

THE CHEQUES

The teller now turned, and pointing to the two gentlemen, who were still listening intently, said: "I remember seeing these gentlemen in the bank when you entered the first time, and I believe they saw me give you the money."

For the first time, M. Tourville looked at the two gentlemen, whom he at once recognized, and bowed to in a friendly manner. He then turning to the teller said: "At the time you mention I was in the Café de la Paix, which is about five minutes walk from here, with three gentlemen. From your insistence that it was I who cashed the cheque, I infer that not only has my name been cleverly forged for this large amount, but I have been as cleverly impersonated. I shall see M. de Tonancourt, the banker, without further delay." He strode away in the direction of the banker's private office.

Being left alone the teller leaned over the counter and said to the two gentlemen: "You will go with me to De Tonancourt's office when I am sent for, and explain just what you saw?"

"I have no objections to going with you," said one of the gentlemen aloud; "have you?" he asked, turning to his friend. "Oh, no," he answered. While they were talking a boy left the banker's office, came up to the teller, and said: "Monsieur de Tonancourt wants you."

As he followed the boy, he turned and beckoned to the two gentlemen, who went with him into the office,

Ten minutes later a detective entered the same office through a side door on an adjoining street.