

SCENE EIGHTH.

THE SAME PERSONS (*with the exception of Dupré. They stand looking awkwardly at each other for a moment*).

JOSEPH (*going up to them*)

We are a nice lot of people! (*To De Verby*) I should like to know when we are put in prison, whether you are going to look out for me, for my pocket is as light as my heart is heavy. (*De Verby turns his back on him. To Rousseau*) You know well enough that I was promised something for my services. (*Rousseau withdraws from him without answering. To Mme. du Brocard*) Tell me now, wasn't something promised to me?

MME. DU BROCARD

We will see about that later.

MME. ROUSSEAU

But what do you fear? What are you doing in this place? Were you pursued by any one?

JOSEPH

Not at all. I have been four days in this house, hidden like so much vermin in the garret. I came here because the old Giraud people were not to be found in their quarters. They have been carried off somewhere. Pamela has also disappeared—she is doubtless in hiding. I had no particular desire to run any risk; I admit that I lied to the judge. If I am condemned I will obtain my freedom by making a few startling revelations; I will tell on everybody!—

DE VERBY (*with energy*)

It must be done! (*Sits at the table and writes.*)