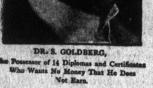
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CHAPTER XIL

HE following is the statement as he wrote it out for the ben-efit of the judge of instruc-tion, knowing that it would unbtless secure an indictment against the accused:

"Two leagues from Tarascon, on the left bank of the Rhone, stood the Cha-teau of Clameran. Here lived in 1841 the old marquis and his two sons, Gas-ton and Louis. A near neighbor was the Countess de la Verberie, with one the Countess de la Verberle, with one daughter, Valentine, a lovely girl of eighteen. M. de Clameran detested the countess, and Mme. de la Verberle execrated the marquis. It was said that under the reign of Henry IV. a La Verberle had betrayed the affection of a fair daughter of the Clamerans. This misdeed led to a duel, which in turn led to bitter hatred between the transparence. to bitter hatred between the two

"Gaston de Clameran met Valentine de la Verberie at an evening entertain-ment, and the two fell desperately in love. Gaston would often plunge into the Rhone at Clameran and rise out of the water at Verberie, where he would have a secret meeting with Valentine. In order to facilitate these meetings Gaston would place a light in his win-dow immediately before starting which could be seen by Valentine at her home. The two lovers, despairing of permis-aion to marry, kept up a secret intima-cy, which led to Valentine's becoming a wife without the sanction of the church or the lews.

a wife without the sanction of the church or the law.

"One evening Gaston went into a cafe for a cup of coffee. Later, while playing billiards, hearing Valentine's name coupled with his own to her dishonor, he demanded a retraction, became embroiled and killed two men. He fled to the chateau, where he confessed to his father his intimacy with Valentine, declaring that he wished to marry her. His father urged him to fly from the consequences of the murfly from the consequences of the mur-ders he had committed and, having no money to give him, supplied him with the family jewels. Meanwhile the po-lice were coming to arrest him, and it was arranged that the gates should be suddenly opened, a servant should fee in one direction. Louis in another and thus misleading the police give Gaston an opportunity to escape. Gaston would have got away had not Louis purposely tripped and fallen. The police, thus discovering the ruse, pushed on after Gaston, who, to save himself, jumped into the Rhone. The current was at the time so swollen that his

"Escaping almost certain death, Gaston, who before leaving the chateau had placed the signal for Valentine in his window, reached La Verberie and had an interview with his beloved. She informed him that ahe would see informed him that she would soon become a mother. Before parting he left with her the jewels given him by his father, then fled the country, going to South America. That night the old marquis died, Louis, assuming that his elder prother had been drawed. harquis died, Lons, assuming that his elder brother had been drowned, took the title and the estate. He left Cla-meran immediately and began a life full of ignominy. "Valentine confessed her condition

to her mother, who took her to Eng-land, where she provided for her daughter's secret accouchement under the care of a physician and a maid, Mihonne. A son was born, which the countess immediately sent away to be

Heart Palpitated.

FAINT AND DIZZY SPELLS.

FELT WEAK AND NERVOUS.

COULD SCARCELY EAT.

TWO BOXES OF

MILBURN'S **HEART and NERVE PILLS**

ed Mrs. Edmond Brown, Inwood, Ont., when she had almost given up hope of ever getting well again.

She writes: "I was so run down that I was not able to do my work, was short of breath, had a sour somach every night and could scarcely eat. My heart palpitated, I had faint and dizzy spells and fell weak and nervous all the time. My husband got me a box of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills but I told him it was no use, that I had given up hope of ever being cured. He however persuaded me to take them and before I had used hall the box I began to feel better. Two boxes made a new woman of me and I have beet well and have been able to do my worle ever since."

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adopted by a farmer. Subsequently Mme. de la Verberie pursuaded her daughter to attempt to forget the past, to consider it buried in oblivion and to marry. A young engineer. M. Andre marry. A young engineer, M. Andre Fauvel, spent some time at Beaucaire, where they lived, and fell in love with Valentine, who, urged by her mother, accepted his attentions and finally married him. M. Fauvel afterward became the famous Paris banker. The countess died in 1859.

"Louis de Clameran, after an absence from home of eighteen years returned."

"Louis de Clameran, after an absence from home of eighteen years, returned, and from Mihonne, the maid who had been with Valentine at the time of her confinement, learned that his brother had not been drowned, that Valentine had had a son by Gaston and that she had subsequently married M. Fauvel. Impoverished by his excesses and unable to find a living honestly, Louis determined to use this information for the purpose of extorting money from Mme. Fauvel. Going to Paris, he called upon her and gave her to understand that he knew of her past. In order to better serve his purpose he told her that her son by Gaston was living, that he had been brought up in London, that his father had been there and found him, that Gaston had died in poverty and had asked him (Louis) to London, that his father had been there and found him, that Gaston had died in poverty and had asked him (Louis) to apply to her for means for the maintenance of their son Raoul. Mme. Fauvel at once gave Louis the jewels Gaston had left with her at their last interview to be used for Raoul. Louis soon introduced a young man to her who personated her son and received from her large sums, which the twa villains divided. All this Mme. Fauvel kept a secret from her husband. Finally Clameran, in order to facilitate his plans, demanded that she receive Raoul into her house. Mme. Fauvel had a cousin living at St. Remy of the name of Lagora, and Clameran, parfly by persuasion, partly by intimidation, induced Mme. Fauvel to announce her supposed son as her nephew, Raoul de Lagora. This was done, and Raoul, having constant access to Mme. Fauvel or any order of the supposed son as her nephew. Raoul de Lagora.

Lagors. This was done, and Raoul, having constant access to Mme. Fauvel, soon extorted a small fortune, which he squandered.

"Louis de Clameran now conceived the idea of marrying Madeleine, with whom he had fellen violently in love." To force her to break with Prosper he used the power he possessed over Mme. Fauvel. Madeleine discovered her aunt's situation and in order to avert a catastrophe consented to give up a catastrophe consented to give up Prosper, whom she loved, and marry Clameran, whom she detested. Break-ing her engagement with Prosper, she secured his promise to take upon him-self the sole responsibility of the rup-ture.

"Meanwhile Gaston had made a for-Meanwhile Gaston had made a for-tune in South America and returned to France. To still the memory of his youthful misfortunes he resolved to engage in business and bought an iron mill at Oloron. Louis, hearing of his arrival, went to Oloron and greeted him with every pretense of affection. Louis took up his quarters with his brother, who soon sickened and died under very suspicious circumstances, leaving his fortune to Louis.

*leaving his fortune to Louis.

"Louis now turned his attention to forcing Madeleine to marry him. He agreed to settle a large income upon Raoul if he would extort money from Mme. Fauvel in sufficient quantity to embarrass her. Raoul consented and lived recklessly on the means furnished by the woman who knywed above. by the woman who supposed she was his mother. Finally, having no more to give him, she was persuaded to surto give him, she was persuaded to surrender her diamonds, a present from her husband on the day he became worth a million. When Mme. Fauvel's jewels were gone, Madeleine's were given up. All were pawned by Raoul.

"Louis de Clameran was not satisfied to marry Madeleine while her heart was given to another. He determined to ruin Prosper, that she might lose het respect and her love for him. One night at a supper at which Raoul and Prosper, under the influence of wine, name the word (Gipsy) that would unlock the safe in M. Fauvel's bank. This he communicated to Clameran, also telling him that when M. Fauvel went out he always left the key to the safe in the drawer of his secretary in his chamber.

"Clameran then arranged that 300.

safe in the drawer of his secretary in his chamber.

"Clameran then arranged that 300.000 franca should be kept in the bank over night ready for him to draw in the morning. That night Raoul, having been coached for the part by Clameran, went to Mme, Fauvel, told her that he was ruined and must have a large sum of money at once, threatening that if he did not get it he would blow out his brains. He told her that she must give him the key to the safe, which he would open take what he needed and restore it on the morrow. Mme, Fauvel, in terror lest he should commit suicide and thinking that he did not know the word which, with the key, was necessary to open the safe, in order to gain time, gave him the key. Raoul went down the stairway, Mme. Fauvel following him in agony. Raoul opened the safe and took the money intended to be paid Clameran in the morning. Mme, Fauvel, astonished that he had succeeded, begged him to shut the safe, clinging to his arm and endeavoring to pull him away. The key was dragged from the lock and.

slipping along the glossy varnish, made

a long, deep scratch.
"The next day, after the robbery was discovered and Clameran had been paid the amount due him, he went to Mme. Fauvel and to Madeleine and told them

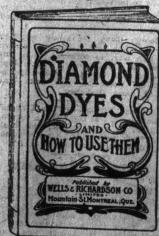
Fauvel and to Madeleine and told them that Raoul had secured the word necessary to open the safe from Prosper, who was to share in the plunder. Clameran, affecting to make a noble sacrifice for the two women, offered to restore the stolen money through them to M. Fauvel, but Madeleine, suspecting some hidden motive, declined the offer. "Madeleine, believing that she and Mme. Fauvel would eventually get rid of the extortionists and vindicate Prosper, asked her uncle for 10,000 francs, to be used for a charitable purpose, and sent the amount to Prosper, with a letter made up of words cut out of a prayer book.

"Mme. Fauvel and Madeleine, owing to the extortions to which they had been subjected, became urgently pressed by tradesmen and others to whom they owed money and had nothing on which to keep up their position in society. They remained secluded for a time, but were at last obliged to appear in public at the Jandidier ball. Madeleine went to Vesinet to ask Raoul to return some of the money and jewels they had given him. On this occasion she was followed by M. Verdurst and Prosper. Madeleine's effort was fruitiess, though she finally forced Raoul by threats of exposure to surrender some of the pawn tickets.

"At last Clameran and Rabul found in the clown at the Jandidier ball an "Mme. Fauvel and Madeleine, owing

in the clown at the Jandidier ball an enemy who possessed the secret of their villainies and tried to murdes

To Be Continued.



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