

saw him into his carriage, and sent him off with their benedictions.

But, at Turin, the scene changes. Collet prudently visited the post-office. He found there a letter from the Cardinal, which made known all his robberies to the police of the place. The fathers of the convent, the banker Torlonia, the commissary of Capua, all cried, "Stop thief!" after the fugitive, and Brother Collet, the Marquis Dada, and Captain Tholozan, were all pointed out for their numerous misdeeds. Collet destroyed this denunciatory missive, changed his costume and his passport, and went to seek an obscure asylum at Lugano, in the Swiss Canton of Tessin.

There he modestly established himself in the house of a printer, and served for some time as an amateur, an apprenticeship in typesetting; then, feeling re-assured, he presented himself in some of the salons at Lugano. He spoke of his fortune, and proposed to refit the theatre at his own expense. The proposition was accepted with enthusiasm by the inhabitants of this little town. Under this pretext Collet had made, to his own measure, the uniforms of a general, and a commissary of war, and a complete bishop's dress. He arranged everything for a new campaign.

While at the archiepiscopal palace he had appropriated several blank appointments of priests, and a bull nominating a bishop.

He decided that he would first play the rôle of a Neapolitan priest, exiled for political reasons. In the spring he left Lugano, taking the diligence for Briançon. At the first stopping-place he arrayed himself in the gown, at the second he added the tonsure and cap; when he reached Briançon the traveller had become a grave ecclesiastic. He visited his colleagues, showed them his priestly commission, installed himself in the house of the *curé*, and celebrated the mass. The next day he went to Gap. He had already abandoned his first field, and received letters of recommendation to this episcopal town. He humbly announced himself to the grand vicar, who received him disdainfully, and appointed him to say mass, for thirty sous, in the Chapel de la Miséricorde.

"Monsieur," replied Collet, modestly, "I am fortunate enough to need no aid; my

intention is to be a burden to no one, and I think that certainly, at Gap, one ought to be able to live on an income of ten thousand livres."

This changed matters. The grand vicar relaxed as if by magic; installed the opulent Abbé in a house befitting his fortune, and at once presented him to Monseigneur, who received him at his table.

Here Collet played seriously his sacrilegious rôle,—saying masses and giving to the clergy of Gap magnificent dinners. He even began to preach with great success,—dove-tailing extracts from Bourdaloue with sayings of Massillon, with which this wise actor had stuffed his memory. The *curé* of Monestier died. Monseigneur believed he could choose no more worthy man to fill the place than Collet. The life at Gap began to tire the hypocrite; he felt the need of change; he accepted the curacy of Monestier:

One may well believe that he was received with joy by his new parishioners: so good a man, so portly, richer even than the bishop, and one who would do so much good in the place. Collet installed himself in the parsonage, arranged the interior in a most luxurious manner; he had an old and attentive servant, a first-rate cook in the kitchen; in his cellar a good supply of fine wines, and a larder well stocked with chickens, hares, turkeys and pigeons.

It is not to be wondered at that this extravagant mode of living diminished the fortune he had gathered in Naples and at Rome. He baptized, confessed, married, and buried his dear parishioners; he drove them wild by his eloquent sermons.

[To be continued.]

INSOLVENT NOTICES, ETC.

Quebec Official Gazette, July 21.

Judicial Abandonments.

Pierre Leroux, boot and shoe dealer, Montreal, July 12.

Patrice Ouellette, trader, St. Célestin, July 6.

Charles A. Simard, furniture dealer, St. Hyacinthe, July 16.

Curators appointed.

Re Gelinas & Paquette.—T. Gauthier, Montreal, curator, July 15.

Re J. T. Letourneux, Montreal.—Kent & Turcotte, Montreal, joint curator, July 15.

Re Maxime Nadeau.—C. F. Bouchard, Fraserville, curator, July 13.