

aright, there used to be a secret drawer somewhere in this Cabinet which is full of strange contrivances."

After fumbling about for a minute, he found a knob which he pressed. As a long deep drawer flew up, M. de Guercheville laughingly said :

"Perhaps we shall find an old will, or other document revealing some family secret. M. Curé, will you take the responsibility of first looking in?"

The Curé thus laughingly addressed, put his hand in and brought out, sure enough, a small package which he handed to the *Seigneur*, who appeared startled at the realization of his prediction. When he had looked at the package, he dropped it with the exclamation, "Mon Dieu," and then added, "It's the missing money."

The Abbé picked up the parcel, and running over several bank notes, said :

"Yes, there are exactly £250 here."

"Poor Raoul!" I heard Estelle (who was at my side) whisper gently to herself. It was quite evident to me that the discovery of the notes had something to do with the banishment of Raoul from his former home. The necessary explanations were afforded me, late in the evening, by the Abbé, who came to my room.

"A year ago," said the Abbé, "M. de Guercheville received a sum of money (£250) for the purpose of paying some workmen who were constructing a new mill on the estate. Raoul was, at the time, on a visit to the Château, and on the night previous to his departure for Quebec, he was in the study and saw M. de Guercheville place the money in the *Escritoire* and lay the key carelessly on the mantle-piece, whilst he was giving the young man orders concerning some articles he wished sent from the city. Now the study, as you know, communicates, by folding-doors which are generally open, with the bed-room in which the *Seigneur* sleeps; and on the night in question he saw Raoul distinctly in the moonlight pass from the *Escritoire* to the hall-door leading into the hall. He thought nothing of the circumstance at the time, but you can imagine his astonishment the next morning when he went to the *Escritoire* and found the money gone,—the key also was lying on the table and not on the mantle-piece. Questions were put cautiously to the house-keeper, but she declared positively that neither she nor any of the servants had entered the room that morning—in fact, they never did so until M. de Guercheville had arisen. The suspicion then took firm hold of the *Seigneur's* mind that Raoul had, in a rash moment, taken the money at the time referred to. When the *Seigneur* learned, for the first time—I believe the Doctor told him—that Raoul had been very extravagant and got largely into debt at Quebec, his suspicion of the young man's guilt was very much strengthened. Raoul, indignant at the charge against him, refused to come near the Château whilst falsely accused. He did not deny that he had gone into the study late at night, when all the household was asleep, but declared that he did so simply to get a pocket-book which he had laid on the *Escritoire* when M. de Guercheville had done giving him the commissions he had executed. When he continued to deny all knowledge of the transaction, M. de Guercheville became deeply incensed and declared that he was sure of his guilt. It is just to say of him, how-