

LAFITTE of LOUISIANA

BY MARY DEVEREUX
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WILSON
(Copyright, 1903, by Little, Brown and Company)
(All Rights Reserved)

CHAPTER XX.

The following day, Lafitte, accompanied by Pierre and Nato, made a hasty trip to Shell Island, where he found all as he had left it, and received a hearty welcome from all his followers. But when, early in the afternoon, he returned to Grande Terre, it was to a scene of great excitement.

An English warship—a brig—was to be seen in the offing, and a boat from it, bearing a white flag, was approaching the island.

Lafitte went himself in a boat to meet the stranger, which—as he saw through a glass—held, besides its crew, two officers in the English naval uniform.

The officers introduced themselves as Capt. Lockyer and McWilliams, of His Majesty's navy, bearers of a message from Col. Nicholls, commander of the forces in Florida, to Capt. Jean Lafitte, "Commandant at Barataria."

"I will take the message, gentlemen," said Lafitte, when they had stated their errand, "as it is not quite possible that you will be permitted to land on the island."

At this the officers conferred with each other in low tones; then the one who had introduced himself as Captain Lockyer, and who was the senior of the two, addressed himself to Lafitte.

"We cannot do this. Our orders are to see Capt. Lafitte himself, and to place the message in his hands."

"Very well, gentlemen; be it so," replied Lafitte. "But in that case I must insist, for your own welfare, that you go ashore in my boat, leaving your own to lie off the island."

The Englishmen consented to this, and the boats were brought side by side, so that the officers might board the Baratarian craft.

The outlaws, wondering and excited, and with arms ready for use, stood watching the returning boat, wherein the hated English uniforms showed in

place, and I invite you on the following terms: Your property shall be guaranteed to you, and your persons protected, in return for which I ask you to cease all hostilities against Spain, or the allies of Great Britain; your ships and vessels to be placed under the orders of the commanding officer on this station, until your commander-in-chief's pleasure is known, but I guarantee their value in all events.

"I herewith enclose you a copy of my proclamation to the inhabitants of Louisiana, which will, I think, point out to you the honorable intentions of my government. You may be a useful instrument in forwarding them; therefore, if you determine, lose no time."

"Should any inhabitants be inclined to volunteer their services into His Majesty's forces, either naval or military, for limited service, they will be received; and if any British subject, being at Barataria, wishes to return to his native country, he will, on joining His Majesty's service, receive a free pardon."

When he finished reading, which he had done with a rapidity suggestive of carelessness, Lafitte refolded the papers, placed them in their cover, and slipped the package inside his coat.

Capt. Lockyer was the first to speak. "Now, Capt. Lafitte, what have you to say to us, that we may report to Col. Nicholls?"

He spoke cheerfully and confidently, as if there could be no doubt of Lafitte's ready acquiescence in the proposal.

"Do these papers cover the entire matter?" demanded Lafitte, ignoring the question.

"Not altogether," began Capt. McWilliams; then he paused and looked at Lockyer, as if preferring that the latter should explain.

This he did by enlarging upon the manifest and great advantages to result for the "Barataria commandant" and his followers by acceding to the

under such circumstances?" he demanded, adding, before they could answer him, "I do; and I warn you that what you propose doing would be equivalent to unchaining the demons of hell."

The Englishmen looked uncomfortable; but Lockyer muttered something about "the fortunes of war," and McWilliams said: "But the cruelty of the negroes can add little, after all, to the punishment it has been decided to inflict upon New Orleans. The city is to be given over to fire and pillage."

This announcement, made with something of a dramatic air, did not seem to make the expected impression upon Lafitte; for he passed it by, and said, somewhat impatiently, and with unmistakable decision, "I repeat that I cannot answer you before morning; and such being the case, I must request that you remain here over night."

The two officers had risen, and now stood before him, their faces showing mingled consternation and anger.

"Are we to understand, sir, that this is your decision?" demanded Capt. Lockyer excitedly.

"You are, unless you see fit to give up all further negotiations with me. In case you accept what I suggest," answered Lafitte, "you will send an order for your crew to return to the brig, and to come for you at noon tomorrow."

The tone of quiet authority accompanying the words appeared to leave no alternative for the British officers, who could only nod their assent, evidently deeming it more diplomatic to check the anger showing in their faces.

Lafitte smiled, and moved toward the door.

"Now I must leave you; but I will place you in the care of Scipio, a faithful old servant, who will attend to your comfort."

They bowed stiffly, and he went out, closing the door after him; and the officers heard him lock it, and remove the key.

Scipio soon appeared with a lighted lamp. This he placed upon the table, and, taking notice of those present, proceeded to work, with the result that, in a few minutes, a cheery fire was blazing. And, as the Englishmen drew their chairs to the hearth, the old negro closed and barred the heavy shutters, besides placing for the night an iron bar across the already locked door.

"We seem to be prisoners, rather than guests," remarked Capt. McWilliams, in a tone too guarded for his words to reach the partially deaf ears of Scipio, who was busy at the table.

"It is a cheap price to pay, after all, if it results in bringing him over to us," said Lockyer, in the same low tone. "Those hands of his, and his manner—the whole 'cut of his jib'—suggest the idea of his being quite able to hand a lady her fan with the grace of a courtier; but they also suggest to me, at least, his ability to clutch an enemy by the throat and hurl him over a cliff, or make him walk the plank."

(To be continued.)

GOLD IN THE EAST.

Immense Amount of Precious Metal Waiting for the Miner.

"I believe that from Halifax to Tennessee, in a line winding around through Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas, there is going to be a rehabilitation of gold mining," said Col. A. B. Russ, of Montgomery county, Md., at the National last week, says the Washington Post. "When the miners went West in 1849 they left this very field I am speaking of, and after that field was explored they came back to a richer field in Colorado, which they had entirely overlooked. After a time they went to Alaska, and just a short time ago rich fields were found in Nevada, from which millions have been extracted. But it seems to be little known that right around this neighborhood of Maryland and Virginia there are rich deposits of the precious metal. I think it would surprise many people to know that not long ago in my county some gold was assayed that yielded \$236 to the ton, while the average was \$8 to \$10. In another place there \$2,000 was dug up in one day, and all this by entirely crude methods. It runs through a vein of quartz some eighty feet down. Near Great Falls seven veins have been opened from three to twenty feet wide. Six Colorado mining capitalists a day or two ago bought 600 acres of land in that locality for the very purpose of exploring this. It is not confined to that locality, either. I have driven in my buggy 600 miles from Maryland down through the Carolinas and have found many places where the same conditions prevail. In South Carolina there are mountains of iron ore that have never been touched. I tell you the mineral resources of the eastern South are unknown."

Berlin at Night.

Berlin is at its best at night, says a traveler. They have discovered the secret of electric lighting, and when people step out from their offices and shops at eight and nine o'clock at night, it is into an enchanted city. The solid palaces, the monstrous statues, the enormous houses and wide spaces of the long and stately streets, are then soft and gracious with a fairy radiance. It is a city not only of prosperity, but of pure delight. The heaviness of the buildings and the rigidity of their lines are blurred and softened. In the clear northern air the million lamps blazing from the walls of houses, shining across the interminable streets, and glowing in a straight line down the whispering avenues, have something of the magic gentleness and sensuous inspiration of an Arabian story. You begin to think Berlin is the greatest city in the world.—Montreal Herald.

LEGISLATURE of NEBRASKA

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

SENATE—These bills were read a third time and passed in the senate on the 14th: S. F. 64, allowing any one, whether an officer or not, to seize a seine or net being used illegally. S. F. 79, to provide that inebriates and those addicted to the "dope" habit be confined in the asylum for treatment. 40, providing a penalty for overworking a horse or mule and for unnecessarily tormenting any other animal. S. F. 41, providing that corporations shall act as guardians, trustees, etc. This bill was objected to yesterday because it was argued that it would place all of the probate business of the state in the hands of foreign corporations, but today there was no objection to it. A large number of bills were reported for general file and many recommended for passage.

HOUSE—The house, on the 14th, took up bills on third reading and passed: To give to cities and villages the right to foreclose tax sale certificates immediately after their purchase and to provide rates of interest in such tax sale certificates. Providing for a state accountant at a salary of \$2,000 a year. Giving to restaurant and boarding house keepers the same legal protection against fraud as is accorded hotel and inn keepers. Providing for the payment of the entire county road tax in cash. To make the penalty for breaking and entering apply to buildings of all characters. Providing for construction of plank, brick, stone and concrete sidewalks in cities under 50,000 population. Making the open season for deer and antelope August 15 to November 15; for prairie chickens, sage and grouse, September 1 to November 30; ducks and other wild water fowl, September 1 to April 15; jacksnipe and yellow legs, September 1 to May 1; wild pigeons, doves and plover, June 15 to August 1; trout, April 1 to October 1; other fish, April 1 to November 15; prohibiting killing of quail during 1905-6-7 and fixing open season on them after 1907 from November 1 to November 30; limiting number of geese or brant to be killed per day by a single hunter to ten; game birds twenty-five and prairie chickens ten during the month of September. The bill imposes a fine of \$5 a bird or sentences of ten days for each for all birds killed in excess of the legal number. Providing that the proceeds of inheritance tax shall be used for the construction of permanent roads and go into the road fund. Vesting in the State Banking Board discretionary power as to the integrity and responsibility of persons applying for banking charters. Appropriating the \$15,000 balance from the World's Fair state fund to enable Nebraska to participate in the Lewis and Clark exposition in Portland, Ore., and providing for the appointment by the governor of a board of commissioners to carry out the provisions of this act. A call of the house was necessary to secure the two-thirds for an emergency clause.

SENATE—The Shreek fraternal bill, providing for an elected membership of 95 per cent to control the affairs of lodges, was killed in the committee of the whole in the senate on the 15th. House roll No. 20 was recommended for passage; giving the fraternal societies the right to incorporate. All the orders were included and senate files Nos. 10 and 12 were indefinitely postponed. House roll No. 102, by Ward, to give \$2,000 to the South Bend hatcheries was recommended for passage. House roll No. 146 was recommended for general file. The bill regulates the speed of motor cars. Senate file No. 169, the Shreek drainage bill, was recommended for general file. House roll No. 128, by Rouse, regulating the payment of hotel bills and providing a penalty for neglect thereof was read for the first time in the senate. Senate file No. 7, by Sheldon, was passed without the emergency clause. The bill provides a 1 mill levy to pay the state debt. Senate file No. 21, by Vore, to regulate the passage of traction engines over bridges was recommended to the committee. Senator Giffin's reapportionment bill was recommended.

HOUSE—When the house met on the 15th Jones of Polk called up his resolution calling for an investigation of the action of the state board of public lands and buildings for having used, to build cottages at the Norfolk asylum, \$100,000 that was appropriated two years ago to rebuild the west wing of the asylum, which had been destroyed by fire. A motion to table the resolution was defeated. House roll No. 133, by Jonvenat, to provide a guaranty deposit fund on interest-bearing deposits, in state banks, by an annual tax of one-fifth of 1 per cent on deposits, to be paid by the banks, was defeated by its introducer and opposed by Howe of Nemaha, Ferrar of Hall, Wilson of Pawnee and other members. The bill was recommended for indefinite postponement. These bills were introduced: To permit state officers, in case of emergency, to purchase stationery costing less than \$25 without intervention of the state printing board. To redistrict Nebraska into senatorial and representative districts. To amend chapter 43 of the Compiled Statutes of the state of Nebraska of 1903, by adding a

new section. To prohibit the stealing of, or attempting to steal, rides on trains, engines or cars, or any part or portion thereof, or climbing thereupon while stationary or in motion, and to provide a penalty and punishment not exceeding sixty days in jail and \$25 fine. Authorizing county boards to acquire title to land to be used for public road purposes. To amend sections 5 and 45, chapter 28, of the Compiled Statutes of Nebraska for the year 1903, relating to the fees of sheriffs, and other county officials. Fixing the salaries of sheriffs and the manner of appointing and paying their deputies. To fix the minimum number of trains and regulate the running time on railroads in the state of Nebraska.

SENATE—The senate got busy on engrossed bills on the morning of the 16th and passed these measures: S. F. 107, transferring \$2,646.15 from the penitentiary special labor fund to the general fund. S. F. 104, allowing county courts to dispense with administration of estates and to enter decrees in certain cases. S. F. 123, providing when a husband or wife is competent to testify for or against each other. S. F. 113, to prevent the illegal expenditure of public funds. S. F. 123, to repeal the statute providing for the appointment of county attorneys. S. F. 106, to transfer \$6,939.45 from the inheritance tax fund to the general fund of the state. S. F. 129, to provide for suspended sentences in cases of wife desertion. S. F. 86, district clerk fee bill. S. F. 116, providing for the payment of road taxes in cash or labor. A motion by Sheldon of Cass was adopted to not consider H. R. 49, providing for the establishment of a binding twine factory at the state penitentiary until the appropriation bills had all been considered.

HOUSE—In the house on the 16th H. R. 20, by Richardson of Madison, appropriating \$35,000 for general repairs at the Norfolk Insane asylum, including the rebuilding of the old wing, was favorably acted on, despite the protest of Jones of Polk, who wanted the bill to lay over until the investigation committee appointed under his resolution yesterday reported. H. R. 62, by Ernest of Johnson, provoked much discussion, being an appropriation bill. It provided \$10,000 for an agricultural pavilion at the State fair. It was recommended for passage. H. R. 110, Junkin's anti-trust bill, was amended so as to have suits brought under this act for its enforcement in the state and not county courts. The bill has been recommended for passage. H. R. 195, by Rouse of Hall, requiring saloonkeepers to give guaranty bonds of \$5,000, was recommended for passage, but Horton moved to except it from the committee's report and have the bill recommended for indefinite postponement. Burns moved to except H. R. 169, his bill to allow university regents to condemn land for university purposes, which had been reported for indefinite postponement, and recommended it for passage. S. F. 198, by Epperson of Clay and Meserve of Knox—To establish a State Engineers' Examining board. S. F. 199, by Gilligan of Holt—To amend an act to regulate the purchase of supplies and to create a Board of Control therefor. The Board is composed of the members of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings and is authorized to purchase supplies in wholesale quantities. S. F. 200, by Cady, by request—To allow the state board to grant certificates to osteopaths when latter have diploma from a school of osteopathy.

SENATE—On the 17th S. F. 60, increasing the salary of the game warden and fish commissioner, was passed. Standing committees reported as follows, for the general file: S. F. 181, allowing a township, road district or precinct to vote a tax of 25 mills for the improvement of public roads. S. F. 51, making state warrants draw 4 per cent interest; school district warrants, 5 per cent; warrants of townships or sub-divisions less than a county to draw 7 per cent interest. S. F. 50, 51, 52 and 53, bills to amend the present decedent law. H. R. 52, legalizing the use of voting machines. H. R. 29, to pay to former Attorney General Prout \$240 which he paid for a bond. H. R. 98, to provide jury trials in justice courts. H. R. 97, to provide for a change of venue where cases are to be tried in justice courts. H. R. 100, to provide for payment of cost in changes of venue from one justice court to another. H. R. 99, to fix fees for jurors in cases tried in justice courts. Among new bills were the following: Establishing a standard for state printing. To label penitentiary made goods and to regulate the sale thereof. A judicial apportionment bill, recently printed herewith. To make justice of the peace outside of towns overseers for the poor and to compel county boards to employ physicians for country districts, to be paid not more than \$200 yearly. To authorize the leasing of the home for the friendless when vacated. To fix the salaries of deputies to state officers at \$1,800. The present law provides that the deputy secretary of state and deputy state superintendent shall each receive \$1,500 a year. Each is now getting \$1,700.

HOUSE—On the 17th H. R. 111, by Copey of Custer, providing for the distribution of the temporary school fund on the basis of the number of school districts instead of population, was indefinitely postponed. Jackson of Antelope made a strong plea for the bill, urging that it was needed in the western part of the state, where the sparsely settled communities did not get their just share of this fund. One item of business was to hear and act on committee reports on forty bills. The general file, containing forty-three bills, was entirely cleaned up. All the bills which sifted through the strainer of the committees go directly to the general file. Casebeer of Gage won his fight to compel members to sign applications for supplies before receiving any at the first of each session. The bill provides that at the end of each session the State Board of Public Lands and Buildings shall invoice legislative property left over and hold it for the next session, and that no member shall be supplied until he shall have made written application on regular blanks furnished for that purpose. McClay's bill, appropriating \$10,000 to re-emburse T. P. Kennard, was recommended for passage. The bill says M. Kennard, as secretary of state under Governor Furnas, expended out of his own pocket \$10,000 in the prosecution of claims on the sale of Indian lands. He was to receive 50 per cent of the money thus collected. The house revenue committee reported for indefinite postponement the fusion caucus revenue bill and the report was confirmed by the house. The bill was rather voluminous and made sweeping changes in the present revenue law.

Senatorial Districts.

The apportionment bill introduced by Giffin of Dawson was amended by the steering committee as follows and placed on general file, on the 13th. Following are the senatorial districts as arranged by the measure:

District No. 1 shall consist of the counties of Richardson and Pawnee and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 2 shall consist of the counties of Johnson, Otoe, Cass and Nemaha and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 3 shall consist of the counties of Saunders and Sarpy and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 4 shall consist of the county of Douglas and be entitled to four senators.

District No. 5 shall consist of the counties of Cuming and Burt and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 6 shall consist of the counties of Thurston, Dakota, Dixon and Wayne and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 7 shall consist of the counties of Pierce, Madison and Stanton and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 8 shall consist of the counties of Cedar, Knox and Boyd and shall be entitled to one senator.

District No. 9 shall consist of the counties of Holt, Wheeler, Garfield and Antelope and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 10 shall consist of the counties of Boone, Merrick and Nance and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 11 shall consist of the counties of Dodge and Washington and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 12 shall consist of the counties of Platte and Colfax and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 13 shall consist of the counties of Hall, Howard and Greeley and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 14 shall consist of the counties of Polk and York and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 15 shall consist of the counties of Butler and Seward and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 16 shall consist of the county of Lancaster and be entitled to two senators.

District No. 17 shall consist of the county of Gage and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 18 shall consist of the counties of Saline and Fillmore and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 19 shall consist of the counties of Jefferson and Thayer and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 20 shall consist of the counties of Hamilton and Clay and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 21 shall consist of the counties of Adams and Kearney and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 22 shall consist of the counties of Franklin, Webster and Nuckolls and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 23 shall consist of the counties of Phelps, Harlan, Gosper and Furnas and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 24 shall consist of the counties of Frontier, Red Willow, Hitchcock, Hayes, Chase and Dundy and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 25 shall consist of the counties of Buffalo and Dawson and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 26 shall consist of the counties of Sherman, Valley, Custer, Loup and Blaine and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 27 shall consist of the counties of Rock, Brown, Keya Paha, Cherry, Sheridan, Box Butte, Dawes and Sioux and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 28 shall consist of the counties of Lincoln, Perkins, Keith, Deuel, Cheyenne, Kimball, Banner, Scott's Bluffs, McPherson, Logan, Grant, Hooker and Thomas and be entitled to one senator.

Force of Dynamite.

Dynamite explodes so rapidly that its force is exerted in the direction from which the greatest pressure comes. That is, if the dynamite be placed on the ground, the explosive force is down; if it be hung against a wall its force attacks the wall; if it be hung under an object its force is upward.

Cost of Capital Punishment.

France was on the verge of abolishing capital punishment because of the expense. Yet the salaries of the executioner and his assistants amount to only \$2,800 a year, with fees of \$4 for each execution outside of Paris, and it cost \$300 a year to "stabilize" the guillotine.

London Births.

The average of births in London is 11,000 a month. It is computed that a single month's births of male babies would nearly suffice to replace the men lost by England on the Boer battlefields.



"Are we to understand, sir, that this is your decision?"

seeming friendliness with their own fellows and leader. But when Lafitte stepped ashore, he bade them disperse, and motioned his guests to precede him up the pathway leading from the beach.

They lost no time in doing this, scrutinized keenly by the resentful and still puzzled outlaws, who, when the scarlet uniforms disappeared inside the fort with Lafitte, began muttering among themselves as to the meaning of this strange proceeding.

Lafitte, going to a buffet at one end of the room, took from it several cut-glass decanters and glasses, which, together with a large silver box filled with cigars, he placed upon the table.

"Permit me to offer you a glass of wine, or brandy, gentlemen," he said. "Then you may proceed to talk, for I am at your service. I am Jean Lafitte, the 'commandant'—if such I may be called—at Barataria."

Both officers stared at him in undisguised amazement. Then they again looked at one another, but now as if for mutual comfort, while they began to mumble confused apologies.

"Proceed," Lafitte repeated, paying no heed to their discomfiture. "What do you want with me—what can any English colonel have to say to Jean Lafitte of Louisiana that Jean Lafitte can care to hear?"

Leaning back in his chair, he folded his arms, and looked steadily at the two men.

Capt. Lockyer rose, and drawing from the pocket of his coat a sealed package, laid it upon the table, near where Lafitte's arm was resting.

"There," said Capt. Lockyer, resuming his seat, "is a most important communication, entrusted to us by Col. Nicholls, for conveyance to your hands. We have orders to await your answer."

The paper ran as follows: "I have arrived in the Floridas for the purpose of annoying the only enemy Great Britain has in the world, as France and England are now friends. I call on you, with your brave followers, to enter into the service of Great Britain, in which you shall have the grade of a captain; lands will be given to you all, in proportion to your respective ranks, on peace taking

proposition, entering the service of His Britannic Majesty, and placing all their vessels under the control of the English. He added, with much impressiveness, that, besides the rank of captain in the British navy, he was authorized to promise Lafitte the sum of thirty thousand dollars in gold.

Lafitte, instead of replying, walked to the fireplace, and standing beneath the pictured face of his idol, Napoleon, whose eyes seemed to be regarding the group with cold intelligence, looked down at the two seated men. His hands were clasped behind him, and his eyes held a glitter that was menacing.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I agree with you in saying that the matter is a most important one, for me, as well as for yourselves—so important to me that I cannot decide it as speedily as you seem to expect, but must have a few hours in which to give it proper consideration."

Both officers looked annoyed, and Capt. McWilliams expostulated.

"How can you possibly need to reflect upon a proposal promising so much for you in the way of wealth and position, as against an enemy who has proscribed you, and branded you with infamy? It is very important that we lose no time in pushing the operations already planned against lower Louisiana. We must act at once; and as soon as we obtain possession here, our army will penetrate into the upper country, to make a junction with our forces from Canada."

"It would appear," said Lafitte, as he threw the remnant of his cigar into the fireplace and took another from the box, "that you count upon no possible failure in your plans."

"Failure!" repeated Capt. Lockyer, his face glowing with confidence. "Indeed, no. Our plan of campaign is perfected, and we are certain of success. Regarding our chances, I will tell you that we expect excellent results from an insurrection of the slaves, to whom we shall offer freedom as the reward for aiding Great Britain."

The cold indifference of Lafitte's face turned to sudden sternness.

"Do you know anything of the negro nature, and how it would show itself