

State matter ; but that might pass ; indeed, it had already passed. For "It is but a return of assistance," M. de Grandemaison had reflected. "Our ancestor Louis the Fourteenth was very—ah—protective to the Stuarts, and this is but a return of service." And the young sir had behaved so suitably, so deferentially, so reverentially indeed, in the matter ; he had asked M. de Grandemaison's permission to go to Paris at all ; no doubt he was quite a worthy and well-bred young sir, though Archange thought him a little impetuous and slangy. Slangy, no doubt, but—at this point in M. de Grandemaison's reflections his eyes became moistened, for he recalled the slang which his own son, his dead son, had picked up at Merehant Taylors' School.

Ah yes, indeed, the proud annoyance that M. de Grandemaison should be depending on a young Englishman for influence with a school-fellow, a Monsieur—Dobinton or—ah—Dogington—might pass, for poor dead Charles-Louis had made friends at school like that. But what could not pass from the mind of M. de Grandemaison was the danger which the young sir had gone to Paris to avert, if he could ; and it was so unlikely that he could. The danger was so great, it had loomed up so suddenly, and it was in itself so unjust. "We have not been actively a Monarch," M. de Grandemaison told himself ; "We have—ah—acquiesced in the rule of the Republic so far. We have not raised our flag or—ah—summoned our levies. All that we have done has been to live in a château, like a Monarch in—ah—reduced circumstances. Why, therefore, should they wish to banish us from our beloved realm ? They *shall* not !" he proclaimed aloud, to the locks and keys around him. "We will—ah—expire, rather !" And then he sank down in a chair, feeling weak and weary.

Suspense and delay were damping out the last sparks of hope within him. Could a young English sir, of no particular public standing even in his own country, use influence enough in a matter of State at Paris ? Would the Monsieur—ah—"Monsieur—ah—diable m'emporte si je me rappelle son nom ! Ah oui—Monsieur Boginton !"