

que cachât cette action, coup de grâce donné par la plus persistante de toutes les vengeances à la plus faible de toutes les victimes. Le legs de madame de Listomère à Birotteau fut attaqué par le baron de Listomère sous 5 prétexte de captation! Quelques jours après l'exploit introductif d'instance,<sup>1</sup> le baron fut nommé capitaine de vaisseau. Par une mesure disciplinaire, le curé de Saint-Symphorien était interdit. Les supérieurs ecclésiastiques jugeaient le procès par avance. L'assassin de feu Sophie 10 Gamard était donc un fripon! Si monseigneur Troubert avait conservé la succession de la vieille fille, il eût été difficile de faire censurer Birotteau.

Au moment où monseigneur Hyacinthe, évêque de Troyes, venait en chaise de poste, le long du quai Saint- 15 Symphorien, pour se rendre à Paris, le pauvre abbé Birotteau avait été mis dans un fauteuil au soleil, au-dessus d'une terrasse. Ce pauvre prêtre, frappé par son archevêque, était pâle et maigre. Le chagrin, empreint dans tous les traits, décomposait entièrement ce visage qui 20 jadis était si doucement gai. La maladie jetait sur ses yeux, naïvement animés autrefois par les plaisirs de la bonne chère et dénués d'idées pesantes, un voile qui simulait une pensée. Ce n'était plus que le squelette du Birotteau qui roulait, un an auparavant, si vide mais si content, 25 à travers le Cloître. L'évêque lança sur sa victime un regard de mépris et de pitié, puis il consentit à l'oublier, et passa.

## NOTES

## NOTES

**Page 1.** — 1. Tours, one of the oldest cities in France, is Balzac's birth place.

2. abbé, a name applied in the Catholic church to ecclesiastics generally; translate *father*.

3. chevet, the end of the church opposite the main entrance. It is usually round and in cathedrals is at the eastern end.

4. Saint-Gatien, one of the principal churches of Tours, named after Gatianus, the first bishop of the diocese (about the year 250).

5. que here replaces *comme* of the line above.

6. place de l'Archevêché, square in front of the Archbishop's palace.

**Page 2.** — 1. aumusse, originally a hood covering the head and shoulders; here used figuratively.

2. passer chanoine, to be promoted to the office of canon; passer, originally to pass an examination, and then simply to be promoted.

3. Grand'Rue, Main Street, now called Rue Nationale.

4. depuis l'aliénation, etc. The property of the church was confiscated by the state in 1789 on account of the desperate condition of the state's finances.

5. Psallete, now called *Maitrise*, the cathedral school where choir-boys were trained.

**Page 3.** — 1. la Terreur, the *Reign of Terror*, especially the period of the French Revolution from September 5, 1793, to the death of Robespierre, July 28, 1794.

2. la Restauration (of the Bourbons), the time from April, 1814, to July, 1830, minus Napoleon's "hundred days" in 1815.

**Page 4.** — 1. hoc erat in votis, ardent prayers; see Horace, *Satires*, II: 6, 1.

**Page 5.** — 1. Napoléon, by an agreement with the Pope, known

as the "concordat," restored the liberty of Christian worship which had been abolished during the Reign of Terror.

**Page 6.** — 1. *Bande noire*, a body of speculators who bought up property confiscated during the Revolution and sold it off in small lots. Castles and abbeys were frequently demolished for the sake of the materials. The "Black Bands" were originally mercenary troops with black banners or armor.

2. *galerie*, a large, oblong room.

3. *Bouille*, a celebrated cabinet maker of Paris (1642-1732) whose furniture was usually richly inlaid with gold, ivory, etc.

4. *oratorien*, a member of the order of the Oratory, a sort of Home Missionary Society, established in France in 1611.

5. *Pères de l'Eglise*, certain orthodox teachers in the early Christian church from the second to the seventh centuries.

**Page 7.** — 1. *velours d'Utrecht*, a sort of plush made in Utrecht, Holland.

2. *Aubusson*, a town in central France, famous for its carpet factories.

**Page 8.** — 1. *allée du Mail*, *walk in the Mall*, "Mall" being an open space. The "Mail" in Tours occupies the site of the old ramparts.

2. *la Quotidienne*, a royalist paper.

3. *Gargantua*, one of the principal characters in a burlesque story by Rabelais (1483-1553). *Badbeck* was Gargantua's wife. Balzac, however, slightly misrepresents the situation.

**Page 10.** — 1. *à qui ses rabats*, etc., *qui* evidently refers to *Birotteau* and *ses* to *Chapeloud*. Thus the meaning is that *Chapeloud's* bands and albs were always so well laundered that they made *Birotteau's* head "swim" with envy or admiration.

2. *Sainte Thérèse* (1515-1584), a noble Spanish woman, noted for her piety. She had trances in which she saw visions.

3. *la pairie*, membership in the House of Peers or "Chambre haute" which was abolished in 1848.

**Page 11.** — 1. *cordon*, the string by which the janitor could pull the bolt of the door.

**Page 12.** — 1. *les trois quarts de dix heures sont sonnés*, *it has*

*struck a quarter to eleven*. In Europe many of the town clocks strike every fifteen minutes.

2. *aura cru*, *must have thought*. The future is often used to denote a conjecture.

3. *chez lui*, *to his room*.

4. *sera éteint*, see note 2, above.

**Page 13.** — 1. *que*, for *quand*; see page 1, note 5.

2. *Valentin*. This probably refers to *Valentin de Boulogne* (1591-1634), a noted French painter of religious subjects.

3. *Lebrun* (Charles), a celebrated French painter (1619-1690).

**Page 14.** — 1. *attendu que j'ai descendu mon bougeoir*, *since I brought my candlestick down myself*.

**Page 15.** — 1. *Pourquoi m'en veut-elle*, *what has she against me?*

**Page 16.** — 1. *province*, in French, is often applied to any part of France outside of Paris.

**Page 18.** — 1. *discipline intérieure*, *domestic matters*.

2. *facile à vivre*, *easy to live with*.

**Page 19.** — 1. *Château-Renaud*, probably intended for *Château-renaault*, about seventeen miles northeast of Tours.

2. *parquet en point de Hongrie*, *a floor of wood-blocks of Hungarian pattern*.

3. *quand*, for *quand même*, *even if*.

4. *aveuglé d'intelligence*, *dull in intellect*, so that he didn't see things quickly.

**Page 20.** — 1. *boston*, a game of cards said to have been invented by the officers for their amusement during the siege of Boston (1775-6).

**Page 24.** — 1. *portée sur des riens*, *resting on trifles*.

**Page 25.** — 1. *Il n'a pas déjà tant d'esprit*, *he isn't so clever after all*.

2. *en présence*, *in each other's company*.

**Page 27.** — 1. *vicaire-général*, *a kind of assistant bishop*.

**Page 28.** — 1. *rouler sur lui-même*, *he was so short and stout that he seemed to roll rather than walk*.

**Page 30.** — 1. **Sixte-Quint**, *Sixtus V*, Pope from 1585-1590. It is said that his election was due to his ill health since it was expected that his early death would open the way for some of his rivals. *Quint* (Latin *quintus*) is used only with the name of this pope and Charles V, Emperor of Germany.

2. **Vous êtes très sainement ici**, *you have a very healthy lodging here.*

3. **je suis ici en chanoine**, *I am lodged here like a canon.*

**Page 31.** — 1. **C'est**, colloquial for *ce sont*.

**Page 32.** — 1. **royalement carrée**, *royalement* here conveys the impression of magnificence or grandeur, and *une table royalement carrée* is simply a magnificent square table.

2. **chaise à patins**, *a chair raised on knobs or blocks.*

3. **par contenance**, *to keep himself in countenance*; in order to appear at ease.

**Page 33.** — 1. **béotienne**, *Beotian*, here, *dull or stupid*. The Beotians were regarded as dull by the rest of the Greeks.

2. Napoleon died May 5, 1821, but reports of his death had previously been circulated.

3. **Louis XVII**, the title given by the royalist party to the son of Louis XVI. He died January 8, 1795, at the age of ten years. Owing to the confusion of the times several pretenders to the throne later appeared.

4. **les Chambres**, *the House of Peers and the House of Deputies or Representatives.*

5. **plus de treize cent mille**. How many persons were executed during the Revolution it is impossible to state, but this is certainly a gross exaggeration. The number is usually estimated at sixteen to seventeen thousand.

**Page 34.** — 1. **Saint-Martin** is one of the most celebrated names in the ecclesiastical history of France. He was made Bishop of Tours in 374. The ruins of the abbey which he founded were sold to speculators after the Revolution and torn down in 1802 leaving two large towers to mark the spot.

2. **Saint-Gatien**; see page 1, note 4.

3. **d'une pièce**, *stiffly*, as if she had no joints.

4. **la statue du Commandeur**, an allusion to Molière's play *Don Juan*, in which the statue of the commander, whom Don Juan has killed, bows its head to him and later comes to supper with him.

5. **faisait le procès à son cœur**, *condemned her own heart.*

**Page 36.** — 1. **déjà**, *after all*; see page 25, note 1.

**Page 41.** — 1. **pour peu que**, almost equal to *si*, but always followed by the subjunctive.

2. **Touraine**, a former province in central France, its capital being Tours.

**Page 42.** — 1. **à la fin**, here = *afin*.

**Page 43.** — 1. **ronge-papiers**, a word apparently coined by Balzac in imitation of La Fontaine's "ronge-maille." It may be translated *pettifogger*. Balzac frequently speaks of lawyers in a contemptuous manner.

2. **de lui demander**, the so-called historical infinitive; translate as a past definite.

3. **cognomologie de Sterne**. In *Tristram Shandy*, I, 19, Sterne discusses the relation between names and their bearers.

**Page 44.** — 1. **classiques** here refers to the age of Louis XIV, the "classic" period of French literature.

2. **légèrement nasillarde**, *a little inclined to cant*; *nasillarde* means, literally, talking through the nose because hypocrites were supposed to speak in a whining tone.

3. **Nouvelle Héloïse**, by J. J. Rousseau (1712-1778), published in 1760, a novel of passion which certain strict persons might not consider it proper to read.

4. **la comédie**, here means going to the theatre.

5. **se coiffant encore en cheveux**, *still wearing her own hair*; *without false hair*, showing her to be somewhat old-fashioned.

6. **vous n'y êtes pas**, *you haven't hit it.*

7. **hors de chez elle**, *out of her house.*

8. **à coup sûr**, *with a sure stroke*; *without risk.*

9. **Voltaire**, whose real name was Marie-François Arouet (1694-1778) was the intellectual dictator of his time.

**Page 45.** — 1. See note 2, page 41.

2. **Normandie**, a former province in northwestern France. The Normans have a high reputation for shrewdness in business matters.

3. The **Loire**, the largest river in France, with a length of over six hundred miles, flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

4. **le fond de la langue**, *the essence of the language*, the most important word in it. The allusion is to Beaumarchais's play "*Le Mariage de Figaro*."

5. **travail du personnel**, *supervision of the subordinate clergy of the diocese*.

**Page 46.** — 1. **donner gain de cause**, *yield*; let them win the case.

2. **donnant, donnant**, *tit for tat*; give that you may receive.

**Page 47.** — 1. **Fabius. Quintus Fabius Maximus** called "Cunctator," harassed Hannibal by delays and retreats.

**Page 50.** — 1. **città dolente**, *sorrowful abode*. The allusion is to Dante's "Inferno," III, 1.

**Page 51.** — 1. **Mademoiselle de Sombreuil**, daughter of the Marquis de Sombreuil, voluntarily accompanied her father to prison in 1792 and by her devotion succeeded in saving his life during the massacre of September.

2. **quai**, here evidently refers to the elevated pavement in front of the cathedral.

**Page 55.** — 1. **vint à passer**, *happened to pass*. Note the difference between *venir à* and *venir de*.

**Page 57.** — 1. **Orléans**, the seat of the Court of Appeals as Paris is of the Supreme Court.

**Page 59.** — 1. **fanatisme de personnalité**, *violent personal feelings*.

**Page 60.** — 1. **Conseil de Dix**, the *Supreme Council of Ten* which ruled the Republic of Venice. The rest of this sentence may be translated; and *mercilessly practiced that infallible espionage which passion begets*.

2. **Sanhédrin**, *Sanhedrim*, the Supreme council of the Jews.

3. **congrégation**; an allusion to the society called "la Congrégation," for which see page 66, note 2.

**Page 61.** — 1. **Montesquieu**, Charles de Secondat, Baron de (1689-1755), a writer on the Philosophy of History. There is, however, no such statement in his writings as the one here attributed to him.

2. **Saint-Marin**, *San Marino* on the west coast of the Adriatic is called the smallest republic in the world. It has a population of about ten thousand. The executive power is in the hands of two officials chosen for a period of six months.

**Page 62.** — 1. **Bicêtre**, a town near Paris containing an almshouse and insane asylum. The name is a corruption of Winchester, the Bishop of Winchester having built a castle there about 1285.

**Page 63.** — 1. **parties** here refers to the parties or sets for card games.

2. **homme de chicane**, *pettifogger, shyster*; see also note 1, page 43.

3. **conseiller de préfecture**, a member of the *Conseil de Préfecture*, a tribunal in each department presided over by the "préfet."

**Page 64.** — 1. **Musée de Paris**, the *Louvre*. The public art collections of Paris have salaried experts attached to them.

2. **libéraux**, the *Liberals*, or party of the opposition.

**Page 65.** — 1. **exploit introductif d'instance**, *a summons for a preliminary trial*.

2. **Code**, the *Code Napoléon*, framed under the direction of Napoleon from 1801 to 1804, has remained to the present time the chief body of French civil law.

3. **mettre hors du cadre d'activité**, *put on the retired list*.

**Page 66.** — 1. **mal avec la grande aumônerie**, *on bad terms with the ecclesiastical powers*; *aumônerie* is the court chaplaincy, a high office in the church.

2. **Congrégation**, a name given under the Restoration to a religious and political semi-secret society which was opposed to the liberal opinions of the time.

**Page 67.** — 1. **proconsul**, the Roman proconsul was an absolute ruler.

2. **préfet**, *Prefect*, the chief executive officer of a department.

3. **dans mes œuvres vives**, *below my water line*; a nautical expression.

4. *congréganiste*, *Congregational*; see page 66, note 2.

**Page 68.** — 1. *n'était pas une question*, *was not even mentioned*; it was taken for granted.

2. *il vous marchera sur le ventre*, *he will walk over you*.

3. *Abîme tout*, *etc.* The couplet is:

“Pour soutenir les droits, que le ciel autorise,  
Abîme tout plutôt, c'est l'esprit de l'église.”

Taken from Boileau's mock epic “*Le Lutrin*,” the subject of which is a dispute between the treasurer and the choir-master of a church as to where the reading-desk (*lutrin*) should stand. Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux (1636-1711) was a poet, satirist and the leading critic of his day.

**Page 72.** — 1. *sub judice*, *undecided*.

**Page 73.** — 1. *en scène*, literally, *on the stage*, here, *in each other's presence*.

**Page 74.** — 1. *Prêtre-Jean*, a legendary ruler of Central Asia in the Middle Ages.

**Page 78.** — 1. *Mirabeau* (1749-1791), the distinguished orator of the French Revolution, advocated a constitutional monarchy and was therefore flattered by the royalists who feared a republic.

2. *billets d'invitation*. It is customary in France to send formal invitations to a funeral.

**Page 79.** — 1. *Louis XI*, King of France from 1461 to 1483, was an able ruler and usually accomplished his purposes by trickery and cunning when violence was ineffective. His character is well shown in Scott's “*Quentin Durward*.”

**Page 81.** — 1. *Hyacinthe* (Troubert) had been appointed bishop and, as is the custom, dropped his family name.

2. *petit séminaire*, an academy under church control, intended chiefly for candidates for the priesthood.

3. *la partie liquide*, *the cash part*, or what could easily be turned into money.

4. *la Chambre haute*, *the House of Peers* in which bishops also sat as they do in England.

**Page 82.** — 1. *exploit introductif d'instance*; see page 65, note 1.

## VOCABULARY

### A

*abaïsser*, to lower, humble.

*abandon*, *m.*, absence, giving up.

*abasourdir*, to stun, bewilder.

*abbaye*, *f.*, abbey.

*abbé*, *m.*, priest.

*abîme*, *m.*, abyss.

*abîmer*, to destroy.

*abondamment*, abundantly, entirely.

*abord*, *m.*, approach; *d'*—, at first; *dès l'*—, at the very first.

*aboyer*, to bark.

*abreuver*, to overwhelm.

*abri*, *m.*, shelter; *mettre à l'*—, to protect.

*abstenir* (*s'*), to abstain.

*abuser*, to deceive.

*acajou*, *m.*, mahogany.

*accabler*, to oppress, torment.

*accentuer*, to emphasize.

*accès*, *m.*, approach, entrance.

*accessoire*, *m.*, furnishing.

*accompli*, —*e*, accomplished, perfect.

*accomplir*, to accomplish, perform; *s'*—, to be fulfilled.

*accorder*, to allow, give, make agree.

*accoucher*, to give birth.

*accroissement*, *m.*, increase.

*accroître* (*s'*), to increase.

*accueil*, *m.*, reception, welcome.

*accueillir*, to receive.

*accuser*, to accuse, reveal.

*acérbé*, sharp, severe.

*acheminer* (*s'*), to walk, go.

*achever*, to finish.

*acquérir*, to acquire, purchase.

*acte*, *m.*, act, document, paper.

*adapter*, to fit.

*admettre*, to admit.

*adosser*, to set with the back to.

*adoucir*, to soften, moderate.

*adroit*, —*e*, cunning, shrewd, artful.

*adroitement*, skilfully.

*affreux* —*x*, —*se*, frightful, horrible.

*afin*, in order.

*âgé*, —*e*, old.

*agir*, to act; *il s'agit*, the question is.

*agissant*, —*e*, active, busy.

*agneau*, *m.*, lamb.

*agrafe*, *f.*, clasp, buckle.

*agrandir*, to enlarge; *s'*—, to increase, grow.

*agrément*, *m.*, pleasure, charm.

*aigle*, *m.*, eagle.

*aigre*, harsh, shrill.

*agrement*, sharply, harshly.

*aigreur*, *f.*, harshness.

*aïlleurs*, elsewhere; *d'*—, moreover.

*aimable*, kind, good natured.

*aimer*, to love.

*ainsi*, thus, so; — *que*, even as; *pour* — *dire*, so to speak.

*air*, *m.*, appearance.

*aïse*, *f.*, ease, comfort.

*ajourner*, to put off, postpone.

*ajouter*, to add.

*aliment*, *m.*, nourishment.

*allée*, *f.*, walk.

*aller*, to go.