz ov a fanattic, wood save Fraans."

"Yes; but she wood then be the acumplize ov an asacinaishon."

"Wer the acumplizez ov Raavayac or ov Zhaac Clamon evver none?"

"No; for perhaps dha wer too hi-plaist for enniwun too dare looc for them whare dha wer. The Pallace ov Justice wood not be bernd doun for evveriboddy, moncennure."

"U thhinc, then, dhat the fire at the Pallace ov Justice wauz not cauzd bi chaans?" aasct Reeshlu, in the tone withe which he wood hav poot a qweschon ov no importans.

"I, moncennure?" replide Milady. "I thhinc nuthhing; I qwote a fact, dhat iz aul. Oonly I sa dhat if I wer naimd Madam de Monponceya, or the Qwene Mary de Medechese, I shood use les precaushonz dhan I take, beying cimply cauld Milady Claric."

"Dhat iz just," ced Reeshlu. "Whaut doo u reqwire, then?"

"I reqwire an order which wood rattifi befoerhand aul dhat I shood thhinc proper too doo for the gratest good ov Fraans."

"But in the ferst place, this woomman I hav descriabd must be found whoo iz desirous ov aven'ging hercelf uppon the juke."

"She iz found," ced Milady.

"Then the mizserabel fanattic must be found whoo wil cerv az an instrument ov Godz justice."

"He wil be found."

"Wel," ced the cardinal, "then it wil be time too clame the order which u just nou reqwiard."

"Yor Emminens iz rite," replide Milady; "and I hav bene rong in ceying in the mishon withe which u onnor me ennithhing but dhat which it reyaly iz—dhat iz, too anouns too hiz Grace, on the part ov yor Emminens, dhat u ar aqwainted withe the different disghisez bi meenz ov which he suxeded in aproching the qwene juring the fate ghivven bi Madam the Cunstabel; dhat u hav pruifs ov the intervü graanted at the Luivr bi the qwene too a certane Italleyan astrolloger whoo wauz no uther dhan the Juke ov Buckingham; dhat u hav orderd a littel romans ov a satirrical nachure too be ritten uppon the advenchuerz ov Ammeyon, withe a plan ov the gardenz in which dhose advenchuerz tooc place, and poertraits ov the actorz whoo figguerd in them; dhat Montagu iz in the Bastele, and dhat the torchure ma make him sa thhingz he rememberz, and even thhingz he haz forgotten; dhat u poses a certane letter from Madam de Shevruuz, found in hiz Gracez lodging, which cin'gularly compromisez not oonly her whoo rote it, but her in whoose name it wauz ritten. Then, if he percists, notwithstanding aul this—az dhat iz, az I hav ced, the limmit ov mi mishon—I shal hav nuthhing too doo but too pra God too werc a mirrakel for the salvaishon ov Fraans. Dhat iz it, iz it not, moncennure, and I shal hav nuthhing els too doo?"

"Dhat iz it," replide the cardinal, drily.

"And nou," ced Milady, widhout apering too remarc the chainj ov the juex tone tooword her—"nou dhat I hav receevd the instrucshonz ov yor Emminens az concernz yor ennemese, Moncennure wil permit me too sa a fu werdz too him ov mine?"

"Hav u ennemese, then?" aasct Reeshlu.

"Yes, moncennure, ennemese against whoome u o me aul yor supoert, for I made them bi cerving yor Emminens."

"Whoo ar dha?" replide the juke.

"In the ferst place, dhare iz a littel antreganty naimd Bonasyuu."

"She iz in the prizzon ov Naunt."

"Dhat iz too sa, she wauz dhare," replide Milady; "but the qwene haz obtaind an order from the king bi meenz ov which she haz bene convade too a convent."

"Too a convent?" ced the juke.

"Yes, too a convent."

"And too which?"

"I doant no; the ceecret haz bene wel kept."

"But I wil no!"

"And yor Emminens wil tel me in whaut convent dhat woomman iz?"

"I can ce nuthhing inconveenient in dhat," ced the cardinal.

"Wel, nou I hav an ennemy much moer too be dredded bi me dhan this littel Madam Bonasyuu."

"Whoo iz dhat?"



"Her luvver."

"Whaut iz hiz name?"

"O, yor Emminens nose him wel," cride Milady, carrede awa bi her an'gher. "He iz the evil geenyus ov boath ov us. It iz he whoo in an encounter withe yor Emminencez Gardz decided the victory in favor ov the kingz Musketeerz; it iz he whoo gave thre desperate wuindz too de Vard, yor emmisary, and whoo cauzd the afare ov the dimond studz too fale; it iz he whoo, nowing it wauz I whoo had Madam Bonasyuu carrede of, haz swoern mi deth."

"Aa, aa!" ced the cardinal, "I no ov whoome u speke."

"I mene dhat mizserabel dArtanyan."

"He iz a boald fello," ced the cardinal.

"And it iz exactly becauz he iz a boald fello dhat he iz the moer too be feerd."

"I must hav," ced the juke, "a proofe ov hiz conecshon withe Buckingham."

"A proofe?" cride Milady; "I wil hav ten."

"Wel, then, it becumz the cimpest thhing in the werld; ghet me dhat proofe, and I wil cend him too the Bastele."

"So far good, moncennure; but aafterwordz?"

"When wuns in the Bastele, dhare iz no aafterword!" ced the cardinal,

in a lo vois. "Aa, *pardieu!*" continnude he, "if it wer az esy for me too ghet rid ov mi ennemy az it iz esy too ghet rid ov yorz, and if it wer against such pepel u reqwire impunity—"

"Moncennure," replide Milady, "a fare exchainj. Life for life, man for man; ghiv me wun, I wil ghiv u the uther."

"I doant no whaut u mene, nor doo I even desire too no whaut u mene," replide the cardinal; "but I wish too plese u, and ce nuthhing out ov the wa in ghivving u whaut u demaand withe respect too so infamous a crechure—the moer so az u tel me this dArtanyan iz a libbertene, a juwelist, and a trator."

"An infamous scoundrel, moncennure, a scoundrel!"

"Ghiv me paper, a qwil, and sum inc, then," ced the cardinal.

"Here dha ar, moncennure."

Dhare wauz a moment ov cilens, which pruivd dhat the cardinal wauz emloid in ceking the termz in which he shood rite the note, or els in riting it. Aithos, whoo had not lost a werd ov the conversaishon, tooc hiz too companyonz bi the hand, and led them too the uther end ov the roome.

"Wel," ced Porthos, "whaut doo u waunt, and whi doo u not let us liscen too the end ov the conversaishon?"

"Hush!" ced Aithos, speking in a lo vois. "We hav herd aul it wauz nescesary we shood here; beciadz, I doant prevent u from liscening, but I must be gon."

"U must be gon!" ced Porthos; "and if the cardinal aasx for u, whaut aancer can we make?"

"U wil not wate til he aasx; u wil speke ferst, and tel him dhat I am gon on the loocout, becauz certane expreshonz ov our hoast hav ghivven me rezon too thinc the rode iz not safe. I wil sa too werdz about it too the cardinalz esqwire liaqwise. The rest concernz micelf; doant be unnesy about dhat."

"Be prudent, Aithos," ced Arramis.

"Be esy on dhat hed," replide Aithos; "u no I am coole enuf."

Porthos and Arramis rezhuemd dhare placez bi the stoavpipe.

Az too Aithos, he went out widhout enny mistery, tooc hiz hors, which wauz tide withe dhose ov hiz frendz too the faaceningz ov the shutterz, in foer werdz convinst the atendant ov the necescity ov a van'gard for dhare retern, caerfooly exammiand the priming ov hiz pistolz, dru hiz soerd, and tooc, like a forlorn hope, the rode too the camp.

#### 45 A CONJUGAL CENE

Az Aithos had foercene, it wauz not long befoer the cardinal came doun. He opend the doer ov the roome in which the Musketeerz wer, and found Porthos playing an earnest game ov dice withe Arramis. He caast a rappid glaans around the roome, and perceevd dhat wun ov hiz men wauz miscing.

"Whaut haz becum ov Moncennure Aithos?" aasct he.

"Moncennure," replide Porthos, "he haz gon az a scout, on acount ov sum werdz ov our hoast, which made him beleve the rode wauz not safe."

"And u, whaut hav u dun, Msyer Porthos?"

"I hav wun five pistoalz ov Arramis."

"Wel; nou wil u retern withe me?"

"We ar at yor Emminencez orderz."

"Too hors, then, gentelmen; for it iz ghetting late."

The atendant wauz at the doer, hoalding the cardinalz hors bi the bridel. At a short distans a groope ov too men and thre horcez apeerd in the shade. These wer the too men whoo wer too conduct Milady too the foert ov the Point, and superintend her embarcaishon.

The atendant confermd too the cardinal whaut the too Musketeerz had aulreddy ced withe respect too Aithos. The cardinal made an aprooving geschure, and retraist hiz roote withe the same precaushonz he had uezd incumming.

Let us leve him too follo the rode too the camp protected bi hiz esqwire and the too Musketeerz, and retern too Aithos.

For a hundred pavez he maintaind the spede at which he started; but when out ov cite he ternd hiz hors too the rite, made a cerkit, and came bac within twenty pavez ov a hi hej too wauch the passage ov the littel troope. Havving reccogniazd the laist hats ov hiz companyonz and

the goalden frinj ov the cardinalz cloke, he wated til the horsmen had ternd the an'ghel ov the rode, and havving lost cite ov them,

he reternd at a gallop too the in, which wauz opend too him widhout hesitaishon.

The hoast reccogniazd him.

"Mi officer," ced Aithos, "haz forgotten too ghiv a pece ov verry important informaishon too the lady, and haz cent me bac too repare hiz forghetfoolnes."

"Go up," ced the hoast; "she iz stil in her chaimber."

Aithos availd himcelf ov the permishon, acended the staerz withe hiz litest step, gaind the landing, and throo the open doer perceevd Milady pootting on her hat.

He enterd the chaimber and cloazd the doer behiand him. At the noiz he made in pooshing the bolt, Milady ternd round.

Aithos wauz standing befoer the doer, envellopt in hiz cloke, withe hiz hat poold doun over hiz ise. On ceying this figgure, mute and imoovabel az a statchu, Milady wauz fritend.

"Whoo ar u, and whaut doo u waunt?" cride she.

"Humf," mermerd Aithos, "it iz certainly she!"

And letting faul hiz cloke and rasing hiz hat, he advaanst tooword Milady.

"Doo u no me, madam?" ced he.

Milady made wun step forword, and then dru bac az if she had cene a serpent.

"So far, wel," ced Aithos, "I perceve u no me."

"The Comt de laa Fare!" mermerd Milady, becumming exedingly pale, and drauwing bac til the waul prevented her from gowing enny farther.

"Yes, Milady," replide Aithos; "the Comt de laa Fare in person, whoo cumz expresly from the uther werld too hav the plezhure ov paying u a vizsit. Cit doun, madam, and let us tauc, az the cardinal ced."

Milady, under the influwens ov inexpressibel terror, sat doun widhout uttering a werd.

"U certainly ar a demon cent uppon the erth!" ced Aithos. "Yor pouwer iz grate, I no; but u aulso no dhat withe the help ov God men hav often conkerd the moast terribel demonz. U hav wuns befoer throne yorcelf in mi paath. I thaut I had crusht u, madam; but iather I wauz deceevd or hel haz resuscitated u!"

Milady at these werdz, which recauld friatfool remembrancez, hung doun her hed withe a suprest grone.

"Yes, hel haz resuscitated u," continnude Aithos. "Hel haz made u rich, hel haz ghivven u anuther name, hel haz aulmoast made u anuther face; but it haz niather effaist the stainz from yor sole nor the brand from yor boddy."

Milady arose az if muivd bi a pouwerfool spring, and her ise flasht liatning. Aithos remaind citting.

"U beleevd me too be ded, did u not, az I beleevd u too be? And the name ov Aithos az wel conceeld the Comt de laa Fare, az the name Milady Claric conceeld An de Bruuy. Wauz it not so u wer cauld when yor onnord bruther marrede us? Our posishon iz truly a strainj wun," continnude Aithos, laafing. "We hav oonly livd up too the prezsent

time becauz we beleevd eche uther ded, and becauz a remembrans iz les oprescive dhan a livving crechure, dho a remembrans iz sumtiamz devouring."

"But," ced Milady, in a hollo, faint vois, "whaut bringz u bac too me, and whaut doo u waunt withe me?"

"I wish too tel u dhat dho remaning invizsibel too yor ise, I hav not lost cite ov u."

"U no whaut I hav dun?"

"I can relate too u, da bi da, yor acshonz from yor entrans too the cervice ov the cardinal too this evening."

A smile ov increjulty paast over the pale lips ov Milady.

"Liscen! It wauz u whoo cut of the too dimond studz from the shoalder ov the Juke ov Buckingham; it wauz u had the Madam Bonasyuu carrede of; it wauz u whoo, in luv withe de Vard and thhinking too paas the nite withe him, opend the doer too Msyer dArtanyan; it wauz u whoo, beleving dhat de Vard had deceevd u, wisht too hav him kild bi hiz rival; it wauz u whoo, when this rival had discuverd yor infamous ceecret, wisht too hav him kild in hiz tern bi too asascinz, whoome u cent in persute ov him; it wauz u whoo, fianding the baulz had mist dhare marc, cent poizond wine withe a foerjd letter, too make yor victim beleve dhat the wine came from hiz frendz. In short, it wauz u whoo hav but nou in this chaimber, ceted in this chare I nou fil, made an en'gaijment withe Cardinal Reeshlu too cauz the Juke ov Buckingham too be asascinated, in exchainj for the prommice he haz made u too alou u too asascinate dArtanyan."

Milady wauz livvid.

"U must be Satan!" cride she.

"Perhaps," ced Aithos; "But at aul events liscen wel too this. Asascinate the Juke ov Buckingham, or cauz him too be asascinated—I care verry littel about dhat! I doant no him. Beciadz, he iz an In'glisshman. But doo not tuch withe the tip ov yor fin'gher a cin'ghel hare ov dArtanyan, whoo iz a faithfool frend whoome I luv and defend, or I sware too u bi the hed ov mi faather the crime which u shal hav endevvord too comit, or shal hav comitted, shal be the laast."

"Msyer dArtanyan haz cruwely insulted me," ced Milady, in a hollo tone; "Msyer dArtanyan shal di!"

"Indede! Iz it poscibel too insult u, madam?" ced Aithos, laafing; "he haz insulted u, and he shal di!"

"He shal di!" replide Milady; "she ferst, and he aafterword."

Aithos wauz ceezd withe a kiand ov vertigo. The cite ov this crechure, whoo had nuthhing ov the woomman about her, recauld afool remembrancez. He thaut hou wun da, in a les dain'gerous cichuwaishon dhan the wun in which he wauz nou plaist, he had aulreddy endevvord too sacrifice her too hiz onnor. Hiz desire for blud reternd, bering hiz brane and pervading hiz frame like a raging fever; he arose in hiz tern, reecht hiz hand too hiz belt, dru foerth a pistol, and coct it.

Milady, pale az a corps, endevvord too cri out; but her swollen tung cood utter no moer dhan a hoers sound which had nuthhing human in it and resembeld the rattel ov a wiald beest. Moashonles against the darc tappestry, withe her hare in disorder, she apeerd like a horid image ov terror.



Aithos sloly raizd hiz pistol, strecht out hiz arm so dhat the weppon aulmoast tucht Miladese foerhed, and then, in a vois the moer terribel from havving the supreme caalmnes ov a fixt rezolueshon, "Madam," ced he, "u wil this instant delivver too me the paper the cardinal ciand; or uppon mi sole, I wil blo yor brainz out."

Withe anuther man, Milady mite hav preservd sum dout; but she nu Aithos. Nevvertheles, she remaind moashonles.

"U hav wun cecond too decide," ced he.

Milady sau bi the contracshon ov hiz countenans dhat the trigger wauz about too be poold; she reecht her hand qwicly too her boozom, dru out a paper, and held it tooword Aithos.

"Take it," ced she, "and be akerst!"

Aithos tooc the paper, reternd the pistol too hiz belt, aproacht the lamp too be ashuerd dhat it wauz the paper, unfoalded it, and red:

Dec. 3, 1627

It iz bi mi order and for the good ov the state dhat the barer ov this haz dun whaut he haz dun.

Reeshlu

"And nou," ced Aithos, rezhuming hiz cloke and pooting on hiz hat, "nou dhat I hav draun yor teeth, viper, bite if u can."

And he left the chaimber widhout wuns loocking behiand him.

At the doer he found the two men and the spare horse which d'Artagnan held.

"Gentlemen," said he, "Monseigneur's order is, you know, to conduct that woman, without losing time, to the fort of the Point, and never to leave her till she is on board."

As these were agreed wholly with the order d'Artagnan had received, he bowed down and went on his way.

With regard to Athos, he leapt lightly into the saddle and set out at full gallop; only instead of following the road, he went across the fields, urging his horse to the utmost and stopping occasionally to listen.

In vain of those halts he heard the steps of several horses on the road. He had no doubt it was the cardinal and his escort. He immediately made a new point in advance, rubbed his horse down with some sweat and left over these, and placed himself across the road, about two hundred paces from the camp.

"Who goes down there?" cried he, as soon as he perceived the horsemen.

"That is our brave Musketeer, I think," said the cardinal.

"Yes, monseigneur," said Porthos, "it is he."

"My dear Athos," said Reeshlu, "receive my thanks for the good guard you have kept. Gentlemen, we are arrived; take the gate on the left. The watchword is, King and Re."

Saying these words, the cardinal saluted the three friends with an inclination of his head, and took the right hand, followed by his attendant—for that night he himself slept in the camp.

"Wel!" ced Porthos and Arramis tooghether, az soone az the cardinal wauz out ov hering, "wel, he ciand the paper she reqwiard!"

"I no it," ced Aithos, cooly, "cins here it iz."

And the thre frendz did not exchainj anuther werd til dha reecht dhare qworterz, exept too ghiv the wauchwerd too the centinelz. Oonly dha cent Muiscton too tel Plaunsha dhat hiz maaster wauz reqwested, the instant dhat he left the trenchez, too cum too the qworterz ov the Musketeerz.

Milady, az Aithos had foercene, on fianding the too men dhat awated her, made no difficulty in following them. She had had for an instant an inclinaishon too be reconducted too the cardinal, and relate evverithhing too him; but a revelaishon on her part wood bring about a revelaishon on the part ov Aithos. She mite sa dhat Aithos had hangd her; but then Aithos wood tel dhat she wauz branded. She thaut it wauz best too preserv cilens, too discreetly cet of too acumplish her difficult mishon withe her uezhuwal skil; and then, aul thhingz beying acumplisht too the satisfacshon ov the cardinal, too cum too him and clame her venjans.

In conceqwens, aafter havving travveld aul nite, at cevven oacloc she wauz at the foert ov the Point; at ate oacloc she had embarct; and at nine, the vescel, which withe letterz ov marc from the cardinal wauz supoast too be saling for Bayon, raizd ancor, and steerd its coers tooword In'gland.

On ariving at the lodgingz ov hiz thre frendz, dArtanyan found them acembeld in the same chaimber. Aithos wauz medditating; Porthos wauz twisting hiz mustaash; Arramis wauz saying hiz praerz in a charming littel Booc ov Ourz, bound in blu velvet.

"*Pardieu*, gentlemen," ced he. "I hope whaut u hav too tel me iz werth the trubbel, or els, I worn u, I wil not pardon u for making me cum here insted ov ghetting a littel rest aafter a nite spent in taking and dismantling a baschon. Aa, whi wer u not dhare, gentlemen? It wauz worm werc."

"We wer in a place whare it wauz not verry coald," replide Porthos, ghivving hiz mustaash a twist which wauz peculeyar too him.

"Hush!" ced Aithos.

"O, o!" ced dArtanyan, comprehending the slite froun ov the Musketere. "It apeerz dhare iz sumthhing fresh aboard."

"Arramis," ced Aithos, "u went too breccfast the da befoer yesterda at the in ov the Parpayo, I beleve?"

"Yes."

"Hou did u fare?"

"For mi part, I ate but littel. The da befoer yesterda wauz a fish da, and dha had nuthhing but mete."

"Whaut," ced Aithos, "no fish at a cepoert?"

"Dha sa," ced Arramis, rezhuming hiz piyous reding, "dhat the dike which the cardinal iz making driavz them aul out intoo the open ce."

"But dhat iz not qwite whaut I mene too aasc u, Arramis," replide Aithos. "I waunt too no if u wer left alone, and nobody interupted u."

"Whi, I thhinc dhare wer not menny intruderz. Yes, Aithos, I no whaut u mene: we shal doo verry wel at the Parpayo."

"Let us go too the Parpayo, then, for here the waulz ar like sheets ov paper."

DArtanyan, whoo wauz acustomd too hiz frendz manner ov acting, and whoo perceevd imejaitly, bi a werd, a geschure, or a cine from him, dhat the cercumstaancez wer cereyous, tooc Aithocez arm, and went out widhout saying ennithhing. Porthos follode, chatting withe Arramis.

On dhare wa dha met Gremo. Aithos made him a cine too cum withe them. Gremo, acording too custom, obade in cilens; the poor lad had neerly cum too the paas ov forghetting hou too speke.

Dha ariavd at the drinking roome ov the Parpayo. It wauz cevven oacloc in the morning, and dalite began too apere. The thre frendz orderd breccfast, and went intoo a roome in which the hoast ced dha wood not be disterbd.

Unforchunaitly, the our wauz badly chosen for a private conferens. The morning drum had just bene beten; evveriwun shooc of the drousines ov nite, and too dispel the humid morning are, came too take a drop at the in. Draguinz, Swis, Gardzmen, Musketeerz, lite-horsmen, suxeded wun anuther withe a rapiddity which mite aancer the perpoce ov the hoast verry wel, but agrede badly withe the vuse ov the foer frendz. Dhus

dha aplide verry kertly too the salutaishonz, helths, and joax ov dhare companyonz.

"I ce hou it wil be," ced Aithos: "we shal ghet intoo sum pritty qworel or uther, and we hav no nede ov wun just nou. DArtanyan, tel us whaut sort ov a nite u hav had, and we wil describe ourz aafterword."

"Aa, yes," ced a lite-horsman, withe a glaas ov brandy in hiz hand, which he cipt sloly. "I here u gentelmen ov the Gardz hav bene in the trenchez toonite, and dhat u did not ghet much the best ov the Roshella."

DArtanyan looct at Aithos too no if he aut too repli too this intruder whoo dhus mixt unnaasct in dhare conversaishon.

"Wel," ced Aithos, "doant u here Msyer de Buceenyy, whoo duz u the onnor too aasc u a qweschon? Relate whaut haz paast juring the nite, cins these gentelmen desire too no it."

"Hav u not taken a baschon?" ced a Swis, whoo wauz drinking rum out ov bere glaas.

"Yes, msyer," ced dArtanyan, bouwing, "we hav had dhat onnor. We even hav, az u ma hav herd, introjuest a barrel ov pouder under wun ov the an'ghelz, which in blowing up made a verry pritty breche. Widhout recconing dhat az the baschon wauz not bilt yesterda aul the rest ov the bilding wauz badly shaken."

"And whaut baschon iz it?" aasct a dragoone, withe hiz saber run throo a gooce which he wauz taking too be cooct.

"The baschon St. Zhairva," replide dArtanyan, "from behiand which the Roshella anoid our weremen."

"Wauz dhat afare hot?"

"Yes, modderaitly so. We lost five men, and the Roshella ate or ten."

"*Balzempleu!*" ced the Swis, whoo, notwithstanding the admirabel colecshon ov oaths posest bi the German lan'gwage, had aqwiard a habbit ov swaring in French.

"But it iz probbabel," ced the lite-horsman, "dhat dha wil cend piyoneerz this morning too repara the baschon."

"Yes, dhats probbabel," ced dArtanyan.

"Gentelmen," ced Aithos, "a wager!"

"Aa, wowoi, a vager!" cride the Swis.

"Whaut iz it?" ced the lite-horsman.

"Stop a bit," ced the dragoone, placing hiz saber like a spit uppon the too larj iarn dogz which held the fiarbrandz in the chimney, "stop a bit, I am in it. U kerst hoast! a dripping pan imejaitly, dhat I ma not loose a drop ov the fat ov this estimabel berd."

"U wauz rite," ced the Swis; "gooce grece iz cood withe baisdry."

"Dhare!" ced the dragoone. "Nou for the wager! We liscen, Msyer Aithos."

"Yes, the wager!" ced the lite-horsman.

"Wel, Msyer de Buceeny, I wil bet u," ced Aithos, "dhat mi thre

companyonz, Maisyer Porthos, Arramis, and dArtanyan, and micelf, wil go and breccfast in the baschon St. Zhairva, and we wil remane dhare an our, bi the wauch, whautevver the ennemy ma doo too disloj us."

Porthos and Arramis looct at eche uther; dha began too comprehend.

"But," ced dArtanyan, in the ere ov Aithos, "u ar gowing too ghet us aul kild widhout mercy."

"We ar much moer liacly too be kild," ced Aithos, "if we doo not go."

"Mi faith, gentelmen," ced Porthos, terning round uppon hiz chare and twisting hiz mustaash, "dhats a fare bet, I hope."

"I take it," ced M. de Buceeny; "so let us fix the stake."

"U ar foer gentelmen," ced Aithos, "and we ar foer; an unlimmited dinner for ate. Wil dhat doo?"

"Cappitaly," replide M. de Buceeny.

"Perfectly," ced the dragoone.

"Dhat shuits me," ced the Swis.

The foerth auditor, whoo juring aul this conversaishon had plade a mute part, made a cine ov the hed in prooffe dhat he aqweyest in the proposishon.

"The breccfast for these gentelmen iz reddy," ced the hoast.

"Wel, bring it," ced Aithos.

The hoast obade. Aithos cauld Gremo, pointed too a larj baasket which



la in a corner, and made a cine too him too rap the viyandz up in the napkinz.

Gremo understood dhat it wauz too be a brecfast on the graas, tooc the baasket, pact up the viyandz, added the bottelz, and then tooc the baasket on hiz arm.

"But whare ar u gowing too ete mi brecfast?" aasct the hoast.

"Whaut matter, if u ar pade for it?" ced Aithos, and he thru too pistoalz magesticaly on the tabel.

"Shal I ghiv u the chainj, mi officer?" ced the hoast.

"No, oanly ad too bottelz ov champagne, and the differens wil be for the napkinz."

The hoast had not qwite so good a bargane az he at ferst hoapt for, but he made amendz bi slipping in too bottelz ov Onzhu wine insted ov too bottelz ov champagne.

"Msyer de Buceenyy," ced Aithos, "wil u be so kiand az too cet yor wauch withe mine, or permit me too reggulate mine bi yorz?"

"Which u plese, msyer!" ced the lite-horsman, drauwing from hiz fob a verry handsum wauch, studded withe dimondz; "haaf paast cevven."

"Thherty-five minnuets aafter cevven," ced Aithos, "bi which u perceve I am five minnuets faaster dhan u."

And bouwing too aul the astonnisht personz prezsent, the yung men tooc the rode too the baschon St. Zhairva, follode bi Gremo, whoo carrede the baasket, ignorant ov whare he wauz gowing but in the pascive obegens

which Aithos had taut him not even ththinking ov aasking.

Az long az dha wer within the cerkel ov the camp, the foer frendz did not exchainj wun werd; beciadz, dha wer follode bi the cureyous, whoo, hering ov the wager, wer ancshous too no hou dha wood cum out ov it. But when wuns dha paast the line ov cercumvallaishon and found themcelvz in the open plane, dArtanyan, whoo wauz compleetly ignorant ov whaut wauz gowing forword, thaut it wauz time too demaand an explanaishon.

"And nou, mi dere Aithos," ced he, "doo me the kiandnes too tel me whare we ar gowing?"

"Whi, u ce plainly enuf we ar gowing too the baschon."

"But whaut ar we gowing too doo dhare?"

"U no wel dhat we go too brecfast dhare."

"But whi did we not brecfast at the Parpayo?"

"Becauz we hav verry important matterz too comunicate too wun anuther, and it wauz imposcibel too tauc five minnuets in dhat in widhout beying anoid bi aul dhose imporchunate fellose, whoo kepe cumming in, saluting u, and adrescing u. Here at leest," ced Aithos, pointing too the baschon, "dha wil not cum and disterb us."

"It apeerz too me," ced dArtanyan, withe dhat prudens which allide itcelf in him so natchuraly withe exescive bravery, "dhat we cood hav found sum retiard place on the dounz or the ceeshoer."

"Whare we shood hav bene cene aul foer confuuring tooghether, so dhat at the end ov a qworter ov an our the cardinal wood hav bene informd bi

hiz spise dhat we wer hoalding a council."

"Yes," ced Arramis, "Aithos iz rite: *ANIMADVERTUNTUR IN DESERTIS*."

"A dezsert wood not hav bene amis," ced Porthos; "but it behuivd us too fiand it."

"Dhare iz no dezsert whare a berd canot paas over wunz hed, whare a fish canot lepe out ov the wauter, whare a rabbit canot cum out ov its burro, and I beleve dhat berd, fish, and rabbit eche becumz a spi ov the cardinal. Better, then, pershu our enterprise; from which, beciadz, we canot retrete widhout shame. We hav made a wager—a wager which cood not hav bene foercene, and ov which I defi enniwun too divine the tru cauz. We ar gowing, in order too win it, too remane an our in the baschon. Iather we shal be atact, or not. If we ar not, we shal hav aul the time too tauc, and nobody wil here us—for I garanty the waulz ov the baschon hav no eerz; if we ar, we wil tauc ov our afaerz just the same. Moerover, in defending ourcelvz, we shal cuvver ourcelvz withe gloery. U ce dhat evverithhing iz too our advaantage."

"Yes," ced dArtanyan; "but we shal injubitably attract a baul."

"Wel, mi dere," replide Aithos, "u no wel dhat the baulz moast too be dredded ar not from the ennemy."

"But for such an expedishon we shuerly aut too hav braut our muskets."

"U ar schupid, frend Porthos. Whi shood we lode ourcelvz withe a uesles berden?"

"I doant fiand a good musket, twelv cartridgez, and a poudere flaasc verry uesles in the face ov an ennemy."

"Wel," replide Aithos, "hav u not herd whaut dArtanyan ced?"

"Whaut did he sa?" demaanded Porthos.

"DArtanyan ced dhat in the atac ov laast nite ate or ten Frenchmen wer kild, and az menny Roshella."

"Whaut then?"

"The boddese wer not plunderd, wer dha? It apeerz the conkerorz had sumthhing els too doo."

"Wel?"

"Wel, we shal fiand dhare muskets, dhare cartrigez, and dhare flaasx; and insted ov foer musketuinz and twelv baulz, we shal hav fiftene gunz and a hundred chargez too fire."

"O, Aithos!" ced Arramis, "truly u ar a grate man."

Porthos nodded in cine ov agreement. DArtanyan alone did not ceme convinst.

Gremo no dout shaerd the misghivvingz ov the yung man, for ceying dhat dha continnude too advaans tooword the baschon—sumthhing he had til then douted—he poold hiz maaster bi the skert ov hiz cote.

"Whare ar we gowing?" aasct he, bi a geschure.

Aithos pointed too the baschon.

"But," ced Gremo, in the same cilent diyalect, "we shal leve our

skinz dhare."

Aithos raizd hiz ise and hiz fin'gher tooword hevven.

Gremo poot hiz baasket on the ground and sat doun withe a shake ov the hed.

Aithos tooc a pistol from hiz belt, looct too ce if it wauz properly priamd, coct it, and plaist the muzsel cloce too Gremose ere.

Gremo wauz on hiz legz agane az if bi a spring. Aithos then made him a cine too take up hiz baasket and too wauc on ferst. Gremo obade. Aul dhat Gremo gaind bi this momentary pantomime wauz too paas from the rere gard too the van'gard.

Ariavd at the baschon, the foer frendz ternd round.

Moer dhan thre hundred soalgerz ov aul kiandz wer acembeld at the gate ov the camp; and in a cepparate groope mite be distin'gwisht M. de Buceenyy, the dragoone, the Swis, and the foerth bettor.

Aithos tooc of hiz hat, plaist it on the end ov hiz soerd, and waivd it in the are.

Aul the spectatorz reternd him hiz salute, acumpanying this kertecy withe a loud huraa which wauz audibel too the foer; aafter which aul foer disapeerd in the baschon, whither Gremo had preceded them.

Az Aithos had foercene, the baschon wauz oonly occupide bi a duzsen corpcez,  
French and Roshella.

"Gentelmen," ced Aithos, whoo had ashuemd the comaand ov the expedishon,  
"while Gremo spredz the tabel, let us beghin bi colecting the gunz and cartrigez tooghether. We can tauc while performing dhat nescenary taasc. These gentelmen," added he, pointing too the boddese, "canot here us."

"But we cood thro them intoo the dich," ced Porthos, "aafter havving ashuerd ourcelvz dha hav nuthhing in dhare pockets."

"Yes," ced Aithos, "dhats Gremose biznes."

"Wel, then," cride dArtanyan, "pra let Gremo cerch them and thro them over the waulz."

"Hevven forfend!" ced Aithos; "dha ma cerv us."

"These boddese cerv us?" ced Porthos. "U ar mad, dere frend."

"Juj not rashly, sa the gospel and the cardinal," replide Aithos. "Hou menny gunz, gentelmen?"

"Twelv," replide Arramis.

"Hou menny shots?"

"A hundred."

"Dhats qwite az menny az we shal waunt. Let us lode the gunz."

The foer Musketeerz went too werc; and az dha wer loding the laast musket Gremo anounst dhat the brefast wauz reddy.

Aithos replide, aulwase bi geschuerz, dhat dhat wauz wel, and indicated too

Gremo, bi pointing too a turret dhat resembeld a pepper caaster, dhat he wauz too stand az centinel. Oonly, too alleveyate the tejousnes ov the juty, Aithos aloud him too take a lofe, too cutlets, and a bottel ov wine.

"And nou too tabel," ced Aithos.

The foer frendz ceted themcelvz on the ground withe dhare legz crost like Terx, or even talorz.

"And nou," ced dArtanyan, "az dhare iz no lon'gher enny fere ov beying overherd, I hope u ar gowing too let me intoo yor ceecret."

"I hope at the same time too procure u amuezmment and gloery, gentelmen," ced Aithos. "I hav injuest u too take a charming prommenaad; here iz a delishous brefast; and yonder ar five hundred personz, az u ma ce throo the luiphoalz, taking us for herose or madmen—too claacez ov imbeceelz graitly resembling eche uther."

"But the ceecret!" ced dArtanyan.

"The ceecret iz," ced Aithos, "dhat I sau Milady laast nite."

DArtanyan wauz lifting a glaas too hiz lips; but at the name ov Milady, hiz hand trembeld so, dhat he wauz obliajd too poot the glaas on the ground agane for fere ov spilling the contents."

"U sau yor wi—"

"Hush!" interrupted Aithos. "U forghet, mi dere, u forghet dhat these gentelmen ar not inisheyated intoo mi fammily afaerz like yorcelf. I hav cene Milady."

"Whare?" demaanded dArtanyan.

"Within too leegz ov this place, at the in ov the Red Duvcot."

"In dhat cace I am lost," ced dArtanyan.

"Not so bad yet," replide Aithos; "for bi this time she must hav qwit the shoerz ov Fraans."

DArtanyan breedhd agane.

"But aafter aul," aasct Porthos, "whoo iz Milady?"

"A charming woomman!" ced Aithos, cipping a glaas ov sparcling wine.

"Villanous hoast!" cride he, "he haz ghivven us Onzhu wine insted ov shampane, and fancese we no no better! Yes," continnude he, "a charming woomman, whoo entertaind kiand vuse tooword our frend dArtanyan, whoo, on hiz part, haz ghivven her sum offens for which she tride too revenj hercelf a munth ago bi havving him kild bi too musket shots, a weke ago bi triying too poizon him, and yesterda bi demaanding hiz hed ov the cardinal."

"Whaut! bi demaanding mi hed ov the cardinal?" cride dArtanyan, pale withe terror.

"Yes, dhat iz tru az the Gospel," ced Porthos; "I herd her withe mi one eerz."



"I aulso," ced Arramis.

"Then," ced dArtanyan, letting hiz arm faul withe discurraiment, "it iz uesles too strugghel lon'gher. I ma az wel blo mi brainz out, and aul wil be over."

"Dhats the laast folly too be comitted," ced Aithos, "ceying it iz the onaly wun for which dhare iz no remmedy."

"But I can nevver escape," ced dArtanyan, "withe such ennemese. Ferst, mi strain'ger ov Muung; then de Vard, too whoome I hav ghivven thre soerd wuindz; next Milady, whose ceecret I hav discuverd; finaly, the cardinal, whose venjans I hav baulct."

"Wel," ced Aithos, "dhat onaly maix foer; and we ar foer—wun for wun. *Pardieu!* if we ma beleve the cianz Gremo iz making, we ar about too hav too doo withe a verry different number ov pepel. Whaut iz it, Gremo? Conciddering the gravvity ov the ocaizhon, I permit u too speke, mi frend; but be laconnic, I beg. Whaut doo u ce?"

"A troope."

"Ov hou menny personz?"

"Twenty men."

"Whaut sort ov men?"

"Cixtene piyoneerz, foer soalgerz."

"Hou far distant?"

"Five hundred pavez."

"Good! We hav just time too finnish this foul and too drinc wun glaas ov wine too yor helth, dArtanyan."

"Too yor helth!" repeted Porthos and Arramis.

"Wel, then, too mi helth! auldho I am verry much afrade dhat yor good wishez wil not be ov grate cervice too me."

"Baa!" ced Aithos, "God iz grate, az sa the followerz ov Mohammed, and the fuchure iz in hiz handz."

Then, swaulowing the contents ov hiz glaas, which he poot doun cloce too him, Aithos arose caerlesly, tooc the musket next too him, and dru nere too wun ov the luiphoalz.

Porthos, Arramis and dArtanyan follode hiz exaampel. Az too Gremo, he receevd orderz too place himcelf behiand the foer frendz in order too relode dhare wepponz.

"*Pardieu!*" ced Aithos, "it wauz hardly werth while too distribbute ourcelvz for twenty fellose armd withe piccaxez, mattox, and shuvvelz. Gremo had oanly too make them a cine too go awa, and I am convinst dha wood hav left us in pece."

"I dout dhat," replide dArtanyan, "for dha ar advaancing verry rezzoluetly. Beciadz, in adishon too the piyoneerz, dhare ar foer soalgerz and a brigadeyer, armd withe muskets."

"Dhats becauz dha doant ce us," ced Aithos.

"Mi faith," ced Arramis, "I must confes I fele a grate repugnans too fire on these poor devvilz ov civilleyanz."

"He iz a bad preest," ced Porthos, "whoo haz pittty for herretix."

"In trueth," ced Aithos, "Arramis iz rite. I wil worn them."

"Whaut the devvil ar u gowing too doo?" cride dArtanyan, "u wil be shot."

But Aithos heded not hiz advice. Mounting on the breche, withe hiz musket in wun hand and hiz hat in the uther, he ced, bouwing kerchously and adrescing the soalgerz and the piyoneerz, whoo, astonnisht at this aparishon, stopt fifty pacez from the baschon: "Gentelmen, a fu frendz and micelf ar about too brecfast in this baschon. Nou, u no nuthhing iz moer disagreyabel dhan beying disterbd when wun iz at brecfast. We reqwest u, then, if u reyaly hav biznes here, too wate til we hav finnisht or repaast, or too cum agane a short time hens, unles; unles, which wood be far better, u form the sallutary rezolueshon too qwit the cide ov the rebbelz, and cum and drinc withe us too the helth ov the King ov Fraans."

"Take care, Aithos!" cride dArtanyan; "doant u ce dha ar aming?"

"Yes, yes," ced Aithos; "but dha ar oonly civilleyanz—verry bad marxmen, whoo wil be shure not too hit me."

In fact, at the same instant foer shots wer fiard, and the baulz wer flattend against the waul around Aithos, but not wun tucht him.

Foer shots replide too them aulmoast instantainously, but much better aimed

dhan dhose ov the agressorz; thre soalgerz fel ded, and wun ov the piyoneerz wauz wuinded.

"Gremo," ced Aithos, stil on the breche, "anuther musket!"

Gremo imejaitly obade. On dhare part, the thre frendz had reloaded dhare armz; a cecond discharj follode the ferst. The brigadeyer and too piyoneerz fel ded; the rest ov the troope tooc too flite.

"Nou, gentelmen, a sorty!" cride Aithos.

And the foer frendz rusht out ov the foert, gaind the feeld ov battel, pict up the foer muskets ov the privaits and the haaf-pike ov the brigadeyer, and convinst dhat the fugitiavz wood not stop til dha reecht the citty, ternd agane tooword the baschon, baring withe them the trofese ov dhare victory.

"Relode the muskets, Gremo," ced Aithos, "and we, gentelmen, wil go on withe our brecfast, and rezhume our conversaishon. Whare wer we?"

"I recolect u wer saying," ced dArtanyan, "dhat aafter havving demaanded mi hed ov the cardinal, Milady had qwit the shoerz ov Fraans. Whither gose she?" added he, strongly interested in the roote Milady follode.

"She gose intoo In'gland," ced Aithos.

"Withe whaut vu?"

"Withe the vu ov asascinating, or causing too be asascinated, the Juke ov Buckingham."

DArtanyan utterd an exclamaishon ov cerprise and indignaishon.

"But this iz infamous!" cride he.

"Az too dhat," ced Aithos, "I beg u too beleve dhat I care verry littel about it. Nou u hav dun, Gremo, take our brigadeyerz haaf-pike, ti a napkin too it, and plaant it on top ov our baschon, dhat these rebbelz ov Roshella ma ce dhat dha hav too dele withe brave and loiyal soalgerz ov the king."

Gremo obade widhout repliyng. An instant aafterword, the white flag wauz floting over the hedz ov the foer frendz. A thunder ov aplauz saluted its aperans; haaf the camp wauz at the barreyer.

"Hou?" replide dArtanyan, "u care littel if she kilz Buckingham or causez him too be kild? But the juke iz our frend."

"The juke iz In'glish; the juke fiats against us. Let her doo whaut she liax withe the juke; I care no moer about him dhan an empty bottel." And Aithos thru fiftene pacez from him an empty bottel from which he had poerd the laast drop intoo hiz glaas.

"A moment," ced dArtanyan. "I wil not abandon Buckingham dhus. He gave us sum verry fine horcez."

"And moerover, verry handsum saddelz," ced Porthos, whoo at the moment woer on hiz cloke the lace ov hiz one.

"Beciadz," ced Arramis, "God desiarz the converzhon and not the deth ov a cinner."

"Amen!" ced Aithos, "and we wil retern too dhat subgect later, if such be yor plezhure; but whaut for the moment en'gaijd mi atenshon moast earnestly, and I am shure u wil understand me, dArtanyan, wauz the

ghetting from this woomman a kiand ov cart blaansh which she had extorted from the cardinal, and bi meenz ov which she cood withe impunity ghet rid ov u and perhaps ov us."

"But this crechure must be a demon!" ced Porthos, hoalding out hiz plate too Arramis, whoo wauz cutting up a foul.

"And this cart blaansh," ced dArtanyan, "this cart blaansh, duz it remane in her handz?"

"No, it paast intoo mine; I wil not sa widhout trubbel, for if I did I shood tel a li."

"Mi dere Aithos, I shal no lon'gher count the number ov tiamz I am indetted too u for mi life."

"Then it wauz too go too her dhat u left us?" ced Arramis.

"Exactly."

"And u hav dhat letter ov the cardinal?" ced dArtanyan.

"Here it iz," ced Aithos; and he tooc the invallubel paper from the pocket ov hiz uniform. DArtanyan unfoalded it withe wun hand, whose trembling he did not even atempt too concele, too rede:

Dec. 3, 1627

It iz bi mi order and for the good ov the state dhat the barer ov this haz dun whaut he haz dun.

"Reeshlu"

"In fact," ced Arramis, "it iz an absolueshon acording too rule."

"Dhat paper must be toern too pecez," ced dArtanyan, whoo fancede he red in it hiz centens ov deth.

"On the contrary," ced Aithos, "it must be preservd caerfooly. I wood not ghiv up this paper if cuverrd withe az menny goald pecez."

"And whaut wil she doo nou?" aasct the yung man.

"Whi," replide Aithos, caerlesly, "she iz probbably gowing too rite too the cardinal dhat a damd Musketere, naimd Aithos, haz taken her safe-conduct from her bi foers; she wil advise him in the same letter too ghet rid ov hiz too frendz, Arramis and Porthos, at the same time. The cardinal wil remember dhat these ar the same men whoo hav often crost hiz paath; and then sum fine morning he wil arest dArtanyan, and for fere he shood fele loanly, he wil cend us too kepe him cumpany in the Bastele."

"Go too! It apeerz too me u make dul joax, mi dere," ced Porthos.

"I doo not gest," ced Aithos.

"Doo u no," ced Porthos, "dhat too twist dhat damd Miladese nec wood be a smauler cin dhan too twist dhose ov these poor devvilz ov Ughenose, whoo hav comitted no uther crime dhan cinging in French the saalmz we cing in Latin?"

"Whaut cez the abba?" aasct Aithos, qwiyetly.

"I sa I am entiarly ov Porthociez opinyon," replide Arramis.

"And I, too," ced dArtanyan.

"Forchunaitly, she iz far of," ced Porthos, "for I confes she wood wurry me if she wer here."

"She wurrese me in In'gland az wel az in Fraans," ced Aithos.

"She wurrese me evveriwhare," ced dArtanyan.

"But when u held her in yor pouwer, whi did u not droun her, stran'ghel her, hang her?" ced Porthos. "It iz oonly the ded whoo doo not retern."

"U thhinc so, Porthos?" replide the Musketere, withe a sad smile which dArtanyan alone understood.

"I hav an ideyaa," ced dArtanyan.

"Whaut iz it?" ced the Musketeez.

"Too armz!" cride Gremo.

The yung men sprang up, and ceezd dhare muskets.

This time a smaule troope advaanst, concisting ov from twenty too twenty-five men; but dha wer not piyoneerz, dha wer soalgerz ov the garrison.

"Shal we retern too the camp?" ced Porthos. "I doant thhinc the ciadz ar eeqwal."

"Imposcibel, for thre rezonz," replide Aithos. "The ferst, dhat we hav not finnisht brecfast; the cecond, dhat we stil hav sum verry



important thhingz too sa; and the thherd, dhat it yet waunts ten minnuets befoer the laps ov the our."

"Wel, then," ced Arramis, "we must form a plan ov battel."

"Dhats verry cimpel," replide Aithos. "Az soone az the ennemy ar within musket shot, we must fire uppon them. If dha continnu too advaans, we must fire agane. We must fire az long az we hav loded gunz. If dhose whoo remane ov the troope percist in cumming too the asault, we wil alou the becejerz too ghet az far az the dich, and then we wil poosh doun uppon dhare hedz dhat strip ov waul which keeps its perpendicular bi a mirrakel."

"Braavo!" cride Porthos. "Decidedly, Aithos, u wer born too be a genneral, and the cardinal, whoo fancese himcelf a grate soalger, iz nuthhing becide u."

"Gentelmen," ced Aithos, "no divided atenshon, I beg; let eche wun pic out hiz man."

"I cuvver mine," ced dArtanyan.

"And I mine," ced Porthos.

"And I mine," ced Arramis.

"Fire, then," ced Aithos.

The foer muskets made but wun repoert, but foer men fel.

The drum imejaitly bete, and the littel troope advaanst at charging pace.

Then the shots wer repeted widhout regularrity, but aulwase aimed

withe the same accuracy. Nevvertheles, az if dha had bene aware ov the numerrical weecnes ov the frendz, the Roshella continnude too advaans in qwic time.

Withe evvery thre shots at leest too men fel; but the march ov dhose whoo remaind wauz not slackend.

Ariavd at the foot ov the baschon, dhare wer stil moer dhan a duzen ov the ennemy. A laast discharj welcumd them, but did not stop them; dha jumpt intoo the dich, and prepaerd too scale the breche.

"Nou, mi frendz," ced Aithos, "finnish them at a blo. Too the waul; too the waul!"

And the foer frendz, ceconded bi Gremo, poosht withe the barrelz ov dhare muskets an enormous shete ov the waul, which bent az if poosht bi the wind, and detatching itcelf from its bace, fel withe a horibel crash intoo the dich. Then a feerfool crash wauz herd; a cloud ov dust mounted tooword the ski—and aul wauz over!

"Can we hav destroid them aul, from the ferst too the laast?" ced Aithos.

"Mi faith, it apeerz so!" ced dArtanyan.

"No," cride Porthos; "dhare go thre or foer, limping awa."

In fact, thre or foer ov these unforchunate men, cuvverd withe dert and blud, fled along the hollo wa, and at length regaind the city. These wer aul whoo wer left ov the littel troope.

Aithos looct at hiz wauch.

"Gentelmen," ced he, "we hav bene here an our, and our wager iz wun;

but we wil be fare playerz. Beciadz, dArtanyan haz not toald us hiz ideyaa yet."

And the Musketere, withe hiz uezhuwal cuilnes, receted himcelf befoer the remainz ov the brecfast.

"Mi ideyaa?" ced dArtanyan.

"Yes; u ced u had an ideyaa," ced Aithos.

"O, I remember," ced dArtanyan. "Wel, I wil go too In'gland a cecond time; I wil go and fiand Buckingham."

"U shal not doo dhat, dArtanyan," ced Aithos, cooly.

"And whi not? Hav I not bene dhare wuns?"

"Yes; but at dhat pereyod we wer not at wor. At dhat pereyod Buckingham wauz an alli, and not an ennemy. Whaut u wood nou doo amounts too trezon."

DArtanyan perceevd the foers ov this rezoning, and wauz cilent.

"But," ced Porthos, "I thhinc I hav an ideyaa, in mi tern."

"Cilens for Msyer Porthoccez ideyaa!" ced Arramis.

"I wil aasc leve ov abcens ov Msyer de Treveye, on sum pretext or uther which u must invent; I am not verry clevver at pretexts. Milady duz not no me; I wil ghet axes too her widhout her suspecting me, and when I cach mi buty, I wil stran'ghel her."

"Wel," replide Aithos, "I am not far from aprooving the ideyaa ov Msyer Porthos."

"For shame!" ced Arramis. "Kil a woomman? No, liscen too me; I hav the tru ideyaa."

"Let us ce yor ideyaa, Arramis," ced Aithos, whoo felt much defferens for the yung Musketere.

"We must inform the qwene."

"Aa, mi faith, yes!" ced Porthos and dArtanyan, at the same time; "we ar cumming nerer too it nou."

"Inform the qwene!" ced Aithos; "and hou? Hav we relaishonz withe the coert? Cood we cend enniwun too Parris widhout its beying none in the camp? From here too Parris it iz a hundred and forty leegz; befoer our letter wauz at Onzha we shood be in a dunjon."

"Az too remitting a letter withe saifty too her Madgesty," ced Arramis, culloring, "I wil take dhat uppon micelf. I no a clevver person at Toor—"

Arramis stopt on ceying Aithos smile.

"Wel, doo u not adopt this meenz, Aithos?" ced dArtanyan.

"I doo not regect it aultooghether," ced Aithos; "but I wish too remiand Arramis dhat he canot qwit the camp, and dhat nobody but wun ov ourcelvz iz trustwerthy; dhat too ourz aafter the mescen'ger haz cet out, aul the Cappuchinz, aul the polece, aul the blac caps ov the cardinal, wil no yor letter bi hart, and u and yor clevver person wil be arested."

"Widhout reconing," obgected Porthos, "dhat the qwene wood save Msyer de Buckingham, but wood take no hede ov us."

"Gentlemen," ced dArtanyan, "whaut Porthos cez iz fool ov cens."

"Aa, aa! but whauts gowing on in the citty yonder?" ced Aithos.

"Dha ar beting the genneral alarm."

The foer frendz liscend, and the sound ov the drum plainly reecht them.

"U ce, dha ar gowing too cend a whole redgiment against us," ced Aithos.

"U doant thhinc ov hoalding out against a whole redgiment, doo u?" ced Porthos.

"Whi not?" ced Musketere. "I fele micelf qwite in a humor for it; and I wood hoald out befoer an army if we had taken the precaushon too bring a duzsen moer bottelz ov wine."

"Uppon mi werd, the drum drauz nere," ced dArtanyan.

"Let it cum," ced Aithos. "It iz a qworter ov an ourz gerny from here too the citty, conceqwently a qworter ov an ourz gerny from the citty too hither. Dhat iz moer dhan time enuf for us too devise a plan. If we go from this place we shal nevver fiand anuther so sutabel. Aa, stop! I hav it, gentlemen; the rite ideyaa haz just okerd too me."

"Tel us."

"Alou me too ghiv Gremo sum indispensabel orderz."

Aithos made a cine for hiz lacky too aproche.

"Gremo," ced Aithos, pointing too the boddese which la under the waul ov the baschon, "take dhose gentelmen, cet them up against the waul, poot dhare hats uppon dhare hedz, and dhare gunz in dhare handz."

"O, the grate man!" cride dArtanyan. "I comprehend nou."

"U comprehend?" ced Porthos.

"And doo u comprehend, Gremo?" ced Arramis.

Gremo made a cine in the afermative.

"Dhats aul dhat iz nescesary," ced Aithos; "nou for mi ideyaa."

"I shood like, houwevver, too comprehend," ced Porthos.

"Dhat iz uesles."

"Yes, yes! Aithocez ideyaa!" cride Arramis and dArtanyan, at the same time.

"This Milady, this woomman, this crechure, this demon, haz a bruther-in-lau, az I thhinc u toald me, dArtanyan?"

"Yes, I no him verry wel; and I aulso beleve dhat he haz not a verry worm afecshon for hiz cister-in-lau."

"Dhare iz no harm in dhat. If he detested her, it wood be aul the better," replide Aithos.

"In dhat cace we ar az wel of az we wish."

"And yet," ced Porthos, "I wood like too no whaut Gremo iz about."

"Cilens, Porthos!" ced Arramis.

"Whaut iz her bruther-in-lauz name?"

"Lord de Winter."

"Whare iz he nou?"

"He reternd too Lundon at the ferst sound ov wor."

"Wel, dhaerz just the man we waunt," ced Aithos. "It iz he whoome we must

worn. We wil hav him informd dhat hiz cister-in-lau iz on the point ov havving sumwun asascinated, and beg him not too loose cite ov her. Dhare iz in Lundon, I hope, sum establishment like dhat ov the Magdalenz, or ov the Repentant Dauterz. He must place hiz cister in wun ov these, and we shal be in pece."

"Yes," ced dArtanyan, "til she cumz out."

"Aa, mi faith!" ced Aithos, "u reqwire too much, dArtanyan. I hav ghivven u aul I hav, and I beg leve too tel u dhat this iz the bottom ov mi sac."

"But I thhinc it wood be stil better," ced Arramis, "too inform the qwene and Lord de Winter at the same time."

"Yes; but whoo iz too carry the letter too Toor, and whoo too Lundon?"

"I aancer for Bazan," ced Arramis.

"And I for Plaunsha," ced dArtanyan.

"I," ced Porthos, "if we canot leve the camp, our lackese ma."

"Too be shure dha ma; and this verry da we wil rite the letterz," ced Arramis. "Ghiv the lackese munny, and dha wil start."

"We wil ghiv them munny?" replide Aithos. "Hav u enny munny?"

The foer frendz looct at wun anuther, and a cloud came over the brouz which but laitly had bene so cheerfool.

"Looc out!" cride dArtanyan, "I ce blac points and red points mooving yonder. Whi did u tauc ov a redgiment, Aithos? It iz a verritabel army!"

"Mi faith, yes," ced Aithos; "dhare dha ar. Ce the sneex cum, widhout drum or trumpet. Aa, aa! hav u finnisht, Gremo?"

Gremo made a cine in the afermative, and pointed too a duzsen boddese which he had cet up in the moast picchuresc attichuedz. Sum carrede armz, uthertz ceemd too be taking ame, and the remainder apeerd meerly too be soerd in hand.

"Braavo!" ced Aithos; "dhat duz onnor too yor imaginaishon."

"Aul verry wel," ced Porthos, "but I shood like too understand."

"Let us decamp ferst, and u wil understand aafterword."

"A moment, gentelmen, a moment; ghiv Gremo time too clere awa the brecfast."

"Aa, aa!" ced Arramis, "the blac points and the red points ar vizsibly enlarging. I am ov dArtanyanz opinyon; we hav no time too loose in reganing our camp."

"Mi faith," ced Aithos, "I hav nuthhing too sa against a retrete. We



bet uppon wun our, and we hav stade an our and a haaf. Nuthhing can be ced; let us be of, gentelmen, let us be of!"

Gremo wauz aulreddy ahed, withe the baasket and the dezsert. The foer frendz follode, ten pacez behiand him.

"Whaut the devvil shal we doo nou, gentelmen?" cride Aithos.

"Hav u forgotten ennithhing?" ced Arramis.

"The white flag, morblu! We must not leve a flag in the handz ov the ennemy, even if dhat flag be but a napkin."

And Aithos ran bac too the baschon, mounted the platform, and boer of the flag; but az the Roshella had ariavd within musket rainj, dha opend a terribel fire uppon this man, whoo apeerd too expose himcelf for plezhuerz sake.

But Aithos mite be ced too bare a charmd life. The baulz paast and whisceld aul around him; not wun struc him.

Aithos waivd hiz flag, terning hiz bac on the gardz ov the citty, and saluting dhose ov the camp. On boath ciadz loud crise arose—on the wun cide crise ov an'gher, on the uther crise ov enthuseyazm.

A cecond discharj follode the ferst, and thre baulz, bi paacing throo it, made the napkin reyaly a flag. Crise wer herd from the camp, "Cum doun! cum doun!"

Aithos came doun; hiz frendz, whoo ancshously awated him, sau him reternd withe joi.

"Cum along, Aithos, cum along!" cride dArtanyan; "nou we hav found evverithhing exept munny, it wood be schupid too be kild."

But Aithos continnude too march magesticaly, whautevver remarx hiz companyonz made; and dha, fianding dhare remarx uesles, reggulated dhare pace bi hiz.

Gremo and hiz baasket wer far in advaans, out ov the rainj ov the baulz.

At the end ov an instant dha herd a fureyous fucilaad.

"Whauts dhat?" aasct Porthos, "whaut ar dha firing at nou? I here no baulz whiscel, and I ce nobody!"

"Dha ar firing at the corpcez," replide Aithos.

"But the ded canot retern dhare fire."

"Certainly not! Dha wil then fancy it iz an ambushade, dha wil deliberate; and bi the time dha hav found out the plezzantry, we shal be out ov the rainj ov dhare baulz. Dhat renderz it uesles too ghet a pluricy bi too much haist."

"O, I comprehend nou," ced the astonnisht Porthos.

"Dhats lucky," ced Aithos, shrugghing hiz shoalderz.

On dhare part, the French, on ceying the foer frendz retern at such a step, utterd crise ov enthuseyazm.

At length a fresh discharj wauz herd, and this time the baulz came ratling amung the stoanz around the foer frendz, and whisling sharply in dhare eerz. The Roshella had at laast taken poseshon ov the baschon.

"These Roshella ar bun'gling fellose," ced Aithos; "hou menny hav we kild ov them—a duzsen?"

"Or fiftene."

"Hou menny did we crush under the waul?"

"Ate or ten."

"And in exchainj for aul dhat not even a scrach! Aa, but whaut iz the matter withe yor hand, dArtanyan? It bleedz, cemingly."

"O, its nuthhing," ced dArtanyan.

"A spent baul?"

"Not even dhat."

"Whaut iz it, then?"

We hav ced dhat Aithos luvd dArtanyan like a chiald, and this somber and inflexibel personage felt the anxiyety ov a parent for the yung man.

"Oonly graizd a littel," replide dArtanyan; "mi fin'gherz wer caut betwene too stoanz—dhat ov the waul and dhat ov mi ring—and the skin wauz broken."

"Dhat cumz ov waring dimondz, mi maaster," ced Aithos, disdainfooly.

"Aa, too be shure," cride Porthos, "dhare iz a dimond. Whi the devvil, then, doo we plaghe ourcelvz about munny, when dhare iz a dimond?"

"Stop a bit!" ced Arramis.

"Wel thaut ov, Porthos; this time u hav an ideyaa."

"Undoutedly," ced Porthos, drauwng himcelf up at Aithocez compliment; "az dhare iz a dimond, let us cel it."

"But," ced dArtanyan, "it iz the qweenz dimond."

"The stron'gher rezon whi it shood be soald," replide Aithos. The qwene saving Msyer de Buckingham, her luvver; nuthhing moer just. The qwene saving us, her frendz; nuthhing moer moral. Let us cel the dimond. Whaut cez Msyer the Abba? I doant aasc Porthos; hiz opinyon haz bene ghivven."

"Whi, I thhinc," ced Arramis, blushing az uezhual, "dhat hiz ring not cumming from a mistres, and conceqwently not beyng a luv token, dArtanyan ma cel it."

"Mi dere Arramis, u speke like thheyollogy personnifide. Yor advice, then, iz—"

"Too cel the dimond," replide Arramis.

"Wel, then," ced dArtanyan, galy, "let us cel the dimond, and sa no moer about it."

The fucilaad continnude; but the foer frendz wer out ov reche, and the Roshella oanly fiard too apese dhare consencez.

"Mi faith, it wauz time dhat ideyaa came intoo Porthocez hed. Here we ar at the camp; dhaerfoer, gentelmen, not a werd moer ov this afare. We ar observd; dha ar cumming too mete us. We shal be carrede in triyumf."

In fact, az we hav ced, the whole camp wauz in moashon. Moer dhan too

thouzand personz had acisted, az at a spektakel, in this forchunate but wiald undertaking ov the foer frendz—an undertaking ov which dha wer far from suspecting the reyal motive. Nuthhing wauz herd but crise ov "Liv the Musketeerz! Liv the Gardz!" M. de Buceenyy wauz the ferst too cum and shake Aithos bi the hand, and acnollej dhat the wager wauz lost. The dragoone and the Swis follode him, and aul dhare comraidz follode the dragoone and the Swis. Dhare wauz nuthhing but felicitashonz, preshuerz ov the hand, and embracez; dhare wauz no end too the inextin'gwishabel laafter at the Roshella. The chumult at length became so grate dhat the cardinal fancede dhare must be sum riyot, and cent Laa Oodanyare, hiz captane ov the Gardz, too inqwire whaut wauz gowing on.

The afare wauz descriabd too the mescen'ger withe aul the efervescens ov enthuseyazm.

"Wel?" aasct the cardinal, on ceying Laa Oodanyare retern.

"Wel, moncennure," replide the latter, "thre Musketeerz and a Gardzman lade a wager withe Msyer de Buceenyy dhat dha wood go and brecfast in the baschon St. Zhairva; and while brecfasting dha held it for too ourz against the ennemy, and hav kild I doant no hou menny Roshella."

"Did u inqwire the naimz ov dhose thre Musketeerz?"

"Yes, moncennure."

"Whaut ar dhare naimz?"

"Maisyer Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis."

"Stil mi thre brave fellose!" mermerd the cardinal. "And the Gardzman?"

"dArtanyan."

"Stil mi yung scaipgrace. Pozsitiavly, these foer men must be on mi cide."

The same evening the cardinal spoke too M. de Treveye ov the exploit ov the morning, which wauz the tauc ov the whole camp. M. de Treveye, whoo had receevd the acount ov the advenchure from the mouths ov the herose ov it, related it in aul its detailz too hiz Emminens, not forghetting the eppisode ov the napkin.

"Dhats wel, Msyer de Treveye," ced the cardinal; "pra let dhat napkin be cent too me. I wil hav thre *fleurs-de-lis* embroiderd on it in goald, and wil ghiv it too yor cumpany az a standard."

"Moncennure," ced M. de Treveye, "dhat wil be unjust too the Gardzmen. Msyer dArtanyan iz not withe me; he cervz under Msyer Decessar."

"Wel, then, take him," ced the cardinal; "when foer men ar so much atacht too wun anuther, it iz oonly fare dhat dha shood cerv in the same cumpany."

Dhat same evening M. de Treveye anounst this good nuse too the thre Musketeerz and dArtanyan, inviting aul foer too brecfast withe him next morning.

dArtanyan wauz becide himcelf withe joi. We no dhat the dreme ov hiz life had bene too becum a Musketere. The thre frendz wer liaqwise graitley delited.

"Mi faith," ced dArtanyan too Aithos, "u had a triyumfant ideyaa! Az u ced, we hav aqwiard gloery, and wer enabeld too carry on a conversaishon ov the hiyest importans."

"Which we can rezhume nou widhout enniboddy suspecting us, for, withe the help ov God, we shal hensfoerth paas for cardinalists."

Dhat evening dArtanyan went too present hiz respects too M. Decessar, and inform him ov hiz promoashon.

M. Decessar, whoo esteemd dArtanyan, made him offerz ov help, az this chainj wood entale expencez for eqwipment.

DArtanyan refuezd; but thhinking the oporchunity a good wun, he begd him too hav the dimond he poot intoo hiz hand vallude, az he wisht too tern it intoo munny.

The next da, M. Decessarz valla came too dArtanyanz lodging, and gave him a bag contaning cevven thouzand leevrz.

This wauz the price ov the qweenz dimond.

#### 48 A FAMMILY AFARE

Aithos had invented the frase, fammily afare. A fammily afare wauz not subject too the investigaishon ov the cardinal; a fammily afare concernd nobody. Pepel mite emploi themcelvz in a fammily afare befoer aul the werld. Dhaerfoer Aithos had invented the frase, fammily afare.

Arramis had discuverd the ideyaa, the lackese.

Porthos had discuverd the meenz, the dimond.

DArtanyan alone had discuverd nuthhing—he, ordinarily the moast inventive ov the foer; but it must be aulso ced dhat the verry name ov Milady parraliazd him.

Aa! no, we wer mistaken; he had discuverd a perchacer for hiz dimond.

The brecfast at M. de Treveeyz wauz az ga and cheerfool az poscibel. DArtanyan aulreddy woer hiz uniform—for beying neerly ov the same cise az Arramis, and az Arramis wauz so libberaly pade bi the publisher whoo perchaist hiz powem az too alou him too bi evverithhing dubbel, he soald hiz frend a complete outfit.

DArtanyan wood hav bene at the hite ov hiz wishez if he had not constantly cene Milady like a darc cloud hovvering in the horizon.

Aafter brecfast, it wauz agrede dhat dha shood mete agane in the evening at Aithochez lodging, and dhare finnish dhare planz.

DArtanyan paast the da in exhibbiting hiz Musketeerz uniform in evvery strete ov the camp.

In the evening, at the apointed our, the foer frendz met. Dhare oonly remaind thre thhingz too decide—whaut dha shood rite too Miladese bruther; whaut dha shood rite too the clevver person at Toor; and which shood be the lackese too carry the letterz.

Evveriwun offerd hiz one. Aithos tauct ov the disreshon ov Gremo, whoo nevver spoke a werd but when hiz maaster unloct hiz mouth.

Porthos boasted ov the strength ov Muiscton, whoo wauz big enuf too thrash foer



men ov ordinary cise. Arramis, confiding in the adres ov Bazan, made a pompous ulojum on hiz candidate. Finaly, dArtanyan had entire faith in the bravery ov Plaunsha, and remianded them ov the manner in which he had conducted himcelf in the ticlish afare ov Booloin.

These foer verchuse disputed the prise for a length ov time, and gave berth too magnifficent spechez which we doo not repete here for fere dha shood be deemd too long.

"Unforchunaitly," ced Aithos, "he whoome we cend must poses in himcelf alone the foer qwaulitese united."

"But whare iz such a lacky too be found?"

"Not too be found!" cride Aithos. "I no it wel, so take Gremo."

"Take Muiscton."

"Take Bazan."

"Take Plaunsha. Plaunsha iz brave and shrude; dha ar too qwaulitese out ov the foer."

"Gentelmen," ced Arramis, "the principal qweschon iz not too no which ov our foer lackese iz the moast discrete, the moast strong, the moast clevver, or the moast brave; the principal thhing iz too no which luvz munny the best."

"Whaut Arramis cez iz verry cencibel," replide Aithos; "we must specculate uppon the faults ov pepel, and not uppon dhare verchuse. Msyer Abba, u ar a grate moralist."

"Doutles," ced Arramis, "for we not oonly reqwire too be wel cervd

in order too suxede, but moerover, not too fale; for in cace ov falure, hedz ar in qweschon, not for our lackese—"

"Speke lower, Arramis," ced Aithos.

"Dhats wise—not for the lackese," rezhuemd Arramis, "but for the maaster—for the maasterz, we ma sa. Ar our lackese sufishly devoted too us too risc dhare liavz for us? No."

"Mi faith," ced dArtanyan. "I wood aulmoast aancer for Plaunsha."

"Wel, mi dere frend, ad too hiz natchural devotednes a good sum ov munny, and then, insted ov aancering for him wuns, aancer for him twice."

"Whi, good God! u wil be deceevd just the same," ced Aithos, whoo wauz an optimist when thhingz wer concernd, and a pescimist when men wer in qweschon. "Dha wil prommice evverithhing for the sake ov the munny, and on the rode fere wil prevent them from acting. Wuns taken, dha wil be prest; when prest, dha wil confes evverithhing. Whaut the devvil! we ar not children. Too reche In'gland"—Aithos lowerd hiz vois—"aul Fraans, cuvverd withe spise and crechuerz ov the cardinal, must be crost. A paaspoert for embarcaishon must be obtaind; and the party must be aqwainted withe In'glish in order too aasc the wa too Lundon. Reyaly, I thhinc the thhing verry difficult."

"Not at aul," cride dArtanyan, whoo wauz ancshous the matter shood be acumplisht; "on the contrary, I thhinc it verry esy. It wood be, no dout, *parbleu*, if we rite too Lord de Winter about afaerz ov vaast importans, ov the hororz ov the cardinal—"

"Speke lower!" ced Aithos.

"—ov intreegz and ceecrets ov state," continnude dArtanyan, complying with the recomendaishon. "Dhare can be no dout we wood aul be broken on the whele; but for Godz sake, doo not forghet, az u yorcelf ced, Aithos, dhat we oonly rite too him concerning a fammily afare; dhat we oonly rite too him too entrete dhat az soone az Milady ariavz in Lunden he wil poot it out ov her pouwer too injure us. I wil rite too him, then, neerly in these termz."

"Let us ce," ced Aithos, ashuming in advaans a crittical looc.

"Msyer and dere frend—"

"Aa, yes! Dere frend too an In'glishman," interupted Aithos; "wel comenst! Braavo, dArtanyan! Oonly with dhat werd u wood be qworterded insted ov beying broken on the whele."

"Wel, perhaps. I wil sa, then, Msyer, qwite short."

"U ma even sa, Mi Lord," replide Aithos, whoo stickeld for propriyety.

"Mi Lord, doo u remember the littel gote paaschure ov the Luxemburg?"

"Good, the Luxemburg! Wun mite beleve this iz an aluezhon too the qwene-muther! Dhats in'geenyous," ced Aithos.

"Wel, then, we wil poot cimply, Mi Lord, doo u remember a certane littel encloazhure whare yor life wauz spaerd?"

"Mi dere dArtanyan, u wil nevver make ennithhing but a verry bad secretary. Whare yor life wauz spaerd! For shame! dhats unwerthy. A man ov spirrit iz not too be remianded ov such cervicez. A bennefit reproacht iz an offens comitted."

"The devvil!" ced dArtanyan, "u ar insupoertabel. If the letter must be ritten under yor censhure, mi faith, I renouns the taasc."

"And u wil doo rite. Handel the musket and the soerd, mi dere fello. U wil cum of splendidly at dhose too exercisez; but paas the pen over too Msyer Abba. Dhats hiz provvins."

"I, i!" ced Porthos; "paas the pen too Arramis, whoo riats thhecese in Latin."

"Wel, so be it," ced dArtanyan. "Drau up this note for us, Arramis; but bi our Holy Faather the Pope, cut it short, for I shal prune u in mi tern, I worn u."

"I aasc no better," ced Arramis, withe dhat in'geenyous are ov confidens which evvery powet haz in himcelf; "but let me be properly aqwainted withe the subgett. I hav herd here and dhare dhat this cister-in-lau wauz a huscy. I hav obtaind prooffe ov it bi liscening too her conversaishon withe the cardinal."

"Lower! *SACRE BLEU!*" ced Aithos.

"But," continnude Arramis, "the detailz escape me."

"And me aulso," ced Porthos.

DArtanyan and Aithos looct at eche uther for sum time in cilens. At length Aithos, aafter cereyous reflecshon and becumming moer pale dhan uezhuwal, made a cine ov acent too dArtanyan, whoo bi it understood he wauz at libberty too speke.

"Wel, this iz whaut u hav too sa," ced dArtanyan: "Mi Lord, yor cister-in-lau iz an infamous woomman, whoo wisht too hav u kild dhat she mite inherit yor welth; but she cood not marry yor bruther, beying aulreddy marrede in Fraans, and havving bene—" DArtanyan stopt, az if ceking for the werd, and looct at Aithos.

"Repujated bi her huzband," ced Aithos.

"Becauz she had bene branded," continnude dArtanyan.

"Baa!" cride Porthos. "Imposcibel! Whaut doo u sa—dhat she waunted too hav her bruther-in-lau kild?"

"Yes."

"She wauz marrede?" aasct Arramis.

"Yes."

"And her huzband found out dhat she had a *fleur-de-lis* on her shoalder?" cride Porthos.

"Yes."

These thre yesez had bene pronounst bi Aithos, eche withe a sadder intonaishon.

"And whoo haz cene this *fleur-de-lis*?" inqwiard Arramis.

"DArtanyan and I. Or raather, too observ the cronolodgical order, I and dArtanyan," replide Aithos.

"And duz the huzband ov this friatfool crechure stil liv?" ced Arramis.

"He stil livz."

"Ar u qwite shure ov it?"

"I am he."

Dhare wauz a moment ov coald cilens, juring which evveriwun wauz afected acording too hiz nachure.

"This time," ced Aithos, ferst braking the cilens, "dArtanyan haz ghivven us an exelent proogram, and the letter must be ritten at wuns."

"The devvil! U ar rite, Aithos," ced Arramis; "and it iz a raather difficult matter. The chaancellor himself wood be puzseld hou too rite such a letter, and yet the chaancellor drauz up an ofishal repoert verry reddily. Nevver miand! Be cilent, I wil rite."

Arramis acordingly tooc the qwil, reflected for a fu moments, rote ate or ten lianz in a charming littel female hand, and then withe a vois soft and slo, az if eche werd had bene scrupulously wade, he red the following:

"Mi Lord, The person whoo riats these fu lianz had the onnor ov croscing soerdz withe u in the littel encloazhure ov the Ru dOnfa. Az u hav cevveral tiamz cins declaerd yorcelf the frend ov dhat person, he thinx it hiz juty too respond too dhat frendship bi cending u important informaishon. Twice u hav neerly bene the victim ov a nere rellative, whoome u beleve too be yor are becauz u ar ignorant

dhat befoer she contracted a marrage in In'gland she wauz aulreddy marrede in Fraans. But the thherd time, which iz the prezsent, u ma sucum. Yor rellative left Laa Roshel for In'gland juring the nite. Wauch her arival, for she haz grate and terribel prodjects. If u reqwire too no pozsitiavly whaut she iz capabel ov, rede her paast history on her left shoalder."

"Wel, nou dhat wil doo wunderfooly wel," ced Aithos. "Mi dere Arramis, u hav the pen ov a cecretary ov state. Lord de Winter wil nou be uppon hiz gard if the letter shood reche him; and even if it shood faul intoo the handz ov the cardinal, we shal not be compromiazd. But az the lacky whoo gose ma make us beleve he haz bene too Lundoon and ma stop at Shatellero, let us ghiv him oanly haaf the sum prommiast him, withe the letter, withe an agrement dhat he shal hav the uther haaf in exchainj for the repli. Hav u the dimond?" continnude Aithos.

"I hav whaut iz stil better. I hav the price;" and dArtanyan thru the bag uppon the tabel. At the sound ov the goald Arramis raizd hiz ise and Porthos started. Az too Aithos, he remaind unmuivd.

"Hou much in dhat littel bag?"

"Cevven thouzand leevrz, in loowy ov twelv franx."

"Cevven thouzand leevrz!" cride Porthos. "Dhat poor littel dimond wauz werth cevven thouzand leevrz?"

"It apeerz so," ced Aithos, "cins here dha ar. I doant suppose dhat our frend dArtanyan haz added enny ov hiz one too the amount."

"But, gentelmen, in aul this," ced dArtanyan, "we doo not thhinc ov the

qwene. Let us take sum hede ov the welfare ov her dere Buckingham. Dhat iz the leest we o her."

"Dhats tru," ced Aithos; "but dhat concernz Arramis."

"Wel," replide the latter, blushing, "whaut must I sa?"

"O, dhats cimpel enuf!" replide Aithos. "Rite a cecond letter for dhat clevver personage whoo livz at Toor."

Arramis rezhuemd hiz pen, reflected a littel, and rote the following lianz, which he imejaitly submitted too the aprobaishon ov hiz frendz.

"Mi dere cuzsin."

"Aa, aa!" ced Aithos. "This clevver person iz yor rellative, then?"

"Cuzsin-german."

"Go on, too yor cuzsin, then!"

Arramis continnude:

"Mi dere Cuzsin, Hiz Emminens, the cardinal, whoome God preserv for the happines ov Fraans and the confuezhon ov the ennemese ov the kingdom, iz

on the point ov pootting an end too the hectic rebelleyon ov Laa Roshel.

It iz probbabel dhat the succor ov the In'glisch flete wil nevver even

arive in cite ov the place. I wil even venchure too sa dhat I am

certane M. de Buckingham wil be prevented from cetting out bi sum

grate event. Hiz Emminens iz the moast ilustreyous politishan ov

tiamz paast, ov tiamz prezsent, and probbably ov tiamz too cum. He wood

extin'gwish the sun if the sun incommoded him. Ghiv these happy tidingz



too yor cister, mi dere cuzsin. I hav dreemd dhat the unlucky In'glishman wauz ded. I canot recolect whether it wauz bi stele or bi poizon; oonly ov this I am shure, I hav dreemd he wauz ded, and u no mi dreemz nevver deceve me. Be ashuerd, then, ov ceying me soone retern."

"Cappital!" cride Aithos; "u ar the king ov powets, mi dere Arramis. U speke like the Apoccalips, and u ar az tru az the Gospel. Dhare iz nuthhing nou too doo but too poot the adres too this letter."

"Dhat iz esily dun," ced Arramis.

He foalded the letter fancifooly, and tooc up hiz pen and rote:

"Too Mlle. Meeshon, ceemstres, Toor."

The thre frendz looct at wun anuther and laaft; dha wer caut.

"Nou," ced Arramis, "u wil plese too understand, gentelmen, dhat Bazan alone can carry this letter too Toor. Mi cuzsin nose nobody but Bazan, and placez confidens in nobody but him; enny uther person wood fale. Beciadz, Bazan iz ambishous and lerned; Bazan haz red history, gentelmen, he nose dhat Cixtus the Fifth became Pope aafter havving kept pigz. Wel, az he meenz too enter the Cherch at the same time az micelf, he duz not despere ov becumming Pope in hiz tern, or at least a cardinal. U can understand dhat a man whoo haz such vuse wil nevver alou himcelf too be taken, or if taken, wil undergo marterdom raather dhan speke."

"Verry wel," ced dArtanyan, "I concent too Bazan withe aul mi hart, but graant me Plaunsha. Milady had him wun da ternd out ov doerz, withe

sundry blose ov a good stic too axellerate hiz moashonz. Nou, Plaunsha haz an exelent memmory; and I wil be bound dhat sooner dhan relinqwish enny poscibel meenz ov venjans, he wil alou himcelf too be beten too deth. If yor arainjments at Toor ar yor arainjments, Arramis, dhose ov Lundon ar mine. I reqwest, then, dhat Plaunsha ma be chosen, moer particcularly az he haz aulreddy bene too Lundon withe me, and nose hou too speke corectly: Lundon, cer, if u plese, and mi maaster, Lord dArtanyan. Withe dhat u ma be sattisfide he can make hiz wa, boath gowing and reterning."

"In dhat cace," ced Aithos, "Plaunsha must receve cevven hundred leevrz for gowing, and cevven hundred leevrz for cumming bac; and Bazan, thre hundred leevrz for gowing, and thre hundred leevrz for reterning—dhat wil rejuce the sum too five thouzand leevrz. We wil eche take a thouzand leevrz too be emploid az ceemz good, and we wil leve a fund ov a thouzand leevrz under the garjanship ov Msyer Abba here, for extrordinary ocaizhonz or common waunts. Wil dhat doo?"

"Mi dere Aithos," ced Arramis, "u speke like Nestor, whoo wauz, az evveriwun nose, the wisest among the Greex."

"Wel, then," ced Aithos, "it iz agrede. Plaunsha and Bazan shal go. Evverithhing concidderd, I am not sory too retane Gremo; he iz acustomd too mi wase, and I am particcular. Yesterdase afare must hav shaken him a littel; hiz voiyage wood upcet him qwite."

Plaunsha wauz cent for, and instrucshonz wer ghivven him. The matter had bene naimd too him bi dArtanyan, whoo in the ferst place pointed out the munny too him, then the gloery, and then the dain'ger.

"I wil carry the letter in the lining ov mi cote," ced Plaunsha; "and if I am taken I wil swaulo it."

"Wel, but then u wil not be abel too foolfil yor comishon," ced dArtanyan.

"U wil ghiv me a cobby this evening, which I shal no bi hart toomoro."

DArtanyan looct at hiz frendz, az if too sa, "Wel, whaut did I tel u?"

"Nou," continnude he, adrescing Plaunsha, "u hav ate dase too ghet an intervuu withe Lord de Winter; u hav ate dase too retern—in aul cixtene dase. If, on the cixteenth da aafter yor deparchure, at ate oacloc in the evening u ar not here, no munny—even if it be but five minnuets paast ate."

"Then, msyer," ced Plaunsha, "u must bi me a wauch."

"Take this," ced Aithos, withe hiz uezhuwal caerles generoscicy, ghivving him

hiz one, "and be a good lad. Remember, if u tauc, if u babbel, if u ghet drunc, u risc yor maasterz hed, whoo haz so much confidens in yor fidellity, and whoo aancerz for u. But remember, aulso, dhat if bi yor fault enny evil happenz too dArtanyan, I wil fiand u, wharevver u ma be, for the perpoce ov ripping up yor belly."

"O, msyer!" ced Plaunsha, humilleyated bi the suspishon, and moerover, terrifide at the caalm are ov the Musketere.

"And I," ced Porthos, roling hiz larj ise, "remember, I wil skin u alive."

"Aa, msyer!"

"And I," ced Arramis, withe hiz soft, melojus vois, "remember dhat I wil roast u at a slo fire, like a savvage."

"Aa, msyer!"

Plaunsha began too wepe. We wil not venchure too sa whether it wauz from terror creyated bi the threts or from tendernes at ceying foer frendz so cloasly united.

dArtanyan tooc hiz hand. "Ce, Plaunsha," ced he, "these gentelmen oonly sa this out ov afecshon for me, but at bottom dha aul like u."

"Aa, msyer," ced Plaunsha, "I wil suxede or I wil concent too be cut in qworterz; and if dha doo cut me in qworterz, be ashuerd dhat not a morcel ov me wil speke."

It wauz decided dhat Plaunsha shood cet out the next da, at ate oacloc in the morning, in order, az he had ced, dhat he mite juring the nite lern the letter bi hart. He gaind just twelv ourz bi this en'gaijment; he wauz too be bac on the cixteenth da, bi ate oacloc in the evening.

In the morning, az he wauz mounting hiz hors, dArtanyan, whoo felt at the bottom ov hiz hart a parshallity for the juke, tooc Plaunsha acide.

"Liscen," ced he too him. "When u hav ghivven the letter too Lord de Winter and he haz red it, u wil ferther sa too him: Wauch over hiz Grace Lord Buckingham, for dha wish too asascinate him. But this, Plaunsha, iz so cereyous and important dhat I hav not informd mi frendz dhat I wood entrust this ceecret too u; and for a captainz comishon I wood not rite it."

"Be sattisfide, msyer," ced Plaunsha, "u shal ce if confidens

can be plaist in me."

Mounted on an exelent hors, which he wauz too leve at the end ov twenty leegz in order too take the poast, Plaunsha cet of at a gallop, hiz spirrits a littel deprest bi the trippel prommice made him bi the Musketeerz, but uthewise az lite-harted az poscibel.

Bazan cet out the next da for Toor, and wauz aloud ate dase for performing hiz comishon.

The foer frendz, juring the pereyod ov these too abcencez, had, az ma wel be supoazd, the i on the wauch, the nose too the wind, and the ere on the harc. Dhare dase wer paast in endeuvoring too cach aul dhat wauz ced, in observing the proceding ov the cardinal, and in loocking out for aul the cooreyerz whoo ariavd. Moer dhan wuns an involluntary trembling ceezd them when cauld uppon for sum unnexpected cervice.

Dha

had, beciadz, too looc constantly too dhare one propper saifty; Milady wauz

a fantom which, when it had wuns apeerd too pepel, did not alou them too slepe verry qwiyetly.

On the morning ov the aith da, Bazan, fresh az evver, and smiling, acording too custom, enterd the cabbara ov the Parpayo az the foer frendz wer citting down too brecfast, saying, az had bene agrede uppon: "Msyer Arramis, the aancer from yor cuzsin."

The foer frendz exchainjd a joifool glaans; haaf ov the werc wauz dun. It iz tru, houwevver, dhat it wauz the shorter and eseyer part.

Arramis, blushing in spite ov himcelf, tooc the letter, which wauz in a larj, coers hand and not particcular for its orthografy.

"Good God!" cride he, laafing, "I qwite despare ov mi poor Meeshon; she

wil nevver rite like Msyer de Vwaachure."

"Whaut duz u mene bi boor Meeshon?" ced the Swis, whoo wauz chatting with the foer frendz when the letter came.

"O, *pardieu*, les dhan nuthhing," ced Arramis; "a charming littel ceemstres, whoome I luv deerly and from whoose hand I reqwested a fu lianz az a sort ov keepsake."

"The duvele!" ced the Swis, "if she iz az grate a lady az her riting iz larj, u ar a lucky fello, gomraad!"

Arramis red the letter, and paast it too Aithos.

"Ce whaut she riats too me, Aithos," ced he.

Aithos caast a glaans over the episcel, and too dispers aul the suspishonz dhat mite hav bene creyated, red aloud:

"Mi cuzsin, Mi cister and I ar skilfool in interpreting dreemz, and even entertane grate fere ov them; but ov yorz it ma be ced, I hope, evvery dreme iz an iluezhon. Aju! Take care ov yorcelf, and act so dhat we ma from time too time here u spoken ov."

"Mary Meeshon"

"And whaut dreme duz she mene?" aasct the dragoone, whoo had aproacht juring the reding.

"Yez; whauts the dreme?" ced the Swis.

"Wel, *pardieu!*" ced Arramis, "it wauz oanly this: I had a dreame, and I related it too her."

"Yez, yez," ced the Swis; "its cimpel enuf too del a dreame, but I neffer dreame."

"U ar verry forchunate," ced Aithos, rising; "I wish I cood sa az much!"

"Neffar," replide the Swis, enchanted dhat a man like Aithos cood envy him ennithhing. "Neffar, neffar!"

DArtanyan, ceying Aithos rise, did liaqwise, tooc hiz arm, and went out.

Porthos and Arramis remaind behiand too encounter the joax ov the dragoone and the Swis.

Az too Bazan, he went and la down on a trus ov strau; and az he had moer imaginaishon dhan the Swis, he dreemd dhat Arramis, havving becum pope, adornd hiz hed withe a cardinalz hat.

But, az we hav ced, Bazan had not, bi hiz forchunate retern, remuivd moer dhan a part ov the unnesines which wade uppon the foer frendz. The dase ov expectaishon ar long, and dArtanyan, in particcular, wood hav wagerd dhat the dase wer forty-foer ourz. He forgot the nescesary slones ov navigaishon; he exadgerated too himcelf the pouwer ov Milady. He credited this woomman, whoo apeerd too him the eeqwal ov a demon, withe agents az supernatchural az hercelf; at the leest noiz, he imadgiand himcelf about too be arested, and dhat Plaunsha wauz beying

braut bac too be confrunted withe himcelf and hiz frendz. Stil ferther, hiz confidens in the werthy Picard, at wun time so grate, diminnisht da bi da. This anxyety became so grate dhat it even extended too Arramis and Porthos. Aithos alone remaind unmuivd, az if no dain'ger hovverd over him, and az if he breedhd hiz customary atmosfere.

On the cixteenth da, in particular, these cianz wer so strong in dArtanyan and hiz too frendz dhat dha cood not remane qwiyet in wun place, and waunderd about like goasts on the rode bi which Plaunsha wauz expected.

"Reyaly," ced Aithos too them, "u ar not men but children, too let a woomman terrifi u so! And whaut duz it amount too, aafter aul? Too be imprizzond. Wel, but we shoold be taken out ov prizzon; Madam Bonasyuu wauz releest. Too be decappitated? Whi, evvery da in the trenchez we go cheerfooly too expose ourcelvz too wers dhan dhat—for a boollet ma brake a leg, and I am convinst a cerjon wood ghiv us moer pane in cutting of a thhi dhan an execueshoner in cutting of a hed. Wate qwiyetly, then; in too ourz, in foer, in cix ourz at latest, Plaunsha wil be here. He prommiast too be here, and I hav verry grate faith in Plaunsha, whoo apeerz too me too be a verry good lad."

"But if he duz not cum?" ced dArtanyan.

"Wel, if he duz not cum, it wil be becauz he haz bene delade, dhats aul. He ma hav faulen from hiz hors, he ma hav cut a caper from the dec; he ma hav travveld so faast against the wind az too hav braut on a viyolent catar. A, gentelmen, let us recon uppon axidents! Life iz a chaplet ov littel mizserese which the filossofer counts withe a smile. Be filossoferz, az I am, gentelmen; cit down at the tabel and let us drinc. Nuthhing maix the fuchure looc so brite az cervaying it throo a glaas ov shambertan."

"Dhats aul verry wel," replide dArtanyan; "but I am tiard ov fering



when I open a fresh bottel dhat the wine ma cum from the cellar ov Milady."

"U ar verry fastidjous," ced Aithos; "such a butifool woomman!"

"A woomman ov marc!" ced Porthos, withe hiz loud laaf.

Aithos started, paast hiz hand over hiz brou too remoove the drops ov perspiraishon dhat berst foerth, and rose in hiz tern withe a nervous muivment he cood not repres.

The da, houwevver, paast awa; and the evening came on sloly, but finaly it came. The barz wer fild withe drinkerz. Aithos, whoo had pocketed hiz share ov the dimond, celdom qwit the Parpayo. He had found in M. de Buceenyy, whoo, bi the bi, had ghivven them a magnifficent dinner, a partner werthy ov hiz cumpany. Dha wer playing tooghether, az uezhuwal, when cevven oacloc sounded; the patrole wauz herd paacing too dubbel the poasts. At haaf paast cevven the retrete wauz sounded.

"We ar lost," ced dArtanyan, in the ere ov Aithos.

"U mene too sa we hav lost," ced Aithos, qwiyetly, drauwing foer pistoalz from hiz pocket and throwing them uppon the tabel. "Cum, gentelmen," ced he, "dha ar beting the tatoo. Let us too bed!"

And Aithos went out ov the Parpayo, follode bi dArtanyan. Arramis came behiand, ghivving hiz arm too Porthos. Arramis mumbeld vercez too himcelf, and Porthos from time too time poold a hare or too from hiz mustaash, in cine ov despare.

But aul at wuns a shaddo apeerd in the darcnes the outline ov which wauz familleyar too dArtanyan, and a wel-none vois ced, "Msyer, I hav braut yor cloke; it iz chilly this evening."

"Plaunsha!" cride dArtanyan, beside himself withe joi.

"Plaunsha!" repeted Arramis and Porthos.

"Wel, yes, Plaunsha, too be shure," ced Aithos, "whaut iz dhare so astonnishing in dhat? He prommiast too be bac bi ate oacloc, and ate iz striking. Braavo, Plaunsha, u ar a lad ov yor werd, and if evver u leve yor maaster, I wil prommice u a place in mi cervice."

"O, no, nevver," ced Plaunsha, "I wil nevver leve Msyer dArtanyan."

At the same time dArtanyan felt dhat Plaunsha slipt a note intoo hiz hand.

DArtanyan felt a strong inclinaishon too embrace Plaunsha az he had embraist him on hiz deparchure; but he feerd lest this marc ov afecshon, bestode uppon hiz lacky in the open strete, mite apere extrordinary too paacerz-bi, and he restraind himself.

"I hav the note," ced he too Aithos and too hiz frendz.

"Dhats wel," ced Aithos, "let us go home and red it."

The note bernd the hand ov dArtanyan. He wisht too hacen dhare steps; but Aithos tooc hiz arm and paast it under hiz one, and the yung man wauz foerst too reggulate hiz pace bi dhat ov hiz frend.

At length dha reecht the tent, lit a lamp, and while Plaunsha stood at the entrans dhat the foer frendz mite not be cerpriazd, dArtanyan, withe a trembling hand, broke the cele and opend the so ancshously expected letter.

It containd haaf a line, in a hand perfectly Brittish, and withe a conciasnes az perfectly Spartan:

Thanc u; be esy.

dArtanyan traanzlated this for the utherz.

Aithos tooc the letter from the handz ov dArtanyan, aproacht the lamp, cet fire too the paper, and did not let go til it wauz rejuest too a cinder.

Then, caulng Plaunsha, he ced, "Nou, mi lad, u ma clame yor cevven hundred leevrz, but u did not run much risc withe such a note az dhat."

"I am not too blame for havving tride evvery meenz too compres it," ced Plaunsha.

"Wel!" cride dArtanyan, "tel us aul about it."

"Dame, dhats a long job, msyer."

"U ar rite, Plaunsha," ced Aithos; "beciadz, the tatoo haz bene sounded, and we shood be observd if we kept a lite barning much lon'gher dhan the utherz."

"So be it," ced dArtanyan. "Go too bed, Plaunsha, and slepe soundly."

"Mi faith, msyer! dhat wil be the ferst time I hav dun so for cixtene dase."

"And me, too!" ced dArtanyan.

"And me, too!" ced Porthos.

"And me, too!" ced Arramis.

"Wel, if u wil hav the trueth, and me, too!" ced Aithos.

#### 49 FATALITY

Meentime Milady, drunc withe pashon, roering on the dec like a liyones dhat haz bene embarct, had bene tempted too thro hercelf intoo the ce dhat she mite regane the coast, for she cood not ghet rid ov the thaut dhat she had bene insulted bi dArtanyan, threttend bi Aithos, and dhat she had qwit Fraans widhout beying revenjd on them. This ideyaa soone became so insupoertabel too her dhat at the risc ov whautevver

terribel conceqvencez mite rezult too hercelf from it, she imploerd the captane too poot her on shoer; but the captane, egher too escape from hiz fauls posishon—plaist betwene French and In'glisch cruserz, like the bat betwene the mice and the berdz—wauz in grate haist too regane In'gland, and pozsitiavly refuezd too oba whaut he tooc for a woommanz caprece, prommicig hiz pascen'ger, whoo had bene particullarly recomended too him bi

the cardinal, too land her, if the ce and the French permitted him, at wun ov the poerts ov Brittany, iather at Loreyon or Brest. But the wind wauz contrary, the ce bad; dha tact and kept ofshoer. Nine dase aafter leving the Sharont, pale withe fateghe and vexaishon, Milady sau oonly the blu coasts ov Finistare apere.

She calculated dhat too cros this corner ov Fraans and retern too the cardinal it wood take her at leest thre dase. Ad anuther da for landing, and dhat wood make foer. Ad these foer too the nine utherz,

dhat wood be thhertene dase lost—thhertene dase, juring which so menny important events mite paas in Lunden. She reflected liaqwise dhat the cardinal wood be fureyous at her retern, and conceqwently wood be moer dispoazd too liscen too the complaints braut against her dhan too the acuzashonz she braut against utherz.

She aloud the vescel too paas Loreyon and Brest widhout repeting her reqwest too the captane, whoo, on hiz part, tooc care not too remiand her ov it. Milady dhaerfoer continnude her voiyage, and on the verry da dhat Plaunsha embarct at Poertsmouth for Fraans, the mescen'ger ov hiz Emminens enterd the poert in triyumf.

Aul the citty wauz adgitated bi an extrordinary muivment. Foer larj vescelz, recently bilt, had just bene launcht. At the end ov the getty, hiz cloadhz richly laist withe goald, glittering, az wauz customary withe him, withe dimondz and preshous stoanz, hiz hat ornamented withe a white fether which druipt uppon hiz shoalder, Buckingham wauz cene surrounded bi a staaf aulmoast az brilleyant az himself.

It wauz wun ov dhose rare and butifool dase in winter when In'gland rememberz dhat dhare iz a sun. The star ov da, pale but nevvvertheles stil splendid, wauz cetting in the horizon, glorifying at wuns the hevvenz and the ce withe bandz ov fire, and caasting uppon the touwerz and the oald housez ov the citty a laast ra ov goald which made the windose sparkel like the reflecshon ov a conflagraishon. Breething dhat ce brese, so much moer inviggorating and baulsammic az the land iz aproacht, contemplating aul the pouwer ov dhose preparaishonz she wauz comishond too destroi, aul the pouwer ov dhat army which she wauz too combat alone—she, a woomman withe a fu bagz ov goald—Milady compaerd herself mentaly too Judith, the terribel Juwes, when she pennetrated the camp ov the Acirreyanz and beheld the enormous mas ov charreyots, horcez,

men, and armz, which a geschure ov her hand wauz too discipate like a cloud  
ov smoke.

Dha enterd the roadsted; but az dha dru nere in order too caast ancor, a littel cutter, loocking like a coastgard formiddably armd, aproacht the merchant vescel and dropt intoo the ce a bote which directed its coers too the ladder. This bote containd an officer, a mate, and ate rowerz. The officer alone went on boerd, whare he wauz receevd withe aul the defferens inspiard bi the uniform.

The officer converst a fu instants withe the captane, gave him cevveral paperz, ov which he wauz the barer, too rede, and uppon the order ov the merchant captane the whole cru ov the vescel, both pascen'gerz and salorz, wer cauld uppon dec.

When this speeshese ov summonz wauz made the officer inqwiard aloud the  
point ov the brigz deparchure, its roote, its landingz; and too aul these qweschonz the captane replide widhout difficulty and widhout hesitaishon.

Then the officer began too paas in revu aul the pepel, wun aafter the uther, and stopping when he came too Milady, cervade her verry cloasly, but widhout adrescing a cin'ghel werd too her.

He then reternd too the captane, ced a fu werdz too him, and az if from dhat moment the vescel wauz under hiz comaand, he orderd a manuver  
which the cru executed imejaitly. Then the vescel rezhuemd its coers, stil escorted bi the littel cutter, which saild cide bi cide withe it, mennacing it withe the mouths ov its six cannon. The bote follode in the wake ov the ship, a spec nere the enormous mas.

Juring the examinaishon ov Milady bi the officer, az ma wel be

imadgiand, Milady on her part wauz not les scrutinising in her glaancez. But houwevver grate wauz the pouwer ov this woomman withe ise ov flame in

reding the harts ov dhose whose ceecrets she wisht too divine, she met this time withe a countenans ov such impacivvity dhat no discuvvery follode her investigaishon. The officer whoo had stopt in frunt ov her and studded her withe so much care mite hav bene twenty-five or twenty-cix yeerz ov age. He wauz ov pale complecshon, withe clere blu ise, raather deeply cet; hiz mouth, fine and wel cut, remaind moashonles in its corect lianz; hiz chin, strongly marct, denoted dhat strength ov wil which in the ordinary Britannic tipe denoats moastly nuthhing but obstinacy; a brou a littel receding, az iz propper for powets, enthuseyaasts, and soalgerz, wauz scaersly shaded bi short thhin hare which, like the beard which cuvverd the lower part ov hiz face, wauz ov a butifool depe chesnut cullor.

When dha enterd the poert, it wauz aulreddy nite. The fog increest the darcnes, and formd round the sternliats and lanternz ov the getty a cerkel like dhat which suroundz the moone when the wether threttenz too becum rany. The are dha breedhd wauz hevvy, damp, and coald.

Milady, dhat woomman so corajous and ferm, shivverd in spite ov herself.

The officer desiard too hav Miladese paccagez pointed out too him, and orderd them too be plaist in the bote. When this operaishon wauz complete, he invited her too decend bi offering her hiz hand.

Milady looct at this man, and hezsitated. "Whoo ar u, cer," aasct she, "whoo haz the kiandnes too trubbel yorcelf so particcularly on mi acount?"

"U ma perceve, madam, bi mi uniform, dhat I am an officer in the In'glisch navy," replide the yung man.

"But iz it the custom for the officerz in the In'glish navy too place themcelvz at the cervice ov dhare female compaitreyots when dha land in a poert ov Grate Brittain, and carry dhare gallantry so far az too conduct them ashoer?"

"Yes, madam, it iz the custom, not from gallantry but prudens, dhat in time ov wor foranerz shood be conducted too particcular hotelz, in order dhat dha ma remane under the i ov the guvvernment until fool informaishon can be obtaind about them."

These werdz wer pronounst withe the moast exact poliatnes and the moast perfect caalmnes. Nevvertheles, dha had not the pouwer ov convincing Milady.

"But I am not a foraner, cer," ced she, withe an axent az pure az evver wauz herd betwene Poertsmouth and Manchester; "mi name iz Lady Claric, and this mezhure—"

"This mezhure iz genneral, madam; and u wil ceke in vane too evade it."

"I wil follo u, then, cer."

Axepting the hand ov the officer, she began the decent ov the ladder, at the foot ov which the bote wated. The officer follode her. A larj cloke wauz spred at the stern; the officer requested her too cit doun uppon this cloke, and plaist himcelf beside her.

"Ro!" ced he too the salorz.

The ate oerz fel at wuns intoo the ce, making but a cin'ghel sound, ghivving but a cin'ghel stroke, and the bote ceemd too fli over the cerface ov the wauter.



In five minnuets dha gaind the land.

The officer leept too the peyer, and offerd hiz hand too Milady. A carrage wauz in wating.

"Iz this carrage for us?" aasct Milady.

"Yes, madam," replide the officer.

"The hotel, then, iz far awa?"

"At the uther end ov the toun."

"Verry wel," ced Milady; and she rezzoluetly enterd the carrage.

The officer sau dhat the baggage wauz faacend caerfooly behiand the carrage; and this operaihon ended, he tooc hiz place beside Milady, and shut the doer.

Imejaitly, widhout enny order beying ghivven or hiz place ov destinaishon indicated, the coachman cet of at a rappid pace, and plunjd intoo the streets ov the citty.

So strainj a recepshon natchuraly gave Milady ampel matter for reflecshon; so ceying dhat the yung officer did not ceme at aul dispoazd for conversaishon, she recliand in her corner ov the carrage, and wun aafter the uther paast in revu aul the cermisez which presented themcelvz too her miand.

At the end ov a qworter ov an our, houwevver, cerpriazd at the length ov the gerny, she leend forword tooword the doer too ce whither she wauz beying conducted. Housez wer no lon'gher too be cene; trese apeerd in the darcnes like grate blac fantomz chacing wun anuther. Milady

shudderd.

"But we ar no lon'gher in the citty, cer," ced she.

The yung officer preservd cilens.

"I beg u too understand, cer, I wil go no farther unles u tel me whither u ar taking me."

This thret braut no repli.

"O, this iz too much," cride Milady. "Help! help!"

No vois replide too herz; the carrage continnude too role on withe rapiddity; the officer ceemd a statchu.

Milady looct at the officer withe wun ov dhose terribel expreshonz peculeyar too her countenans, and which so raerly faild ov dhare efect; an'gher made her ise flash in the darcnes.

The yung man remaind imoovabel.

Milady tride too open the doer in order too thro herself out.

"Take care, madam," ced the yung man, cooly, "u wil kil yorcelf in jumping."

Milady receted herself, foming. The officer leend forward, looct at her in hiz tern, and apeerd cerpriazd too ce dhat face, just befoer so butifool, distorted withe pashon and aulmoast hidjous. The artfool crechure at wuns comprehended dhat she wauz injuring herself bi alouwing

him dhus too rede her sole; she colected her fechuerz, and in a complaning vois ced: "In the name ov hevven, cer, tel me if it iz too

u, if it iz too yor guvvernment, if it iz too an ennemy I am too atribbute the viyolens dhat iz dun me?"

"No viyolens wil be offerd too u, madam, and whaut happenz too u iz the rezult ov a verry cimpel mezhure which we ar obliajd too adopt withe aul whoo land in In'gland."

"Then u doant no me, cer?"

"It iz the ferst time I hav had the onnor ov ceying u."

"And on yor onnor, u hav no cauz ov haitred against me?"

"Nun, I sware too u."

Dhare wauz so much cerennity, cuilnes, mialdnes even, in the vois ov the yung man, dhat Milady felt reyashuerd.

At length aafter a gerny ov neerly an our, the carrage stopt befoer an iarn gate, which cloazd an avvenu leding too a caacel cevere in form, mascive, and isolated. Then, az the wheelz roald over a fine gravvel, Milady cood here a vaast roering, which she at wuns reccogniazd az the noiz ov the ce dashing against sum stepe clif.

The carrage paast under too archt gaitwase, and at length stopt in a coert larj, darc, and sqware. Aulmoast imejaitly the doer ov the carrage wauz opend, the yung man sprang liatly out and presented hiz hand too Milady, whoo leend uppon it, and in her tern alited withe tollerabel caalmnes.

"Stil, then, I am a prizzoner," ced Milady, loocking around her, and bringing bac her ise withe a moast graishous smile too the yung officer; "but I fele ashuerd it wil not be for long," added she. "Mi one conshens and yor poliatnes, cer, ar the garantese ov dhat."

Houwevver flattering this compliment, the officer made no repli; but drauwing from hiz belt a littel cilver whiscel, such az boasnz use in ships ov wor, he whisceld thre tiamz, withe thre different mojulaishonz. Imejaitly cevveral men apeerd, whoo unharnest the smoking horcez, and poot the carrage intoo a coche hous.

Then the officer, withe the same caalm poliatnes, invited hiz prizzoner too enter the hous. She, withe a stil-smiling countenans, tooc hiz arm, and paast withe him under a lo archt doer, which bi a vaulted passage, lited oanly at the farther end, led too a stone staercace around an an'ghel ov stone. Dha then came too a mascive doer, which aafter the introducshon intoo the loc ov a ke which the yung man carrede withe him, ternd hevvely uppon its hin'gez, and discloazd the chaimber destiand for Milady.

Withe a cin'ghel glaans the prizzoner tooc in the apartment in its minutest detailz. It wauz a chaimber whoose fernichure wauz at wuns aproapreyate for a prizzoner or a fre man; and yet barz at the windose and outcide bolts at the doer decided the qweschon in favor ov the prizzon.

In an instant aul the strength ov miand ov this crechure, dho draun from the moast vigorous soercez, abandond her; she sanc intoo a larj esy chare, withe her armz crost, her hed lowerd, and expecting evvery instant too ce a juj enter too interrogate her.

But no wun enterd exept too or thre mareenz, whoo braut her trunx and paccagez, depozsited them in a corner, and retiard widhout speking.

The officer superintended aul these detailz withe the same caalmnes Milady had constantly cene in him, nevver pronouncing a werd himcelf, and making himcelf obade bi a geschure ov hiz hand or a sound ov hiz whiscel.

It mite hav bene ced dhat betwene this man and hiz infereyorz spoken lan'gwage did not exist, or had becum uesles.

At length Milady cood hoald out no lon'gher; she broke the cilens. "In the name ov hevven, cer," cride she, "whaut meenz aul dhat iz paacing? Poot an end too mi douts; I hav currage enuf for enny dain'ger I can foercy, for evvery misforchune which I understand. Whare am I, and whi am I here? If I am fre, whi these barz and these doerz? If I am a prizzoner, whaut crime hav I comitted?"

"U ar here in the apartment destiand for u, madam. I receevd orderz too go and take charj ov u on the ce, and too conduct u too this caacel. This order I beleve I hav acumplisht withe aul the exactnes ov a soalger, but aulso withe the kertecy ov a gentelman. Dhare terminaits, at leest too the prezsent moment, the juty I had too foolfil too word u; the rest concernz anuther person."

"And whoo iz dhat uther person?" aasct Milady, wormly. "Can u not tel me hiz name?"

At the moment a grate gin'gling ov sperz wauz herd on the staerz. Sum voicez paast and faded awa, and the sound ov a cin'ghel footstep aproacht the doer.

"Dhat person iz here, madam," ced the officer, leving the entrans open, and drauwing himcelf up in an attichude ov respect.

At the same time the doer opend; a man apeerd on the threshoald. He wauz widhout a hat, carrede a soerd, and flurrisht a hankerchefe in hiz hand.

Milady thaut she reccogniazd this shaddo in the gloome; she supoerted hercelf withe wun hand uppon the arm ov the chare, and advaanst her hed

az if too mete a certainty.

The strain'ger advaanst sloly, and az he advaanst, aafter entering intoo the cerkel ov lite proected bi the lamp, Milady involuntarily dru bac.

Then when she had no lon'gher enny dout, she cride, in a state ov schupor, "Whaut, mi bruther, iz it u?"

"Yes, fare lady!" replide Lord de Winter, making a bou, haaf kerchous, haaf ironnical; "it iz I, micelf."

"But this caacel, then?"

"Iz mine."

"This chaimber?"

"Iz yorz."

"I am, then, yor prizzoner?"

"Neerly so."

"But this iz a friatfool abuce ov pouwer!"

"No hi-sounding werdz! Let us cit doun and chat qwiyetly, az bruther and cister aut too doo."

Then, terning tooword the doer, and ceying dhat the yung officer wauz wating for hiz laast orderz, he ced. "Aul iz wel, I thanc u; nou leve us alone, Mr. Felton."

## 50 CHAT BETWENE BRUTHER AND CISTER

Juring the time which Lord de Winter tooc too shut the doer, close a shutter, and drau a chare nere too hiz cister-in-lauz fotuuy, Milady, ancshously thautfool, plunjd her glaans intoo the depths ov pocibillity, and discuverd aul the plan, ov which she cood not even obtane a glaans az long az she wauz ignorant intoo whoose handz she had faulen. She nu her bruther-in-lau too be a werthy gentelman, a boald hunter, an intreppid player, enterprising withe wimmen, but bi no meenz remarcabel for hiz skil in intreegz. Hou had he discuverd her arival, and cauzd her too be ceezd? Whi did he detane her?

Aithos had dropt sum werdz which pruivd dhat the conversaishon she had withe the cardinal had faulen intoo outside eerz; but she cood not suppose dhat he had dug a countermine so promptly and so boaldly. She raather feerd dhat her preceding operaishonz in In'gland mite hav bene discuverd. Buckingham mite hav ghest dhat it wauz she whoo had cut of the too studz, and avenj himcelf for dhat littel tretchery; but Buckingham wauz incapabel ov gowing too enny exes against a woomman, particularly if dhat woomman wauz supoast too hav acted from a feling ov gelloucy.

This suposishon apeerd too her moast rezonabel. It ceemd too her dhat dha waunted too revenj the paast, and not too antiscipate the fuchure. At aul events, she con'gratchulated hercelf uppon havving faulen intoo the handz ov her bruther-in-lau, withe whoome she recond she cood dele verry esily, raather dhan intoo the handz ov an acollejd and intelligent ennemy.

"Yes, let us chat, bruther," ced she, withe a kiand ov cheerfoolnes, decided az she wauz too drau from the conversaishon, in spite ov aul the dicimulaishon Lord de Winter cood bring, the revelaishonz ov which she stood in nede too reggulate her fuchure conduct.

"U hav, then, decided too cum too In'gland agane," ced Lord de Winter, "in spite ov the rezolueshonz u so often exprest in Parris nevver too cet yor fete on Brittish ground?"

Milady replide too this qweschon bi anuther qweschon. "Too beghin withe, tel me," ced she, "hou hav u waucht me so cloasly az too be aware befoerhand not oonly ov mi arival, but even ov the da, the our, and the poert at which I shood arive?"

Lord de Winter adopted the same tactix az Milady, thhinking dhat az hiz cister-in-lau emloid them dha must be the best.

"But tel me, mi dere cister," replide he, "whaut maix u cum too In'gland?"

"I cum too ce u," replide Milady, widhout nowing hou much she agravated bi this repli the suspishonz too which dArtanyanz letter had ghivven berth in the miand ov her bruther-in-lau, and oonly desiring too gane the good wil ov her auditor bi a fauls'hood.

"Aa, too ce me?" ced de Winter, cunningly.

"Too be shure, too ce u. Whaut iz dhare astonnishing in dhat?"

"And u had no uther obgett in cumming too In'gland but too ce me?"

"No."



"So it wauz for me alone u hav taken the trubbel too cros the Channel?"

"For u alone."

"The juce! Whaut tendernes, mi cister!"

"But am I not yor nerest rellative?" demaanded Milady, withe a tone ov the moast tutching in'gennuwousnes.

"And mi oanly are, ar u not?" ced Lord de Winter in hiz tern, fixing hiz ise on dhose ov Milady.

Whautevver comaand she had over hercelf, Milady cood not help starting; and az in pronouncing the laast werdz Lord de Winter plaist hiz hand uppon the arm ov hiz cister, this start did not escape him.

In fact, the blo wauz direct and cevere. The ferst ideyaa dhat okerd too Miladese miand wauz dhat she had bene betrade bi Kitty, and dhat she had recounted too the barron the celfish averzhon tooword himcelf ov which she had imprudently aloud sum marx too escape befoer her cervant. She aulso recolected the fureyous and imprudent atac she had made uppon dArtanyan when he spaerd the life ov her bruther.

"I doo not understand, mi Lord," ced she, in order too gane time and make her adversary speke out. "Whaut doo u mene too sa? Iz dhare enny ceecret mening conceeld beneeth yor werdz?"

"O, mi God, no!" ced Lord de Winter, withe aparrent good nachure. "U wish too ce me, and u cum too In'gland. I lern this desire, or raather I suspect dhat u fele it; and in order too spare u aul the anoiyancez ov a nocternal arival in a poert and aul the fateegz ov landing, I cend

wun ov mi officerz too mete u, I place a carrage at hiz orderz, and he bringz u hither too this caacel, ov which I am guvvernor, whither I cum evvery da, and whare, in order too sattisfi our muchuwal desire ov ceying eche uther, I hav prepaerd u a chaimber. Whaut iz dhare moer astonnishing in aul dhat I hav ced too u dhan in whaut u hav toald me?"

"No; whaut I thhinc astonnishing iz dhat u shood expect mi cumming."

"And yet dhat iz the moast cimpel thhing in the werld, mi dere cister. Hav u not observd dhat the captane ov yor littel vescel, on entering the roadsted, cent forword, in order too obtane permishon too enter the poert, a littel bote baring hiz logbooc and the redgister ov hiz voiyagerz? I am comandant ov the poert. Dha braut me dhat booc. I reccogniazd yor name in it. Mi hart toald me whaut yor mouth haz just confermd—dhat iz too sa, withe whaut vu u hav expoazd yorcelf too the dain'gerz ov a ce so perrilous, or at leest so trubbelsum at this moment—and I cent mi cutter too mete u. U no the rest."

Milady nu dhat Lord de Winter lide, and she wauz the moer alarmd.

"Mi bruther," continnude she, "wauz not dhat mi Lord Buckingham whoome I sau on the getty this evening az we ariavd?"

"Himcelf. Aa, I can understand hou the cite ov him struc u," replide Lord de Winter. "U came from a cuntry whare he must be verry much taut ov, and I no dhat hiz armaments against Fraans graitley en'gage the atenshon ov yor frend the cardinal."

"Mi frend the cardinal!" cride Milady, ceying dhat on this point az on the uther Lord de Winter ceemd wel instructed.

"Iz he not yor frend?" replide the barron, negligently. "Aa, pardon!"

I thaut so; but we wil retern too mi Lord Juke prezently. Let us not depart from the centimental tern our conversaishon had taken. U came, u sa, too ce me?"

"Yes."

"Wel, I repli dhat u shal be cervd too the hite ov yor wishez, and dhat we shal ce eche uther evvery da."

"Am I, then, too remane here eternaly?" demaanded Milady, withe a certane terror.

"Doo u fiand yorcelf badly lojd, cister? Demaand ennithhing u waunt, and I wil hacen too hav u fernisht withe it."

"But I hav niather mi wimmen nor mi cervants."

"U shal hav aul, madam. Tel me on whaut footing yor hous'hoald wauz establisht bi yor ferst huzband, and auldho I am oonly yor bruther-in-lau, I wil arainj wun cimmilar."

"Mi ferst huzband!" cride Milady, loocking at Lord de Winter withe ise aulmoast starting from dhare sockets.

"Yes, yor French huzband. I doant speke ov mi bruther. If u hav forgotten, az he iz stil livving, I can rite too him and he wil cend me informaishon on the subgett."

A coald swet berst from the brou ov Milady.

"U gest!" ced she, in a hollo vois.

"Doo I looc so?" aasct the barron, rising and gowing a step baqword.

"Or raather u insult me," continnude she, prescing withe her stiffend handz the too armz ov her esy chare, and rasing hercelf uppon her rists.

"I insult u!" ced Lord de Winter, withe contempt. "In trueth, madam, doo u thhinc dhat can be poscibel?"

"Indede, cer," ced Milady, "u must be iather drunc or mad. Leve the roome, and cend me a woomman."

"Wimmen ar verry indiscrete, mi cister. Canot I cerv u az a wating made? Bi dhat meenz aul our ceecrets wil remane in the fammily."

"Insolent!" cride Milady; and az if acted uppon bi a spring, she bounded tooword the barron, whoo awated her atac withe hiz armz crost, but nevvertheles withe wun hand on the hilt ov hiz soerd.

"Cum!" ced he. "I no u ar acustomd too asascinate pepel; but I worn u I shal defend micelf, even against u."

"U ar rite," ced Milady. "U hav aul the aperans ov beying couwardly enuf too lift yor hand against a woomman."

"Perhaps so; and I hav an excuce, for mine wood not be the ferst hand ov a man dhat haz bene plaist uppon u, I imadgine."

And the barron pointed, withe a slo and acusing geschure, too the left shoalder ov Milady, which he aulmoast tucht withe hiz fin'gher.

Milady utterd a depe, inword shreke, and retretd too a corner ov the roome like a panthher which crouchez for a spring.

"O, groul az much az u plese," cride Lord de Winter, "but doant tri

too bite, for I worn u dhat it wood be too yor disadvaantage. Dhare ar here no procuratorz whoo reggulate suxeshonz befoerhand. Dhare iz no nite-errant too cum and ceke a qworel withe me on acount ov the fare lady I detane a prizzoner; but I hav judgez qwite reddy whoo wil qwicly dispose ov a woomman so shaimles az too glide, a biggamist, intoo the bed ov

Lord de Winter, mi bruther. And these judgez, I worn u, wil soone cend u too an execueshoner whoo wil make boath yor shoalderz alike."

The ise ov Milady darted such flashez dhat auldho he wauz a man and armd befoer an unnarnd woomman, he felt the chil ov fere glide throo hiz whole frame. Houwevver, he continnude aul the same, but withe increcing

wormth: "Yes, I can verry wel understand dhat aafter havving inherited the

forchune ov mi bruther it wood be verry agreyabel too u too be mi are liaqwise; but no befoerhand, if u kil me or cauz me too be kild, mi precaushonz ar taken. Not a penny ov whaut I poses wil paas intoo yor handz. Wer u not aulreddy rich enuf—u whoo poses neerly a milleyon? And cood u not stop yor fatal carere, if u did not doo evil for the infinite and supreme joi ov doowing it? O, be ashuerd, if the memmory ov mi bruther wer not saicred too me, u shood rot in a state dunjon or sattisfi the cureyosity ov salorz at Tibern. I wil be cilent, but u must enjure yor captivvity qwiyetly. In fiftene or twenty dase I shal cet out for Laa Roshel withe the army; but on the eve ov mi deparchure a vescel which I shal ce depart wil take u hens and conva u too our collonese in the south. And be ashuerd dhat u shal be acumpanede bi wun whoo wil blo yor brainz out at the ferst atempt u make too retern too In'gland or the Continent."

Milady liscend withe an atenshon dhat dilated her inflaimd ise.

"Yes, at prezsent," continnude Lord de Winter, "u wil remane in this caacel. The waulz ar thhic, the doerz strong, and the barz sollid;

beciadz, yor windo openz imejaitly over the ce. The men ov mi cru, whoo ar devoted too me for life and deth, mount gard around this apartment, and wauch aul the passagez dhat lede too the coertyard. Even if u gaind the yard, dhare wood stil be thre iarn gaitz for u too paas. The order iz pozsitive. A step, a geschure, a werd, on yor part, denoting an effort too escape, and u ar too be fiard uppon. If dha kil u, In'gliz justice wil be under an obligaishon too me for havving saivd it trubbel. Aa! I ce yor fechuerz regane dhare caalmnes, yor countenans recuvverz its ashurans. U ar saying too yorself: Fiftene dase, twenty dase? Baa! I hav an inventive miand; befoer dhat iz expiard sum ideyaa wil oker too me. I hav an infernal spirrit. I shal mete withe a victim. Befoer fiftene dase ar gon bi I shal be awa from here.'

Aa, tri it!"

Milady, fianding her thauts betrade, dug her nailz intoo her flesh too subju evvery emoashon dhat mite ghiv too her face enny expreshon exept aggonny.

Lord de Winter continnude: "The officer whoo comaandz here in mi abcens u hav aulreddy cene, and dhaerfoer no him. He nose hou, az u must hav observd, too oba an order—for u did not, I am shure, cum from Poertsmouth hither widhout endeuvoring too make him speke. Whaut doo u sa ov him? Cood a statchu ov marbel hav bene moer impascive and moer mute?

U hav aulreddy tride the pouwer ov yor ceducshonz uppon menny men, and unforchunaitly u hav aulwase suxeded; but I ghiv u leve too tri them uppon this wun. *PARDIEU!* if u suxede withe him, I pronouns u the demon himcelf."

He went tooword the doer and opend it haistily.

"Caul Mr. Felton," ced he. "Wate a minnute lon'gher, and I wil introjuce him too u."

Dhare follode betwene these too personagez a strainj cilens, juring which the sound ov a slo and reggular step wauz herd aproching. Shortly a human form apeerd in the shade ov the coridor, and the yung leftenant, withe whoome we ar aulreddy aqwainted, stopt at the threshoald too receve the orderz ov the barron.

"Cum in, mi dere Jon," ced Lord de Winter, "cum in, and shut the doer."

The yung officer enterd.

"Nou," ced the barron, "looc at this woomman. She iz yung; she iz butifool; she posescez aul erthly ceducshonz. Wel, she iz a monster, whoo, at twenty-five yeerz ov age, haz bene ghilty ov az menny criamz az u cood rede ov in a yere in the arkiavz ov our tribunalz. Her vois predjudicez her hererz in her favor; her buty cervz az a bate too her victimz; her boddy even pase whaut she prommicez—I must doo her dhat

justice. She wil tri too cejuce u, perhaps she wil tri too kil u.

I hav extricated u from mizsery, Felton; I hav cauzd u too be naimd leftenant; I wuns saivd yor life, u no on whaut ocaizhon. I am for u not oonly a protector, but a frend; not oonly a bennefactor, but a faather. This woomman haz cum bac agane intoo In'gland for the perpoce ov

conspiring against mi life. I hoald this serpent in mi handz. Wel, I caul u, and sa too u: Frend Felton, Jon, mi chiald, gard me, and moer particullarly gard yorcelf, against this woomman. Sware, bi yor hoaps ov salvaishon, too kepe her saifly for the chastiazment she haz merrited. Jon Felton, I trust yor werd! Jon Felton, I poot faith in yor loiyalty!"

"Mi Lord," ced the yung officer, summoning too hiz miald countenans aul the haitred he cood fiand in hiz hart, "mi Lord, I sware aul shal be dun az u desire."

Milady receevd this looc like a resiand victim; it wauz imposcibel too imadgine a moer submiscive or a moer miald expreshon dhan dhat which prevaild on her butifool countenans. Lord de Winter himcelf cood scaersly reccognise the tiagres whoo, a minnute befoer, prepaerd aparrently for a fite.

"She iz not too leve this chaimber, understand, Jon," continnude the barron. "She iz too corespond withe nobody; she iz too speke too no wun but u—if u wil doo her the onnor too adres a werd too her."

"Dhat iz sufishent, mi Lord! I hav swoern."

"And nou, madam, tri too make yor pece withe God, for u ar jujd bi men!"

Milady let her hed cinc, az if crusht bi this centens. Lord de Winter went out, making a cine too Felton, whoo follode him, shutting the doer aafter him.

Wun instant aafter, the hevvy step ov a marene whoo cervd az centinel wauz herd in the coridor—hiz ax in hiz gherdel and hiz musket on hiz shoalder.

Milady remaind for sum minnuets in the same posishon, for she thaut dha mite perhaps be exammining her throo the kehole; she then sloly raizd her hed, which had rezhuemd its formiddabel expreshon ov mennace and defiyans, ran too the doer too liscen, looct out ov her windo, and reterning too berry hercelf agane in her larj armchare, she reflected.



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Meenwhile, the cardinal looct ancshously for nuse from In'gland; but no nuse ariavd dhat wauz not anoiying and threttening.

Auldho Laa Roshel wauz invested, houwevver certane suxes mite apere—thanx too the precaushonz taken, and abuv aul too the dike, which prevented the entrans ov enny vescel intoo the beceezhd citty—the blockade mite laast a long time yet. This wauz a grate afrunt too the kingz army, and a grate inconveenyens too the cardinal, whoo had no lon'gher, it iz tru, too embroil Loowy 13 withe An ov Austreyaa—for dhat afare wauz over—but he had too ajust matterz for M. de Basompeyare, whoo wauz embroild withe the Dooke dAun'goolaem.

Az too Msyer, whoo had begun the ceje, he left too the cardinal the taasc ov finnishing it.

The citty, notwithstanding the increddibel perceverans ov its mayor, had atempted a sort ov mutiny for a surrender; the mayor had hangd the mutineerz. This execueshon qwiyeted the il-dispoazd, whoo rezolvd too alou themcelvz too di ov hun'gher—this deth aulwase apering too them moer slo and les shure dhan stran'gulaishon.

On dhare cide, from time too time, the becejerz tooc the mescen'gerz which the Roshella cent too Buckingham, or the spise which Buckingham cent too the Roshella. In wun cace or the uther, the triyal wauz soone over. The cardinal pronounst the cin'ghel werd, "Hangd!" The king wauz invited too cum and ce the hanging. He came lan'gwidly, placing himself in a good cichuwaishon too ce aul the detailz. This amuezd him sumtiamz

a littel, and made him enjure the ceje withe paishens; but it did not prevent hiz ghetting verry tiard, or from tauking at evvery moment ov reterning too Parris—so dhat if the mescen'gerz and the spise had faild, hiz Emminens, notwidhstanding aul hiz inventiavnes, wood hav found himcelf much embarrast.

Nevvertheles, time paast on, and the Roshella did not surrender. The laast spi dhat wauz taken wauz the barer ov a letter. This letter toald Buckingham dhat the citty wauz at an extremmity; but insted ov adding, "If yor succor duz not arive within fiftene dase, we wil surrender," it added, qwite cimply, "If yor succor cumz not within fiftene dase, we shal aul be ded withe hun'gher when it cumz."

The Roshella, then, had no hope but in Buckingham. Buckingham wauz dhare Meciyaa. It wauz evvident dhat if dha wun da lernd pozsitiavly dhat dha must not count on Buckingham, dhare currage wood fale withe dhare hope.

The cardinal looct, then, withe grate impaishens for the nuse from In'gland which wood anouns too him dhat Buckingham wood not cum.

The qweschon ov carreying the citty bi asault, dho often debated in the council ov the king, had bene aulwase regected. In the ferst plaas, Laa Roshel apeerd impregnabel. Then the cardinal, whautevver he ced, verry wel nu dhat the horror ov bludshed in this encounter, in which Frenchman wood combat against Frenchman, wauz a retrograde muivment ov cixty yeerz imprest uppon hiz pollicy; and the cardinal wauz at dhat pereyod whaut we nou caul a man ov proagres. In fact, the sac ov Laa Roshel, and the asacinaishon ov thre ov foer thousand Ughenose whoo aloud themcelvz too be kild, wood resembel too cloasly, in 1628, the massaker ov St. Barthollomu in 1572; and then, abuv aul this, this extreme mezhure, which wauz not at aul repugnant too the king, good Catholic az he wauz, aulwase fel befoer this argument ov the becejing genneralz—Laa Roshel iz impregnabel exept too fammine.

The cardinal cood not drive from hiz miand the fere he entertaind ov hiz terribel emmisary—for he comprehended the strainj qwaulitese ov this woomman, sumtiamz a serpent, sumtiamz a liyon. Had she betrade him? Wauz she ded? He nu her wel enuf in aul cacez too no dhat, whether acting for or against him, az a frend or an ennemy, she wood not remane moashonles widhout grate impeddiments; but whens did these impeddiments arise? Dhat wauz whaut he cood not no.

And yet he recond, and withe rezon, on Milady. He had diviand in the paast ov this woomman terribel thhingz which hiz red mantel alone cood cuvver; and he felt, from wun cauz or anuther, dhat this woomman wauz hiz one, az she cood looc too no uther but himcelf for a supoert supereyor too the dain'ger which threttend her.

He rezolvd, then, too carry on the wor alone, and too looc for no suxes forane too himcelf, but az we looc for a forchunate chaans. He continnude too pres the rasing ov the famous dike which wauz too starv Laa Roshel. Meenwhile, he caast hiz ise over dhat unforchunate citty, which containd so much depe mizsery and so menny herowic verchuse, and recauling the saying ov Loowy 11, hiz polittical predecessor, az he himcelf wauz the predecessor ov Roabspeyare, he repeted this maxim ov Tristanz goscip: "Divide in order too rane."

Henry 4, when becejing Parris, had loavz and provizhonz throne over the waulz. The cardinal had littel noats throne over in which he represented too the Roshella hou unjust, celfish, and barbarous wauz the conduct ov dhare lederz. These lederz had corn in abundans, and wood not let them partake ov it; dha adopted az a maxim—for dha, too, had maximz—dhat it wauz ov verry littel conceqwens dhat wimmen, children,

and oald men shood di, so long az the men whoo wer too defend the waulz remaind strong and helthhy. Up too dhat time, whether from devotednes or from waunt ov pouwer too act against it, this maxim, widhout beying genneraly adopted, nevvertheles paast from ththeyory intoo practice; but the noats did it injury. The noats remianded the men dhat the children, wimmen, and oald men whoome dha aloud too di wer dhare sunz, dhare wiavz, and dhare faatherz, and dhat it wood be moer just for evveriwun too

be rejuest too the common mizsery, in order dhat eeqwal condishonz shood ghiv berth too unannimous rezolueshonz.

These noats had aul the efect dhat he whoo rote them cood expect, in dhat dha injuest a grate number ov the inhabbitants too open private negoasheyaishonz withe the roiyal army.

But at the moment when the cardinal sau hiz meenz aulreddy baring frute, and aplauded himcelf for havving poot it in acshon, an inhabbitant ov Laa Roshel whoo had contriavd too paas the roiyal lianz—God nose hou, such wauz the wauchfoolnes ov Basompeyare, Shomberg, and the Dooke dAun'goolaem, themcelvz waucht over bi the cardinal—an inhabbitant ov Laa Roshel, we sa, enterd the citty, cumming from Poertsmouth, and saying dhat he had cene a magnificent flete reddy too sale within ate dase. Stil ferther, Buckingham anounst too the mayor dhat at length the grate leghe wauz about too declare itcelf against Fraans, and dhat the kingdom wood be at wuns invaded bi the In'glish, Impereyal, and Spannish armese. This letter wauz red publicly in aul parts ov the citty. Coppese wer poot up at the cornerz ov the streets; and even dha whoo had begun too open negoasheyaishonz interupted them, beying rezolvd too awate the succor so pompously anounst.

This unnexpected cercumstaans braut bac Reeshluse former anxiety, and foerst him in spite ov himcelf wuns moer too tern hiz ise too the uther cide ov the ce.

Juring this time, exempt from the anxiety ov its oonly and tru chefe, the roiyal army led a joiyous life, niather provizhonz nor munny beying waunting in the camp. Aul the coer rivald wun anuther in audascity and gayety. Too take spise and hang them, too make hazzardous expedishonz uppon the dike or the ce, too imadgine wiald planz, and too execute them cooly—such wer the paastiamz which made the army fiand these dase short

which wer not oonly so long too the Roshella, a pra too fammine and anxiety, but even too the cardinal, whoo blocaded them so cloasly.

Sumtiamz when the cardinal, aulwase on horsbac, like the lowest *GENDARME* ov the army, caast a pencive glaans over dhose werx, so sloly keping pace withe hiz wishez, which the en'gineerz, braut from aul the cornerz ov Fraans, wer executing under hiz orderz, if he met a Musketerre ov the cumpany ov Treveye, he dru nere and looct at him in a peculeyar manner, and not reccognising in him wun ov our foer companyonz, he ternd hiz pennetrating looc and profound thauts in anuther direcshon.

Wun da when oprest withe a mortal werines ov miand, widhout hope in the negoasheyaishonz withe the citty, widhout nuse from In'gland, the cardinal

went out, widhout enny uther ame dhan too be out ov doerz, and acumpanede

oonly bi Caa'oosac and Laa Oodanyare, stroald along the beche. Min'gling the imencity ov hiz dreemz withe the imencity ov the oashan, he came, hiz hors gowing at a foots pace, too a hil from the top ov which he perceevd behiand a hej, reclining on the sand and catching in its passage wun ov dhose rase ov the sun so rare at this pereyod ov the yere, cevven men surounded bi empty bottelz. Foer ov these men wer our Musketeerz, preparing too liscen too a letter wun ov them had just receevd. This letter wauz so important dhat it made them forsake dhare

cardz and dhare dice on the drumhed.

The uther thre wer occupide in opening an enormous flaggon ov Collicure wine; these wer the lackese ov these gentelmen.

The cardinal wauz, az we hav ced, in verry lo spirrits; and nuthing when he wauz in dhat state ov miand increest hiz depreshon so much az gayety in utherz. Beciadz, he had anuther strainj fancy, which wauz aulwase too beleve dhat the causez ov hiz sadnes creyated the gayety ov utherz.

Making a cine too Laa Oodanyare and Caa'ooosac too stop, he alited from hiz hors, and went tooword these suspected merry companyonz, hoping, bi meenz ov the sand which deddend the sound ov hiz steps and ov the hej which conceeld hiz aproche, too cach sum werdz ov this conversaishon which apeerd so interesting. At ten pacez from the hej he reccogniazd the taucative Gascon; and az he had aulreddy perceevd dhat these men wer Musketeerz, he did not dout dhat the thre utherz wer dhose cauld the Incepparabelz; dhat iz too sa, Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis.

It ma be supoazd dhat hiz desire too here the conversaishon wauz augmented bi this discuvvery. Hiz ise tooc a strainj expreshon, and withe the step ov a tigher-cat he advaanst tooword the hej; but he had not bene Abel too cach moer dhan a fu vaghe cillabelz widhout enny pozsitive cens, when a sonnorous and short cri made him start, and atracted the atenshon ov the Musketeerz.

"Officer!" cride Gremo.

"U ar speking, u scoundrel!" ced Aithos, rising uppon hiz elbo, and traansfixing Gremo withe hiz flaming looc.

Gremo dhaerfoer added nuthing too hiz speche, but contented himcelf withe pointing hiz index fin'gher in the direcshon ov the hej, anouncing bi this geschure the cardinal and hiz escort.

Withe a cin'ghel bound the Musketeerz wer on dhare fete, and saluted withe respect.

The cardinal ceemd fureyous.

"It apeerz dhat Maisyer the Musketeerz kepe gard," ced he. "Ar the In'glish expected bi land, or doo the Musketeerz concidder themcelvz supereyor officerz?"

"Moncennure," replide Aithos, for amid the genneral frite he alone had preservd the nobel caalmnes and cuilnes dhat nevver forsooc him, "Moncennure, the Musketeerz, when dha ar not on juty, or when dhare juty iz over, drinc and pla at dice, and dha ar certainly supereyor officerz too dhare lackese."

"Lackese?" grumbeld the cardinal. "Lackese whoo hav the order too worn dhare maasterz when enniwun paacez ar not lackese, dha ar centinelz."

"Yor Emminens ma perceve dhat if we had not taken this precaushon, we shoold hav bene expoazd too alouwing u too paas widhout presenting u our respects or offering u our thanx for the favor u hav dun us in uniting us. DArtanyan," continnude Aithos, "u, whoo but laitley wer so ancshous for such an oportchunity for exprescing yor grattichude too Moncennure, here it iz; avale yorcelf ov it."

These werdz wer pronounst withe dhat imperterbabel flem which distin'gwisht Aithos in the our ov dain'ger, and withe dhat exescive poliatnes which made ov him at certane moments a king moer magestic dhan kingz bi berth.

DArtanyan came forword and stammerd out a fu werdz ov grattichude which soone expiard under the gloomy loox ov the cardinal.

"It duz not cignifi, gentelmen," continnude the cardinal, widhout apering too be in the leest swervd from hiz ferst intenshon bi the diverzhon which Aithos had started, "it duz not cignifi, gentelmen. I doo not like too hav cimpel soalgerz, becauz dha hav the advaantage ov cerving in a privvileejd coer, dhus too pla the grate lordz; discipline iz the same for them az for evveriboddy els."

Aithos aloud the cardinal too finnish hiz centens compleetly, and boud in cine ov acent. Then he rezhuemd in hiz tern: "Discipline, Moncennure, haz, I hope, in no wa bene forgotten bi us. We ar not on juty, and we beleevd dhat not beying on juty we wer at libberty too dispose ov our time az we pleezd. If we ar so forchunate az too hav sum particcular juty too perform for yor Emminens, we ar reddy too oba u. Yor Emminens ma perceve," continnude Aithos, nitting hiz brou, for this sort ov investigaishon began too anoi him, "dhat we hav not cum out widhout our armz."

And he shode the cardinal, withe hiz fin'gher, the foer muskets piald nere the drum, on which wer the cardz and dice.

"Yor Emminens ma beleve," added dArtanyan, "dhat we wood hav cum too mete u, if we cood hav supoazd it wauz Moncennure cumming tooword us withe so fu attendants."

The cardinal bit hiz mustaash, and even hiz lips a littel.

"Doo u no whaut u looc like, aul tooghether, az u ar armd and garded bi yor lackese?" ced the cardinal. "U looc like foer conspirratorz."

"O, az too dhat, Moncennure, it iz tru," ced Aithos; "we doo conspire, az yor Emminens mite hav cene the uther morning. Oonly we conspire



against the Roshella."

"Aa, u gentelmen ov pollicy!" replide the cardinal, nitting hiz brou in hiz tern, "the ceecret ov menny un'none ththingz mite perhaps be found in yor brainz, if we cood rede them az u rede dhat letter which u conceeld az soone az u sau me cumming."

The cullor mounted too the face ov Aithos, and he made a step tooword hiz Emminens.

"Wun mite thhinc u reyaly suspected us, moncennure, and we wer undergowing a reyal interoggatoery. If it be so, we trust yor Emminens wil dane too explane yorcelf, and we shood then at leest be aqwainted withe our reyal posishon."

"And if it wer an interoggatoery!" replide the cardinal. "Utherz beciadz u hav undergon such, Msyer Aithos, and hav replide dhaertoo."

"Dhus I hav toald yor Emminens dhat u had but too qweschon us, and we ar reddy too repli."

"Whaut wauz dhat letter u wer about too rede, Msyer Arramis, and which u so promptly conceeld?"

"A woommanz letter, moncennure."

"Aa, yes, I ce," ced the cardinal; "we must be discrete withe this sort ov letterz; but nevvvertheles, we ma sho them too a confessor, and u no I hav taken orderz."

"Moncennure," ced Aithos, withe a caalmnes the moer terribel becauz he risct hiz hed in making this repli, "the letter iz a woommanz letter, but it iz niather ciand Mareyon de Lorm, nor Madam dAgheyon."

The cardinal became as pale as death; lightning darted from his eyes. He turned round as if to give an order to Caa'osac and Oodanyare. Aithos saw the movement; he made a step towards the muskets, upon which the three friends had fixed their eyes, like men ill-disposed to allow themselves to be taken. The cardinalists were three; the Musketeers, lackey included, were seven. He judged that the march would be so much the less equal, if Aithos and his companions were really plotting; and by the use of those rapid terns which he always had at command, his anxiety faded away into a smile.

"Well, well!" said he, "you are brave young men, proud in daylight, faithful in darkness. We can find no fault with you for vaunting over yourselves, when you vaunt so carelessly over others. Gentlemen, I have not forgotten the night in which you served me as an escort to the Red Duvcot. If there were any danger to be apprehended on the road I am going, I would request you to accompany me; but as there is none, remain where you are, finish your bottles, your game, and your letter. Adieu, gentlemen!"

And remounting his horse, which Caa'osac led to him, he saluted them with his hand, and rode away.

The four young men, standing and motionless, followed him with their eyes without speaking a single word until he had disappeared. Then they looked at one another.

The countenance of all gave evidence of terror, for notwithstanding the friendly air of his Eminence, they plainly perceived that the cardinal went away with the rage in his heart.

Aithos alone smiald, withe a celf-posest, disdainfool smile.

When the cardinal wauz out ov hering and cite, "Dhat Gremo kept bad wauch!" cride Porthos, whoo had a grate inclinaishon too vent hiz il-humor on sumbody.

Gremo wauz about too repli too excuse himcelf. Aithos lifted hiz fin'gher, and Gremo wauz cilent.

"Wood u hav ghivven up the letter, Arramis?" ced dArtanyan.

"I," ced Arramis, in hiz moast fluetlike tone, "I had made up mi miand. If he had incisted uppon the letter beying ghivven up too him, I wood hav presented the letter too him withe wun hand, and withe the uther I wood hav run mi soerd throo hiz boddy."

"I expected az much," ced Aithos; "and dhat wauz whi I thru micelf betwene u and him. Indede, this man iz verry much too blame for tauking dhus too uther men; wun wood sa he had nevver had too doo withe enny but wimmen and children."

"Mi dere Aithos, I admire u, but nevvertheles we wer in the rong, aafter aul."

"Hou, in the rong?" ced Aithos. "Whoose, then, iz the are we breathe? Whoose iz the oashan uppon which we looc? Whoose iz the sand uppon which we wer reclining? Whoose iz dhat letter ov yor mistres? Doo these belong too the cardinal? Uppon mi onnor, this man fancese the werld belongz too him. Dhare u stood, stammering, schupefide, aniyilated. Wun mite hav supoazd the Bastele apeerd befoer u, and dhat the gigantic Mejusaa had converted u intoo stone. Iz beying in luv conspiring? U ar in

luv withe a woomman whoome the cardinal haz cauzd too be shut up, and u wish too ghet her out ov the handz ov the cardinal. Dhats a mach u ar playing withe hiz Emminens; this letter iz yor game. Whi shoold u expose yor game too yor adversary? Dhat iz nevver dun. Let him fiand it out if he can! We can fiand out hiz!"

"Wel, dhats aul verry cencibel, Aithos," ced dArtanyan.

"In dhat cace, let dhare be no moer qweschon ov whauts paast, and let Arramis rezhume the letter from hiz cuzsin whare the cardinal interupted him."

Arramis dru the letter from hiz pocket; the thre frendz surrounded him, and the thre lackese griupt themcelvz agane nere the wine jar.

"U had oanly red a line or too," ced dArtanyan; "rede the letter agane from the comensment."

"Willingly," ced Arramis.

"Mi dere Cuzsin, I thhinc I shal make up mi miand too cet out for Bethune, whare mi cister haz plaist our littel cervant in the convent ov the Carmeliats; this poor chiald iz qwite resiand, az she nose she canot liv elswhare widhout the salvaishon ov her sole beying in dain'ger. Nevvertheles, if the afaerz ov our fammily ar arainjd, az we hope dha wil be, I beleve she wil run the risc ov beying damd, and wil retern too dhose she regrets, particullarly az she nose dha ar aulwase thhinking ov her. Meenwhile, she iz not verry retched; whaut she moast desiarz iz a letter from her intended. I no dhat such viyandz paas withe difficulty throo convent gratingz; but aafter aul, az I hav ghivven u pruijs, mi dere cuzsin, I am not unskild in such afaerz, and I wil take charj ov the comishon. Mi cister thanx u for yor good and eternal remembrans. She haz expereyenst much anxiyety; but she iz nou at

length a littel reyashuerd, havving cent her secretery awa in order dhat nuthhing ma happen unnexpectedly.

"Aju, mi dere cuzsin. Tel us nuse ov yorself az often az u can; dhat iz too sa, az often az u can withe saifty. I embrace u.

"Mary Meeshon."

"O, whaut doo I not o u, Arramis?" ced dArtanyan. "Dere Constans! I hav at length, then, intelligens ov u. She livz; she iz in saifty in a convent; she iz at Bethune! Whare iz Bethune, Aithos?"

"Whi, uppon the frunteyerz ov Artwaa and ov Flaanderz. The ceje wuns over, we shal be abel too make a toor in dhat direcshon."

"And dhat wil not be long, it iz too be hoapt," ced Porthos; "for dha hav this morning hangd a spi whoo confest dhat the Roshella wer rejuest too the lether ov dhare shoose. Suposing dhat aafter havving eten the lether dha ete the soalz, I canot ce much dhat iz left unles dha ete wun anuther."

"Poor fuilz!" ced Aithos, empteying a glaas ov exelent Bordo wine which, widhout havving at dhat pereyod the reputaishon it nou enjoiz, merrited it no les, "poor fuilz! Az if the Catholic relidjon wauz not the moast advaantajous and the moast agreyabel ov aul relidjonz! Aul the same," rezhuemd he, aafter havving clict hiz tung against hiz pallate, "dha ar brave fellose! But whaut the devvil ar u about, Arramis?" continnude Aithos. "Whi, u ar sqwesing dhat letter intoo yor pocket!"

"Yes," ced dArtanyan, "Aithos iz rite, it must be bernd. And yet if we bern it, whoo nose whether Msyer Cardinal haz not a ceecret too interrogate ashez?"

"He must hav wun," ced Aithos.

"Whaut wil u doo withe the letter, then?" aasct Porthos.

"Cum here, Gremo," ced Aithos. Gremo rose and obade. "Az a punnishment for havving spoken widhout permishon, mi frend, u wil plese too ete this pece ov paper; then too recompens u for the cervice u wil hav renderd us, u shal aafterword drinc this glaas ov wine. Ferst, here iz the letter. Ete hartily."

Gremo smiald; and withe hiz ise fixt uppon the glaas which Aithos held in hiz hand, he ground the paper wel betwene hiz teeth and then swaulode it.

"Braavo, Msyer Gremo!" ced Aithos; "and nou take this. Dhats wel. We dispens withe yor saying grace."

Gremo cilently swaulode the glaas ov Bordo wine; but hiz ise, raizd tooword hevven juring this delishous ocupaishon, spoke a lan'gwage which, dho mute, wauz not the les exprescive.

"And nou," ced Aithos, "unles Msyer Cardinal shood form the in'geenyous ideyaa ov ripping up Gremo, I thhinc we ma be pritty much at our ese respecting the letter."

Meentime, hiz Emminens continnude hiz mellancoly ride, mermering betwene hiz mustaashez, "These foer men must pozsitiavly be mine."

Let us retern too Milady, whoome a glaans throne uppon the coast ov  
Fraans  
haz made us loose cite ov for an instant.

We shal fiand her stil in the desparing attichude in which we left her,  
plunjd in an abis ov dizmal reflecshon—a darc hel at the gate ov  
which she haz aulmoast left hope behiand, becauz for the ferst time she  
douts, for the ferst time she feerz.

On too ocaizhonz her forchune haz faild her, on too ocaizhonz she haz  
found hercelf discuverd and betrade; and on these too ocaizhonz it wauz  
too wun fatal geenyus, cent doutlesly bi the Lord too combat her, dhat  
she haz sucumd. DArtanyan haz conkerd her—her, dhat invincibel  
pouwer ov evil.

He haz deceevd her in her luv, humbeld her in her pride, thworted her  
in her ambishon; and nou he ruwinz her forchune, depriavz her ov libberty,  
and even threttenz her life. Stil moer, he haz lifted the corner ov her  
maasc—dhat sheeld withe which she cuvverd hercelf and which renderd  
her  
so strong.

DArtanyan haz ternd acide from Buckingham, whoome she haits az she  
haits  
evveriwun she haz luvd, the tempest withe which Reeshlu threttend him  
in the person ov the qwene. DArtanyan had paast himcelf uppon her az de  
Vard, for whoome she had conceevd wun ov dhose tigherlike fancese  
common  
too wimmen ov her carracter. DArtanyan nose dhat terribel ceecret which  
she haz swoern no wun shal no widhout diying. In short, at the moment  
in which she haz just obtaind from Reeshlu a cart blaansh bi  
the meenz ov which she iz about too take venjans on her ennemy, this  
preshous paper iz toern from her handz, and it iz dArtanyan whoo hoaldz  
her prizzoner and iz about too cend her too sum filthhy Bottany Ba, sum

infamous Tibern ov the Injan Oashan.

Aul this she ose too dArtanyan, widhout dout. From whoome can cum so menny disgracez heept uppon her hed, if not from him? He alone cood hav traanzmitted too Lord de Winter aul these friatfool ceecrets which he haz discuvverd, wun aafter anuther, bi a trane ov fatallitese. He nose her bruther-in-lau. He must hav ritten too him.

Whaut haitred she distilz! Moashonles, withe her bering and fixt glaancez, in her sollitary apartment, hou wel the outbersts ov pashon which at tiamz escape from the depths ov her chest withe her respiraishon, acumpany the sound ov the cerf which risez, groulz, roerz, and braix itcelf like an eternal and pouwerles despere against the rox on which iz bilt this darc and lofty caacel! Hou menny magnificent prodjects ov venjans she conceevz bi the lite ov the flashez which her tempeschuwous pashon caasts over her miand against Mme. Bonasyuu, against Buckingham, but abuv aul against dArtanyan—prodjects lost in the distans ov the fuchure.

Yes; but in order too avenj herself she must be fre. And too be fre, a prizzoner haz too peers a waul, detach barz, cut throo a floer—aul undertakingz which a paishent and strong man ma acumplish, but befoer which the feverish iritaishonz ov a woomman must ghiv wa. Beciadz, too doo aul this, time iz nescenary—munths, yeerz; and she haz ten or twelv dase, az Lord de Winter, her fraternal and terribel jaler, haz toald her.

And yet, if she wer a man she wood atempt aul this, and perhaps mite suxede; whi, then, did hevven make the mistake ov placing dhat manlike sole in dhat frale and dellicate boddy?

The ferst moments ov her captivvity wer terribel; a fu convulshonz ov



rage which she could not suppress made her detest of feminine weakness too nature. But by degrees she overcame the outbursts of her mad passion; and nervous tremblings which agitated her frame disappeared, and she remained folded within herself like a fastidious serpent in repose.

"Go too, go too! I must have been mad too alone myself too be carried away so," said she, gazing into the glass, which reflected back to her the burning glances by which she appeared too interrogate herself. "No violence; violence is the proof of weakness. In the first place, I have never succeeded by that means. Perhaps if I employ my strength against women I might perhaps find them weaker than myself, and consequently conquer them; but it is with the men that I struggle, and I am but a woman to them. Let me fight like a woman, then; my strength is in my weakness."

Then, as if to render an account too herself of the change she could place upon her countenance, so mobile and so expressive, she made it take all expressions from that of passionate anger, which convulsed her features, too that of the most sweet, most affectionate, and most charming smile. Then her hair assumed luxuriantly, under her skillful hands, all the beauties she thought might assist the charms of her face. At length she murmured, satisfied with herself, "Well, nothing is lost; I am still beautiful."

It was then nearly at dusk in the evening. Milady perceived a bed; she calculated that the repose of a few hours would not only refresh her head and her ideas, but still further, her complexion. A better idea, however, came into her mind before going to bed. She had heard something about supper. She had already been an hour in this apartment; she could not long delay bringing her a repast. The prisoner did not wish to lose time; and she resolved too make that very evening some attempts too

ascertane the nachure ov the ground she had too werc uppon, bi  
studdeying the  
carracterz ov the men too whoose garjanship she wauz comitted.

A lite apeerd under the doer; this lite anounst the reyaperans  
ov her jalerz. Milady, whoo had arizens, thru hercelf qwicly intoo  
the armchare, her hed throne bac, her butifool hare unbound and  
dishevveld, her boozzom haaf bare beneeth her crumpeld lace, wun hand  
on  
her hart, and the uther hanging down.

The bolts wer draun; the doer groand uppon its hin'gez. Steps sounded in  
the chaimber, and dru nere.

"Place dhat tabel dhare," ced a vois which the prizzoner reccogniazd az  
dhat ov Felton.

The order wauz executed.

"U wil bring liats, and releve the centinel," continnude Felton.

And this dubbel order which the yung leftennant gave too the same  
individjuwalz pruid too Milady dhat her cervants wer the same men az  
her  
gardz; dhat iz too sa, soalgerz.

Feltonz orderz wer, for the rest, executed withe a cilent rapiddity dhat  
gave a good ideyaa ov the wa in which he maintaind discipline.

At length Felton, whoo had not yet looct at Milady, ternd tooword her.

"Aa, aa!" ced he, "she iz aslepe; dhats wel. When she waix she can  
sup." And he made sum steps tooword the doer.

"But, mi leftenant," ced a soalger, les stowical dhan hiz chefe, and whoo had aproacht Milady, "this woomman iz not aslepe."

"Whaut, not aslepe!" ced Felton; "whaut iz she doowing, then?"

"She haz fainted. Her face iz verry pale, and I hav liscend in vane; I doo not here her breathe."

"U ar rite," ced Felton, aafter havving looct at Milady from the spot on which he stood widhout mooving a step tooword her. "Go and tel Lord de Winter dhat hiz prizzoner haz fainted—for this event not havving bene foercene, I doant no whaut too doo."

The soalger went out too oba the orderz ov hiz officer. Felton sat down uppon an armchare which happend too be nere the doer, and wated widhout speking a werd, widhout making a geschure. Milady posest dhat grate art, so much studdede bi wimmen, ov loocking throo her long ilashez widhout apering too open the lidz. She perceevd Felton, whoo sat withe hiz bac tooword her. She continnude too looc at him for neerly ten minnuets, and in these ten minnuets the imoovabel garjan nevver ternd round wuns.

She then thaut dhat Lord de Winter wood cum, and bi hiz prezsens ghiv fresh strength too her jaler. Her ferst triyal wauz lost; she acted like a woomman whoo reconz up her rezoercez. Az a rezult she raizd her hed, opend her ise, and cide deeply.

At this ci Felton ternd round.

"Aa, u ar awake, madam," he ced; "then I hav nuthhing moer too doo here. If u waunt ennithhing u can ring."

"O, mi God, mi God! hou I hav sufferd!" ced Milady, in dhat

harmoanyous vois which, like dhat ov the ainshent enchaantrecez, charmd aul whoome she wisht too destroi.

And she ashuemd, uppon citting up in the armchare, a stil moer graisfool and abandond posishon dhan when she recliaand.

Felton arose.

"U wil be cervd, dhus, madam, thre tiamz a da," ced he. "In the morning at nine oacloc, in the da at wun oacloc, and in the evening at ate. If dhat duz not sute u, u can point out whaut uther ourz u prefer, and in this respect yor wishez wil be complide withe."

"But am I too remane aulwase alone in this vaast and dizmal chaimber?"  
aasct  
Milady.

"A woomman ov the naborhood haz bene cent for, whoo wil be toomoro at the caacel, and wil retern az often az u desire her prezsens."

"I thanc u, cer," replide the prizzoner, humbly.

Felton made a slite bou, and directed hiz steps tooword the doer. At the moment he wauz about too go out, Lord de Winter apeerd in the coridor, follode bi the soalger whoo had bene cent too inform him ov the swoone ov Milady. He held a viyal ov saults in hiz hand.

"Wel, whaut iz it—whaut iz gowing on here?" ced he, in a gering vois, on ceying the prizzoner citting up and Felton about too go out. "Iz this corps cum too life aulreddy? Felton, mi lad, did u not perceve dhat u wer taken for a novvice, and dhat the ferst act wauz beying performd ov a commedy ov which we shal doutles hav the plezhure ov following out aul the devellopments?"

"I thaut so, mi lord," ced Felton; "but az the prizzoner iz a woomman, aafter aul, I wish too pa her the atenshon dhat evvery man ov gentel berth ose too a woomman, if not on her acount, at leest on mi one."

Milady shudderd throo her whole cistem. These werdz ov Feltonz paast like ice throo her vainz.

"So," replide de Winter, laafing, "dhat butifool hare so skilfooly dishevvel, dhat white skin, and dhat lan'gwishing looc, hav not yet cejuest u, u hart ov stone?"

"No, mi Lord," replide the impascive yung man; "yor Lordship ma be ashuerd dhat it reqwiarz moer dhan the trix and coketry ov a woomman too corrupt me."

"In dhat cace, mi brave leftenant, let us leve Milady too fiand out sumthhing els, and go too supper; but be esy! She haz a fruetfool imaginaishon, and the cecond act ov the commedy wil not dela its steps aafter the ferst."

And at these werdz Lord de Winter paast hiz arm throo dhat ov Felton, and led him out, laafing.

"O, I wil be a mach for u!" mermerd Milady, betwene her teeth; "be ashuerd ov dhat, u poor spoild munc, u poor converted soalger, whoo haz cut hiz uniform out ov a munx froc!"

"Bi the wa," rezhuemd de Winter, stopping at the threshoald ov the doer, "u must not, Milady, let this chec take awa yor appetite. Taist dhat foul and dhose fish. On mi onnor, dha ar not poizond. I hav a verry good cooc, and he iz not too be mi are; I hav fool and perfect confidens in him. Doo az I doo. Aju, dere cister, til yor next swoone!"

This wauz aul dhat Milady cood enjure. Her handz clucht her armchare; she ground her teeth inwordly; her ise follode the moashon ov the doer az it cloazd behiand Lord de Winter and Felton, and the moment she wauz alone a fresh fit ov despere ceezd her. She caast her ise uppon the tabel, sau the glittering ov a nife, rusht tooword it and clucht it; but her disapointment wauz cruwel. The blade wauz round, and ov flexibel cilver.

A berst ov laafter rezounded from the uther cide ov the il-cloazd doer, and the doer reyepend.

"Haa, haa!" cride Lord de Winter; "haa, haa! Doant u ce, mi brave Felton; doant u ce whaut I toald u? Dhat nife wauz for u, mi lad; she wood hav kild u. Observ, this iz wun ov her peculeyarritese, too ghet rid dhus, aafter wun fashon or anuther, ov aul the pepel whoo bother her. If I had liscend too u, the nife wood hav bene pointed and ov stele. Then no moer ov Felton; she wood hav cut yor throte, and aafter dhat evveriboddy elcez. Ce, Jon, ce hou wel she nose hou too handel a nife."

In fact, Milady stil held the harmles weppon in her clencht hand; but these laast werdz, this supreme insult, relaxt her handz, her strength, and even her wil. The nife fel too the ground.

"U wer rite, mi Lord," ced Felton, withe a tone ov profound disgust which sounded too the verry bottom ov the hart ov Milady, "u wer rite, mi Lord, and I wauz rong."

And boath agane left the roome.

But this time Milady lent a moer atentive ere dhan the ferst, and she herd dhare steps di awa in the distans ov the coridor.

"I am lost," mermerd she; "I am lost! I am in the pouwer ov men uppon whoome I can hav no moer influwens dhan uppon statchuse ov bronz or grannite; dha no me bi hart, and ar steeld against aul mi wepponz. It iz, houwevver, impscibel dhat this shood end az dha hav decrede!"

In fact, az this laast reflecshon indicated—this instinctive retern too hope—centiments ov weecnes or fere did not dwel long in her ardent spirrit. Milady sat down too tabel, ate from cevveral dishez, dranc a littel Spanish wine, and felt aul her rezolueshon retern.

Befoer she went too bed she had ponderd, annaliazd, ternd on aul ciadz, exammiand on aul points, the werdz, the steps, the geschuerz, the cianz, and even the cilens ov her interlocutorz; and ov this profound, skilfool, and ancshous studdy the rezult wauz dhat Felton, evverithhing concidderd, apeerd the moer vulnerabel ov her too percecutorz.

Wun expreshon abuv aul rekerd too the miand ov the prizzoner: "If I had liscend too u," Lord de Winter had ced too Felton.

Felton, then, had spoken in her favor, cins Lord de Winter had not bene willing too liscen too him.

"Weke or strong," repeted Milady, "dhat man haz, then, a sparc ov pitty in hiz sole; ov dhat sparc I wil make a flame dhat shal devour him. Az too the uther, he nose me, he feerz me, and nose whaut he haz too expect ov me if evver I escape from hiz handz. It iz uesles, then, too atempt ennithhing withe him. But Felton—dhats anuther thhing. He iz a yung, in'genuwous, pure man whoo ceemz verchuwous; him dhare ar meenz ov destroyng."

And Milady went too bed and fel aslepe withe a smile uppon her lips. Enniwun whoo had cene her sleping mite hav ced she wauz a yung gherl dreming ov the croun ov flouwerz she wauz too ware on her brou at the next

festival.

### 53 CAPTIVITY: THE SECOND DAY

Milady dreamed that she at length had d'Artagnan in her power, that she was present at his execution; and it was the sight of his joyful blood, flowing beneath the axe of the executioner, which spread that charming smile upon her lips.

She slept as a prisoner sleeps, robbing her first hope.

In the morning, when she entered her chamber she was still in bed. Felton remained in the corridor. He brought with him the woman of whom he had spoken the evening before, and who had just arrived; this woman entered, and approaching Milady's bed, offered her services.

Milady was habitually pale; her complexion might therefore deceive a person who saw her for the first time.

"I am in a fever," said she; "I have not slept a single instant during all this long night. I suffer horribly. Are you really too merciful to me when others were yesterday? Am I allowed permission to remain here?"

"Would you like to have a fisherman's cauld?" said the woman.

Felton listened to this dialogue without speaking a word.

Milady reflected that the more people she had around her the more she



wood hav too werc uppon, and Lord de Winter wood redubbel hiz wauch. Beciadz, the fisishan mite declare the ailment faind; and Milady, aafter havving lost the ferst tric, wauz not willing too loose the cecond.

"Go and fech a fisishan?" ced she. "Whaut cood be the good ov dhat? These gentelmen declaerd yesterda dhat mi ilnes wauz a commedy; it wood be just the same tooda, no dout—for cins yesterda evening dha hav had plenty ov time too cend for a doctor."

"Then," ced Felton, whoo became impaishent, "sa yorcelf, madam, whaut treetment u wish follode."

"A, hou can I tel? Mi God! I no dhat I suffer, dhats aul. Ghiv me ennithhing u like, it iz ov littel conceqwens."

"Go and fech Lord de Winter," ced Felton, tiard ov these eternal complaints.

"O, no, no!" cride Milady; "no, cer, doo not caul him, I cunjure u. I am wel, I waunt nuthhing; doo not caul him."

She gave so much veyemens, such magnettic elloqwens too this exclamaishon, dhat Felton in spite ov himcelf advaanst sum steps intoo the roome.

"He haz cum!" thaut Milady.

"Meenwhile, madam, if u reyaly suffer," ced Felton, "a fisishan shal be cent for; and if u deceve us—wel, it wil be the wers for u. But at least we shal not hav too reproche ourcelvz withe ennithhing."

Milady made no repli, but terner her butifool hed round uppon her pillo, she berst intoo teerz, and utterd hartbraking sobz.

Felton cervade her for an instant withe hiz uezhuwal impasciavnes; then, ceying dhat the cricis threttend too be prolongd, he went out. The woomman follode him, and Lord de Winter did not apere.

"I fancy I beghin too ce mi wa," mermerd Milady, withe a savvage joi, berreying hercelf under the cloadhz too concele from enniboddy whoo mite be wauching her this berst ov inword satisfacshon.

Too ourz paast awa.

"Nou it iz time dhat the mallady shood be over," ced she; "let me rise, and obtane sum suxes this verry da. I hav but ten dase, and this evening too ov them wil be gon."

In the morning, when dha enterd Miladese chaimber dha had braut her brecfast. Nou, she thaut, dha cood not long dela cumming too clere the tabel, and dhat Felton wood then reyapere.

Milady wauz not deceevd. Felton reyapeerd, and widhout observing whether Milady had or had not tucht her repaast, made a cine dhat the tabel shood be carrede out ov the roome, it havving bene braut in reddy spred.

Felton remaind behiand; he held a booc in hiz hand.

Milady, reclining in an armchare nere the chimney, butifool, pale, and resiand, looct like a holy vergin awating marterdom.

Felton aproacht her, and ced, "Lord de Winter, whoo iz a Catholic, like yorcelf, madam, thhinking dhat the deprivaishon ov the riats and cerremonese ov yor chersch mite be painfool too u, haz concented dhat u shood rede evvery da the ordinary ov yor Mas; and here iz a booc

which containz the ritchuwal."

At the manner in which Felton lade the booc uppon the littel tabel nere which Milady wauz citting, at the tone in which he pronounst the too werdz, YOR MAS, at the disdainfool smile withe which he acumpanede them, Milady raizd her hed, and looct moer atentivly at the officer.

Bi dhat plane arainjment ov the hare, bi dhat coschume ov extreme cimpliscity, bi the brou pollisht like marbel and az hard and impennetrabel, she reccogniazd wun ov dhose gloomy Puritanz she had so often met, not oonly in the coert ov King Jaimz, but in dhat ov the King ov Fraans, whare, in spite ov the remembrans ov the St. Barthollomu, dha sumtiamz came too ceke reffuge.

She then had wun ov dhose sudden inspiraishonz which oonly pepel ov geenyus receve in grate cricese, in supreme moments which ar too decide dhare forchuenz or dhare liavz.

Dhose too werdz, YOR MAS, and a cimpel glaans caast uppon Felton, reveeld too her aul the importans ov the repli she wauz about too make; but withe dhat rapiddity ov intelligens which wauz peculeyar too her, this repli, reddy arainjd, presented itcelf too her lips:

"I?" ced she, withe an axent ov disdane in unison withe dhat which she had remarct in the vois ov the yung officer, "I, cer? MI MAS? Lord de Winter, the corupted Catholic, nose verry wel dhat I am not ov hiz relidjon, and this iz a snare he wishez too la for me!"

"And ov whaut relidjon ar u, then, madam?" aasct Felton, withe an astonishment which in spite ov the empire he held over himcelf he cood not entiarly concele.

"I wil tel it," cride Milady, withe a faind exultaishon, "on the da

when I shal hav sufferd sufishmently for mi faith."

The looc ov Felton reveeld too Milady the fool extent ov the space she had opend for hercelf bi this cin'ghel werd.

The yung officer, houwevver, remaind mute and moashonles; hiz looc alone had spoken.

"I am in the handz ov mi ennemese," continnude she, withe dhat tone ov enthuseyazm which she nu wauz familleyar too the Puritanz. "Wel, let mi God save me, or let me perrish for mi God! Dhat iz the repli I beg u too make too Lord de Winter. And az too this booc," added she, pointing too the mannuwal withe her fin'gher but widhout tutching it, az if she must be contamminated bi it, "u ma carry it bac and make uce ov it yorcelf, for doutles u ar dubly the acumplice ov Lord de Winter—the acumplice in hiz percecueshonz, the acumplice in hiz herrecese."

Felton made no repli, tooc the booc withe the same aperans ov repugnans which he had befoer mannifested, and retiard penciavly.

Lord de Winter came tooword five oacloc in the evening. Milady had had time, juring the whole da, too trace her plan ov conduct. She receevd him like a woomman whoo had aulreddy recuvverd aul her advaantagez.

"It apeerz," ced the barron, ceting himcelf in the armchare opposite dhat occupide bi Milady, and stretching out hiz legz caerlesly uppon the harth, "it apeerz we hav made a littel apostacy!"

"Whaut doo u mene, cer!"

"I mene too sa dhat cins we laast met u hav chainjd yor relidjon. U hav not bi chaans marrede a Protestant for a thherd huzband, hav u?"

"Explane yorself, mi Lord," replide the prizzoner, withe madgesty; "for dho I here yor werdz, I declare I doo not understand them."

"Then u hav no relidjon at aul; I like dhat best," replide Lord de Winter, laafing.

"Certainly dhat iz moast in acord withe yor one principelz," replide Milady, fridgidly.

"O, I confes it iz aul the same too me."

"O, u nede not avou this relidjous indifferens, mi Lord; yor debaucherese and criamz wood vouch for it."

"Whaut, u tauc ov debaucherese, Madam Mesalena, Lady Macbeth! Iather I misunderstand u or u ar verry shaimles!"

"U oanly speke dhus becauz u ar overherd," cooly replide Milady; "and u wish too interest yor jalerz and yor hangmen against me."

"Mi jalerz and mi hangmen! Heda, madam! u ar taking a powettical tone, and the commedy ov yesterda ternz too a tradgedy this evening. Az too the rest, in ate dase u wil be whare u aut too be, and mi taasc wil be completed."

"Infamous taasc! impeyous taasc!" cride Milady, withe the exultaishon ov a victim whoo provoax hiz juj.

"Mi werd," ced de Winter, rising, "I thhinc the huscy iz gowing mad! Cum, cum, caalm yorself, Madam Puritan, or Ile remoove u too a dunjon. Its mi Spanish wine dhat haz got intoo yor hed, iz it not? But nevver miand; dhat sort ov intoxicaishon iz not dain'gerous, and wil

hav no bad efects."

And Lord de Winter retiard swaring, which at dhat peryod wauz a verry niatly habbit.

Felton wauz indede behiand the doer, and had not lost wun werd ov this cene. Milady had ghest arite.

"Yes, go, go!" ced she too her bruther; "the efects AR drauwing nere, on the contrary; but u, weke foole, wil not ce them until it iz too late too shun them."

Cilens wauz re-establisht. Too ourz paast awa. Miladese supper wauz braut in, and she wauz found deeply en'gaijd in saying her praerz aloud—praerz which she had lernd ov an oald cervant ov her cecond huzband, a moast austere Puritan. She apeerd too be in extacy, and did not pa the leest atenshon too whaut wauz gowing on around her. Felton made a cine dhat she shood not be disterbd; and when aul wauz arainjd, he went out qwiyetly withe the soalgerz.

Milady nu she mite be waucht, so she continnude her praerz too the end; and it apeerd too her dhat the soalger whoo wauz on juty at her doer did not march withe the same step, and ceemd too liscen. For the moment she wisht nuthing better. She arose, came too the tabel, ate but littel, and dranc oonly wauter.

An our aafter, her tabel wauz cleerd; but Milady remarct dhat this time Felton did not acumpany the soalgerz. He feerd, then, too ce her too often.

She ternd tooword the waul too smile—for dhare wauz in this smile such an expreshon ov triyumf dhat this smile alone wood hav betrade her.

She aloud, dhaerfoer, haaf an our too paas awa; and az at dhat moment aul wauz cilens in the oald caacel, az nuthhing wauz herd but the eternal mermer ov the waivz—dhat imens braking ov the oashan—withe her pure, harmoanyous, and pouwerfool vois, she began the ferst cuplet ov the saalm then in grate favor withe the Puritanz:

"Dhou leevst thi cervants, Lord, Too ce if dha be strong; But soone dhou dust afoerd Thi hand too lede them on."

These vercez wer not exelent—verry far from it; but az it iz wel none, the Puritanz did not peke themcelvz uppon dhare powetry.

While cinging, Milady liscend. The soalger on gard at her doer stopt, az if he had bene chainjd intoo stone. Milady wauz then abel too juj ov the efect she had projuest.

Then she continnude her cinging withe inexpressibel fervor and feling. It apeerd too her dhat the soundz spred too a distans beneath the vaulted ruifs, and carrede withe them a madgic charm too soften the harts ov her jalerz. It houwevver liaqwise apeerd dhat the soalger on juty—a sellous Catholic, no dout—shooc of the charm, for throo the doer he cauld: "Hoald yor tung, madam! Yor song iz az dizmal az a De profundis; and if beciadz the plezhure ov beying in garrison here, we must here such thhingz az these, no mortal can hoald out."

"Cilens!" then exclaimd anuther stern vois which Milady reccogniazd az dhat ov Felton. "Whaut ar u medling withe, schupid? Did enniboddy order u too prevent dhat woomman from cinging? No. U wer toald too gard her—too fire at her if she atempted too fli. Gard her! If she flise, kil her; but doant exede yor orderz."

An expreshon ov unspicabel joi litend the countenans ov Milady; but this expreshon wauz fleting az the reflecshon ov liatning. Widhout apering too hav herd the diyalog, ov which she had not lost a werd, she began agane, ghivving too her vois aul the charm, aul the pouwer, aul the ceducshon the demon had bestode uppon it:

"For aul mi teerz, mi caerz,  
Mi exile, and mi chainz,  
I hav mi ueth, mi praerz,  
And God, whoo counts mi painz."

Her vois, ov imens pouwer and sublime expreshon, gave too the rude, unpollisht powetry ov these saalmz a madgic and an efect which the moast exaulted Puritanz raerly found in the songz ov dhare bredhren, and which dha wer foerst too ornament withe aul the rezoercez ov dhare imaginaishon. Felton beleevd he herd the cinging ov the ain'gel whoo consoald the thre Hebruse in the fernace.

Milady continnude:

"Wun da our doerz wil ope, Withe God cum our desire; And if betrase dhat hope, Too deth we can aspire."

This vers, intoo which the terribel enchaantres thru her whole sole, completed the trubbel which had ceezd the hart ov the yung officer. He opend the doer qwicly; and Milady sau him apere, pale az uezhuwal, but withe hiz i inflaimd and aulmoast wiald.

"Whi doo u cing dhus, and withe such a vois?" ced he.

"Yor pardon, cer," ced Milady, withe mialdnes. "I forgot dhat mi songz ar out ov place in this caacel. I hav perhaps ofended u in yor crede; but it wauz widhout wishing too doo so, I sware. Pardon me, then, a fault which iz perhaps grate, but which certainly wauz involluntary."



Milady wauz so butifool at this moment, the relidjous extacy in which she apeerd too be plunjd gave such an expreshon too her countenans, dhat Felton wauz so dazseld dhat he fancede he beheld the ain'gel whoome he had oanly just befoer herd.

"Yes, yes," ced he; "u disterb, u adgitate the pepel whoo liv in the caacel."

The poor, censles yung man wauz not aware ov the incoherens ov hiz werdz, while Milady wauz reding withe her linxez ise the verry depths ov hiz hart.

"I wil be cilent, then," ced Milady, caasting doun her ise withe aul the sweetnes she cood ghiv too her vois, withe aul the resignaishon she cood impres uppon her manner.

"No, no, madam," ced Felton, "oanly doo not cing so loud, particularly at nite."

And at these werdz Felton, feling dhat he cood not long maintane hiz ceverrity tooword hiz prizzoner, rusht out ov the roome.

"U hav dun rite, Leftenant," ced the soalger. "Such songz disterb the miand; and yet we becum acustomd too them, her vois iz so butifool."

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Felton had faulen; but dhare wauz stil anuther step too be taken. He

must be retained, or rather he must be left quite alone; and Milady but obscurely perceived the means which could lead to this result.

Still more must be done. He must be made to speak, in order that he might be spoken to—for Milady very well knew that her greatest education was in her voice, which so skillfully ran over the whole gamut of tones from human speech to language celestial.

Yet in spite of all this education Milady might fail—for Felton was forward, and that against the least chances. From that moment she watched all his actions, all his words, from the simplest glances of his eyes to his gestures—even to a breath that could be interpreted as a sign. In short, she studied everything, as a skillful comedian does to whom a new part has been assigned in a line to which he is not accustomed.

Face to face with the Lord de Winter her plan of conduct was more easy. She

had laid that down the preceding evening. To remain silent and dignified in his presence; from time to time to irritate him by affected disdain, by a contemptuous word; to provoke him to threats and violence which

would produce a contrast with her one resignation—such was her plan. Felton would see all; perhaps he would say nothing, but he would see.

In the morning, Felton came as usual; but Milady allowed him to preside

over all the preparations for breakfast without addressing a word to him. At the moment when he was about to retire, she was cheered with a

ray of hope, for she thought he was about to speak; but his lips moved without any sound leaving his mouth, and making a powerful effort to control himself, he bent back to his heart the words that were about to escape from his lips, and went out. To-morrow midday, Lord de Winter

enterd.

It wauz a tollerably fine winterz da, and a ra ov dhat pale In'glisch sun which liats but duz not worm came throo the barz ov her prizzon.

Milady wauz loocking out at the windo, and pretended not too here the doer az it opend.

"Aa, aa!" ced Lord de Winter, "aafter havving plade commedy, aafter havving plade tradgedy, we ar nou playeing mellancoly?"

The prizzoner made no repli.

"Yes, yes," continnude Lord de Winter, "I understand. U wood like verry wel too be at libberty on dhat beche! U wood like verry wel too be in a good ship daancing uppon the waivz ov dhat emmerald-grene ce; u wood like verry wel, iather on land or on the oashan, too la for me wun ov dhose nice littel ambuscaidz u ar so skilfool in planning. Paishens, paishens! In foer dase time the shoer wil be beneeth yor fete, the ce wil be open too u—moer open dhan wil perhaps be agreyabel too u, for in foer dase In'gland wil be releevd ov u."

Milady foalded her handz, and rasing her fine ise tooword hevven, "Lord, Lord," ced she, withe an an'gelic meecnes ov geschure and tone, "pardon this man, az I micelf pardon him."

"Yes, pra, akerst woomman!" cride the barron; "yor prare iz so much the moer gennerous from yor beying, I sware too u, in the pouwer ov a man whoo wil nevver pardon u!" and he went out.

At the moment he went out a piercing glaans darted throo the opening ov the neerly cloazd doer, and she perceevd Felton, whoo dru qwicly too wun cide too prevent beying cene bi her.

Then she thru hercelf uppon her nese, and began too pra.

"Mi God, mi God!" ced she, "dhou noast in whaut holy cauz I suffer; ghiv me, then, strength too suffer."

The doer open'd gently; the butifool suplicant pretended not too here the noiz, and in a vois broken bi teerz, she continnude:

"God ov venjans! God ov goodnes! wilt dhou alou the friatfool prodjects ov this man too be acumplisht?"

Then oonly she pretended too here the sound ov Feltonz steps, and rising qwic az thaut, she blusht, az if ashaimd ov beying cerpriazd on her nese.

"I doo not like too disterb dhose whoo pra, madam," ced Felton, cereyously; "doo not disterb yorcelf on mi acount, I beceche u."

"Hou doo u no I wauz praying, cer?" ced Milady, in a vois broken bi sobz. "U wer deceevd, cer; I wauz not praying."

"Doo u thhinc, then, madam," replide Felton, in the same cereyous vois, but withe a mialder tone, "doo u thhinc I ashume the rite ov preventing a crechure from prostrating hercelf befoer her Creyator? God forbid! Beciadz, repentans becumz the ghilty; whautevver criamz dha ma hav comitted, for me the ghilty ar saicred at the fete ov God!"

"Ghilty? I?" ced Milady, withe a smile which mite hav disarmd the ain'gel ov the laast jujment. "Ghilty? O, mi God, dhou noast whether I am ghilty! Sa I am condemd, cer, if u plese; but u no dhat

God, whoo luvz marterz, sumtiamz permits the innocent too be condemd."

"Wer u condemd, wer u innocent, wer u a marter," replide Felton, "the grater wood be the necescity for prare; and I micelf wood ade u withe mi praerz."

"O, u ar a just man!" cride Milady, throwing hercelf at hiz fete. "I can hoald out no lon'gher, for I fere I shal be waunting in strength at the moment when I shal be foerst too undergo the strugghel, and confes mi faith. Liscen, then, too the suplicaishon ov a desparing woomman. U ar abuezd, cer; but dhat iz not the qweschon. I oonly aasc u wun favor; and if u graant it me, I wil bles u in this werld and in the next."

"Speke too the maaster, madam," ced Felton; "happily I am niather charjd withe the pouwer ov pardoning nor punnishing. It iz uppon wun hiyer plaist dhan I am dhat God haz lade this responcebility."

"Too u—no, too u alone! Liscen too me, raather dhan ad too mi destrucshon, raather dhan ad too mi ignominy!"

"If u hav merrited this shame, madam, if u hav inkerd this ignominy, u must submit too it az an offering too God."

"Whaut doo u sa? O, u doo not understand me! When I speke ov ignominy, u thhinc I speke ov sum chastiazment, ov imprizzonment or deth. Wood too hevven! Ov whaut conceqwens too me iz imprizzonment or deth?"

"It iz I whoo no lon'gher understand u, madam," ced Felton.

"Or, raather, whoo pretend not too understand me, cer!" replide the prizzoner, withe a smile ov increjulty.

"No, madam, on the onnor ov a soalger, on the faith ov a Crischan."

"Whaut, u ar ignorant ov Lord de Winterz desianz uppon me?"

"I am."

"Imposcibel; u ar hiz confidant!"

"I nevver li, madam."

"O, he conceelz them too littel for u not too divine them."

"I ceke too divine nuthhing, madam; I wate til I am confided in, and apart from dhat which Lord de Winter haz ced too me befoer u, he haz confided nuthhing too me."

"Whi, then," cride Milady, withe an increddibel tone ov truethfoolnes, "u ar not hiz acumplice; u doo not no dhat he destianz me too a disgrace which aul the punnishments ov the werld canot eeqwal in horror?"

"U ar deceevd, madam," ced Felton, blushing; "Lord de Winter iz not capabel ov such a crime."

"Good," ced Milady too herself; "widhout ththinking whaut it iz, he caulz it a crime!" Then aloud, "The frend ov DHAT RECH iz capabel ov evverithhing."

"Whoome doo u caul dhat rech?" aasct Felton.

"Ar dhare, then, in In'gland too men too whoome such an eppithhet can be aplide?"

"U mene Jorj Villeyerz?" aasct Felton, whose loox became exited.

"Whoome Paganz and unbeleving Gentiauz caul Juke ov Buckingham,"  
replide

Milady. "I cood not hav thaut dhat dhare wauz an In'glishman in aul  
In'gland whoo wood hav reqwiard so long an explanaishon too make him  
understand ov whoome I wauz speking."

"The hand ov the Lord iz strecht over him," ced Felton; "he wil not  
escape the chastiazment he deservz."

Felton oanly exprest, withe regard too the juke, the feling ov  
execraishon which aul the In'glish had declaerd tooword him whoome the  
Catholix themcelvz cauld the extorshonner, the pillager, the  
debauchy, and whoome the Puritanz stiald cimply Satan.

"O, mi God, mi God!" cride Milady; "when I suplicate the too poer uppon  
this man the chastiazment which iz hiz ju, dhou noast it iz not mi  
one venjans I pershu, but the deliverans ov a whole naishon dhat I  
imploer!"

"Doo u no him, then?" aasct Felton.

"At length he interrogaits me!" ced Milady too hercelf, at the hite  
ov joi at havving obtaind so qwicly such a grate rezult. "O, no  
him? Yes, yes! too mi misforchune, too mi eternal misforchune!" and  
Milady  
twisted her armz az if in a parroxizm ov grefe.

Felton no dout felt within himcelf dhat hiz strength wauz abandoning  
him, and he made cevveral steps tooword the doer; but the prizzoner,  
whoose  
i nevver left him, sprang in persute ov him and stopt him.

"Cer," cride she, "be kiand, be clemment, liscen too mi prare! Dhat nife,

which the fatal prudens ov the barron depriavd me ov, becauz he nose the uce I wood make ov it! O, here me too the end! dhat nife, ghiv it too me for a minnute oanly, for mercese, for pittese sake! I wil embrace yor nese! U shal shut the doer dhat u ma be certane I contemplate no injury too u! Mi God! too u—the oanly just, good, and compashonate beying I hav met withe! Too u—mi preserver, perhaps! Wun minnute dhat nife, wun minnute, a cin'ghel minnute, and I wil restoer it too u throo the grating ov the doer. Oanly wun minnute, Mr. Felton, and u wil hav saivd mi onnor!"

"Too kil yorcelf?" cride Felton, withe terror, forghetting too widhdrau hiz handz from the handz ov the prizzoneer, "too kil yorcelf?"

"I hav toald, cer," mermerd Milady, lowering her vois, and alouwing hercelf too cinc overpouwerd too the ground; "I hav toald mi ceecret! He nose aul! Mi God, I am lost!"

Felton remaind standing, moashonles and undecided.

"He stil douts," thaut Milady; "I hav not bene earnest enuf."

Sumwun wauz herd in the coridor; Milady reccogniazd the step ov Lord de Winter.

Felton reccogniazd it aulso, and made a step tooword the doer.

Milady sprang tooword him. "O, not a werd," ced she in a concentrated vois, "not a werd ov aul dhat I hav ced too u too this man, or I am lost, and it wood be u—u—"

Then az the steps dru nere, she became cilent for fere ov beying herd, apliying, withe a geschure ov infinite terror, her butifool hand too Feltonz mouth.



Felton gently repulst Milady, and she sanc intoo a chare.

Lord de Winter paast befoer the doer widhout stopping, and dha herd the noiz ov hiz footsteps soone di awa.

Felton, az pale az deth, remaind sum instants withe hiz ere bent and liscening; then, when the sound wauz qwite extinct, he breedhd like a man awaking from a dreme, and rusht out ov the apartment.

"Aa!" ced Milady, liscening in her tern too the noiz ov Feltonz steps, which widhdru in a direcshon opposite too dhose ov Lord de Winter; "at length u ar mine!"

Then her brou darkend. "If he telz the barron," ced she, "I am lost—for the barron, whoo nose verry wel dhat I shal not kil micelf, wil place me befoer him withe a nife in mi hand, and he wil discuver dhat aul this despare iz but acted."

She plaist hercelf befoer the glaas, and regarded hercelf atentiavly; nevver had she apeerd moer butifool.

"O, yes," ced she, smiling, "but we woant tel him!"

In the evening Lord de Winter acumpanede the supper.

"Cer," ced Milady, "iz yor prezsens an indispensabel axessory ov mi captivvity? Cood u not spare me the increce ov torchure which yor vizsits cauz me?"

"Hou, dere cister!" ced Lord de Winter. "Did not u centimentaly inform me withe dhat pritty mouth ov yorz, so cruwel too me tooda, dhat u came too In'gland soly for the plezhure ov ceying me at yor ese, an enjoiment ov which u toald me u so cencibly felt the deprivaishon dhat u had risct evverithhing for it—cecicnes, tempest, captivvity?"

Wel, here I am; be sattisfide. Beciadz, this time, mi vizsit haz a motive."

Milady trembeld; she thaut Felton had toald aul. Perhaps nevver in her life had this woomman, whoo had expereyenst so menny opposite and pouwerfool emoashonz, felt her hart bete so viyolently.

She wauz ceted. Lord de Winter tooc a chare, dru it tooword her, and sat doun cloce becide her. Then taking a paper out ov hiz pocket, he unfoalded it sloly.

"Here," ced he, "I waunt too sho u the kiand ov paaspoert which I hav draun up, and which wil cerv u hensforword az the rule ov order in the life I concent too leve u."

Then tarning hiz ise from Milady too the paper, he red: "Order too conduct—' The name iz blanc," interrupted Lord de Winter. "If u hav enny prefferens u can point it out too me; and if it be not within a thouzand leegz ov Lundon, atenshon wil be pade too yor wishez. I wil beghin agane, then:"

"Order too conduct too—the person naimd Sharlot Baxon, branded bi the justice ov the kingdom ov Fraans, but libberated aafter chastiazment. She iz too dwel in this place widhout evver gowing moer dhan thre leegz from it. In cace ov enny atempt too escape, the pennalty ov deth iz too be aplide. She wil receive five shillingz per da for lodging and food".

"Dhat order duz not concern me," replide Milady, coaldly, "cins it baerz anuther name dhan mine."

"A name? Hav u a name, then?"

"I bare dhat ov yor bruther."

"I, but u ar mistaken. Mi bruther iz oonly yor cecond huzband; and yor ferst iz stil livving. Tel me hiz name, and I wil poot it in the place ov the name ov Sharlot Baxon. No? U wil not? U ar cilent? Wel, then u must be redgisterd az Sharlot Baxon."

Milady remaind cilent; oonly this time it wauz no lon'gher from afectaishon, but from terror. She beleevd the order reddy for execueshon. She thaut dhat Lord de Winter had hacend her deparchure; she thaut she wauz condemd too cet of dhat verry evening. Evverithhing in her miand wauz lost for an instant; when aul at wuns she perceevd dhat no cignachure wauz atacht too the order. The joi she felt at this discuvvery wauz so grate she cood not concele it.

"Yes, yes," ced Lord de Winter, whoo perceevd whaut wauz paacing in her miand; "yes, u looc for the cignachure, and u sa too yorcelf: Aul iz not lost, for dhat order iz not ciand. It iz oonly shone too me too terrifi me, dhats aul.' U ar mistaken. Toomoro this order wil be cent too the Juke ov Buckingham. The da aafter toomoro it wil retern ciand bi hiz hand and marct withe hiz cele; and foer-and-twenty ourz aafterword I wil aancer for its beying carrede intoo execueshon. Aju, madam. Dhat iz aul I had too sa too u."

"And I repli too u, cer, dhat this abuce ov pouwer, this exile under a fictishous name, ar infamous!"

"Wood u like better too be hangd in yor tru name, Milady? U no dhat the In'GLISH lauz ar inexorabel on the abuce ov marrage. Speke frely. Auldho mi name, or raather dhat ov mi bruther, wood be mixt up withe the afare, I wil risc the scandal ov a public triyal too make micelf certane ov ghetting rid ov u."

Milady made no repli, but became az pale az a corps.

"O, I ce u prefer peregrinaishon. Dhats wel madam; and dhare iz an oald provverb dhat cez, 'Travveling trainz ueth.' Mi faith! u ar not rong aafter aul, and life iz swete. Dhats the rezon whi I take such care u shal not deprive me ov mine. Dhare oanly remainz, then, the qweschon ov the five shillingz too be cetteld. U thhinc me raather parcimoanyous, doant u? Dhats becauz I doant care too leve u the meenz ov corupting yor jalerz. Beciadz, u wil aulwase hav yor charmz left too cejuce them withe. Emploi them, if yor chec withe regard too Felton haz not disgusted u withe atempts ov dhat kiand."

"Felton haz not toald him," ced Milady too hercelf. "Nuthhing iz lost, then."

"And nou, madam, til I ce u agane! Toomoro I wil cum and anouns too u the deparchure ov mi mescen'ger."

Lord de Winter rose, saluted her ironnicaly, and went out.

Milady breedhd agane. She had stil foer dase befoer her. Foer dase wood qwite sufice too complete the ceducshon ov Felton.

A terribel ideyaa, houwevver, rusht intoo her miand. She thaut dhat Lord de

Winter wood perhaps cend Felton himcelf too ghet the order ciand bi the Juke ov Buckingham. In dhat cace Felton wood escape her—for in order too ceure suxes, the madgic ov a continnuwous ceducshon wauz nescenary.

Nevvertheles, az we hav ced, wun circumstaans reyashuerd her. Felton had not spoken.

Az she wood not apere too be adgitated bi the threts ov Lord de Winter, she plaist hercelf at the tabel and ate.

Then, az she had dun the evening befoer, she fel on her nese and

repeted her praerz aloud. Az on the evening befoer, the soalger stopt hiz march too liscen too her.

Soone aafter she herd liter steps dhan dhose ov the centinel, which came from the end ov the coridor and stopt befoer her doer.

"It iz he," ced she. And she began the same relidjous chaant which had so strongly exited Felton the evening befoer.

But auldho her vois—swete, fool, and sonnorous—viabrated az harmoanyously and az afectingly az evver, the doer remaind shut. It apeerd houwevver too Milady dhat in wun ov the fertive glaancez she darted from time too time at the grating ov the doer she thaut she sau the ardent ise ov the yung man throo the narro opening. But whether this wauz reyallity or vizhon, he had this time sufishent celf-comaand not too enter.

Houwevver, a fu instants aafter she had finnisht her relidjous song, Milady thaut she herd a profound ci. Then the same steps she had herd aproche sloly widhdru, az if withe regret.

## 55 CAPTIVVITY: THE FOERTH DA

The next da, when Felton enterd Miladese apartment he found her standing, mounted uppon a chare, hoalding in her handz a cord made bi meenz ov toern cambric hankercheefs, twisted intoo a kiand ov rope wun withe anuther, and tide at the endz. At the noiz Felton made in entering, Milady leept liatly too the ground, and tride too concele behiand her the improviazd cord she held in her hand.

The yung man wauz moer pale dhan uezhuwal, and hiz ise, reddend bi waunt ov slepe, denoted dhat he had paast a feverish nite. Nevvertheles, hiz brou wauz armd withe a ceverrity moer austere dhan evver.

He advaanst sloly tooword Milady, whoo had ceted hercelf, and taking an end ov the merderous rope which bi neglect, or perhaps bi desine, she aloud too be cene, "Whaut iz this, madam?" he aasct coaldly.

"Dhat? Nuthhing," ced Milady, smiling withe dhat painfool expreshon which she nu so wel hou too ghiv too her smile. "*Ennui* iz the mortal ennemy ov prizzonerz; I had *ennui*, and I amuezd micelf withe twisting dhat rope."

Felton ternd hiz ise tooword the part ov the waul ov the apartment befoer which he had found Milady standing in the armchare in which she wauz nou ceted, and over her hed he perceevd a ghilt-hedded scru, fixt in the waul for the perpoce ov hanging up cloadhz or wepponz.

He started, and the prizzoner sau dhat start—for dho her ise wer caast down, nuthhing escaipt her.

"Whaut wer u doowing on dhat armchare?" aasct he.

"Ov whaut conceqwens?" replide Milady.

"But," replide Felton, "I wish too no."

"Doo not qweschon me," ced the prizzoner; "u no dhat we whoo ar tru Crischanz ar forbidden too li."

"Wel, then," ced Felton, "I wil tel u whaut u wer doowing, or raather whaut u ment too doo; u wer gowing too complete the fatal

prodgect u cherrish in yor miand. Remember, madam, if our God forbidz fauls'hood, he much moer ceveerly condemz suwicide."

"When God cese wun ov hiz crechuerz percecuted unjustly, plaist betwene suwicide and disonnor, beleve me, cer," replide Milady, in a tone ov depe convicshon, "God pardonz suwicide, for then suwicide becumz marterdom."

"U sa iather too much or too littel; speke, madam. In the name ov hevven, explane yorcelf."

"Dhat I ma relate mi misforchuenz for u too trete them az fabelz; dhat I ma tel u mi prodgects for u too go and betra them too mi percecutor? No, cer. Beciadz, ov whaut importans too u iz the life or deth ov a condemd rech? U ar oonly responcibel for mi boddy, iz it not so? And provided u projuce a carcass dhat ma be reccogniazd az mine, dha wil reqwire no moer ov u; na, perhaps u wil even hav a dubbel reword."

"I, madam, I?" cride Felton. "U supose dhat I wood evver axept the price ov yor life? O, u canot beleve whaut u sa!"

"Let me act az I plese, Felton, let me act az I plese," ced Milady, elated. "Evvery soalger must be ambishous, must he not? U ar a leftenant? Wel, u wil follo me too the grave withe the ranc ov captane."

"Whaut hav I, then, dun too u," ced Felton, much adgitated, "dhat u shood lode me withe such a responcibility befoer God and befoer men? In a fu dase u wil be awa from this place; yor life, madam, wil then no lon'gher be under mi care, and," added he, withe a ci, "then u can doo whaut u wil withe it."

"So," cride Milady, az if she cood not resist ghivving utterans too a

holy indignaishon, "u, a piyous man, u whoo ar cauld a just man, u aasc but wun thhing—and dhat iz dhat u ma not be inculpated, anoid, bi mi deth!"

"It iz mi jutty too wauch over yor life, madam, and I wil wauch."

"But doo u understand the mishon u ar foolfilling? Cruwel enuf, if I am ghilty; but whaut name can u ghiv it, whaut name wil the Lord ghiv it, if I am innocent?"

"I am a soalger, madam, and foolfil the orderz I hav receevd."

"Doo u beleve, then, dhat at the da ov the Laast Jujment God wil cepparate bliand execueshonerz from iniqwitous judgez? U ar not willing dhat I shood kil mi boddy, and u make yorcelf the agent ov him whoo wood kil mi sole."

"But I repete it agane too u," replide Felton, in grate emoashon, "no dain'ger threttenz u; I wil aancer for Lord de Winter az for micelf."

"Duns," cride Milady, "duns! whoo daerz too aancer for anuther man, when the wisest, when dhose moast aafter Godz one hart, hezsitate too aancer for themcelvz, and whoo rain'gez himcelf on the cide ov the stron'ghest and the moast forchunate, too crush the wekest and the moast unforchunate."

"Imposcibel, madam, imposcibel," mermerd Felton, whoo felt too the bottom ov hiz hart the justnes ov this argument. "A prizzoner, u wil not recuver yor libberty throo me; livving, u wil not loose yor life throo me."

"Yes," cride Milady, "but I shal loose dhat which iz much derer too me dhan life, I shal loose mi onnor, Felton; and it iz u, u whoome I make responcibel, befoer God and befoer men, for mi shame and mi infamy."



This time Felton, imoovabel az he wauz, or apeerd too be, cood not resist the ceecret influwens which had aulreddy taken poseshon ov him. Too ce this woomman, so butifool, fare az the britest vizhon, too ce her bi ternz overcum withe grefe and threttening; too resist at wuns the ascendancy ov grefe and buty—it wauz too much for a vizhonary; it wauz too much for a brane wekend bi the ardent dreemz ov an extattic faith; it wauz too much for a hart furrode bi the luv ov hevven dhat bernz, bi the haitred ov men dhat devourz.

Milady sau the trubbel. She felt bi inchuwishon the flame ov the oposing pashonz which bernd withe the blud in the vainz ov the yung fanattic. Az a skilfool genneral, ceying the ennemy reddy too surrender, marchez tooword him withe a cri ov victory, she rose, butifool az an anteke preestes, inspiard like a Crischan vergin, her armz extended, her throte uncuvverd, her hare dishevveld, hoalding withe wun hand her robe modestly draun over her brest, her looc ilumiant bi dhat fire which had aulreddy creyated such disorder in the vainz ov the yung Puritan, and went tooword him, crying out withe a veyement are, and in her melojous vois, too which on this ocaizhon she comunicated a terribel ennergy:

"Let this victim too Baal be cent, Too the liyonz the marter be throne!  
Thi God shal teche the too repent! From th' abis hele ghiv ere too mi mone."

Felton stood befoer this strainj aparishon like wun petrifide.

"Whoo art dhou? Whoo art dhou?" cride he, claasping hiz handz. "Art dhou a mescen'ger from God; art dhou a minnister from hel; art dhou an ain'gel or a demon; caulst dhou thicelf Elo or Astarty?"

"Doo u not no me, Felton? I am niather an ain'gel nor a demon; I am a dauter ov erth, I am a cister ov thi faith, dhat iz aul."

"Yes, yes!" ced Felton, "I douted, but nou I beleve."

"U beleve, and stil u ar an acumplice ov dhat chiald ov Beliyal whoo iz cauld Lord de Winter! U beleve, and yet u leve me in the handz ov mine ennemese, ov the ennemy ov In'gland, ov the ennemy ov God!

U beleve, and yet u delivver me up too him whoo filz and defialz the world withe hiz herrecese and debaucherese—too dhat infamous Sardanapalus whoome the bliand caul the Juke ov Buckingham, and whoome beleverz name Anticriast!"

"I delivver u up too Buckingham? I? whaut mene u bi dhat?"

"Dha hav ise," cride Milady, "but dha ce not; eerz hav dha, but dha here not."

"Yes, yes!" ced Felton, paacing hiz handz over hiz brou, cuvverd withe swet, az if too remoove hiz laast dout. "Yes, I reccognise the vois which speex too me in mi dreemz; yes, I reccognise the fechuerz ov the ain'gel whoo apeerz too me evvery nite, crying too mi sole, which canot slepe: Strike, save In'gland, save thicelf—for dhou wilt di widhout havving apeezd God! Speke, speke!" cride Felton, "I can understand u nou."

A flash ov terribel joi, but rappid az thaut, gleemd from the ise ov Milady.

Houwevver fugitive this hommicide flash, Felton sau it, and started az if its lite had reveeld the abiscez ov this woommanz hart. He recauld, aul at wuns, the warningz ov Lord de Winter, the ceducshonz ov Milady,

her first attempts after her arrival. He drew back a step, and hung down his head, without, however, ceasing to look at her, as if, fascinated by this strange creature, he could not detach his eyes from her eyes.

Milady would not allow a woman to misunderstand the meaning of this hesitation.

Under her apparent emotion her icy countenance never abandoned her. Before Felton replied, and before she should be forced to resume this conversation, so difficult to be sustained in the same exalted tone, she let her hands fall; and as if the weakness of the woman overpowered the

enthusiasm of the inspired fanatic, she said: "But no, it is not for me to be the Judith to deliver Bethuleyaa from this Olofaern. The sword of the eternal is too heavy for my arm. Allow me, then, to avoid dishonor by death; let me take refuge in martyrdom. I do not ask you for liberty, as a guilty woman would, nor for vengeance, as would a pagan. Let me die; that is all. I supplicate you, I implore you on my knees—let me die, and my last wish shall be a blessing for my preserver."

Hearing that voice, so sweet and suppliant, saying that word, so timid and downcast, Felton reproached himself. By degrees the enchantress had clothed herself with the magic adornment which she assumed and through

accident will; that is to say, beauty, weakness, and tears—and above all, the irresistible attraction of mystical voluptuousness, the most devouring of all voluptuousnesses.

"Alas!" said Felton, "I can do but one thing, which is too pitiful if you prove to me you are a victim! But Lord de Winter may cruel accusations against you. You are a Christian; you are my sister in religion. I feel myself drawn toward you—I, who have never loved anyone but my benefactor—I who have met with nothing but traitors and impious men. But you, madam, so beautiful in reality, you, so pure in appearance, must have committed great iniquities for Lord de Winter too

pershu u dhus."

"Dha hav ise," repeted Milady, withe an axent ov indescribabel grefe, "but dha ce not; eerz hav dha, but dha here not."

"But," cride the yung officer, "speke, then, speke!"

"Confide mi shame too u," cride Milady, withe the blush ov modesty uppon her countenans, "for often the crime ov wun becumz the shame ov anuther—confide mi shame too u, a man, and I a woomman? O,"  
continnude

she, placing her hand modestly over her butifool ise, "nevver!  
nevver!—I cood not!"

"Too me, too a bruther?" ced Felton.

Milady looct at him for sum time withe an expreshon which the yung man tooc for dout, but which, houwevver, wauz nuthhing but observaishon, or  
raather the wish too fascinate.

Felton, in hiz tern a supleyant, claaspt hiz handz.

"Wel, then," ced Milady, "I confide in mi bruther; I wil dare too—"

At this moment the steps ov Lord de Winter wer herd; but this time the terribel bruther-in-lau ov Milady did not content himcelf, az on the preceding da, withe paacing befoer the doer and gowing awa agane. He pauzd, exchainjd too werdz withe the centinel; then the doer opend, and he apeerd.

Juring the exchainj ov these too werdz Felton dru bac qwicly, and when Lord de Winter enterd, he wauz cevveral pavez from the prizzoner.

The barron enterd sloly, cending a scrutinising glaans from Milady too the yung officer.

"U hav bene here a verry long time, Jon," ced he. "Haz this woomman bene relating her criamz too u? In dhat cace I can comprehend the length ov the conversaishon."

Felton started; and Milady felt she wauz lost if she did not cum too the acistans ov the disconcerted Puritan.

"Aa, u fere yor prizzoner shood escape!" ced she. "Wel, aasc yor werthy jaler whaut favor I this instant soliscited ov him."

"U demaanded a favor?" ced the barron, suspishously.

"Yes, mi Lord," replide the yung man, confuezd.

"And whaut favor, pra?" aasct Lord de Winter.

"A nife, which she wood retern too me throo the grating ov the doer a minnute aafter she had receevd it," replide Felton.

"Dhare iz sumwun, then, conceeld here whoose throte this ameyabel lady iz desirous ov cutting," ced de Winter, in an ironnical, contempchuwous tone.

"Dhare iz micelf," replide Milady.

"I hav ghivven u the chois betwene Amerricaa and Tibern," replide Lord de Winter. "Chuse Tibern, madam. Beleve me, the cord iz moer certane dhan the nife."

Felton gru pale, and made a step forword, remembering dhat at the moment he enterd Milady had a rope in her hand.

"U ar rite," ced she, "I hav often thaut ov it." Then she added in a lo vois, "And I wil thhinc ov it agane."

Felton felt a shudder run too the marro ov hiz boanz; probbably Lord de Winter perceevd this emoashon.

"Mistrust yorcelf, Jon," ced he. "I hav plaist reliyans uppon u, mi frend. Beware! I hav wornd u! But be ov good currage, mi lad; in thre dase we shal be delivverd from this crechure, and whare I shal cend her she can harm nobody."

"U here him!" cride Milady, withe veyemens, so dhat the barron mite beleve she wauz adrescing hevven, and dhat Felton mite understand she wauz adrescing him.

Felton lowerd hiz hed and reflected.

The barron tooc the yung officer bi the arm, and ternd hiz hed over hiz shoalder, so az not too loose cite ov Milady til he wauz gon out.

"Wel," ced the prizzoner, when the doer wauz shut, "I am not so far advaanst az I beleevd. De Winter haz chainjd hiz uezhual schupiddity intoo a strainj prudens. It iz the desire ov venjans, and hou desire moaldz a man! Az too Felton, he hezsitaits. Aa, he iz not a man like dhat kerst dArtanyan. A Puritan oanly adoerz verginz, and he adoerz them bi claasping hiz handz. A Musketere luvz wimmen, and he luvz them bi claasping hiz armz round them."

Milady wated, then, withe much impaishens, for she feerd the da wood paas awa widhout her ceying Felton agane. At laast, in an our aafter the cene we hav just descriabd, she herd sumwun speking in a lo vois at the doer. Prezsently the doer open, and she perceevd Felton.

The yung man advaanst rappidly intoo the chaimber, leving the doer open behiand him, and making a cine too Milady too be cilent; hiz face wauz much adgitated.

"Whaut doo u waunt withe me?" ced she.

"Liscen," replide Felton, in a lo vois. "I hav just cent awa the centinel dhat I mite remane here widhout enniboddy nowing it, in order too speke too u widhout beying overherd. The barron haz just related a friatfool stoery too me."

Milady ashuemd her smile ov a resiand victim, and shooc her hed.

"Iather u ar a demon," continnude Felton, "or the barron—mi bennefactor, mi faather—iz a monster. I hav none u foer dase; I hav luvd him foer yeerz. I dhaerfoer ma hezsitate betwene u. Be not alarmd at whaut I sa; I waunt too be convinst. Toonite, aafter twelv, I wil cum and ce u, and u shal convins me."

"No, Felton, no, mi bruther," ced she; "the sacrifice iz too grate, and I fele whaut it must cost u. No, I am lost; doo not be lost withe me. Mi deth wil be much moer elloqwent dhan mi life, and the cilens ov the corps wil convins u much better dhan the werdz ov the prizzoner."

"Be cilent, madam," cride Felton, "and doo not speke too me dhus; I came too entrete u too prommice me uppon yor onnor, too sware too me bi whaut u hoald moast saicred, dhat u wil make no atempt uppon yor life."

"I wil not prommice," ced Milady, "for no wun haz moer respect for a prommice or an oath dhan I hav; and if I make a prommice I must kepe it."

"Wel," ced Felton, "oanly prommice til u hav cene me agane. If, when u hav cene me agane, u stil percist—wel, then u shal be fre, and I micelf wil ghiv u the weppon u desire."

"Wel," ced Milady, "for u I wil wate."

"Sware."

"I sware it, bi our God. Ar u sattisfide?"

"Wel," ced Felton, "til toonite."

And he darted out ov the roome, shut the doer, and wated in the coridor, the soalgerz haaf-pike in hiz hand, and az if he had mounted gard in hiz place.

The soalger reternd, and Felton gave him bac hiz weppon.

Then, throo the grating too which she had draun nere, Milady sau the yung man make a cine withe delereyous fervor, and depart in an aparrent traanspoert ov joi.

Az for her, she reternd too her place withe a smile ov savvage contempt uppon her lips, and repeted, blasfeming, dhat terribel name ov God, bi whoome she had just swoern widhout evver havving lernd too no Him.

"Mi God," ced she, "whaut a censles fanattic! Mi God, it iz I—I—and this fello whoo wil help me too avenj micelf."



Milady had houwevver acheevd a haaf-triymf, and suxes dubbeld her foercez.

It wauz not difficult too conker, az she had hithertoo dun, men prompt too let themcelvz be cejuest, and whoome the gallant ejucaishon ov a coert led qwicly intoo her net. Milady wauz handsum enuf not too fiand much resistans on the part ov the flesh, and she wauz sufishmently skilfool too prevale over aul the obstakelz ov the miand.

But this time she had too contend withe an unpollisht nachure, concentrated and incencibel bi foers ov austerrity. Relidjon and its observancez had made Felton a man inaxescibel too ordinary ceducshonz. Dhare fermented in dhat sublimated brane planz so vaast, prodjects so chumulchuwous, dhat dhare remaind no roome for enny caprishous or matereyal luv—dhat centiment which iz fed bi lezhure and grose withe corrupshon. Milady had, then, made a breche bi her fauls verchu in the opinyon ov a man horribly predjudiast against her, and bi her buty in the hart ov a man hithertoo chaist and pure. In short, she had taken the mezhure ov motiavz hithertoo un'none too hercelf, throo this experriment, made uppon the moast rebelleyous subgett dhat nachure and relidjon cood submit too her studdy.

Menny a time, nevvertheles, juring the evening she despaerd ov fate and ov hercelf. She did not invoke God, we verry wel no, but she had faith in the geenyus ov evil—dhat imens sovverainty which rainz in aul the detailz ov human life, and bi which, az in the Arabeyan fabel, a cin'ghel pommegranate cede iz sufishment too reconstruct a ruwind werld.

Milady, beying wel prepaerd for the recepshon ov Felton, wauz abel too erect her batterese for the next da. She nu she had oonly too dase left; dhat when wuns the order wauz ciand bi Buckingham—and Buckingham wood cine it the moer reddily from its baring a fauls name, and he

could not, therefore, recognise the woman in question—wuns this order

would stand, we say, the barren wood make her embark impatiently, and she now very well that women condemned too exile employ arms much less powerful in their education than the pretendedly virtuous woman whose

buty is lited by the sun of the world, whose style the voice of fashion lauds, and whose halo of aristocracy gilds with the enchanting splendor. To be a woman condemned too a painful and disgraceful punishment is no impediment too buty, but it is an obstacle too the recovery of power. Like all persons of royal genius, Milady now what suited her nature and her means. Poverty would be repugnant too her;

degradation too away too the hearts of her grates. Milady would only a queen while among queens. The pleasure of satisfying pride would be necessary

too her domination. Too command inferior beings would be rather a humiliation than a pleasure for her.

She should certainly return from her exile—she did not doubt that a cin'ghel instant; but how long might this exile last? For an active, ambitious nature, like that of Milady, does not spend in climbing an inauspicious case. What would, then, can be found too describe the case which she occupied in descending? Too long a year, too years, three years, is too tauc of an eternity; too return after the death or disgrace of the cardinal, perhaps; too return when d'Artagnan and his friends, happy and triumphant, should have received from the queen the reward she had well deserved by the services she had rendered her—these were devouring ideas that a woman like Milady could not enjure. For the rest, the storm

which raged within her doubled her strength, and she would have burst the walls of her prison if her body had been able too take for a cin'ghel instant the propositions of her mind.

Then dhat which sperd her on adishonaly in the midst ov aul this wauz the remembrans ov the cardinal. Whaut must the mistrustfool, restles, suspishous cardinal thhinc ov her cilens—the cardinal, not meerly her oonly supoert, her oonly prop, her oonly protector at prezsent, but stil ferther, the principal instrument ov her fuchure forchune and venjans? She nu him; she nu dhat at her retern from a fruetles gerny it wood be in vane too tel him ov her imprizzonment, in vane too enlarj uppon the sufferingz she had undergon. The cardinal wood repli, withe the sarcastic caalmnes ov the skeptic, strong at wuns bi pouwer and geenyus, "U shood not hav aloud yorcelf too be taken."

Then Milady colected aul her ennergese, mermering in the depths ov her sole the name ov Felton—the oonly beme ov lite dhat pennetrated too her in the hel intoo which she had faulen; and like a serpent which foaldz and unfoaldz its ringz too ascertain its strength, she envellopt Felton befoerhand in the thouzand meshez ov her inventive imaginaishon.

Time, houwevver, paast awa; the ourz, wun aafter anuther, ceemd too awaken the cloc az dha paast, and evvery blo ov the braas hammer rezounded uppon the hart ov the prizzoner. At nine oacloc, Lord de Winter made hiz customary vizsit, exammiand the windo and the barz, sounded the floer and the waulz, looct too the chimney and the doerz, widhout, juring this long and minute examinaishon, he or Milady pronouncing a cin'ghel werd.

Doutles boath ov them understood dhat the cichuwaishon had becum too cereyous too loose time in uesles werdz and aimles rauth.

"Wel," ced the barron, on leving her "u wil not escape toonite!"

At ten oacloc Felton came and plaist the centinel. Milady reccogniazd hiz step. She wauz az wel aqwainted withe it nou az a mistres iz withe dhat ov the luvver ov her hart; and yet Milady at the same time detested

and despiazd this weke fanattic.

Dhat wauz not the apointed our. Felton did not enter.

Too ourz aafter, az midnite sounded, the centinel wauz releevd. This time it WAUZ the our, and from this moment Milady wated withe impaishens. The nu centinel comenst hiz wauc in the coridor. At the expiraishon ov ten minnuets Felton came.

Milady wauz aul atenshon.

"Liscen," ced the yung man too the centinel. "On no pretens leve the doer, for u no dhat laast nite mi Lord punnisht a soalger for havving qwit hiz poast for an instant, auldho I, juring hiz abcens, waucht in hiz place."

"Yes, I no it," ced the soalger.

"I recomend u dhaerfoer too kepe the strictest wauch. For mi part I am gowing too pa a cecond vizsit too this woomman, whoo I fere entertainz cinnister intenshonz uppon her one life, and I hav receevd orderz too wauch her."

"Good!" mermerd Milady; "the austere Puritan lise."

Az too the soalger, he oanly smiald.

"Zuindz, Leftenant!" ced he; "u ar not unlucky in beying charjd withe such comishonz, particularly if mi Lord haz authoriazd u too looc intoo her bed."

Felton blusht. Under enny uther circumstaancez he wood hav reprimaanded

the soalger for indulging in such plezzantry, but hiz conspens mermerd too loud for hiz mouth too dare speke.

"If I caul, cum," ced he. "If enniwun cumz, caul me."

"I wil, Leftenant," ced the soalger.

Felton enterd Miladese apartment. Milady arose.

"U ar here!" ced she.

"I prommiast too cum," ced Felton, "and I hav cum."

"U prommiast me sumthhing els."

"Whaut, mi God!" ced the yung man, whoo in spite ov hiz celf-comaand felt hiz nese trembel and the swet start from hiz brou.

"U prommiast too bring a nife, and too leve it withe me aafter our intervü."

"Sa no moer ov dhat, madam," ced Felton. "Dhare iz no cichuwaishon, houwevver terribel it ma be, which can authorise a crechure ov God too inflict deth uppon himcelf. I hav reflected, and I canot, must not be ghilty ov such a cin."

"Aa, u hav reflected!" ced the prizzoner, citting doun in her armchare, withe a smile ov disdane; "and I aulso hav reflected."

"Uppon whaut?"

"Dhat I can hav nuthhing too sa too a man whoo duz not kepe hiz werd."

"O, mi God!" mermerd Felton.

"U ma retire," ced Milady. "I wil not tauc."

"Here iz the nife," ced Felton, drauwing from hiz pocket the weppon which he had braut, acording too hiz prommice, but which he hezsitated too ghiv too hiz prizzoner.

"Let me ce it," ced Milady.

"For whaut perpoce?"

"Uppon mi onnor, I wil instantly retern it too u. U shal place it on dhat tabel, and u ma remane betwene it and me."

Felton offerd the weppon too Milady, whoo exammiand the temper ov it atentivly, and whoo tride the point on the tip ov her fin'gher.

"Wel," ced she, reterning the nife too the yung officer, "this iz fine and good stele. U ar a faithfool frend, Felton."

Felton tooc bac the weppon, and lade it uppon the tabel, az he had agrede withe the prizzoner.

Milady follode him withe her ise, and made a geschure ov satisfacshon.

"Nou," ced she, "liscen too me."

The reqwest wauz needles. The yung officer stood uprite befoer her, awating her werdz az if too devour them.

"Felton," ced Milady, withe a solemnity fool ov mellancoly, "imadgine dhat yor cister, the dauter ov yor faather, speex too u. While yet yung, unforchunaitly handsum, I wauz dragd intoo a snare. I resisted. Ambooshez and viyolencez multiplide around me, but I resisted. The

relijon I cerv, the God I adoer, wer blasfeemd becauz I cauld uppon dhat relidjon and dhat God, but stil I resisted. Then outragez wer heept uppon me, and az mi sole wauz not subjude dha wisht too defile mi boddy forevver. Finaly—"

Milady stopt, and a bitter smile paast over her lips.

"Finaly," ced Felton, "finaly, whaut did dha doo?"

"At length, wun evening mi ennemy rezolvd too parralise the resistans he cood not conker. Wun evening he mixt a pouwerfool narcottic withe mi wauter. Scaersly had I finnisht mi repaast, when I felt micelf cinc bi degrese intoo a strainj torpor. Auldho I wauz widhout mistrust, a vaghe fere ceezd me, and I tride too strugghel against slepines. I arose. I wisht too run too the windo and caul for help, but mi legz refuezd dhare office. It apeerd az if the celing sanc uppon mi hed and crusht me withe its wate. I strecht out mi armz. I tride too speke. I cood oonly utter inarticulate soundz, and iresistibel faintnes came over me. I supoerted micelf bi a chare, feling dhat I wauz about too faul, but this supoert wauz soone insufishent on acount ov mi weke armz. I fel uppon wun ne, then uppon boath. I tride too pra, but mi tung wauz frosen. God doutles niather herd nor sau me, and I sanc uppon the floer a pra too a slumber which resembeld deth.

"Ov aul dhat paast in dhat slepe, or the time which glided awa while it laasted, I hav no remembrans. The oonly thhing I recolect iz dhat I awoke in bed in a round chaimber, the fernichure ov which wauz sumpshous, and intoo which lite oonly pennetrated bi an opening in the celing. No doer gave entrans too the roome. It mite be cauld a magnifficent prizzon.

"It wauz a long time befoer I wauz abel too make out whaut place I wauz in, or too take acount ov the detailz I describe. Mi miand apeerd too strive

in vane too shake of the hevvy darcnes ov the slepe from which I cood not rouz micelf. I had vaghe percepshonz ov space traverst, ov the roling ov a carrage, ov a horibel dreame in which mi strength had becum exhausted; but aul this wauz so darc and so indistinct in mi miand dhat these events ceemd too belong too anuther life dhan mine, and yet mixt withe mine in fantastic juwallity.

"At tiamz the state intoo which I had faulen apeerd so strainj dhat I beleevd micelf dreming. I arose trembling. Mi cloadhz wer nere me on a chare; I niather rememberd havving undrest micelf nor gowing too bed. Then bi degrese the reyallity broke uppon me, fool ov chaist terrorz. I wauz no lon'gher in the hous whare I had dwelt. Az wel az I cood juj bi the lite ov the sun, the da wauz aulreddy too-thherdz gon. It wauz the evening befoer when I had faulen aslepe; mi slepe, then, must hav laasted twenty-foer ourz! Whaut had taken place juring this long slepe?

"I drest micelf az qwicly az poscibel; mi slo and stif moashonz aul attested dhat the efects ov the narcottic wer not yet entiarly discipated. The chaimber wauz evvidently fernisht for the recepshon ov a woomman; and the moast finnisht coket cood not hav formd a wish, but on caasting her ise about the apartment, she wood hav found dhat wish acumplisht.

"Certainly I wauz not the ferst captive dhat had bene shut up in this splendid prizzon; but u ma esily comprehend, Felton, dhat the moer superb the prizzon, the grater wauz mi terror.

"Yes, it wauz a prizzon, for I tride in vane too ghet out ov it. I sounded aul the waulz, in the hoaps ov discuvering a doer, but evveriwheare the waulz reternd a fool and flat sound.

"I made the toor ov the roome at leest twenty tiamz, in cerch ov an outlet ov sum kiand; but dhare wauz nun. I sanc exhausted withe fateghe and terror intoo an armchare.



"Meentime, nite came on rappidly, and withe nite mi terrorz increest. I did not no but I had better remane whare I wauz ceted. It apeerd dhat I wauz surrounded withe un'none dain'gerz intoo which I wauz about too  
faul at evvery instant. Auldho I had eten nuthhing cins the evening befoer, mi feerz prevented mi feling hun'gher.

"No noiz from widhout bi which I cood mezhure the time reecht me; I oanly supozd it must be cevven or ate oacloc in the evening, for it wauz in the munth ov October and it wauz qwite darc.

"Aul at wuns the noiz ov a doer, terning on its hin'gez, made me start. A globe ov fire apeerd abuv the glaizd opening ov the celing, caasting a strong lite intoo mi chaimber; and I perceevd withe terror dhat a man wauz standing within a fu pacez ov me.

"A tabel, withe too cuvverz, baring a supper reddy prepaerd, stood, az if bi madgic, in the middel ov the apartment.

"Dhat man wauz he whoo had pershude me juring a whole yere, whoo had voud  
mi disonnor, and whoo, bi the ferst werdz dhat ishude from hiz mouth, gave me too understand he had acumplisht it the preceding nite."

"Scoundrel!" mermerd Felton.

"O, yes, scoundrel!" cride Milady, ceying the interest which the yung officer, whose sole ceemd too hang on her lips, tooc in this strainj recital. "O, yes, scoundrel! He beleevd, havving triyumft over me in mi slepe, dhat aul wauz completed. He came, hoping dhat I wood axept mi shame, az mi shame wauz consumated; he came too offer hiz forchune in  
exchainj for mi luv.

"Aul dhat the hart ov a woomman cood contane ov hauty contempt and disdainfool werdz, I poerd out uppon this man. Doutles he wauz acustomd too such reprochez, for he liscend too me caalm and smiling, withe hiz armz crost over hiz brest. Then, when he thaut I had ced aul, he advaanst tooword me; I sprang tooword the tabel, I ceezd a nife, I plaist it too mi brest.

"Take wun step moer," ced I, "and in adishon too mi disonnor, u shal hav mi deth too reproche yorcelf withe."

"Dhare wauz, no dout, in mi looc, mi vois, mi whole person, dhat cincerrity ov geschure, ov attichude, ov axent, which carrese convicshon too the moast pervers miandz, for he pauzd.

"Yor deth?" ced he; o, no, u ar too charming a mistres too alou me too concent too loose u dhus, aafter I hav had the happines too poses u oonly a cin'ghel time. Aju, mi charmer; I wil wate too pa u mi next vizsit til u ar in a better humor.'

"At these werdz he blu a whiscel; the globe ov fire which lited the roome reyacended and disapeerd. I found micelf agane in complete darcnes. The same noiz ov a doer opening and shutting wauz repeted the instant aafterword; the flaming globe decended afresh, and I wauz compleetly alone.

"This moment wauz friatfool; if I had enny douts az too mi misforchune, these douts had vannisht in an overwhelming reyallity. I wauz in the pouwer ov a man whoome I not oonly detested, but despiazd—ov a man capabel ov ennithhing, and whoo had aulreddy ghivven me a fatal proofe ov whaut he wauz abel too doo."

"But whoo, then wauz this man?" aasct Felton.

"I paast the nite on a chare, starting at the leest noiz, for tooword midnite the lamp went out, and I wauz agane in darcnes. But the nite paast awa widhout enny fresh atempt on the part ov mi percecutor. Da came; the tabel had disapeerd, oonly I had stil the nife in mi hand.

"This nife wauz mi oonly hope.

"I wauz woern out withe fateghe. Sleeplesnes inflaimd mi ise; I had not daerd too slepe a cin'ghel instant. The lite ov da reyashuerd me; I went and thru micelf on the bed, widhout parting withe the emancipating nife, which I conceeld under mi pillo.

"When I awoke, a fresh mele wauz cervd.

"This time, in spite ov mi terrorz, in spite ov mi agony, I began too fele a devouring hun'gher. It wauz forty-ate ourz cins I had taken enny nurrishment. I ate sum bred and sum frute; then, remembering the narcottic mixt withe the wauter I had drunc, I wood not tuch dhat which wauz plaist on the tabel, but fild mi glaas at a marbel fountane fixt in the waul over mi drescing tabel.

"And yet, notwidhstanding these precaushonz, I remaind for sum time in a terribel agitaishon ov miand. But mi feerz wer this time il-founded; I paast the da widhout expereyencing ennithhing ov the kiand I dredded.

"I tooc the precaushon too haaf empty the caraaf, in order dhat mi suspishonz mite not be notiast.

"The evening came on, and withe it darcnes; but houwevver profound wauz this darcnes, mi ise began too acustom themcelvz too it. I sau, amid

the shaddose, the tabel cinc throo the floer; a qworter ov an our later it reyapeerd, baring mi supper. In an instant, thanx too the lamp, mi chaimber wauz wuns moer lited.

"I wauz determiand too ete oanly such thhingz az cood not poscibly hav ennithhing soporiffic introjuest intoo them. Too egz and sum frute compoazd mi repaast; then I dru anuther glaas ov wauter from mi protecting fountane, and dranc it.

"At the ferst swaulo, it apeerd too me not too hav the same taist az in the morning. Suspishon instantly ceezd me. I pauzd, but I had aulreddy drunc haaf a glaas.

"I thru the rest awa withe horror, and wated, withe the ju ov fere uppon mi brou.

"No dout sum invizsibel witnes had cene me drau the wauter from dhat fountane, and had taken advaantage ov mi confidens in it, the better too ashure mi ruwin, so cooly rezolvd uppon, so cruwely pershude.

"Haaf an our had not paast when the same cimptomz began too apere; but az I had oanly drunc haaf a glaas ov the wauter, I contended lon'gher, and insted ov fauling entiarly aslepe, I sanc intoo a state ov drousines which left me a percepshon ov whaut wauz paacing around me, while depriving me ov the strength iather too defend micelf or too fli.

"I dragd micelf tooword the bed, too ceke the oanly defens I had left—mi saving nife; but I cood not reche the bolster. I sanc on mi nese, mi handz claaspt round wun ov the bedpoasts; then I felt dhat I wauz lost."

Felton became friatfooly pale, and a convulcive tremmor crept throo hiz whole boddy.

"And whaut wauz moast friatfool," continnude Milady, her vois aulterd, az if she stil expereyenst the same aggonny az at dhat aufool minnute, "wauz dhat at this time I retaind a conshousnes ov the dain'ger dhat threttend me; wauz dhat mi sole, if I ma sa so, waict in mi sleping boddy; wauz dhat I sau, dhat I herd. It iz tru dhat aul wauz like a dreame, but it wauz not the les friatfool.

"I sau the lamp acend, and leve me in darcnes; then I herd the wel-none creking ov the doer auldho I had herd dhat doer open but twice.

"I felt instinctiavly dhat sumwun aproacht me; it iz ced dhat the duimd rech in the dezserts ov Amerricaa dhus feelz the aproche ov the serpent.

"I wisht too make an effort; I atempted too cri out. Bi an increddibel effort ov wil I even raizd micelf up, but oonly too cinc down agane imejaitly, and too faul intoo the armz ov mi percecutor."

"Tel me whoo this man wauz!" cride the yung officer.

Milady sau at a cin'ghel glaans aul the painfool felingz she inspiard in Felton bi dwelling on evvery detale ov her recital; but she wood not spare him a cin'ghel pang. The moer profoundly she wuinded hiz hart, the moer certainly he wood avenj her. She continnude, then, az if she had not herd hiz exclamaishon, or az if she thaut the moment wauz not yet cum too repli too it.

"Oonly this time it wauz no lon'gher an inert boddy, widhout feling, dhat the villane had too dele withe. I hav toald u dhat widhout beying abel too regane the complete exercise ov mi faccultese, I retaind the cens ov mi dain'ger. I struggheld, then, withe aul mi strength, and doutles opoazd, weke az I wauz, a long resistans, for I herd him cri out, These mizserabel Puritanz! I nu verry wel dhat dha tiard out dhare

execueshonerz, but I did not beleve them so strong against dhare luvverz!

"Alaas! this desperate resistans cood not laast long. I felt mi strength fale, and this time it wauz not mi slepe dhat enabeld the couward too prevale, but mi swoone."

Felton liscend widhout uttering enny werd or sound, exept an inword expreshon ov agony. The swet streemd down hiz marbel foerhed, and hiz hand, under hiz cote, toer hiz brest.

"Mi ferst impuls, on cumming too micelf, wauz too fele under mi pillo for the nife I had not bene Abel too reche; if it had not bene uesfool for defens, it mite at leest cerv for expeyaishon.

"But on taking this nife, Felton, a terribel ideyaa okerd too me. I hav swoern too tel u aul, and I wil tel u aul. I hav prommiast u the trueth; I wil tel it, wer it too destroi me."

"The ideyaa came intoo yor miand too avenj yorcelf on this man, did it not?" cride Felton.

"Yes," ced Milady. "The ideyaa wauz not dhat ov a Crischan, I nu; but widhout dout, dhat eternal ennemy ov our soalz, dhat liyon roering constantly around us, breedhd it intoo mi miand. In short, whaut shal I sa too u, Felton?" continnude Milady, in the tone ov a woomman acusing hercelf ov a crime. "This ideyaa okerd too me, and did not leve me; it iz ov this homicidal thaut dhat I nou bare the punnishment."

"Continnu, continnu!" ced Felton; "I am egher too ce u atane yor venjans!"

"O, I rezolvd dhat it shood take place az soone az poscibel. I had no dout he wood retern the following nite. Juring the da I had nuthhing

too fere.

"When the our ov brecfast came, dhaerfoer, I did not hezsitate too ete and drinc. I had determiand too make beleve sup, but too ete nuthing. I wauz foerst, then, too combat the faast ov the evening withe the nurrishment ov the morning.

"Oonly I conceeld a glaas ov wauter, which remaind aafter mi brecfast, thherst havving bene the chefe ov mi sufferingz when I remaind forty-ate ourz widhout eting or drinking.

"The da paast awa widhout havving enny uther influwens on me dhan too strengthhen the rezolueshon I had formd; oonly I tooc care dhat mi face shood not betra the thauts ov mi hart, for I had no dout I wauz waucht. Cevveral tiamz, even, I felt a smile on mi lips. Felton, I dare not tel u at whaut ideyaa I smiald; u wood hoald me in horor—"

"Go on! go on!" ced Felton; "u ce plainly dhat I liscen, and dhat I am ancshous too no the end."

"Evening came; the ordinary events tooc place. Juring the darcnes, az befoer, mi supper wauz braut. Then the lamp wauz lited, and I sat down too tabel. I oonly ate sum frute. I pretended too poer out wauter from the jug, but I oonly dranc dhat which I had saivd in mi glaas. The substichueshon wauz made so caerfooly dhat mi spise, if I had enny, cood hav no suspishon ov it.

"Aafter supper I exhibbited the same marx ov lan'gor az on the preceding evening; but this time, az I yeelded too fateghe, or az if I had becum familleyariazd withe dain'ger, I dragd micelf tooword mi bed, let mi robe faul, and la down.

"I found mi nife whare I had plaist it, under mi pillo, and while

faning too slepe, mi hand graaspt the handel ov it convulciavly.

"Too ourz paast awa widhout ennithhing fresh happening. O, mi God! whoo  
cood hav ced so the evening befoer? I began too fere dhat he wood not cum.

"At length I sau the lamp rise softly, and disapere in the depths ov the celing; mi chaimber wauz fild withe darcnes and obscurity, but I made a strong effort too pennetrate this darcnes and obscurity.

"Neerly ten minnuets paast; I herd no uther noiz but the beting ov mi one hart. I imploerd hevven dhat he mite cum.

"At length I herd the wel-none noiz ov the doer, which open and shut; I herd, notwidhstanding the thhicnes ov the carpet, a step which made the floer creke; I sau, notwidhstanding the darcnes, a shaddo which aproacht mi bed."

"Haist! haist!" ced Felton; "doo u not ce dhat eche ov yor werdz bernz me like moalten led?"

"Then," continnude Milady, "then I colected aul mi strength; I recauld too mi miand dhat the moment ov venjans, or raather, ov justice, had struc. I looct uppon micelf az anuther Judith; I gatherd micelf up, mi nife in mi hand, and when I sau him nere me, stretching out hiz armz too fiand hiz victim, then, withe the laast cri ov aggony and despare, I struc him in the middel ov hiz brest.

"The mizerabel villane! He had foercene aul. Hiz brest wauz cuvverd withe  
a cote-ov-male; the nife wauz bent against it.

"Aa, aa!" cride he, cesing mi arm, and resting from me the weppon



dhat had so badly cervd me, u waunt too take mi life, doo u, mi pritty Puritan? But dhats moer dhan dislike, dhats in'grattichude! Cum, cum, caalm yorcelf, mi swete gherl! I thaut u had softend. I am not wun ov dhose tirants whoo detane wimmen bi foers. U doant luv me.

Withe

mi uezhuwal fachuwity I doutd it; nou I am convinst. Toomoro u shal be fre.'

"I had but wun wish; dhat wauz dhat he shood kil me.

"'Beware!' ced I, for mi libberty iz yor disonnor.'

"Explane yorcelf, mi pritty cibbil!"

"Yes; for az soone az I leve this place I wil tel evverithhing. I wil proclame the viyolens u hav uezd tooword me. I wil describe mi captivvity. I wil denouns this place ov infamy. U ar plaist on hi, mi Lord, but trembel! Abuv u dhare iz the king; abuv the king dhare iz God!"

"Houwevver perfect maaster he wauz over himcelf, mi percecutor aloud a muivment ov an'gher too escape him. I cood not ce the expreshon ov hiz countenans, but I felt the arm trembel uppon which mi hand wauz plaist.

"Then u shal not leve this place,' ced he.

"Verry wel,' cride I, then the place ov mi punnishment wil be dhat ov mi toome. I wil di here, and u wil ce if a fantom dhat acusez iz not moer terribel dhan a livving beying dhat threttenz!"

"U shal hav no weppon left in yor pouwer.'

"Dhare iz a weppon which despere haz plaist within the reche ov evvery crechure whoo haz the currege too use it. I wil alou micelf too di withe

hun'gher.'

"Cum,' ced the rech, iz not pece much better dhan such a wor az dhat? I wil restoer u too libberty this moment; I wil proclame u a pece ov immaculate verchu; I wil name u the Lucreeshaa ov In'gland.'

"And I wil sa dhat u ar the Cextus. I wil denouns u befoer men, az I hav denounst u befoer God; and if it be nescesary dhat, like Lucreeshaa, I shood cine mi acuzaishon withe mi blud, I wil cine it.'

"Aa!' ced mi ennemy, in a gering tone, dhats qwite anuther thhing. Mi faith! evverithhing concidderd, u ar verry wel of here. U shal waunt for nuthhing, and if u let yorcelf di ov hun'gher dhat wil be yor one fault.'

"At these werdz he retiard. I herd the doer open and shut, and I remaind overwhelmd, les, I confes it, bi mi grefe dhan bi the mortificaishon ov not havving avenjd micelf.

"He kept hiz werd. Aul the da, aul the next nite paast awa widhout mi ceyng him agane. But I aulso kept mi werd withe him, and I niather ate nor dranc. I wauz, az I toald him, rezolvd too di ov hun'gher.

"I paast the da and the nite in prare, for I hoapt dhat God wood pardon me mi suwicide.

"The cecond nite the doer opend; I wauz liying on the floer, for mi strength began too abandon me.

"At the noiz I raizd micelf up on wun hand.

"Wel,' ced a vois which viabrated in too terribel a manner in mi ere not too be reccogniazd, wel! Ar we softend a littel? Wil we not pa

for our libberty withe a cin'ghel prommice ov cilens? Cum, I am a good sort ov a prins,' added he, and auldho I like not Puritanz I doo them justice; and it iz the same withe Puritaanecez, when dha ar pritty. Cum, take a littel oath for me on the cros; I woant aasc ennithhing moer ov u.'

"On the cros,' cride I, rising, for at dhat abhord vois I had recuvverd aul mi strength, on the cros I sware dhat no prommice, no mennace, no foers, no torchure, shal close mi mouth! On the cros I sware too denouns u evveriw hare az a merderer, az a thhefe ov onnor, az a bace couward! On the cros I sware, if I evver leve this place, too caul doun venjans uppon u from the whole human race!"

"'Beware!' ced the vois, in a threttening axent dhat I had nevvver yet herd. 'I hav an extrordinary meenz which I wil not emploi but in the laast extremmity too close yor mouth, or at leest too prevent enniwun from beleving a werd u ma utter.'

"I musterd aul mi strength too repli too him withe a berst ov laafter.

"He sau dhat it wauz a merciles wor betwene us—a wor too the deth.

"Liscen!' ced he. 'I ghiv u the rest ov toonite and aul da toomoro. Reflect: prommice too be cilent, and ritchez, concideraishon, even onnor, shal suround u; thretten too speke, and I wil condem u too infamy.'

"U?' cride I. U?"

"Too interminabel, ineffasabel infamy!"

"U?' repeted I. O, I declare too u, Felton, I thaut him mad!"

"Yes, yes, I!' replide he.

"O, leve me!" ced I. 'Begon, if u doo not desire too ce me dash mi hed against dhat waul befoer yor ise!"

"Verry wel, it iz yor one doowing. Til toomoro evening, then!"

"Til toomoro evening, then!" replide I, alouwing micelf too faul, and biting the carpet withe rage."

Felton leend for supoert uppon a pece ov fernichure; and Milady sau, withe the joi ov a demon, dhat hiz strength wood fale him perhaps befoer the end ov her recital.

## 57 MEENZ FOR CLASCICAL TRADGEDY

Aafter a moment ov cilens emloid bi Milady in observing the yung man whoo liscend too her, Milady continnude her recital.

"It wauz neerly thre dase cins I had eten or drunc ennithing. I sufferd friatfool torments. At tiamz dhare paast befoer me cloudz which prest mi brou, which vaild mi ise; this wauz delereyum.

"When the evening came I wauz so weke dhat evvery time I fainted I thanct God, for I thaut I wauz about too di.

"In the midst ov wun ov these swuinz I herd the doer open. Terror recauld me too micelf.

"He enterd the apartment follode bi a man in a maasc. He wauz maasct liaqwise; but I nu hiz step, I nu hiz vois, I nu him bi dhat imposing baring which hel haz bestode uppon hiz person for the kers

ov humannity.

"Wel,' ced he too me, hav u made yor miand up too take the oath I reqwested ov u?"

"U hav ced Puritanz hav but wun werd. Mine u hav herd, and dhat iz too pershu u—on erth too the tribunal ov men, in hevven too the tribunal ov God."

"U percist, then?"

"I sware it befoer the God whoo heerz me. I wil take the whole werld az a witnes ov yor crime, and dhat until I hav found an aven'ger."

"U ar a prostichute,' ced he, in a vois ov thunder, and u shal undergo the punnishment ov prostichuets! Branded in the ise ov the werld u invoke, tri too proove too dhat werld dhat u ar niather ghilty nor mad!"

"Then, adrescing the man whoo acumpanede him, Execueshoner,' ced he, doo yor juty."

"O, hiz name, hiz name!" cride Felton. "Hiz name, tel it me!"

"Then in spite ov mi crise, in spite ov mi resistans—for I began too comprehend dhat dhare wauz a qweschon ov sumthhing wers dhan deth—the execueshoner ceezd me, thru me on the floer, faacend me withe hiz bondz, and suffocated bi sobz, aulmoast widhout cens, invoking God, whoo did not liscen too me, I utterd aul at wuns a friatfool cri ov pane and shame. A bering fire, a red-hot iarn, the iarn ov the execueshoner, wauz imprinted on mi shoalder."

Felton utterd a grone.

"Here," ced Milady, rising withe the madgesty ov a qwene, "here, Felton, behoald the nu marterdom invented for a pure yung gherl, the victim ov the brutallity ov a villane. Lern too no the hart ov men, and hensfoerth make yorcelf les esily the instrument ov dhare unjust venjans."

Milady, withe a rappid geschure, opend her robe, toer the cambric dhat cuvverd her boozom, and red withe faind an'gher and cimmulated shame, shode the yung man the ineffasabel impreshon which disonnord dhat butifool shoalder.

"But," cride Felton, "dhat iz a *FLEUR-DE-LIS* which I ce dhare."

"And dharin concisted the infamy," replide Milady. "The brand ov In'gland!—it woud be nescesary too proove whaut tribunal had impoazd it on me, and I cood hav made a public apele too aul the tribunalz ov the kingdom; but the brand ov Fraans!—o, bi dhat, bi DHAT I wauz branded indede!"

This wauz too much for Felton.

Pale, moashonles, overwhelmed bi this friatfool revelaishon, dazseld bi the superhuman buty ov this woomman whoo unvaild hercelf befoer him withe an immodesty which apeerd too him sublime, he ended bi fauling on hiz nese befoer her az the erly Crischanz did befoer dhose pure and holy marterz whoome the percecueshon ov the emperorz gave up in the cercus too the san'gwinary censhuwallity ov the poppulance. The brand disapeerd; the buty alone remaind.

"Pardon! Pardon!" cride Felton, "o, pardon!"

Milady red in hiz ise LUV! LUV!

"Pardon for whaut?" aasct she.

"Pardon me for havving joind withe yor percecutorz."

Milady held out her hand too him.

"So butifool! so yung!" cride Felton, cuvvering dhat hand withe hiz kiscez.

Milady let wun ov dhose loox faul uppon him which make a slave ov a king.

Felton wauz a Puritan; he abandond the hand ov this woomman too kis her fete.

He no lon'gher luvd her; he adoerd her.

When this cricis wauz paast, when Milady apeerd too hav rezhuemd her celf-poseshon, which she had nevver lost; when Felton had cene her recuver withe the vale ov chastity dhose trezhuerz ov luv which wer oonly conceeld from him too make him desire them the moer ardently, he ced, "Aa, nou! I hav oonly wun thhing too aasc ov u; dhat iz, the name ov yor tru execueshoner. For too me dhare iz but wun; the uther wauz an instrument, dhat wauz aul."

"Whaut, bruther!" cride Milady, "must I name him agane? Hav u not yet diviand whoo he iz?"

"Whaut?" cride Felton, "he—agane he—aulwase he? Whaut—the truly ghilty?"

"The truly ghilty," ced Milady, "iz the ravgager ov In'gland, the percecutor ov tru beleverz, the bace ravgisher ov the onnor ov so menny wimmen—he whoo, too sattisfi a caprece ov hiz corrupt hart, iz about too make In'gland shed so much blud, whoo protects the Protestants tooda and wil betra them toomoro—"

"Buckingham! It iz, then, Buckingham!" cride Felton, in a hi state ov exiatment.

Milady conceeld her face in her handz, az if she cood not enjure the shame which this name recauld too her.

"Buckingham, the execueshoner ov this an'gelic crechure!" cride Felton. "And dhou hast not herld thi thunder at him, mi God! And dhou hast left him nobel, onnord, pouwerfool, for the ruwin ov us aul!"

"God abandonz him whoo abandonz himcelf," ced Milady.

"But he wil drau uppon hiz hed the punnishment reservd for the damd!" ced Felton, withe increcing exultaishon. "He wilz dhat human venjans shood precede celeschal justice."

"Men fere him and spare him."

"I," ced Felton, "I doo not fere him, nor wil I spare him."

The sole ov Milady wauz baidhd in an infernal joi.

"But hou can Lord de Winter, mi protector, mi faather," aasct Felton, "poscibly be mixt up withe aul this?"

"Liscen, Felton," rezhuemd Milady, "for bi the cide ov bace and



contemptibel men dhare ar often found grate and gennerous nachuerz. I had an afeyaanst huzband, a man whoome I luvd, and whoo luvd me—a hart like yorz, Felton, a man like u. I went too him and toald him aul; he nu me, dhat man did, and did not dout an instant. He wauz a nobelman, a man eeqwal too Buckingham in evvery respect. He ced nuthhing; he oonly gherded on hiz soerd, rapt himcelf in hiz cloke, and went strate too Buckingham Pallace.

"Yes, yes," ced Felton; "I understand hou he wood act. But withe such men it iz not the soerd dhat shood be emloid; it iz the ponyard."

"Buckingham had left In'gland the da befoer, cent az ambassador too Spane, too demaand the hand ov the Infantaa for King Charlz I, whoo wauz then oonly Prins ov Wailz. Mi afeyaanst huzband reternd.

"Here me,' ced he; this man haz gon, and for the moment haz conceqwently escaipt mi venjans; but let us be united, az we wer too hav bene, and then leve it too Lord de Winter too maintane hiz one onnor and dhat ov hiz wife."

"Lord de Winter!" cride Felton.

"Yes," ced Milady, "Lord de Winter; and nou u can understand it aul, can u not? Buckingham remaind neerly a yere abcent. A weke befoer hiz retern Lord de Winter dide, leving me hiz sole are. Whens came the blo? God whoo nose aul, nose widhout dout; but az for me, I acuse nobody."

"O, whaut an abis; whaut an abis!" cride Felton.

"Lord de Winter dide widhout reveling ennithhing too hiz bruther. The terribel ceecret wauz too be conceeld til it berst, like a clap ov thunder, over the hed ov the ghilty. Yor protector had cene withe pane this marrage ov hiz elder bruther withe a porshonles gherl. I wauz cencibel dhat I cood looc for no supoert from a man disapointed in hiz hoaps ov an inherritans. I went too Fraans, withe a determinaishon too remane dhare for the rest ov mi life. But aul mi forchune iz in In'gland. Comunicaishon beying cloazd bi the wor, I wauz in waunt ov evverithhing. I wauz then obliajd too cum bac agane. Cix dase ago, I landed at Poertsmouth."

"Wel?" ced Felton.

"Wel; Buckingham herd bi sum meenz, no dout, ov mi retern. He spoke ov me too Lord de Winter, aulreddy predjudiast against me, and toald him dhat hiz cister-in-lau wauz a prostichute, a branded woomman. The nobel and pure vois ov mi huzband wauz no lon'gher here too defend me. Lord de Winter beleevd aul dhat wauz toald him withe so much the moer ese dhat it wauz hiz interest too beleve it. He cauzd me too be arested, had me conducted hither, and plaist me under yor gard. U no the rest. The da aafter toomoro he bannishez me, he traanspoerts me; the da aafter toomoro he exialz me among the infamous. O, the trane iz wel lade; the plot iz clevver. Mi onnor wil not cervive it! U ce, then, Felton, I can doo nuthhing but di. Felton, ghiv me dhat nife!"

And at these werdz, az if aul her strength wauz exausted, Milady sanc, weke and lan'gwishing, intoo the armz ov the yung officer, whoo, intoxicated withe luv, an'gher, and volupshous censaishonz hithertoo un'none, receevd her withe traanspoert, prest her against hiz hart, aul trembling at the breth from dhat charming mouth, bewilderd bi the contact withe dhat palpitating boozzom.

"No, no," ced he. "No, u shal liv onnord and pure; u shal liv too triyumf over yor ennemese."

Milady poot him from her sloly withe her hand, while drauwing him nerer withe her looc; but Felton, in hiz tern, embraist her moer cloasly, imploering her like a divinnity.

"O, deth, deth!" ced she, lowering her vois and her ilidz, "o, deth, raather dhan shame! Felton, mi bruther, mi frend, I cunjure u!"

"No," cride Felton, "no; u shal liv and u shal be avenjd."

"Felton, I bring misforchune too aul whoo suround me! Felton, abandon me!  
Felton, let me di!"

"Wel, then, we wil liv and di tooghether!" cride he, prescing hiz lips too dhose ov the prizzoner.

Cevveral stroax rezounded on the doer; this time Milady reyaly poosht him awa from her.

"Harc," ced she, "we hav bene overherd! Sumwun iz cumming! Aul iz over! We ar lost!"

"No," ced Felton; it iz oonly the centinel warning me dhat dha ar about too chainj the gard."

"Then run too the doer, and open it yorcelf."

Felton obade; this woomman wauz nou hiz whole thaut, hiz whole sole.

He found himself face to face with a sarjant commanding a watch-patrol.

"Well, what is the matter?" asked the young lieutenant.

"You told me to open the door if I heard any cry out," said the soldier; "but you forgot to leave me the key. I heard you cry out, without understanding what you said. I tried to open the door, but it was locked inside; then I called the sarjant."

"And here I am," said the sarjant.

Felton, quite bewildered, almost mad, stood speechless.

Milady plainly perceived that it was now her turn to take part in the scene. She ran to the table, and seeing the knife which Felton had laid down, exclaimed, "And by what right will you prevent me from dying?"

"Grate God!" exclaimed Felton, on seeing the knife glitter in her hand.

At that moment a burst of ironical laughter resounded through the corridor. The barron, attracted by the noise, in his chamber gown, his sword under his arm, stood in the doorway.

"Ah," said he, "here we are, at the last act of the tragedy. You see, Felton, the drama has gone through all the phases I named; but be easy, no blood will flow."

Milady perceived that all was lost unless she gave Felton an immediate and terrible proof of her courage.

"You are mistaken, my Lord, blood will flow; and may that blood fall back on those who caused it to flow!"

Felton utterd a cri, and rusht tooword her. He wauz too late; Milady had stabd herself.

But the nife had forchunaitly, we aut too sa skilfooly, cum in contact withe the stele busc, which at dhat pereyod, like a qweras, defended the chests ov wimmen. It had glided down it, taring the robe, and had pennetrated slaantingly betwene the flesh and the ribz. Miladese robe wauz not the les staind withe blud in a cecond.

Milady fel doun, and ceemd too be in a swoone.

Felton snacht awa the nife.

"Ce, mi Lord," ced he, in a depe, gloomy tone, "here iz a woomman whoo wauz under mi gard, and whoo haz kild herself!"

"Be at ese, Felton," ced Lord de Winter. "She iz not ded; demonz doo not di so esily. Be tranqwil, and go wate for me in mi chaimber."

"But, mi Lord—"

"Go, cer, I comaand u!"

At this injuncshon from hiz supereyor, Felton obade; but in gowing out, he poot the nife intoo hiz boozzom.

Az too Lord de Winter, he contented himcelf withe caulng the woomman whoo wated on Milady, and when she wauz cum, he recomended the prizzoner, whoo wauz stil fainting, too her care, and left them alone.

Meenwhile, aul thhingz concidderd and notwithstanding hiz suspishonz, az the wuind mite be cereyous, he imejaitly cent of a mounted man too fiand a fisishan.

## 58 ESCAPE

Az Lord de Winter had thaut, Miladese wuind wauz not dain'gerous. So soone

az she wauz left alone withe the woomman whoome the barron had summond too her acistans she opend her ise.

It wauz, houwevver, nescenary too afect weecnes and pane—not a verry difficult taasc for so finnisht an actres az Milady. Dhus the poor woomman wauz compleetly the jupe ov the prizzoner, whoome, notwithstanding her hints, she percisted in wauching aul nite.

But the prezsens ov this woomman did not prevent Milady from ththinking.

Dhare wauz no lon'gher a dout dhat Felton wauz convinst; Felton wauz herz.

If an ain'gel apeerd too dhat yung man az an acuser ov Milady, he wood take him, in the mental disposishon in which he nou found himcelf, for a mescen'ger cent bi the devvil.

Milady smiald at this thaut, for Felton wauz nou her oanly hope—her oanly meenz ov saifty.

But Lord de Winter mite suspect him; Felton himcelf mite nou be waucht!

Tooword foer oacloc in the morning the doctor ariavd; but cins the time Milady stabd hercelf, houwevver short, the wuind had cloazd. The

doctor could have measured neither the direction nor the depth of it; he only satisfied himself by Milady's pulse that the case was not serious.

In the morning Milady, under the pretext that she had not slept well in the night and wanted rest, sent away the woman who attended her.

She had won hope, which was that Felton would appear at the breakfast table; but Felton did not come.

Was her fear realized? Was Felton, suspected by the baron, about to fail her at the decisive moment? She had only won that. Lord de Winter had announced her embarkation for the twenty-third, and it was now the morning of the twenty-second.

Nevertheless she still waited patiently till the hour for dinner.

Altogether she had eaten nothing in the morning, the dinner was brought in at its usual time. Milady then perceived, with terror, that the uniform of the soldier who guarded her was changed.

Then she ventured to ask what had become of Felton.

She was told that he had left the castle an hour before on horseback. She inquired if the baron was still at the castle. The soldier replied that he was, and that he had given orders to be informed if the prisoner wished to speak to him.

Milady replied that she was too weak at present, and that her only desire was to be left alone.

The soldier went out, leaving the dinner served.

Felton wauz cent awa. The mareenz wer remuivd. Felton wauz then mistrusted.

This wauz the laast blo too the prizzoner.

Left alone, she arose. The bed, which she had kept from prudens and dhat dha mite beleve her cereyously wuinded, bernd her like a bed ov fire. She caast a glaans at the doer; the barron had had a planc naid over the grating. He no dout feerd dhat bi this opening she mite stil bi sum diyabollical meenz corrupt her gardz.

Milady smiald withe joi. She wauz fre nou too ghiv wa too her traanspoerts widhout beying observd. She traversst her chaimber withe the exiatment ov a fureyous mainyac or ov a tiagres shut up in an iarn cage. *CERTES*, if the nife had bene left in her pouwer, she wood nou hav thaut, not ov killing hercelf, but ov killing the barron.

At six oacloc Lord de Winter came in. He wauz armd at aul points. This man, in whoome Milady til dhat time had oanly cene a verry cimpel gentelman, had becum an admirabel jaler. He apeerd too foercy aul, too divine aul, too antiscipate aul.

A cin'ghel looc at Milady apriazd him ov aul dhat wauz paacing in her miand.

"I!" ced he, "I ce; but u shal not kil me tooda. U hav no lon'gher a weppon; and beciadz, I am on mi gard. U had begun too pervert mi poor Felton. He wauz yeelding too yor infernal influwens; but I wil save him. He wil nevvver ce u agane; aul iz over. Ghet yor cloadhz tooghether. Toomoro u wil go. I had fixt the embarcaishon for the twenty-foerth; but I hav reflected dhat the moer promptly the afare taix place the moer shure it wil be. Toomoro, bi twelv oacloc, I shal hav the order for yor exile, ciand, BUCKINGAM. If u speke



a cin'ghel werd too enniwun befoer gowing aboard ship, mi sarjant wil blo yor brainz out. He haz orderz too doo so. If when on the ship u speke a cin'ghel werd too enniwun befoer the captane permits u, the captane wil hav u throne intoo the ce. Dhat iz agrede uppon."

"*AU REVOIR*; then; dhat iz aul I hav too sa tooda. Toomoro I wil ce u agane, too take mi leve." Withe these werdz the barron went out. Milady had liscend too aul this mennacing tirade withe a smile ov disdane on her lips, but rage in her hart.

Supper wauz cervd. Milady felt dhat she stood in nede ov aul her strength. She did not no whaut mite take place juring this nite which aproacht so mennacingly—for larj mascez ov cloud roald over the face ov the ski, and distant liatning anounst a storm.

The storm broke about ten oacloc. Milady felt a consolaishon in ceying nachure partake ov the disorder ov her hart. The thunder grould in the are like the pashon and an'gher in her thauts. It apeerd too her dhat the blaast az it swept along dishevveld her brou, az it boud the braanchez ov the trese and boer awa dhare leevz. She hould az the hurricane hould; and her vois wauz lost in the grate vois ov nachure, which aulso ceemd too grone withe despare.

Aul at wuns she herd a tap at her windo, and bi the help ov a flash ov liatning she sau the face ov a man apere behiand the barz.

She ran too the windo and opend it.

"Felton!" cride she. "I am saivd."

"Yes," ced Felton; "but cilens, cilens! I must hav time too file throo these barz. Oonly take care dhat I am not cene throo the wicket."

"O, it iz a prooffe dhat the Lord iz on our cide, Felton," replide Milady. "Dha hav cloazd up the grating withe a boerd."

"Dhat iz wel; God haz made them censles," ced Felton.

"But whaut must I doo?" aasct Milady.

"Nuthhing, nuthhing, oonly shut the windo. Go too bed, or at leest li doun in yor cloadhz. Az soone az I hav dun I wil noc on wun ov the painz ov glaas. But wil u be abel too follo me?"

"O, yes!"

"Yor wuind?"

"Ghivz me pane, but wil not prevent mi wauking."

"Be reddy, then, at the ferst cignal."

Milady shut the windo, extin'gwisht the lamp, and went, az Felton had desiard her, too li doun on the bed. Amid the moning ov the storm she herd the grianding ov the file uppon the barz, and bi the lite ov evvery flash she perceevd the shaddo ov Felton throo the painz.

She paast an our widhout breething, panting, withe a coald swet uppon her brou, and her hart oprest bi friatfool aggony at evvery muivment she herd in the coridor.

Dhare ar ourz which laast a yere.

At the expiraishon ov an our, Felton tapt agane.

Milady sprang out ov bed and opend the windo. Too barz remuivd formd

an opening for a man too paas throo.

"Ar u reddy?" aasct Felton.

"Yes. Must I take ennithhing withe me?"

"Munny, if u hav enny."

"Yes; forchunaitly dha hav left me aul I had."

"So much the better, for I hav expended aul mine in chartering a vescel."

"Here!" ced Milady, placing a bag fool ov loowy in Feltonz handz.

Felton tooc the bag and thru it too the foot ov the waul.

"Nou," ced he, "wil u cum?"

"I am reddy."

Milady mounted uppon a chare and paast the upper part ov her boddy throo the windo. She sau the yung officer suspended over the abis bi a ladder ov roaps. For the ferst time an emoashon ov terror remianded her dhat she wauz a woomman.

The darc space fritend her.

"I expected this," ced Felton.

"Its nuthhing, its nuthhing!" ced Milady. "I wil decend withe mi ise shut."

"Hav u confidens in me?" ced Felton.

"U aasc dhat?"

"Poot yor too handz tooghether. Cros them; dhats rite!"

Felton tide her too rists tooghether withe hiz hankerchefe, and then withe a cord over the hankerchefe.

"Whaut ar u doowing?" aasct Milady, withe cerprise.

"Paas yor armz around mi nec, and fere nuthhing."

"But I shal make u loose yor ballans, and we shal both be dasht too pecez."

"Doant be afrade. I am a salor."

Not a cecond wauz too be lost. Milady paast her too armz round Feltonz nec, and let hercelf slip out ov the windo. Felton began too decend the ladder sloly, step bi step. Despite the wate ov too boddese, the blaast ov the hurricane shooc them in the are.

Aul at wuns Felton stopt.

"Whaut iz the matter?" aasct Milady.

"Cilens," ced Felton, "I here footsteps."

"We ar discuvverd!"

Dhare wauz a cilens ov cevveral cecondz.

"No," ced Felton, "it iz nuthhing."

"But whaut, then, iz the noiz?"

"Dhat ov the patrole gowing dhare roundz."

"Whare iz dhare rode?"

"Just under us."

"Dha wil discuvver us!"

"No, if it duz not liten."

"But dha wil run against the bottom ov the ladder."

"Forchunaitly it iz too short bi cix fete."

"Here dha ar! Mi God!"

"Cilens!"

Boath remaind suspended, moashonles and brethles, within twenty pacez ov the ground, while the patrole paast beneeth them laafing and tauking. This wauz a terribel moment for the fugitiavz.

The patrole paast. The noiz ov dhare retreting footsteps and the mermer ov dhare voicez soone dide awa.

"Nou," ced Felton, "we ar safe."

Milady breedhd a depe ci and fainted.

Felton continnude too decend. Nere the bottom ov the ladder, when he found no moer supoert for hiz fete, he clung withe hiz handz; at length, ariavd at the laast step, he let himcelf hang bi the strength ov hiz

rists, and tucht the ground. He stuipt down, pict up the bag ov munny, and plaist it betwene hiz teeth. Then he tooc Milady in hiz armz, and cet of briscly in the direcshon opposite too dhat which the patrole had taken. He soone left the paathwa ov the patrole, decended across the rox, and when ariavd on the ej ov the ce, whisceld.

A cimmilar cignal replide too him; and five minnuets aafter, a bote apeerd, rode bi foer men.

The bote aproacht az nere az it cood too the shoer; but dhare wauz not depth enuf ov wauter for it too tuch land. Felton wauct intoo the ce up too hiz middel, beying unwilling too trust hiz preshous berden too enniboddy.

Forchunaitly the storm began too subcide, but stil the ce wauz disterbd. The littel bote bounded over the waivz like a nut-shel.

"Too the sloop," ced Felton, "and ro qwicly."

The foer men bent too dhare oerz, but the ce wauz too hi too let them ghet much hoald ov it.

Houwevver, dha left the caacel behiand; dhat wauz the principal thhing. The nite wauz extreemly darc. It wauz aulmoast imposcibel too ce the shoer from the bote; dha wood dhaerfoer be les liacly too ce the bote from the shoer.

A blac point floted on the ce. Dhat wauz the sloop. While the bote wauz advaancing withe aul the spede its foer rowerz cood ghiv it, Felton untide the cord and then the hankerchefe which bound Miladese handz tooghether. When her handz wer luist he tooc sum ce wauter and sprinkeld it over her face.

Milady breedhd a ci, and opend her ise.

"Whare am I?" ced she.

"Saivd!" replide the yung officer.

"O, saivd, saivd!" cride she. "Yes, dhare iz the ski; here iz the ce!  
The are I breathe iz the are ov libberty! Aa, thanx, Felton, thanx!"

The yung man prest her too hiz hart.

"But whaut iz the matter withe mi handz!" aasct Milady; "it ceemz az if mi  
rists had bene crusht in a vice."

Milady held out her armz; her rists wer bruezd.

"Alaas!" ced Felton, loocking at dhose butifool handz, and shaking hiz  
hed sorofooly.

"O, its nuthhing, nuthhing!" cride Milady. "I remember nou."

Milady looct around her, az if in cerch ov sumthhing.

"It iz dhare," ced Felton, tutching the bag ov munny withe hiz foot.

Dha dru nere too the sloop. A salor on wauch haid the bote; the bote  
replide.

"Whaut vescel iz dhat?" aasct Milady.

"The wun I hav hiard for u."

"Whare wil it take me?"

"Whare u plese, aafter u hav poot me on shoer at Poertsmouth."

"Whaut ar u gowing too doo at Poertsmouth?" aasct Milady.

"Acumplish the orderz ov Lord de Winter," ced Felton, withe a gloomy smile.

"Whaut orderz?" aasct Milady.

"U doo not understand?" aasct Felton.

"No; explane yorcelf, I beg."

"Az he mistrusted me, he determiand too gard u himcelf, and cent me in hiz place too ghet Buckingham too cine the order for yor transportaishon."

"But if he mistrusted u, hou cood he confide such an order too u?"

"Hou cood I no whaut I wauz the barer ov?"

"Dhats tru! And u ar gowing too Poertsmouth?"

"I hav no time too loose. Toomoro iz the twenty-thherd, and Buckingham cets sale toomoro withe hiz flete."

"He cets sale toomoro! Whare for?"

"For Laa Roshel."

"He nede not sale!" cride Milady, forghetting her uezhual prezsens ov miand.

"Be sattisfide," replide Felton; "he wil not sale."



Milady started withe joi. She cood rede too the depths ov the hart ov this yung man; the deth ov Buckingham wauz ritten dhare at fool length.

"Felton," cride she, "u ar az grate az Judas Maccabeyus! If u di, I wil di withe u; dhat iz aul I can sa too u."

"Cilens!" cride Felton; "we ar here."

In fact, dha tucht the sloop.

Felton mounted the ladder ferst, and gave hiz hand too Milady, while the salorz supoerted her, for the ce wauz stil much adgitated.

An instant aafter dha wer on the dec.

"Captane," ced Felton, "this iz person ov whoome I spoke too u, and whoome u must conva safe and sound too Fraans."

"For a thouzand pistoalz," ced the captane.

"I hav pade u five hundred ov them."

"Dhats corect," ced the captane.

"And here ar the uther five hundred," replide Milady, placing her hand uppon the bag ov goald.

"No," ced the captane, "I make but wun bargane; and I hav agrede withe this yung man dhat the uther five hundred shal not be ju too me til we arive at Booloin."

"And shal we arive dhare?"

"Safe and sound, az tru az mi naimz Jac Butler."

"Wel," ced Milady, "if u kepe yor werd, insted ov five hundred, I wil ghiv u a thouzand pistoalz."

"Hurraa for u, then, mi butifool lady," cride the captane; "and ma God often cend me such pascen'gerz az yor Ladiship!"

"Meenwhile," ced Felton, "conva me too the littel ba ov—; u no it wauz agrede u shood poot in dhare."

The captane replide bi ordering the nescesary manuverz, and tooword cevven oacloc in the morning the littel vescel caast ancor in the ba dhat had bene naimd.

Juring this passage, Felton related evverithhing too Milady—hou, insted ov gowing too Lunden, he had charterd the littel vescel; hou he had reternd; hou he had scaild the waul bi faacening cramps in the intersticez ov the stoanz, az he acended, too ghiv him foot'hoald; and hou, when he had reecht the barz, he faacend hiz ladder. Milady nu the rest.

On her cide, Milady tride too encurrage Felton in hiz prodject; but at the ferst werdz which ishude from her mouth, she plainly sau dhat the yung fanattic stood moer in nede ov beying modderated dhan erjd.

It wauz agrede dhat Milady shood wate for Felton til ten oacloc; if he did not retern bi ten oacloc she wauz too sale.

In dhat cace, and suposing he wauz at libberty, he wauz too rejoin her in Fraans, at the convent ov the Carmeliats at Bethune.

59 WHAUT TOOC PLACE AT POERTSMOUTH AUGUST 23, 1628

Felton tooc leve ov Milady az a bruther about too go for a mere wauc taix leve ov hiz cister, kiscing her hand.

Hiz whole boddy apeerd in its ordinary state ov caalmnes, oonly an unnuezhual fire beemd from hiz ise, like the efects ov a fever; hiz brou wauz moer pale dhan it genneraly wauz; hiz teeth wer clencht, and hiz speche had a short dri axent which indicated dhat sumthhing darc wauz at werc within him.

Az long az he remaind in the bote which convade him too land, he kept hiz face tooword Milady, whoo, standing on the dec, follode him withe her ise. Boath wer fre from the fere ov persute; nobody evver came intoo Miladese apartment befoer nine oacloc, and it wood reqwire thre ourz too go from the caacel too Lunden.

Felton jumpt onshor, cliamd the littel acent which led too the top ov the clif, saluted Milady a laast time, and tooc hiz coers tooword the citty.

At the end ov a hundred pavez, the ground began too decline, and he cood oonly ce the maast ov the sloop.

He imejaitly ran in the direcshon ov Poertsmouth, which he sau at neerly haaf a leghe befoer him, standing out in the hase ov the morning, withe its housez and touwerz.

Beyond Poertsmouth the ce wauz cuvverd withe vescelz whoose maasts, like a forest ov poplarz despoild bi the winter, bent withe eche breth ov the

wind.

Felton, in his rappid wauc, revude in his miand aul the acuzaishonz against the favorite ov Jaimz I and Charlz I, fernisht bi too yeerz ov premachure meditaishon and a long sogern among the Puritanz.

When he compaerd the public criamz ov this minnister—startling criamz, Uropeyan criamz, if so we ma sa—withe the private and un'none criamz withe which Milady had charjd him, Felton found dhat the moer culpabel ov the too men which formd the carracter ov Buckingham wauz the wun ov whoome the public nu not the life. This wauz becauz his luv, so strainj, so nu, and so ardent, made him vu the infamous and imadginary acuzaishonz ov Milady de Winter az, throo a magnifying glaas, wun vuse az friatfool monsterz attomz in reyallity imperceptibel bi the cide ov an ant.

The rapiddity ov his wauc heted his blud stil moer; the ideyaa dhat he left behiand him, expoazd too a friatfool venjans, the woomman he luvd, or raather whoome he adoerd az a saint, the emoashon he had expereyenst, prezsent fateghe—aul toogheter exaulted his miand abuv human feling.

He enterd Poertsmouth about ate oacloc in the morning. The whole populaishon wauz on foot; drumz wer beting in the streets and in the poert; the truijs about too embarc wer marching tooword the ce.

Felton ariavd at the pallace ov the Admiralty, cuvverd withe dust, and streming withe perspiraishon. His countenans, uezhuwaly so pale, wauz perpel withe hete and pashon. The centinel waunted too repuls him; but Felton cauld too the officer ov the poast, and drauwing from his pocket the letter ov which he wauz the barer, he ced, "A prescing message from Lord de Winter."

At the name ov Lord de Winter, whoo wauz none too be wun ov his Gracez moast intimate frendz, the officer ov the poast gave orderz too let Felton

paas, whoo, beciadz, woer the uniform ov a naval officer.

Felton darted intoo the pallace.

At the moment he enterd the vestibule, another man wauz entering liaqwise, dusty, out ov breth, leving at the gate a poast hors, which, on reching the pallace, tumbeld on hiz foernese.

Felton and he adrest Patric, the juex confidenshal lacky, at the same moment. Felton naimd Lord de Winter; the un'none wood not name enniboddy, and pretended dhat it wauz too the juke alone he wood make himcelf none. Eche wauz ancshous too gane admishon befoer the uther.

Patric, whoo nu Lord de Winter wauz in afaerz ov the cervice, and in relaishonz ov frendship withe the juke, gave the prefferens too the wun whoo came in hiz name. The uther wauz foerst too wate, and it wauz esily too  
be cene hou he kerst the dela.

The valla led Felton throo a larj haul in which wated the depputese from Laa Roshel, hedded bi the Prins de Soobese, and introjuest him intoo a clozset whare Buckingham, just out ov the baath, wauz finnishng hiz toilet, uppon which, az at aul tiamz, he bestode extraordinary atenshon.

"Leftennant Felton, from Lord de Winter," ced Patric.

"From Lord de Winter!" repeted Buckingham; "let him cum in."

Felton enterd. At dhat moment Buckingham wauz throwing uppon a couch a  
rich toilet robe, werct withe goald, in order too poot on a blu velvet dublet embroiderd withe perlz.

"Whi didnt the barron cum himcelf?" demaanded Buckingham. "I expected him this morning."

"He desiard me too tel yor Grace," replide Felton, "dhat he verry much regretted not havving dhat onnor, but dhat he wauz prevented bi the gard he iz obliajd too kepe at the caacel."

"Yes, I no dhat," ced Buckingham; "he haz a prizzoner."

"It iz ov dhat prizzoner dhat I wish too speke too yor Grace," replide Felton.

"Wel, then, speke!"

"Dhat which I hav too sa ov her can oanly be herd bi yorcelf, mi Lord!"

"Leve us, Patric," ced Buckingham; "but remane within sound ov the bel. I shal caul u prezently."

Patric went out.

"We ar alone, cer," ced Buckingham; "speke!"

"Mi Lord," ced Felton, "the Barron de Winter rote too u the uther da too reqwest u too cine an order ov embarcaishon rellative too a yung woomman naimd Sharlot Baxon."

"Yes, cer; and I aancerd him, too bring or cend me dhat order and I wood cine it."

"Here it iz, mi Lord."

"Ghiv it too me," ced the juke.

And taking it from Felton, he caast a rappid glaans over the paper, and perceving dhat it wauz the wun dhat had bene menshond too him, he plaist it on the tabel, tooc a pen, and prepaerd too cine it.

"Pardon, mi Lord," ced Felton, stopping the juke; "but duz yor Grace no dhat the name ov Sharlot Baxon iz not the tru name ov this yung woomman?"

"Yes, cer, I no it," replide the juke, dipping the qwil in the inc.

"Then yor Grace nose her reyal name?" aasct Felton, in a sharp tone.

"I no it"; and the juke poot the qwil too the paper. Felton gru pale.

"And nowing dhat reyal name, mi Lord," replide Felton, "wil u cine it aul the same?"

"Doutles," ced Buckingham, "and raather twice dhan wuns."

"I canot beleve," continnude Felton, in a vois dhat became moer sharp and ruf, "dhat yor Grace nose dhat it iz too Milady de Winter this relaits."

"I no it perfectly, auldho I am astonnisht dhat u no it."

"And wil yor Grace cine dhat order widhout remors?"

Buckingham looct at the yung man hautily.

"Doo u no, cer, dhat u ar aasking me verry strainj qweschonz, and dhat I am verry foolish too aancer them?"

"Repli too them, mi Lord," ced Felton; "the circumstaancez ar moer cereyous dhan u perhaps beleve."

Buckingham reflected dhat the yung man, cumming from Lord de Winter, undoutedly spoke in hiz name, and softend.

"Widhout remors," ced he. "The barron nose, az wel az micelf, dhat Milady de Winter iz a verry ghilty woomman, and it iz treeting her verry favorably too comute her punnishment too transportaishon." The juke poot hiz pen too the paper.

"U wil not cine dhat order, mi Lord!" ced Felton, making a step tooword the juke.

"I wil not cine this order! And whi not?"

"Becauz u wil looc intoo yorcelf, and u wil doo justice too the lady."

"I shood doo her justice bi cending her too Tibern," ced Buckingham. "This lady iz infamous."

"Mi Lord, Milady de Winter iz an ain'gel; u no dhat she iz, and I demaand her libberty ov u."

"Baa! Ar u mad, too tauc too me dhus?" ced Buckingham.

"Mi Lord, excuse me! I speke az I can; I restrane micelf. But, mi Lord, thhinc ov whaut yor about too doo, and beware ov gowing too far!"

"Whaut doo u sa? God pardon me!" cride Buckingham, "I reyaly thhinc he threttenz me!"



"No, mi Lord, I stil plede. And I sa too u: wun drop ov wauter sufacez too make the fool vaaz overflow; wun slite fault ma drau doun punishment uppon the hed spaerd, despite menny criamz."

"Mr. Felton," ced Buckingham, "u wil widhdrau, and place yorcelf at wuns under arest."

"U wil here me too the end, mi Lord. U hav cejuest this yung gherl; u hav outraijd, defiald her. Repare yor criamz tooword her; let her go fre, and I wil exact nuthhing els from u."

"U wil exact!" ced Buckingham, loocking at Felton withe astonishment, and dwelling uppon eche cillabel ov the thre werdz az he pronounst them.

"Mi Lord," continnude Felton, becumming moer exited az he spoke, "mi Lord, beware! Aul In'gland iz tiard ov yor iniqwitesse; mi Lord, u hav abuezd the roiyal pouwer, which u hav aulmoast userpt; mi Lord, u ar held in horror bi God and men. God wil punnish u heraafter, but I wil punnish u here!"

"Aa, this iz too much!" cride Buckingham, making a step tooword the doer.

Felton bard hiz passage.

"I aasc it humbly ov u, mi Lord," ced he; "cine the order for the liberaishon ov Milady de Winter. Remember dhat she iz a woomman whoome u hav disonnord."

"Widhdrau, cer," ced Buckingham, "or I wil caul mi atendant, and hav u plaist in iarnz."

"U shal not caul," ced Felton, throwing himcelf betwene the juke and the bel plaist on a stand encrusted withe silver. "Beware, mi Lord, u ar in the handz ov God!"

"In the handz ov the devvil, u mene!" cride Buckingham, rasing hiz vois so az too attract the notice ov hiz pepel, widhout absoluetly shouting.

"Cine, mi Lord; cine the liberaishon ov Milady de Winter," ced Felton, hoalding out a paper too the juke.

"Bi foers? U ar joking! Hollo, Patric!"

"Cine, mi Lord!"

"Nevver."

"Nevver?"

"Help!" shouted the juke; and at the same time he sprang tooword hiz soerd.

But Felton did not ghiv him time too drau it. He held the nife withe which Milady had stabd hercelf, open in hiz boozzom; at wun bound he wauz uppon the juke.

At dhat moment Patric enterd the roome, crying, "A letter from Fraans, mi Lord."

"From Fraans!" cride Buckingham, forghetting evverithhing in ththinking from whoome dhat letter came.

Felton took advantage of this moment, and plunged the knife into his side up to the hilt.

"Aa, traitor," cried Buckingham, "you have killed me!"

"Murder!" screamed Patric.

Felton cast his eyes round for means of escape, and seeing the door free, he rushed into the next chamber, in which, as we have seen, the deputation from La Rochelle were waiting, crossed it as quickly as possible, and rushed towards the staircase; but upon the first step he met Lord de Winter, who, seeing him pale, confused, livid, and stained with blood both on his hands and face, seized him by the throat, crying, "I see it! I see it! But too late by a minute, unfortunate, unfortunate that I am!"

Felton made no resistance. Lord de Winter placed him in the hands of the guards, who led him, while awaiting further orders, to a little terrace commanding the sea; and then the baron hastened to the judge's chamber.

At the cry uttered by the duke and the scream of Patric, the man whom Felton had met in the ante-chamber rushed into the chamber.

He found the duke reclining upon a sofa, with his hand pressed upon the wound.

"La Roche," said the duke, in a dying voice, "La Roche, do you come from her?"

"Yes, my lord," replied the faithful cloak-bearer of Anne of Austria, "but too late, perhaps."

"Ciel! La Roche, you may be overheard. Patric, let no one enter. O, I cannot tell what she has done to me! My God, I am dying!"

And the juke swuind.

Meenwhile, Lord de Winter, the depputese, the lederz ov the expedishon, the officerz ov Buckinghamz hous'hoald, had aul made dhare wa intoo the chaimber. Crise ov despere rezounded on aul ciadz. The nuse, which fild the pallace withe teerz and groanz, soone became none, and spred itself throwout the citty.

The repoert ov a cannon anounst dhat sumthhing nu and unexpected had taken place.

Lord de Winter toer hiz hare.

"Too late bi a minnute!" cride he, "too late bi a minnute! O, mi God, mi God! whaut a misforchune!"

He had bene informd at cevven oacloc in the morning dhat a rope ladder floted from wun ov the windose ov the caacel; he had hacend too Miladese chaimber, had found it empty, the windo open, and the barz fiald, had rememberd the verbal caushon dArtanyan had traanzmitted too him bi hiz mescen'ger, had trembeld for the juke, and running too the stabel widhout taking time too hav a hors saddeld, had jumpt uppon the ferst he found, had gallopt of like the wind, had alited belo in the coertyard, had acended the staerz precippitaitly, and on the top step, az we hav ced, had encounterd Felton.

The juke, houwevver, wauz not ded. He recuvverd a littel, reyopend hiz ise, and hope reviavd in aul harts.

"Gentelmen," ced he, "leve me alone withe Patric and Laaport—aa, iz dhat u, de Winter? U cent me a strainj madman this morning! Ce the state in which he haz poot me."

"O, mi Lord!" cried the barron, "I shal nevver console micelf."

"And u wood be qwite rong, mi dere de Winter," ced Buckingham, hoalding out hiz hand too him. "I doo not no the man whoo deservz beying regretted juring the whole life ov anuther man; but leve us, I pra u."

The barron went out sobbing.

Dhare oanly remaind in the clozset ov the wuinded juke Laaport and Patric. A fisishan wauz saut for, but nun wauz yet found.

"U wil liv, mi Lord, u wil liv!" repeted the faithfool cervant ov An ov Austreyaa, on hiz nese befoer the juex sofaa.

"Whaut haz she ritten too me?" ced Buckingham, feebly, streming withe blud, and suprescing hiz agony too speke ov her he luvd, "whaut haz she ritten too me? Rede me her letter."

"O, mi Lord!" ced Laaport.

"Oba, Laaport, doo u not ce I hav no time too loose?"

Laaport broke the cele, and plaist the paper befoer the ise ov the juke; but Buckingham in vane tride too make out the riting.

"Rede!" ced he, "rede! I canot ce. Rede, then! For soone, perhaps, I shal not here, and I shal di widhout nowing whaut she haz ritten too me."

Laaport made no ferther obgecshon, and red:

"Mi Lord, Bi dhat which, cins I hav none u, hav sufferd bi u

and for u, I cunjure u, if u hav enny care for mi repose, too countermaand dhose grate armaments which u ar preparing against Fraans, too poot an end too a wor ov which it iz publicly ced relidjon iz the ostencibel cauz, and ov which, it iz genneraly whisperd, yor luv for me iz the conceeld cauz. This wor ma not oanly bring grate catastrofese uppon In'gland and Fraans, but misforchune uppon u, mi Lord, for which I shood nevver console micelf."

"Be caerfool ov yor life, which iz mennaist, and which wil be dere too me from the moment I am not obliajd too ce an ennemy in u."

"Yor afecshonate"

"AN"

Buckingham colected aul hiz remaning strength too liscen too the reding ov the letter; then, when it wauz ended, az if he had met withe a bitter disapointment, he aasct, "Hav u nuthhing els too sa too me bi the livving vois, Laaport?"

"The qwene charjd me too tel u too wauch over yorcelf, for she had advice dhat yor asacinaishon wood be atempted."

"And iz dhat aul—iz dhat aul?" replide Buckingham, impaishently.

"She liaqwise charjd me too tel u dhat she stil luvd u."

"Aa," ced Buckingham, "God be praizd! Mi deth, then, wil not be too her az the deth ov a strain'ger!"

Laaport berst intoo teerz.

"Patric," ced the ju, "bring me the caasket in which the dimond studz wer kept."

Patric braut the obgett desiard, which Laaport reccogniazd az havving belongd too the qwene.

"Nou the cent bag ov white sattin, on which her cifer iz embroiderd in perlz."

Patric agane obade.

"Here, Laaport," ced Buckingham, "these ar the oanly tokenz I evver receevd from her—this cilver caasket and these too letterz. U wil restoer them too her Madgesty; and az a laast memoereyal"—he looct round  
for sum vallubel obgett—"u wil ad—"

He stil saut; but hiz ise, darkend bi deth, encounterd oanly the nife which had faulen from the hand ov Felton, stil smoking withe the blud spred over its blade.

"And u wil ad too them this nife," ced the juke, prescing the hand ov Laaport. He had just strength enuf too place the cent bag at the bottom ov the cilver caasket, and too let the nife faul intoo it, making a cine too Laaport dhat he wauz no lon'gher abel too speke; dhan, in a laast convulshon, which this time he had not the pouwer too combat, he slipt from the sofaa too the floer.

Patric utterd a loud cri.

Buckingham tride too smile a laast time; but deth chect hiz thaut, which remaind en'graivd on hiz brou like a laast kis ov luv.

At this moment the juex cerjon ariavd, qwite terrifide; he wauz

aulreddy on boerd the admiralz ship, whare dha had bene obliajd too ceke him.

He aproacht the juke, tooc hiz hand, held it for an instant in hiz one, and letting it faul, "Aul iz uesles," ced he, "he iz ded."

"Ded, ded!" cride Patric.

At this cri aul the croud re-enterd the apartment, and throowout the pallace and toun dhare wauz nuthhing but consternaishon and chumult.

Az soone az Lord de Winter sau Buckingham wauz ded, he ran too Felton, whoome the soalgerz stil garded on the terrace ov the pallace.

"Rech!" ced he too the yung man, whoo cins the deth ov Buckingham had regaind dhat cuilnes and celf-poseshon which nevver aafter abandond him, "rech! whaut hav u dun?"

"I hav avenjd micelf!" ced he.

"Avenjd yorcelf," ced the barron. "Raather sa dhat u hav cervd az an instrument too dhat akerst woomman; but I sware too u dhat this crime shal be her laast."

"I doant no whaut u mene," replide Felton, qwiyetly, "and I am ignorant ov whoome u ar speking, mi Lord. I kild the Juke ov Buckingham becauz he twice refuezd u yorcelf too apoint me captane; I hav punnisht him for hiz injustice, dhat iz aul."

De Winter, schupefide, looct on while the soalgerz bound Felton, and cood not tel whaut too thhinc ov such incencibility.

Wun thhing alone, houwevver, thru a shade over the pallid brou ov Felton. At evvery noiz he herd, the cimpel Puritan fancede he reccogniazd the



step and vois ov Milady cumming too thro hercelf intoo hiz armz, too acuse hercelf, and di withe him.

Aul at wuns he started. Hiz ise became fixt uppon a point ov the ce, comaanded bi the terrace whare he wauz. Withe the eghel glaans ov a salor he had reccogniazd dhare, whare anuther wood hav cene oonly a gul hovering over the waivz, the sale ov a sloop which wauz directed tooword the cost ov Fraans.

He gru dedly pale, plaist hiz hand uppon hiz hart, which wauz braking, and at wuns perceevd aul the tretchery.

"Wun laast favor, mi Lord!" ced he too the barron.

"Whaut?" aasct hiz Lordship.

"Whaut oacloc iz it?"

The barron dru out hiz wauch. "It waunts ten minnuets too nine," ced he.

Milady had hacend her deparchure bi an our and a haaf. Az soone az she herd the cannon which anounst the fatal event, she had orderd the ancor too be wade. The vescel wauz making wa under a blu ski, at grate distans from the coast.

"God haz so wild it!" ced he, withe the resignaishon ov a fanattic; but widhout, houwevver, beying abel too take hiz ise from dhat ship, on boerd ov which he doutles fancede he cood distin'gwish the white outline ov her too whoome he had sacrificast hiz life.

De Winter follode hiz looc, observd hiz felingz, and ghest aul.

"Be punnisht ALONE, for the ferst, mizserabel man!" ced Lord de Winter

too Felton, whoo wauz beying dragd awa withe hiz ise ternd tooword the ce; "but I sware too u bi the memmory ov mi bruther whoome I hav luvd so much dhat yor acumpllice iz not saivd."

Felton lowerd hiz hed widhout pronouncing a cillabel.

Az too Lord de Winter, he decended the staerz rappidly, and went strate too the poert.

## 60 IN FRAANS

The ferst fere ov the King ov In'gland, Charlz I, on lerning ov the deth ov the juke, wauz dhat such terribel nuse mite discourrage the Roshella; he tride, cez Reeshlu in hiz Memwarz, too concele it from them az long az poscibel, closing aul the poerts ov hiz kingdom, and caerfooly keping wauch dhat no vescel shood sale until the army which Buckingham wauz ghetting tooghether had gon, taking uppon himself, in default ov Buckingham, too superintend the deparchure.

He carrede the strictnes ov this order so far az too detane in In'gland the ambassadorz ov Denmarc, whoo had taken dhare leve, and the reggular ambassador ov Holland, whoo wauz too take bac too the poert ov Flushing the Injan merchantmen ov which Charlz I had made restichueshon too the United Provvincez.

But az he did not thhinc ov ghivving this order til five ourz aafter the event—dhat iz too sa, til too oacloc in the aafternoone—too vescelz

had aulreddy left the poert, the wun baring, az we no, Milady, whoo, aulreddy antiscipating the event, wauz ferther confermd in dhat belefe bi ceying the blac flag fliying at the maast'hed ov the admiralz ship.

Az too the cecond vescel, we wil tel heraafter whoome it carrede, and hou it cet sale.

Juring this time nuthhing nu okerd in the camp at Laa Roshel; oonly the king, whoo wauz boerd, az aulwase, but perhaps a littel moer so in camp dhan elswhare, rezolvd too go incogneto and spend the festival ov St. Loowy at St. Zhairman, and aasct the cardinal too order him an escort ov oonly twenty Musketeerz. The cardinal, whoo sumtiamz became wery ov the king, graanted this leve ov abcens withe grate plezhure too hiz roiyal leftenant, whoo prommiast too retern about the fifteenth ov Ceptember.

M. de Treveye, beying informd ov this bi hiz Emminens, pact hiz portmanto; and az widhout nowing the cauz he nu the grate desire and even imperrative nede which hiz frendz had ov reterning too Parris, it gose widhout saying dhat he fixt uppon them too form part ov the escort.

The foer yung men herd the nuse a qworter ov an our aafter M. de Treveye, for dha wer the ferst too whoome he comunicated it. It wauz then dhat dArtanyan apreesheyated the favor the cardinal had conferd uppon him in making him at laast enter the Musketeerz—for widhout dhat cercumstaans he wood hav bene foerst too remane in the camp while hiz companyonz left it.

It gose widhout saying dhat this impaishens too retern tooword Parris had for a cauz the dain'ger which Mme. Bonasyuu wood run ov meting at the convent ov Bethune withe Milady, her mortal ennemy. Arramis dhaerfoer had ritten imejaitly too Mary Meeshon, the ceemstres at Toor whoo had

such fine acquaintance, too obtane from the qwene authority for Mme. Bonasyuu too leve the convent, and too retire iather intoo Lorane or Beljum. Dha had not long too wate for an aancer. Ate or ten dase aafterword Arramis receevd the following letter:

Mi Dere Cuzsin, Here iz the authorizaishon from mi cister too widhdrau our littel cervant from the convent ov Bethune, the are ov which u thhinc iz bad for her. Mi cister cendz u this authorizaishon withe grate plezhure, for she iz verry parshal too the littel gherl, too whoome she intendz too be moer cervisabel heraafter.

I salute u,

MARY MEESHON

Too this letter wauz added an order, conceevd in these termz:

At the Luivr, August 10, 1628 The supereyor ov the convent ov Bethune wil place in the handz ov the person whoo shal present this note too her the novice whoo enterd the convent uppon mi recomendaishon and under mi patronage.

AN

It ma be esily imadgiand hou the relaishonship betwene Arramis and a ceemstres whoo cauld the qwene her cister amuezd the yung men; but Arramis, aafter havving blusht too or thre tiamz up too the whiats ov hiz ise at the groce plezzantry ov Porthos, begd hiz frendz not too

revert too the subject agane, declaring dhat if a cin'ghel werd moer wauz ced too him about it, he wood nevver agane imploer hiz cuzsinz too interfere in such afaerz.

Dhare wauz no ferther qweschon, dhaerfoer, about Mary Meeshon among the

foer Musketeerz, whoo beciadz had whaut dha waunted: dhat wauz, the order too widhdrau Mme. Bonasyuu from the convent ov the Carmeliats ov

Bethune. It wauz tru dhat this order wood not be ov grate uce too them while dha wer in camp at Laa Roshel; dhat iz too sa, at the uther end ov Fraans. Dhaerfoer dArtanyan wauz gowing too aasc leve ov abcens ov M.

de Treveye, confiding too him candidly the importans ov hiz deparchure, when the nuse wauz traanzmitted too him az wel az too hiz thre frendz dhat the king wauz about too cet out for Parris withe an escort ov twenty Musketeerz, and dhat dha formd part ov the escort.

Dhare joi wauz grate. The lackese wer cent on befoer withe the baggage, and dha cet out on the morning ov the sixteenth.

The cardinal acumpanede hiz Madgesty from Soorzhare too Mose; and dhare the king and hiz minnister tooc leve ov eche uther withe grate demonstraishonz ov frendship.

The king, houwevver, whoo saut distracshon, while travveling az faast az poscibel—for he wauz ancshous too be in Parris bi the twenty-thherd—stopt

from time too time too fli the maggi, a paastime for which the taist had bene formerly inspiard in him bi de Lune, and for which he had aulwase preservd a grate predilecshon. Out ov the twenty Musketeerz cixtene, when this tooc place, rejoist graitley at this relaxaishon; but the uther foer kerst it hartily. DArtanyan, in particcular, had a perpetchuwal buzsing in hiz eerz, which Porthos explaind dhus: "A verry grate lady

haz toald me dhat this meenz dhat sumbody iz tauking ov u sumwhare."

At length the escort paast throo Parris on the twenty-thherd, in the nite. The king thanct M. de Treveye, and permitted him too distribbute ferlose for foer dase, on condishon dhat the favord partese shood not apere in enny public place, under pennalty ov the Bastele.

The ferst foer ferlose graanted, az ma be imadgiand, wer too our foer frendz. Stil ferther, Aithos obtaind ov M. de Treveye cix dase insted ov foer, and introjuest intoo these cix dase too moer niats—for dha cet out on the twenty-foerth at five oacloc in the evening, and az a ferther kiandnes M. de Treveye poast-dated the leve too the morning ov the twenty-fifth.

"Good Lord!" ced dArtanyan, whoo, az we hav often ced, nevver stumbeld at ennithhing. "It apeerz too me dhat we ar making a grate trubbel ov a verry cimpel thhing. In too dase, and bi using up too or thre horcez (dhats nuthhing; I hav plenty ov munny), I am at Bethune. I present mi letter from the qwene too the supereyor, and I bring bac the dere trezhure I go too ceke—not intoo Lorane, not intoo Beljum, but too Parris, whare she wil be much better conceeld, particullarly while the cardinal iz at Laa Roshel. Wel, wuns reternd from the cuntry, haaf bi the protecshon ov her cuzsin, haaf throo whaut we hav personally dun for her, we shal obtane from the qwene whaut we desire. Remane, then, whare u ar, and doo not exhaust yorcelvz withe uesles fateghe. Micelf and Plaunsha ar aul dhat such a cimpel expedishon reqwiarz."

Too this Aithos replide qwiyetly: "We aulso hav munny left—for I hav not yet drunc aul mi share ov the dimond, and Porthos and Arramis hav not eten aul dhaerz. We can dhaerfoer use up foer horcez az wel az wun. But concidder, dArtanyan," added he, in a tone so sollem dhat it made the yung man shudder, "concidder dhat Bethune iz a citty whare the cardinal haz ghivven rondavoo too a woomman whoo, wharevver she gose, bringz

mizsery withe her. If u had oanly too dele withe foer men, dArtanyan, I wood alou u too go alone. U hav too doo withe dhat woomman! We foer wil go; and I hope too God dhat withe our foer lackese we ma be in sufishent number."

"U terrifi me, Aithos!" cride dArtanyan. "Mi God! whaut doo u fere?"

"Evverithhing!" replide Aithos.

DArtanyan exammiand the countenancez ov hiz companyonz, which, like dhat ov Aithos, woer an impreshon ov depe anxiyety; and dha continnude dhare roote az faast az dhare horcez cood carry them, but widhout adding anuther werd.

On the evening ov the twenty-fifth, az dha wer entering Arras, and az dArtanyan wauz dismounting at the in ov the Goalden Harro too drinc a glaas ov wine, a horsman came out ov the poast yard, whare he had just had a rela, started of at a gallop, and withe a fresh hors tooc the rode too Parris. At the moment he paast throo the gaitwa intoo the strete, the wind blu open the cloke in which he wauz rapt, auldho it wauz in the munth ov August, and lifted hiz hat, which the travveler ceezd withe hiz hand the moment it had left hiz hed, pooling it egherly over hiz ise.

DArtanyan, whoo had hiz ise fixt uppon this man, became verry pale, and let hiz glaas faul.

"Whaut iz the matter, msyer?" ced Plaunsha. "O, cum, gentelmen, mi maaster iz il!"

The thre frendz hacend tooword dArtanyan, whoo, insted ov beying il, ran tooword hiz hors. Dha stopt him at the doer.

"Wel, whare the devvil ar u gowing nou?" cride Aithos.

"It iz he!" cride dArtanyan, pale withe an'gher, and withe the swet on hiz brou, "it iz he! let me overtake him!"

"He? Whaut he?" aasct Aithos.

"He, dhat man!"

"Whaut man?"

"Dhat kerst man, mi evil geenyus, whoome I hav aulwase met withe when threttend bi sum misforchune, he whoo acumpanede dhat horibel woomman when I met her for the ferst time, he whoome I wauz ceking when I ofended our Aithos, he whoome I sau on the verry morning Madam Bonasyuu wauz abducted. I hav cene him; dhat iz he! I reccogniazd him when the wind blu uppon hiz cloke."

"The devvil!" ced Aithos, musingly.

"Too saddel, gentelmen! too saddel! Let us pershu him, and we shal overtake him!"

"Mi dere frend," ced Arramis, "remember dhat he gose in an opposite direcshon from dhat in which we ar gowing, dhat he haz a fresh hors, and ourz ar fateegd, so dhat we shal disabel our one horcez widhout even a chaans ov overtaking him. Let the man go, dArtanyan; let us save the woomman."

"Msyer, msyer!" cride a hosler, running out and loocking aafter the



strain'ger, "msyer, here iz a paper which dropt out ov yor hat! A, msyer, a!"

"Frend," ced dArtanyan, "a haaf-pistole for dhat paper!"

"Mi faith, msyer, withe grate plezhure! Here it iz!"

The hosler, enchaanted withe the good dase werc he had dun, reternd too the yard. DArtanyan unfoalded the paper.

"Wel?" egherly demaanded aul hiz thre frendz.

"Nuthhing but wun werd!" ced dArtanyan.

"Yes," ced Arramis, "but dhat wun werd iz the name ov sum toun or village."

"Armonteyare," red Porthos; "Armonteyare? I doant no such a place."

"And dhat name ov a toun or village iz ritten in her hand!" cride Aithos.

"Cum on, cum on!" ced dArtanyan; "let us kepe dhat paper caerfooly, perhaps I hav not throne awa mi haaf-pistole. Too hors, mi frendz, too hors!"

And the foer frendz flu at a gallop along the rode too Bethune.

## 61 THE CARMELITE CONVENT AT BETHUNE

Grate crimminalz bare about them a kiand ov predestinaishon which maix

them cermount aul obstakelz, which maix them escape aul dain'gerz, up too the moment which a werede Provvidens haz marct az the roc ov dhare impeyous forchuenz.

It wauz dhus withe Milady. She escaipt the cruserz ov boath naishonz, and ariavd at Booloin widhout axident.

When landing at Poertsmouth, Milady wauz an In'gliswoomman whoome the percecueshonz ov the French drove from Laa Roshel; when landing at Booloin, aafter a too dase passage, she paast for a Frenchwoomman whoome the In'glis percecuted at Poertsmouth out ov dhare haitred for Fraans.

Milady had, liaqwise, the best ov paaspoerts—her buty, her nobel aperans, and the liberallity withe which she distribbuted her pistoalz. Frede from the uezhuwal formallitese bi the affabel smile and gallant mannerz ov an oald guvvernor ov the poert, whoo kist her hand, she oonly remaind long enuf at Booloin too poot intoo the poast a letter, conceevd in the following termz:

"Too hiz Emminens Moncennure the Cardinal Reeshlu, in hiz camp befoer Laa Roshel.

"Moncennure, Let yor Emminens be reyashuerd. Hiz Grace the Juke ov Buckingham WIL NOT CET OUT for Fraans.

"MILADY DE—

"BOOLOIN, evening ov the twenty-fifth.

"P.S.—Acording too the desire ov yor Emminens, I repoert too the convent

ov the Carmeliats at Bethune, whare I wil awate yor orderz."

Acordingly, dhat same evening Milady comenst her gerny. Nite overtooc her; she stopt, and slept at an in. At five oacloc the next morning she agane proceded, and in thre ourz aafter enterd Bethune. She inqwiard for the convent ov the Carmeliats, and went thither imejaitly.

The supereyor met her; Milady shode her the cardinalz order. The abbes aciand her a chaimber, and had brecfast cervd.

Aul the paast wauz effaist from the ise ov this woomman; and her loox, fixt on the fuchure, beheld nuthhing but the hi forchuenz reservd for her bi the cardinal, whoome she had so suxesfooly cervd widhout hiz name beying in enny wa mixt up withe the san'gwinary afare. The ever-nu pashonz which conshuemd her gave too her life the aperans ov dhose cloudz which flote in the hevvenz, reflecting sumtiamz azhure, sumtiamz fire, sumtiamz the opake blacnes ov the tempest, and which leve no tracez uppon the erth behiand them but devastaishon and deth.

Aafter brecfast, the abbes came too pa her a vizsit. Dhare iz verry littel amuezment in the cloister, and the good supereyor wauz egher too make the aqwaintans ov her nu boerder.

Milady wisht too plese the abbes. This wauz a verry esy matter for a woomman so reyaly supereyor az she wauz. She tride too be agreyabel, and she wauz charming, winning the good supereyor bi her varede conversaishon and bi the gracez ov her whole personallity.

The abbes, whoo wauz the dauter ov a nobel hous, tooc particcular

delite in stoerese ov the coert, which so celdom travvel too the extremmitese ov the kingdom, and which, abuv aul, hav so much difficulty in pennetrating the waulz ov convents, at whose threshoald the noiz ov the werld dise awa.

Milady, on the contrary, wauz qwite conversant withe aul aristocratic intreegz, amid which she had constantly livd for five or six yeerz. She made it her biznes, dhaerfoer, too amuse the good abbes withe the werldly practicez ov the coert ov Fraans, mixt withe the exentric persuetz ov the king; she made for her the scandalous cronnikel ov the lordz and ladese ov the coert, whoome the abbes nu perfectly bi name, tucht liatly on the amoorz ov the qwene and the Juke ov Buckingham, tauking a grate dele too injuce her auditor too tauc a littel.

But the abbes contented herself withe liscening and smiling widhout repliing a werd. Milady, houwevver, sau dhat this sort ov narrative amuezd her verry much, and kept at it; oonly she nou let her conversaishon drift tooword the cardinal.

But she wauz graitley embarrass. She did not no whether the abbes wauz a roiyalist or a cardinalist; she dhaerfoer confiand herself too a prudent middel coers. But the abbes, on her part, maintaind a reserv stil moer prudent, contenting herself withe making a profound inclinaishon ov the hed evvery time the fare travveler pronounst the name ov hiz Emminens.

Milady began too thhinc she shoold soone gro wery ov a convent life; she rezolvd, then, too risc sumthhing in order dhat she mite no hou too act aafterword. Desirous ov ceying hou far the disreshon ov the good abbes wood go, she began too tel a stoery, obscure at ferst, but verry circumstaanshal aafterword, about the cardinal, relating the amoorz ov the minnister withe Mme. dAgheyon, Mareyon de Lorm, and cevveral uther ga wimmen.

The abbes liscend moer atentivly, gru animated bi degrese, and smiald.

"Good," thaut Milady; "she taix a plezhure in mi conversaishon. If she iz a cardinalist, she haz no fanatticism, at leest."

She then went on too describe the percecueshonz exerciazd bi the cardinal uppon hiz ennemese. The abbes oanly crost hercelf, widhout aprooving or disaprooving.

This confermd Milady in her opinyon dhat the abbes wauz raather roiyalist dhan cardinalist. Milady dhaerfoer continnude, culloring her narraishonz moer and moer.

"I am verry ignorant ov these matterz," ced the abbes, at length; "but houwevver distant from the coert we ma be, houwevver remote from the interests ov the world we ma be plaist, we hav verry sad exaampelz ov whaut u hav related. And wun ov our boerderz haz sufferd much from the venjans and percecueshon ov the cardinal!"

"Wun ov yor boerderz?" ced Milady; "o, mi God! Poor woomman! I pitty her, then."

"And u hav rezon, for she iz much too be pittede. Imprizzonment, mennacez, il treetment-she haz sufferd evverithhing. But aafter aul," rezhuemd the abbes, "Msyer Cardinal haz perhaps plausibel motiavz for acting dhus; and dho she haz the looc ov an ain'gel, we must not aulwase juj pepel bi the aperans."

"Good!" ced Milady too hercelf; "whoo nose! I am about, perhaps, too discuvver sumthhing here; I am in the vane."

She tride too ghiv her countenans an aperans ov perfect candor.

"Alaas," ced Milady, "I no it iz so. It iz ced dhat we must not trust too the face; but in whaut, then, shal we place confidens, if not in the moast butifool werc ov the Lord? Az for me, I shal be deceevd aul mi life perhaps, but I shal aulwase hav faith in a person whoose countenans inspiarz me withe cimpathy."

"U wood, then, be tempted too beleve," ced the abbes, "dhat this yung person iz innocent?"

"The cardinal pershuse not oonly criamz," ced she: "dhare ar certane verchuse which he pershuse moer ceveerly dhan certane offencez."

"Permit me, madam, too expres mi cerprise," ced the abbes.

"At whaut?" ced Milady, withe the utmoast in'gennuwousnes.

"At the lan'gwage u use."

"Whaut doo u fiand so astonnishing in dhat lan'gwage?" ced Milady, smiling.

"U ar the frend ov the cardinal, for he cendz u hither, and yet—"

"And yet I speke il ov him," replide Milady, finnishing the thaut ov the supereyor.

"At leest u doant speke wel ov him."

"Dhat iz becauz I am not hiz frend," ced she, ciying, "but hiz victim!"

"But this letter in which he recomendz u too me?"

"Iz an order for me too confine micelf too a sort ov prizzon, from which he wil relece me bi wun ov hiz satteliats."

"But whi hav u not fled?"

"Whither shood I go? Doo u beleve dhare iz a spot on the erth which the cardinal canot reche if he taix the trubbel too stretch foerth hiz hand? If I wer a man, dhat wood baerly be poscibel; but whaut can a woomman doo? This yung boerder ov yorz, haz she tride too fli?"

"No, dhat iz tru; but she—dhat iz anuther thhing; I beleve she iz detaind in Fraans bi sum luv afare."

"Aa," ced Milady, withe a ci, "if she luvz she iz not aultooghether retched."

"Then," ced the abbes, loocking at Milady withe increcing interest, "I behoald anuther poor victim?"

"Alaas, yes," ced Milady.

The abbes looct at her for an instant withe unnesines, az if a fresh thaut sugested itcelf too her miand.

"U ar not an ennemy ov our holy faith?" ced she, hezsitatingly.

"Whoo—I?" cride Milady; "I a Protestant? O, no! I caul too witnes the God whoo heerz us, dhat on the contrary I am a fervent Catholic!"

"Then, madam," ced the abbes, smiling, "be reyashuerd; the hous in which u ar shal not be a verry hard prizzon, and we wil doo aul in our pouwer too make u cherrish yor captivvity. U wil fiand here, moerover, the yung woomman ov whoome I spoke, whoo iz percecuted, no dout, in

conceqwens ov sum coert intreghe. She iz ameyabel and wel-behaivd."

"Whaut iz her name?"

"She wauz cent too me bi sumwun ov hi ranc, under the name ov Kitty. I hav not tride too discuver her uther name."

"Kitty!" cride Milady. "Whaut? Ar u shure?"

"Dhat she iz cauld so? Yes, madam. Doo u no her?"

Milady smiald too hercelf at the ideyaa which had okerd too her dhat this mite be her oald chaimbermade. Dhare wauz conected withe the remembrans ov this gherl a remembrans ov an'gher; and a desire ov venjans disorderd the fechuerz ov Milady, which, houwevver, imejaitly recuverd the caalm and benevvolent expreshon which this woomman ov a hundred facez had for a moment aloud them too loose.

"And when can I ce this yung lady, for whoome I aulreddy fele so grate a cimpathy?" aasct Milady.

"Whi, this evening," ced the abbes; "tooda even. But u hav bene travveling these foer dase, az u toald me yorcelf. This morning u rose at five oacloc; u must stand in nede ov repose. Go too bed and slepe; at dinnertime we wil rouz u."

Auldho Milady wood verry willingly hav gon widhout slepe, sustaind az she wauz bi aul the exiatments which a nu advenchure awakend in her hart, evver thhersting for intreegz, she nevrtheles axepted the offer ov the supereyor. Juring the laast fiftene dase she had expereyenst so menny and such vareymous emoashonz dhat if her frame ov iarn wauz stil capabel ov supoerting fateghe, her miand reqwiard repose.



She dhaerfoer tooc leve ov the abbes, and went too bed, softly roct bi the ideyaaz ov venjans which the name ov Kitty had natchuraly braut too her thauts. She rememberd dhat aulmoast unlimmited prommice which the cardinal had ghivven her if she suxeded in her enterprise. She had suxeded; dArtanyan wauz then in her pouwer!

Wun thhing alone fritend her; dhat wauz the remembrans ov her huzband, the Comt de laa Fare, whoome she had beleevd ded, or at leest expatreyated, and whoome she found agane in Aithos-the best frend ov dArtanyan.

But alaas, if he wauz the frend ov dArtanyan, he must hav lent him hiz acistans in aul the proceedingz bi whoose ade the qwene had defeted the prodject ov hiz Emminens; if he wauz the frend ov dArtanyan, he wauz the ennemy ov the cardinal; and she doutles wood suxede in involving him in the venjans bi which she hoapt too destroi the yung Musketere.

Aul these hoaps wer so menny swete thauts for Milady; so, roct bi them, she soone fel aslepe.

She wauz awakend bi a soft vois which sounded at the foot ov her bed. She opened her ise, and sau the abbes, acumpanede bi a yung woomman withe lite hare and dellicate complecshon, whoo fixt uppon her a looc fool ov benevvolent cureyosity.

The face ov the yung woomman wauz entiarly un'none too her. Eche exammiand the uther withe grate atenshon, while exchain'ging the customary compliments; boath wer verry handsum, but ov qwite different stialz ov buty. Milady, houwevver, smiald in observing dhat she exeld the yung woomman bi far in her hi are and aristocrattic baring. It iz tru

dhat the habbit ov a novvice, which the yung woomman woer, wauz not verry advaantajous in a contest ov this kiand.

The abbes introjuest them too eche uther. When this formallity wauz ended, az her jutese cauld her too chappel, she left the too yung wimmen alone.

The novvice, ceyng Milady in bed, wauz about too follo the exaampel ov the supereyor; but Milady stopt her.

"Hou, madam," ced she, "I hav scaersly cene u, and u aulreddy wish too deprive me ov yor cumpany, uppon which I had counted a littel, I must confes, for the time I hav too paas here?"

"No, madam," replide the novvice, "oonly I thaut I had chosen mi time il; u wer aslepe, u ar fateegd."

"Wel," ced Milady, "whaut can dhose whoo slepe wish for—a happy awakening? This awakening u hav ghivven me; alou me, then, too enjoi it at mi ese," and taking her hand, she dru her tooword the armchare bi the bedcide.

The novvice sat down.

"Hou unforchunate I am!" ced she; "I hav bene here cix munths widhout the shaddo ov recreyaishon. U arive, and yor prezsens wauz liacly too afoerd me deliatfool cumpany; yet I expect, in aul probabillity, too qwit the convent at enny moment."

"Hou, u ar gowing soone?" aasct Milady.

"At leest I hope so," ced the novvice, withe an expreshon ov joi which

she made no effort too disghise.

"I thhinc I lernd u had sufferd percecueshonz from the cardinal,"  
continnude Milady; "dhat wood hav bene anuther motive for cimpathhy  
betwene us."

"Whaut I hav herd, then, from our good muther iz tru; u hav  
liaqwise bene a victim ov dhat wicked preest."

"Hush!" ced Milady; "let us not, even here, speke dhus ov him. Aul mi  
misforchuenz arise from mi havving ced neerly whaut u hav ced befoer  
a woomman whoome I thaut mi frend, and whoo betrade me. Ar u aulso  
the  
victim ov a tretchery?"

"No," ced the novice, "but ov mi devoashon—ov a devoashon too a  
woomman I  
luld, for whoome I wood hav lade doun mi life, for whoome I wood ghiv it  
stil."

"And whoo haz abandond u—iz dhat it?"

"I hav bene sufishly unjust too beleve so; but juring the laast too  
or thre dase I hav obtaind prooffe too the contrary, for which I thanc  
God—for it wood hav cost me verry dere too thhinc she had forgotten me.  
But u, madam, u apere too be fre," continnude the novice; "and if  
u wer incliand too fli it oonly rests withe yorcelf too doo so."

"Whither wood u hav me go, widhout frendz, widhout munny, in a  
part ov Fraans withe which I am unaqwainted, and whare I hav never  
bene  
befoer?"

"O," cride the novice, "az too frendz, u wood hav them wharevver u

waunt, u apere so good and ar so butifool!"

"Dhat duz not prevent," replide Milady, softening her smile so az too ghiv it an an'gelic expreshon, "mi beyng alone or beyng percecuted."

"Here me," ced the novvice; "we must trust in hevven. Dhare aulwase cumz a moment when the good u hav dun pleedz yor cauz befoer God; and ce, perhaps it iz a happines for u, humbel and pouwerles az I am, dhat u hav met withe me, for if I leve this place, wel-I hav pouwerfool frendz, whoo, aafter havving exerted themcelvz on mi acount, ma aulso exert themcelvz for u."

"O, when I ced I wauz alone," ced Milady, hoping too make the novvice tauc bi tauking ov hercelf, "it iz not for waunt ov frendz in hi placez; but these frendz themcelvz trembel befoer the cardinal. The qwene hercelf duz not dare too opose the terribel minnister. I hav proofe dhat her Madgesty, notwidhstanding her exelent hart, haz moer dhan wuns bene obliajd too abandon too the an'gher ov hiz Emminens personz whoo had cervd her."

"Trust me, madam; the qwene ma apere too hav abandond dhose personz, but we must not poot faith in aperancez. The moer dha ar percecuted, the moer she thhinx ov them; and often, when dha leest expect it, dha hav proofe ov a kiand remembrans."

"Alaas!" ced Milady, "I beleve so; the qwene iz so good!"

"O, u no her, then, dhat luvly and nobel qwene, dhat u speke ov her dhus!" cride the novvice, withe enthuseyazm.

"Dhat iz too sa," replide Milady, drivven intoo her entrenchment, "dhat I hav not the onnor ov nowing her personaly; but I no a grate number ov her moast intimate frendz. I am aqwainted withe Msyer de Pootaunzh;

I met Msyer Duezhar in In'gland; I no Msyer de Treveye."

"Msyer de Treveye!" exclaimd the novvice, "doo u no Msyer de Treveye?"

"Yes, perfectly wel—intimaitly even."

"The captane ov the kingz Musketeerz?"

"The captane ov the kingz Musketeerz."

"Whi, then, oanly ce!" cride the novvice; "we shal soone be wel aqwainted, aulmoast frendz. If u no Msyer de Treveye, u must hav vizsited him?"

"Often!" ced Milady, whoo, havving enterd this trac, and perceving dhat fauls'hood suxeded, wauz determiand too follo it too the end.

"Withe him, then, u must hav cene sum ov hiz Musketeerz?"

"Aul dhose he iz in the habbit ov receving!" replide Milady, for whoome this conversaishon began too hav a reyal interest.

"Name a fu ov dhose whoome u no, and u wil ce if dha ar mi frendz."

"Wel!" ced Milady, embarrast, "I no Msyer de Looveenyy, Msyer de Coorteevron, Msyer de Ferusac."

The novvice let her speke, then ceying dhat she pauzd, she ced, "Doant u no a gentelman naimd Aithos?"

Milady became az pale az the sheets in which she wauz liying, and mistres az she wauz ov hercelf, cood not help uttering a cri, cesing the hand

ov the novvice, and devouring her withe loox.

"Whaut iz the matter? Good God!" aasct the poor woomman, "hav I ced ennithhing dhat haz wuinded u?"

"No; but the name struc me, becauz I aulso hav none dhat gentelman, and it apeerd strainj too me too mete withe a person whoo apeerz too no him wel."

"O, yes, verry wel; not oonly him, but sum ov hiz frendz, Maisyer Porthos and Arramis!"

"Indede! u no them liaqwise? I no them," cride Milady, whoo began too fele a chil pennetrate her hart.

"Wel, if u no them, u no dhat dha ar good and fre companyonz. Whi doo u not apli too them, if u stand in nede ov help?"

"Dhat iz too sa," stammerd Milady, "I am not reyaly verry intimate withe enny ov them. I no them from havving herd wun ov dhare frendz, Msyer dArtanyan, sa a grate dele about them."

"U no Msyer dArtanyan!" cride the novvice, in her tern cesing the handz ov Milady and devouring her withe her ise.

Then remarking the strainj expreshon ov Miladese countenans, she ced, "Pardon me, madam; u no him bi whaut titel?"

"Whi," replide Milady, embarrast, "whi, bi the titel ov frend."

"U deceve me, madam," ced the novvice; "u hav bene hiz mistres!"

"It iz u whoo hav bene hiz mistres, madam!" cride Milady, in her tern.

"I?" ced the novice.

"Yes, u! I no u nou. U ar Madam Bonasyuu!"

The yung woomman dru bac, fild withe cerprise and terror.

"O, doo not deni it! Aancer!" continnude Milady.

"Wel, yes, madam," ced the novice, "Ar we rivalz?"

The countenans ov Milady wauz ilumiant bi so savvage a joi dhat under enny uther circumstaancez Mme. Bonasyuu wood hav fled in terror; but she wauz abzorbd bi gelloucy.

"Speke, madam!" rezhuemd Mme. Bonasyuu, withe an ennergy ov which she mite not hav bene beleevd capabel. "Hav u bene, or ar u, hiz mistres?"

"O, no!" cride Milady, withe an axent dhat admitted no dout ov her trueth. "Nevver, nevver!"

"I beleve u," ced Mme. Bonasyuu; "but whi, then, did u cri out so?"

"Doo u not understand?" ced Milady, whoo had aulreddy overcum her agitaishon and recuverd aul her prezsens ov miand.

"Hou can I understand? I no nuthhing."

"Can u not understand dhat Msyer dArtanyan, beying mi frend, mite take me intoo hiz confidens?"

"Truly?"

"Doo u not perceve dhat I no aul—yor abducshon from the littel hous at St. Zhairman, hiz despere, dhat ov hiz frendz, and dhare uesles inqwires up too this moment? Hou cood I help beying astonnisht when, widhout havving the leest expectaishon ov such a thhing, I mete u face too face—u, ov whoome we hav so often spoken tooghether, u whoome he luvz withe aul hiz sole, u whoome he had taut me too luv befoer I had cene u! Aa, dere Constans, I hav found u, then; I ce u at laast!"

And Milady strecht out her armz too Mme. Bonasyuu, whoo, convinst bi whaut she had just ced, sau nuthhing in this woomman whoome an instant befoer she had beleevd her rival but a cincere and devoted frend.

"O, pardon me, pardon me!" cride she, cinking uppon the shoalderz ov Milady. "Pardon me, I luv him so much!"

These too wimmen held eche uther for an instant in a cloce embrace. Certainly, if Miladese strength had bene eeqwal too her haitred, Mme. Bonasyuu wood nevver hav left dhat embrace alive. But not beying abel too stifel her, she smiald uppon her.

"O, u butifool, good littel crechure!" ced Milady. "Hou delited I am too hav found u! Let me looc at u!" and while saying these werdz, she absolutly devourd her bi her loox. "O, yes it iz u indede! From whaut he haz toald me, I no u nou. I reccognise u perfectly."

The poor yung woomman cood not poscibly suspect whaut friatfool cruwelty wauz behiand the rampart ov dhat pure brou, behiand dhose brilleyant ise in



which she red nuthhing but interest and compashon.

"Then u no whaut I hav sufferd," ced Mme. Bonasyuu, "cins he haz toald u whaut he haz sufferd; but too suffer for him iz happines."

Milady replide mecannicaly, "Yes, dhat iz happines." She wauz ththinking ov sumthhing els.

"And then," continnude Mme. Bonasyuu, "mi punnishment iz drauwing too a cloce. Toomoro, this evening, perhaps, I shal ce him agane; and then the paast wil no lon'gher exist."

"This evening?" aasct Milady, rouzd from her revvery bi these werdz. "Whaut doo u mene? Doo u expect nuse from him?"

"I expect himcelf."

"Himcelf? DArtanyan here?"

"Himcelf!"

"But dhats impscibel! He iz at the ceje ov Laa Roshel withe the cardinal. He wil not retern til aafter the taking ov the citty."

"Aa, u fancy so! But iz dhare ennithhing impscibel for mi dArtanyan, the nobel and loiyal gentelman?"

"O, I canot beleve u!"

"Wel, rede, then!" ced the unhappy yung woomman, in the exes ov her pride and joi, presenting a letter too Milady.

"The riting ov Madam de Shevruuz!" ced Milady too hercelf. "Aa, I

aulwase thaut dhare wauz sum ceecret understanding in dhat qworter!"  
And  
she gredily red the following fu lianz:

Mi Dere Chiald, Hoald yorcelf reddy. OUR FRENDR wil ce u soone, and he wil oonly ce u too relece u from dhat imprizzonment in which yor saifty reqwiard u shood be conceeld. Prepare, then, for yor deparchure, and nevver despare ov us.

Our charming Gascon haz just pruivd himcelf az brave and faithfool az evver. Tel him dhat certane partese ar graitfool for the worning he haz ghivven.

"Yes, yes," ced Milady; "the letter iz precice. Doo u no whaut dhat worning wauz?"

"No, I oonly suspect he haz wornd the qwene against sum fresh mashenaishonz ov the cardinal."

"Yes, dhats it, no dout!" ced Milady, reterning the letter too Mme. Bonasyuu, and letting her hed cinc penciaavly uppon her boozzom.

At dhat moment dha herd the gallop ov a hors.

"O!" cride Mme. Bonasyuu, darting too the windo, "can it be he?"

Milady remaind stil in bed, petrifide bi cerprise; so menny unexpected thhingz happend too her aul at wuns dhat for the ferst time she wauz at a los.

"He, he!" mermerd she; "can it be he?" And she remaind in bed withe her ise fixt.

"Alaas, no!" ced Mme. Bonasyuu; "it iz a man I doant no, auldho he ceemz too be cumming here. Yes, he chex hiz pace; he stops at the gate; he ringz."

Milady sprang out ov bed.

"U ar shure it iz not he?" ced she.

"Yes, yes, verry shure!"

"Perhaps u did not ce wel."

"O, if I wer too ce the plume ov hiz hat, the end ov hiz cloke, I shood no HIM!"

Milady wauz drescing hercelf aul the time.

"Yes, he haz enterd."

"It iz for u or me!"

"Mi God, hou adgitated u ceme!"

"Yes, I admit it. I hav not yor confidens; I fere the cardinal."

"Hush!" ced Mme. Bonasyuu; "sumbody iz cumming."

Imejaitly the doer opend, and the supereyor enterd.

"Did u cum from Booloin?" demaanded she ov Milady.

"Yes," replide she, tryying too recuver her celf-poseshon. "Whoo waunts me?"

"A man whoo wil not tel hiz name, but whoo cumz from the cardinal."

"And whoo wishez too speke withe me?"

"Whoo wishez too speke too a lady recently cum from Booloin."

"Then let him cum in, if u plese."

"O, mi God, mi God!" cride Mme. Bonasyuu. "Can it be bad nuse?"

"I fere it."

"I wil leve u withe this strain'ger; but az soone az he iz gon, if u wil permit me, I wil retern."

"PERMIT u? I BECECHE u."

The supereyor and Mme. Bonasyuu retiard.

Milady remaind alone, withe her ise fixt uppon the doer. An instant later, the gin'gling ov sperz wauz herd uppon the staerz, steps dru nere, the doer opend, and a man apeerd.

Milady utterd a cri ov joi; this man wauz the Comt de Roshfor—the demoanyacal toole ov hiz Emminens.

62 TOO VARIYETESE OV DEMONZ

"Aa," cride Milady and Roshfor tooghether, "it iz u!"

"Yes, it iz I."

"And u cum?" aasct Milady.

"From Laa Roshel; and u?"

"From In'gland."

"Buckingham?"

"Ded or desperaitly wuinded, az I left widhout havving bene abel too here ennithing ov him. A fanattic haz just asascinated him."

"Aa," ced Roshfor, withe a smile; "this iz a forchunate chaans—wun dhat wil delite hiz Emminens! Hav u informd him ov it?"

"I rote too him from Booloin. But whaut bringz u here?"

"Hiz Emminens wauz unnesy, and cent me too fiand u."

"I oonly ariavd yesterda."

"And whaut hav u bene doowing cins yesterda?"

"I hav not lost mi time."

"O, I doant dout dhat."

"Doo u no whoome I hav encounterd here?"

"No."

"Ghes."

"Hou can I?"

"Dhat yung woomman whoome the qwene tooc out ov prizzon."

"The mistres ov dhat fello dArtanyan?"

"Yes; Madam Bonasyuu, withe whoose retrete the cardinal wauz unaqwainted."

"Wel, wel," ced Roshfor, "here iz a chaans which ma pare of withe the uther! Msyer Cardinal iz indede a privvileejd man!"

"Imadgine mi astonnishment," continnude Milady, "when I found micelf face too face withe this woomman!"

"Duz she no u?"

"No."

"Then she loox uppon u az a strain'ger?"

Milady smiald. "I am her best frend."

"Uppon mi onnor," ced Roshfor, "it taix u, mi dere countes, too perform such mirrakelz!"

"And it iz wel I can, Shevalere," ced Milady, "for doo u no whaut iz gowing on here?"

"No."

"Dha wil cum for her toomoro or the da aafter, withe an order from

the qwene."

"Indede! And whoo?"

"DArtanyan and hiz frendz."

"Indede, dha wil go so far dhat we shal be obliajd too cend them too the Bastele."

"Whi iz it not dun aulreddy?"

"Whaut wood u? The cardinal haz a weecnes for these men which I canot comprehend."

"Indede!"

"Yes."

"Wel, then, tel him this, Roshfor. Tel him dhat our conversaishon at the in ov the Red Duvcot wauz overherd bi these foer men; tel him dhat aafter hiz deparchure wun ov them came up too me and tooc from me bi viyolens the safe-conduct which he had ghivven me; tel him dha wornd Lord de Winter ov mi gerny too In'gland; dhat this time dha neerly foild mi mishon az dha foild the afare ov the studz; tel him dhat among these foer men too oanly ar too be feerd—dArtanyan and Aithos; tel him dhat the thherd, Arramis, iz the luvver ov Madam de Shevruuz—he ma be left alone, we no hiz ceecret, and it ma be uesfool; az too the foerth, Porthos, he iz a foole, a cimpelton, a blustering booby, not werth trubling himcelf about."

"But these foer men must be nou at the ceje ov Laa Roshel?"

"I thaut so, too; but a letter which Madam Bonasyuu haz receevd

from Madam the Cunstabel, and which she haz had the imprudens too sho me, leedz me too beleve dhat these foer men, on the contrary, ar on the rode hither too take her awa."

"The devvil! Whauts too be dun?"

"Whaut did the cardinal sa about me?"

"I wauz too take yor dispachez, ritten or verbal, and retern bi poast; and when he shal no whaut u hav dun, he wil advise whaut u hav too doo."

"I must, then, remane here?"

"Here, or in the naborhood."

"U canot take me withe u?"

"No, the order iz imperrative. Nere the camp u mite be reccogniazd; and yor prezsens, u must be aware, wood compromise the cardinal."

"Then I must wate here, or in the naborhood?"

"Oonly tel me befoerhand whare u wil wate for intelligens from the cardinal; let me no aulwase whare too fiand u."

"Observ, it iz probbabel dhat I ma not be abel too remane here."

"Whi?"

"U forghet dhat mi ennemese ma arive at enny minnute."

"Dhats tru; but iz this littel woomman, then, too escape hiz Emminens?"



"Baa!" ced Milady, withe a smile dhat belongd oonly too hercelf; "u forghet dhat I am her best frend."

"Aa, dhats tru! I ma then tel the cardinal, withe respect too this littel woomman—"

"Dhat he ma be at ese."

"Iz dhat aul?"

"He wil no whaut dhat meenz."

"He wil ghes, at leest. Nou, then, whaut had I better doo?"

"Retern instantly. It apeerz too me dhat the nuse u bare iz werth the trubbel ov a littel dilligens."

"Mi shase broke doun cumming intoo Lilleya."

"Cappital!"

"Whaut, CAPPITAL?"

"Yes, I waunt yor shase."

"And hou shal I travvel, then?"

"On horsbac."

"U tauc verry cumfortably,—a hundred and aty leegz!"

"Whauts dhat?"

"Wun can doo it! Aafterword?"

"Aafterword? Whi, in paacing throo Lilleya u wil cend me yor shase, withe an order too yor cervant too place himcelf at mi dispozal."

"Wel."

"U hav, no dout, sum order from the cardinal about u?"

"I hav mi FOOL POUWER."

"Sho it too the abbes, and tel her dhat sumwun wil cum and fech me, iather tooda or toomoro, and dhat I am too follo the person whoo presents himcelf in yor name."

"Verry wel."

"Doant forghet too trete me harshly in speking ov me too the abbes."

"Too whaut perpoce?"

"I am a victim ov the cardinal. It iz nescenary too inspire confidens in dhat poor littel Madam Bonasyuu."

"Dhats tru. Nou, wil u make me a repoert ov aul dhat haz happend?"

"Whi, I hav related the events too u. U hav a good memmory; repete whaut I hav toald u. A paper ma be lost."

"U ar rite; oanly let me no whare too fiand u dhat I ma not run needlesly about the naborhood."

"Dhats corect; wate!"

"Doo u waunt a map?"

"O, I no this cuntry marvelously!"

"U? When wer u here?"

"I wauz braut up here."

"Truly?"

"It iz werth sumthhing, u ce, too hav bene braut up sumwhare."

"U wil wate for me, then?"

"Let me reflect a littel! I, dhat wil doo—at Armonteyare."

"Whare iz dhat Armonteyare?"

"A littel toun on the Lise; I shal oonly hav too cros the rivver, and I shal be in a forane cuntry."

"Cappital! but it iz understood u wil oonly cros the rivver in cace ov dain'ger."

"Dhat iz wel understood."

"And in dhat cace, hou shal I no whare u ar?"

"U doo not waunt yor lacky?"

"Iz he a shure man?"

"Too the proofe."

"Ghiv him too me. Nobody nose him. I wil leve him at the place I qwit,

and he wil conduct u too me."

"And u sa u wil wate for me at Armonteyare?"

"At Armonteyare."

"Rite dhat name on a bit ov paper, lest I shood forghet it. Dhare iz nuthhing compromising in the name ov a toun. Iz it not so?"

"A, whoo nose? Nevver miand," ced Milady, riting the name on haaf a shete ov paper; "I wil compromise micelf."

"Wel," ced Roshfor, taking the paper from Milady, foalding it, and placing it in the lining ov hiz hat, "u ma be esy. I wil doo az children doo, for fere ov loosing the paper—repete the name along the roote. Nou, iz dhat aul?"

"I beleve so."

"Let us ce: Buckingham ded or grevously wuinded; yor conversaishon withe the cardinal overherd bi the foer Musketeerz; Lord de Winter wornd ov yor arival at Poertsmouth; dArtanyan and Aithos too the Bastele; Arramis the luvver ov Madam de Shevruuz; Porthos an as; Madam Bonasyuu found agane; too cend u the shase az soone az poscibel; too place mi lacky at yor dispozal; too make u out a victim ov the cardinal in order dhat the abbes ma entertane no suspishon; Armonteyare, on the banx ov the Lise. Iz dhat aul, then?"

"In trueth, mi dere Shevalere, u ar a mirrakel ov memmory. A PROPO, ad wun thhing—"

"Whaut?"

"I sau sum verry pritty woodz which aulmoast tuch the convent garden. Sa

dhat I am permitted too wauc in dhose woodz. Whoo nose? Perhaps I shal stand in nede ov a bac doer for retrete."

"U thhinc ov evverithhing."

"And u forghet wun thhing."

"Whaut?"

"Too aasc me if I waunt munny."

"Dhats tru. Hou much doo u waunt?"

"Aul u hav in goald."

"I hav five hundred pistoalz, or dharabouts."

"I hav az much. Withe a thouzand pistoalz wun ma face evverithhing.  
Empty  
yor pockets."

"Dhare."

"Rite. And u go—"

"In an our—time too ete a morcel, juring which I shal cend for a poast hors."

"Cappital! Aju, Shevalere."

"Aju, Countes."

"Comend me too the cardinal."

"Comend me too Satan."

Milady and Roshfor exchainjd a smile and cepparated. An our aafterword Roshfor cet out at a grand gallop; five ourz aafter dhat he paast throo Arras.

Our rederz aulreddy no hou he wauz reccogniazd bi dArtanyan, and hou dhat recognishon bi inspiring fere in the foer Musketeerz had ghivven fresh activvity too dhare gerny.

### 63 THE DROP OV WAUTER

Roshfor had scaersly departed when Mme. Bonasyuu re-enterd. She found Milady withe a smiling countenans.

"Wel," ced the yung woomman, "whaut u dredded haz happend. This evening, or toomoro, the cardinal wil cend sumwun too take u awa."

"Whoo toald u dhat, mi dere?" aasct Milady.

"I herd it from the mouth ov the mescen'ger himcelf."

"Cum and cit doun cloce too me," ced Milady.

"Here I am."

"Wate til I ashure micelf dhat nobody heerz us."

"Whi aul these precaushonz?"

"U shal no."

Milady arose, went too the doer, opend it, looct in the coridor, and then reternd and ceted hercelf cloce too Mme. Bonasyuu.

"Then," ced she, "he haz wel plade hiz part."

"Whoo haz?"

"He whoo just nou presented himcelf too the abbes az a mescen'ger from the cardinal."

"It wauz, then, a part he wauz playing?"

"Yes, mi chiald."

"Dhat man, then, wauz not—"

"Dhat man," ced Milady, lowering her vois, "iz mi bruther."

"Yor bruther!" cride Mme. Bonasyuu.

"No wun must no this ceecret, mi dere, but yorcelf. If u revele it too enniwun in the werld, I shal be lost, and perhaps yorcelf liaqwise."

"O, mi God!"

"Liscen. This iz whaut haz happend: Mi bruther, whoo wauz cumming too mi acistans too take me awa bi foers if it wer nescenary, met withe the emmisary ov the cardinal, whoo wauz cumming in cerch ov me. He follode him. At a sollitary and retiard part ov the rode he dru hiz soerd, and reqwiard the mescen'ger too delivver up too him the paperz ov which he wauz

the barer. The mescen'ger resisted; mi bruther kild him."

"O!" ced Mme. Bonasyuu, shuddering.

"Remember, dhat wauz the oanly meenz. Then mi bruther determiand too substichute cunning for foers. He tooc the paperz, and presented himcelf here az the emmisary ov the cardinal, and in an our or too a carrage wil cum too take me awa bi the orderz ov hiz Emminens."

"I understand. It iz yor bruther whoo cendz this carrage."

"Exactly; but dhat iz not aul. Dhat letter u hav receevd, and which u beleve too be from Madam de Shevruuz—"

"Wel?"

"It iz a forgery."

"Hou can dhat be?"

"Yes, a forgery; it iz a snare too prevent yor making enny resistans when dha cum too fech u."

"But it iz dArtanyan dhat wil cum."

"Doo not deceve yorcelf. DArtanyan and hiz frendz ar detaind at the ceje ov Laa Roshel."

"Hou doo u no dhat?"

"Mi bruther met sum emmisarese ov the cardinal in the uniform ov Musketeerz. U wood hav bene summond too the gate; u wood hav beleevd yorcelf about too mete frendz; u wood hav bene abducted, and conducted bac too Parris."



"O, mi God! Mi cencez fale me amid such a cayos ov iniqwitesse. I fele, if this continnuse," ced Mme. Bonasyuu, rasing her handz too her foerhed, "I shal go mad!"

"Stop—"

"Whaut?"

"I here a horcez steps; it iz mi bruther cetting of agane. I shood like too offer him a laast salute. Cum!"

Milady opennd the windo, and made a cine too Mme. Bonasyuu too join her. The yung woomman complide.

Roshfor paast at a gallop.

"Aju, bruther!" cride Milady.

The shevalere raizd hiz hed, sau the too yung wimmen, and widhout stopping, waivd hiz hand in a frendly wa too Milady.

"The good Jorj!" ced she, closing the windo withe an expreshon ov countenans fool ov afecshon and mellancoly. And she rezhuemd her cete, az if plunjd in reflecshonz entiarly personal.

"Dere lady," ced Mme. Bonasyuu, "pardon me for interupting u; but whaut doo u advise me too doo? Good hevven! U hav moer expereyens dhan I hav. Speke; I wil liscen."

"In the ferst place," ced Milady, "it iz poscibel I ma be deceevd, and dhat dArtanyan and hiz frendz ma reyaly cum too yor acistans."

"O, dhat wood be too much!" cride Mme. Bonasyuu, "so much happines iz not in stoer for me!"

"Then u comprehend it wood be oonly a qweschon ov time, a sort ov race, which shood arive ferst. If yor frendz ar the moer spedy, u ar too be saivd; if the satteliats ov the cardinal, u ar lost."

"O, yes, yes; lost beyond redempshon! Whaut, then, too doo? Whaut too doo?"

"Dhare wood be a verry cimpel meenz, verry natchural—"

"Tel me whaut!"

"Too wate, conceeld in the naborhood, and ashure yorcelf whoo ar the men whoo cum too aasc for u."

"But whare can I wate?"

"O, dhare iz no difficulty in dhat. I shal stop and concele micelf a fu leegz hens until mi bruther can rejoin me. Wel, I take u withe me; we concele ourcelvz, and wate tooghether."

"But I shal not be aloud too go; I am aulmoast a prizzoner."

"Az dha beleve dhat I go in conceqwens ov an order from the cardinal, no wun wil beleve u ancshous too follo me."

"Wel?"

"Wel! The carrage iz at the doer; u bid me aju; u mount the step too embrace me a laast time; mi brutherz cervant, whoo cumz too fech me, iz toald hou too procede; he maix a cine too the postilleyon, and we cet of at a gallop."

"But dArtanyan! DArtanyan! if he cumz?"

"Shal we not no it?"

"Hou?"

"Nuthhing eseyer. We wil cend mi brutherz cervant bac too Bethune, whoome, az I toald u, we can trust. He shal ashume a disghise, and place himcelf in frunt ov the convent. If the emmisarese ov the cardinal arive, he wil take no notice; if it iz Msyer dArtanyan and hiz frendz, he wil bring them too us."

"He nose them, then?"

"Doutles. Haz he not cene Msyer dArtanyan at mi hous?"

"O, yes, yes; u ar rite. Dhus aul ma go wel—aul ma be for the best; but we doo not go far from this place?"

"Cevven or ate leegz at the moast. We wil kepe on the frunteyerz, for instans; and at the ferst alarm we can leve Fraans."

"And whaut can we doo dhare?"

"Wate."

"But if dha cum?"

"Mi brutherz carrage wil be here ferst."

"If I shood happen too be enny distans from u when the carrage cumz for u—at dinner or supper, for instans?"

"Doo wun thhing."

"Whaut iz dhat?"

"Tel yor good supereyor dhat in order dhat we ma be az much toogheter az poscibel, u aasc her permishon too share mi repaast."

"Wil she permit it?"

"Whaut inconveenyens can it be?"

"O, deliatfool! In this wa we shal not be cepparated for an instant."

"Wel, go doun too her, then, too make yor reqwest. I fele mi hed a littel confuezd; I wil take a tern in the garden."

"Go and whare shal I fiand u?"

"Here, in an our."

"Here, in an our. O, u ar so kiand, and I am so graitfool!"

"Hou can I avoid interesting micelf for wun whoo iz so butifool and so ameyabel? Ar u not the beluvved ov wun ov mi best frendz?"

"Dere dArtanyan! O, hou he wil thanc u!"

"I hope so. Nou, then, aul iz agrede; let us go doun."

"U ar gowing intoo the garden?"

"Yes."

"Go along this coridor, doun a littel staercace, and u ar in it."

"Exelent; thanc u!"

And the too wimmen parted, exchain'ging charming smialz.

Milady had toald the trueth—her hed wauz confuezd, for her il-arainjd planz clasht wun anuther like cayos. She reqwiard too be alone dhat she mite poot her thauts a littel intoo order. She sau vaigly the fuchure; but she stood in nede ov a littel cilens and qwiyet too ghiv aul her ideyaaz, az yet confuezd, a distinct form and a reggular plan.

Whaut wauz moast prescing wauz too ghet Mme. Bonasyuu awa, and conva her too a place ov saifty, and dhare, if matterz reqwiard, make her a hostage. Milady began too hav douts ov the ishu ov this terribel juwel, in which her ennemese shode az much perceverans az she did animosity.

Beciadz, she felt az we fele when a storm iz cumming on—dhat this ishu wauz nere, and cood not fale too be terribel.

The principal thhing for her, then, wauz, az we hav ced, too kepe Mme. Bonasyuu in her pouwer. Mme. Bonasyuu wauz the verry life ov dArtanyan.

This wauz moer dhan hiz life, the life ov the woomman he luvd; this wauz, in cace ov il forchune, a meenz ov temporising and obtaning good condishonz.

Nou, this point wauz cetteld; Mme. Bonasyuu, widhout enny suspishon, acumpanede her. Wuns conceeld withe her at Armonteyare, it wood be esy too make her beleve dhat dArtanyan had not cum too Bethune. In fiftene dase at moast, Roshfor wood be bac; beciadz, juring dhat fiftene dase she wood hav time too thhinc hou she cood best avenj hercelf on the foer frendz. She wood not be wery, thanc God! for she shood enjoi the swetest paastime such events cood acord a woomman ov

her carracter—perfecting a butifool venjans.

Revolving aul this in her miand, she caast her ise around her, and arainjd the topografy ov the garden in her hed. Milady wauz like a good genneral whoo contemplaits at the same time victory and defete, and whoo iz qwite prepaerd, acording too the chaancez ov the battel, too march forword or too bete a retrete.

At the end ov an our she herd a soft vois caulng her; it wauz Mme. Bonasyuuz. The good abbes had natchuraly concented too her reqwest; and az a comensment, dha wer too sup tooghether.

On reching the coertyard, dha herd the noiz ov a carrage which stopt at the gate.

Milady liscend.

"Doo u here ennithhing?" ced she.

"Yes, the roling ov a carrage."

"It iz the wun mi bruther cendz for us."

"O, mi God!"

"Cum, cum! currage!"

The bel ov the convent gate wauz sounded; Milady wauz not mistaken.

"Go too yor chaimber," ced she too Mme. Bonasyuu; "u hav perhaps sum juwelz u wood like too take."

"I hav hiz letterz," ced she.

"Wel, go and fetch them, and cum too mi apartment. We wil snach sum supper; we shal perhaps travvel part ov the nite, and must kepe our strength up."

"Grate God!" ced Mme. Bonasyuu, placing her hand uppon her boozom, "mi hart beets so I canot wauc."

"Currage, currage! remember dhat in a qworter ov an our u wil be safe; and thhinc dhat whaut u ar about too doo iz for HIZ sake."

"Yes, yes, evverithhing for him. U hav restoerd mi currage bi a cin'ghel werd; go, I wil rejoin u."

Milady ran up too her apartment qwicly; she dhare found Roshforz lacky, and gave him hiz instrucshonz.

He wauz too wate at the gate; if bi chaans the Musketeerz shood apere, the carrage wauz too cet of az faast az poscibel, paas around the convent, and go and wate for Milady at a littel village which wauz citchuwated at the uthar cide ov the wood. In this cace Milady wood cros the garden and gane the village on foot. Az we hav aulreddy ced, Milady wauz admirably aqwainted withe this part ov Fraans.

If the Musketeerz did not apere, thhingz wer too go on az had bene agrede; Mme. Bonasyuu wauz too ghet intoo the carrage az if too bid her aju, and she wauz too take awa Mme. Bonasyuu.

Mme. Bonasyuu came in; and too remoove aul suspishon, if she had enny, Milady repeted too the lacky, befoer her, the latter part ov her instrucshonz.

Milady aasct sum qweschonz about the carrage. It wauz a shase draun bi thre horcez, drivven bi a postilleyon; Roshforz lacky wood precede

it, az cooreyer.

Milady wauz rong in fering dhat Mme. Bonasyuu wood hav enny suspishon. The poor yung woomman wauz too pure too suppose dhat enny female cood be ghilty ov such perfidy; beciadz, the name ov the Comtes de Winter, which she had herd the abbes pronouns, wauz wholly un'none too her, and she wauz even ignorant dhat a woomman had had so grate and so fatal a share in the misforchune ov her life.

"U ce," ced she, when the lacky had gon out, "evverithhing iz reddy. The abbes suspects nuthhing, and beleevz dhat I am taken bi order ov the cardinal. This man gose too ghiv hiz laast orderz; take the leest thhing, drinc a fin'gher ov wine, and let us be gon."

"Yes," ced Mme. Bonasyuu, mecannicaly, "yes, let us be gon."

Milady made her a cine too cit doun opposite, poerd her a smaull glaas ov Spannish wine, and helpt her too the wing ov a chicken.

"Ce," ced she, "if evverithhing duz not cecond us! Here iz nite cumming on; bi daibrake we shal hav reecht our retrete, and nobody can ghes whare we ar. Cum, currage! take sumthhing."

Mme. Bonasyuu ate a fu mouthfoolz mecannicaly, and just tucht the glaas withe her lips.

"Cum, cum!" ced Milady, lifting herz too her mouth, "doo az I doo."

But at the moment the glaas tucht her lips, her hand remaind suspended; she herd sumthhing on the rode which sounded like the ratling ov a distant gallop. Then it gru nerer, and it ceemd too her, aulmoast at the same time, dhat she herd the naying ov horcez.



This noiz acted uppon her joi like the storm which awakenz the sleper in the midst ov a happy dreame; she gru pale and ran too the windo, while Mme. Bonasyuu, rising aul in a trembel, supoerted hercelf uppon her chare too avoid fauling. Nuthhing wauz yet too be cene, oonly dha herd the galloping drau nerer.

"O, mi God!" ced Mme. Bonasyuu, "whaut iz dhat noiz?"

"Dhat ov iather our frendz or our ennemese," ced Milady, withe her terribel cuilnes. "Sta whare u ar, I wil tel u."

Mme. Bonasyuu remaind standing, mute, moashonles, and pale az a statchu.

The noiz became louder; the horcez cood not be moer dhan a hundred and fifty pacez distant. If dha wer not yet too be cene, it wauz becauz the rode made an elbo. The noiz became so distinct dhat the horcez mite be counted bi the rattel ov dhare huifs.

Milady gaizd withe aul the pouwer ov her atenshon; it wauz just lite enuf for her too ce whoo wauz cumming.

Aul at wuns, at the terning ov the rode she sau the glitter ov laist hats and the waving ov fetherz; she counted too, then five, then ate horsmen. Wun ov them preceded the rest bi dubbel the length ov hiz hors.

Milady utterd a stifeld grone. In the ferst horsman she reccogniazd dArtanyan.

"O, mi God, mi God," cride Mme. Bonasyuu, "whaut iz it?"

"It iz the uniform ov the cardinalz Gardz. Not an instant too be lost!  
Fli, fli!"

"Yes, yes, let us fli!" repeted Mme. Bonasyuu, but widhout beying abel  
too make a step, glude az she wauz too the spot bi terror.

Dha herd the horsmen paas under the windose.

"Cum, then, cum, then!" cride Milady, triying too drag the yung woomman  
along bi the arm. "Thanx too the garden, we yet can fle; I hav the  
ke, but make haist! in five minnuets it wil be too late!"

Mme. Bonasyuu tride too wauc, made too steps, and sanc uppon her nese.  
Milady tride too rase and carry her, but cood not doo it.

At this moment dha herd the roling ov the carrage, which at the  
aproche ov the Musketeerz cet of at a gallop. Then thre or foer shots  
wer fiard.

"For the laast time, wil u cum?" cride Milady.

"O, mi God, mi God! u ce mi strength failz me; u ce plainly I  
canot wauc. Fle alone!"

"Fle alone, and leve u here? No, no, nevver!" cride Milady.

Aul at wuns she pauzd, a livvid flash darted from her ise; she ran too  
the tabel, emptede intoo Mme. Bonasyuuz glaas the contents ov a ring  
which she opend withe cin'gular qwicnes. It wauz a grane ov a reddish  
cullor, which dizolvd imejaitly.

Then, taking the glaas withe a ferm hand, she ced, "Drinc. This wine  
wil ghiv u strength, drinc!" And she poot the glaas too the lips ov the  
yung woomman, whoo dranc mecannicaly.

"This iz not the wa dhat I wisht too avenj micelf," ced Milady, replacing the glaas uppon the tabel, withe an infernal smile, "but, mi faith! we doo whaut we can!" And she rusht out ov the roome.

Mme. Bonasyuu sau her go widhout beying abel too follo her; she wauz like pepel whoo dreme dha ar pershude, and whoo in vane tri too wauc.

A fu moments paast; a grate noiz wauz herd at the gate. Evvery instant Mme. Bonasyuu expected too ce Milady, but she did not retern. Cevveral tiamz, withe terror, no dout, the coald swet berst from her barning brou.

At length she herd the grating ov the hin'gez ov the opening gaits; the noiz ov buits and sperz rezounded on the staerz. Dhare wauz a grate mermer ov voicez which continnude too drau nere, amid which she ceemd too here her one name pronounst.

Aul at wuns she utterd a loud cri ov joi, and darted tooword the doer; she had reccogniazd the vois ov dArtanyan.

"DArtanyan! DArtanyan!" cride she, "iz it u? This wa! this wa!"

"Constans? Constans?" replide the yung man, "whare ar u? whare ar u? Mi God!"

At the same moment the doer ov the cel yeelded too a shoc, raather dhan open; cevveral men rusht intoo the chaimber. Mme. Bonasyuu had sunc intoo an armchare, widhout the pouwer ov mooving.

DArtanyan thru doun a yet-smoking pistol which he held in hiz hand, and fel on hiz nese befoer hiz mistres. Aithos replaist hiz in hiz

belt; Porthos and Arramis, who held dhare draun soerdz in dhare handz, reternd them too dhare scabbardz.

"O, dArtanyan, mi beluvved dArtanyan! U hav cum, then, at laast! U hav not deceevd me! It iz indede the!"

"Yes, yes, Constans. Reyunited!"

"O, it wauz in vane she toald me u wood not cum! I hoapt in cilens. I wauz not willing too fli. O, I hav dun wel! Hou happy I am!"

At this werd SHE, Aithos, whoo had ceted himcelf qwiyetly, started up.

"SHE! Whaut she?" aasct dArtanyan.

"Whi, mi companyon. She whoo out ov frendship for me wisht too take me from mi percecutorz. She whoo, mistaking u for the cardinalz Gardz, haz just fled awa."

"Yor companyon!" cride dArtanyan, becumming moer pale dhan the white vale ov hiz mistres. "Ov whaut companyon ar u speking, dere Constans?"

"Ov her whoose carrage wauz at the gate; ov a woomman whoo caulz hercelf  
yor frend; ov a woomman too whoome u hav toald evverithhing."

"Her name, her name!" cride dArtanyan. "Mi God, can u not remember her name?"

"Yes, it wauz pronounst in mi hering wuns. Stop—but—it iz verry strainj—o, mi God, mi hed swimz! I canot ce!"

"Help, help, mi frendz! her handz ar icy coald," cride dArtanyan. "She

iz il! Grate God, she iz loosing her cencez!"

While Porthos wauz caulng for help withe aul the pouwer ov hiz strong vois, Arramis ran too the tabel too ghet a glaas ov wauter; but he stopt at ceyng the horibel aultraishon dhat had taken place in the countenans ov Aithos, whoo, standing befoer the tabel, hiz hare rising from hiz hed, hiz ise fixt in schupor, wauz loocking at wun ov the glaacez, and apeerd a pra too the moast horibel dout.

"O!" ced Aithos, "o, no, it iz imposcibel! God wood not permit such a crime!"

"Wauter, wauter!" cride dArtanyan. "Wauter!"

"O, poor woomman, poor woomman!" mermerd Aithos, in a broken vois.

Mme. Bonasyuu opened her ise under the kiscez ov dArtanyan.

"She reviauz!" cride the yung man. "O, mi God, mi God, I thanc the!"

"Madam!" ced Aithos, "madam, in the name ov hevven, whoose empty glaas iz this?"

"Mine, msyer," ced the yung woomman, in a dying vois.

"But whoo poerd the wine for u dhat wauz in this glaas?"

"She."

"But whoo iz SHE?"

"O, I remember!" ced Mme. Bonasyuu, "the Comtes de Winter."

The foer frendz utterd wun and the same cri, but dhat ov Aithos domminated aul the rest.

At dhat moment the countenans ov Mme. Bonasyuu became livvid; a feerfool agony pervaded her frame, and she sanc panting intoo the armz ov Porthos and Arramis.

DArtanyan ceezd the handz ov Aithos withe an an'gwish difficult too be descriabd.

"And whaut doo u beleve?" Hiz vois wauz stifeld bi sobz.

"I beleve evverithhing," ced Aithos biting hiz lips til the blud sprang too avoid ciying.

"DArtanyan, dArtanyan!" cride Mme. Bonasyuu, "whare art dhou? Doo not leve me! U ce I am diying!"

DArtanyan releest the handz ov Aithos which he stil held claaspt in boath hiz one, and hacend too her. Her butifool face wauz distorted withe agony; her glaacy ise had no lon'gher dhare cite; a convulcive shuddering shooc her whole boddy; the swet roald from her brou.

"In the name ov hevven, run, caul! Arramis! Porthos! Caul for help!"

"Uesles!" ced Aithos, "uesles! For the poizon which SHE poerz dhare iz no antidote."

"Yes, yes! Help, help!" mermerd Mme. Bonasyuu; "help!"

Then, colecting aul her strength, she tooc the hed ov the yung man

betwene her handz, looct at him for an instant az if her whole sole paast intoo dhat looc, and withe a sobbing cri prest her lips too hiz.

"Constans, Constans!" cride dArtanyan.

A ci escaipt from the mouth ov Mme. Bonasyuu, and dwelt for an instant on the lips ov dArtanyan. Dhat ci wauz the sole, so chaist and so luvving, which reyacended too hevven.

DArtanyan prest nuthhing but a corps in hiz armz. The yung man utterd a cri, and fel bi the cide ov hiz mistres az pale and az icy az hercelf.

Porthos wept; Arramis pointed tooword hevven; Aithos made the cine ov the cros.

At dhat moment a man apeerd in the doerwa, aulmoast az pale az dhose in the chaimber. He looct around him and sau Mme. Bonasyuu ded, and dArtanyan in a swoone. He apeerd just at dhat moment ov schupor which follose grate catastrofese.

"I wauz not deceevd," ced he; "here iz Msyer dArtanyan; and u ar hiz frendz, Maisyer Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis."

The personz whoose naimz wer dhus pronounst looct at the strain'ger withe astonishment. It ceemd too aul thre dhat dha nu him.

"Gentelmen," rezhuemd the nucummer, "u ar, az I am, in cerch ov a woomman whoo," added he, withe a terribel smile, "must hav paast this wa, for I ce a corps."

The thre frendz remaind mute—for auldho the vois az wel az the countenans remianded them ov sumwun dha had cene, dha cood not remember under whaut circumstaancez.

"Gentelmen," continnude the strain'ger, "cins u doo not reccognise a man whoo probbably ose hiz life too u twice, I must name micelf. I am Lord de Winter, bruther-in-lau ov DHAT WOOMMAN."

The thre frendz utterd a cri ov cerprise.

Aithos rose, and offering him hiz hand, "Be welcum, mi Lord," ced he, "u ar wun ov us."

"I cet out five ourz aafter her from Poertsmouth," ced Lord de Winter. "I ariavd thre ourz aafter her at Booloin. I mist her bi twenty minnuets at St. Oma. Finaly, at Lilleya I lost aul trace ov her. I wauz gowing about at random, inqwiring ov evveriboddy, when I sau u gallop paast. I reccogniazd Msyer dArtanyan. I cauld too u, but u did not aancer me; I wisht too follo u, but mi hors wauz too much fateegd too go at the same pace withe yorz. And yet it apeerz, in spite ov aul yor dilligens, u hav ariavd too late."

"U ce!" ced Aithos, pointing too Mme. Bonasyuu ded, and too dArtanyan, whoome Porthos and Arramis wer trying too recaul too life.

"Ar dha boath ded?" aasct Lord de Winter, sternly.

"No," replide Aithos, "forchunaitly Msyer dArtanyan haz oanly fainted."

"Aa, indede, so much the better!" ced Lord de Winter.

At dhat moment dArtanyan opend hiz ise. He toer himcelf from the armz ov Porthos and Arramis, and thru himcelf like a madman on the corps ov



hiz mistres.

Aithos rose, wauct tooword hiz frend withe a slo and sollem step, embraist him tenderly, and az he berst intoo viyolent sobz, he ced too him withe hiz nobel and perswacive vois, "Frend, be a man! Wimmen wepe for the ded; men avenj them!"

"O, yes!" cride dArtanyan, "yes! If it be too avenj her, I am reddy too follo u."

Aithos proffited bi this moment ov strength which the hope ov venjans restoerd too hiz unforchunate frend too make a cine too Porthos and Arramis too go and fech the supereyor.

The too frendz met her in the coridor, graitly trubheld and much upcet bi such strainj events; she cauld sum ov the nunz, whoo against aul monastic custom found themcelvz in the prezsens ov five men.

"Madam," ced Aithos, paacing hiz arm under dhat ov dArtanyan, "we abandon too yor piyous care the boddy ov dhat unforchunate woomman. She wauz an ain'gel on erth befoer beying an ain'gel in hevven. Trete her az wun ov yor cisterz. We wil retern sumda too pra over her grave."

DArtanyan conceeld hiz face in the boozom ov Aithos, and sobd aloud.

"Wepe," ced Aithos, "wepe, hart fool ov luv, ueth, and life! Alaas, wood I cood wepe like u!"

And he dru awa hiz frend, az afecshonate az a faather, az consoling az a preest, nobel az a man whoo haz sufferd much.

Aul five, follode bi dhare lackese leding dhare horcez, tooc dhare

wa too the toun ov Bethune, whose outskerts dha perceevd, and stopt befoer the ferst in dha came too.

"But," ced dArtanyan, "shal we not pershu dhat woomman?"

"Later," ced Aithos. "I hav mezhuerz too take."

"She wil escape us," replide the yung man; "she wil escape us, and it wil be yor fault, Aithos."

"I wil be acountabel for her," ced Aithos.

DArtanyan had so much confidens in the werd ov hiz frend dhat he lowerd hiz hed, and enterd the in widhout repli.

Porthos and Arramis regarded eche uther, not understanding this ashurans ov Aithos.

Lord de Winter beleevd he spoke in this manner too suite the grefe ov dArtanyan.

"Nou, gentelmen," ced Aithos, when he had ascertaind dhare wer five chaimberz fre in the hotel, "let evveriwun retire too hiz one apartment. DArtanyan needz too be alone, too wepe and too slepe. I take charj ov evverithhing; be esy."

"It apeerz, houwevver," ced Lord de Winter, "if dhare ar enny mezhuerz too take against the countes, it concernz me; she iz mi cister-in-lau."

"And me," ced Aithos, "—she iz mi wife!"

DArtanyan smiald—for he understood dhat Aithos wauz shure ov hiz venjans when he reveeld such a ceecret. Porthos and Arramis looct at eche uther, and gru pale. Lord de Winter thaut Aithos wauz mad.

"Nou, retire too yor chaimberz," ced Aithos, "and leve me too act. U must perceve dhat in mi qwaulity ov a huzband this concernz me. Oonly, dArtanyan, if u hav not lost it, ghiv me the paper which fel from dhat manz hat, uppon which iz ritten the name ov the village ov—"

"Aa," ced dArtanyan, "I comprehend! dhat name ritten in her hand."

"U ce, then," ced Aithos, "dhare iz a god in hevven stil!"

#### 64 THE MAN IN THE RED CLOKE

The despere ov Aithos had ghivven place too a concentrated grefe which oonly renderd moer lucid the brilleyant mental faccultese ov dhat extrordinary man.

Posest bi wun cin'ghel thaut—dhat ov the prommice he had made, and ov the responcebilly he had taken—he retiard laast too hiz chaimber, begd the hoast too procure him a map ov the provvins, bent over it, exammiand evvery line traist uppon it, perceevd dhat dhare wer foer different roadz from Bethune too Armonteyare, and summond the lackese.

Plaunsha, Gremo, Bazan, and Muiscton presented themcelvz, and receevd clere, pozsitive, and cereyous orderz from Aithos.

Dha must cet out the next morning at daibrake, and go too Armonteyare—eche bi a different roote. Plaunsha, the moast intelligent ov the foer, wauz too follo dhat bi which the carrage had gon uppon which the foer frendz had fiard, and which wauz acumpanede, az ma be rememberd, bi Roshforz cervant.

Aithos cet the lackese too werc ferst becauz, cins these men had bene in the cervice ov himself and hiz frendz he had discuvverd in eche ov them different and ecenshal qwaulitese. Then, lackese whoo aasc qweschonz inspire les mistrust dhan maasterz, and mete withe moer cimpathy amung dhose too whoome dha adres themcelvz. Beciadz, Milady nu the maasterz, and did not no the lackese; on the contrary, the lackese nu Milady perfectly.

Aul foer wer too mete the next da at elevven oacloc. If dha had discuvverd Miladese retrete, thre wer too remane on gard; the foerth wauz too retern too Bethune in order too inform Aithos and cerv az a ghide too the foer frendz. These arainjments made, the lackese retiard.

Aithos then arose from hiz chare, gherded on hiz soerd, envellopt himself in hiz cloke, and left the hotel. It wauz neerly ten oacloc. At ten oacloc in the evening, it iz wel none, the streets in provinshal tounz ar verry littel freqwented. Aithos nevvertheles wauz vizzibly ancshous too fiand sumwun ov whoome he cood aasc a qweschon. At length he met a belated pascen'ger, went up too him, and spoke a fu werdz too him. The man he adrest recoild withe terror, and oonly aancerd the fu werdz ov the Musketere bi pointing. Aithos offerd the man haaf a pistole too acumpany him, but the man refuezd.

Aithos then plunjd intoo the strete the man had indicated withe hiz fin'gher; but ariving at foer crosroadz, he stopt agane, vizzibly embarrast. Nevvertheles, az the crosroadz offerd him a better chaans dhan enny uther place ov meting sumbody, he stood stil. In a fu minnuets a nite wauch paast. Aithos repeted too him the same qweschon

he had aasct the ferst person he met. The nite wauch evinst the same terror, refuezd, in hiz tern, too acumpany Aithos, and oanly pointed withe hiz hand too the rode he wauz too take.

Aithos wauct in the direcshon indicated, and reecht the subberb citchuwated at the opposite extremmity ov the citty from dhat bi which he and hiz frendz had enterd it. Dhare he agane apeerd unnesy and embarrast, and stopt for the thherd time.

Forchunaitly, a mendicant paast, whoo, cumming up too Aithos too aasc charrity, Aithos offerd him haaf a croun too acumpany him whare he wauz gowing. The mendicant hezsitated at ferst, but at the cite ov the pece ov silver which shon in the darcnes he concented, and wauct on befoer Aithos.

Ariavd at the an'ghel ov a strete, he pointed too a smaul hous, isolated, sollitary, and dizmal. Aithos went tooword the hous, while the mendicant, whoo had receevd hiz reword, left az faast az hiz legz cood carry him.

Aithos went round the hous befoer he cood distin'gwish the doer, amid the red cullor in which the hous wauz painted. No lite apeerd throo the chinx ov the shutterz; no noiz gave rezon too beleve dhat it wauz inhabbited. It wauz darc and cilent az the toome.

Thre tiamz Aithos noct widhout receving an aancer. At the thherd noc, houwevver, steps wer herd incide. The doer at length wauz opend, and a man apeerd, ov hi stachure, pale complecshon, and blac hare and beard.

Aithos and he exchainjd sum werdz in a lo vois, then the taul man made a cine too the Musketere dhat he mite cum in. Aithos imejaitly proffited bi the permishon, and the doer wauz cloazd behiand him.

The man whoome Aithos had cum so far too ceke, and whoome he had found  
withe so much trubbel, introjuest him intoo hiz laboratoery, whare he  
wauz en'gajjd in faacening tooghether withe iarn wire the dri boanz ov a  
skelleton. Aul the frame wauz ajusted exepth the hed, which la on the  
tabel.

Aul the rest ov the fernichure indicated dhat the dweller in this hous  
occupide himcelf withe the studdy ov natchural ciyens. Dhare wer larj  
bottelz fild withe cerpents, ticketed acording too dhare speeshese; dride  
lizzardz shon like emmeraldz cet in grate sqwaerz ov blac wood, and  
bunchez ov wiald odorifferous herbz, doutles posest ov verchuse  
un'none too common men, wer faacend too the celing and hung down in  
the  
cornerz ov the apartment. Dhare wauz no fammily, no cervant; the taul  
man  
alone inhabbited this hous.

Aithos caast a coald and indifferent glaans uppon the obgets we hav  
descriabd, and at the invitaishon ov him whoome he came too ceke sat  
down  
nere him.

Then he explaind too him the cauz ov hiz vizsit, and the cervice he  
reqwiard ov him. But scaersly had he exprest hiz reqwest when the  
un'none, whoo remaind standing befoer the Musketere, dru bac withe  
cianz ov terror, and refuezd. Then Aithos tooc from hiz pocket a smaull  
paper, on which too lianz wer ritten, acumpanede bi a cignachure and a  
cele, and presented them too him whoo had made too premachuerly these  
cianz  
ov repugnans. The taul man had scaersly red these lianz, cene the  
cignachure, and reccogniazd the cele, when he boud too denote dhat he  
had

no lon'gher enny obgecshon too make, and dhat he wauz reddy too oba.

Aithos reqwiard no moer. He arose, boud, went out, reternd bi the same wa he came, re-enterd the hotel, and went too hiz apartment.

At daibrake dArtanyan enterd the chaimber, and demaanded whaut wauz too be dun.

"Too wate," replide Aithos.

Sum minnuets aafter, the supereyor ov the convent cent too inform the Musketeerz dhat the berreyal wood take place at midda. Az too the poizoner, dha had herd no tidingz ov her whautevver, oonly dhat she must hav made her escape throo the garden, on the sand ov which her footsteps cood be traist, and the doer ov which had bene found shut. Az too the ke, it had disapeerd.

At the our apointed, Lord de Winter and the foer frendz repaerd too the convent; the belz toald, the chappel wauz open, the grating ov the qwire wauz cloazd. In the middel ov the qwire the boddy ov the victim, cloadhd in her novishate dres, wauz expoazd. On eche side ov the qwire and behiand the gratingz opening intoo the convent wauz acembeld the whole comunity ov the Carmeliats, whoo liscend too the divine cervice, and min'gheld dhare chaant withe the chaant ov the preests, widhout ceying the profane, or beying cene bi them.

At the doer ov the chappel dArtanyan felt hiz currage faul anu, and reternd too looc for Aithos; but Aithos had disapeerd.

Faithfool too hiz mishon ov venjans, Aithos had requested too be conducted too the garden; and dhare uppon the sand following the lite

steps ov this woomman, whoo left sharp trax wharevver she went, he advaanst tooword the gate which led intoo the wood, and causing it too be opend, he went out intoo the forest.

Then aul hiz suspishonz wer confermd; the rode bi which the carrage had disapeerd encerfeld the forest. Aithos follode the rode for sum time, hiz ise fixt uppon the ground; slite stainz ov blud, which came from the wuind inflicted uppon the man whoo acumpanede the carrage az a cooreyer, or from wun ov the horcez, dotted the rode. At the end ov thre-qworterz ov a leghe, within fifty pacez ov Festoobare, a larger bludstane apeerd; the ground wauz trampeld bi horcez. Betwene the forest and this akerst spot, a littel behiand the trampeld ground, wauz the same trac ov smaul fete az in the garden; the carrage had stopt here. At this spot Milady had cum out ov the wood, and enterd the carrage.

Sattisfide withe this discuvvery which confermd aul hiz suspishonz, Aithos reternd too the hotel, and found Plaunsha impaishently wating for him.

Evverithhing wauz az Aithos had foercene.

Plaunsha had follode the rode; like Aithos, he had discuvverd the stainz ov blud; like Aithos, he had noted the spot whare the horcez had halted. But he had gon farther dhan Aithos—for at the village ov Festoobare, while drinking at an in, he had lernd widhout neding too aasc a qweschon dhat the evening befoer, at haaf-paast ate, a wuinded man whoo acumpanede a lady travveling in a poast-shase had bene obliajd too stop, unnabel too go ferther. The axident wauz cet down too the acount ov robberz, whoo had stopt the shase in the wood. The man remaind in the village; the woomman had had a rela ov horcez, and continnude her gerny.

Plaunsha went in cerch ov the postilleyon whoo had drivven her, and found him. He had taken the lady az far az Fromel; and from Fromel she



had set out for Armonteyare. Plaunsha took the crossroad, and by eleven o'clock in the morning he was at Armonteyare.

Dhare was but a tavern, the Poast. Plaunsha went and presented himself  
as a lackey out of a place, who was in search of a chieftain. He had  
not  
chatted ten minutes with the people of the tavern before he learned that  
a woman had come alone about eleven o'clock the night before, had  
engaged a chamber, had sent for the master of the hotel, and told him  
she desired to remain some time in the neighborhood.

Plaunsha had no need to learn more. He happened to the roundabout, found  
the lackey at the poast, placed them as sentinels at the outlets  
of the hotel, and came to find Aithos, who had just received this  
information when his friends returned.

All the countenances were melancholy and gloomy, even the mild  
countenance of Arramis.

"What is to be done?" asked d'Artagnan.

"Too late!" replied Aithos.

Eche retired to his one apartment.

At eleven o'clock in the evening Aithos ordered the horses to be saddled,  
and Lord de Winter and his friends notified that they must prepare for  
the expedition.

In an instant all five were ready. Eche examined his arms, and put  
them in order. Aithos came down last, and found d'Artagnan already on  
horseback, and growing impatient.

"Paishens!" cride Aithos; "wun ov our party iz stil waunting."

The foer horsmen looct round them withe astonishment, for dha saut vainly in dhare miandz too no whoo this uther person cood be.

At this moment Plaunsha braut out Aithocez hous; the Musketere leept liatly intoo the saddel.

"Wate for me," cride he, "I wil soone be bac," and he cet of at a gallop.

In a qworter ov an our he reternd, acumpanede bi a taul man, maasct, and rapt in a larj red cloke.

Lord de Winter and the thre Musketeeرز looct at wun anuther inqwiringly. Niather cood ghiv the utherz enny informaishon, for aul wer ignorant whoo this man cood be; nevvertheles, dha felt convinst dhat aul wauz az it shood be, az it wauz dun bi the order ov Aithos.

At nine oacloc, ghided bi Plaunsha, the littel cavalcade cet out, taking the roote the carrage had taken.

It wauz a mellancoly cite—dhat ov these cix men, traveling in cilens, eche plunjd in hiz one thauts, sad az despare, gloomy az chastiazment.

## 65 TRIYAL

It wauz a stormy and darc nite; vaast cloudz cuvverd the hevvenz, conceling the starz; the moone wood not rise til midnite.

Ocaizhonaly, bi the lite ov a flash ov liatning which gleemd along the horizon, the rode strecht itcelf befoer them, white and sollitary; the flash extinct, aul remaind in darcnes.

Evvery minnute Aithos wauz foerst too restrane dArtanyan, constantly in advaans ov the littel troope, and too beg him too kepe in the line, which in an instant he agane departed from. He had but wun thaut—too go forword; and he went.

Dha paast in cilens throo the littel village ov Festoobare, whare the wuinded cervant wauz, and then skerted the wood ov Reeshboorg. At Airleya, Plaunsha, whoo led the collum, ternd too the left.

Cevveral tiamz Lord de Winter, Porthos, or Arramis, tride too tauc withe the man in the red cloke; but too evvery interogaishon which dha poot too him he boud, widhout respons. The travvelerz then comprehended dhat dhare must be sum rezon whi the un'none preservd such a cilens, and ceest too adres themcelvz too him.

The storm increest, the flashez suxeded wun anuther moer rappidly, the thunder began too groul, and the wind, the prekursor ov a hurricane, whisceld in the pluemz and the hare ov the horsmen.

The cavalcade trotted on moer sharply.

A littel befoer dha came too Fromel the storm berst. Dha spred dhare cloax. Dhare remaind thre leegz too travvel, and dha did it amid torents ov rane.

DArtanyan tooc of hiz hat, and cood not be perswaded too make uce ov hiz cloke. He found plezhure in feling the wauter trickel over hiz barning brou and over hiz boddy, adgitated bi feverish shudderz.

The moment the littel troope paast Goscal and wer aproching the Poert, a man shelterd beneeth a tre detacht himcelf from the trunc withe which he had bene confounded in the darcnes, and advaanst intoo the middel ov the rode, pooting hiz fin'gher on hiz lips.

Aithos reccogniazd Gremo.

"Whauts the manner?" cride Aithos. "Haz she left Armonteyare?"

Gremo made a cine in the afermative. DArtanyan groand hiz teeth.

"Cilens, dArtanyan!" ced Aithos. "I hav charjd micelf withe this afare. It iz for me, then, too interrogate Gremo."

"Whare iz she?" aasct Aithos.

Gremo extended hiz handz in the direcshon ov the Lise. "Far from here?" aasct Aithos.

Gremo shode hiz maaster hiz foerfin'gher bent.

"Alone?" aasct Aithos.

Gremo made the cine yes.

"Gentelmen," ced Aithos, "she iz alone within haaf a leghe ov us, in the direcshon ov the rivver."

"Dhats wel," ced dArtanyan. "Lede us, Gremo."

Gremo tooc hiz coers acros the cuntry, and acted az ghide too the cavalcade.

At the end ov five hundred pacez, moer or les, dha came too a rivvulet,

which dha foerded.

Bi the ade ov the liatning dha perceevd the village ov Erkinhime.

"Iz she dhare, Gremo?" aasct Aithos.

Gremo shooc hiz hed neggatiavly.

"Cilens, then!" cride Aithos.

And the troope continnude dhare roote.

Anuther flash iluminated aul around them. Gremo extended hiz arm, and bi the bluwish splendor ov the firy serpent dha distin'gwisht a littel isolated hous on the banx ov the rivver, within a hundred pacez ov a ferry.

Wun windo wauz lited.

"Here we ar!" ced Aithos.

At this moment a man whoo had bene crouching in a dich jumpt up and came toowordz them. It wauz Muiscton. He pointed hiz fin'gher too the lited windo.

"She iz dhare," ced he.

"And Bazan?" aasct Aithos.

"While I waucht the windo, he garded the doer."

"Good!" ced Aithos. "U ar good and faithfool cervants."

Aithos sprang from hiz hors, gave the bridel too Gremo, and advaanst

tooward the windo, aafter havving made a cine too the rest ov the troope too  
go tooward the doer.

The littel hous wauz surrounded bi a lo, qwixet hej, too or thre fete hi. Aithos sprang over the hej and went up too the windo, which wauz widhout shutterz, but had the haaf-kertainz cloasly draun.

He mounted the skerting stone dhat hiz ise mite looc over the kertane.

Bi the lite ov a lamp he sau a woomman, rapt in a darc mantel, ceted uppon a stoole nere a diying fire. Her elbose wer plaist uppon a mene tabel, and she leend her hed uppon her too handz, which wer white az ivory.

He cood not distin'gwish her countenans, but a cinnister smile paast over the lips ov Aithos. He wauz not deceevd; it wauz she whoome he saut.

At this moment a hors nade. Milady raizd her hed, sau cloce too the painz the pale face ov Aithos, and screemd.

Aithos, perceving dhat she nu him, poosht the windo withe hiz ne and hand. The windo yeelded. The sqwaerz wer broken too shivverz; and Aithos,  
like the specter ov venjans, leept intoo the roome.

Milady rusht too the doer and opend it. Moer pale and mennacing dhan Aithos, dArtanyan stood on the threshoald.

Milady recoild, uttering a cri. DArtanyan, beleving she mite hav meenz ov flite and fering she shood escape, dru a pistol from hiz belt; but Aithos raizd hiz hand.

"Poot bac dhat weppon, dArtanyan!" ced he; "this woomman must be tride, not asascinated. Wate an instant, mi frend, and u shal be sattisfide. Cum in, gentelmen."

DArtanyan obade; for Aithos had the sollem vois and the pouwerfool geschure ov a juj cent bi the Lord himcelf. Behiand dArtanyan enterd Porthos, Arramis, Lord de Winter, and the man in the red cloke.

The foer lackese garded the doer and the windo.

Milady had sunc intoo a chare, withe her handz extended, az if too cunjure this terribel aparishon. Perceving her bruther-in-lau, she utterd a terribel cri.

"Whaut doo u waunt?" screemd Milady.

"We waunt," ced Aithos, "Sharlot Baxon, whoo ferst wauz cauld Comtes de laa Fare, and aafterwordz Milady de Winter, Barones ov Sheffeeld."

"Dhat iz I! dhat iz I!" mermerd Milady, in extreme terror; "whaut doo u waunt?"

"We wish too juj u acording too yor crime," ced Aithos; "u shal be fre too defend yorcelf. Justifi yorcelf if u can. M. dArtanyan, it iz for u too acuse her ferst."

DArtanyan advaanst.

"Befoer God and befoer men," ced he, "I acuse this woomman ov havving poizond Constans Bonasyuu, whoo dide yesterda evening."

He ternd toowordz Porthos and Arramis.

"We bare witnes too this," ced the too Musketeerz, withe wun vois.

D'Artagnan continued: "Before God and before men, I accuse this woman of having attempted to poison me, in wine which she sent me from Villeroi, with a forged letter, as if that wine came from my friends. God preserved me, but a man named Breezmon died in my place."

"We bear witness to this," said Porthos and Arramis, in the same manner as before.

"Before God and before men, I accuse this woman of having erred me too the murder of the Barron de Vard; but as no witness can attest the truth of this accusation, I attest it myself. I have done." And D'Artagnan passed to the other side of the room with Porthos and Arramis.

"Your turn, my Lord," said Athos.

The barron came forward.

"Before God and before men," said he, "I accuse this woman of having caused the assassination of the Duke of Buckingham."

"The Duke of Buckingham assassinated!" cried all present, with one voice.

"Yes," said the barron, "assassinated. On receiving the warning letter you wrote to me, I had this woman arrested, and gave her in charge to a loyal servant. She corrupted this man; she placed the poniard in his hand; she made him kill the duke. And at this moment, perhaps, Felton is paying with his head for the crime of this fury!"

A shudder crept through the judges at the revelation of these unknown



crianz.

"Dhat iz not aul," rezhuemd Lord de Winter. "Mi bruther, whoo made u hiz are, dide in thre ourz ov a strainj disorder which left livvid tracez aul over the boddy. Mi cister, hou did yor huzband di?"

"Horor!" cride Porthos and Arramis.

"Asascin ov Buckingham, asascin ov Felton, asascin ov mi bruther, I demaand justice uppon u, and I sware dhat if it be not graanted too me, I wil execute it micelf."

And Lord de Winter rainjd himcelf bi the cide ov dArtanyan, leving the place fre for anuther acuser.

Milady let her hed cinc betwene her too handz, and tride too recaul her ideyaaz, wherling in a mortal vertigo.

"Mi tern," ced Aithos, himcelf trembling az the liyon trembelz at the cite ov the serpent—"mi tern. I marrede dhat woomman when she wauz a yung gherl; I marrede her in oposishon too the wishez ov aul mi fammily; I gave her mi welth, I gave her mi name; and wun da I discuvverd dhat this woomman wauz branded—this woomman wauz marct withe a *FLEUR-DE-LIS* on her left shoalder."

"O," ced Milady, rasing hercelf, "I defi u too fiand enny tribunal which pronounst dhat infamous centens against me. I defi u too fiand him whoo executed it."

"Cilens!" ced a hollo vois. "It iz for me too repli too dhat!" And the man in the red cloke came forword in hiz tern.

"Whaut man iz dhat? Whaut man iz dhat?" cride Milady, suffocated bi terror, her hare loocening itself, and rising abuv her livvid countenans az if alive.

Aul ise wer ternd toowordz this man—for too aul exept Aithos he wauz un'none.

Even Aithos looct at him withe az much schupefacshon az the utherz, for he nu not hou he cood in enny wa fiand himself mixt up withe the horibel draamaa then unfoalded.

Aafter aproching Milady withe a slo and sollem step, so dhat the tabel alone cepparated them, the un'none tooc of hiz maasc.

Milady for sum time exammiand withe increcing terror dhat pale face, fraimd withe blac hare and whiskerz, the oonly expreshon ov which wauz icy impaacibillity. Then she suddenly cride, "O, no, no!" rising and retreting too the verry waul. "No, no! it iz an infernal aparishon! It iz not he! Help, help!" screemd she, terning toowordz the waul, az if she wood tare an opening withe her handz.

"Whoo ar u, then?" cride aul the witnecez ov this cene.

"Aasc dhat woomman," ced the man in the red cloke, "for u ma plainly ce she nose me!"

"The execueshoner ov Lele, the execueshoner ov Lele!" cride Milady, a pra too incensate terror, and clinging withe her handz too the waul too avoid fauling.

Evvery wun dru bac, and the man in the red cloke remaind standing alone in the middel ov the roome.

"O, grace, grace, pardon!" cride the rech, fauling on her nese.

The un'none wated for cilens, and then rezhuemd, "I toald u wel dhat she wood no me. Yes, I am the execueshoner ov Lele, and this iz mi history."

Aul ise wer fixt uppon this man, whoose werdz wer liscend too withe ancshous atenshon.

"Dhat woomman wauz wuns a yung gherl, az butifool az she iz tooda. She wauz a nun in the convent ov the Benedicteenz ov Tomplmar. A yung preest, withe a cimpel and trustfool hart, performd the jutese ov the cherch ov dhat convent. She undertoo hiz ceducshon, and suxeded; she wood hav cejuest a saint."

"Dhare vouz wer saicred and irevvocabel. Dhare conecshon cood not laast long widhout ruwining boath. She prevaild uppon him too leve the cuntry; but too leve the cuntry, too fli tooghether, too reche anuther part ov Fraans, whare dha mite liv at ese becauz un'none, munny wauz nescenary. Niather had enny. The preest stole the saicred vaasez, and soald them; but az dha wer preparing too escape tooghether, dha wer boath arested."

"Ate dase later she had cejuest the sun ov the jaler, and escaipt. The yung preest wauz condemd too ten yeez ov imprizzonment, and too be branded. I wauz execueshoner ov the citty ov Lele, az this woomman haz ced. I wauz obliajd too brand the ghilty wun; and he, gentelmen, wauz mi bruther!"

"I then swoer dhat this woomman whoo had ruwind him, whoo wauz moer dhan hiz acumplice, cins she had erjd him too the crime, shood at leest share

hiz punnishment. I suspected whare she wauz conceeld. I follode her, I caut her, I bound her; and I imprinted the same disgraisfool marc uppon her dhat I had imprinted uppon mi poor bruther."

"The da aafter mi retern too Lele, mi bruther in hiz tern suxeded in making hiz escape; I wauz acuezd ov compliscity, and wauz condemd too remane in hiz place til he shood be agane a prizzoner. Mi poor bruther wauz ignorant ov this centens. He rejoind this woomman; dha fled tooghether intoo Berry, and dhare he obtaind a littel curacy. This woomman paast for hiz cister."

"The Lord ov the estate on which the chappel ov the curacy wauz citchuwated sau this pretend cister, and became enamord ov her—ammorous too such a degry dhat he propoazd too marry her. Then she qwitted him she had ruwind for him she wauz destiand too ruwin, and became the Comtes de laa Fare—"

Aul ise wer ternd toowordz Aithos, whose reyal name dhat wauz, and whoo made a cine withe hiz hed dhat aul wauz tru which the execueshoner had ced.

"Then," rezhuemd he, "mad, desperate, determiand too ghet rid ov an existens from which she had stolen evverithhing, onnor and happines, mi poor bruther reternd too Lele, and lerning the centens which had condemd me in hiz place, surrenderd himcelf, and hangd himcelf dhat same nite from the iarn bar ov the luiphole ov hiz prizzon."

"Too doo justice too them whoo had condemd me, dha kept dhare werd. Az soone az the identity ov mi bruther wauz pruivd, I wauz cet at libberty."

"Dhat iz the crime ov which I acuse her; dhat iz the cauz for which

she wauz branded."

"Msyer dArtanyan," ced Aithos, "whaut iz the pennalty u demaand against this woomman?"

"The punnishment ov deth," replide dArtanyan.

"Mi Lord de Winter," continnude Aithos, "whaut iz the pennalty u demaand against this woomman?"

"The punnishment ov deth," replide Lord de Winter.

"Maisyer Porthos and Arramis," repeted Aithos, "u whoo ar her judgez, whaut iz the centens u pronouns uppon this woomman?"

"The punnishment ov deth," replide the Musketeerz, in a hollo vois.

Milady utterd a friatfool shreke, and dragd hercelf along cevveral pacez uppon her nese tooword her judgez.

Aithos strecht out hiz hand tooword her.

"Sharlot Baxon, Comtes de laa Fare, Milady de Winter," ced he, "yor criamz hav werede men on erth and God in hevven. If u no a prare, sa it—for u ar condemd, and u shal di."

At these werdz, which left no hope, Milady raizd hercelf in aul her pride, and wisht too speke; but her strength faild her. She felt dhat a pouwerfool and implaccabel hand ceezd her bi the hare, and dragd her awa az irevvocably az fatallity dragz humannity. She did not, dhaerfoer, even atempt the leest resistans, and went out ov the cottage.

Lord de Winter, dArtanyan, Aithos, Porthos, and Arramis, went out cloce

behind her. The lackese follode dhare maasterz, and the chaimber wauz left sollitary, withe its broken windo, its open doer, and its smoky lamp barning sadly on the tabel.

## 66 EXECUESHON

It wauz nere midnite; the moone, lescend bi its decline, and reddend bi the laast tracez ov the storm, arose behiand the littel toun ov Armonteyare, which shode against its pale lite the darc outline ov its housez, and the skelleton ov its hi belfry. In frunt ov them the Lise roald its wauterz like a rivver ov moalten tin; while on the uther cide wauz a blac mas ov trese, profiald on a stormy ski, invaded bi larj copperry cloudz which creyated a sort ov twilite amid the nite. On the left wauz an oald abandond mil, withe its moashonles wingz, from the ruwinz ov which an owl thru out its shril, pereyoddical, and monottonous cri. On the rite and on the left ov the rode, which the dizmal proceshon pershude, apeerd a fu lo, stunted trese, which looct like deformd dworfs crouching down too wauch men travveling at this cinnister our.

From time too time a braud shete ov liatning opend the horizon in its whole width, darted like a serpent over the blac mas ov trese, and like a terribel cimmitar divided the hevvenz and the wauterz intoo too parts. Not a breth ov wind nou disterbd the hevvy atmosfere. A dethlike cilens oprest aul nachure. The soil wauz humid and glittering withe the rane which had recently faulen, and the refresht herbz cent foerth dhare perfume withe adishonal ennergy.

Too lackese dragd Milady, whoome eche held bi wun arm. The execueshoner

wauct behiand them, and Lord de Winter, dArtanyan, Porthos, and Arramis

wauct behiand the execueshoner. Plaunsha and Bazan came laast.

The too lackese conducted Milady too the banc ov the rivver. Her mouth wauz mute; but her ise spoke withe dhare inexprescibel elloqwens, suplicating bi ternz eche ov dhose on whoome she looct.

Beying a fu pacez in advaans she whisperd too the lackese, "A thousand pistoalz too eche ov u, if u wil acist mi escape; but if u delivver me up too yor maasterz, I hav nere at hand aven'gerz whoo wil make u pa deerly for mi deth."

Gremo hezsitated. Muiscton trembeld in aul hiz memberz.

Aithos, whoo herd Miladese vois, came sharply up. Lord de Winter did the same.

"Chainj these lackese," ced he; "she haz spoken too them. Dha ar no lon'gher shure."

Plaunsha and Bazan wer cauld, and tooc the placez ov Gremo and Muiscton.

On the banc ov the rivver the execueshoner aproacht Milady, and bound her handz and fete.

Then she broke the cilens too cri out, "U ar couwardz, mizserabel asascinz—ten men combiand too merder wun woomman. Beware! If I am not saivd I shal be avenjd."

"U ar not a woomman," ced Aithos, coaldly and sternly. "U doo not belong too the human speeshese; u ar a demon escaipt from hel, whither

we cend u bac agane."

"Aa, u verchuwous men!" ced Milady; "plese too remember dhat he whoo shal tuch a hare ov mi hed iz himcelf an asascin."

"The execueshoner ma kil, widhout beying on dhat acount an asascin," ced the man in the red cloke, rapping uppon hiz imens soerd. "This iz the laast juj; dhat iz aul. *NACHRICHTER*, az sa our naborz, the Germanz."

And az he bound her while saying these werdz, Milady utterd too or thre savvage crise, which projuest a strainj and mellancoly efect in fliying awa intoo the nite, and loosing themcelvz in the depths ov the woodz.

"If I am ghilty, if I hav comitted the criamz u acuse me ov," shreect Milady, "take me befoer a tribunal. U ar not judgez! U canot condem me!"

"I offerd u Tibern," ced Lord de Winter. "Whi did u not axept it?"

"Becauz I am not willing too di!" cride Milady, strugling. "Becauz I am too yung too di!"

"The woomman u poizond at Bethune wauz stil yun'gher dhan u, madam, and yet she iz ded," ced dArtanyan.

"I wil enter a cloister; I wil becum a nun," ced Milady.

"U wer in a cloister," ced the execueshoner, "and u left it too ruwin mi bruther."



Milady uttered a cry of terror and sank upon her knees. The executioner took her up in his arms and was carrying her toward the block.

"O, my God!" cried she, "my God! are you going to drown me?"

These crises had something so heart-rending in them that M. d'Artagnan, who had been at first the most eager in pursuit of Milady, sat down on the stump of a tree and hung his head, covering his eyes with the palms of his hands; and yet, notwithstanding, he could still hear her cry and threaten.

D'Artagnan was the youngest of all these men. His heart failed him.

"O, I cannot behold this frightful spectacle!" cried he. "I cannot consent that this woman should die thus!"

Milady heard these few words and caught at a shadow of hope.

"D'Artagnan, d'Artagnan!" cried she; "remember that I love you!"

The young man rose and took a step toward her.

But Athos rose likewise, drew his sword, and placed himself in the way.

"If you take one step farther, d'Artagnan," cried he, "we shall cross swords together."

D'Artagnan sank on his knees and prayed.

"Cum," continued Athos, "executioner, do your duty."

"Willingly, my lord," cried the executioner; "for as I am a good Catholic, I firmly believe I am acting justly in performing my functions on this woman."

"Dhats wel."

Aithos made a step tooword Milady.

"I pardon u," ced he, "the il u hav dun me. I pardon u for mi blaasted fuchure, mi lost onnor, mi defiald luv, and mi salvaishon forevver compromiazd bi the despare intoo which u hav caast me. Di in pece!"

Lord de Winter advaanst in hiz tern.

"I pardon u," ced he, "for the poizoning ov mi bruther, and the asacinaishon ov hiz Grace, Lord Buckingham. I pardon u for the deth ov poor Felton; I pardon u for the atempts uppon mi one person. Di in pece!"

"And I," ced M. dArtanyan. "Pardon me, madam, for havving bi a tric unwerthy ov a gentelman provoact yor an'gher; and I, in exchainj, pardon u the merder ov mi poor luv and yor cruwel venjans against me. I pardon u, and I wepe for u. Di in pece!"

"I am lost!" mermerd Milady in In'glish. "I must di!"

Then she arose ov hercelf, and caast around her wun ov dhose peering loox which ceemd too dart from an i ov flame.

She sau nuthhing; she liscend, and she herd nuthhing.

"Whare am I too di?" ced she.

"On the uther banc," replide the execueshoner.

Then he plaist her in the bote, and az he wauz gowing too cet foot in it himcelf, Aithos handed him a sum ov silver.

"Here," ced he, "iz the price ov the execueshon, dhat it ma be plane we act az judgez."

"Dhat iz corect," ced the execueshoner; "and nou in her tern, let this woomman ce dhat I am not foolfilling mi trade, but mi det."

And he thru the munny intoo the rivver.

The bote muivd of tooword the left-hand shoer ov the Lise, baring the ghilty woomman and the execueshoner; aul the utherz remaind on the rite-hand banc, whare dha fel on dhare nese.

The bote glided along the ferry rope under the shaddo ov a pale cloud which hung over the wauter at dhat moment.

The troope ov frendz sau it gane the opposite banc; the figguerz wer defiant like blac shaddose on the red-tinted horizon.

Milady, juring the passage had contriavd too unti the cord which faacend her fete. On cumming nere the banc, she jumpt liatly on shoer and tooc too flite. But the soil wauz moist; on reching the top ov the banc, she slipt and fel uppon her nese.

She wauz struc, no dout, withe a superstishous ideyaa; she conceevd dhat hevven denide its ade, and she remaind in the attichude in which she had faulen, her hed drooping and her handz claaspt.

Then dha sau from the uther banc the execueshoner rase boath hiz armz sloly; a muinbeme fel uppon the blade ov the larj soerd. The too armz fel withe a sudden foers; dha herd the hiscing ov the cimmitar and the cri ov the victim, then a truncated mas sanc beneeth the blo.

The execueshoner then tooc of hiz red cloke, spred it uppon the ground,

lade the boddy in it, thru in the hed, tide aul up bi the foer cornerz, lifted it on hiz bac, and enterd the bote agane.

In the middel ov the streme he stopt the bote, and suspending hiz berden over the wauter cride in a loud vois, "Let the justice ov God be dun!" and he let the corps drop intoo the depths ov the wauterz, which cloazd over it.

Thre dase aafterword the foer Musketeerz wer in Parris; dha had not exeded dhare leve ov abcens, and dhat same evening dha went too pa dhare customary vizsit too M. de Treveye.

"Wel, gentelmen," ced the brave captane, "I hope u hav bene wel amuezd juring yor exkerzhon."

"Prodidjously," replide Aithos in the name ov himcelf and hiz comraidz.

## 67 CONCLUEZHON

On the sixth ov the following munth the king, in compliyans withe the prommice he had made the cardinal too retern too Laa Roshel, left hiz cappital stil in amaizment at the nuse which began too spred itcelf ov Buckinghamz asacinaishon.

Auldho wornd dhat the man she had luvd so much wauz in grate dain'ger, the qwene, when hiz deth wauz anounst too her, wood not beleve the fact, and even imprudently exclaimd, "it iz fauls; he haz just ritten too me!"

But the next da she wauz obliajd too beleve this fatal intelligens; Laaport, detaind in In'gland, az evveriwun els had bene, bi the orderz

ov Charlz I, ariavd, and wauz the barer ov the juex diying ghift too the qwene.

The joi ov the king wauz liavly. He did not even ghiv himcelf the trubbel too dicembel, and displade it withe afectaishon befoer the qwene. Loowy 13, like evvery weke miand, wauz waunting in generoscity.

But the king soone agane became dul and indispoazd; hiz brou wauz not wun ov dhose dhat long remane clere. He felt dhat in reterning too camp he shood re-enter slavery; nevvertheles, he did retern.

The cardinal wauz for him the fascinating serpent, and himcelf the berd which flise from braanch too braanch widhout pouwer too escape.

The retern too Laa Roshel, dhaerfoer, wauz profoundly dul. Our foer frendz, in particcular, astonnisht dhare comraidz; dha travveld tooghether, cide bi cide, withe sad ise and hedz lowerd. Aithos alone from time too time raizd hiz expansive brou; a flash kindeld in hiz ise, and a bitter smile paast over hiz lips, then, like hiz comraidz, he sanc agane intoo revvery.

Az soone az the escort ariavd in a citty, when dha had conducted the king too hiz qworterz the foer frendz iather retiard too dhare one or too sum cecluded cabbara, whare dha niather dranc nor plade; dha oonly converst in a lo vois, loocking around atentiavly too ce dhat no wun overherd them.

Wun da, when the king had haulted too fli the magpi, and the foer frendz, acording too dhare custom, insted ov following the spoert had stopt at a cabbara on the hi rode, a man cumming from laa Roshel on horsbac poold up at the doer too drinc a glaas ov wine, and darted a cerching glaans intoo the roome whare the foer Musketeerz wer citting.

"Hollo, Msyer dArtanyan!" ced he, "iz not dhat u whoome I ce yonder?"

DArtanyan raizd hiz hed and utterd a cri ov joi. It wauz the man he cauld hiz fantom; it wauz hiz strain'ger ov Muung, ov the Ru da Foswaa'er and ov Arras.

DArtanyan dru hiz soerd, and sprang tooword the doer.

But this time, insted ov avoiding him the strain'ger jumpt from hiz hors, and advaanst too mete dArtanyan.

"Aa, msyer!" ced the yung man, "I mete u, then, at laast! This time u shal not escape me!"

"Niather iz it mi intenshon, msyer, for this time I wauz ceking u; in the name ov the king, I arest u."

"Hou! whaut doo u sa?" cride dArtanyan.

"I sa dhat u must surrender yor soerd too me, msyer, and dhat widhout resistans. This concernz yor hed, I worn u."

"Whoo ar u, then?" demaanded dArtanyan, lowering the point ov hiz soerd, but widhout yet surrendering it.

"I am the Shevalere de Roshfor," aancerd the uther, "the eqwerry ov Msyer le Cardinal Reeshlu, and I hav orderz too conduct u too hiz Emminens."

"We ar reterning too hiz Emminens, msyer the Shevalere," ced Aithos, advaaning; "and u wil plese too axept the werd ov Msyer dArtanyan dhat he wil go strate too Laa Roshel."

"I must place him in the handz ov gardz whoo wil take him intoo camp."

"We wil be hiz gardz, msyer, uppon our werd az gentelmen; but liaqwise, uppon our werd az gentelmen," added Aithos, nitting hiz brou, "Msyer dArtanyan shal not leve us."

The Shevalere de Roshfor caast a glaans baqword, and sau dhat Porthos and Arramis had plaist themcelvz betwene him and the gate; he understood dhat he wauz compleetly at the mercy ov these foer men.

"Gentelmen," ced he, "if Msyer dArtanyan wil surender hiz soerd too me and join hiz werd too yorz, I shal be sattisfide withe yor prommice too conva Msyer dArtanyan too the qworterz ov Moncennure the Cardinal."

"U hav mi werd, msyer, and here iz mi soerd."

"This suets me the better," ced Roshfor, "az I wish too continnu mi gerny."

"If it iz for the perpoce ov rejoining Milady," ced Aithos, cooly, "it iz uesles; u wil not fiand her."

"Whaut haz becum ov her, then?" aasct Roshfor, egherly.

"Retern too camp and u shal no."

Roshfor remaind for a moment in thaut; then, az dha wer oonly a dase gerny from Soorzhare, whither the cardinal wauz too cum too mete the king, he rezolvd too follo the advice ov Aithos and go withe them. Beciadz, this retern offerd him the advaantage ov wauching hiz prizzoner.

Dha rezhuemd dhare roote.

On the moro, at thre oacloc in the aafternoone, dha ariavd at Soorzhare. The cardinal dhare awated Loowy 13. The minnister and the king exchainjd numerous carescez, feliscitating eche uther uppon the forchunate chaans which had frede Fraans from the invetterate ennemy whoo cet aul Urope against her. Aafter which, the cardinal, whoo had bene informd dhat dArtanyan wauz arested and whoo wauz ancshous too ce him, tooc leve ov the king, inviting him too cum the next da too vu the werc aulreddy dun uppon the dike.

On reterning in the evening too hiz qworterz at the brij ov Laa Peyare, the cardinal found, standing befoer the hous he occupide, dArtanyan, widhout hiz soerd, and the thre Musketeerz armd.

This time, az he wauz wel atended, he looct at them sternly, and made a cine withe hiz i and hand for dArtanyan too follo him.

DArtanyan obade.

"We shal wate for u, dArtanyan," ced Aithos, loud enuf for the cardinal too here him.

Hiz Emminens bent hiz brou, stopt for an instant, and then kept on hiz wa widhout uttering a cin'ghel werd.

DArtanyan enterd aafter the cardinal, and behiand dArtanyan the doer wauz garded.



Hiz Emminens enterd the chaimber which cervd him az a studdy, and made a  
cine too Roshfor too bring in the yung Musketere.

Roshfor obade and retiard.

DArtanyan remaind alone in frunt ov the cardinal; this wauz hiz cecond  
intervu withe Reeshlu, and he aafterword confest dhat he felt wel  
ashuerd it wood be hiz laast.

Reeshlu remaind standing, lening against the mantelpece; a tabel  
wauz betwene him and dArtanyan.

"Msyer," ced the cardinal, "u hav bene arested bi mi orderz."

"So dha tel me, moncennure."

"Doo u no whi?"

"No, moncennure, for the oanly thhing for which I cood be arested iz  
stil un'none too yor Emminens."

Reeshlu looct stedfaastly at the yung man.

"Hollo!" ced he, "whaut duz dhat mene?"

"If Moncennure wil hav the goodnes too tel me, in the ferst place,  
whaut criamz ar imputed too me, I wil then tel him the deedz I hav  
reyaly dun."

"Criamz ar imputed too u which had braut doun far lofteyer hedz dhan  
yorz, msyer," ced the cardinal.

"Whaut, moncennure?" ced dArtanyan, withe a caalmnes which astonnisht

the cardinal himself.

"U ar charjd withe havving coresponded withe the ennemese ov the kingdom; u ar charjd withe havving cerpriazd state ceecrets; u ar charjd withe havving tride too thwort the planz ov yor genneral."

"And whoo chargez me withe this, moncennure?" ced dArtanyan, whoo had no dout the acuzaishon came from Milady, "a woomman branded bi the justice ov the cuntry; a woomman whoo haz espouzd wun man in Fraans and anuther in In'gland; a woomman whoo poizond her cecond huzband and whoo attempted both too poison and asascinate me!"

"Whaut doo u sa, msyer?" cride the cardinal, astonnisht; "and ov whaut woomman ar u speking dhus?"

"Ov Milady de Winter," replide dArtanyan, "yes, ov Milady de Winter, ov whoose criamz yor Emminens iz doutles ignorant, cins u hav onnord her withe yor confidens."

"Msyer," ced the cardinal, "if Milady de Winter haz comitted the criamz u la too her charj, she shal be punnisht."

"She haz bene punnisht, moncennure."

"And whoo haz punnisht her?"

"We."

"She iz in prizzon?"

"She iz ded."

"Ded!" repeted the cardinal, whoo cood not beleve whaut he herd,  
"ded! Did u not sa she wauz ded?"

"Thre tiamz she atempted too kil me, and I pardond her; but she merderd the woomman I luvd. Then mi frendz and I tooc her, tride her, and condemd her."

DArtanyan then related the poizoning ov Mme. Bonasyuu in the convent ov the Carmeliats at Bethune, the triyal in the isolated hous, and the execueshon on the banx ov the Lise.

A shudder crept throo the boddy ov the cardinal, whoo did not shudder reddily.

But aul at wuns, az if undergowing the influwens ov an unspoken thaut, the countenans ov the cardinal, til then gloomy, cleerd up bi degrese, and recuvverd perfect cerennity.

"So," ced the cardinal, in a tone dhat contraasted strongly withe the ceverrity ov hiz werdz, "u hav constichuted yorcelvz judgez, widhout remembering dhat dha whoo punnish widhout licens too punnish ar asascinz?"

"Moncennure, I sware too u dhat I nevver for an instant had the intenshon ov defending mi hed against u. I willingly submit too enny punnishment yor Emminens ma plese too inflict uppon me. I doo not hoald life dere enuf too be afrade ov deth."

"Yes, I no u ar a man ov a stout hart, msyer," ced the cardinal, withe a vois aulmoast afecshonate; "I can dhaerfoer tel u befoerhand u shal be tride, and even condemd."

"Anuther mite repli too yor Emminens dhat he had hiz pardon in hiz pocket. I content micelf withe saying: Comaand, moncennure; I am reddy."

"Yor pardon?" ced Reeshlu, cerpriazd.

"Yes, moncennure," ced dArtanyan.

"And ciand bi whoome—bi the king?" And the cardinal pronounst these werdz withe a cin'gular expreshon ov contempt.

"No, bi yor Emminens."

"Bi me? U ar insane, msyer."

"Moncennure wil doutles reccognise hiz one handriting."

And dArtanyan presented too the cardinal the preshous pece ov paper which Aithos had foerst from Milady, and which he had ghivven too dArtanyan too cerv him az a saifgard.

Hiz Emminens tooc the paper, and red in a slo vois, dwelling uppon evvery cillabel:

"Dec. 3, 1627

"It iz bi mi order and for the good ov the state dhat the barer ov this haz dun whaut he haz dun.

"REESHLU"

The cardinal, aafter havving red these too lianz, sanc intoo a profound

revvery; but he did not return the paper to d'Artagnan.

"He is meditating by what sort of punishment he shall cause me to die," said the Gascon to himself. "Well, my faith! he shall see how a gentleman can die."

The young Musketeer was in excellent disposition too at that moment.

Reeshlu still continued thinking, rolling and unrolling the paper in his hands.

At length he raised his head, fixed his eyes upon that loyal, open, and intelligent countenance, read upon that face, furrowed with tears, and the sufferings its possessor had endured in the course of a month, and reflected for the third or fourth time how much damage was in that month of twenty-one years before him, and what resources his activity, his courage, and his shrewdness might offer to a good master. On the other side, the claims, the power, and the infernal genius of Milady had more than won terrified him. He felt something like a secret joy at being forever relieved of this dangerous accomplice.

Reeshlu slowly took the paper which d'Artagnan had generously relinquished.

"I am lost!" said d'Artagnan to himself. And he bowed profoundly before the cardinal, like a man who says, "Lord, Thy will be done!"

The cardinal approached the table, and without sitting down, wrote a few lines upon a parchment of which two-thirds were already filled, and affixed his seal.

"That is my condemnation," said d'Artagnan; "he will spare me the *ENNUI* of the Bastille, or the torments of a trial. That's very kind

ov him."

"Here, msyer," ced the cardinal too the yung man. "I hav taken from u wun *CARTE BLANCHE* too ghiv u anuther. The name iz waunting in this comishon; u can rite it yorcelf."

DArtanyan tooc the paper hezsitatingly and caast hiz ise over it; it wauz a leftennants comishon in the Musketeerz.

DArtanyan fel at the fete ov the cardinal.

"Moncennure," ced he, "mi life iz yorz; hensfoerth dispose ov it. But this favor which u besto uppon me I doo not merrit. I hav thre frendz whoo ar moer meritoereyous and moer werthy—"

"U ar a brave ueth, dArtanyan," interupted the cardinal, tapping him familleyarly on the shoalder, charmd at havving vanqwisht this rebelleyous nachure. "Doo withe this comishon whaut u wil; oonly remember, dho the name be blanc, it iz too u I ghiv it."

"I shal nevver forghet it," replide dArtanyan. "Yor Emminens ma be certane ov dhat."

The cardinal ternd and ced in a loud vois, "Roshfor!" The shevalere, whoo no dout wauz nere the doer, enterd imejaitly.

"Roshfor," ced the cardinal, "u ce Msyer dArtanyan. I receive him amung the number ov mi frendz. Grete eche uther, then; and be wise if u wish too preserv yor hedz."

Roshfor and dArtanyan cooly greted eche uther withe dhare lips; but the cardinal wauz dhare, observing them withe hiz vidgilant i.

Dha left the chamber at the same time.

"We shal mete agane, shal we not, msyer?"

"When u please," ced dArtanyan.

"An oportchunity wil cum," replide Roshfor.

"Ha?" ced the cardinal, opening the doer.

The too men smiald at eche uther, shooc handz, and saluted hiz Emminens.

"We wer beghinning too gro impaishent," ced Aithos.

"Here I am, mi frendz," replide dArtanyan; "not oanly fre, but in favor."

"Tel us about it."

"This evening; but for the moment, let us cepparate."

Acordingly, dhat same evening dArtanyan repaerd too the qworterz ov Aithos, whoome he found in a fare wa too empty a bottel ov Spannish wine —an

ocupaishon which he relidjously acumplisht evvery nite.

DArtanyan related whaut had taken place betwene the cardinal and himcelf, and drauwng the comishon from hiz pocket, ced, "Here, mi dere Aithos, this natchuraly belongz too u."

Aithos smiald withe wun ov hiz swete and exprescive smialz.

"Frend," ced he, "for Aithos this iz too much; for the Comt de laa Fare it iz too littel. Kepe the comishon; it iz yorz. Alaas! u hav

perchaist it deerly enuf."

DArtanyan left Aithocez chaimber and went too dhat ov Porthos. He found him cloadhd in a magnificent dres cuvverd withe splendid embroidery, admiring himcelf befoer a glaas.

"Aa, aa! iz dhat u, dere frend?" exclaimd Porthos. "Hou doo u thhinc these garments fit me?"

"Wunderfooly," ced dArtanyan; "but I cum too offer u a dres which wil becum u stil better."

"Whaut?" aasct Porthos.

"Dhat ov a leftennant ov Musketeerz."

DArtanyan related too Porthos the substans ov hiz intervü withe the cardinal, and ced, taking the comishon from hiz pocket, "Here, mi frend, rite yor name uppon it and becum mi chefe."

Porthos caast hiz ise over the comishon and reternd it too dArtanyan, too the grate astonishment ov the yung man.

"Yes," ced he, "yes, dhat wood flatter me verry much; but I shood not hav time enuf too enjoi the distincshon. Juring our expedishon too Bethune the huzband ov mi dutches dide; so, mi dere, the coffer ov the defunct hoalding out its armz too me, I shal marry the widdo. Looc here! I wauz triying on mi wedding sute. Kepe the leftennancy, mi dere, kepe it."

The yung man then enterd the apartment ov Arramis. He found him neling befoer a *PRIEDIEU* withe hiz hed lening on an open prare booc.



He descriabd too him hiz intervü withe the cardinal, and ced, for the thherd time drauwng hiz comishon from hiz pocket, "U, our frend, our intelligens, our invizibel protector, axept this comishon. U hav merrited it moer dhan enny ov us bi yor wizdom and yor councelz, aulwase follode bi such happy rezults."

"Alaas, dere frend!" ced Arramis, "our late advenchuerz hav disgusted me withe millitary life. This time mi determinaishon iz irevvocably taken. Aafter the ceje I shal enter the hous ov the Lazzarists. Kepe the comishon, dArtanyan; the profeshon ov armz suets u. U wil be a brave and advenchurous captane."

DArtanyan, hiz i moist withe grattichude dho beming withe joi, went bac too Aithos, whoome he found stil at tabel contemplating the charmz ov hiz laast glaas ov Mallagaa bi the lite ov hiz lamp.

"Wel," ced he, "dha liaqwise hav refuezd me."

"Dhat, dere frend, iz becauz nobody iz moer werthy dhan yorcelf."

He tooc a qwil, rote the name ov dArtanyan in the comishon, and reternd it too him.

"I shal then hav no moer frendz," ced the yung man. "Alaas! nuthhing but bitter recolecshonz."

And he let hiz hed cinc uppon hiz handz, while too larj teerz roald doun hiz cheex.

"U ar yung," replide Aithos; "and yor bitter recolecshonz hav time too chainj themcelvz intoo swete remembrancez."

## EPPILOG

Laa Roshel, depriavd ov the acistans ov the In'glish flete and ov the diverzhon prommiast bi Buckingham, surenderd aafter a ceje ov a yere. On the twenty-aitth ov October, 1628, the capichulaishon wauz ciand.

The king made hiz entrans intoo Parris on the twenty-thherd ov December ov the same yere. He wauz receevd in triyumf, az if he came from conkering an ennemy and not Frenchmen. He enterd bi the Foboorg St. Zhaac, under verdant archez.

DArtanyan tooc poseshon ov hiz comaand. Porthos left the cervice, and in the coers ov the following yere marrede Mme. Cokenar; the coffer so much cuvveted containd ate hundred thousand leevrz.

Muiscton had a magnificent livery, and enjoid the satisfacshon ov which he had bene ambishous aul hiz life—dhat ov standing behiand a ghilded carrage.

Arramis, aafter a gerny intoo Lorane, disapeerd aul at wuns, and ceest too rite too hiz frendz; dha lernd at a later pereyod throo Mme. de Shevruuz, whoo toald it too too or thre ov her intimaits, dhat, yeelding too hiz vocaishon, he had retiard intoo a convent—oanly intoo which, nobody nu.

Bazan became a la bruther.

Aithos remaind a Musketere under the comaand ov dArtanyan til the yere 1633, at which pereyod, aafter a gerny he made too Toorane, he aulso qwit the cervice, under the pretext ov havving inherited a smaul propperty in Rooceyon.

Gremo follode Aithos.

D'Artanyan faut thre tiamz withe Roshfor, and wuinded him thre tiamz.

"I shal probbably kil u the foerth," ced he too him, hoalding out hiz hand too acist him too rise.

"It iz much better boath for u and for me too stop whare we ar," aancerd the wuinded man. "*CORBLEU*—I am moer yor frend dhan u thhinc—for aafter our verry ferst encounter, I cood bi saying a werd too the cardinal hav had yor throte cut!"

Dha this time embraist hartily, and widhout retaning enny mallice.

Plaunsha obtaind from Roshfor the ranc ov sarjant in the Peedmont redgiment.

M. Bonasyuu livd on verry qwiyetly, wholly ignorant ov whaut had becum ov hiz wife, and caring verry littel about it. Wun da he had the imprudens too recaul himcelf too the memmory ov the cardinal. The cardinal had him informd dhat he wood provide for him so dhat he shood nevr waunt for ennithhing in fuchure. In fact, M. Bonasyuu, havving left hiz hous at cevven oacloc in the evening too go too the Luivr, nevr apeerd agane in the Ru da Foswaa'er; the opinyon ov dhose whoo ceemd too be best informd wauz dhat he wauz fed and lojd in sum roiyal caacel, at the expens ov hiz gennerous Emminens.

End ov Prodgect Goottenbergz The Thre Musketeerz, bi Alexaander  
Dumaa, Pare

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For additional contact information:

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Chief Executive and Director

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