

"Scoundrel!" said the Provençal, in a parenthesis; "is that how he speaks of me? He doesn't know yet with whom he has to deal."

Corentin laughed heartily and told his pupil to go ahead.

—and who in despair at not being allowed to marry her had gone off to England, whence he was to set off on a journey round the world; just a lover's notion. Hearing of this departure, Monsieur Picot, his old professor, who is much interested in him, went after him to prevent this nonsense, which was not a difficult matter. The English are naturally very jealous about discoveries, and when they saw Monsieur Phellion about to embark with their own professors they asked him if he had an order from the Admiralty; not being provided with this, they laughed in his face and would not permit him on board at all; they feared he would prove more learned than they.

"Your Monsieur Henri doesn't seem to think a great deal of the *entente cordiale*," said la Peyrade, gayly.

"Yes," replied Corentin, "you will be struck in the reports of our agents with this general and continued spirit of calumniation. But what can be done? we cannot expect angels to take up the trade of spies."

Left upon the shore, Telemachus and Mentor (you see our men are literary, interjected la Peyrade) thought best to return to France; they were about doing so when Monsieur Picot received a letter such as none but an Englishwoman could have written. It said that the writer had read his theory of "Perpetual Motion," and had also heard of his wonderful discovery of a star; she regarded him as a genius at least equal to Newton; if the hand of her who addressed him, joined to eighty thousand pounds, or two million francs, suited his convenience, she was at his disposal. Monsieur Picot liked the offer; he met the English lady, a woman of forty at the least, with a red nose, long teeth, and wearing spectacles. He had intended offering her his pupil, but he saw that this was out of the question, so he told her that he was old, half-blind, had not discovered the star, and did not possess a sou. The Englishwoman replied that Milton was not a young man and