

Fernand had joined the French army; when the Greeks rose up for their independence, he went to Greece and entered the service of Ali Pasha. Ali was killed, but before he died he left Fernand a considerable amount of money. Fernand returned to France very rich. He now lives in Paris and has become a count. Count de Morcerf is his name now.'

The priest fell silent for a while. Then he continued with his questions.

'What about Danglars? What do you know about him?'

'He left Marseilles and was taken as a cashier into a Spanish bank on the recommendation of Monsieur Morrel. During the war between France and Spain he made a lot of money, which he invested. He then married his banker's daughter, who died, and then married another rich woman. He is a millionaire, and they have made him a baron. He is now the Baron Danglars,' said Caderousse.

'Ah!' said the priest. 'So he is happy. What do you know about Villefort?' he asked.

'I do not know much about him. He too lives in Paris. He too married a rich woman, the daughter of Saint-Meran. Only I am poor.'

'Not anymore,' the priest said and put the diamond in his hand. Then he turned to go, leaving him speechless.

A few days later, Dantes visited the Mayor of Marseilles. This time he was disguised as an English banker.

'I have come from the bank of Thompson & French in Rome to do business with the house of Morrel & Son of Marseilles,' he said. 'We have heard they are on the brink of bankruptcy. Are these rumours true?'

'I am afraid so,' the mayor replied. 'Morrel has lost four or five of his ships in the last five years and has suffered economic disaster. Monsieur de Boville, the inspector of prisons, knows more about this.'

Dantes immediately visited de Boville and found him in great despair.

'I invested two hundred thousand francs in Morrel & Son, which I was to get back today. But only half an hour ago, they informed me

