

LAFFITE of LOUISIANA

BY MARY DEVEREUX
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CHAPTER XXI.

Having emerged from the building, Laffite saw, as he was locking the door, that many of his men, armed with guns, had gathered within the stockade, the greater number of them standing around another loghouse at the farthest end, where two of his sub-captains, Beluche and Dominique-You, had their quarters.

He went to the end of the stockade, and not seeing Pierre amongst the men gathered there, asked if anyone knew of the latter's whereabouts.

"He was outside, my captain, when last I saw him. He was sitting on the bluff, smoking, and swearing that the men should do no harm to that boatload of beauties lying off shore," replied Dominique-You, his swarthy face wrinkling with a grin.

The shadows were falling fast, and the dampening air was melodious with the notes of the mocking-birds that filled the trees about the fort, while faint but sweet came other fluting voices from the deeper woods, mingling with the occasional cry of an owl, or the reiterative note of a whippoorwill; and now and then the maniacal scream of a loon came from the sedges.

On the edge of the bluff was Pierre, a gun across his knees, and looking like a sentinel on guard, except that he was stretched upon the ground smoking.

Pierre's head turned quickly at the sound of footsteps behind him, and he sprang upright as Jean said, "We must row out there, and send those fellows back to their ship. The officers will remain here for the night."

Nothing more was said until a small boat had been pushed off. Jean sat in the stern, and Pierre, laying his gun across the seat, picked up the oars and began to row with long, steady strokes that sent the light craft speeding out toward the English boat, showing black in the gathering dusk.

Jean now tied a handkerchief to an extra oar, and raised it, making a white flutter in the shadows.

"Offered they a generous bribe?" Pierre inquired softly, turning his head in order to make sure of the other boat's exact position, while his

are to return to the brig, and report here at noon to-morrow."

"Aye, sir," replied the boatswain. Eight oars touched the water as one, and the English boat went her way.

Pierre soon began to row more slowly; and Jean asked, in continuation of their recent talk, "Heard you ever of a more dastardly plan for white men to map out?"

"Not I," growled Pierre. "Even Laro, scoundrel as he was, never did a worse thing. And if we decline this, Jean, then what is it to be, or did they not do us the honor of doubting our acceptance?"

"Barataria is to be overrun by the English; our ships and property confiscated; and you and I, together with our men, put to death as pirates, who have merited the vengeance of Great Britain by our seizure of Spanish vessels."

"So!" But Pierre's laugh had little of mirth in it. "Louisiana offers a price for your head, and England threatens to hang you if you will not help her destroy New Orleans, so that she may have Louisiana by the throat. A fine choice of favors, this, to select from."

Under the low, cane-thatched roof covering the abode of Beluche and Dominique-You, they and the two Lafittes ate supper in comparative silence, owing to the coming and going of the slave, Juniper, who waited upon them. But the meal over, with pipes and bottles upon the cleared table, and Juniper shut apart in his own domain, they proceeded to discuss the matter whose contemplation had made their silence seem sullen.

When they were all seated, Laffite, in a low tone, and to the accompaniment of occasional angry comments and imprecations, read the two papers, omitting, however, all mention of the money offered to himself.

"Now, tell us, Captain Laffite," spoke up Beluche, who like Pierre, had been smoking contemplatively, apparently revolving what had been read, "tell us what you advise as the cause to be pursued. But, first of all, I declare that never will I take up arms for England, against America or any other

are kept quiet, and that nothing occurs to prevent my returning the two officers safely to their boat."

Several times during the night Jean and Pierre, singly or together, went outside to reconnoitre, but the hours passed without disturbance.

Once, while Jean was pacing up and down beneath the bright stars with the hounds for company, the sound of a far-off wolf's cry changed, as would have the blast of a trumpet, the current of his thoughts.

Was it really coming, and so near as it seemed—the day for which he had longed, holding for him the chance of redeeming himself in the estimation of the Island Rose? And were not events seeming to shape for enabling him to fulfil the promise made upon Elba—that he would erase the stigma from the name of Lafitte in Louisiana?

A thrill of hope made new life spring within him, and, with an unvoiced prayer, he lifted his wifful face to the heavens, from whence there seemed to descend a strange peace.

CHAPTER XXII.

At sunrise a change had taken place in the appearance of things about the stockade. Before the now opened gates a brawn Irishman, one of Beluche's trusted followers, fully armed, paced to and fro, and Lopez stood guard before the locked doors of Laffite's house.

As Pierre, Jean and the two under-captains were finishing breakfast, a messenger came to tell the former that the "Star of the Gulf" had come to anchor in the harbor, and was flying a signal for his presence on board.

"It is Zedanner, from Mexico, at last," he said, glancing at Jean, "and I am glad to know of his safe arrival. He should have been in a week ago."

"Will you go, or shall I?" Pierre asked, as Jean remained silent.

The latter, like Pierre, knowing the full meaning of the signal, replied that he would go aboard, and, leaving Pierre in charge of matters at the stockade, he took his way to the harbor.

Returning in an hour's time, he was coming up the path from the beach when he heard unmistakable sounds of tumult, followed by the roar of the gun mounted upon a pivot in front of his own house, as a protection against possible disturbances.

Pierre, Beluche and Dominique-You were standing upon the steps of the house, shouting angrily at the rioters—for such they were, who, armed, and filled with murderous lust, crowded before them, demanding "The two English spies!"

(To be continued.)

ARE BLONDS TO DISAPPEAR?

Probability That in the Future We Shall All Be Brunettes.

The somewhat startling statement has been made that the blue eyed, golden haired and light complexioned variety of the human race is in the course of extinction, and that, within a few more generations, blonds are likely to become so rare in the world's population that they may be looked upon as curiosities, somewhat as albinos are to-day. The blond type has been so often chosen by artists and poets to represent their noblest conceptions of human beauty that no one can regard even the bare suggestion of its extinction without dismay. Moreover, some of the world's greatest races and many of its most masterful personalities have belonged to this type, and its admirers have sometimes gone so far as to aver that light complexion, and in particular light colored eyes, are the favored livery of the highest genius.

This is undoubtedly an extreme and untenable claim, yet it cannot be denied that history shows an extraordinary number of men and women of the first rank in all the higher fields of intellect who possessed the characteristic marks of the blond, and this not only in countries where the light type prevails, but also in lands like Italy, where the general complexion of the population is dark.—Success.

Flowers and Character.

That which surrounds us forms our character. If we live in the midst of filth we cannot keep it secret. The world turns its knowing eye on us, looks beneath the surface, sees our inner selves, our degraded minds and our cold, cruel hearts.

If we live surrounded by the beauties of life, the world knows, too. Our hearts grow kind and sympathetic and our thoughts high and pure.

We all know that this is true. Then is it not our plain duty to surround our little children with every lovable, uplifting thing the world affords? Is it not our duty to ourselves to surround ourselves with everything which will refine our thoughts and help to form within us an admirable character? We owe it to our children, to ourselves and to society.

Probably the purest and most beautiful things on earth are flowers. Can you not imagine a character grown in the midst of a garden of flowers.—Montreal Herald.

So He Could Sleep.

A guest at one of Kansas City's large hotels surprised the key clerk Tuesday night by stepping up to the desk at 10 o'clock and saying: "I am going to bed now. Please call me at midnight."

The clerk couldn't understand why the man wished to get up at that hour.

"Going out to-night?" he asked.

"No," replied the guest. "You see, I'm always called in the morning at home and I can always go into a sound sleep after the call. To-night the fact that I'm in a strange bed may keep me awake, so I thought I'd try to get to sleep through the call method. See?"—Kansas City Times.

WAR WILL GO ON

EMPEROR OF RUSSIA DECIDES TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT.

WILL PRESS IT WITH ENERGY

Advices to the German Court from Russia—Czar's Advisers Think Chance for Great Victory in Manchuria Is Good.

BERLIN—The emperor of Russia has elected to continue the war.

His position is absolutely firm and the German court has been advised in that sense.

The war will be pressed with the utmost energy, the domestic situation being now within the control of the authorities.

Those who have advised peace and suggested inquiries for Japan's terms, the French and British governments, are for the present silent and are likely to remain so unless events of an extraordinary character shake the Russian emperor's resolution. The considerations that led to the emperor's decision as understood here are:

"First—The judgment of the chiefs of the army that Field Marshal Oyama not only cannot defeat General Kurapatkin, but stands in danger of defeat himself. How cowardly, therefore, for Russia to ask for mercy, with all the men and money essential to a successful war.

"Second—All the forces of criticism now directed against the government for having fought rather than yield to legitimate interests and for having failed to win victories, would be continued with added fury against the government that accepted war and then betrayed the country. A government that would crave peace of Russia's enemy while still capable of winning victory would be giving the party of change genuine grounds for revolution. The facts of the military situation, love of country and arguments of expediency were all against peace and for pressing the war hopefully.

ST. PETERSBURG—A second day has passed without dispatches having been given out from General Kurapatkin, which is interpreted to support the rumors that great events are in progress in Manchuria. The war office, however, steadfastly maintains that there is no important news and that there have been no developments since the last dispatches made public, in which the commander-in-chief reported all quiet with the exception of minor actions to the eastward. The Associated Press dispatches from Mukden made no mention of a battle and the retirement of the Russians.

JAPAN WANTS INDEMNITY

Has Spent \$350,000,000 in Upholding Principles.

PARIS—Russia has not given any indication to France that she is ready to take up the question of peace and therefore the authorities here do not feel qualified to discuss the St. Petersburg reports giving the precise terms. The reports are explained substantially as follows:

"The peace sentiment has lately been steadily augmenting throughout Russia, particularly outside of St. Petersburg, and within recent days some of the most influential personages in St. Petersburg have come out favorably to peace and have sought to impress responsible officials that the time has arrived to take definite action. However, those having the chief responsibility, such as Foreign Minister Lamsdorff, have not yet shown willingness to accept peace arguments. Therefore, so long as the Russian foreign office is not prepared to accept the peace view it is considered doubtful of accomplishment. In spite of this the peace reports are considered a hopeful sign of a tendency in the highest quarters towards peace. The Japanese legislation points out that peace negotiations require certain definite steps between parties, and as Russia has not yet made the slightest overture to Japan concerning terms Russia is not in a position to elaborate pacific conditions. The officials of the legation incline to the view that St. Petersburg reports were designed to sound official sentiment in Japan. What Tokio will say is not known."

TO PUSH LAND FRAUD CASES.

President Roosevelt Determined to Go to the Bottom.

WASHINGTON—As the result of conference held at the white house with President Roosevelt further developments in the land fraud cases in Oregon and California may be expected at no distant day. Since the first steps were taken looking to the prosecution of the alleged offenders, the president has shown a keen interest in the investigations which have been made and in the indictments which followed. With the view of acquainting himself with the situation as it exists up to the present time, the president was in close conference with Secretary Hitchcock, Attorney General Moody and Special Attorney F. J. Heney, who discussed with him the evidence so far gathered. Later in the day he held a second conference at which were present Secretary Hitchcock, Mr. Heney and Secret Service Inspector William D. Burns, who was active in bringing about a number of arrests. At this latter meeting, it is understood, a plan of action was mapped out and the statement was made that it need not occasion surprise if further arrests are ordered.

A MINE DISASTER.

Over One Hundred Men are Entombed.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—By an explosion in the Virginia mines, about eighteen miles southwest of Birmingham, at 4 o'clock Monday afternoon, between 110 and 125 union miners are entombed and it is believed that the entire number suffered an awful death. Scores of vigorous rescuers are at work digging into the mine to relieve their friends and comrades on the inside.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by an accumulation of dust, although the mine has heretofore been noted for being entirely free from gas. It is also believed that as the entire quota has probably been killed the details of the cause of the disaster will never be known.

The news spread like wildfire through the whole district. The camp is almost isolated from the rest of the world, as there is no telephone station at Virginia, and the only wire running to the place is a dispatcher's wire of the Birmingham Mineral railway, on which Virginia is located. Details are slow to come in, but each man who arrived in the city from the scene told a more gruesome story of the horror.

Since the strike has been on in the Birmingham district, many of the most industrious and thrifty miners of Pratt City and other important mining points have removed to the Virginia mines, so that the mines were being worked to their full capacity by the most skilled miners in the community.

Relief trains with surgeons and workmen were dispatched from both Birmingham and Bessemer as soon as the news of the disaster was learned. They began the work of succor in earnest before 6 o'clock and at midnight had not gotten half way through the mass of debris. It is thought it will be 10 o'clock Tuesday before the interior of the slope is reached. The slopes are well arranged and there has never been the least trouble in the mines before. They are owned by the Alabama Steel and Wire company, but are leased and operated by Reid & Co.

BIRMINGHAM—The scene at Virginia mines on Tuesday, where a terrific after-damp explosion occurred, imprisoning 160 men, 700 feet below the surface, was the most gruesome and sorrowful that has ever been witnessed in this section of Alabama. Of the miners who entered the mine so far only forty-five bodies have been recovered. The recovery already of so many dead bodies, precludes the idea that any living men remain among the unfortunates still in the mine. The corpses are frightfully mangled and disfigured and identification is almost impossible.

OSAGE OIL LEASE.

House Resolution Asks Pointed Questions.

WASHINGTON—Another chapter in the Osage oil lease incident developed Wednesday when Representative Stephens of Texas introduced two resolutions in the house addressing inquiries to the secretary of the interior regarding the Foster lease of oil and gas lands belonging to the Osage Indians. One resolution calls on the secretary to furnish the house with a copy of the Foster lease and of all subleases under the lease, giving the dates of the approval or rejection and all correspondence on the subject.

The other resolution asks under what act of congress the Foster lease was made and under what authority of law the subleases were approved. The secretary is asked whether he did not ratify the sublease to the Almeda company and whether this was not the first sublease so ratified and whether he had not previously refused to ratify subleases. The resolution asks not only for the date of the ratification of the Almeda sublease, but also calls for a list of the officers, directors and stockholders of the Almeda company, with information as to whether any of these persons are "personally known or in any way related to him (the secretary) and if so the name of such person and how related."

The resolution directs the secretary to say whether he did not on February 13, last, in a letter addressed to the chairman of the committee on Indian affairs, write that the commissioner of Indian affairs "also shows that there is no necessity for the proposed legislation in order to protect the existing rights of the parties who hold under the said Foster lease, and it is not deemed advisable, nor, indeed, would it be just to renew and extend the said lease for a period of ten years or any other period, without the knowledge and consent of the Indians."

The resolutions continue: "And if you did write this letter please state to this house what information you have since received that has caused you to recommend the adoption of the senate amendment to the Indian appropriation bill extending said lease for ten years on 680,000 acres of said Osage Indian lands without first securing the consent of said Indians."

The statement recently given out by Secretary Hitchcock is cited, in which he said that "the original Foster lease was an unheard of monopoly and nothing short of a public scandal," and the resolution asks the secretary if he was correctly quoted, and if so to state why he now recommends extension of the lease.

IT IS IN THE BLOOD

Neither Liniments nor Ointments Will Reach Rheumatism—How Mr. Stephenson Was Cured.

People with inflamed and aching joints, or painful muscles; people who shuffle about with the aid of a cane or a crutch and cry, Oh! at every slight jar, are constantly asking, "What is the best thing for rheumatism?"

To attempt to cure rheumatism by external applications is a foolish waste of time. The seat of the disease is in the blood, and while the sufferer is rubbing lotions and grease on the skin the poison in the circulation is increasing.

Delays in adopting a sensible treatment are dangerous because rheumatism may at any moment reach the heart and prove fatal. The only safe course for rheumatic sufferers is to get the best possible blood remedy at once.

Mr. Stephenson's experience with this obstinate and distressing affliction is that of hundreds. He says:

"About a year ago I was attacked by severe rheumatic pains in my left shoulder. The pains were worse in wet weather, and at these periods caused me the greatest suffering. I tried a number of treatments and ointments, but they failed to alleviate the pains."

Then he realized that the cause must be deeper and the pain only a surface indication. He adds:

"I had heard Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People recommended as a cure for rheumatism, and when I found that I was getting no relief from applications, I made up my mind that I would try them. Before the first box was gone I noticed that the pains were becoming less frequent, and that they were not so severe as before. After the second box and been used up I was entirely free from discomfort, and I have had no traces of rheumatism since."

The change in treatment proved by almost immediate results that Mr. Thomas Stephenson, who lives at No. 115 Greenwood street, Springfield, Mass., had found the true means for the purification and enrichment of his blood.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are without doubt the best of all blood remedies. They effect genuine and lasting cures in rheumatism. They do not merely deaden the ache, but they expel the poison from the blood. These pills are sold by all druggists.

Spread of English Language.

New Zealand, Samoa, Hawaii, most of Polynesia and various small states have permanently adopted our mother tongue, and there is every reason to believe that the 10,000,000 of Filipinos will be using it in the course of time. With the construction of the Panama canal Central America also will probably yield to its influences to a large extent.

Definition of Railway Ticket.

A little school girl's definition of a railroad ticket is worth repeating. In a composition written in one of the Boston primaries on "A Railway Journey," the little one says, among other things: "You have got to get a ticket, which is a piece of paper, and you give it to a man who cuts a hole in it and lets you pass through."

Have Strange Beliefs.

Strange beliefs linger in many out-of-the-way corners of Britain. In Devonshire, for instance, the country folk still make "cramp rings" out of old coffin handles; and bracelets forged out of nails on which suicides have hanged themselves are worn by gentry people, and deemed singularly efficacious.

Cured Her Diabetes.

Hafo, Ind., Feb. 27th.—(Special.)—If what will cure Diabetes will cure a form of Kidney Disease, as so many physicians say, then Dodd's Kidney Pills will cure any form of Kidney Disease. For Mrs. L. C. Bowers of this place has proved that Dodd's Kidney Pills will cure Diabetes.

"I had Diabetes," Mrs. Bowers says, "my teeth all became loose and part of them came out. I passed a great deal of water with such burning sensations I could hardly bear it. I lost about 40 pounds in weight. I used many medicines and doctored with two local doctors but never got any better till I started to use Dodd's Kidney Pills. They cured me so completely that in three years I have had no return of the disease. I am a well woman now, thanks to Dodd's Kidney Pills."

Dodd's Kidney Pills cure all kidney ailments from Backache to Bright's Disease. Cure your Backache with them and you will never have Bright's Disease, Diabetes or Rheumatism.

Lake Chad is gradually drying up, and recent researches tend to show that its complete disappearance is only a question of time.

CUTICURA GROWS HAIR.

Scalp Cleared of Dandruff and Hair Restored by One Box of Cuticura and One Cake of Cuticura Soap.

A. W. Taft of Independence, Va., writing under date of Sept. 15, 1904, says: "I have had falling hair and dandruff for twelve years and could get nothing to help me. Finally I bought one box of Cuticura Ointment and one cake of Cuticura Soap, and they cleared my scalp of the dandruff and stopped the hair falling. Now my hair is growing as well as ever. I am highly pleased with Cuticura Soap as a toilet soap. (Signed) A. W. Taft, Independence, Va."

The trouble with remorse is that it never turns up till next morning.



"Pacing up and down with the hounds for company."

powerful arms worked with the smoothness of a piston-rod.

"Indeed, yes. They offer me the rank of captain in the English navy, and thirty thousand dollars in cash."

Pierre gave a low whistle.

"And the price of all this honor and wealth?" he asked, taking another backward glance.

"Pull a bit more to larboard; we will stop at easy halting distance," said Jean, after turning half-way in his seat. Then, in an entirely different tone, one of concentrated rage, "The price is that we are to sell ourselves to the English, and lead them, by our own paths and waterways, so that they may fall unexpectedly upon New Orleans, and burn the city, after pillaging it. They are also to buy the slaves with promised freedom, and then add to the ruin by an insurrection."

Pierre, although of not so fine a mould as Jean, shared the latter's dislike to profanity, and rarely indulged in strong language. But he now uttered a terrible oath.

This was his only comment; and it was followed by silence, until Jean announced, "Here we are; and we'll lie on our oars."

He sent a challenging shout over the water. It was answered at once; then came the sound of working oars, and Laffite called again, "Come no nearer. Captains Lockyer and McWilliams will remain on the island for the night, and have sent you written orders. Stop where you are, and I will bring them to you."

A short pause succeeded; then a surly "Aye, aye," came across the water, and the rowing stopped, just as a fiery thread of the rising moon was lifting above the sea.

Pierre soon brought his boat alongside the other one, and Jean, laying a hand on its gunwale, inquired, "Who is in command here?"

"I am, sir," replied one of the men, rising so that his powerful form stood out above the others. "I'm bo's'n of the brig."

"Here are your orders," said Laffite, handing the sealed paper to the nearest man, who passed it along. "You