

LAFFITE OF LOUISIANA

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WILSON
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CHAPTER XX.

The following day, Laffite, accompanied by Pierre and Noto, made a hasty trip to St. Louis, 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 Grand Terre, it was 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.

Laffite 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 Laffite, "Commandant at Barataria."

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

"We cannot do this. Our orders are to see Capt. Laffite himself, and to place the message in his hands," replied Lockyer, "but he is so ill that we 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 close by side, so that the officers might board the Baratarian craft in safety.

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 release all hostile arms 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 my 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 subjects 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, Laffite refolded the papers, placed them in their cover, and slipped the package inside his coat."

"Now, Capt. Laffite, 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 the result of your acquaintance in the proposal."

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

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

"The officer, explaining upon the manifest and great advantages to result from the 'Baratarian commandant' and his followers by according to the

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

The Englishmen looked uncomfortable; but Lockyer muttered something about "the fortune of war." McWilliams said: "But the cruelty of the negroes can add little, after all, to the punishment it has been decided to inflict upon the traitors. It 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 Laffite, 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 their faces, and now stood before him, their rises showing mingled confusion 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 negotiation with me. In case you accept what I suggest," answered Laffite, "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, and, deeply deeming it more diplomatic to check the anger glowing in their faces.

Laffite 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 now 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 the Englishmen drew their chairs to the hearth, the old negro closed and barred the heavy shutters, besides placing for the night a log 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 closed door 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 of us, and in his manner—the whole cut of his job—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, the idea of his being 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 Georgia, Alabama and 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. Hays, 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 in an unexplored, and after that the great exploration and discovery of gold in California, which they had entirely overlooked. After a time they went to Alaska, and just a short time ago rich fields 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 \$250,000 worth of gold was yielded to the world, and that the average was \$100 in another place, where \$2,500 was dug up in one day, and all this by entirely crude methods. It runs through a vein of quartz some thirty to forty feet thick, and in seven veins have been opened from two to twenty feet wide. Six Colorado mining capitalists a day or two ago bought 600 acres of land in that section of the West, and are exploring this. It is not confined to that locality, either. I have given in my buggy 500 miles from Maryland down through the Carolinas and have found 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 like 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 light. It is a city of light and 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 there are no more blinding flames from the walls of houses, shining across the straight streets, and glowing in a terminal line down the whispering avenues, have something of the magic sentiment and serene inspiration of an Arabian story. You begin to think Berlin is the greatest city in the world.—Montreal Herald.

Illinois Legislature

RAISE SALARIES TO \$2,000.

After a close fight in the House Representative Sam Erickson's bill raising the salary of members of the legislature from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a session, was passed by a vote of 77 to 65. This bill was passed two years ago, but was vetoed by Governor Yates together with a bill raising the salaries of county circuit judges from \$3,500 to \$5,000. The Erickson bill was scouted as a "crisp" measure. However, after a lively skirmish for support a sufficient number of votes were changed from nay to yea to secure a bare constitutional majority. Representatives Austin, Gantt, Lake and Kleeman backed the measure and Representative Manny saved the bill by casting the seventy-seventh vote. Of the Cook county delegation, 11 voted for the measure. The two socialist, Ambrose and Alison, and Representative Comford and Mitchell voted nay. Representatives Struckman and Arran were absent.

Partello Claim.

The Partello claim bobbed up again in the House Tuesday and stirred up a nasty debate in which Attorney General Yates together with the socialist, Ambrose and Alison, and Representative Comford and Mitchell voted nay. Representatives Struckman and Arran were absent.

The committee on appropriations Mr. Shanahan characterized this measure and then stated that he never presented it. In the house he moved to strike out the enacting clause. He went into the history of the claim, showing how the claim had grown from \$10,000 to \$12,000, and had at one time been signed and then vetoed by Gov. Yates.

He repeated the charge that this year and then stated that the secretary of state's office, and Secretary Rose knew who stole the veto. This bill can only be a scandal, but it will be the biggest piece of robbery that ever went through it, passed," said Mr. Shanahan.

"You might as well take a 'Jimmy' and some dynamite and blow open the safe and get out the money," said Mr. Partello. "This brought Representative Hill to his feet in defense of the bill.

"The description of the man who stole that veto does not fit Mr. Partello, and the gentleman from Cook knows it," he roared.

"You go down to the secretary of state and ask him whether Partello stole that bill," shouted Mr. Shanahan. "If he says yes, then I will denounce and shake his fist threat criminally at Mr. Hill."

"Why did you vote for it before?" asked Mr. Hill. "I voted for it on the report of the subcommittee," said Mr. Shanahan in continued excitement.

"Who brought this case to the surface?" asked Mr. Hill. "I brought it to the supreme court," he said. "You know and I know."

Mr. Shanahan shook his clenched fist at Mr. Hill as he talked and his voice shook with indignation.

Mr. Pendavis, who had defended the bill in committee, also spoke in favor of it on the floor. On a rising vote the motion to table the motion to strike the enacting clause was carried, 76 to 65, and the bill was ordered to a third reading. The opposition was so strong, however, that the bill will be killed on passage.

Ignores Burke Option Bill.

The senate refused to advance the Burke local option bill passed by the House and stood on the original Anderson bill. The Burke bill differs from the Anderson measure in that it eliminates the county, precinct and township subdivisions for the referendum. The Burke bill was made the occasion for considerable debate, with the result that it was referred to the committee on licenses.

Legalizes Board of Trade Deals.

Senator Dixon's bill legalizing transactions on the board of trade, and abolishing board shops was passed by a vote of 22 to 9. Senator Berry opposed the measure and said he was opposed to gambling on the board of trade. He thought that the bill and declared that board of trade transactions under proper restrictions were as legitimate as any other form of trading.

To Adjourn May 5.

Great activity marks the closing days of this regular session of the Forty-fourth General Assembly. The bill and recording of all indictments, was sometime during the night of May 5.

Amend Civil Service Bill.

The civil service bill from the house will be taken up by the senate committee and amended so as to include the state grain inspection department will be added to the bill. All will depend on what can be learned as to the temper of the house and the thought that the house would concur in the amendment placing the penal and reformatory institutions under civil service they will be included.

There is some talk of final adjournment on April 28, the date set by the Senate, but the men in the House bent informed as to the confidence of the leaders say the legislative lights will not go out until one week later. Meanwhile all efforts are being made to secure as much work as possible into the intervening time.

Fear Wrath of Churches.

The Rev. A. Evers, pastor of St. Boniface's Catholic Church, Chicago, is in Springfield to oppose the bill consolidating school districts and providing for conveyance at public expense of children to and from public schools. He is also opposing McKeen's bill requiring trustees of charitable funds to give bond in double the amount of the fund and to report to the courts all their actions. Members of the house are receiving many letters and telegrams from Catholic and Lutheran organizations protesting against those bills. As the Catholic and Lutheran vote gave Illinois to the Democrats in 1892 as protest against the Edwards school law these letters and telegrams are having effect.

Bills Reported.

Among the bills reported by the house were the following: Appropriating \$121,000 for repairs on the state house, providing for a state geological survey under direction of the state university, cooperating with the federal government in appropriating \$40,000 for the Illinois and Michigan canal commissioners for improving the Illinois river, providing that all prisoners made goods shall be so stamped, and Senator Clark's bill regulating professional nursing.

Traders Urge Action.

The Chicago board of trade people are trying to get action on the bill legalizing their business. D. J. Murphy, W. S. Jackson, B. A. Eckhart, and Lloyd J. Smith have been working like niggers among the senators. The bill is on third reading in the senate and it sticks there. It is in committee in the house and is likely to stay there.

Senate Passes Shot-fires Bill.

The senate surprised the house by passing the shot-fires bill by a vote of 48 to 9 after several attempts had been made to send it back to second reading for amendment. The bill provides that mine operators shall furnish shot-fires and that miners shall not be required to remain in the mines while blasting is going on.

To Buy Chicago College.

By a unanimous vote the house committee on education reported out a committee bill prepared by President James O. the University of Illinois, by which that institution is to be allowed to issue interest bearing 4 per cent bonds for the purchase of any part of the stock in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago.

Monument to Lincoln.

Senator Curtis introduced a resolution which was adopted unanimously calling upon the federal congress to make and appropriate for a monument to Lincoln to be erected in the city of Washington.

Limits Saloons.

Grein's bill providing that saloon licenses shall be issued to only one saloon for 500 inhabitants was reported out with the amendment that it shall not interfere with local option territory.

Inheritance Tax Division.

Senator Gardner's bill providing that half the inheritance tax shall go to the state and half to the county in which it is collected was advanced to third reading in the senate.

May Build Pumping Plants.

Daley's bill authorizing farm drainage districts to build pumping plants and to use sewer money derived from bonds already issued, was passed by the house.

Transfer of Delinquent Children.

The house passed the bill providing that delinquent children can be transferred from one home to another only on written consent of the parents or by order of the court.

Foreign Corporations.

The house passed Cratz's bill to regulate foreign corporations by compelling them to submit to the same requirements as domestic corporations.

To Acquire Medical College.

Senator Juhl introduced a bill empowering the University of Illinois to acquire the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons.

State Board of Osteopaths.

The house passed the bill creating a state board of osteopaths—yeas 26, nays 5.

Publication of Tax Lists.

The senate passed the bill providing that county boards shall make appropriation for the publication of real estate and property assessments, after approval of the board of supervisors of the ordinary expenses of the county. Yeas, 27, nays, 0.

Fellow Servants.

Chairman Castle of the house judiciary committee reported to the house the Drew bill to abolish the fellow servants rule.



Caution About Turkeys.

Don't permit the turkey eggs to get chilled. It is more difficult to care for these than for the eggs of other fowls, for the reason that the turkeys secrete their nests. Watching is required to discover them, and then the eggs should be turned every day, while the nights continue cool.

Hunt up the turkey's nest for the purpose of keeping the eggs from dogs and crows. When the nests are at a distance from the house the crows are sometimes very troublesome, for they know the edible value of a good egg. Keep turkey eggs in a basket in the cellar, which is a very suitable place to keep them, they will then retain their moisture and will not dry out before being placed under the turkey or other hen.

When Mammoth Bronze turkeys are being raised, it is necessary often to use common hens in hatching the eggs, as the eggs are very frequently broken by the heavy birds.

When the turkey hen once settles down to brooding it is a very persistent sitter, and is not easily "broken" up.

The turkey hen that is sitting should not be disturbed more than is necessary, as she will then trample about in her nest and sometimes break the eggs.

Faults should have no food the first day, but water and grit should be supplied from the first.

The first feed of the poult should consist of hard boiled eggs and crumbs of stale bread.

The turkey hen with her brood must be watched to see that she does not select for a camping place at night a depression in the ground, as in such a location there is always danger that her poult will be drowned if a heavy rain comes.

Butler Co., O. Phoebe Caldwell.

Feeding for Eggs.

We do not believe that we can feed so as to make all kinds of hens lay. There are some hens that will not lay many eggs no matter how they are fed. But we can so feed that the fowls will not have their feed as an actual obstacle to laying.

It is our observation that the maturity and vigor of the hen are the chief things that have to do with a large egg production. We must so feed that the fowls will be kept in a thriving condition and that their digestive organs will not be compelled to do a great deal of unnecessary work.

It is a great deal to expect a hen to lay a great deal. All of the following feeds are good if fed each in small quantities: Corn, wheat, buckwheat, oats, barley, linseed meal, cotton seed meal, corn meal, clover meal, meal, meal and bone, alfalfa, clover, beet, cabbage, rape. We might add others, but these are the principal ones.

If a mixture is fed we are likely to get the best results. It is very important to keep the birds at proper weight in preparation. One of the best ways to help the birds to produce eggs is to allow them to hunt for bugs and pick green stuff as much as possible.

The Nests.

The proper care of the nests is essential to the success of the poultry owner. A dirty, unclean nest, food during the season of inactivity or lack of egg production. When hens have begun to lay vigorously, considerable quantities of fattening material may be fed, but it should be destroyed, not only lice but eggs of lice. If the nests are put in a dark place (not too dark) the hens will be able to get to them, but will not be able to pick at the eggs, and the eggs will be clean.

Excess of Fat.

The excess of fat in the body of the hen arises from the feeding of too much fattening food during the season of inactivity or lack of egg production. When hens have begun to lay vigorously, considerable quantities of fattening material may be fed, but it should be destroyed, not only lice but eggs of lice. If the nests are put in a dark place (not too dark) the hens will be able to get to them, but will not be able to pick at the eggs, and the eggs will be clean.

The Right Way.

It is easy enough to succeed if we do things the right way, but we sometimes have trouble in finding out what is the right way. The right way to raise poultry must be learned in all kinds of ways, both by the use of books and by experience. Errors teach us quite as much as successes. We should be sure that our mistakes how not to do things.

The breeding of the scrub hen is uncertain, and it takes a good many years to develop a good flock with her as a base.

It is said that fowls more completely digest small rations than rations of a single grain.

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

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

Laffite, 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, for brandy, gentlemen," he said. "Then you may proceed to talk, for I am at your service. I am Jean Laffite, the 'commandant' of such such I may be called—at Barataria."

Both officers stared at him in undivided amazement. Then they again looked at one another, but none as yet for actual comfort, while they began to mutter confused apologies.

"Proceed," Laffite repeated, paying no heed to their discomfiture. "What you want with me—what an English colonel have to say to Jean Laffite of Louisiana that Jean Laffite 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, and here Laffite's arm was resting.

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

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

proposition, entering the service of His Britannic Majesty, and placing all his property in my hands, and the English. He added, with much impetuosity, that, besides the rank of captain in the British navy, he was authorized to promise Laffite the sum of thirty thousand dollars in gold.

Laffite, instead of replying, walked to the fireplace, and standing beneath the pictured face of his old Napoleon, whose eyes seemed to regard him 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 the most important one for me as well as for yourselves—so important to me that I cannot decide it as easily as you appear to expect, but must have a few hours in which to give it proper consideration."

Both officers looked annoyed, and Capt. Lockyer expressed his dissent.

"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 trodden 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 Laffite, 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."

"It is possible," replied 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 Laffite's face turned to sudden sternness.

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

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

"The officer, explaining upon the manifest and great advantages to result from the 'Baratarian commandant' and his followers by according to the

proposition, entering the service of His Britannic Majesty, and placing all his property in my hands, and the English. He added, with much impetuosity, that, besides the rank of captain in the British navy, he was authorized to promise Laffite the sum of thirty thousand dollars in gold."

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