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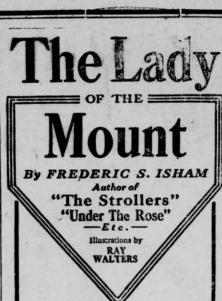
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CHAPTER I-Countess Elise, daughter of the Governor of the Mount, has chance encounter with a peasant boy.

rock-bound island, stood in a vast bay on the northwestern coast of France, and during the time of Louis XVI was a gov-ernment stronghold. Develops that the peasant boy was the son of Seigneur Desaurac, nobleman.

CHAPTER III—Young Desaurac determines to secure an education and become a gentleman; sees the governor's daughter depart for Paris.

CHAPTER IV-Lady Elise returns after seven years' schooling, and entertains many nobles.

CHAPTER V-Her Ladyship dances with a strange fisherman, and a call to arms is made in an effort to capture a mysterious Lo Seigneur Nois.

CHAPTER VI-The Black Seigneur es

CHAPTER VII-Lady Elise is caught n the "Grand" tide. CHAPTER VIII-Black Seigneur res-ues, and takes Lady Elise to his re-

CHAPTER XII-Seigneur and a priest the "Cockles."

CHAPTER XIII—Sanchez tells Desaurac that Lady Elise betrayed him, but is not believed. The Seigneur plans to release the prisoners at the Mount. CHAPTER XIV-Lady Elise pleads with her father to spare the lives of con-

CHAPTER IX-Elise discovers that her avior was the boy with the fish. CHAPTER X-Sanchez, the Seigneur's servant, is arrested and brought before the governor.

CHAPTER XI-Lady Elise has Sanchez set free.

CHAPTER XV-Disguised as a peasant Lady Elise mingles with the people and hears some startling facts. CHAPTER XVI—A mysterious Mounte-eank starts a riot and is arrested.

CHAPTER XVII—The Mountebank is locked up after making close observations of the citadel, and is afterwards summoned before the governor's daughter. CHAPTER XVIII-The governor enters

CHAPTER XIX-As a miserable buf-oon, the Mountebank is released by orfoon, the Mounteband der of the governor. CHAPTER XX-Desaurac overpowers guard and dons soldier's uniform.

CHAPTER XXI-The Seigneur success-fully passes guards and finds the "Great Wheel."

CHAPTER XXII-Jacques, the failer, orced to tread the wheel and bring up es of the governor. CHAPTER XXIII—The Black Seigneur eleases the prisoners, but is himself cap-ured.

laughter, "I have your Ladyship to thank-" he began, and stopped. My lady's figure had at that moment

relaxed and fallen to the ground! CHAPTER XXIV.

The Hall of the Chevaliers. The report of the capture of the Black Seigneur spread from Mount to town; from rock to shore. Pilgrims repeated, peasants circulated it; many credited; a few disbelieved. Like shadows had his comrades and the escaped prisoners vanished, leaving no trace, save one-an over-turned car and severed rope at the foot of the poulain, without the fortifications. And flocking to that point, of greater interest now than shrine or sanctuary, the pilgrims gazed around; down the rocks; up the almost perpendicular planking to what looked like a mere pigeon-hole in the side of the cliff. Then ominous grumblings escaped them; some shook their fists at the black wall; others scoffed at distant sounds of priestly hallelujahs. Had the soldiers that day appeared in the town or on the beach, serious trouble would have ensued. For the time, however, they remained discreetly housed, while supplies for pilgrims needs were, by the commandant's orders, so curtailed, many of the indigent multitude, urged by pinched stomway from strand to shore. But as they left the vicinity of the Mount, they turned last looks of hatred toward the

Excellency, the Governor, wasted no time considering the humor of the masses; their resentment, or displeasure, signified nothing; his own complacency left little room for speculation on that score. He was undeniably satisfied; even the escape of ing in passing, was that of a man the prisoners and the loss of the soldiers at the guard-house, or in the wheel-room, was over-shadowed by the single capture. This contentment, however, he kept to himself; instigated a rigorous inquiry, and prepared to principal of these he could not reach; when released from the iron cage, the hunchback, knowing he would be called upon to answer for his part in the night's work, had made the best use of his short legs to place a long distance between himself and the

The sentinel that allowed the Black Seigneur to pass through the entrance near the barracks; the watchman encountered on the stairway, and the soldier that had been overpowered in the stable, his Excellency could, however, lay hands on, and promptly ordered into custody to await his official attention. For this last culprit, the commandant-mindful, perhaps, of bolstering his own position-interceded; pointing out that the man had to get the gag from his mouth and give the alarm; also, that the mountebank's appearance and acting had been calculated to deceive even one of the governor's discernment. Which remark his Excellency had received with sphinx-like, and not altogether reassuring, gravity; had reserved his ver-dict, and continued, after his own shion, to collect the details of the

The searching process should have led him almost at once to his daughter-a puzzling figure in the maze of events; but the Governor had exhibited no haste in approaching that important witness. Only when he had marshaled his other testimony and put it in order did the scope of his sifting extend to the girl. And then had his manner been strictly judicial; maintaining an imperturbable mask, he professed not to notice the pallor of her face, the unnatural brightness of

"When you sent for the mountebank to come to your apartments, did you know who he was?" the Governor asked.

"When did you find out?"

"When you entered the room." "Why did you not give the alarm

"Because," she hesitated; her face changed, "he would have killed you, I think-if I had!" "Was that solicitude for me the only reason?'

"Why, what other could there be?" "What other, truly? And after he left with the commandant-why did you not, then, inform me?"

"You remember you had something important, from the King, to consider.'

"More important than this?" "He was going to be locked up," was the best reply she could make. "And in the morning set free!" She did not answer.

"And yet, you gave the word that enabled us to capture him at the wheel-house! How, by the way, came you there-in the wheel-house?" "I saw him from the abbot's bridge;

heard him tell the watchman he had a message to deliver at your palace, and followed." "Again feeling solicitude for me?"

"I did not know-he would dare much; and what does it matter now?' almost wildly. "You have captured him, shut him up somewhere in some terrible, deep dungeon, where-" "He is safe? True; that is the main

consideration. Thereafter had the subject of the Black Seigneur been dropped between them; the pilgrimage over, the Mount resumed its normal aspect, but only for a little while! One day about a week later, a bright cortege whose appearance was in marked contrast to that of the beggarly multitude, late visitors to the rock, came riding down through the forest to the sea; at the verge of the sands, stopped for a first distant impression of the rock.

"Noble monument, I salute you! Smiling, debonair, the Marquis de Beauvilliers removed his hat. "And the noble mistress thereof?"

suggested one of his train. "She, of course!" he said, still surveying a scene different from that final memory he had carried away with him. Then had the rock reared itself in all the glamour of a sunny day; now was the sky overcast, while through a sullen mist the Mount loomed like a

"A cold place for our gay Elise!" One or two who viewed the sight for the first time looked disappointed: even the Marquis appeared for the instant more sober: but immediately re-

gained his lively demeanor. "Wait until you have seen it at its best," he retorted carelessly, and set the pace across the sands.

Midway, where once on the sands the men of Brittany had engaged in fierce conflict the ancient abbot's forces, were the new-comers met by an



Govern Here.

mposing guard; escorted with due honor through the gates, and up the narrow street of the town.

As he climbed the winding high way, my lord, the Marquis, bestowed approving nod and smile this way and that; it may be that he already felt a nearer affiliation with these people; for his glance, gracious, condescendarmed with the knowledge that he, kinsman of the King, might some day be called upon to govern here. But to these advances, the townspeople responded ill, and the young noble's brow went delicately up, as if a little amused! Mon dieu! did not unfriendly eyes peer from every lurking place around the royal palaces and pleasure grounds near Paris: and had they not encountered them all the way to the sea? People were the same everywhere; must be treated like bad children, and, with relays of troops from the capital to the sea, from the strand to the Mount's high top, one could afford to smile at their petty humors. Above all, when one had more momentous matter for consideration! And my lord lifted his head higher, toward a rampart, where some one had once bid him au revoir, and where he might yet in fancy see a fluttering ribbon wave a bright adieu!

But today my lady, the Princess of the Rock, was not there; waited above, with her father, to receive him-then-in the great Hall of the Chevaliers. Until that morning she had not known of the coming of the Marquis, an impatient suitor, follow ing the courier and the perfumed missive acquainting her with the noble's near approach. Certainly had she hown surprise; but whether she was pleased or not, his Excellency could

He was still uncertain; standing

near the raised gallery, in the ancient salle des chevaliers, from time to brightness of her eyes and her parted time regarded her furtively! Often lips. "Oh, yes!" And turning abrupthad she looked from one of the round ly, she hastened past him. windows, commanding a view of the Would they have to be locked in?shore and the sands; many times turned away. At first sight of the

company on the beach, the Governor

had seen the girl's face alter and not-

ed the involuntary start she had

given. Whereupon, moving toward one

of the giant fire-places, had he sought

for the sake of diplomacy and the

end in view, to turn their conversa-

tion into a channel that should have

interested her; spoke of plans to be

made; preparations for festivities and

merrymaking commensurate with the

circumstances. But to these sugges-

tions of gaieties, the prelude to a

stately ceremony, had she hardly

listened; paused absently before the

blazing logs; once or twice seemed

about to say something and stopped.

beneath that great canopy of stone

"Opposed? No! Of course not!"

him, the Black Seigneur, until after-

"Impossible!" The sudden virulence

her unexpected request awoke could

face; the tightly compressed lips; the

eyes that would not flinch! They re-

minded him of another's-were of the

same hue-so like, and yet so differ-

ent! Unlike, in bespeaking a will he

entrance their visitors were approach-

ing. An instant, and she would have

passed out, when the Governor spoke.

approvingly, his eye passed over her;

CHAPTER XXV.

The Under World.

were succeeded by holiday ribbons;

the miserere of the multitude by

visitors had sojourned at the rock

ments; laid before them the question:

"With shepherds and shepherd-

The Marquis, however, qualified the

been talking with the commandant-

"The dungeons?" My lady's face

"And incidentally inspect their lat-

instant her lips could frame no an-

swer; with a faint, strained smile, con-

morn; beneath the abbot's bridge-

black, spying span!-to the church,

and thence to the isolated space be

fore the guard-house to the dungeons.

back-peered from the entrance.

he Marquis indicated this person

'The commandant was telling me his

Excellency had engaged one-from Bi

silently he moved aside, and unlocked

the ramparts; now, with face half

"Coming?" Surprised, the Marguis

cetre, or Fort l'Eveque, I believe?"

lower world of yours!"

averted, stood gesing off.

the iron doors.

stairway, cold, gray in the

What, now, would they like to do?

"Devise a play," said one.

and have another proposal-"

"To visit the dungeons."

eur Noir-the Black Seigneur!"

"Which is?"

you say, Elise?"

pated her repdy.

we who decide."

paeans of merriment. Hymen,

A coterie of brilliant folk soon fol-

pressed it to his lips.

have become hostile to him.

or melting in the vaulting.

wanted this marriage?"

surprise: "yes."

not be concealed.

time again!"

King-'

She was silent now, a slender figure

the half-apprehensive query of one of the ladies caused the jailer at first to hesitate and then to answer in the negative. He would leave the doors from the outer room open, and himself await there the visitors' return. With which reassuring promise, he distributed lights; called a guardsman, familiar with the intricate underground passages, and consigned hem to his care.

One of the gay procession, the Lady Elise stepped slowly forward; the guide proved a talkative fellow, and seemed anxious to answer their many inquiries concerning the place. The salle de la question? Yes, it existed: but the ancient torture devices for the interrogatory ordinary" and the "in-

To be Continued

designed for the shelter of a score Loup City, Neb., Jan. 14, 1913.
County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 1 p. m. at the court house.

Capital and Supervisor 550 000 000 of knights; nervously twining and intertwining her fingers, she looked out at the shadows moving between 'the columns, playing around the bases, "They should be almost here now,"

observed his Excellency, again seek-Present Brown, McDonald, Welty ing to break that spell of constraint, and Dieterichs, clerk. when suddenly she stepped to him. J. H. Welty was chosen temporary "Mon pere," her voice sounded

hairman, and Brown and McDonald strained, unnatural, "it was you who proceeded, as a committee on credenthe new supervisors elect, and reported said credentials all O. K. and detials, to examine the credentials of "Yes," he had answered in some "And I have not opposed you-the clared Hiyo Aden, Howard Lang, Wenzel Rewolinski and 1. semmembers of the Board of Supervisors.

On motion the temporary organization and J. Wenzel Rewolinski and T. Jensen "Then," more hurriedly, "must you do something in return for me! I do not want my-the wedding festivities -marred by anything unpleasant! H. Welty to be chairman of the board Promise that nothing will happen to for the ensuing year.

court was examined and found corect and on motion approved as fol-

"Very well!" Before the anger in his gaze, her own eyes flashed like Fees earned 1st quarter 1912 \$ 371 15 Fees earned 2nd quarter 1912 397 80 steel. "In that case, you can send the Marquis back! For I will not see Fees earned 3rd quarter 1912 402 15 him-today, tomorrow or any other Fees earned 4th quarter 1912 195 20 Long he looked at her; the white

**\$13**66 30 Total Report of road committee read and n motion approved.

Gundenrath consent road petition as on motion disallowed. The following estimate of county

could not break! What he said, matxpenses for 1913 and 1914 was made: ters not; his face wore an ashy shade. Emergency bridge fund \$ 3,200 00 She did not answer in words; but he felt, with strange bitterness, a revul-Bridge fund sion; she seemed almost suddenly to Road fund 1,500 00 General fund Gay voices sounded without; near Int bond and sinking b'd f'd 13,500 00 er; she walked to a door opposite the

\$49,800 00 Request of county judge for a clerk n his office at a salary not exceeding But the Marquis, stepping quickly \$500, was on motion allowed.

in a few moments later, noted nothing Request of county clerk for a deputy amiss between them. "Your Excelat a salary of \$850 per annum and aslency!" With filial respect he greetsistants, if required, was allowed. ed the Governor. "My Lady!" Gaily, Adjourned to meet at 9 a. m. to then in that hall dedicated to chiv-

alry, a graceful figure, he sank to his knee; raised a small cold hand, and to adjournment of yesterday, with all members present, also attorney and The following standing committees

for the year 1913 were appointed and approved: Bridge committee-Brown, Lange lowed in the wake of my lord, the Marquis' retinue; holy-day banners

and Rewolinski.

Road committee-Aden, Jensen and McDonald. Claims committee-Jensen, Brown

Hymen! In assuming the leading role and McDonald. to which circumstances now assigned Finance committee-Lange, Aden her, the Governor's daughter brought and Rewolinski.

to the task less energy than she had On motion 60 names were selected displayed on that other occasion when from which a jury will be drawn for Her manner was changed-first, lukethe next jury term of district court. warm; then, almost indifferent; until. Request of Sec. of State H. Seymour at length, one day she fairly waived was read and considered, and on mothe responsibility of planning amusetion County Assessor W.T. Owens and County Clerk W. C. Dieterichs were delegated to attend the county asses-

sors' meeting at Lincoln on Feb. 4 and 5, 1913. County surveyor was instructed to survey the Paige road in Loup City suggestion. "A masque! that is very township. good; but, for this morning—I have

Board adjourned to meet at 1 p. m At 1 p.m. board met as per adjournment. with all members, county attorney and clerk present.

Johnson road petition was on motion allowed as prayed for and Robt. Dinsdale waived all damages on that part est guest! Some of you heard of him of the road in section 13 T. 14 R. 15 when we were here before-Le Seignfrom station 31 of the old survey to "Le Seigneur Noir!" They clapped station 23 of the 1912 survey; and E. their hands. "Yes, let us see him! J. Delaney was allowed damages to \$250. Jacob Albers, agent for said E. She started to speak, but for the J. Delaney, accepted.

fronted him, when some one antici on motion allowed as follows: That And a merry party they swept be vacated, and that said petition be along, bearing her with them; up the laid over as to the vacation of the under the old law.

rest of the road. Official bond of John Trompke, road ship was on motion approved. County surveyor was on motion in-

Here, at the sound of their voices, a man, carrying a bunch of keys-but structed to re-platte all lead-penciled folders. outwardly the antithesis to the hunch drawings on road platte with pen and "Unless I am mistaken, the new Claim committee reported all claims ailer!" With a wave of his hand,

correct and allowed and made deduc.

tions for delinquent taxes, as follows: GENERAL FUND "Bicetre, my lord!" said the man Hayhurst & Gallaway 5 31 gravely. "And before that, the Bas L. H. Spahr (all tax) 8 00 Dr. A. S. Main, coroner 7 00 "Ah!" laughed the nobleman. "That J. W. Burleigh 18 00 pretty place some of the foolish W.O. Brown 8 20 people are grumbling about! As if Dan McDonald we could do without prisons any more J. H. Welty 25 50 than without palaces! But we have Peter Rowe (2 war) (65c tax)

come, my good fellow, to inspect this T. Jensen W. Rewolinski The man's glance passed over the H. W. Lang paper the Marquis banded him; then Hiyo Aden ROAD FUND Dan McDonald \$ 6 30 "Are you not coming?" At the Hiyo Aden

threshold the Marquis looked back. BRIDGE FUND When first they had approached the guard-house, involuntarily had the Thereupon board on motion ad-Governor's daughter drawn aside to journed to meet March 3 at 1 p.m. W. C. Dieterichs,

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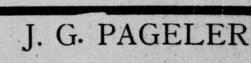
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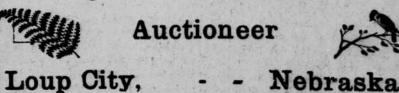
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