



Mrs. C. L. Anderson





THE  
COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO







"I TIED MY LANTERN TO A FORKED BRANCH I HAD REMARKED A YEAR BEFORE  
AT THE PRECISE SPOT WHERE I STOPPED TO DIG THE HOLE"

*Dumas, Vol. Two*



THE WORKS OF  
**ALEXANDRE DUMAS**  
IN THIRTY VOLUMES



THE COUNT - OF  
MONTE CRISTO  
VOLUME TWO



ILLUSTRATED WITH DRAWINGS ON WOOD BY  
EMINENT FRENCH AND AMERICAN ARTISTS



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# The Count of Monte Cristo.

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## CHAPTER I.

### “ROBERT LE DIABLE.”

THE pretext of an opera engagement was so much the more feasible, as there chanced to be on that very night a more than ordinary attraction at the Académie Royale. Levasseur, who had been suffering under severe illness, made his reappearance in the character of Bertram, and, as usual, the announcement of the most admired production of the favorite composer of the day had attracted an audience consisting of the very *élite* of Parisian fashion. Morcerf, like most other young men of rank and fortune, had his orchestral stall, with the certainty of always finding a seat in at least a dozen of the principal boxes occupied by persons of his acquaintance; he had, moreover, his right of entry into the omnibus box. Château Renaud rented a stall beside his own, while Beauchamp, in his editorial capacity, had unlimited range all over the theater. It happened that on that particular night the minister's box was placed at the disposal of Lucien Debray, who offered it to the Count de Morcerf, who again, upon his mother's rejection of it, sent it to Danglars, with an intimation that he should probably do himself the honor of joining the baroness and her daughter during the evening, in the event of their accepting the box in question. The ladies received the offer with too much pleasure to dream of a refusal. To no class of persons is the presentation of a gratuitous opera-box more acceptable than to the wealthy millionaire, who still hugs economy while boasting of carrying a king's ransom in his waistcoat-pocket.

Danglars had, however, protested against showing himself in a ministerial box, declaring that his political prin-

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