



The two men arranged that Colonel Fitz Hugh and Colonel Maynard should advance to the respective places they themselves occupied as soon as they had withdrawn. Then, wheeling, each rode back to his principal, and in a few moments more the Union and Confederate officers faced each other from opposite banks of the creek.

"You are Colonel Fitz Hugh, I believe," said Maynard. "I am. I recognize Colonel Maynard's voice." "I heard yours last on a certain evening a year ago—an evening memorable to both of us. Then you gave me my life, and by doing so placed yourself in a position to be shot for a traitor to your cause."

"Not for your sake, colonel—for the sake of another." "It matters not for whose sake; the act remains. Once before you spared me when you found me under a roof which covered me." "Then I respected the laws of hospitality, sacred in the south. Let us not dwell on these matters, colonel. Let us proceed with that upon which we have met for consultation."

"You are right. Time presses. Your sister stands convicted of the same offense as mine at the time of which we have been speaking and sentenced to die at sunrise. We meet to concert a method to save her." "At my request. But any proposition must come from you, Colonel Maynard. I am unfamiliar with the feeling on the part of those in power in the Federal army as to executing a sentence of death upon a woman."

"Circumstances which I cannot explain, for they pertain to the situation in which these two armies are placed, render the feeling against your sister very severe." "You have suggested my exerting influence on our side?" "It was your sister who suggested it. I have little faith in it." "What did you propose?" "That which your sister would not accept."

"And that was?" "Maynard whispered in a strange, savage tone: 'To use my authority as commanding the brigade charged with her keeping to place her within your lines.'" "And now?" "I listen for some suggestion from you."

"I can think of none except, with your permission, to enter a protest over the signature of our commanding officers of highest rank."

asked what they wanted. The colonel handed him the paper he had brought with him. It was an order for the person of the prisoner. The place was only lighted by a candle, and the colonel took care to stand with his back to it. But this was not necessary, for his disguise was complete. Corporal Ratigan remained without the door, on the porch. The sergeant looked from the paper to the man who stood before him inquiringly.

"This is very strange," he said. "Here is Colonel Maynard's order," the sergeant added, reading it over again. "Do you know what he wants with her?" "Do you suppose I don't know any better than to ask questions when I get an order?" replied the spurious private gruffly.

The sergeant went into the room where Miss Fitz Hugh was confined and led her out, pale and wondering. "It isn't surmise," she said in a voice which it was difficult for her to keep from breaking. "Come," said the colonel. She followed him to the porch, and Corporal Ratigan joined them, but it was too dark for the prisoner to see who he was, and he did not dare to make himself known. As soon as they had got to a safe distance he whispered:

"Darlin!" "Rats!" "Not a word till we get further away." They walked on at an ordinary pace, though all desired to hasten. After passing some distance from the house Maynard turned and glanced back. He saw the sergeant watching.

"We must go to the tent," he muttered, and the three walked on. Before entering he looked again. The sergeant was still watching. He evidently wished to make sure that all was right. All entered the tent, while the colonel, standing at the front and peering between the tent flaps, watched for the sergeant to go back into the house. Presently he did so and left the way clear.

"Now come on." Leaving the tent, they walked a short distance down the road. Not a word was spoken. Presently they turned aside and entered the wood. There they found the horses. "Mount," said the colonel to the prisoner. Putting a foot in his hand, she sprang up on to a horse's back. There was no sidesaddle for her, but the high front of a "McClellan" served very well, and she was so good a horsewoman that she could have ridden sideways on the animal's bare back. The stirrup was fitted, the colonel and Ratigan mounted, and the three rode rapidly away.

"What does it all mean, Rats?" asked Miss Fitz Hugh. "I thought you were going to do your duty at all hazards." "Well, there's different kinds of duties, and sometimes they won't work together. If saving a woman's life isn't a duty, then me mother didn't bring me up right."

"Who's the other?" she asked while Maynard was riding a little in advance. "One who this night makes me his slave."

The average temperature of June is from 2 to 8 inches over more than one half the territory of the United States and includes nearly all the country east of the 105th meridian. The September rains in Florida and the December and February rains on the Pacific coast are particularly marked.

A high wave of precipitation extends from Iowa to Lake Huron and another along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to southern Florida. These northern and southern rainbelts of January gradually approach each other and finally meet on middle ground in February. The crops of the northern and western plains depend largely on the rainfall of May, June and July which reach their highest mark near Fort Buford.

Beginning at Duluth draw a line through Hannibal, Oklahoma, Denver and Helena, Montana, and in the vast territory inclosed by that line the rainy season includes May, June and July, and during this one-fourth of the year nearly one-half of the rainfall occurs. Reliable long range rain forecasts for these three months covering this territory, would save to its people a hundred million dollars annually. Such forecasts are now partially completed and are being perfected.

July, August and September is the rainy season in Florida and the southern parts of Georgia, North and South Carolina. On the Pacific coast December, January and February make up the rainy season. El Paso, Texas, is in the center of a country whose rainy season occurs in July and August. All northwestern Mexico, extreme western Texas, New Mexico and Arizona are largely interested in that rainy season in which about three-fifth of the annual rain occurs in these two months.

The highest monthly rainfall in the United States is 14.5 inches in the vicinity of the Tatoosh islands on the northwest coast of Washington. The next highest, 9 inches in March, is Alabama and Mississippi. In northeastern Texas, near Shreveport is a section of very heavy rain in April and May, reaching 9 inches in the latter month, and in the lower Grand river country, north Missouri, is a similar 9 inch rainfall district in July.

There are spots of rainfall, called islands by meteorologists, found in arid countries that are of very considerable interest. Near the headquarters of the Gila river the annual rainfall is over 20 inches in a district of 10 inches or less. About Fort Stanton, New Mexico is another of these islands; also Pike's Peak, where the rainfall is double that of the surrounding country. Another island is found near the Black Hill.

These rain islands are often found in arid districts at the headquarters of some of our most important rivers and interesting meteorological questions are suggested by this fact. It is evident in this case that the rainfall islands formed the rivers. What is the cause of these islands? The writer believes that the magnetic needle will discover the cause and that a record of the dip and horizontal needles will show marked results in other districts where periodic drouths and excesses of rain occur. If it is magnetic conditions that cause these departures the next thing to discover is the cause that leads to these changes in the magnetic conditions.

In the vicinity of swampy districts occur our greatest rainfalls and a study of this fact may suggest rainfall causes. Notable excesses of rainfall are found near mountain peaks, and why is an interesting question.

He glanced at both parties of vedettes, then in front of him. From that front at that moment there came a horse's neigh. It was answered by a neigh from behind the three on the edge of the wood.

As heretofore stated June is the month of most extensive rainfall and herein is strong evidence in favor of planetary meteorology. Orthodox scientists refuse to look at these points, for, while the physically blind cannot, the mentally blind will not see.

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