

## A PAGAN OF THE SOUTH

drowned, and carried to the Morgue and properly identified—not by me, curse you, Lucile Laroche. And then you were properly buried, and not by me either, nor at my cost, curse you again. You are dead, I tell you!’ She looked at him as she looked at you the other day, dazed and spectre-like, and said: ‘Henri, I gave up my life once to a husband to please my brother. He was a villain, my brother. I gave it up a second time to please you, and because I loved you. I left behind me name, fortune, Paris, France, everything, to follow you here. I was willing to live here while you lived, or till you should be free. And you curse me—you dare to curse *me*! Now I will give you some cause to curse. You are a devil—I am a sinner. Henceforth I shall be devil and sinner too.’ With that she left him. Since then she *has* been both devil and sinner, but not in the way he meant; simply a danger to the safety of this dangerous community; a Louise Michel—we had her here, too!—without Louise Michel’s high motives. Gabrielle Rouget may cause a revolt of the convicts some day, to secure the escape of Henri Durien, or to give them all a chance. The Governor does not believe it, but I do. You noticed what I said about the Morgue, and that?”

Shorland paced up and down the room for a time, and then said: “Great Heaven, suppose that by some hideous chance this woman, Gabrielle Rouget, or Lucile Laroche, should prove to be Freeman’s wife! The evidence is so overwhelm-