

Oh, what scenes of anguish and agony took place within the eight stern towers, witnessed only by the Governor, the gaoler (and his keys); for many a poor prisoner sent thither by *lettres de cachet* or Madam de Pompadour was never heard of after he crossed the fatal draw-bridge! It is said that Aubriot was not only the first Governor, but was also the first man to be imprisoned in the stronghold! The place was besieged very often. When Charles VII. re-took Paris, the English and their allies shut themselves up in the Bastille, but capitulated in 1436; and when the Duc de Guise took it he confined the whole Parliament there in 1588.

That notable subject of controversy and mystery of the Court of Paris, "The man in the iron mask," was incarcerated here after his imprisonment at the Ile Ste Marguerite, in the Mediterranean. Many writers have endeavored to solve the problem of his identity. Some assert that he was the Duke of Monmouth, nephew of James II., others maintain that he was Count Matthisly, but the majority are of the opinion that he was the "twin-brother of Louis XIV. born two hours after the royal infant had received the homage and acclamations of the courtiers." An heir to the throne of France was hailed with the greatest joy. It had been predicted by two astrologers, several months before, that France would be torn by dissensions and by civil war, caused by the rivalry of two claimants to the throne. When the birth of the second twin-brother, therefore, was announced to Richelieu and to the King, the prediction seemed fulfilled. The law of France recognizes the *last* born twin-child as the *heir*. "One of the twin-children had already been publicly proclaimed as the Dauphin, the heir to the French throne. Gloom and dismay seized upon the king's mind, which Richelieu sought to dispel by arranging that the last-born son could be sent away and brought up far from the precincts of the court." He was placed in the hands of some faithful person, and when he grew up Captain St. Mars took him to the Fort of Pignerol. The "iron mask" was fastened on his