

CONDENSED CLASSICS

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE

By **BLASCO IBANEZ**
Condensation by
Alice G. Higgins, Boston Athenaeum.



Vicente Blasco Ibañez was born in Valencia, Spain, in January, 1867, the son of a proprietor of a dry-goods shop. He attended the University of Valencia and received a degree in law. He was against the established order from his college days. As a result he received the first of a series of imprisonments when he was eighteen—for a sonnet against the government. He has passed periods of exile at Paris and in Italy, alternating with stays in prison. One of his protests was against the measures pursued by the government in suppressing the Cuban insurrection. He founded a republican newspaper, of which he was editor, reporter and reviewer. He established a publishing house to introduce to Spain the great works of European literature at popular prices; this was but one of the attempts he has made, sometimes at the risk of his life, to bring his country into the current of modern thought. He was elected to the Cortes, and became the leader of his party. He devotes his time at present entirely to literature.

In his novels he began to use the Spanish way with pictures of local provincial life with the types and the pictures of which he was familiar. But he deals not merely with pictures; his stories all have an object in which their strenuous author is greatly interested. He lacks restraint, his passion for independence is without bounds, he carries his admiration for the realism of Zola to limits which shock our more restrained habit of mind, but despite the opposition which he has encountered at home and abroad, the author of "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" is rapidly becoming one of the most widely read of living writers.

In 1870 Marcelo Desnoyers was a lonely lad of nineteen years living in Marseilles. A popular manifestation in favor of peace, at the first news of war with Prussia, influenced him to leave the country and he made an unforgettable trip to South America, where after many failures and a laborious existence, he became an employe of Madariaga, the centaur.

Don Madariaga's fortune was enormous. He had gained his first money as a fearless trader, and with his earnings had bought vast tracts of land, devoting them to the raising of cattle. Though he had a capricious and despotic character he nevertheless felt a certain fondness for his new French overseer. One morning Desnoyers saved his life.

"Thanks, Frenchy," said the ranchman, much touched. "You are an all-round man and I am going to reward you. From this day I shall speak to you as I do to my family."

Desnoyers soon married Luisa, Madariaga's elder daughter, while a young German, Karl Hartrott, a recent arrival at the ranch, married Elena, her younger sister. Seated under the awning on summer nights the ranchman surveyed his family around him with a sort of patriarchal ecstasy.

"Just think of it, Frenchy," he said. "I am Spanish, you French, Karl German, my daughters Argentinians, the cook Russian, his assistant Greek, the stable boy English, the kitchen servants natives, Gallicians, or Italians, and among the peons are many castes and laws. . . . And yet all live in peace. In Europe, we would have probably been in a grand fight by this time, but here we are all friends."

Julio, the son of Desnoyers, was the favorite grandchild of Madariaga. "Ah, the fine cowboy! What a pretty fellow you are!" he would say. "Have a good time, for grandpa is always here with his money."

One evening the patron's horse came slowly home without its rider. The old man had fallen on the highway, and when they found him he was dead.

The Harrotts moved to Berlin at once and the Desnoyers went to Paris, each household in possession of an enormous fortune. Besides establishing his family in an ostentatious house in Paris, Desnoyers bought a castle, Villeblanche-sur-Marne, a mixture of palace and fortress, where he could put his rapidly accumulating purchases of paintings, furniture, statues—all those things which he carried away from the auctions which it had now become his habit to frequent.

The only disappointment in Desnoyers' new life came from his children—his daughter Chichi because of her independence and Julio because of his aimless existence. Julio has had to make a trip to South America in order to realize on a bequest from his grandfather so that he might marry the fascinating and frivolous Marguerite Laurier, with whom he had become infatuated.

Suddenly the cloud of war cast its shadow over this family. The self-sufficient Dr. Julius von Hartrott said to his cousin: "War will be declared tomorrow or the day after. Nothing can prevent it now. It is necessary for the welfare of humanity."

On the eve of mobilization Tchernoff, a friend of Julio's, had a vision in

which he saw the Apocalyptic Beast rising out of the sea. Four terrible horsemen preceded the appearance of the monster, and these scourges of the earth, Conquest, War, Famine and Death, were beginning their mad, devastating course over the heads of terrified humanity.

Julio, being an Argentinian, was exempt from military service and had hoped to continue his life as though nothing were happening. His inamorata, however, from a woman infatuated with dress, was gradually transformed by her desire to serve. The war had made her ponder much on the values of life, and her sense of duty to the husband whom she so greatly wronged sent her back to his side when she heard that he had been severely wounded. To Julio she said, "You must leave me. . . . Life is not what we have thought it. Had it not been for the war we might, perhaps, have realized our dream, but now! . . . For the remainder of my life I shall carry the heaviest burden, and yet at the same time, it will be sweet, since the more it weighs me down the greater will my atonement be."

The vanquished lover said good-by to Love and Happiness, but this repulse gave him a new impetus to fill the vacuum of his empty existence.

When Paris was threatened and refugees told of the wholesale sackings of their homes, Don Marcelo began to fear for his castle, and went to Villeblanche, arriving in time to witness the discouraged exhaustion of the French army's retreat. Closely following were the invading Germans shouting joyously, "Nach Paris!"

Villeblanche became the camping ground for a regiment and its bewildered proprietor was subjected to innumerable indignities, saw his most choice possessions looted and was the powerless witness to the murder of prominent civilians of the village. A young officer arrived who introduced himself as Captain Otto von Hartrott. He explained with true German callousness the ruin and plunder of his uncle's castle by saying to him, "It is war. . . . We have to be very ruthless that we may not last long. True kindness consists in being cruel, because then the terror-stricken enemy gives in sooner, and so the world suffers less."

For four days Don Marcelo lived through a period of stupefaction slashed by the most horrible visions. The village was reduced to a mass of ruins before his eyes, and his household suffered unspenkably from the bestiality of the couraging officers. A war hospital was established on the estate, but moved on under the stress of battle, though the banner of the Red Cross remained to deceive the French about the artillery which was installed in the park. When a French airplane discovered this piece of treachery Don Marcelo found himself in the heart of a furious battle. The cannonading of the Germans and the bursting of French shells terrified him until at last he saw at the foot of the highway near his castle several of the attacking columns which had crossed the Marne. They rushed forward unmoved by the deadly fire of the Germans, and he realized his beloved French were driving back the Teuton horde.

Only ruins of his once beautiful estate were now left to him and he said farewell to Villeblanche. After his return to Paris a young soldier of the infantry called to see him. It was his son Julio, never so distinguished looking as in this rough, ready-made uniform. Their reconciliation was complete.

With his son on the battlefield Don Marcelo lived through months of anxious suspense. Through the influence of a friend he was able to see the young hero. It was a tortuous journey through the zigzags and curves of the trenches, while bullets buzzed like horseflies through the air, and on through dark galleries and subterranean fortifications until he reached the outer trench line.

Desnoyers hardly recognized his son on account of his changed appearance, but in spite of his hard life Julio had found content in comradeships such as he had never known. For the first time in his life he was tasting the delight of knowing that he was a useful being. As his father left him, hope sang in his ears. "No one will kill him. My heart which never deceives me tells me so."

Julio became a sergeant, then a sub-lieutenant and for his exceptional bravery received the Croix de Guerre, the military medal, and finally was among those proposed for the Legion d'Honneur. One afternoon during the Champagne offensive, Desnoyers, still cherishing the fond illusions of hope, returned to his home in gay spirits to find the dreadful news awaiting him. Julio, his son, lay dead on the field of honor.

When he went to the burial fields to find his son's last resting place he recalled Tchernoff, the dreamer, and the four terrible horsemen riding ruthlessly over his fellow creatures whom he saw in his vision, and the prophecy which he then made:

"No, the Beast does not die. It is the eternal companion of man. It hides, spouting the blood forty. . . . sixty. . . . a hundred years, but eventually it reappears. All that we can hope is that its wound may be long and deep, that it may remain hidden so long that the generation that now remembers it may never see it again."

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BLOUSES LOOK WITH FAVOR UPON THE VOGUE OF BLACK



IN THE pursuit of novelty designers have succeeded in making blouses the most versatile of our belongings. They reflect every new idea that enters the field of fashion, besides exploiting some that are their own. The charm of novelty is about all that can be added to them—they have captured the most beautiful fabrics, made the whole range of colors their own and are developed in as many different styles as dresses are. The overblouse grows in popularity; it is a dominating affair that determines the character of the toilette, and it is vastly becoming because it disposes of the waistline in such a satisfactory way.

The vogue of black, and black and white, has been made the most of in a distinguished company of blouses for late summer and for fall. They are all in the overblouse and tie-back styles and nearly all of crepe de chine, georgette or other crepe weaves in silk. In many of them georgette is used in combination with other crepes as in the blouse pictured here, which has a yoke and sleeves of black georgette and body of white crepe de chine.

It is cut in the kimono style and gathered into a short, smooth fitting yoke that is split at each side and laces together with black silk cord ending in small silk tassels. White beads outline the neck, shoulders and ends of the sleeves and they are scattered over the body of the blouse like small jewels, each with four little black beads about it, to set it off. There is nothing more distinguished than this combination of black and white when it is well balanced.

Blouses made of the various black crepes nearly all show touches of one or two colors, with henna and sapphire much considered. Bands or placements of these colored crepes are introduced by the aid of stitchey or embroidery in the body of the blouse, but the colors are sparingly used. Sometimes a single flower motif in applique or embroidery is ingeniously placed near the waistline or near the shoulder, and it seems to emphasize the brilliance of black in these crepes. Cross-stitch, ladder-stitch, herringbone and fit gaine, as well as French knots play important parts in the finishing of new blouses.

AUTUMN HATS PROMISE RICH WINTER MILLINERY



NEARLY all the hats presented at the early showings of autumn millinery can cheerfully undertake to see their wearers through the winter. They are handmade hats, of fabrics that have a warm look, and many of the colors in these fabrics are glowing. Velvet, plain or panne, a heavy satin that suggests hatter's plush, duvety and all its numerous kindred, make lovely mediums for autumnal colors—the purple, fuchsia, cerise, red-browns and pheasant tones, bright red and strong, clear blues—even the new dark grays refuse to be cold and could not well be, in the fashionable fabrics.

One may gather at a glance over any of the displays of new hats, that they are draped affairs and that they are soft as to lines. Also, both in their making and trimming, they bear witness to the handwork of professionals that are adepts in their art.

Hats appropriate the decorative features of gowns—and go farther. To embroideries, beads, braids and ribbons, they add many millinery ornaments, and among these are new arrivals made of metal—that it is hard to call by name. Brim edges, and other edges find themselves finished with small metallic oblongs bent over

them, and numerous dangles are used in the same positions. "Nail heads" are used, and have been elaborated. The hat at the top of the group has metallic ornaments set about the up-turned brim edge, making an attractive finish for the duvety drapery. At the left of it a felt hat with satin drapery approves lacquered fruits and demonstrates the beauty of two small apples that hang on the brim. Velvet is responsible for the richness of the spirited shape at the right, with flower motifs applied in chenille about the brim edge.

One of the new large-crowned shapes finishes the group. It has a velvet facing on the under brim, edged with folded ribbon across the front, and is otherwise covered with duvety, having a metallic net drawn over it.

Julia Bottomly

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Sport Frocks of Knitted Silk. Sport frocks of knitted silk of the straight-line type with a high collar, that may also be worn low and rolling, are very smart.

MANY EGG GRADE TERMS ARE USED

Almost Hopeless Task for Consumer to Make Purchase in Intelligent Fashion.

CONSUMER GUIDED BY PRICE

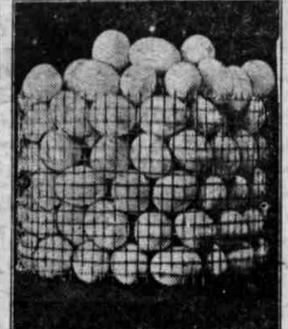
Difficulty Caused by Carelessness or Ignorance on Part of Retailer in Allowing Product to Deteriorate Rapidly.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The customer is often bewildered by the number of grades of eggs offered by the retailer; fresh eggs, strictly western fresh, guaranteed fresh, New York state fresh, fresh gathered nearby, storage eggs, guaranteed good storage, storage firsts, guaranteed extra good storage, and candled storage eggs, may all be found side by side or in nearby stores.

Grades Are Meaningless.

This multiplicity of terms makes it an almost hopeless task for the consumer to buy eggs in any intelligent fashion, say market specialists of the



Carefully Selected and Graded Eggs.

United States Department of Agriculture. As a matter of fact, most of these so-called grades are meaningless. The consumer usually is guided simply by the price asked, assuming that if he pays the top price he will get the best eggs, no matter what the particular retailer may say. In this he is partly correct, since the wholesalers usually maintain prices closely related to the quality of the eggs which they pass on to the retailers, and the price which they charge them is reflected in the retail price to the consumer.

Retailer at Fault.

The difficulty is that because of carelessness or ignorance on the part of many retailers the eggs which they receive from the wholesalers often deteriorate rapidly while in the store. Thus the retailer frequently receives eggs of good quality, attaches a fancy name to them, and a price in proportion to what he paid, and then lets them deteriorate on his hands, so that they are actually poorer in quality than some cheaper eggs which he may have just received at his store.

Under present conditions the best thing the consumer can do is to avoid buying eggs at stores which are obviously careless in handling them, telling the retailer just why he does not buy eggs at his store. He should also call the attention of the retailer to any bad eggs bought of him. The pressure which can thus be exerted by the consumer can be made an important factor in bringing about a much needed improvement in the handling of eggs by retailers.

REPELLENT KEEPS FLIES OFF

Not Good Practice to Depend on Cow's Tail to Keep Pests Off—Three Formulas Given.

Don't say "shoo, fly," nor depend on Bossy to keep the pest away by means of her tail. Neither is effective. Rather take advantage of sprays which have been found a success.

Below are given three formulas, either of which is recommended by Prof. J. R. Watson, entomologist of the Florida experiment station, to keep almost any kind of flies away from domestic animals:

- No. 1: Laundry soap, one pound; water, four gallons; crude petroleum, one gallon; powdered naphthalene, four ounces.
- No. 2: Fish oil, 100 parts; oil of tar, 50 parts; crude carbolic acid, one part.
- No. 3: Laurel oil, one part; linseed oil, ten parts.

No. 1 must be thoroughly emulsified by running it through a spray pump after which it can be sprayed on the animals.

GOOD SILAGE FEEDING RULE

For Every 100 Pounds of Live Weight Three Pounds of Corn Silage Is Recommended.

Three pounds of corn silage for every 100 pounds of live weight of cattle per day is a good rule to follow. A cow which weighs over 1,500 pounds should receive 45 pounds of silage daily. Beware of moldy silage. A small quantity may not be injurious, but if the cow eats very much, digestive disorders will follow.

LIST OF BUILDINGS IN FARM APPRAISAL

Mention Water Supply, Light System, Etc., Separately.

Necessary That New Improvement Costs Be Correctly Inventoried and Depreciation Be Adequately Provided For.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In making a farm appraisal, each building or improvement, such as water supply, lighting system, etc., should be listed separately, say farm management specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. It is best not to list separately other land improvements, such as fences, drainage, and the like, but their value should be included in the appraisal of the land so improved.

One of the most perplexing appraisals will be that of the farm buildings and other improvements. The buildings and improvements are bought and sold with the land, and it may often appear difficult to give them a value separate from the land. This is not so difficult as it may seem, and it is of importance that they be separately valued, as only by this means can all the uses of the inventory be realized. Furthermore, this is necessary in order that new building improvement costs be correctly inventoried and depreciation be adequately provided for.

There are two bases which may be employed in appraising buildings and improvements—original cost of construction and estimated cost to replace present prices. In either case allowance should be made for depreciation from the date of erection to the inventory date.

STORED POTATOES NEED AIR

Where Piled to Depth of 10 or 15 Feet Tubers Sure to Go Through Sweating Process.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

If it is a bad practice to store potatoes in large bins or piles, the United States Department of Agriculture advises. Not infrequently potatoes are piled to a depth of 10 to 15 feet, the pile being correspondingly large in the other two dimensions. When stored in this manner they are almost certain to go through a rather violent sweating or curing process,



Good Type of Potato Storage House.

during the course of which the tubers in the central portion of the pile are frequently subjected to a dangerously high temperature. This is especially true if the tubers are slightly immature, or were not dry and free from moist soil when gathered, or if stored when the outside temperature is high, making it difficult to lower the inside temperature of the house. Overheating from all of the causes mentioned may be avoided by making some provision for aerating the pile.

HORSES REQUIRE GOOD CARE

Animal in Pain Consumes Half More Feed to Do Same Work—Fit Collar Properly.

Too many farmers fail to realize the bad effect of sore shoulders on horses. A horse that is in pain requires from 30 to 50 per cent more feed to produce a given amount of work without loss of weight. There is no need for an animal to have sore shoulders if the collar is well fitted, the hames are adjusted to pull at the right angle on the shoulders, and the collars are kept clean. Young horses just starting to work should have their shoulders washed with salt and water after work and the same should be kept out from under the collar when at work. A little care will be well repaid later.—C. L. Bray, Colorado Agricultural College.

DUST BATHS IN HOT WEATHER

Effective Means of Ridding Fowls' Body of Vermin and Providing Enjoyable Exercise.

Don't forget about the dust baths in hot weather. At this season, all that is necessary is to keep a few little spots spaded up quite free around in shady corners of the yards. Keep them free from stones and clods and lightly sprinkle them with water every noon. Then the fowls can get their bodies down on the cool, moist earth and obliterate the effects of the hot afternoon's sun. Besides this, the dust bath is an effective means of ridding the fowls' body of vermin and also provides the fowls with enjoyable exercise.