

position if he were not. But if any one would leave me twenty acres of land, with some antique right to the De and a title, faith, would not I be an aristocrat, and stand up for my order? But now we have met, pray let us dine together. Ah! no doubt you are engaged every day for a month. A Rochebriant just new to Paris must be *fêté* by all the Faubourg."

"No," answered Alain, simply, "I am not engaged; my range of acquaintance is more circumscribed than you suppose."

"So much the better for me. I am luckily disengaged to-day, which is not often the case, for I am in some request in my own set, though it is not that of the Faubourg. Where shall we dine?—at the Trois Frères?"

Wherever you please. I know no *restaurant* at Paris except a very ignoble one close to my lodging."

"*Apropos*, where do you lodge?"

"Rue de l'Université, Numero——"

"A fine street, but *triste*. If you have no longer your family hotel, you have no excuse to linger in that museum of mummies, the Faubourg St. Germain; you must go into one of the new quarter by the Champs Elysées. Leave it to me; I'll find you a charming apartment. I know one to be had a bargain—a *bagatelle*—five hundred naps a year. Cost you about two or three thousand more to furnish tolerably, not showily. Leave all to me. In three days you shall be settled. *Apropos*! horses! You must have English ones. How many?—three for the saddle, two for your *coupé*? I'll find them for you. I will write to London to-morrow. Reese" (Rice) "is your man."

"Spare yourself that trouble, my dear Frederic. I keep no horses and no *coupé*. I shall not change my apartment." As he said this, Rochebriant drew himself up somewhat haughtily.

"Faith," thought Lemercier, "is it possible that the Marquis is poor? No. I have always heard that the Rochebriants were among the greatest proprietors in Bretagne. Most likely, with all his innocence of the Faubourg St. Germain, he knows enough to be aware of it that I, Frederic Lemercier, am not the man to patronize one of its greatest nobles. *Sacré bleu*! if