



clerk handed her the package ; the countess left the room and returned shortly afterwards, saying that her brother-in-law, Dr. Manuel, desired to see the gentleman who had brought the diamonds. He entered into the doctor's office, this personage, known all over the city of Paris, being seated at a table. The clerk was asked to sit down. The famous doctor mustered him all over, felt his pulse, and finally asked :

"What do you bring, sir?"

"I bring the diamonds," said the clerk.

"Well, well," said the man of pills, throwing a glance at the countess, who wrung her hands, and showed in her face the deepest anguish. The clerk was struck by this, still more so when the physician asked him :

"Then you come on account of the diamonds? Are they very valuable diamonds?"

"Certainly," rejoined the clerk ; "one hundred thousand francs."

The physician again exchanged a look of commiseration with the countess, and then addressed her pityingly :

"Courage, my lady ; but it is perhaps better that you retire." She retired, dissolved in tears, while the fears of the clerk augmented rapidly.

"Doctor," he said, "there must be a mistake somewhere ; I bring diamonds, which you have ordered from Mellerio, to the value of one hundred thousand francs."

"Very well, very well, dear sir," said the doctor, "I know." He then rang the bell, and four powerful men entered, to whom he said :

"Take the patient to No.—."

Vainly the clerk shouted for his diamonds and his liberty ; he was overpowered, confined in a straight jacket and treated as a raving maniac. He thus remained confined for eight days, raving and protesting, and was treated with cold douches and other "restoratives," until Dr. Manuel read in the daily press of Paris an advertisement of the jeweler Mellerio, requesting parties possessing information to communicate to him any tidings of his clerk, who had been sent out with diamonds to the value of one hundred thousand francs, but had failed to return. Being a thoroughly honest man, it was feared that some misfortune might have happened him.

The celebrated physician became in this manner an accomplice of a clever swindling scheme. The woman had visited him the day before the occurrence, and, introducing herself as the Countess Salice, had weepingly told him that she was unspeakably unhappy because her husband was talking irrationally. He entertained the idea that he had lost diamonds of enormous value, and would become downright dangerous if anyone attempted to contradict him. He would remain standing before every jewelry store of the city and gaze into their windows ; get up at night and call for his diamonds—in fact, she represented the state of the patient so that Dr. Manuel fully believed in the aberration of mind of her poor, dear husband, and requested her to bring him next day during his office hours. She begged the doctor to detain him at once in case he considered him mad, as she was afraid of her life. The woeful tale told can be readily imagined.

The next *coup de genie* was played on Napoleon III. This distinguished person became deeply interested in a young countess, whose beauty was admired by all. Naturally no one

at court had, or pretended to have, knowledge of this liason, because Empress Eugenie, as is well-known, was terribly jealous. Once the countess took it into her pretty head to be present at some court festivity, and Napoleon III., in order to avoid scandal or talk, knew no other remedy than that of giving a large *bal de masque*, at which she was to appear dressed as a Spanish lady. In order to assuage her anger that she was invited simply to a masked ball but not a public festivity, and to give her a tangible proof of his affection, he sent her a pair of diamond ear pendants of a marvelous beauty. Each pendant contained, besides a number of small diamonds, a large and precious brilliant of so rare a water that the present was of an immense value. The countess was to wear them as signs of recognition. She appeared as pre-arranged, dressed in the Spanish garb, with the silk lace veil, the mantilla, thrown over her head, and amused herself to her heart's content, until she came into a crowd of persons and felt that one of her ear pendants was being opened and snatched away. She cried aloud, a disturbance was the consequence, but the pendant could not be found. All persons were required to unmask, but the thief had managed to escape with his booty. Naturally Napoleon felt no great interest in the discovery of the thief, still it was incumbent on him to take some steps, and he sent for the police commissioner of Paris, and handed him the second pendant as a pattern, in order to furnish him with correct data. The commissioner at once summoned all the detectives, who "snooped" around during the remainder of the night, but their search was futile. In the morning hours of the following day an officer, who introduced himself as a count and an officer of the Legion of Honor, appeared.

"What is the pleasure of your visit?" the commissioner asked.

"I come on account of the ear pendant which was stolen during the night at the masked ball at the Tuilleries."

"How is that?" the astonished police commissioner asked.

"The young lady," the officer replied hesitatingly, "who enjoys the favor of his majesty the emperor is my sister. The commotion raised about the ear pendant was entirely unnecessary, as it had not been stolen, but had gotten entangled in the folds of her lace veil which she wore over her head ; she herself drew it out of her ear when making some violent motion. When she came home and undressed she found it. Here it is."

He indeed presented to the police commissioner the pendant, the match of the one handed to him by the emperor.

"I come," the officer continued, "to ask you in the name of my sister for the other pendant. My sister and I—and I am prepared to say, his majesty the emperor—desire that nothing further be said of the entire affair. The reason why is left to your imagination."

The commissioner was highly elated at the happy end of the disagreeable occurrence, and handed to the count the other pendant which he had received from the emperor. Eight days afterward the duped commissioner learned that the lady had no brother, that the pendant had never been found, and that he had become the victim of an ingenious swindler, who had used this clever device for obtaining the other pendant. The countess, as well as the emperor, felt so angry at the commissioner that he was forced to resign soon after. — *Exchange*.