

"Then see him by all means, if possible. Can the affair be terminated to-morrow?"

"I dare say it can," said De Forsac. "What amount will you require?"

"Twenty thousand francs, at least," replied Delmaine.

"Twenty thousand francs will be a large sum for him; but I shall do what I can. You agree then to give fifty per cent.? That you know will make your bills thirty thousand."

"I both know and agree to it," rejoined our hero, "provided of course the money cannot be had on more moderate terms; but you will, I am sure, make the best bargain you can."

"You may rely upon it, I *shall* make the best bargain I can," observed De Forsac, emphatically, and smiling to himself in the mirror, in which he was adjusting a superb diamond pin.

"You seem to be amused, Marquis," said Delmaine, who had remarked this singular expression both of tone and countenance.

"I was merely thinking how surprised the old fellow will be to see me once more," returned De Forsac, colouring at the detection.

"Well, then, at what hour shall we meet to-morrow, and where?"

"Say at your own hotel; you are still in the Rue de Richelieu, are you not?"

"No, I am with Adeline Dorjeville, at present," said Clifford, somewhat confusedly; "we occupy the same apartments."

"*Ah! déjà si avancé!—je vous en fais mon compliment,*" drawled forth De Forsac, with a half-suppressed sneer. "Do you recollect," he pursued in English, "what difficulty I had in persuading you to meet her at Astelli's? You ought to be very much obliged to me, indeed;" and never was the feeling of hate more predominant in his bosom, than at that moment. When he turned away from the glass, he was pale.

"Endeavour then to be in the Rue de la Chaussée