

de la Roche; and here is the correspondence of your unfortunate parents."

Guyonne kissed tenderly the *souvenir* which the viscount presented her, and the latter continued:

"You will pardon me, I hope, for having violated the secret of these letters, when you learn how they have fallen into my hands."

Having stated to her what had taken place on the wreck of the Erable, John continued:

"When I forced the casket, the portrait which it contained impressed me very deeply. I knew well I had its resemblance somewhere. But had it not been for Philip, who enlightened me, I should not have thought of my well-beloved as soon as I did."

Guyonne pressed his hand by way of thanking him.

"Then I had the indiscretion to read that correspondence of two unfortunate lovers here below who, without doubt, enjoy in another world that happiness which they never obtained in this. * * Oh, I weep while reading these eloquent papers, written with the tears of grief.—Your father had devoted himself to a military life at an early age. At the age of twenty he was considered one of the most distinguished officers in his profession. Coming on furlough to Nantes towards 1571, he there formed the acquaintance of your mother, Guyonne de la Roche; but an old feud separated the families of De la Roche and that of De Pentoëk. At the thought of a marriage with a Pentoëk, the old Marquis de la Roche knitted his brows, and your mother was convinced that she could never obtain the consent of her father. Obstacles only served to inflame the passions of the