## The Treasure of Franchard.

By ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

[CONTINUED ] They tied the horse, and entered the garden, the doctor singing, now in fantastic high notes, now producing deep reverberations from his chest. He took a seat, rapped loudly on the table, assailed the waiter with witticisms; and when the bottle of Bass was at length produced, far more charged with gas than the most delirious champagne, he filled out a long glassful of froth and pushed it over to Jean-Mario. "Drink," he said:

"drink deep."
"I would rather not," faltered the boy. true to his training.
"What!" thundered Desprez.
"I am afraid of it," said Jean-Marie; "my

"Take it or leave it," interrupted Despres flercely; "but understand it once for all-there is nothing so contemptible as a pre

Here was a new lesson! The boy sat bemused, looking at the glass but not tasting it, while the doctor emptied and refilled his own, at first with clouded brow, but gradually yielding to the sun, the heady, prick-ling beverage and his own predisposition to be heare.

be happy.
"Once in a way," he said, at last, by way of a concession to the boy's more rigorous attitude, "once in a way, and at so critical a moment, this ale is a nectar for the gods. The habit, indeed, is debasing: wine, the juice of the grape, is the true drink of the Frenchman, as I have often had occasion to point out, and I do not know that I can blame you for refusing this outlandish stimulant. You can have some wine and cakes.

Is the bottle empty! Well, we will not be proud; we will have pity on your glass."

The beer being done, the doctor chafed bit-

terly while Jean-Marie finished his cakes.
"I burn to be gone," he said, looking at his watch. "Good God, how slow you eat!"
And yet to eat slowly was his own particular prescription, the main secret of longevity! His martyrdom, however, reached and end at last; the pair resumed their places in the buggy, and Desprez, leaning luxuriously back, announced his intention of proceeding to Fontainebleau.

"To Fontainebleauf" repeated Jean-Marie. "My words are always measured," said the

The doctor was driven through the glades of paradise; the air, the light, the shining leaves, the very movements of the vehicle, seemed to fall in tune with his golden meditations; with his head thrown back, he dreamed a series of funny visions, ale and pleasure dancing in his veins. At last he spoke

"I shall telegraph for Casimir." he said. of intelligence, Jean-Marie, distinctively not creative, not poetic; and yet he will repay your study; his fortune is vast, and it is entirely due to his own exertions. He is the very fellow to help us to dispose of our trinkets, find us a suitable house in Paris, and manage the details of our installation. Admirable Casimir, one of my oldest comrades! It was on his advice, I may add, that I in vested my little fortune in Turkish bonds; when we have added these spoils of the me dizeval church to our stake in the Mohamme dan empire, little boy, we shall positively roll among doubloons, positively roll! Beau-tiful forest," he cried, "farewell! Though called to other scenes I will not forget thee. Thy name is graven in my heart. Under the influence of prosperity I become dithyrambic, Jean-Marie. Such is the impulse of the natural soul; such was the constitution of primeval man. And I-well, I will not re fuse the credit—I have preserved my youth like a virginity; another, who should led the same snoozing, countrifled existence for these years, another had become rusted, become stereotype; but I, I praise my happy constitution, retain the spring unbrok Fresh opulence and a new sphere of duties find me unabated in ardor and only more mature by knowledge. For this prospective change, Jean-Marie—it may probably shocked you. Tell me now, did it not strike you as an inconsistency? Confess—it is use-less to dissemble—it pained you?

"Yes," said the boy.
"You see," returned the doctor, with sublime fatuity, "I read your thoughts! Nor am I surprised—your education is not yet complete; the higher duties of men have not yet been presented to you fully. A hinttill we have leisure-must suffice. Now that I am once more in possession of a modest competence; now that I have so long prepared myself in silent meditation, it bec my superior duty to proceed to Paris, My scientific training, my undoubted command of language, mark me out for the service of my country. Modesty in such a case would pression, I should call it sinful. A man must not deny his manifest abilities, for that is to evade his obligations. I must be up and doing: I must be no skulker in life's battle." So he rattled on, copiously greasing the joint of his inconsistency with words; while the boy listened silently, his eyes fixed on the horse, his mind seething. It was all lost eloquence; no array of words could unsettle a belief of Jean Marie's; and he drove into Fontainebleau filled with pity, horror, indig-

nation and despair. In the town Jean-Marie was kept a fixture on the driving seat, to guard the treasure; while the doctor, with a singularly slightly tipsy airiness of manner, fluttered in and out of cafes, where he shook hands with garrison officers and mixed an absinthe with the nicety of old experience; in and out of shops, from which he returned laden with costly fruits, real turtle, a magnificent piece of silk for his wife, a preposterous cane for himself, and a kepi of the newest fashion for the boy; in and out of the telegraph office, whence he dispatched his telegram, and where, three hours later, he received an an swer, promising a visit on the morrow; and generally pervading Fontainebleau with the first fine aroma of his divine good humor.

The sun was very low when they set forth ngain; the shadows of the forest trees ex tended across the broad white road that led them home; the penetrating odor of the evening wood had already arisen, like a cloud of incense, from that broad field of tree tops; and even in the streets of the town, where the air had been baked all day be tween white walls, it came in whiffs and pulses, like a distant music. Half way home the last gold flicker vanished from a great oak upon the left; and when they came forth beyond the borders of the wood, the plain was already sunken in pearly grayness, and a great, pale moon came swinging skyward through the filmy poplars.

The doctor sung, the doctor whistled, the doctor talked. He spoke of the woods, and the wars, and the deposition of dew; he brightened and babbled of Paris; he soared into cloudy bombast on the glories of the political arena. All was to be changed; as the day departed it took with it the vestige of an ontworn existence, and to-morrow's sun was to inaugurate the new. "Enough," he cried, "of this life of maceration!" His wife istill beautiful, or he was sadly partial) was to be no longer buried; she should now shine before society. Jean Marie would find the world at his feet; the roads open to success, wealth, bonor and posthumous renown. "And oh, by the way," said he, "for God's sake keep your tongue quiet! You are, of course, a very silent fellow; it is a quality I gladly recognize in you-silence, golder But this is a matter of gravity. No word must get abroad; none but the good Casimir is to be trusted; we shall probably dispose of the vessels in England."

But are they not even ours!" the boy said almost with a sob-it was the only time be

Ours in this sense, that they are nobody else's," replied the doctor. But the state would have some claim. If they were stolen, for instance, we should be unable to demand their restitution; we should have no title; we should be unable even to communicate with the police. Such is the monstrous condition of the law. It is a mere instance of what remains to be done, of the injustices that may yet be righted by an ardent, active and philosophical deputy

Jean Marie put his faith in Mme. Desprez and as they drove forward down the road from Bourron, between the rustling poplars, he prayed in his teeth, and whipped up the horie to an unusual speed. Surely, as soon as they arrived, madame would assert her

treasure in the noddy. But there was no one

in the street, save three lounging landscape painters at Tentaillon's door. Jean-Marie opened the green gate and led in the horse and carriage; and almost at the same moment Mme. Despres came to the kitchen threshold with a lighted lantern; for the moon was not yet high enough to clear the carriage walls.

moon was not yet high enough to clear the garden walls. "Close the gates, Jean-Marie!" cried the doctor, somewhat unsteadily alighting. "An-astasie, where is Aline?" "She has gone to Montereau to see her parents," said madame.

"All is for the best!" exclaimed the doctor,

"All is for the best!" exclaimed the doctor, fervently. "Here, quick, come near to me; I do not wish to speak too loud," he continued. "Darling, we are wealthy!"
"Wealthy!" repeated the wife.
"I have found the treasure of Franchard," replied her husband. "See, here are the first fruits; a pineapple, a dress for my ever beautiful—it will suit her—trust a husband's, trust a lover's taste! Embrace me, darling! This grimy episode is over; the butterfly unfolds its painted wings. To-morrow Casimir will come; in a week we may be in Paris—happy at last! You shall have diamonds. Jean-Marie, take it out of the boot with religious care and bring it piece by piece into the dining room. We shall have plate at table! Darling, hasten and prepare this turtle; it will be a whet—it be will an addition to our meager ordinary. I myself will proceed to the cellar. We shall have a bottle of that little Beaujolais you like, and finish with the ittle Beaujolais you like, and finish with the

Hermitage; there are still three bottles left.
Worthy wine for a worthy occasion.",
"But, my husband; you put me in a
whirl," she cried. "I do not comprehend."
"The turtle, my adored, the turtle!" cried
the doctor; and he pushed her toward the
kitchen, lantern and all.

Jean-Marie stood dumfounded. He had
netured to himself a different

Jean-Marie stood dumfounded. He had pictured to himself a different scene—a more immediate protest, and his hope began to dwindle on the spot.

The doctor was everywhere, a little doubtful on his legs, perhaps, and now and then taking the wall with his shoulder; for it was even then reflecting that the absinthe had been a misconception. Not that he regretted excess on such a glorious day, but he nental memorandum to beware; he must not, a second time, become the victim of a deleterious habit. He had his wine out of the cellar in a twinkling; he arranged the sacrificial vessels, some on the white table cloth, some on the sideboard, still crusted with historic earth. He was in and out of the kitchen, plying Anastasie with vermouth, heating her with glimpses of the future, estimating their new wealth at ever larger figures; and before they sat down to supper, the lady's virtue had melted in the fire of his enthusiasm, her timidity had disappeared; she, too, had began to speak disparagingly of the life at Gretz; and as she took her place and helped the soup, her eyes shone with the

glitter of prospective diamonds. All through the meal, she and the doctor made and unmade fairy plans. They bobbed and bowed and pledged each other. Their faces ran over with smiles; their eyes scattered sparkles, as they projected the doctor's political honors and the lady's drawing room

"But you will not be a Red!" cried Ana-"I am Left Center to the core," replied the

"Mme. Gasteln will present us-we shall find overselves forgotten," said the lady.
"Never," protested the doctor. "Beauty and talent leave a mark." "I have positively forgotten how to dress,"

she sighed.
"Darling, you make me blush," said he. "Yours has been a tragic marriage!" "But your success—to see you appreciated, honored, your name in all the papers, that will be more than pleasure - it will be

"And once a week," said the doctor, archly scanning the syllables, "once a week—one good little game of baccarati" Only once a week?" she questioned, threatening him with a finger.
"I swear it by my political bonor," cried

"I spoil you," she said, and gave him her

He covered it with kisses. Jean-Marie escaped into the night. The moon swung high over Gretz. He went down to the garden end and sat on the jetty. The river ran by with eddies of oily silver, and a low, monotonous song. Faint veils of mist moved among the poplars on the further side. The reeds were quietly nodding. A hundred times already had the boy sat, on such a night, and watched the stream river with untroubled fancy. And this perhaps was to be the last. He was to leave this familiar hamlet, this green rustling country, this bright and quiet stream; he was to pass into the great city; his dear lady mistress was to move bedizened into saloons; his good, garrulous, kind hearted master to become a brawling deputy; and both be lost forever to Jean-Marie and their better selves. He knew his own defects; he knew he must sink into less and less consideration in the turmoil of a city life; sink more and more from the child into the servant. And he began dimly to believe the doctor's prophecies of evil. He could see a change in both. His generous incredulity failed him for this once; a child must have perceived that the Hermitage had completed what the absinthe had begun. If this were the first day, what would be the last! "R necessary, wreck the train," thought he, remembering the doctor's parable. He looked round on the delightful scene; he drank deep of the charmed night air, laden with the scent of hay. "If necessary, wreck the train," he repeated. And he rose and returned to the house.

( To be Continued.)

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horse to an unusual speed. Surely, as soon as they arrived, madame would assert her character, and bring this waking nightmare to an end.

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2d dain Nell (dam of Bateman, 2:29), by Hambletonian, 10.

2d dain Nell (dam of Flato, 2:38, by Shark, son of American Eclipse,
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