

which has caused you so many efforts to attain! You come to me with an air of obsequiousness, and with the word of flattery, expecting to make me your dupe, and thus to show your sincerity! Well, you have sufficient reason for alarm—Pamela is in the hands of justice, and she has told all.

DE VERBY

What then is to be done?

DUPRÉ

I have one suggestion to make: Write to Jules that you release him from his engagement, and that Mlle. de Verby withdraws her promise to be his wife.

DE VERBY

Is that your advice?

DUPRÉ

You find that the Rousseau family have behaved abominably, and you ought to despise them!

DE VERBY

But you know—engagements of this sort—

DUPRÉ

I'll tell you what I know; I know that your private fortune is not equal to the position which you aspire to. Mme. du Brocard, whose wealth is equal to her pride, ought to come to your assistance, if this alliance—

DE VERBY

Sir! How dare you to affront my dignity in this way?

DUPRÉ

Whether what I say be true or false, do what I tell you! If you agree, I will endeavor to save you from being com-