

"I was saying that the spirit of France lived always ahead of the time, was ever first to conceive the feeling of the coming century, and by its own struggles and sufferings—sometimes too abrupt and perilous—made easy the way for the rest of the world."

During these words a change passed over Valmond. His restless body became still, his mobile face steady and almost set—all the life of him seemed to have burnt into his eyes; but he answered nothing, and the Curé, in the pause, was constrained to say,—

"Our dear Monsieur Garon knows perfectly the history of France, and is devoted to the study of the Napolconic times and of the Great Revolution—alas for our people and the saints of Holy Church who perished then!"

The avocat lifted a hand in mute disacknowledgment. Again there was a silence, and out of the pause Monsieur De la Rivière's voice was heard,—

"Monsieur Valmond, how fares this spirit of France now—you come from France?"

There was a shadow of condescension and ulterior meaning in De la Rivière's voice, for he