

## CHAPTER 3

**I**N THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, THE KING WAS DEFEATED AND Napoleon was back as ruler. Villefort, although he was a royalist, kept his position as a prosecutor because of his father's involvement with the Bonapartists. Monsieur Morrel kept visiting Villefort to ask him to set Dantes free, but the prosecutor kept making up many excuses and causing delays to make sure that this would never happen. Dantes' mouth had to remain shut forever.

One hundred days later, Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo and the king returned to the throne; Dantes continued to suffer in his prison cell.

Dantes passed six long years in the cold and the darkness, living on one piece of bread each morning and evening and on the occasional meat or fish soup they brought him. Dantes could feel the madness of despair closer to him every day. He started thinking about death and decided not to eat so as to starve himself completely. But then, one day, he heard a strange sound coming from the wall.

The wall was over fifty feet thick and on the other side there was another cell where a madman was kept. Dantes had heard the guards talk about him. They said that the man believed he had a treasure which he promised to anyone who would help him get out of prison.

Dantes soon realised that the man from the other side was digging through the wall, trying to reach his cell. He moved his bed to the wall and looked for something that would allow him to hit the wall, but he saw nothing. He had neither a knife nor any other sharp instrument. All his furniture consisted of was a chair, a table, a bed, a bucket with no handle on it and a jug. He decided to break the jug and use one of the sharp pieces to attack the wall.

He too began working at nights, but it was too dark to see anything, so he waited for day to come. The guard would come every morning to bring him his bread and water and would only return again in the evening. Dantes waited to hear the gate lock and footsteps dying away in the distance before continuing with his work. He had found hope again.

Finally, he managed to open up a passage wide enough for him

