

Their self-respect is touched by the imputation that they are practising to inveigle the young heir into a *Mesalliance*. Were they free to depart, would they not hasten to escape both the publicity of a trial, and the disagreeable necessity of remaining here as suspected guests? And I am confident this would be the signal for Calvert's departure also; for he will never break with his friends."

"True. But we must ensure not only their banishment; but that there shall no chance occur either of communicating with the Colonel or with the authorities. How to secure this?"

"*Mon cher!* I charge myself with the Colonel. As to the rest, let us make them fear the authorities. Let us communicate to their retiring from this place the character of an evasion, and all is done."

"Bravo, Marie! I see it all now. Our friends the Fenians may profitably be brought into play at last. But *peste* on Barillot's stupidity! I have no means of communicating with the rascals now. He has let them find him out."

"Better no communication;" answered she. "It is sometimes good policy to let things adjust themselves. I miss my guess if there be not some attempt at a rescue of the prisoners this very night. If so, the affair will settle itself without our shewing in it, which is safest."

"Explain yourself, *Ma vie!*"

"See. Let us not overlook one circumstance. This *Irlandais*, of his own will, surrenders himself. He is no fool: he will not thrust his finger into the trap farther than he is sure of drawing it out again. Once more; whilst you talk and act, I listened:—I observe. Amongst other things what do I see? Secret signs exchanging between one of the ostlers and this Barney. I see a sudden and apparently uncalled for display of two hands with their ten fingers spread out, followed by one more digit stretched forth. What hour does that make?—and when may we expect the assault?"

"Prodigious!" ejaculated Delaval. "But it is incredible! How was it possible for you to divine his meaning from such a slight sign?"

"You will find it true, Adolphe. This night at eleven o'clock, I bid you prepare to resist, or, if it better please you, to *assist* the escape of our prisoners."