

services, but I insisted on his receiving a couple of hundred francs in assignats for the use of his poorer patients.

The skipper carried out his instructions to the letter. We got to Honfleur after dark on the day after starting, and he went with me to the cottage of a widow of his acquaintance.

"He said to her, 'Mother, I want you to take care of this young sailor; he has broken his arm and wants nursing. He does not want his being here to be known, because he is afraid he might be packed off in one of the ships of war as soon as he recovers. I suppose you can manage that?'

"'Oh, yes!' she said; 'I have very few visitors, and no one would guess that I have anyone upstairs.'

"'He has plenty of money to pay your charges. Now I will leave him with you, and will look in to-morrow to see how he is getting on.'

"I stayed there a fortnight, by which time the inflammation had pretty well subsided. No one could be kinder than the old woman was. She used to bathe my arm by the hour, and she fed me up with broth. At the end of that time I felt ready for work, though my arm was of course useless. So, having paid my account, I went down boldly to the river and crossed to Harfleur, and then went on to Havre. I stayed there for a couple of days at a sailors' cabaret, where they supposed that I belonged to a vessel in port, and no questions were asked.

"Finding that it would be difficult to pass the gun-boat lying there, I walked up to Fécamp, picked out a likely-looking boat afloat by the quay, and at night got on board, rowed quietly out, and then managed to get the sail hoisted. The wind was off-shore, and by the morning I was out of sight of the French coast. I laid my course for Portsmouth, and landed there that evening. Being fortunately able to

speaking English, I had only to leave the boat tied up to the quay and go up to a small inn close by. I slept there, crossed to Gosport, and walked to Southampton the next morning, and got into Poole on the following day, and soon found where my mother and sister were staying. So you see I had altogether very little adventure on my way from Le Mans. Since then I have spent most of my time up here sweeping the water with your father's glass. I had been watching the *Henriette* for hours before she came near enough for me to be sure that it was she, though, of course, I could see that she was a French-rigged boat.

"As soon as I made her out I sent off word to my mother and ran down to the coast-guard station. I felt sure that you were on board, for otherwise the lugger would not have come over here. Still, of course I could not be absolutely certain until I saw that the figure I could make out standing on the rail was that of a woman."

It was some little time before their plans were finally decided upon. It was evident that at present no trade could be done in French wines. However, as Jean, his mother, and his friend Flambard had sufficient capital to enable them to live without trade for some time, they agreed that they should establish themselves at once in London as wine merchants. Flambard had correspondents in Spain and Portugal, from whom he could obtain wine of these countries, and they agreed that Poole did not offer opportunities for carrying on any considerable trade. Both insisted that Leigh should become a member of the firm, and a month after their arrival at Poole the party moved up to London. Madame Martin, her daughter, Jean, and his wife took a house between them at Hackney, and Monsieur Flambard and his wife established themselves in another a few hundred yards away.

From time to time came scraps of news from across the

Channel. La Rochejaquelein and Stofflet, after being separated from their followers when crossing the Loire, had gathered a small band together, and gained some successes over parties of the enemy. Two grenadiers, after one of these skirmishes, were on the point of being shot by the peasants when Henri came up to save their lives. One of the prisoners, however, recognizing the gallant leader of the Vendéans, raised his musket and shot him dead. It was not for two years after this that the struggle was finally brought to a conclusion, for the heroic people of La Vendée continued to resist all the efforts of their enemies until Stofflet and Charette were captured and executed, the one in February, 1796, the other in the following month. The moderation and judgment of General Hoche finally brought about the end of a war which stands unexampled in history for the noble resistance offered by a small body of peasants to the power of a great country.

As soon as Monsieur Flambard heard from his correspondents abroad that a consignment of wine was on its way they took an office, for it had already been agreed that, having no connection for sales to private customers, they would work only as wholesale merchants, dealing with the trade and with large hotels and other establishments, contenting themselves with the smallest possible rate of profit until they made a connection, and at the end of two or three years they were doing a considerable business. The *Henriette* sailed for France shortly after their arrival in Poole, as the crew preferred returning home. Lefaux was to trade as before, and, being so well known at all the western ports, was certain of obtaining freights. He was to pay wages and all other expenses, and to transmit the balance as opportunity occurred. Three years later, when the internal affairs of the country had calmed down, Jean managed to get a letter sent to the priest of their village,

asking him to inquire about Marthe, and after a considerable time an answer was received, saying that she and François had reached home in safety, had been married shortly after their return, and were doing well, having, with their joint savings, purchased at a very low price one of Jean's confiscated farms.

Ten years later the firm of Flambard, Martin, & Stansfield were doing a large business, and when the war came to a termination, and trade with Bordeaux, Charente, and Nantes was renewed, M. Flambard returned to Bordeaux, and having a large connection there, the firm soon became known as the largest importers of foreign wines in London. Madame Martin had long before that died. Patsey was the mother of three boys and two girls, and Leigh had a separate establishment of his own, and had been for fifteen years a married man. Mr. Stansfield was still alive, and things went on at Netherstock in very much the same fashion as before Patsey left home. Jacques Martin had been one of the many who were guillotined when the terror came to an end after the death of Robespierre.

THE END.

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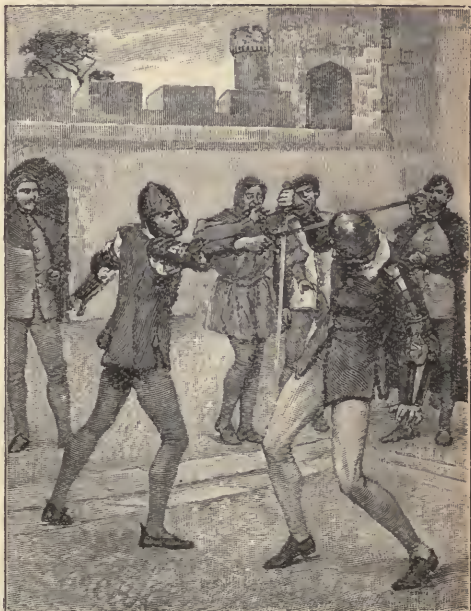
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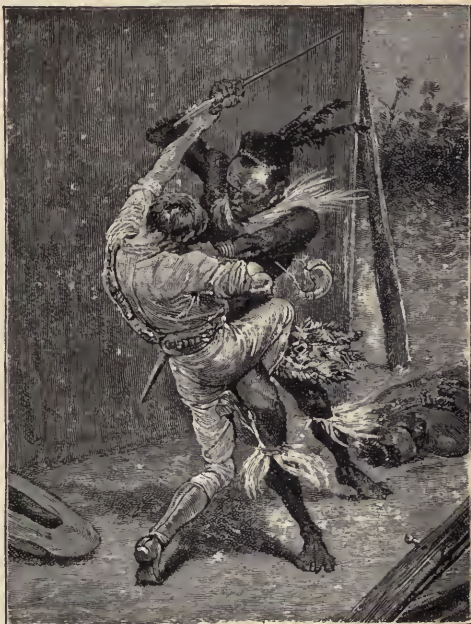
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