

LAFFITTE of LOUISIANA

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CHAPTER XIV.

The island of Grande Terre, off the coast of Louisiana, runs parallel with the mainland; and at its western end is a secure harbor, reached by the Great Pass of Barataria, whose water is from nine to ten feet in depth.

Here, on Grande Terre, were sold the captured cargoes and prizes; and people from all parts of Louisiana came hither to purchase them, with no apparent attempt or desire to conceal the object of their mission.

Jean Laffitte was, with Pierre, sitting in the dining-room of his own house, of which, however, the latter was nominal master.

"And so Laro is dead, and the Barra de Hierro in English hands," Pierre was saying.

"Tell me of thy plans, and what is to become of the lovely Senorita Laffitte."

At this, Jean, putting aside his former mood, sketched out clearly all his intended operations, telling in detail of his interview with Phillip La Roche, who with his widowed sister, Madame Riefel, would take the Spanish beauty into their charge.

It was now some two months since the governor's edict had been issued against the introduction of African slaves; and he had followed this by an address "To all whom it might concern in the territory," stating that it had come to his knowledge that well-laid plans existed to defeat and evade this edict by way of Barataria; and, as Jean now learned from Pierre, a rumor was afloat that the governor contemplated setting a price upon the head of Jean Laffitte, smuggler, slave-trader, and pirate.

"It is only a rumor as yet," answered Pierre, with no sign of anxiety; "and, together with the stories of bad feeling growing between these states and England, it gives the people a little of the excitement they ever seem to crave."

where the evening sky was glittering in the day's gray ashes.

It was the Island Rose; and the song was one her mother had taught her—one Laffitte had heard the girl sing during their journey from the Choctaw country.

"Mademoiselle Rose," he said, spreading very softly, as the sweet voice died away, breathing the final words like a sigh from a breaking heart.

"Who is it—what do you wish?" she inquired faintly, and not a little startled.

"It is I, mademoiselle. Do you not remember me?"

"Ah!"

It was a cry of joy; and two small hands, white as her snowy draperies, were held out to him.

"It is my Captain Jean. And oh, how glad I am to see you!"

"Are you?" was all he was able to say in reply, as he took her hands, and wondering to himself for being so tongue-tied in the presence of this mere child.

"Surely I am. So often have I asked myself during this long summer where you were and what doing. Oh, Captain Jean, I am so very glad you have come back. And now you will stop in New Orleans?"

She spoke eagerly, fearlessly, as if happy in showing her liking for him.

"I fear not, ma'm'selle. I am here for a few hours only, on business, and came to see your grandfather. You speak of the summer being long. Were you not happy, ma'm'selle?"

She moved uneasily, and her head drooped; but she did not reply.

"Tell me, little Island Rose, were you not happy?" he asked again, taking her hand. "Remember that it was I who brought you here—I, who loved and revered your mother. And I must feel the deepest regret to have been the means of bringing her child to unhappiness. Is not your grandpere kind to you?"

"Ah, that is pleasant for me to hear and to know, Captain Jean," she replied, with childish frankness, releasing her hand and laying it on his arm. "But," now with some anxiety, "how can you ever be able to do much for me, should I need you? It is long since I have seen you, or known where you were; and now you tell me you are here but for a few hours, and will then go away again. I know not where."

Although seemingly "twixt smiles and tears," she spoke with an arch naivete that affected Laffitte most curiously.

"You know Zency, the one called a witch, your grandpere's slave?" he inquired with apparent irrelevance.

"Yes, of course," answered Roselle, surprise showing in her voice. "She is a dreadful-looking old woman, with big black eyes. At first I was afraid of her, but now I am not, for she knew and loved my mother, and has talked to me of her."

"So? Well, that is quite as it should be. And now, little Rose," again taking her hand, "remember always what I say to you now: Should you ever wish to tell me anything, or need any service you think I can render, all you need do is to tell Zency, and then allow three days to pass in which to see me or hear from me. Will you promise to do this?"

He bent toward her with an earnestness in his manner that caused her to wonder at the time and afterwards.

"Yes, I promise, and I thank you," she answered softly, and left him.

A few moments later the Count de Cazeneuve entered the room and greeted Laffitte with a cordiality he accorded to few men; but the Island Rose did not return.

(To be continued.)

WRITTEN BY MARSHAL BLUCHER

Interesting Letter From Great Soldier to His Wife.

There has just been discovered in the family archives of a landed proprietor in Mecklenburg a hitherto unpublished letter written by the celebrated Marshal Blucher to his wife on the eve of the Battle of Waterloo. The letter is couched in the unique style and spelling peculiar to the old soldier, which, however, are partly lost in the following translation from the German:

"Comprene, June 17, 1815.

"Here I sit in the room in which Mary Louisa spent her bridal night. It is hard to imagine anything more beautiful than Comprene. What a pity that I must part from here tomorrow, because within three days I must be in Paris.

"It is possible, and most probable, that Bonaparte will be handed over to me and Wellington. Do not think I can do anything better than to have him shot. 'Lais would be a service to mankind. In Paris he is wholly deserted; everybody hates and despises him.

"I believe this will all be over in a short while, and then I shall hasten home. There are many pretty things here, but I must not take anything away.

"BLUCHER."
—Dundee Advertiser.

Hard on Foreigners in Mexico.

"Once while sojourning in the City of Mexico I happened to call upon a friend at one of the principal hotels of that capital," said Representative Southard of Ohio.

"While in his room I noticed a very fine revolver, and, making some comment upon it, he picked it up and began to explain how, although it was of single action, he could fire it as fast as though it were double action. In some way his hand struck the hammer, causing the weapon to explode. In a second my friend turned deathly pale and became so agitated that he could scarcely speak.

"Having noticed that the bullet struck a rug and took a downward course, I didn't see and cause for excitement, and, lifting up the rug, showed him where the lead took lodgement. He became calm pretty soon, and then he explained his agitation. 'Had that bullet gone into the court,' all the hotels down there open into a court, 'instead of the floor, and had it struck any Mexican, my life would not have been worth a ten-cent piece. I have lived down here long enough to know how swift is the punishment meted out to foreigners, even in case of accident, where a native is injured. Indeed, had I been unfortunate enough to have caused the death of one of them, it is quite probable that you, as well as myself, would have been executed. The fact that you had nothing to do with the shooting would have been of no avail, for your presence here would have condemned you.'—Washington Post.

Three Balls and Out.

"So you refuse to give me the money, eh?" said the profligate son.

"Yes," replied the stern parent. "Not another cent of my hard-earned coin for you."

"Then here goes," cried the youth as he seized a silver-mounted pistol from his father's desk.

"Unhappy boy!" exclaimed the old man as he sank helplessly into a chair, "what would you do—take your life?"

"Not so you could notice it," replied the wayward offspring as a diabolical grin chased itself over his beardless phiz. "I'm merely going to loan this lead pill dispenser to my 'uncle.' See?"

The Real End.

"Yes, he was killed by a blow from a policeman's club."

"Sort of hard wood finish, eh?"—Puck.

Not to His Taste.

Visitor—Ard are you unhappy?
Convict—Kind of that way. This here simple life is sorter monotonous

LEGISLATURE of NEBRASKA

A Synopsis of Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth General Session.

In the capitol building shortly after noon on the 3rd, 132 citizens stood with uncovered heads and with right hands uplifted, before Chief Justice Holcomb, and repeated after him a solemn oath of office. The men who invoked God to attest that they were truly the members of the twenty-ninth session of the legislature, and this is what they swore:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Nebraska, and will faithfully discharge the duties of member of the legislature according to the best of my ability, and that, at the election at which I have been chosen to fill the said office, I have not improperly influenced any vote of an elector; that I have not accepted nor will I accept, either directly or indirectly, money or other valuable things from any corporation, company or person, or any promise of office for any official act or influence, for any vote I may give or withhold on any bill, resolution or appropriation, so help me God."

The business to be transacted was that of organization only, and was carried out strictly along the lines determined on in the republican caucuses.

The house was called to order by Secretary of State Marsh. The roll was called by C. H. Barnard of Pawnee county, who was later made first assistant clerk of the house.

R. B. Windham of Cass county was unanimously elected speaker pro tem, and John Wall was made temporary chief clerk.

For the election of permanent speaker, the vote stood: Rouse, 91; Hunker, 9; and on motion of the latter, the election of Mr. Rouse was made unanimous.

The oath was administered by Chief Justice Holcomb, and was repeated by the members standing with right hands uplifted and afterwards was signed by them.

The house then proceeded to permanent organization, electing George L. Rouse of Hall, speaker; John Wall, chief clerk, and the other officers and employes as agreed on in caucus last night.

The nine fusion members supported for speaker F. D. Hunker of Cuming county.

The speakers and officers were sworn by the chief justice.

Mr. Rouse was escorted to the speaker's chair by Burgess of Lancaster, Casberry of Gage and Perry of Furnas. He addressed the house briefly, informally and in a very general way.

A committee of five was ordered appointed on legislative supplies. The rules of the twenty-eighth session were adopted as the rules of the present session.

Windham of Cass, Anderson of Douglas and Burns of Lancaster were appointed to act with a senate committee to wait upon the governor and inform him the legislature is ready to hear from him.

Casebeer of Gage moved that the clerk be instructed to furnish requisition blanks, which should be exclusively used by the members in calling for supplies, and that such requisitions be permanent preserved in the record. The resolution was voted down.

Windham of Cass, chairman of the committee to confer with the governor, reported that his excellency had fixed 2 o'clock Thursday as the hour when he would convey his wishes to the legislature in the form of a message.

The house thereupon adjourned.

In the senate work began at noon. Leut. Governor McGillon called the body to order.

Rev. J. H. Presson led in prayer. He invoked the divine blessing on the legislators and asked for harmony and peace throughout the session.

A roll call showed that all the senators were present except Hart of Adams county. He was detained by illness.

Senator Wall moved that Senators Begthol of Lancaster, Saunders of Douglas and Jackson of Gage be appointed a committee on credentials. They reported there were no contests.

Senator Saunders of Douglas moved that the 1903 rules be adopted until new regulations were formulated and the motion prevailed.

Senator Haller of Washington moved that Senator Jennings be elected president pro tem. Senator Wall of Sherman moved as a substitute that all the senate caucus nominees be declared elected. The latter motion prevailed. Wall then moved that Senators Epperson of Clay, Tucker of Richardson and Sheldon of Cass wait on the secretary of state and ask him

to swear in the senate employes. This was carried. Secretary of State Marsh could not be found, and Senator Mockett of Lancaster moved that the lieutenant governor administer the oath. This was adopted and the employes were sworn in.

Begthol of Lancaster moved that the committee on standing committees and the committee on employes, selected by the caucus, be chosen by the senate. The selections were approved.

Senator Jones of Otoe asked that the pay of the enrolling and engrossing clerks be fixed at \$4 a day. This was done. Senator Wall of Sherman moved that Senator Cady of Howard, Fries of Valley and Nielson of Douglas compose a committee to notify the house that the senate had organized. The motion carried, and the committee notified the house.

Without transacting further business of importance the senate adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4.

The senate held a short session. The body was called to order by Lieutenant Governor McGillon. A committee composed of Begthol of Lancaster, Fries of Valley and Shreck of York, was appointed to confer with a house committee to set a time for a joint session to canvass the vote on executive officers and fixed the time at 11:30. Mockett of Lancaster moved a resolution, that was unanimously carried, to furnish representatives of the newspapers in the senate copies of the Cobby statutes for use during the session. The board of secretaries of the state board of health sent in a communication requesting the favorable action of the senate in the matter of providing a home for the epileptics. An invitation was read and placed on file from the National Live Stock association for the legislature to attend the meeting of the association in Denver, January 10, or to send a committee. Adjourned until Thursday, when joint inaugural ceremonies will take place.

In the house complaint was entered against the railroads for the length of time they take to get lumber into Nebraska and the way in which they treat the dealer. Lumber is sometimes on the road a month, with the dealer unable to locate it. When it does arrive, unless it is unloaded within forty-eight hours the purchaser has to pay \$1 a day demurrage. Frequently the cars stack up on the dealer and in many cases shippers have been unable to unload the cars within the prescribed time, and have had to pay the demurrage charges when it is all the fault of the railroads. Should a measure be introduced to regulate this evil it will have the support of the lumber dealers, who two years ago were tied up with the railroads. The following members were excused from attendance for the remainder of the week: Jouvemat of Boone, Jackson of Antelope, Bacon of Dawson, Peabody of Nebraska, Livingood of Franklin, McAllister of Deuel, Richardson of Madison and Smelser of Sherman. Roberts of Dodge offered a resolution, directing the chief clerk to furnish to the reporters of daily newspapers regularly represented in the house a copy each of the compiled statutes for use during the session, the resolution being seconded by Perry of Furnas. The question was put to a viva voce vote, and the speaker was in doubt as to the result. Burns of Lancaster then explained to the members the necessity for furnishing statutes to the newspaper men, after which the resolution prevailed. Following this adjournment took place until Thursday.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5.

Brilliant and elaborate ceremonies marked the inauguration of Governor Mickey and the state officers. The capitol building was decorated from top to bottom with flaunting bunting. Ferns, palms and flowers were in all the offices, and there was an interminable receiving line leading up to Governor Mickey, who was surrounded by his colonels, their uniforms ablaze with gold lace. There was a reception in the senate chamber which lasted from 8 to 8:30 o'clock. Several thousand marched through the chamber and into Representative hall. After this there were receptions in the various offices by the new officers. The first regiment band furnished music and Adjutant General Culver of the national guard had charge of the ceremonies. But little business was transacted beyond inauguration ceremonies. Jennings of Thayer reported the standing committees. Giffen of Dawson moved that Wall of Sherman, Laverty of Saunders and Gould of Greeley be appointed a committee to represent the mem-

bers of the senate at the meeting of the National Live Stock association at Denver. The committee on employes reported these names to the senate and they were sworn in and placed on the pay roll: Miss Olive Ut, secretary to lieutenant governor; Charles E. Furay, copyist; F. J. Benedict, custodian of the senate; Edgar McCrea, custodian of the gallery; Mrs. E. S. Cameron, copyist; Tom Wright, clerk; J. A. Pollard, messenger; Jerry Wilhelm, night watchman; H. A. Hober, janitor.

In the house the session was very short, lasting but ten minutes. Chairman Perry of the committee on adjournment reported that an agreement had been reached with the senate committee for an adjournment until 11 o'clock Tuesday. The report was adopted. McClay of Lancaster moved that a committee of three be appointed to arrange for the securing of mimeograph copies of the house journal; one to be placed daily on the desk of each member, and that the committee be given power to act. The speaker seemed to regard this as an entailing unnecessary expense, and the motion was defeated. The house then went into joint session and, on reconvening, adjourned.

No Sign.

Ethel—Are you sure the count was intimated last night?
Eddie—Positive. Why, he couldn't pronounce his own name.
Ethel—But you must remember that he is a Russian count.

It All Depends.

Giles—"How far is it from your house to the nearest saloon?"
Smiles—"Well, it is three minutes' walk from my house to the saloon and about thirty minutes' walk back."

Didn't Want a Change.

Nell—He seems to be devoted to you.
Belle—Yes.
Nell—Why don't you marry him?
Belle—Oh, I like to have him devoted to me.

A Loss Indeed.

Jakey—What makes you so blue today, Ike?
Ike—I was fired yesterday.
Jakey—Fired? And you had no insurance?

Long-Felt Want.

Customer—"Say, what kind of a crazy novel is this, anyway? It begins with the last chapter and ends with the first."
Bookseller—"Oh, that edition is intended for ladies only."

The Usual Size for Him.

Little Elmer—"Papa, what is a hypochondriac?"
Professor Broadhead—"A hyperconfidence man, isn't he?—Catholic ease, but many complaints.—Puck.

Tells Why.

Aunt Julia—Why did you break off your engagement with young Huggins?
Pretty Niece—Because he got a fool notion in his head that I intended to marry him.

The Retort Proper.

"Ab, you poor chaps of bachelors! Now, when a married man gets a little rent in his clothes—"
"He's got to pay it to the landlord! I see!"

Some Think So.

Willie—Pa, what does "trust" mean?
Pa—Well, "trust" means confidence for one thing.
Willie—Then a "trust magnate" is a confidence man, isn't he?—Catholic Standard and Times.

Proof Enough.

"Oh, mamma, I know there's a flea on me," cried little Ethel.
"How do you know it is a flea, dear?" asked mamma.
"Why, because I can't catch it!"

Parental Promptitude.

Willie—Mamma, I think I like God better than I do papa.
Mrs. Silmson—Why, Willie?
"Well, papa punishes me a great deal quicker than God does."—Collier's Weekly.

Criminal Offense.

Lawyer—Did the defendant, to your knowledge, ever facite another to perjury?
Witness—Yes; once I heard him ask a woman her age.

Measuring Ingredients.

It is useful to know that sixty drops are equivalent to one teaspoonful, three teaspoonfuls equal to one tablespoonful. A gill is four tablespoonfuls. One cupful of liquid is equal to one-half pint. Two cups of butter or sugar weigh one-half pound, and sixteen tablespoonfuls of liquid are equal to a cupful.

Day of Heaviest Rainfall.

A celebrated aeronaut asserts, after patient investigation, that the ninth day of the moon is the most rainy of the whole twenty-eight, and four o'clock in the afternoon the rainiest hour of the day.

To Procure Sound Sleep.

Unrefreshing but sound sleep nearly always shows that the blood does not leave the brain by the veins at the normal rate. Soaking the feet in hot water, and using a high pillow, will be beneficial.

Nothing to Say.

Cholly—I suppose she doesn't like me because I never flatter. I always say what I think.
Miss Sharp—Ah! Is that all? Perhaps her dislike, then, is due to the fact that you never say anything.

The Remarkable Thing.

He—Miss Elder tells me she's only 22. That seems remarkable, doesn't it?
She—Not at all. It would have been remarkable if she had told the truth.

Discretion.

"You never laugh at young Mr. Blizzins' jokes."
"No," answered Miss Cayenne. "I like Mr. Blizzins. I am afraid he will loan this lead pill dispenser to my 'uncle.' See?"



"Will you promise to do this?"

"I wish there would be war declared against Great Britain!" declared Jean, with sudden animation, as he nodded his acquiescence in Pierre's reasoning. "She has been sneaking around this country ever since her whipping here, trying, without appearing to try, to obtain another hold upon it. She never seems to really know when she is well thrashed."

It was now Pierre's turn to nod. "If war came," continued Jean, his eyes sparkling as if with satisfaction at the idea, "do you know I think I should go to the governor and offer all I have for his assistance."

"Ah?" said Pierre, with a slight elevation of his heavy eyebrows.

"Yes; for you and I, with our men, could then fight like any respectable citizens in defence of this country against the English."

"That might be," was Pierre's speculative remark. But his tone changed as he added, bending his eyes, filled with a meaning look, upon Jean's impassioned face, aglow with a new and better enthusiasm, "And England hates Bonaparte."

"Hates—yes; but fears, as well. Oh, if I can but help lay low his most hated enemy, I shall feel, in dying for it, the greatest happiness I ever knew."

Pierre whistled softly, and reaching for a flagon of wine, filled two glasses. "Here, Jean," he said, lifting one of them, "let us drink to the overthrow of English power in any land wherein we may abide, and long life and prosperity to him you love."

Twilight was coming when Jean Laffitte took his way to the house of Count de Cazeneuve.

Up the avenue of live oaks, upon whose branches the gray moss draped filaments looking ghostly in the twilight, he passed to the pillared portico of the count's residence, and, as was his privilege, entered its wide door unannounced.

The low strutting of a guitar from a near-by room drew his footsteps toward it, and he was soon standing on its threshold.

No candles were lit, but a woman's white drapery gleamed from the farther end, in an alcove-windowed recess looking out to the western sky.

"Oh, yes," was her hasty reply. "He has been—means to be, very kind, I am sure. He has given me many pretty things—clothes, and jewels, and books—things of which I never knew before in all my life."

"Yet, little Rose, I feel that something is troubling you," Laffitte declared confidently. "I wish you would tell me what it is; and perhaps I can find the way to make you as happy and contented as I want to feel you are in this new home to which I brought you."

His voice, with its gentle insistence; the firm pressure of his hand upon her small fingers—these impelled her, after a brief hesitancy, to say, speaking very softly, "There seems to be some mystery about my surroundings—something in my grandpere's life I cannot understand; and this makes me uncomfortable. And he has such strange associates."

It was well for both the girl and the man that the darkness hid the look of the face when he heard these words.

"On the island, where we spent the summer, such rough, dreadful-looking men came to see him, and then disappeared suddenly. I never spoke with them, for he bade me keep out of their way; but they frightened me, for they looked wicked and cruel, and many of them were as dark-skinned as our slaves. Some of them were dressed so oddly, with red caps on their heads, and rings in their ears. I could not but wonder why he should permit such men to enter his house, and what could be their business with him."

"There are many strangers and rough-looking men about New Orleans, little Rose, and we are obliged to come into contact with them in business matters," said Laffitte. "I know those of whom you speak, and I know they would never harm you." And he patted reassuringly the hand she had not offered to withdraw.

"But," he added, "you had better keep away from such men, as your grandpere bade you; for you must believe that he loves you, and knows what is best for you. Remember, too, that so long as I live you can rely upon me to keep you safe from whatever might harm you or make you unhappy."

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