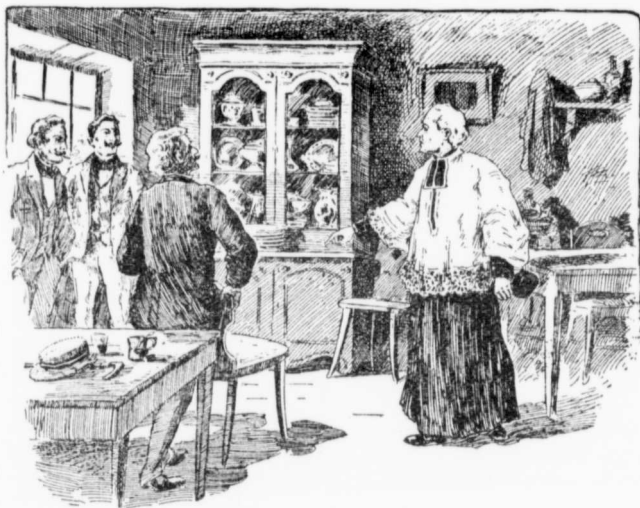


blacksheep : three young fellows who considered it beneath their dignity to take part in the procession though not to station themselves in a tavern close by, where they could see it pass and ridicule it to their heart's content. After all, why should this cause surprise, our century is not the first in which ignorant bigots imagine they show their cleaverness and freedom from what they call vulgar prejudice by insulting the most sacred truths; senseless beings who pride themselves on their superiority because they have the hardihood to laugh at God and



His cult, and hold as creed that those who blaspheme the name of God are more rational than those who believe in His existence ; living examples of the truth of the old adage : as a man grows more irreligious, he grows more callous and indifferent, and sometimes sinks even to the level of beasts.

But I'm wandering from my subject. I merely wanted to state that at Aubenas there were only three who took no part in the religious celebration—today there might be many more;—three young men who had no eyes to see or heart to feel the beauties of the loyal demonstration. Nothing appealed to their better nature, nothing won