

who, in order to put their false coins in circulation, have often been known, in the annals of the courts of assize, to resort to combinations and schemes as complicated and as inextricable as that in which I am to-day involved. In trials of that sort there is always much going and coming of the confederates; drafts drawn at distant places on the bankers of important commercial centres and capitals such as Paris, Stockholm and Rotterdam. Often also we hear of wretched dupes involved in their schemes. Really, do you not notice, in the mysterious conduct of this Bricheteau, a sort of imitation and reflection of all the manœuvres to which those great artists are forced to resort, executing them with a genius and a wealth of imagination to which not even novelists attain?

You will readily understand that I have used upon myself all the arguments calculated to discredit my gloomy presentiment, and, if I do not repeat them to you, it is because I choose to let them come from your mouth, and thus to give them the sanction of an authority which they would not have for me if I had myself inspired them. One thing is certain, if I am not mistaken, and that is, that there is around me a dense, unhealthy, opaque atmosphere, in which I feel a lack of air, and as if I could hardly breathe. However, if you are able to do it, reassure me, persuade me; as you can imagine, I ask nothing better than to be shown that my dream is false; but in any event I propose to have an explanation with my two men not later than to-morrow, and,