

A Romance of Extraordinary Distinction
THE MARSHAL
 By Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews
Author of "The Perfect Tribute," etc.
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(Continued from Thursday.)
 "But Francois, you can not go before Wednesday," Harry Hampton cried out. "We can not be married without you."

And Francois considered. "No, not before Wednesday," he agreed. "That last French lesson in the summer-house on the banks of the smooth-flowing James river was on a Saturday. On Monday the Chevalier Beaupre rode over from Carnifax and asked to see Miss Hampton."

"Mademoiselle Lucy," he said. "I have something to ask of you."

"I will do it," Lucy promised blithely, not waiting for details.

Francois laughed. "You trust me, Mademoiselle Lucy—that is plain. Then his face became serious. Do you remember a talk we once had together when I told you of my old playmate, Alike?"

The bride-to-be flushed furiously as she recalled that talk. The incident had been in a matter-of-fact manner. "I remember very well," she said. "It was when I threw myself at your head and you said you didn't want me."

Francois's shoulders and hands and eyes went upward together into an eminently French gesture. "What a horror!" he cried. "What an unspeakable manner to recollect that talk! How can you? How can you be so brutal to me?"

Both of them, at that, burst into light-hearted laughter. Lucy was grave suddenly.

"But you have something to ask me, Francois. You spoke of your playmate—beautiful Alike."

"It is only you whom I could ask to do this, Mademoiselle Lucy. I have never told any one else about her. Only you know of—the words came slowly—of my love for her. She does not know it. Alike does not know. And I may be killed one sees, in this fight for the prince. Quite easily. And Alike will not know. I do not like that. In fact I can not bear it. So this is what I ask of you, dear Mademoiselle. He brought out a letter and held it to her. "If you hear that I am killed, will you send it to Alike?"

Lucy took the letter and turned it over doubtfully. "I do not like this sort of post-mortem commission, Francois. I feel as if I were holding your death-warrant."

"But it is not by a bit of writing I shall meet my finish, Mademoiselle. I promise not to die one minute sooner for that letter. It is only that it will make me happy to know you will send it."

So Lucy, holding the letter gingerly, agreed. But as Francois rose to go she stood by him a moment and laid her hand on his coat sleeve. "Francois—I want to tell you something."

"But yes, Mademoiselle—yes, Lucy."

"It is something wrong."

"I am going to tell Harry I said it."

"Yes."

"This is it, then"—and Francois, smiling, waited and there was deep silence in the big, cool, quiet drawing-room for as long as a minute. "This is it, then. I don't know how I can be so unreasonable—but I am. I love Harry—I am happy. But I am quite—jealous of Alike. And I think you are the most wonderful person I have ever known—much more wonderful than Harry. If there had been no Alike; if you had—liked me—I can imagine having adored you. I adore you, Francois. Now, you are all that compatible with my joy in marrying Harry? I don't know how it is—but it is so. I am a wicked sinful person—but it is so."

Francois bent over her two little hands, kissing them more than once, shook with laughter. "I can not guess the riddle," he said. "They say the heart of a woman is an uncharted ocean. A man must sail blindly over those waters and take the captain's word for it, even if one seems to be sailing two ways at once. For me, I am not very worldly-wise, but I think not such a fool as to stop believing in my friends because I cannot understand them. You are yourself, little Lucy, and Harry and I both know better than to let anything you do alter our faith in that beautiful thing which you are—an American woman, Mademoiselle Lucy—you."

The next time Lucy Hampton saw Francois it was when, white-robed and sweet in her evening mist of veil she went up the chancel steps of the little Virginia country church, and looking up met a smile that was a benediction from the man whom she had loved, who stood close now at the side of her lover, her husband.

CHAPTER XXXVI.
 The Prince's Priglit Shadow.
 There are old people living in England today who remember hearing their fathers and mothers speak of a young Frenchman of uncommon personality, constantly seen with Prince Louis Napoleon during the last days of his life in London in the year 1840. Lady Constance Cecil nicknamed this Frenchman "the Prince's bright shadow." There seemed to be a closer tie than brotherhood between them, and the tradition runs that the mystical prince had a superstition that his luck went with him in the person of the Chevalier Beaupre.

The days of that summer month were full days for the conspirators. On the surface, arranged to be seen of the world and to throw the world off its guard, was a steady round of gaiety; at one brilliant function after another the peasant Francois shared the honors and the lionizing of the

prince. Because his visionary eyes looked through things of this world to realities, the first of his family, he was used at the parties of the world who gathered about him and saw people with kind hearts. And the butterflies themselves were seldom so tawdry but that they responded to the simplicity and loving kindness which he held out to them. Few human telegraph stations fall utterly to take the message when the great universal wireless of reality sounds the note. So that Francois, not suspecting it, gained in a few weeks on many English hearts a hold whose memory has not yet died away.

Beyond this evident social side of the London life lay the hidden life of preparation for the event to come—the attempt on Boulogne. And in this both the prince and his close followers and friend really breathed and had their being. There was constant excitement, constant labor, constant anxiety. Once toward the end of the time, Francois was sent on a flying trip to France, to make arrangements unsafe to trust to writing for the prince's affair. While on French soil he found time for a two-hour's visit to Viqueux and saw his mother and Alike and the general, Pietro, also, he saw, Pietro, who was to have joined the prince in London by now, and who had instead incapacitated himself for fighting for months to come. A village child had run suddenly under his horse's feet, and Pietro, saving the child, had thrown the horse and had been badly hurt. So he lay fretting his heart out silently at the castle, and when Francois stood by his bed, brilliant and tense as an arrow on its way, Pietro took his friend's hand in both his own and gripped it with all his force and then turned his face to the wall without a word. It was always Francois who was the hero.

(To be continued.)

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FATHER JOHN'S MEDICINE
 Heals Throat and Lungs—Builds You Up
 50 Years in use.
 No Alcohol or Dangerous Drugs.
 Cures Colds.
 An Ideal Woman's Laxative.
 Who wants to take salts, or castor oil, when there is nothing better than Dr. King's New Life Pills for all bowel troubles. They act gently and naturally on the stomach and liver, stimulate and regulate your bowels and tone up the entire system. Price, 25c. At all drug stores.
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 Dr. King's New Discovery is known everywhere as the remedy which will surely stop a cough or cold. D. P. Lawson of Eldon, Tenn., writes: "Dr. King's New Discovery is the most wonderful cough, cold and throat and lung medicine I ever sold in my store. It can't be beat. It sells without any trouble at all. It needs no guarantee." This is true, because Dr. King's New Discovery will relieve the most obstinate of coughs and colds. Lung troubles quickly helped by its use. You should keep a bottle in the house at all times for all the members of the family. 50c. and \$1.00. Recommended by All Druggists. Advt.

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