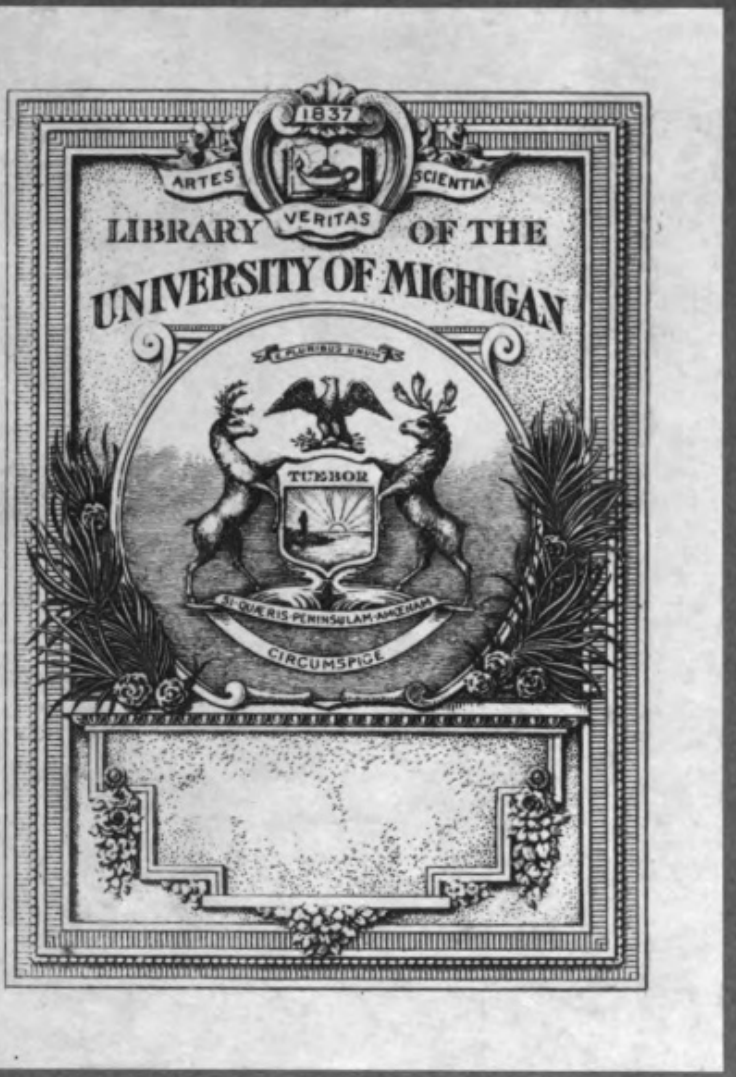
A 512997

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

"Selected a little iron crucifix . . . the work of some ancient craftsman."

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The TRIUMPHS *of* EUGÈNE VALMONT

By

ROBERT BARR

D. APPLETON AND COMPANY
NEW YORK
1906

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	FACING PAGE
"Selected a little iron crucifix . . . the work of some ancient craftsman"	*Frontispiece*
"I returned the stare with such composure as I could bring to my aid"	84
"Then, sitting up, he began playing with this infernal machine"	94
"He had never seen the earl so angry before"	160
"'Because, Mr. Valmont, it did not belong to you . . . because you stole it'"	222
"'He fell backward and his head struck the sharp stone at the foot of the altar'"	236
"'His dead comrades ask the traitor to join them'" . . .	294
"Mr. Jonas Carter"	316

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CHAPTER II

THE SCENE IN THE SALE ROOM

VERY quietly the auctioneer began by saying that there was no need for him to expatiate on the notable character of the treasure he was privileged to offer for sale, and with this preliminary he requested those present to bid. Some one offered twenty thousand francs, which was received with much laughter; then the bidding went steadily on until it reached nine hundred thousand francs, which I knew to be less than half the reserve the Government had placed upon the necklace. The contest advanced more slowly until the million and a half was touched, and there it hung fire for a time, while the auctioneer remarked that this sum did not equal that which the maker of the necklace had finally been forced to accept for it. After another pause he added that, as the reserve was not exceeded, the necklace would be withdrawn, and probably never again offered for sale. He therefore urged those who were holding back to make their bids now. At this the contest livened until the sum of two million three hundred thousand francs had been offered, and now I knew the necklace would be sold. Nearing the three million mark the competition thinned down to a few dealers from

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CHAPTER III

THE MIDNIGHT RACE DOWN THE SEINE

ITH a map of the river before me I proceeded to make some calculations. It was now nearly ten o'clock at night. The launch had had six hours in which to travel at its utmost speed. It was doubtful if so small a vessel could make ten miles an hour, even with the current in its favor, which is rather sluggish because of the locks and the level country. Sixty miles would place her beyond Meulan, which is fifty-eight miles from the Pont Royal, and, of course, a lesser distance from the Pont de Neuilly. But the navigation of the river is difficult at all times, and almost impossible after dark. There were chances of the boat running aground, and then there was the inevitable delay at the locks. So I estimated that the launch could not yet have reached Meulan, which was less than twenty-five miles from Paris by rail. Looking up the time table I saw there were still two trains to Meulan, the next at 10.25, which reached Meulan at 11.40. I therefore had time to reach St. Lazare station, and accomplish some telegraphing before the train left.

With three of my assistants I got into a cab and drove to the station. On arrival I sent one of my men

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CHAPTER IV

THE ODDITIES OF THE ENGLISH

HE events I have just related led to my dismissal by the French Government. It was not because I had arrested an innocent man; I had done that dozens of times before, with nothing said about it. It was not because I had followed a wrong clew, or because I had failed to solve the mystery of the five hundred diamonds. Every detective follows a wrong clew now and then, and every detective fails more often than he cares to admit. No. All these things would not have shaken my position, but the newspapers were so fortunate as to find something humorous in the case, and for weeks Paris rang with laughter over my exploits and my defeat. The fact that the chief French detective had placed the most celebrated English detective into prison, and that each of them were busily sleuth-hounding a bogus clew, deliberately flung across their path by an amateur, roused all France to great hilarity. The Government was furious. The Englishman was released and I was dismissed. Since the year 1893 I have been a resident of London.

When a man is, as one might say, the guest of a country, it does not become him to criticise that country.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CHAPTER VI

A REBUFF AND A RESPONSE

ERHAPS if I had not lunched so well I might have approached his lordship with greater deference than was the case; but when ordering lunch I permitted a bottle of Château du Tertre, 1878, a most delicious claret, to be decanted carefully for my delectation at the table, and this caused a genial glow to permeate throughout my system, inducing a mental optimism which left me ready to salute the greatest of earth on a plane of absolute equality. Besides, after all, I am a citizen of a Republic.

The nobleman received me with frigid correctness, implying disapproval of my unauthorized visit, rather than expressing it. Our interview was extremely brief.

"I had the felicity of serving your lordship upon two occasions," I began.

"They are well within my recollection," he interrupted, "but I do not remember sending for you a third time."

"I have taken the liberty of coming unrequested, my lord, because of the importance of the news I carry. I surmise that you are interested in the promotion of friendship between France and England."

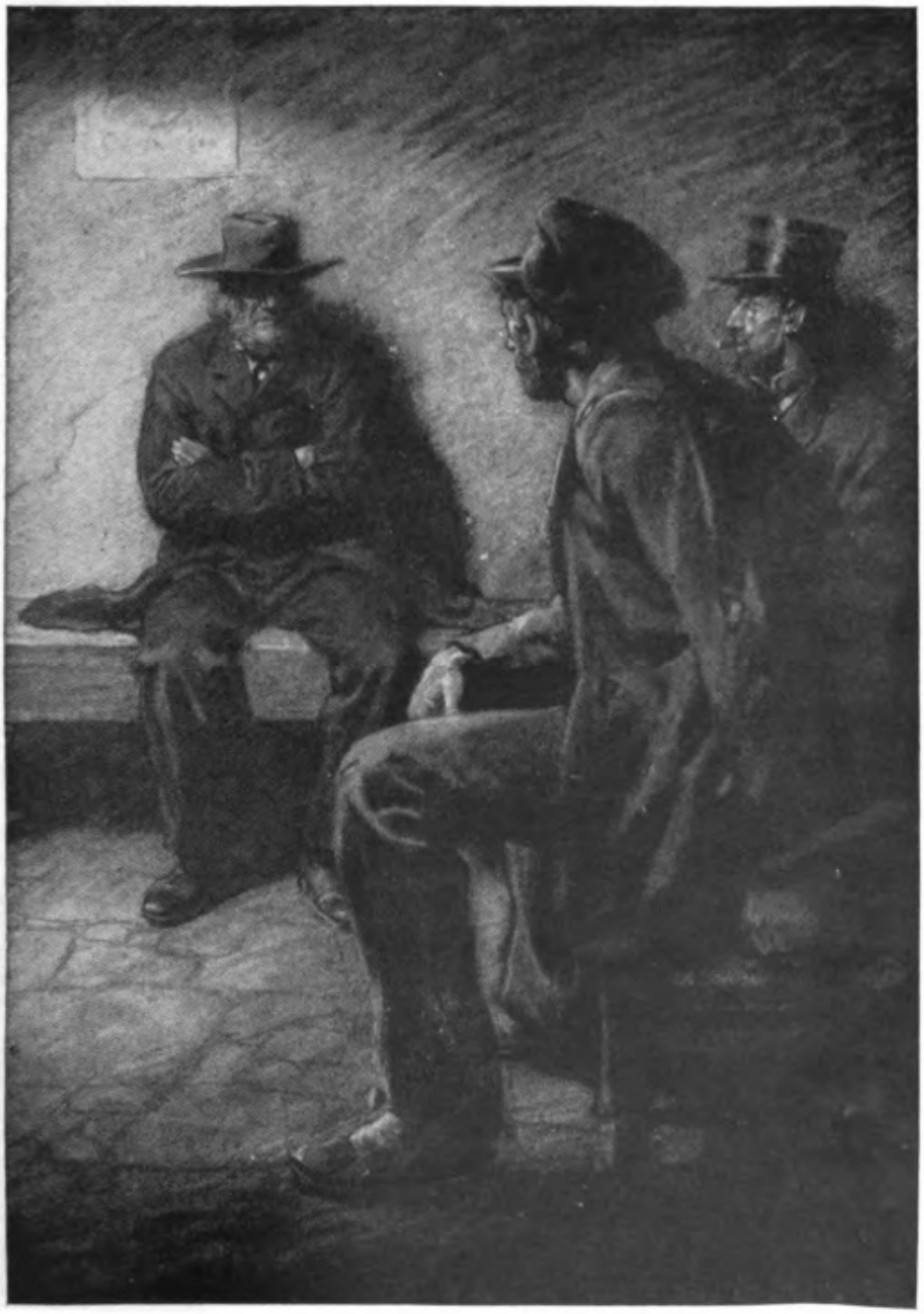
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CHAPTER VII

IN THE GRIP OF THE GREEN DEMON

EXT morning I was in Paris, and next night I attended the underground meeting of the anarchists, held within a quarter of a mile of the Luxembourg. I was known to many there assembled, but my acquaintance, of course, was not so large as with the London circle. They had half expected me the night before, knowing that even going by the Hook of Holland I might have reached Paris in time for the conclave. I was introduced generally to the assemblage as the emissary from England, who was to assist the bomb-throwing brother to escape either to that country, or to such other point of safety as I might choose. No questions were asked me regarding my doings of the day before, nor was I required to divulge the plans for my fellow-member's escape. I was responsible; that was enough. If I failed, through no fault of my own, it was but part of the ill luck we were all prepared to face. If I failed through treachery, then a dagger in the back at the earliest possible moment. We all knew the conditions of our sinister contract, and we all recognized that the least said the better.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



"I returned the stare with such composure as I could bring to my aid."

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN