THE WANDERING

BY REDERE SEE

CHAPTER LEVIL [CONTINUED.]

THE LUNCHEON.

cardinal, this time allowing himself to be tempted of Father Rodin? Can one have full confidence by the crawfish's tails, "it is only thus that char- in him?" ity has any meaning. I care little that the irreligious should feel hunger, but with the pious it so impenetrable a mind," said Gather d'Aigrigny is different;" and the prelate gaily swallowed a mouthful. "Moreover," resumed he, "it is well certain judgment with respect to him." known with what ardent zeal you pursue the impious and those who are rebels against the author ty of our holy father."

Y ur Eminence may feel convinced that I am Roman in heart and soul; I see no difference between a Gallican and a Turk," said the princess bravely.

"The princess is right," said the Belgian bishop, "I will go farther, and assert that a Gallican should be more odious to the church than a pagan."

This little episcopal jest made them all laugh. | er-Gene al?" After which Father d'Aigrigny resumed seriously, addressing the cardinal: "Unfortunately, as was about to observe to your Eminence with regard to the Abbe Gabriel, unless they are very narrowly watched, the lower clergy have a tendency to become infected with dissenting views, and with i eas of rebellion against what they call the despotism of the bishops."

"This young man must be a Catholic Luther !" said the bishop. And walking on tip-toe, he went to pour himself out a glorious glass of Maderia, in which he soaked some sweet cake, made in the form of a crozier.

tence of warming his feet by drawing still closer ing at the door, half-opened it, and made a sign to the fire, helped himself to an excellent glass of to her mistress. The princess answered by bow old Malaga, which he swallowed by mouthfuls, ing her head, and Mrs. Grivois again withdrew with an air of profound meditation; after which A second afterward Rodin entered the room. he resumed: "So this Abbe Gabriel starts as a dangerous ?"

He will soon be here, and I will tell your Emi- to smile on the reverend father with affectionate note on the dangerous tendencies of the Abbe meet him. Gabriel. Certain questions were addressed to him, with regard to some of his acts, and it was soft carpet the muddy track of his clumsy shoes recalled him."

those in the room. (The closing sentence of his answer to one of the questions was]:

"I closed his eyes with respect, I buried him, I estant faith, I thought him worthy of a place in affability. consecrated ground."

"Worse and worse !" said the cardinal. "This tolerance is monstrous. It is a horrible attack on the church there is no salvation."

"And all this is the more serious, my lord," resumed Father d'Aigrigny, "because the mildness, said the princess to Rodin, as she pointed to the charity, and Christian devotion of Abbe Gabriel splendid sideboard. have excited, not only in his parish, but in all the surrounding districts, the greatest enthusiasm. The priests of the neighboring parishes have vielded to the general impulse, and it must be confessed that but for his moderation a widespread schism would have commenced."

"But what do you hope will result from bringing him here?" said the prelate.

"The position of Abbe Gabriel is complicated; trol the discussion. first of all, he is the heir of the Rennepont family." cardinal.

first informal, has lately with his free consent, cause of my journey to France; for to support the been made perfectly regular in law; for he had interests of the glorious Company of Jesus, with sworn, happen what might, to renounce his part which I have the honor of being associated, is to of the inheritance in favor of the Society of Jesus. Nevertheless, his Reverence Father Rodin thinks, that if your Eminence, after explaining to Abbe place myself entirely at your orders." Gabriel that he was about to be recalled by his sup-riors, were to propose to him some eminent said," added the bishop. "We set out from Rome position at Rome, he might be induced to leave together, and our ideas are just the same."

France, and we might succeed in arousing within him those sentiments of ambition which are doubtless only sleeping for the present; your Eminence having observed, very judiciously, that every reformer must be ambitious.

"I approve of this idea," said the cardinal, after a moment's reflection; "with his merit and tain things." power of acting on other men, Abbe Gabriel may rise very high, if he is docile; and if he should ess." not be so, it is better for the safety of the church unfortunately wanting in France."

After some moments of silence, the cardinal d'Aigrigny and himself in the Rennepont case.

said suddenly to Father d'Aigriguy: "As we were talking of Father Rodin, tell me frankly what you think of him."

"Your Eminence knows his capacity," said Father d'Aigrigny, with a constrained and suspicious air; "our reverend Father-General-

"Commissioned him to take your place," said the cardinal; "I know that. He told me so at "And it is only thus, madam," resumed the Rome. But what do you think of the character

"He has so complete, so original, so secret, and with hesitation, "that it is difficult to form any

"Do you think him ambitious?" said the cardinal, after another moment's pause, "Do you not suppose him capable of having other views than those of the greater glory of his order? Come, I have reasons for speaking thus," added the prelate, with emphasis.

"Why," resumed Father d'Aigrigny, not without suspicion, for the game is played cautiously between people of the same craft, "what should your Eminence think of him, either from your own observation, or from the report of the Fath-

"I think-that if his apparent devotion to his Order really concealed some after-thought-it would be well to discover it-for, with the influbecome very formidable."

"Well!" cried Father d'Aigrigny, impelled by his jealousy of Rodin; "I am, in this respect, of added Rodin in a faint voice. the same opinion as your Eminence; for I have sometimes perceived in him flashes of ambition that were as alarming as they were extraordinary -and since I must tell all to your Eminence-

"Father d'Aigrigny was unable to continue; a Led by his example, the cardinal, under pre- this moment Mrs. Grivois, who had been knock

At sight of Rodin, the two prelates and Father must-" reformer. He must be an ambitious man. Is he d'Aigrigny rose spontaneously, so much were they overawed by the real superiority of this man; from his forehead. He felt his legs give way grey hair standing up all around his greenish "By our advice his superiors have judged him their faces, just before contracted with suspicion under him, notwithstanding his obstinate energy. face, fixing his red and flaming eyes upon the to be so. They have ordered him to come hither. and jealousy, suddenly brightened up, and seemed nence why I have sent him. But first, I have a beference. The princess advanced some steps to

Rodin, badly dressed as ever, leaving on the in consequence of his answers that his superiors put his umbrella into one corner, and advanced towards the table-not with his accustomed hu-So saying, Father d'Aigrigny took from his mility, but with slow step, uplifted head, and pocket-book a piece of paper which he read to steady glance; not only did he feel himself in the THE GREAT HISTORICAL REVIEW midst of his partisans, but he knew he could rule them all by the power of his intellect.

"We were speaking of your reverence, my dear, prayed for him; and, though he died in the Prot good father," said the cardinal, with charming

> "Ah!" said Rodin, looking fixedly at the prelate: "and what were you saying?"

"Why," replied the Belgian bishop, wiping his that maxim of Catholicism: 'Out of the pale of forehead, "all the good that can be said of your reverence."

"Will you not take something, my good father?"

"Thank you, madam, I have eaten my radish already this morning."

"My secretary, Abbe Berlini, who was present at your repast, was, indeed, much astonished at your reverence's frugality," said the prelate; "it is worthy of an anchorite."

"Suppose we talk of business," said Rodin, abruptly, like a man accustomed to lead and con-

"We shall always be most happy to hear you," But has he not ceded his rights?" asked the said the prelate, "Your reverence yourself fixed today to talk over this great Rennepont affair. It "Yes, my lord; and this cession, which was at is of such importance, that it was partly the support the interests of Rome itself, and I promised the reverend Father-General that I would

"I can only repeat what his Eminence has just

"Certainly," said Rodin, addressing the cardinal, "your Eminence may serve our cause, and that materially. I will tell you how presently.'

Then, addressing the princess, he continued 'I have desired Dr. Baleinier to come here madam, for it will be well to inform him of cer-

"He will be admitted as usual," said the princ-

Rodin gulped down a glass of claret and sherthat he should be at Rome than here-for you ry, wiped his mouth on the back of his dirty know, my good father, we have securities that are hand, then launched into a lengthy description of the difference in methods employed by Father

diabolical assurance, and brought back to a kind disposition." of fearful admiration, Father d'Aigrigny said to "It is really inexplicable," said the prelate. him: "I confess I was wrong in doubting the At those words of the cardinal, Rodin, who had judgment of your reverence. Deceived by the advanced with difficulty toward the fire, turned judge of their connection, and above all of their fixedly in a strange manner, for about a second; results. I now see, that, thanks to you success is then, strong in his unconquerable energy, not no longer doubtful."

feverish impatience; "all these passions are at broken voice, which he tried to make firm: "The work, but the moment is critical. As the al- fire has warmed me; it will be nothing. I have chemist bends over the crucible, which may give no time to coddle myself. It would be a pretty him either treasures or sudden death-I alone at thing to fall ill just as the Rennepont affair can this moment-"

Rodin did not finish the sentence. He pressed both his hands to his forehead, with a stifled cry

"What is the matter?" said Father d'Aigrigny. For some moments you have been growing fearfully pale."

"I do not know what is the matter," said Rodin, in an altered voice: "my headache i creases -I am seized with a sort of giddiness."

"Sit down," said the princess, with interest. "Take something," said the bishop.

"It will be nothing," said Rodin, with an effort; "I am no milksop, thank heaven!-- I had little sleep last night; it is fatigue-nothing more. ence that he has obtained at Rome (as I have was saying, that I alone could direct this affair; found out), he might one day, and that shortly, but I cannot execute the plan myself. I must keep out of the way, and watch in the shade; I hold the threads, which I alone can manage,"

> "My good father," said the cardinal uneasily, I burn!" 'I assure you that you are very unwell. Your paleness is becoming livid."

"but I am not to be so so n conquered. To re- filthy shirt-front, as if the pressure of those garturn to our affair-this is the time in which your ments augmented the violence of the pain under qualities, Father d'Aigrigny, will turn to good which he was writhing. The bishop, the cardinaccount. I have never denied them, and they al, and Father d'Aigrigny, hastily approached may now be of the greatest use. You have the Rodin, to try and hold him; he was seized with power of charming - grace - eloquence - you horrible convulsions; but, suddenly, collecting all

icy cold." tion," said the bishop with heroic devotion; "it of the race of the Borgias-and your secretary will not be anything of consequence."

"If you were to take something warm, a cup of the arms of Father d'Aigrigny. tea," said the princess; "Dr. Baleinier will be

"Conquered, as well as the others, by Rodin's here directly-he will reassure us as to this-in-

appearance of the means employed, I could not his eyes upon the prelate, and looked at him withstanding the change in his features, which "This is an exaggeration," replied Rodin, with were now visibly disfigured, Rodin said, in a only succeed by my exertions! Let us return to business. I told you, Father d'Aigrigny, that you might serve us a good deal; and you also, princess, who have espoused this cause as if it were your own --- "

Rodin again paused. This time he uttered a piercing cry, sank upon a chair placed near him, and, throwing himself back convulsively, he pressed his hands to his chest, and exclaimed: "Oh! what pain !"

Then (dreadful sight!) a cadaverous decompos tion, rapid as thought, took place in Rodin's features. His hollow eyes were filled with blood, and seemed to shrink back into their orbits, which formed, as it were, two dark holes, in the centre of which blazed points of fire; nervous convulsions drew the flabby, damp and icy skin tight over the bony prominences of the face, which was becoming rapidly green. From the lips, writhing with pain, issued the struggling breath, mingled with the words: "Oh! I suffer!

Then, yielding to a transport of fury, Rodin tore with his nails his naked chest, for he had "It is possible," answered Rodin, courageously; twisted off the waistcoat, and rent his black and his strength, he rose upon his feet stiff as a corpse. Rodin paused again. A cold sweat poured Then, with his garments in disorder, his thin, "I confess, I am not well," he said: "yet this cardinal, he seized him with convulsive grasp, morning, I was as well as ever. I shiver. I am and exclaimed in a terrible voice, half stifled in his throat: "Cardinal Malipieri-this illness is "Draw near the fire-it is a sudden in lisposi- too sudden-they suspect me at Rome-you are was with me this morning! I am poisoned? muttered Rodin, and sinking back, he fell inte

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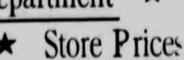
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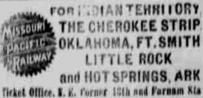
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