

that unnamed headland, De Roma was foremost. He toiled, he planned, he superintended. Inactivity was no part of his character. His brain teemed with projects, which his hand was ready to carry out. But the fires which fed these strenuous exertions for the good and the useful, warmed at the same time into action other propensities, which sadly marred his work. His projects were drawn out by his own hand to the minutest detail, and were regarded by him as perfect in finish. Suggestion or criticism he interpreted into personal hostility. To differ from him was to incur his severe displeasure; and it mattered little whether the difference regarded the site of a building or the establishment of a new fishing station, the measure of his enmity was always full and heaped up. The life of a Director had for him no trifles that could be sneered at. The slightest check appeared to his excitable nature the violence of persecution, and the invasion of the chartered rights of his company. Straightway his feelings found vent in lengthy communications of indignant expostulation and bitter invective, which he sent to every one from whom either redress or sympathy might be evoked. Kind as he was to his subordinates, and honest as he was in all his dealings, there ran through his character a caustic vein, which appeared at times to court contradiction and invite hostilities. He seemed indeed to enjoy the excitement of altercation, and to revel in the luxury of proving himself a persecuted man. To follow an established routine was a species of slavery he never could brook. Late in life he received an appointment through Captain Hocquart in the Commissariat Department. Scarcely, however, was he installed, when he set about changing the methods of keeping the accounts to suit his own fancy, and managed thus in an incredibly short time to introduce into the business such confusion, that new books had to be opened in order to get clear of his improvements. These, however, were but the foibles of a man most thoroughly versed in mercantile business, and if they acted to his detriment more sharply than the foibles of other men are wont, it was because he either could not or would not, as much as other men, strive to conceal them. De Roma, the director of a mercantile company, hewing down the forest and erecting well-planned residences and offices for