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rding your washing to us could be All can be summed up, however, in words—"IT IS DONE RIGHT." question about that. We have per accilities, competent help and the se please. These are all put to good covery bundle of work that comes

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This answer seemed to disconcert M. Verduret. So many precautions taken in sending the letter disturbed him and disarranged his plans. "Do you think you would recognize the porter again?"
"Yes, monsieur, if I saw him."

"How much do you gain a day as a

"I don't exactly know, but I have a good stand. I suppose I make from 8 to 10 francs a day."
"Very well, I will give you 10 francs

"Very well, I will give you 10 francs a day if you will go about and look for the porter who brought this letter. Every evening at 8 o'clock come to the Archangel, on the Qual St. Michel, give me a report of your search and receive your pay. Ask for M. Verduret. If you find our man, I will give you 50 francs. Will you do it?"

"I think I will, monsieur."

"Then don't lose a minute. Go on."
Although ignorant of M. Verduret's

"Then don't lose a minute. Go on."
Although ignorant of M. Verduret's plans, Prosper began to comprehen the sense of his investigations. His fate depended upon their success, and yet he almost forgot this in his admiration of this singular man.

"Monsieur," said Prosper when the porter had left the room, "do you still think you see in this affair the hand of a woman?"

"More than ever, and a plous woman.

"More than ever, and a pious woman, too, and a woman who has two prayer books, since she could mutilate one

er books, since she could mutilate one to write to you."
"And you hope to find the cut book?"
"A great deal of hope, thanks to the opportunity I have of making an im-mediate search, which I will set about Saying this, he sat down and rapid-

ly scratched off a few lines on a slip of paper, which he folded up and put in his vest pocket.

"Are you ready to go to M. Fau-vel's? Yes? Come on, then. We have certainly earned our breakfast today."

CHAPTER VIII. HEN Raoul de Lagors spoke of M. Fauvel's extraordinary

dejection, he had not exag-gerated. Since the fatal day when, upon his denunciation, his cash-ler had been arrested the banker had ler had been arrested the banker had been a prey to the most gloomy melancholy and absolutely refused to take any interest in business affairs. He who had always been so domestic did not mingle with his family except at meals, when he would swallow a few, mouthfuls and hastily leave the room. Shut up in his study, he would see no

The day of Prosper's release, about 3 o'clock, M. Fauvel was, as usual, seeted in his study, with his elbows resting on the table and his face buried in his hands, when his office by rushed in with a frightness look ed in with a frightened look.

"Monsieur, the former cashier, M. Bertomy, is here with a friend. He

Bertomy, is here with a friend. He says he must see you on business."
The banker started.
"Prosper!" he cried in a voice choked by anger. "How does he dare"—
Then remembering that he ought to control simself before his servant, he waited a few moments and said in a tone of forced calmess." tone of forced calmness:
"Ask them to walk in."
If M. Verduret had counted upon wit-

nessing a strange and affecting sight, he was not disappointed. Nothing ould be more terrible than the atti-tude of these two men as they stood confronting each other. The banker's face was almost purple with suppress-ed anger, as if about to be struck by spoplexy. Prosper was pale and mo-tionless. They stood glaring at each other. M. Verduret curiously watched them with the indifference and cool-



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violent outbursts of human pass merely sees subjects for study. Finally, the silence becoming more and more threatening, he decided to break it by speaking to the banker.

"I suppose, mousieur, you know that my young friend has just been released from prison."

Emile

my young reserved and reserved making an effort to control himself—"yes, for want of sufficient proof."

"Precisely, monsieur, and this want of proof, as stated in the decision of 'not proved,' ruins his prospects and compels him to leave here at once for America."

At this information M. Fauvel's fea

At this information M. Fauvei's features relaxed as if relieved.

"Ah, he is going away." he said.
There was no mistaking the resentful, almost insulting intonation of the words "going away."

"'t appears to me," continued M. Verduret, "that Prosper's determination is a wise one. I merely wished him before leaving Paris to come and pay his respects to his former chief."

The banker smiled bitterly.

"M. Bertomy," he replied, "might have spared us both this painful meeting. I have nothing to say to him, and of course he can have nothing to say to me."

This was a formal dismissal, and M.

This was a formal dismissal, and M

Yerduret, understanding it thus, bowed to M. Fauvel, accompanied by Prosper, who had not spoken a word.
When they reached the street, Prosper recovered the use of his tongue.
"I hope you are satisfied, monsieur,"
he said in a gloomy tone. "You exact-

ed this painful step, and I could only acquiesce. Have I gained anything by adding this humillation to the others?" adding this humiliation to the others?"
"I have," replied M. Verduret. "I
could find no way of gaining access to
M. Fauvel save through you, and now
I have found out what I wanted to
know. I am convinced that M. Fauvel
had nothing to do with the robbery."
"Oh, monsieur," objected Prosper,
"innocence can be feigned."
"Certainly, but not to this extent.
And this is not all. I wished to find

And this is not all. I wished to find out if M. Fauvel would be accessible

to certain suspicions. Now I can say Prosper and his companion had stopped to talk more at their ease near the corner of Lafitte street, in the middle of a large space which had lately been cleared by pulling down an old house.

cleared by pulling down an old house.

M. Verduret seemed to be anxious and
was constantly looking around as if he
expected some one. He soon uttered
an exclamation of satisfaction. At
the other end of the vacant space he
saw Cavaillon, who was running bareheaded and so excited that he did not
even stop to shake hands with Prosper,
but said to M. Verduret: but said to M. Verduret:

"They have gone, monsieur."

"How long since?"

"About a quarter of an hour age."

"The deuce they did! Then we have not a minute to lose."

He handed Cavaillon the note he had

written some hours before at Prosper's

"Here, send him this and then return at once to your desk. You might be missed. It was very imprudent in you to come out without your hat." Little Cavaillon ran off as quickly as

he had come. Prosper was stupefied.
"What!" said he. "You know Cavaillon?"

"So it seems," answered M. Verdu-

"So it seems," answered M. Verduret, with a smile. "But we have no time to talk. Make haste."

M. Verduret suddenly stopped before a door bearing the number 81. He led the way up the steps and stopped on the second floor before a door over which was a large sign—"Dressmaker." A handsome belirope hung on the wall, but M. Verduret did not touch it. He tapped with the ends of his fingers in a peculiar way, and the door instantly opened as if some one had been watching for bis signal on the other side—a woman of about forty. She watching for his signal on the other side—a woman of about forty. She quietly ushered M. Verduret and Prosper into a neat dining room with seven al doors opening into it.

"Well?" he said by a look.
She bowed affirmatively.

"Yes."

"In there?" asked M. Verduret in a

"In there?" asked M. Verduret in a low tone, pointing to one of the doors. "No," said the woman in the same tone; "over there in the little parlor." M. Verduret opened the door pointed out and pushed Prosper into the little parlor, whispering as he did so: "Go in and keep steady." But this injunction was useless. The instant he cast his eyes around the room into which he had been pushed without any warning Prosper exclaimed:

ed:

"Madeleine!"

It was indeed M. Fauvel's niece, looking more beautiful that ever. Standing in the middle of the room near a table covered with silks and satins, ing in the middle of the room near a table covered with silks and satins, she was arranging a skirt of red velvet embroidered in gold—the dress she was to wear as maid of honor to Catherine de' Medici. At sight of Prosper the blood rushed to her face, and her beautiful eyes half closed, as if she were about to faint. She supported herself by the table to keep from falling. Her weakness lasted but a moment, and the soft expression of her eyes changed to one of haughty resentment. In an offended tone she



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"What has induced you to be watch-ing my movements? Who gave you permission to follow me, to enter this house?"

Prosper would have given worlds to explain what had just happened, but he was powerless and could only re-

he was powerless and could only remain silent.

"You promised me upon your honor," continued Madeleine, "that you would never again seek my presence. Is this the way you keep your word?"

"I did promise, but"—
He stopped.

"Oh, speak!"

"So many things have happened since that terrible day that I think I am excusable in forgetting for one hour an oath torn from me in a moment of blind weakness. It is to chance—at least to another will than my own—that I am indebted for the happiness of once more finding myself near you. Alas, the instant I saw you my heart bounded with joy. I did not think—no, I could not think—that you would prove more pitiless than strangers have been; that you would cast me off when I am so miscrable and heartbroken."

heartbroken."
Had not Prosper been so sgitated he could have read in the eyes of Madeleine—those beautiful eyes which had so long been the arbiters of his desting—the signs of a great inward struggle. It was, however, in a firm voice that she replied:

To Be Continued.

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