



The two  
Midnight Masses  
at the  
Castle of La Porte.



RIEST, I pay you, you are my chaplain, you must obey me !” “ God first, my Lord. — “ Your God ! Why need it bother Him because I want to change my ugly old wife for a pretty, young, rich one !” — “ My Lord, Jesus Himself has said : Let no man put asunder what God has joined together !” “ You quote Him to suit yourself and, though I am a gentleman, I cannot read, so you play on my ignorance !” “ You wrong me, I would not dare change the sacred words. Go and speak about the matter to Mgr. Rainier of Flanders, our bishop : the bells of Holy Cross like those of your chapel are now ringing for midnight mass, it will only take you about an hour to reach there and you will be in ample time to consult His Grace after his first mass.” “ I scorn your Bishop : he is an intruder and you, you are only the son of a slave, whereas I am a Lord and shall do as I please. — The Church forbids you. God preserve you, Lord though you be, from feeling the weight of His anathemas !” “ You threaten me, I believe ! Yes or no, will you, between the second and third mass marry me to Deborah, daughter of old, Moses, the rich Jewish banker ?” — “ Never ! You have stolen this girl from her father, she is a Jewess ; you are a married man and yet pretend you want to