action none too soon, followed suit, and then came the treaty that restored to France some of her most valued islands—Martinico, Guadeloupe, and others. Among the islands given up by the English was the barren little islet of Desirade, laid down on modern maps as Desesa, four miles from Guadeloupe—a mere speck in the chain that make up the Lesser Antilles. It is but four miles in length by two in breadth, a rocky, unfertile spot, where the few inhabitants of to-day depend chiefly on fishing for a living.

On this unattractive spot, more than a century ago, the French Government tried to establish a reformatory school for the dissipated sons of wealthy and noble parents; young men who idled about the capital, where the love of gambling and other forms of dissipation were fostered and encouraged by the examples of their elders.

In July, 1763, it was formally announced in Paris, that when young men were known to have disturbed the peace of their families, and had committed offenses not punishable by law, parents applying to the secretaries in the departments of war and marine, could have them transported to Desirade, satisfactory evidence being given that they ought to be so dealt with. The captains of the ships in which they were sent out were to be answerable for them, till they were handed over to the Governor-General, at Martinico, who, in turn, was to see them forwarded to their point of destination. On board ship they were to mess with the sailors, and on land they had the fare of the common soldiers. At Desirade they were to be lodged in cabins built for them. The use of firearms was forbidden, and every precaution was taken to prevent their escape. Their clothing was furnished by the Government, and to encourage them to till the soil, for which implements were provided, they were given the products of their labor. As soon as they showed signs of amendment they were divided into classes, and through the department at home their friends were advised of their condition and improvement. Added to this there was a wholesome clause, that if, notwithstanding the visible improvement of a young man sent to the island, his parents or guardian wished to keep him there, that they might enjoy his estate, he would be assisted to recover his property, if he chose to remain in the colony, or he would be allowed to return to France to look after his affairs in person.

M. Nadan Detreuil was placed in charge of the school. He was Governor of Guadeloupe at the time that the island fell into the hands of the English. The French, smarting under repeated and severe losses, visited their misfortune on the heads of those who were in charge of their different possessions. Detreuil was tried by court-martial, displaced, and otherwise punished for that which he could not prevent. When the first smart of defeat was over, the injustice of the act was seen, and in May, 1765, the king signed a brevet with his own hand, discharging all Detreuil's penalties and reinstating him "in his honor, reputation and prerogatives." And as he had possessions in Guadeloupe, and preferred to reside there, he returned to the island with his family, comprising his wife and one daughter, Amélie. His wife was a beautiful Spanish woman, and his daughter, even more beautiful, had all her grace and accomplishments. She was scarcely sixteen, the idol of her parents, and her hand was sought by every wealthy young planter on the island; but on none had she smiled. Her father was pleased to have charge of the school; his military training had fitted him for the post; and as those under him had had a military training in France, he kept up a like discipline, that they might not forget what they had already learned. And the better to enforce this discipline, and to look more closely after the school, he had quarters at Desirade, which he occupied at times. Here he treated the young men under him with consideration; he encouraged them to walk in the path that had been laid out for them, and did all that a kind-hearted gentleman could do for their improvement and entertainment.

One of the pupils was named De Rochfort. He had been sent to the island for no particu-