LAFITTE of LOUISIANA

BY MARY DEVEREUX

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CHAPTER XI.

Soon after midnight, with a south-west-west wind that was all the "Black Petrel" could desire for a speedy filling of her sails, the ship started northward, to a safe retreat—the island known to Laro and his followers as the "Barra de Hierro."

The day was coming, gray and heavy looking, with a misty cloud bank in the east promising fog later on. Overhead, the pale dawn was extinguishing the stars above the sea that stretched, a dull green floor, in every direction.

Lafitte, asleep in his cabin, was aroused by a knocking upon the door; and, to his instant query, Garonne's voice replied, with a suggestion of satisfaction in its gruff tone, "She is after us, sir, sure enough."

"Where away?" demand Lafitte, when he had admitted the mate, and was making himself ready to go on deck. Laro was already there, for he could be heard shouting to his men.

"Heap up the shot, Lopez!" he roared. "Heap them knee-high, I say; for that cursed Britisher shall swallow them by the wholesale if she comes meddling here!"

"Where away, I say?" Lafitte repeated, with a note of sternness, as Garonne, instead of answering, had paused in the doorway, and was looking intently over his shoulder at something in the main cabin.

"Three points on the starboard bow, sir," the mate now hastened to say, with an apologetic gesture. "She is not yet to be made out clearly; but the lookout reports her as very like the man-of-war we left in Fort Royal last night."

When Lafitte came from his room he found Garonne, who had left him a few minutes before, still standing in the outer cabin, and looking around keenly, as if something were amiss.

Lafitte questioned him, and he replied that when entering the former's cabin he had seen the Indian, Ehewah, glide from that of Laro, and disappear hastily, as though not wishing to be observed.

Lafitte laughed lightly.

"If he was in there while you were knocking at my door, Garonne, he would scarcely, unless he has suddenly become deaf, fail to realize that he would surely be seen coming out. What cause for suspicion can lie in his coming here? You know well that he is in the habit of doing so, and that Captain Laro permits it."

Garonne growled something under his breath—doubtless, profanity; but this was suppressed, as Lafitte seldom failed to emphasize his disapproval of such language in his presence.

"Have you a positive reason for suspecting anything wrong from Ehewah's being here now?" he demanded sternly.

"Only that he has not been coming about here of late," said Garonne sullkily.

"Has he been forbidden to do so?" was Lafitte's next question, and Garonne admitted that he had not.

Then Lafitte, dismissing the subject, went above, followed by the mate, who, as the former had long known, was about the only man among his followers who had, in secret, but little liking for him.

The sun had lifted above the horizon, but its rays were dulled by the low-lying cloudiness stretching away across the zenith from end to end, as would a gray wall. To the southward the sky was clear, and defined against it like a phantom ship that seemed to be sailing toward the "Black Petrel" was a large craft, which, growing more and more distinct, appeared to have fresher wind than that now partially filling the brigantine's sails.

Laro, standing beside Lafitte, as they both watched her, muttered a curse.

"She is getting the benefit of what we have had and left, in the way of breeze. But we'll trust the devil to fool her hereabouts, and help us to better wind farther along, although I am of half a mind to let her catch us, if that be her intention, and then, if she tarries to ask impertinent questions, give her a good dose of iron."

"Better keep awake and mind our own matters, unless she has the wish, and gets the chance, to interfere with us" replied Lafitte, moodily.

Garonne growled something under his breath.

But Laro remained silent, his eyes fixed upon the deck

"What is this dream which seems to have affected you so powerfully?" presently inquired Lafitte, thinking that perhaps it might be better to humor Laro than to show disrespect for his peculiar mood.

The broad brown hand went again to rest upon Lafitte's shoulder, and Laro looked off over the sea with eyes which seemed for the moment to have lost all interest in the approaching vessel.

"It was this, my lad: I sat at a table heaped with fruits and wines, and about me was such as makes the heart of man glad to be alive. But suddenly there came a flash of lightning, with an awful peal of thunder, and, looking out upon a portico near me, I saw a form clad like an Indian warrior riding a horse black as the gates of hell. Straight up the steps of the portico the steed galloped, and into the room, where it circled around the table, until the warrior drew his bow and let fly an arrow that struck my glass, and sent the wine, blood-red, pouring over me and my guests in a stream which grew, and grew, until it was a red river flowing over the table, and washing it away, and I awoke, shivering, to see Ehewah standing by my bunk, telling me that a craft was in sight which looked like the Englishman."

Laro's hearing so changed and softened, no less than the dream he had related made Lafitte feel at a loss what to say. He could not deny that the recital had affected him strangely, seeming to bring him into closer touch with Laro as the latter added, "I have always known that to dream of this Indian and his black horse means death to one of my family."

The pressure of his hand grew heavier upon Lafitte's shoulder, and he raised his eyes, now filled with a softer expression than the young man had ever seen them hold.

"Jean, my lad, if anything happens to me, you will always take care of Lezalle" Even though you have no love to give the girl, you will let no harm come to her?"

The sound of her name brought Lafitte to his proper senses, and the perplexed look vanished from his face as he exclaimed, "Mon dieu, Laro—what nonsense are you talking? You, to be so upset by a mere dream! Even all thought of it, and give your mind to more important matters, for if we are to reach the Barra de Hierro this night we must put aside such unsubstantial things as dreams, and keep a lookout for the Englishman."

The stranger was surely drawing nearer, and the past twenty minutes had brought her close enough to be made out distinctly. She was, beyond doubt, a man-of-war, and presumably the same that had been the brigantine's neighbor in Fort Royal harbor.

"Have you the gun in prime order, Lopez?" asked Lafitte, who now came and stood beside the old gunner. "Ah, that you have, I see," he added with a smile, after glancing at it, now divested of its tarpaulin covering, "and I look to you for its proper handling, should occasion arise."

Lopez, who stood with his assistants clustered around him, replied with a grin, "Never you fear, my captain, but that the gun and myself will give a proper account of ourselves."

There now came a shout from aloft, the lookout announcing that the approaching vessel was the Englishman, and that she seemed to be preparing for action.

"Curse the wind—why won't it hold with us?" muttered Garonne, standing near the group about the gun, and Lafitte noted the gleam of hatred that, for the second, made Ehewah's face fiendish as he glanced at the speaker.

"Wind or no wind," returned Lopez, in a growl, "we are taking our own course, and if yonder gentleman trouble us, their own fault it will be if burnt fingers they get for meddling."

"Stand by to take in the stun-sails!" the voice of Laro broke in. The captain seemed to have recovered fully from his recent agitation, and to have forgotten the dream that inspire it.

"Lively, you dogs!" he shouted. "Lively, there, and if that craft wants to overhaul us, let her make the trial."

The "Black Petrel" now changed her course, and the other vessel did the same, this indicating that she intended to give chase, but the brigantine was by far the better sailer, and, had Laro chosen to run southward, he might have escaped.

This, however, would have carried the "Black Petrel" away from her proposed destination, a thing that Lafitte, no less than Laro, scorned to permit, especially as the pursuer was of a nation hated by both of them. They were therefore of one mind in the determination not to submit to personal inconvenience on account of the Englishman.

The latter drew still closer as the day wore on, when a little after noon, the fog bank, which had been promised at sunrise, rolled in over the sea, enveloping pursuer and pursued as in the folds of a heavy blanket.

Lafitte was for keeping straight to their course, but Laro, with sulky persistence, claimed that their better plan would be to anchor. He knew that early the next morning—should the fog lift by sunset—he could reckon upon reaching the channel flowing inward to the Barra de Hierro, and, although its bars and reefs, while familiar to himself and his men, guarded a course the stranger could not follow in safety, he did not care to risk pointing out the way to his island retreat.

(To be continued.)

Germany Has a Perfect System for the Collection of Debts.

Writing from Bamberg, Consul W. Bardel calls attention to a German way of doing things.

"The most influential and most important credit agency," he says, "is an association called the Verein Creditreform. This association is composed of the best element of bankers, manufacturers, merchants and tradespeople in over 400 cities in Germany, 175 in Austria-Hungary, 75 in the Netherlands and with branches in every large city of Europe. While these work entirely independent each in its own district, they exchange their experiences in a systematic and business way.

"The object is to look after delinquent debtors, to inquire carefully into the solidity of business houses and to give verbal or written reports on their standing. A responsible secretary is constantly in charge of each office. His pay depends upon the amount of fees paid by the members. The associations issue cards of introduction for the use of traveling salesmen which enable them to obtain fairly correct reports on the trade they have to visit in any place, no matter how remote from home."

Finger Bowl Unnecessary.

"So you had a good time in the city, Hiram?"

"Oh, bang up, Martha. Why, cousin took me out to dinner and it was great."

"I hope you knew how to conduct yourself properly, Hiram!"

"Oh, yes; but at the tail end of the dinner the waiter brought me a glass bowl full of water."

"Of course, Hiram!"

"But, Martha, I had drunk so much by that time that I couldn't drink a mouthful more!"—Yonkers Statesman.

That One Was Enough.

They had been married six long months and the honeymoon had evidently disappeared for keeps.

"I've only had one wish ungratified since our wedding day," she said.

"And what is that?" he asked in a tone redolent with indifference.

"That I were single again," she replied.

The Soft Impeachment.

Widow—Do you know that my daughter has set eyes upon you?

Gentleman (flattered)—Has she, really?

Widow—Certainly; only to-day she was saying "That's the sort of a gentleman I should like for my papa."

Illinois Legislature

HOUSE COMMITTEES.

Although Speaker Shurtleff probably will not name the remaining house committees until Friday or Tuesday of next week, the names of members selected for the chairmanships of the important committees were divulged Tuesday night. The list of chairmanships, including those already appointed, is as follows:

Appropriations—William E. Trautman, St. Clair county.

Chicago charter—Robert E. Pendarvis, Cook.

Primary elections—Lewis Rinaker, Cook.

Civil service—Dr. Aaron Norden, Cook.

Corporations — Frederick Haines, Winhebago.

Municipal corporations—Chester W. Church, Cook.

Judiciary—John B. Castle, De Kalb.

Judicial department and practice—Herman H. Breidt, Cook.

License—Nicholas J. Nagel, Cook.

Revenue—Wilfred Arnold, Knox.

Warehouses — Sam E. Erickson, Cook.

Live stock and dairying—Charles T. Cherry, Kendall.

Industrial and labor affairs—Samuel J. Drew, Will.

Military affairs—Josiah Kerrick, Woodford.

Insurance — Robert E. Babrick, Wayne.

Banks and banking—Horace Russell, Iroquois.

Education—Cicero J. Lindly, Bond.

Contingent expenses—Julius Rodman, Piatt.

Elections—John Daily, Peoria.

Enrolled and engrossed bills—Enoch H. Petersen, La Salle.

Rules—Edward D. Shurtleff, McHenry.

Good roads—Lawrence Magill, Rock Island.

Joint rules—Frank R. Covey, Boone.

Joint committee on enrolled and engrossed bills—John D. G. Oglesby, Logan.

Standard Oil Inquiry.

The lower house of the Illinois legislature Tuesday took steps to define the rights of the Standard Oil company within the state. A joint resolution offered by John P. McGoorty (Dem., Cook) was adopted without a dissenting vote, providing for the appointment of a joint committee of the house and senate to investigate the laying of a pipe line across the state, now being done by the Standard Oil company, and to confer with the state officials of Kansas and agree on steps to be taken toward declaring such lines to be common carriers.

Not to be outdone by the Democratic members, Representative Charles Allen of Vermilion county also introduced an off resolution, and secured the recognition of the speaker. This was declared adopted on a viva voce vote.

The resolution, after referring to the conditions in Kansas and designating the Standard Oil company as a "merciless octopus, whose tentacles now encircle every state in the Union," directs that $100,000 be loaned to Kansas, without interest until January, 1911, to be used in assisting to establish a system of refineries.

Change in County Tax Law.

Representative Allen introduced a bill authorizing counties to issue bonds to pay debts whenever the total of their indebtedness and appropriations for expenses exceeds 75 cents on the $100. It is provided the question of a bond issue may be submitted at a special election.

Bribery of Labor Officials.

Representative Sheen introduced a bill to prevent the bribing of labor union officials in strikes. It is provided that to offer any inducement to any representative or member of a union in connection with the settling of labor troubles is to be regarded as bribery.

Raises Age of Consent.

The senate passed Senator Juul's measure raising the age of consent from 14 to 16 years. This bill is backed by the Illinois Federation of Woman's clubs. The original bill raised the age to 18 years, but in committee it was cut to 16 years.

Jury Commissioner Bill.

Mr. Werdell of Cook introduced a bill amending the law regarding the appointment of jury commissioners and their duties by making their term of office four years and providing a new manner of drawing names of grand jurors.

Wants to End Stock Tax.

A bill by Mr. Olson exempts from taxation the capital stock of companies organized for purely manufacturing purposes, for the mining and sale of coal, or for the printing or publication of newspapers, or for the improvement and breeding of stock. The bill is backed by the Illinois Manufacturers' association.

To Adjourn March 29.

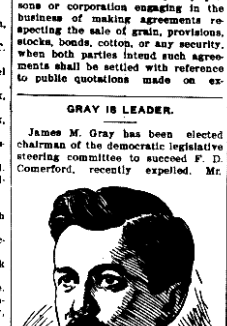
It can be stated on the best of authority that the legislature will adjourn on March 29. It is believed this will give time to rush through what is known as the "orthodox" measures. No attention will be paid to any other bills until these receive the governor's signature. Other measures slated for passage are Norden's civil service bill, direct primary and the municipal court bills. These will be rushed. The Anti-Saloon League will accept the senate bill and make every effort to have it passed without change.

Blow at the Bucket Shops.

The bucketshop bill introduced by Williams of Cook defines a bucketshop as an office maintained by any persons or corporation engaging in the business of making agreements respecting the sale of grain, provisions, stocks, bonds, cotton, or any security, when both parties intend such agreements shall be settled with reference to public quotations made on exchanges where these commodities are dealt in, and without a bona fide transaction, and shall intend the agreements shall close when the quotations reach a certain figure.

GRAY IS LEADER.

James M. Gray has been elected chairman of the democratic legislative steering committee to succeed F. D. Comerford, recently expelled. Mr.



JAMES M. GRAY

Gray is one of the most popular men on the democratic side and was a candidate before the democratic caucus at the beginning of the session for minority leader.

Gaumer to Retain Seat.

Clay F. Gaumer, the Prohibitionist member of the House from the Twenty-second (Vermilion) district, will retain his seat. Counsel for R. McKinley (Democrat), who has been contesting the seat of Mr. Gaumer, formally abandoned the contest after a recount of the ballots cast. The returns showed Mr. Gaumer to have received a plurality of 207 votes.

Primary and Civil Service.

It is predicted the senate will pass the primary bill as soon as it hurdles the house. Opinion is united that the Norden civil service bill applying only to state charitable institutions will be passed by both houses without opposition, but this is all the civil service reformers need expect of this session.

Wants Red Kerosene.

Red as the distinguishing color for kerosene is required in a bill introduced in the house by Representative Sheen of Peoria. This coloring of kerosene is designed to prevent accidents by the mistaken use of gasoline, naphtha and other highly inflammable and explosive fluids for kerosene.

Gamblers' Agent Not Liable.

Mr. Williams of Cook introduced an amendment to the gambling law providing an agent who executes the order of his employer shall not be liable if the loser in a gambling game sues to recover for the amount lost. This applies also to bucket shops.

Aims to Stop Quotations.

Representative Ferris had a bill against the sending of stock quotations into the state by nonresident corporations. The penalty attached is imprisonment for one to ten years in the penitentiary.

Protection for Children.

Senator Juul's bill provides for the punishment of persons enticing children in rooms for immoral purposes.

Free Scholarships.

A bill was introduced by Representative Lindly providing for free scholarships at the University of Illinois. Each of the 102 counties in the state and each state senator and representative to have one, to be distributed after competitive examinations.

Farm Drainage System.

Representative Miller introduced a bill to allow farmers and others to organize a system of farm drainage for sanitary and other purposes.

Wants Local Option Passed.

A letter signed by General Superintendent William H. Anderson of the Anti-Saloon League was given to house members asking that the Anderson local option bill be passed by the senate be passed without amendment.

Would Restrict Saloons.

Representative Grein of Cook introduced a bill limiting the number of saloons to one for each 500 inhabitants. He says that in Cook county there is one saloon to 260 inhabitants

BEAUTIFUL WOMEN

HOW THEY MAINTAIN THE CHARMS OF THEIR SEX.

The Importance that Attaches to the Care of the Blood If One Wants Bright Eyes and a Clear Complexion.

Every sensible woman naturally wishes to appear attractive. She knows the value of bright eyes, delicate complexion and lively spirits. She knows also that good health is at the basis of her charms, and that good blood is the source of good health.

Miss Mamie Conway has a complexion which is the admiration of all who know her. Asked if she could make any suggestions that would be helpful to others less fortunate, she said:

"My complexion would not have pleased you, if you had seen it two years ago. It was then about as bad as it could be, and it gave me a great deal of dissatisfaction. If you want a good complexion you must take care of your health, especially of the condition of your blood. My health was at that time completely broken down. I was nervous, had frequent headaches, a torpid liver and a great deal of pain in that region. I suffered also from indigestion. It was clear that my blood was in bad condition, for pimples broke out all over my face."

"It is hard to realize that, for there isn't the slightest trace of such blemishes now."

"It was unfortunately quite otherwise then, and a long time passed before I found anything that gave me any relief. I became very weak and listless. The doctor's medicine did me no good, and I took a number of highly recommended tonics with no better result. As soon, however, as I began to use Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People my complexion cleared up, and after I had taken two boxes there was not a sign of a pimple left on my face. My cheeks became rosy, I gained flesh and have had perfect health ever since."

Rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes are merely signs of healthy blood. They have come not only in the case of Miss Conway, whose home is at 1941 East Eighth street, Canton, Ohio, but to thousands of women for whom Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have made new blood. There is no surer way for you to obtain them, than to buy a box of these pills from any druggist and try them for yourself. They correct irregularities and banish weakness.

Laws for Fruit Growers.

Orchardists in Tasmania are subject to a fine of from $2.50 to $5, with costs, if they fail to bandage their trees to keep down the coddling moth, or if they fail to gather and destroy any infested fruit. Wormy apples sent to market are liable to confiscation and destruction, and the shipper be prosecuted. In New South Wales all infested fruit coming from other colonies may be seized or destroyed, or returned to the shipper at his own expense. Fruit growers are generally assisting the government in enforcing these laws. Similar laws in this country for a few years would see a hardship to many parties, but would be a benefit to fruit growers and to the country if they were strictly enforced.

Proper Title of Russian Ruler.

The general allusion to the ruler of Russia as the "czar" is, strictly speaking, incorrect. His official title is "emperor and autocrat." "Czar" is the old Russian word for "lord" or "prince," and was abandoned by Peter the Great on his triumphal return from Poltava, his crowning victory over Charles XII. of Sweden. Since then the Russian monarch has been officially entitled "emperor," and at the congress of Vienna in 1815 his right to the imperial term was admitted by the powers, with the proviso that, though he was emperor, he had no precedence over the kings of western Europe.

READS THE BOOK.

"The Road to Wellville" Pointed the Way.

Down at Hot Springs, Ark., the visitors have all sorts of complaints, but it is a subject of remark that the great majority of them have some trouble with stomach and bowels. This may be partly attributed to the heavy medicines.

Naturally, under the conditions, the question of food is very prominent.

A young man states that he had suffered for nine years from stomach and bowel trouble, had two operations which did not cure, and was at last threatened with appendicitis.

He went to Hot Springs for rheumatism and his stomach trouble got worse. One day at breakfast the waiter, knowing his condition, suggested he try Grape-Nuts and cream, which he did, and found the food agreed with him perfectly.

After the second day he began to sleep peacefully at night, different than he had for years. The perfect digestion of the food quieted his nervous system and made sleep possible.

He says: "The next morning I was astonished to find my condition of constipation had disappeared. I could not believe it after suffering for so many years; then I took more interest in the food, read the little book 'The Road to Wellville,' and started following the simple directions.

"I have met with such results that in the last five weeks I have gained eight pounds in spite of hot baths which take away the flesh from anyone.

"A friend of mine has been entirely cured of a bad case of indigestion and stomach trouble by using Grape-Nuts Food and cream alone for breakfast.

"There is one thing in particular—I have noticed a great change in my mental condition. Formerly I could hardly remember anything, and now the mind seems unusually acute and retentive. I can memorize practically anything I desire." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.