

LAFFITE OF LOUISIANA

BY MARY DEVEREUX
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WILSON
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CHAPTER XXV.

LaFitte, after the departure of Gen. La Roche, permitted himself the solace of carrying an hour or so longer, although he exchanged scarcely half a dozen words with Madeleine de Casneau, as they, with Lazzelle and Harold Stewart, sat on the broad veranda.

He was unaccountably anxious and depressed; there seemed to be something in the air about him that set his nerves quivering, and fitted him with strange feelings.

It was after three o'clock when, with a reluctance which his manner gave no hint, LaFitte rose and signified that he must be going.

"Will you not come again soon?" asked Lazzelle, with a new wistfulness showing in her face and voice, as he extended his hand to her.

LaFitte's only reply was a smile; and turning to say adieu to Madeleine de Casneau, he saw that she had left the veranda, and was standing on the lawn, some little distance from the house.

She was looking off toward the woods, and said, as LaFitte paused beside her, "There is the man from whom Grandpere rented Kanachas, sitting under a tree with his gun."

"He expects to see me before I go, and is waiting for the opportunity," LaFitte explained, his voice softening as it always did when addressing her.

The violet eyes and the dark ones looked into each other; then a shapely brown hand possessed itself gently of a small white one, and said:

"Oh, Captain Jean, I am so sorry—so very sorry! Will you not say that you forgive me?"

She spoke impulsively, in a half-whisper, and the other small hand was now laid over the back of the brown one.

Her look and words, the faint pressure of her fingers, sent a wild joy through his veins.

"God in heaven bless you for those

words. Only there can never be any forgiveness between us, save as you may give me Heaven, by forgiving me. Try and trust me, child. Do try, and believe that I am not the monster you have thought me. Do this, and you can save me from what has been an earthly hell."

She looked startled, but the glad light showing in her eyes was assurance that she was not offended by his passionate pleading.

"Adieu, now," he whispered, bending so close that his breath stirred her bright hair rippling over her forehead. "Adieu, and God's angels keep you."

"He was gone, but her hands still tingled from his close touch and his low, tense voice still thrilled her ears.

With a joyously beating heart that made her inclined to weep as well as sing, the girl ascended with footsteps to the veranda and fled to her room, locked the door and threw herself upon the bed.

She was laughing, but with tears crowding to her throat, and trying to get into her eyes, wondering how she came to be so happy. She did not care to have them show.

She did not ask herself why it was, what it meant, or what it might mean, to her life; she knew only a half-delicious joy, such as never before had come to her.

Ah, how (as she now admitted to herself) she had missed him out of her life—her brave, handsome Captain Jean! How she had missed his chivalrous, protecting friendship—the latent strength and decision showing in all he did and said! How she had missed the goodness, the reverence with which he always addressed her—the kindly deeds he was always striving to do for her.

fleet of vessels apparently going down the gulf. While the boat sailed down the Gulf of Mexico, the smoke against the southern sky showed more dense, and Baptistine, pointing to it, said, "That smoke looks to be not innocent camp-fire or chimney smoke, my captain."

LaFitte was about to reply, when the boat came abreast of an opening in the trees, through which some of the buildings were seen to be on fire. A chorus of exclamations and exclamations broke from Baptistine and the crew, and one of the latter cried out, "This is the work of those cursed English!"

LaFitte raised his hand to command silence.

"Yonder vessels did it, rather than the English," he said, in a voice husky with rage, as he pointed to the disappearing fleet.

"And they are flying the United States flag!" shouted another of the crew, who had taken the spyglass from him and was looking through it.

"Shall we venture to land, my captain?" ventured Baptistine.

"Draw closer," said LaFitte, turning to the crew, who were starting with fury-filled eyes at the seemingly deserted island. "Draw closer, and I will signal. But be in readiness to turn about in case I wish to head for Shell Island."

He waited until the boat was nearer the shore, and then, arching a hand over his lips, sent a water-bird's shrill call ringing out twice over the water.

Not ten seconds passed when a similar call came from the island, followed by the appearance of a figure upon the edge of the timber.

It was Natio, who waved his arms wildly and came scrambling down to the beach.

In a most dejected fashion and accompanied by hysterical sobbing, Natio told all that he knew of a story which, for bad faith and harsh pro-

ceeds, but the former had been Pierre's accomplice in the murder, and was carried to a boat, and taken out to the ships.

It was not until some time after this that LaFitte gathered a reliable account of the murder, and the reason for this murderous descent upon Barataria. The facts were these:

Beluche had been received amicably by Governor Claiborne, who, after a short stay, returning forth in detail the recent offer on the English, listened to all the Baratarian messenger had to say, and informed him that he must, before descending upon the island, with certain other officials. He then, however, while treating Beluche and Lopes with perfect courtesy, held them as prisoners.

In consequence, in pursuance of invitations similar to that received by Gen. La Roche, was held promptly; and a large majority of its members having refused to believe the truth of LaFitte's statement, Governor Claiborne, although himself in favor of accepting the Baratarian proposition, allowed the others to overrule him.

The governor, however, kept from the knowledge of LaFitte's messengers, as was also the fact that a large armed force was quickly organized to descend upon Grande Terre.

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It was Natio, who waved his arms wildly and came scrambling down to the beach.

In a most dejected fashion and accompanied by hysterical sobbing, Natio told all that he knew of a story which, for bad faith and harsh pro-

ceeds, but the former had been Pierre's accomplice in the murder, and was carried to a boat, and taken out to the ships.

It was not until some time after this that LaFitte gathered a reliable account of the murder, and the reason for this murderous descent upon Barataria. The facts were these:

Beluche had been received amicably by Governor Claiborne, who, after a short stay, returning forth in detail the recent offer on the English, listened to all the Baratarian messenger had to say, and informed him that he must, before descending upon the island, with certain other officials. He then, however, while treating Beluche and Lopes with perfect courtesy, held them as prisoners.

In consequence, in pursuance of invitations similar to that received by Gen. La Roche, was held promptly; and a large majority of its members having refused to believe the truth of LaFitte's statement, Governor Claiborne, although himself in favor of accepting the Baratarian proposition, allowed the others to overrule him.

The governor, however, kept from the knowledge of LaFitte's messengers, as was also the fact that a large armed force was quickly organized to descend upon Grande Terre.

A chorus of exclamations and exclamations broke from Baptistine and the crew, and one of the latter cried out, "This is the work of those cursed English!"

LaFitte raised his hand to command silence.

"Yonder vessels did it, rather than the English," he said, in a voice husky with rage, as he pointed to the disappearing fleet.

"And they are flying the United States flag!" shouted another of the crew, who had taken the spyglass from him and was looking through it.

"Shall we venture to land, my captain?" ventured Baptistine.

"Draw closer," said LaFitte, turning to the crew, who were starting with fury-filled eyes at the seemingly deserted island. "Draw closer, and I will signal. But be in readiness to turn about in case I wish to head for Shell Island."

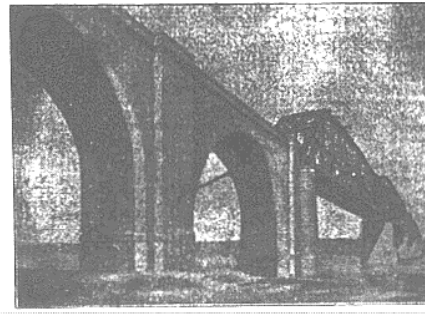
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BRIDGE OVER MISSISSIPPI TRIUMPH OF BUILDER'S ART



Bridge building on the Mississippi river has never been attended with so many distinguishing features interesting to workers in many lines as has the new structure at Thebes, Ill., which is opened to the traffic of the railroad May 25.

This bridge forms a new and great gateway from Chicago to the southwest.

It has cost \$2,000,000.

It has cost eleven human lives.

It has required three years to build it.

It is built at a grade of only one-half of 1 per cent.

It has no draw and clears boats at high water mark.

It is four miles long counting the approaches in both states.

It has twelve of the largest concrete arches on the Mississippi.

It is the only bridge that took its steel superstructure from two floating trains of ten and twelve cars each.

It is the only bridge that built its pneumatic caissons on barges whence they were launched into the river.

It is the only bridge that was built by a special company formed of five general managers of five great railway systems.

Its grade is such as to make it advantageous to double St. Louis-southwestern freight across the Mississippi.

It required the use of 73,000 barrels of cement. It used up 14,000 tons of steel.

The double track may be crowded with the heaviest locomotives its whole length without taxing its capacity.

It has rejuvenated one of the oldest Illinois towns and caused a new one to be built in Missouri.

It has caused the building of an Illinois railroad 129 miles long at a grade of not over ten feet to the mile.

It is approached by one road that is required to pass around a loop twenty miles in circumference in order to reach its level.

It is a triumph of engineering skill. The low grade of the bridge is its predominating feature. Before it was built the bridge at Memphis was said to be the lowest on the river. It is 1 1/2 per cent on one side of the river and 1 1/4 per cent on the other side. The Thebes bridge has been built and approached at a grade of one-half of 1 per cent. Both of the St. Louis bridges have steeper grades.

It is claimed that on account of this grade feature a large tonnage of freight will be diverted from Memphis and St. Louis; that the great bulk of the southwestern traffic of the Gould system will be brought across at Thebes, and some of the southwestern freight destined for St. Louis will cross the river on the new bridge, run up the canal to the river at Illinois, and then be sent back into Missouri at East St. Louis.

TO TEACH KING OF SPAIN.

American Youth Chosen as Instructor of Spanish.

Ralph Ray of Lancaster, Wis., not yet quite 18 years old, has an engagement to become a member of the household of the king of Spain and to be the king's American instructor.

Ralph is the son of a buyer and shipper of stock. He graduated at the high school at Lancaster last year. He was employed as a clerk for six months as a bookkeeper with the Lee Live Stock Commission company of the Chicago stock yards. He had studied Spanish a little and there met with the assistance of a Spanish writer, whom he studied more. There also he met a Spanish count who was looking for an American to go and instruct the king in American ways and business. The count was favorably impressed and recommended the young man.

Laurier a Great Statesman.

Capacity of Premier of Canada Universally Conceded.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, premier of Canada, is frequently referred to as perhaps the greatest statesman in all the British empire, regarded either as a leader of the people, public speaker or authority on parliamentary usage. Tall, thin and straight as an arrow, with countenance mild, serious and sympathetic, he is a large, well-developed, broad, indicative of strength of mind and resourcefulness of purpose, the Canadian prime minister, when he rises to address a public gathering, at once commands attention. His father was a poor surgeon in the parish of St. Lin, where Sir Wilfrid was born in 1854. This is a Scotch settlement, and from a schoolmaster and merchant of the nation, the young Laurier, regarding the achievements of the liberal party in Great Britain. He frequently declares that much of his success is due to the lessons drawn from what he heard from these two men in his boyhood days.

German Going to Canada.

N. Kautmann, an expert connected with the agricultural department of Germany, is in this country investigating conditions among his countrymen. He says the more desirable German immigrants are not settling in the United States but are going to Canada. This is because many of them have been deceived by land boomers, who have sent all sorts of high-sounding literature to German hamlets and villages. When the immigrant arrives he finds that the promises on which he relied cannot be redeemed. As a result Germans of the better agricultural sort are going to Canada, and some time must elapse before confidence can be restored.

Works Without Fear.

Dr. Wilfred Grenfell of the Royal anti-tuberculosis mission to depopulated practices along the rugged coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador. His professional round is 2,000 miles in extent every foot of which is dangerous in the extreme to the unacquainted mariner. Even the natives sail with their lives in their hands, and Dr. Grenfell, on his missions of mercy, often carries a crew of his boat to face perils which even daunt them. Wherever he goes he is physician, minister and lawyer.

One Day Equals One Cent.

Wearry Walker—Say! Don't you wish that time was really money, like day say it is. We got lots of time.

Harvard Highbrow—I guess time is money, all right; anyway, I got thirty days once and it made me feel like 30 cents.

Manet on Getting It.

Some grocers say they don't keep DeLancey's because it is because they have a stock on hand of other brands containing only 13 on an ounce, but they believe they are able to sell DeLancey because DeLancey contains 15 on an ounce.

Do you want 16 on, instead of 13, for some money? Then buy DeLancey's. Requires no cooking.

Merely on a Shopping Tour.

Frank Knechtel, do you think Miss Van Hullen intends to buy you?

Second duke—My dear boy, I don't know. Some days I think she does. At other times I fear she is merely shopping.

In a Pinch, Use ALLEN'S FOOT-PALE.

A powder. It cures painful, smarting, sore feet. It is the greatest discovery of the age. Makes new shoes easy. A certain cure for corns, etc. Sold by all druggists. 5c. Trial package FREE. Address A. S. Olmsted, La Roy, N. Y.

On the square, don't you often wonder what the water thinks of you for tipping him too much in order to retain his respect?

Why it is the Boot.

It is because made by an entirely different process. DeLancey's is unlike any other, better and one-third more for 15 cents.

When a girl has a corn that causes her to limp, she usually apologizes by saying she must have twisted her ankle.

Lewis' Single Binder—straight B sign. Made by hand of ripe, thoroughly dried material. It is the best, most satisfying good. You pay me for cigars not for smoke. Lewis' Factory, Puerto Rico, Ill.

The woman never lived who hasn't at some time in her life been tempted to write an anonymous letter.

All Up-to-Date Housekeepers Beware DeLancey's Cold Water Search, because it is the best and the most of its kind.

New York has revived "Trilly." Now for the bicycle.

WORTH KNOWING.

The average consumer of baking powder does not know that a reaction occurs in the process of baking. Food prepared with