

me to introduce Mons. le Marquis des Abbayes." The latter bowed; de Beaucaire returned his salutation with formal dignity. "Be seated, gentlemen," said the Marquis. They looked at Theodore. "This gentleman is my younger son, Theodore de Clermont."

"Welcome to your native country, young gentleman," said Mons. de Beaumont. "I see, my friend, you have saved your children from the wreck. I too have preserved one son from our family desolation. My youngest child Charles. He is now absent, with his regiment; but you must be acquainted with him, Mons. de Clermont." Theodore bowed.

"I also hope to be honoured with your acquaintance, Monsieur de Clermont," said Mons. des Abbayes. Theodore again bowed.

"I hope, Mons. de Beaucaire," continued the Marquis, "that you find your new habitation to your mind. Monsieur Pardo omitted nothing that could contribute to its comfort or elegance, although he but occasionally resided here, for he was a general in the service, and was often absent, with the army."

"So we have understood," said Theodore.

"You were very fortunate," continued des Abbayes, "that general Pardo and his heirs perished in the Russian expedition; for many gentlemen have returned with the King, and found their estates occupied by those who are entirely unwilling to give up possession."

"Shameful usurpation," cried the Marquis de Beaucaire.

"But many persons," replied Mons. des Abbayes, "have bought those estates, and paid for them; and their right is confirmed by the present administration."

"It is but too true," said Mons. de Beaucaire.

"My friend," said the Count de Beaumont, "our