

## DETECTIVE PAINCHAUD'S STORY

tinguished looking gentleman, of medium height; Jean Labarge, the paying teller, a small, stout man, with a prominent nose and keen dark eyes; the two gentlemen who had witnessed the paying of the money, Pascal Villers and Telesphore Rivard. Villers was an unusually tall man, nearly six feet two, with very small, watery blue eyes, and thin hair, which he parted carefully in the middle. About Rivard there was nothing particular, except that he stooped badly. The reader is already acquainted with Gustave Tourville, the merchant.

From the serious expression on the men's faces, I judged I was to be given an important case. I was not mistaken. With rapid gestures the teller related how positive he had been that the man he had given the money to had been Monsieur Tourville.

Frequently crossing his long legs and stroking his thin hair, Pascal Villers, one of the two witnesses, told how he had known the merchant for years—as he had also the bank manager—in fact they were all neighbors. He had certainly been under the impression that it had been Monsieur Tourville who had entered the bank the first time; but since Monsieur Tourville had said it was not, of course he must have been mistaken. His friend, Monsieur Rivard, corroborated this statement. He too was a friend of the merchant and of the banker.

As for M. Tourville, the merchant, he had little to say. In a quiet manner he told how he was in the habit of drawing money every two weeks to pay his employees. It was his custom to come to the bank