

LAFFITE OF LOUISIANA

BY MARY DEVEREUX
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 Shell Island, 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 Grande Terre, it was to 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."

"Very well, gentlemen; be it so," replied Laffite. "But in that case I 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 side by side, so that the officers might board the Baratarian craft.

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 cease all hostilities 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 your 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 subject, 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.

Capt. Lockyer was the first to speak. "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 Laffite's ready acquiescence 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.

This he did by enlarging upon the manifest and great advantages to result from the "Baratarian commandant" and his followers by acceding to the

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

The Englishmen looked uncomfortable; but Lockyer muttered something about "the fortunes of war," and McWilliams said: "But the cruelty of the negroes can add little, after all, to the punishment it has been decided to inflict upon New Orleans. The city 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 risen, and now stood before him, their faces showing mingled consternation 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 negotiations 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 to-morrow."

The tone of quiet authority accompanying the words appeared to leave no alternative for the British officers, who could only nod their assent, evidently deeming it more diplomatic to check the anger showing 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 soon 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, as the Englishmen drew their chairs to the hearth, the old negro closed and barred the heavy shutters, besides placing for the night an iron 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 deaf ears 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 hands of his, and his manner,—the whole 'cut of his jib,'—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, his ability to clutch 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 from Halifax to 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. Russ, 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 I am speaking of, and after that field was explored they came back to a richer field in Colorado, which they had entirely overlooked. After a time they went to Alaska, and just a short time ago rich fields were found 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 some gold was assayed that yielded \$236 to the ton, while the average was \$8 to \$10. In another place there \$2,000 was dug up in one day, and all this by entirely crude methods. It runs through a vein of quartz some eighty feet down. Near Great Falls seven veins have been opened from three to twenty feet wide. Six Colorado mining capitalists a day or two ago bought 600 acres of land in that locality for the very purpose of exploring this. It is not confined to that locality, either. I have driven in my buggy 600 miles from Maryland down through the Carolinas and have found many places where 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 into an 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 radiance. It is a city not only 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 the million lamps blazing from the walls of houses, shining across the interminable streets, and glowing in a straight line down the whispering avenues, have something of the magic gentleness and sensuous inspiration of an Arabian story. You begin to think Berlin is the greatest city in the world.—Montreal Herald.

A Sleep Inducer.

A writer in a medical journal suggests a new way of juggling with insomnia. His sleep inducer is a chain of words, so associated in sound or meaning that each suggests the next subsequent—for instance: Ice, slippery; smooth, rough; rumble, tramp, etc. When sleep is coy, recite the list mentally. This is said to be a sure cure. It keeps the mind from rambling from subject to subject, as the mind tends to do in sleeplessness.—Chicago News.

INVENTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Cold Storage Sunlight.

Cold storage sunlight in the form of coal versus the fresh article as sources of energy interest a man of Bombay, who says that "the various sources of energy in the earth may be divided into two kinds—viz.: income as arising from the daily receipt of thermal energy from the sun, which consists in the growth of vegetables of all kinds, of stored energy in elevated water, etc.; and of 'saving,' which consists of stores of vegetable products, such as coal and petroleum, etc. At present we are making a most inordinate use of the latter, while in the main ignoring the lavish annual donations from Helios. After many years' study it has been found cheaper to plow and sow eucalyptus than to import coal, the dry timber being asserted to be far more efficient than imported coal and greater in thermal value, bulk for bulk. This is a speculation over which we have been exercising our minds for over twenty years, and for which we believe there is still a solution to be found of value inestimable to humanity."

Swinging Cradle.

Nobody receives more care and attention than the baby, everybody seeming to vie with one another in doing everything possible to make life for it comfortable. Still, at times the mother has other duties that need immediate attention, and unless she has somebody to help her to take care of the baby these duties are left undone. An Iowa man has devised a swinging cradle, which, he claims, will be a help to all mothers. The cradle is suspended by means of rods on a spiral spring, the latter being attached to a beam and brace fastened at any convenient place. A slight push of the cradle sets it in motion, the spring keeping it moving up and down for quite a long time. Oftentimes all the baby needs to keep him quiet is a slight rocking movement of this kind.

That advance of 5 per cent. in the price of rough diamonds can be borne complacently. What worries most persons is the regular monthly advance in the price of black diamonds.

The Shah of Persia declares that Buffalo Bill's show is more entertaining than grand opera. But the shah can speak as he feels without being afraid of losing social prestige.

A Cleveland woman whipped a masher on a street car the other evening. Oh, yes, she's beautiful and accomplished and a social leader.

At last Boston has a department store. There is a department for codfish and one for brown bread, and one for beans, making three in all.

Some wealthy New Yorkers are about to launch another big life insurance company. They may have noticed of late that a life insurance company is a good thing.

Cairo evidently is much impressed with the fact that it is easier to keep out the yellow fever than to chase it away when it once comes to town.

Secretary Taft's hosts at Tokyo served him iced whale after slicing him up and deciding nothing less would meet the emergency.

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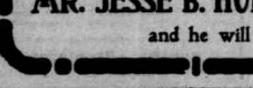
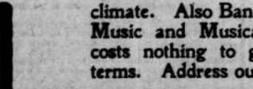
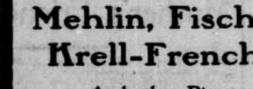
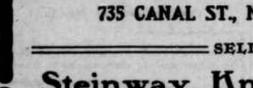
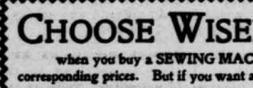
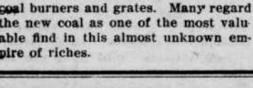
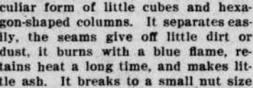
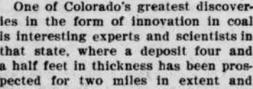
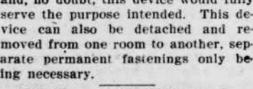
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Living For Eternity.

I have on earth to lay up a good store for the world to come. Once a year to take stock of grace, will not suffice for me who am trafficking for eternity. This I must do every day. Before I close my eyes each night in sleep, I must have my accounts audited and accepted up to the last moment, in due preparation for the general audit.—Rev. Samuel Dunn.

The Daily Thought.

We have our solitary moments and our solitary walks when the mind is too often occupied with thoughts that do not profit, but rather leave a sting and a stain behind. At such times, freed from the absorbing claims of our daily work, the mind can turn to that one thought which God gave us in the early morning or late evening. We can extract from it its message, and turn it into prayer.



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

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

They lost no time in doing this, scrutinized keenly by the resentful 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, or brandy, gentlemen," he said, "then you may proceed to talk, for I am at your service. I am Jean Laffite, the 'commandant'—if such I may be called—at Barataria."

Both officers stared at him in undisguised amazement. Then they again looked at one another, but now as if for mutual comfort, while they began to mumble confused apologies.

"Proceed," Laffite repeated, paying no heed to their discomfiture. "What do you want with me—what can any 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, near where Laffite's arm was resting.

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

The paper ran as follows: "I have arrived in the Florida for the purpose of annoying the only enemy Great Britain has in the world, as France and England are now friends."

"I call on you, with your brave followers, to enter into the service of Great Britain, in which you shall have the grade of a captain; lands will be given to you all, in proportion to your respective ranks, on peace taking

Election in Japan. Japan has 27,138 public schools, in which 5,084,089 children (about one-sixth of Japan's entire population) are taught by 108,360 teachers, says a Japanese official "White Book." This is 92.22 per cent of all children of school age in the empire. In 1872 the school enrollment was 29 per cent; in 1883 it was 51 per cent, and in 1893, 59 per cent. The chief growth has been since the Chino-Japanese war, 1894-95, about 33 per cent in only ten years.

Vast Cost of Forest Fires. A million dollar fire in a lumber yard excites public attention and comment from Maine to California. Few pay any attention to the \$25,000,000 worth of lumber annually destroyed in the United States by forest fires. The price of beef, gas and railway rates is a permanent topic of active discussion and controversy. Few give any heed to the recent enormous increase in the cost of lumber or to the danger of an early exhaustion of our forest resources.—New York Sun.

A writer in a medical journal suggests a new way of juggling with insomnia. His sleep inducer is a chain of words, so associated in sound or meaning that each suggests the next subsequent—for instance: Ice, slippery; smooth, rough; rumble, tramp, etc. When sleep is coy, recite the list mentally. This is said to be a sure cure. It keeps the mind from rambling from subject to subject, as the mind tends to do in sleeplessness.—Chicago News.