

not worth living. Is it possible that I, whose conduct and principles have won the esteem of all, should be involved in all this trouble? And yet on this occasion the only thing that gives me any anxiety is my conduct towards the Girauds!

DUPRÉ

I can well believe it, for it was you who led astray and who induced Pamela to act as she did!

MME. DU BROCARD

I feel, sir, that it is always a mistake to associate with people of a certain class—say, with a Bonapartist—a man who has neither conscience nor heart. (*Verby, who has been listening, shrinks back with a gesture of rage.*)

DUPRÉ

You always seemed to have such a high opinion of him!

MME. DU BROCARD

His family was highly thought of! And the prospect of this brilliant marriage!—I always dreamt of a distinguished future for my nephew.

DUPRÉ

But you are forgetting the general's affection for you, his unselfishness.

MME. DU BROCARD

His affection! His unselfishness! The general does not possess a son, and I had promised him a hundred thousand francs, when once the marriage contract was signed.

DUPRÉ (*coughs loudly, as he turns in the direction of De Verby*)

Oh! indeed!

MME. DU BROCARD

I am come to you secretly, and in confidence, in spite of all