

LAFFITTE OF LOUISIANA

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WILSON
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CHAPTER XVIII.
When Laffitte and Greloire were ushered into Napoleon's cabinet, and the former's eyes fell upon him he had for so many years longed to see, his first sensation was that of pain.
The slender form was gone,—lost in the personality of the stout, middle-aged man, who, lounging in a velvet-cushioned chair, looked at Laffitte carelessly—coldly, as at an entire stranger.
His appearance and attitude bore out Greloire's remark,—that it was said the emperor was "strangely indifferent to everything." Every line of the listless face and relaxed form indicated this.
As the ex-soldier approached and bowed low, a faint smile lightened Napoleon's repellent expression, and he said graciously, "Greloire, I am pleased to see you, and to know that you have not forgotten one who thought highly of you in more prosperous days. Who is this you bring with you?"
"Sire, Captain Jean Laffitte, of Louisiana," answered Greloire, after a moment's hesitation; and Laffitte, coming forward, bowed respectfully.
"Jean Laffitte," Napoleon repeated slowly, looking not at the former, but at Greloire. "I have heard the name before, but not to the wearer's credit. I ask you, Greloire," and his voice took a yet icier note—"you, who are his sponsor, why Captain Jean Laffitte, of Louisiana, dare present himself before me?"
"I, Jean Laffitte, will answer your question, Sire; I, Jean Laffitte, of Louisiana! And I say to the man whom my boyish heart adored, and whom my man's heart loves, that I dare present myself to him because I have ships, gold, men, at my command, and all these, with my own life, are his, if he can find use for them."

"Tut, tut, boy," replied Napoleon, with all his old air of affection, and tapping the shoulder upon which one of his hands still rested, "when you have reached my years you will know better than to waste time and thoughts in useless regrets. Let the past go, Jean, my lad, and look only into the future."
The emperor resumed his seat, and resting his hands upon the arms of the chair, stared straight before him, while Laffitte stood looking down at the seated form.
"And may I not do something for you?" urged Laffitte, making a final appeal.
"No—no. Go, you and Greloire; you must leave me, for I feel it unwise that you remain another moment. You can do nothing—nothing, for me. But I am glad to have seen you—both of you; and I thank you, Jean, my valiant ghost from the past, for your offer and your love."
The emperor, as he spoke, leaned forward in his chair; and there was a caress in his smile and tone, as well as in his touch upon Laffitte's hand.
"If ever a time should come, Sire, when I can serve you, may I have the honor and happiness of receiving your commands?" was asked longingly.
"And you would come to me?"
"Come to you?" said Laffitte, in a tone so emphatic that the emperor made a gesture of warning. "Yes, Sire, through all the ships England might seek to intercept."
"If this be so, Jean, then perhaps you may some day hear from me. Meanwhile your adopted country (and I hope I may some time see it) is at war with England, my most implacable enemy; and the conflict may afford you an opportunity for freeing the name of Laffitte from obloquy. And, when this is done, I would ask of you to assume again your rightful name—the one belonging to your fa-

open the packet. Then I must tell you something that has escaped my mind until now."
Breakfast was soon despatched; and, after thanking Madame Teche for her hospitality, her guests took their leave, pursued, until out of hearing, by voluble farewells and urgings to come again.
Murier walked with them to the beach, which they found deserted, with the full tide rolling in over the pebbled sand in a hushed way, as if his mood were depressed.
Laffitte, drawing a scarlet handkerchief from his pocket, waved it above his head; and the master of the fishing-smack replied with a speedy hullo that came faintly across the water.
The fisherman beached his boat near Greloire, who now called to them, and stood waiting as they strolled along to join him.
The captain of the smack was easily induced to land his passengers on the French coast; and they were scarcely under way before the former, asking Greloire to accompany him, went below, to open the package.
It was somewhat bulky, and as his fingers broke the last wrapping, a collection of papers, some of them discolored by years, others evidently of more recent date, fell upon the cabin table. And in their midst shone the dull gold frame of an ivory-painted miniature.
For a second Laffitte stared at this; then, picking it up, he looked intently at the gypsy-like face of the portrait.
"Ah, mon Dieu! How came the emperor by this?" he cried chokingly, the sight of the beautiful face, which Margot had taught him to love as the mother whom he had never known, making the past more real than the present.
Greloire, who was lighting a cigar, said dryly, "Examine the papers, and if they do not tell you, perhaps I can do so."
Laffitte glanced at them hurriedly. They comprised his parents' marriage certificate, and all the other papers, together with the jewels, that had been in the small iron box so many years ago. There were also more recent papers, showing that the property in Languedoc had been released from sequestration, and held in trust by Napoleon, emperor of France, for "Jean, son and heir of the Baron —, and sometimes known as Jean Laffitte, of Louisiana, in North America."
All the documents were there, showing in detail the legal proceedings, instituted and perfected under the Consulate, and confirmed under the Empire.
As the last paper fell from his hand, Laffitte buried his face in his crossed arms amid the heap of precious things upon the table.
All the past was rolling in upon him, a sea of living reality, so distinct and intense that the present appeared dim and vaporous.
What had, but last night, seemed to him legitimate in the light of his every-day world, as he met its events, now looked honor-stained when confronted with the appealing sweetness of the pictured face that had represented to his boyhood all that was best and purest, and the present sight of which had brought so vividly before his mental vision the dimmed face of faithful Margot, and that proud, stately man he had known as father, of whom he could recall no word or act dictated by other than a sense of the highest honor toward his fellows.
And Bonaparte, the idol of his youthful heart, but for so many years doubted and mistrusted,—he had obtained and treasured these proofs of the wayward boy's position as that father's son and heir, while the son himself was risking in alien lands the sacrifice of his rightful name and heritage!
An anguished silence kept him mute; and Greloire, as if understanding this, said nothing.
(To be continued.)



"I, Jean Laffitte, will answer your question, Sire."
that seemed heavy, after the passionate voice had ceased. Then an icy tone made sharp contrast as the emperor said, "These ships, men, and gold, Captain Laffitte—how is it that you come to have them?"
Laffitte found it difficult to control himself—to make his voice and bearing accord with the respect he felt, and had but now expressed, for the man whose sarcastic calm turned back the impetuous torrent of his feelings. But the tone in which he replied was quiet, although husky with repressed emotion.
"Despite, Sire, the tales which have distorted my name and acts, and which I perceive have reached your ears to prejudice you against me, I claim that what I have of property was personally gained by legitimate means—in trading, and also by warfare which was perfectly honorable in its way. I have come with the same heart for those whose love you once cared, to pray that you let me serve you, if I may, and die happy, in winning back the peace of mind a reckless boy threw away."
A new light swept like a softening hand across Napoleon's austere face.
"Captain Laffitte, you are right," he said, with an entire change of voice and manner. He extended his hand; and Laffitte, with a rush of new emotions, bowed deeply, and pressed it to his lips.
As he raised his head, the emperor's fingers tightened their clasp, and he rose to his feet.
"A man whose heart can treasure such love for me during all these many years is surely one who should not be misjudged," he said, looking up into the younger man's face; "most surely not by me, and at such a time as the present."
As he uttered the final words he placed his arms around Laffitte's shoulders and embraced him.
"Sire!"
A volume of emotions spoke in that single word.
"Sire, my whole heart is grateful for these words of confidence and esteem. No one can realize better than myself how grave was the mistake I made; and no man would make greater sacrifices to undo it."
"My father's name and estates, Sire? Surely these are but phantoms of the past, with which I, Jean Laffitte, can have no connection."
The speculative eyes turned a smiling glance upon him as the emperor said, "It is scarcely a safe thing to aver what may or may not lie in the future. You, who seem so desirous of serving me—cannot you promise me this?"
"Indeed, yes, Sire," was the fervent answer as the speaker bent to touch with his lips the hand pressing his own.
"Be it so. Now"—and the clapping hand released its hold—"you must leave me; and be sure to remember my wish that you remain with Murier until you hear from me. Good-night, Greloire. Good-night, Jean."
The gray eyes and dark ones exchanged a last fleeting glance of parting as Laffitte, following Greloire from the room, paused an instant in the doorway to look back.
Laffitte, quartered in one of Madame Teche's dimly-lit chambers, slept little that night. He reviewed again and again the meeting with Napoleon, until his brain was in a turmoil of thought that banished sleep.
If the emperor would go to America, might not he, Laffitte, be the means of getting him there in safety?
It was late when Greloire went to sleep, still half-conscious of the footsteps in the room next to his own; and he awoke to see Laffitte standing by his bedside.
"It is scarcely an hour after sunrise, Greloire, and I regret to disturb you. But a messenger has just left a package with me, together with a written message from the emperor, requesting that you and I leave the island now, as speedily as possible."
"So?" said Greloire, rubbing his eyes. "Then it is best that I leave this comfortable bed. Did you say the emperor sent you a packet?"
"Yes. And when I tore off the outer wrapping, I found upon the inner one his request that I should not examine it until we had left the island. What do you suppose can be the meaning of this?"
"Wait, mon ami; wait until you

GRAIN RATES CUT

BURLINGTON GOES BELOW THE EQUALIZING BASIS.

MEETS RATES TO THE SOUTH

The Evident Intention Appears to Be to Make the Fight So Warm That It Will Speedily Be Brought to Final Determination.
CHICAGO—Charges for carrying corn from Omaha to the Atlantic seaboard reached the lowest figure in the history of the rate war. Late in the afternoon the Burlington announced the following tariff for export: Cents.
Omaha to New York, per 100 lbs. 14½
Omaha to Philadelphia..... 14
Omaha to Baltimore..... 13
Omaha to New Orleans..... 11
Omaha to Chicago..... 8
Omaha to St. Louis..... 5
The Rock Island announced through rates 1½ cents higher than these. When the warfare between the lines leading to the Gulf of Mexico and those leading to the Atlantic seaboard by way of Chicago started the Burlington tariff was 11 cents to Chicago. The through rate was 25½ cents to New York. After the eastern trunk lines had given authority to their western connections to make figures to get the business, the Milwaukee & St. Paul, Great Western, Burlington and Rock Island issued tariffs of 18½ cents to New York from Omaha and 17 cents to Baltimore. The last slash is a full 4 cents and shows the desperate character of the struggle in progress for the traffic of the corn belt. The cut is just twice as deep as had been expected.
On Wednesday the Missouri Pacific reduced its rates from Omaha to New Orleans from 13½ to 11 cents. It was expected that the Chicago lines would cut their figures to the Atlantic seaboard to correspond, but the Burlington not only meets the figure, but goes 1½ cents better.
At the offices of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul it was said that the cut of the Missouri Pacific had not been met. Considerable surprise was expressed when the freight officials were informed of the action of the Burlington. From the outset the freight officials of the Burlington have been opposed to demoralizing rates on account of the attitude of the Missouri Pacific. They believed the trouble would blow over after a few days, but when the other lines made a rate of 18½ cents in connection with the seaboard roads the Burlington followed. The last cut of the Missouri Pacific caused numerous conferences and the reductions announced late in the day showed that the Burlington people were bent on bringing the contest to a close by making it so extremely hot that every one would be willing to drop.

ADDRESS BY CZAR.

Talks to a Large Delegation of Workmen.
ST. PETERSBURG—Personal assurances of his intention to ameliorate the conditions and remove the causes insofar as they are economic which led to the recent strike were delivered by Emperor Nicholas to workmen representing all the leading factories of St. Petersburg, who, at his invitation, journeyed to Tsarkoe Seloe and were received in audience in the hall of the Alexander palace, where he has his winter residence.
This interview, face to face with their "little father," in whom their faith has not been shaken by the events of the bloody Sunday of January 22, has had a far greater and more assuring effect than any number of proclamations by ministers and governor generals and the workmen of St. Petersburg are now generally inclined to accept the promises of Governor General Trepoif and Finance Minister Kekovsovoff at their face value.
The gift of the imperial family of \$25,000 to aid the families and victims of the conflict of January 22 also has had an excellent effect and as the news slowly permeates the laboring classes of Russia it is expected that it will make them content to wait for the promised reforms.
Like a wave caused by the falling of a stone the strike movement, however, is spreading over the great sea of Russian industrial life, and while St. Petersburg and Moscow, where the troubles began, are now placid, the workmen of Poland and other provinces are not yet calm and the ripple has reached to faroff Irkutsk and other Siberian towns.
Following is the czar's address to the delegation who represented the employes of factories and workshops at St. Petersburg:
"I have summoned you in order that you may hear my words from myself and communicate them to your companions. The recent lamentable events with such sad, but inevitable results have occurred because you allowed yourselves to be led astray by traitors and enemies to our country. When they induced you to address a petition to me on your needs they desired to see you revolt against me and my government. They forced you to leave your honest work at a period when all Russian workmen should be laboring unceasingly in order that we might vanquish our obstinate enemy. Strikes and disgraceful demonstrations led the crowds to disorders which obliged, and always will oblige, the authorities to call out troops. As a result innocent people were victims. I know that the lot of the workman is not easy. Many things require improvement, but have patience. You will understand that it is necessary to be just toward your employers and to consider the conditions of our industries. But to come to me as a rebellious mob in order to declare your wants is a crime. In my solicitude for the working classes I will take measures which will assure that everything possible will be done to improve their lot and secure an investigation of their demands through legal channels. I am convinced of the honesty of the workmen and their devotion to myself, and I pardon their transgression. Return to your work with your comrades and carry out the tasks allotted to you. May God assist you."

AN OLD MAN'S TRIBUTE.

An Ohio Fruit Raiser, 78 Years Old, Cured of a Terrible Case After Ten Years of Suffering.
Sidney Justus, fruit dealer, of Mentor, Ohio, says: "I was cured by Donnan's Kidney Pills of a severe case of kidney trouble, of eight or ten years' standing. I suffered the most severe backache and other pains in the region of the kidneys. These were especially severe when stooping to lift anything, and often I could hardly straighten my back. The aching was bad in the daytime, but just as bad at night, and I was always lame in the morning. I was bothered with rheumatic pains and dropsical swelling of the feet. The urinary passages were painful, and the secretions were discolored and so free that often I had to rise at night. I felt tired all day. Half a box served to relieve me, and three boxes effected a permanent cure."
A TRIAL FREE.—Address Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents.
By taking revenge, a man is but even with his enemy, but passing it over, he is superior.—Bacon.
In Winter Use Allen's Foot-Ease.
A powder. Your feet feel uncomfortable, nervous and often cold and damp. If you have sweating, sore feet or tight shoes, try Allen's Foot-Ease. Sold by all druggists and shoe stores, 25 cents. Sample sent free. Address Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.
The American Ankle.
Our transatlantic cousins have certainly cultivated to perfection the art of looking dainty as they cross the street. Somehow they always contrive to look attractive while engaged in this usually unbecoming action.—London World.
Eye Strain in Children.
If one remembers the fact that not more than 10 per cent of all persons have normal eyes and takes into consideration the sensitive organism of the growing child it is not difficult to believe that many children suffer from eye strain.
Millinery Trade Not Popular.
While women are invading nearly all of the employments heretofore belonging to men, milliners, both here and abroad, report a growing difficulty in finding girls willing to devote themselves to the art of making hats.
London Policeman Is Fined.
For unnecessarily striking a man with his club a London policeman has been condemned to pay his victim \$100 and costs of court. The man had resisted arrest violently, but was on the ground when struck.
Adulteration of Liquors.
A New York physician says: "The greater part of the whisky, brandy and beer sold in New York today is chemically prepared and is absolutely unfit for the human stomach."
A FELLOW FEELING.
Why She Felt Lenient Towards the Drunkard.
A great deal depends on the point of view. A good temperance woman was led, in a very peculiar way, to revise her somewhat harsh judgment of the poor devil who cannot resist his cups and she is now the more charitable. She writes:
"For many years I was a great sufferer from asthma. Finally my health got so poor that I found I could not lie down, but walked the floor whilst others slept. I got so nervous I could not rest anywhere.
"Specialists told me I must give up the use of coffee—the main thing that I always thought gave me some relief. I consulted our family physician, and he, being a coffee fiend himself, told me to pay no attention to their advice. Coffee had such a charm for me that in passing a restaurant and getting a whiff of the fragrance I could not resist a cup. I felt very lenient towards the drunkard who could not pass the saloon. Friends often urged me to try Postum, but I turned a deaf ear, saying, 'That may do for people to whom coffee is harmful, but not for me—coffee and I will never part.'
"At last, however, I bought a package of Postum, although I was sure I could not drink it. I prepared it as directed, and served it for breakfast. Well, bitter as I was against it, I must say that never before had I tasted a more delicious cup of coffee! From that day to this (more than two years) I have never had a desire for the old coffee. My health soon returned; the asthma disappeared, I began to sleep well and in a short time I gained 20 pounds in weight.
"One day I handed my physician the tablets he had prescribed for me, telling him I had no use for them. He stayed for dinner. When I passed him his coffee cup he remarked: 'I am glad to see you were sensible enough not to let yourself be persuaded that coffee was harmful. This is the best cup of coffee I ever drank.' He continued; 'the trouble is so few people know how to make good coffee.' When he got his second cup I told him he was drinking Postum. He was incredulous, but I convinced him, and now he uses nothing but Postum in his home and has greatly improved in health." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.
Look in each package for the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville."



SIDNEY JUSTUS.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERS LEGISLATION.

WASHINGTON—The republican members of the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce held a meeting to consider railroad legislation.
HAS HOPE FOR BILL.
Judge Norris Wants Terms of Office Changed.
WASHINGTON—Members of the Nebraska legislature no doubt will read with interest the full text of Congressman Norris' joint resolution to extend the presidential term to eight years, as well as that of senators; to elect senators by direct vote of the people, and to extend the congressional term to four years. This bill is approved by the members of the house committee on elections, by the president and by other congressmen. The measure follows:
"Section 1. President and Vice President—The president and vice president shall be elected for a term of eight years. No person who has held the office of president at any time within one year prior to the selection of electors for president and vice president shall be eligible to that office for the succeeding term.
"Sec. 2. Senators—Senators shall be elected by the people of the several states for a term of eight years. Qualifications to vote for senators shall be same as for members of the house of representatives. One senator from each state shall be elected at a general election held at the same time electors for president and vice president are chosen, and one senator from each state shall be elected at a general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November four years thereafter; Provided, That this amendment shall not be construed as vacating the office of any senator elected prior to its adoption.
"Sec. 3. Members of the House of Representatives—The term of office of members of the house of representatives shall be four years, and they shall be elected at the same general election at which senators are elected."

SOME PRANKS OF LIGHTNING.

Fantastic Tricks Played Upon Unfortunate Victims.
One of the fantastic tricks which lightning plays upon its unfortunate victims is a kind of flashlight photography. There are numerous instances of this which are more or less "authenticated," but they seem almost too wonderful to be believed. One of these is of a young man in New Jersey who was struck by lightning and was taken in an ambulance to the hospital at once. There seemed to be no wound except a small mark on the back, but while the doctors and nurses were examining him a picture began to develop on the skin. Soon before the wondering eyes of the watchers appeared a perfect picture of the figure of Christ nailed to the cross. The explanation is that on the wall opposite the bed on which the young man lay was the picture which was reproduced on his skin.
Another instance is of a man who was struck by lightning, and on his chest were red marks resembling the tree with all its branches under which the man was standing when he was killed. From France comes the story of a peasant girl who was driving a cow from the pasture when she was overtaken by a storm, and she and the cow took refuge under the tree. A bolt killed the cow and stunned the girl. When she recovered consciousness she found on her chest a picture of the cow she had been driving.
The chateau of the castle of Benatonnaire was sitting in a chair in her salon when the chateau was struck by lightning. She was quite uninjured, but on the back of her dress was found a perfect copy of the chair on which she had been sitting, down to its minutest ornament. These are a few of the many strange pranks which lightning plays upon us.

THE CASE OF TOM DENNISON.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The supreme court of the United States affirmed the decision of the supreme court of Nebraska in the extradition proceeding against Thomas Dennison, who is charged with having received stolen goods in Iowa.
H. C. Brome, attorney for the Jewellers' Protective association, and W. J. Connell, attorney for Tom Dennison, were in Washington last week and presented the briefs of the different sides of the extradition case before the supreme court.

POSTAL CONSPIRATORS LOSE.

WASHINGTON—The supreme court of the United States today denied the application of Machen, Lorenz and Groff for a writ of certiorari in the case against them charging conspiracy to defraud the government in connection with the Post-office department irregularities. The effect is to leave standing the decision of the court of appeals of the District of Columbia finding them guilty as charged. Machen, Lorenz and the Groff's were sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

GENERAL MATSUMURA DIES.

LONDON—General Matsumura, according to the Tokyo correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, has died at the front from congestion of the brain. He commanded the operation at Two Hundred and Three-Meter hill and was decorated and promoted for heroism.

NO TALK OF PEACE.

WASHINGTON—The German embassy, upon receipt of a cablegram from the home government, authorized the statement that there had not been even so much as an exchange of ideas between the Berlin and London governments regarding the ending of the war in the far east.

WASHING TON — SENATOR HANSBROUG INTRODUCED IN THE FORM OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE SUNDY CIVIL BILL A MEASURE WHICH IF ADOPTED WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF REPEALING THE DRAWBACK PROVISION OF THE DINGLEY ACT, IN SO FAR AS IT APPLIES TO WHEAT.

A WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE.

ROME—Prince G. Hica of Romania, who has been elected by the Albanian committee as "supreme head for Albanian independence," was interviewed regarding his plans and the purposes of the committee. The prince said his election meant the beginning of a general revolution in Albania and a bitter struggle to achieve the liberty of that country. He said he would in person assume command of the Albanian forces, which he asserted, would be reinforced by 12,000 European volunteers.