

LAFFITE of LOUISIANA

BY MARY DEVEREUX
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WALSON
Copyright, 1902, by Little, Brown and Company
New York

CHAPTER XVIII.
When Laffite and Greloire were ushered into Napoleon's cabinet, and the former's eyes fell upon him he had for some years longed to see, his first sensation was that of pain. The slender form was gone, and in the personality of the stout, middle-aged man, who, leaning in a velvet-cushioned chair, looked at Laffite 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-slave 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 Laffite, of Louisiana," answered Greloire, after a moment's hesitation, and Laffite, coming forward, bowed respectfully.

"Jean Laffite," Napoleon repeated slowly, looking not at the former, but at Greloire. "I have heard the name before, but not to the woman's credit. I ask you, Greloire, and his voice took a set teler note—"you, who are his sponsor, why Captain Jean Laffite, of Louisiana, dare present himself before me?"

"I, Jean Laffite, will answer your question, Sire," said Laffite, of Louisiana. "I say to the man whom my loyal heart adores, 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."

There was a short silence, and one



"I, Jean Laffite, will answer your question, Sire."

that seemed heavy, after the passionate words had ceased. Then an icy tone made sharp contrast as the emperor said, "These ships, men, and gold, Captain Laffite—how is it that you come to have them?"

Laffite 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 looked 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 war—in his way. I have come with the same heart for whose loss you once cared, to pray that you let me stand firm, if I may, and not be driven in winning back the peace of mind a reckless boy threw away."

A new light swept like a softening hand across Napoleon's stern face. "Captain Laffite, you are right," he said, with an entire change of voice and manner. He extended his hand, and Laffite, with a rush of new emotions, bowed deeply, and pressed 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 most earnestly at Laffite, and at such a time as the present."

"As he uttered the final words he placed his arms around Laffite'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."

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 guests, they took their leave, pursued, and out of hering, by visible farewells and urgency to come again.

Murder walked with them to the beach, which they found deserted, with the full tide gelling in over the pebbled sand in a hushed way, as if his mood were depressed.

Laffite, drawing a scarlet handkerchief from his pocket, wiped it above his head; and the master of the fishing-smack replied with a speedy bullock that came faintly across the water.

The fisherman beached his boat near Greloire, who now called to them, and stood waiting as they strode 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, taking his customary holiday, 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 discarded by the others, evidently of more recent date, fell upon the cabin table. And in their midst shone the dull gold frame of an ivory-pointed mirror.

For a second Laffite stared at this; then, picking it up, he looked intently at the gypsy-like face of the portrait.

"Ah, mon Dieu! How can this 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."

Laffite glanced at them hurriedly. They comprised his parents' marriage certificate, and all the other papers, together with the jewels, that had been in his mother's possession (and which he may some time see) in all war with England, his most implacable enemy, and the conflict may afford you an opportunity for freeing the name of Laffite from obscurity. And, when this is done, I would ask you to assume again your rightful name—the one belonging to your father.

As the last paper fell from his hand, Laffite buried his face in his crossed arms amid the heap of precious things upon the table.

All the pain he felt 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 beautiful in the light of his every-day world, as he met its events, now looked blood-stained when confronted with the appalling sweetness of the pictured face that had represented to his boyhood all that was truest and purest, and the present sight of which had brought so vividly before his mental vision, the dimmed face of faithful, loyal, and true.

The recollection of the man whose father, of whom he could recall no word or act dictated by other than a sense of the highest honor toward his fellows.

As Bonaparte, the idol of this youthful heart, but for so many years doubted and mistrusted,—he had obtained and treasured these proofs of the emperor's recognition as that father's son and heir, while the son himself was risking in alien lands the sacrifice of his rightful name and heritage."

At unbroken silence kept him near, and Greloire, as if understanding, said, nothing.

(To be continued.)

SOME PRANKS OF LIGHTNING.

Fantastic Tricks Played Upon Unfortunate Victims.

One of the most 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 wonderful to believe.

One of these is of a young man in New Jersey who was struck by lightning and was taken in an ambulance to 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. It showed the smiling eyes of the weathered man, and a perfect picture of the figure of Christ standing in the snow. The explanation is that on the wall opposite him was a picture which was reproduced on his skin.

Another instance is of a man who was struck by lightning, and on the cheek was a mark 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 when she was struck by lightning. She was quite unharmed, but on the back of her dress was found a perfect copy of the chair on which she had been sitting.

There are a few of the many strange pranks which lightning plays upon us.

May Issue School Bonds.

Senate Bill 258 giving the City of Galena the right to issue bonds to rebuild a school also was signed by the governor. It carries an emergency clause, and becomes effective immediately.

Extends Police Power.

Campbell's bill giving authority to the police to make arrests at light houses and providing penalties for the destroying of lighthouse property was passed by the senate.

Illinois Legislature

DRASTIC DIVORCE BILL.

By passing the divorce bill the house did its share in making it more difficult to get out of old matrimonial bonds and into new ones. If the senate does as much it will take a year in all cases and in some cases two years to go from divorce court to marriage license window.

The bill was passed by a vote of 114 to 2, Williams and Mitchell of Cook county being the only ones to oppose it. It would require a year's waiting before a divorce is granted on statutory grounds, while the guilty one cannot remarry within two years. Nothing will prevent divorced persons

TRUST BILL AUTHOR.

M. L. McKinley, whose trust bill passed the legislature, is now serving his second term as representative from the sixth senatorial district. Mr. McKinley is an attorney and a mem-



M. L. McKinley

ber of the law firm of Burres & McKinley. He has lived in Chicago since 1896. He was born in Iowa and graduated from the law school of Iowa University in 1895. He is unmarried and his home is at 245 Eastwood avenue in Ravenswood.

from remarrying each other at any time.

"In Chicago I understand there are between 15,000 and 20,000 divorced women," said Representative Proving, who has been calling in upon him a sea of living reality, so distinct and intense that the present appeared dim and vaporous.

Persons who remarry in violation of the proposed law may be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary from one to three years. Marriages in violation of the law are declared void.

CIVIL SERVICE.

Civil service will hold the center of the stage in the house this week. The committee on civil service has reported providing for the merit system in all state offices was made a special order for Wednesday morning. It must follow house bill 41, the Laidly plan, and every officer in Cook county, the sanitary district and the City of Chicago under the merit system, controlled by a single board of commissioners.

Dr. Nordon, chairman of the committee on civil service, made the motion this afternoon to have house bill 218 made a special order. There were some objections, but Speaker Shortt failed to hear them. The action followed a long conference between Governor Deen, Speaker Shortt, and Chairman Nordon.

Now that house bill 218 has been passed forward, it is predicted by many of the members of the house that it will pass. At least forty six Democrats are said to vote for the bill. Three Prohibitionists and two Socialists are expected to contribute five more votes. This will leave the Republicans twenty-six votes to furnish, and unless they secure some, it is declared, the Republican party will have repudiated its own platform and refused to provide the state with a satisfactory merit bill.

But it is probable that before passing the comprehensive state measure the Republicans may decide to pass house bill 41, which gives Cook county a "comprehensive" merit system. It would give the more employees in Cook county, 5,000 teachers in Chicago and the 200 employees of the drainage board under civil service.

Free Normal Scholarships.

The house passed Lindly's bill providing for a free scholarship in any of the state normal schools for each township or fraction of a township in the state. Townships of 100,000 population are entitled to five free scholarships under the bill.

Fraternity Society Merger.

Mr. Schumacher's bill allowing fraternal beneficiary societies to merge upon a two-thirds vote of the members of each society passed the house.

Judgments in Installments.

The house passed Crute's bill allowing counties to pay judgments against them in installments covering a period of not more than ten years.

Pay for Probationary Officers.

The house passed the Church bill providing for payment by the County of Cook for the salaries of probation officers.

Grand Jury Witness Fees.

Coleman's bill providing that witnesses before grand juries may demand a fee of \$1, was passed by the house.

Raises Age of Consent.

Governor Deen signed the Judicial consent bill. It increases the age of girls to 16 years and for boys to 17 years. Violation is punishable by sentence in the penitentiary for from one year to life.

Kill Wage Garnishment.

Despite desperate efforts on behalf of Chicago collection attorneys and constables, the senate committee on judiciary killed the bill reducing the amount of wage earners' pay exempt from garnishment from \$15 to \$10. There was a lengthy debate over the measure before the committee, decided to report it back to the senate with the recommendation that it do not pass.

The lower committee has taken in accordance with the recommendations of the Federation of Labor, whose representatives likened the constables and collectors to vultures waiting for the state legislature to deliver them human prey. Flashed with their success, the labor men will have a bill introduced repealing the Case garnishment law so that wage earners can have 45% of their wages exempt from seizure by collection sharks and constables.

Railroad Bills.

The lower committee on railroads reported out a bill providing that non-interstate commerce railroads shall equip their engines and cars with safety appliances. Another bill provides for state inspectors to deliver them human prey. Flashed with their success, the labor men will have a bill introduced repealing the Case garnishment law so that wage earners can have 45% of their wages exempt from seizure by collection sharks and constables.

Grants Eminent Domain.

Mr. Trautman introduced a bill giving civil courts complete jurisdiction of eminent domain so they may compel other companies to let them use their tracks and terminals in entering cities. Senator Humphrey introduced a similar bill some time ago in the senate. It is said to be in the interest of the Illinois Traction Company, which is conducting an intraplan business in the state.

Raises Salaries of Judges.

The house passed Haines' bill raising the compensation to be paid judges of the court and superior courts by the state from \$2,500 to \$3,000 and allowing county judges \$1,000 a year for clerk hire. This bill will not become operative as to judges' salaries until 1909 and the clerkship feature does not apply to Cook county.

Amends Punishment Bill.

Representative Lindly moved to amend his bill, which provides for the punishment of children by causing all after the enacting clause to be stricken out of house bill 350 and re-substituted with the new Senate statute, which absolutely prohibits punishment of children by teachers with or without the consent of parents or guardian.

Free Normal Scholarships.

The house passed Lindly's bill providing for a free scholarship in any of the state normal schools for each township or fraction of a township in the state. Townships of 100,000 population are entitled to five free scholarships under the bill.

Fraternity Society Merger.

Mr. Schumacher's bill allowing fraternal beneficiary societies to merge upon a two-thirds vote of the members of each society passed the house.

Judgments in Installments.

The house passed Crute's bill allowing counties to pay judgments against them in installments covering a period of not more than ten years.

Pay for Probationary Officers.

The house passed the Church bill providing for payment by the County of Cook for the salaries of probation officers.

Grand Jury Witness Fees.

Coleman's bill providing that witnesses before grand juries may demand a fee of \$1, was passed by the house.

Raises Age of Consent.

Governor Deen signed the Judicial consent bill. It increases the age of girls to 16 years and for boys to 17 years. Violation is punishable by sentence in the penitentiary for from one year to life.

Extends Police Power.

Campbell's bill giving authority to the police to make arrests at light houses and providing penalties for the destroying of lighthouse property was passed by the senate.

THOUGHT SHE WOULD DIE.

Mrs. S. W. Marine of Colorado Springs Began to Fear the Worst—Doan's Kidney Pills Saved Her.

Mrs. Sarah Marine, of 128 St. Union street, Colorado Springs, President of the Glen Eyrie Club, writes:



"I suffered for three years with a severe case of kidney trouble. The doctors told me my kidneys were affected and prescribed me a diet and medicine. I found that it was only a waste of time and money to take them, and began to fear that I would never get well. A friend advised me to try Doan's Kidney Pills. Within a week after I began using them I was so much better that I decided to keep up the treatment, and when I had used a little over two boxes I was entirely well. I have now enjoyed the best of health for more than four months, and words can but poorly express my gratitude."

For sale by all druggists. Price 50 cents. Foster-McMurray Co., Buffalo, N.Y.

Blaming Lawson.

"How is your son going on Wall street?"

"He was dot's right well for a time, he sweeps out a broker's office, you know, an't there wasn't a single morning that he didn't pick up money—sometimes a quarter, sometimes a half, sometimes a dollar. One day he found a \$5 gold piece. But ever since that man Lawson came out with his scoundrel ways he ain't picked up a cent a dime! No, sir—not even a nickel! An Jimmie writes that nobody seems to know when another drop in money will come. Tough, ain't it?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Very Low Homeowner's Rates to the Southeast April 4 and 18.

On the first and third Wednesdays in April round-trip Homeowner's tickets will be on sale at unusually low rates from Chicago, St. Louis, Cairo, Paducah, Evansville, Louisville and Cincinnati to many points on the Nashville, Chattanooga and Memphis railway in Tennessee, North Alabama and Georgia. Limit 21 days. Stop overs allowed on N. C. & St. L. Ry. going and returning.

A splendid opportunity to make a prospecting trip. For further information write to W. L. Dunlop, O. P. A. N. C. & St. L. Ry., Nashville, Tenn.

Every Homekeeper should know that if they will buy DeLance Cold Water Starch for laundry use they will save a great deal of time, because it never sticks to the iron, but because each package contains 10 oz.—one full pound—while all other Cold Water Starches are put up in 5 oz. packages, and the price is the same, 10 cents. Then again because DeLance Starch is free from all injurious chemicals. If you are going to all your 12 oz. packages it is because he has a stock on hand which he wishes to dispose of before he puts in DeLance. He knows that DeLance starch has been placed on packages in large letters and figures "10 oz." DeLance DeLance and save much time and money and the annoyance of the iron sticking. DeLance never sticks.

Some Revised Wisdom.

(From "The Entirety New Cynic's Calendar of Revised Wisdom, for 1905.")

Attorneys will happen in the best regulated families.

Nothing succeeds like failure. Pleasure is never always accepted. Only the young die good.

Never too old to learn. Society covers a multitude of sins (Paul Elder & Co., San Francisco)

Fads of Famous Rulers.

The emperor of Germany is fond of collecting neckties and scarfs of all ages and of all countries and is said to have a few fewer than 18,000. The shah of Persia is fond of knitting as a hobby and likes to knit silk stockings for his personal friends. He once presented the prince of Wales with a pair of his own handwork.

A Pessimistic View.

Mr. Black—What? You'd four yards an' raise me when I done stand pat?

Mr. Johnson—Do'a' think you'll kin raise us back of yo' sink it an' bluff?

Mr. Black—I reckon not. You'd nobber try to bluff yo' self a pat had an' sixty-five cents in de pot.

Washing Blankets.

Have ready three tubs of moderately warm water for the first water make a strong suds by using plenty of Ivory Soap. In this put a pair of blankets and stir 'em with the clothes stick until clean; then rinse through the other two waters, putting a little soap in each. Wring by hand and stretch carefully on the line. —GLEANER B. PARKER.

An Admission.

He—'I afraid you are fond of admiration.

She—Well, I like it better than I like some of my admirers.

Those Who Have Tried It.

will use no other. DeLance Cold Water Starch has no equal in quantity or quality. It is the best. Other brands contain only 10 oz.

Charity can be carried to a point where it does more harm than good.

FITS

Few rarely learn how really little they are in fact.