Ten Minute Classics

Famous Tales and Legends Told in Brief Form

Don Quixote and the Chain Gang

By J. W. MULLER

Throughout all Spanish-speaking countries there is being observed this three-hundredth year of the death of Don Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra to immortal Don Quixote de la Mancha. Much in other places prize this work, they cannot realize how the men of Spanish blood love it. It is now many generations old, already [illegible] throughout the Spanish [illegible] from Cuba to the end of South America, the stranger who knows "Don Quixote" will find eager companionship everywhere, from the humblest cot of a peon to the palace of a king or a little king. The story [illegible] is from Book III.

One morning Don Quixote and his faithful squire Sancho Panza beheld 12 men on the road walking in a long row. The row was held coily together by a long chain, so that the gentlemen looked neatly like beads on a string.

The knight-errant warrior naturally spurred to succor to all those mortals in distress, since the books of chivalry that had put a crack into his worthy brain had taught him that knights always did so without asking too many questions.

There were armed guards with the string of beads and they did not receive him too effusively. Still as is the good custom in polite Spain they [illegible] the chain all to stand still while Don Quixote talked along the line and [illegible] the interested pedestrians.

"I see [illegible] of being unhappily [illegible] in the row conducted [illegible] Sancho." "Indeed, I [illegible] affections so [illegible] the police hardly [illegible] away. Unfortunately [illegible] was with a [illegible] They gave me soft [illegible] neck and now I am [illegible] for three years as an [illegible]."

"[illegible]?" asked the Don, [illegible] knight errantry [illegible] him with only the [illegible] and flowery language, and [illegible] chaste phrases of [illegible]

"[illegible] that he is going to be a galley [illegible]" said the beads, with [illegible]

[illegible] the slave in the row [illegible] Don Quixote's [illegible] answered for [illegible] heartiness. "He is [illegible] It is with us because [illegible] much!"

"[illegible] the generous [illegible] sent to the galleys."

"[illegible] when they sing [illegible] of the rosary."

"[illegible] your riddles" returned [illegible] author.

"[illegible]" said "They call this [illegible] in smooth because [illegible] in the rock."

"[illegible]" said another. "[illegible] at him for not [illegible] it is no [illegible] 'no more the [illegible] I think they are [illegible]."

"[illegible]" asked Don Quixote [illegible]

"[illegible] 'Ten ducats,' answer [illegible] the great [illegible]."

Don [illegible] that knowing the [illegible] to run with galley [illegible] blue Medi[illegible] And all that for ten ducat[illegible] "I would give twenty [illegible] heart to deliver you."

"Thank you for nothing," retorted the galley[illegible]. "It is like offering a man instead of [illegible] he has eaten all the meat. You might as well give your ducats to a starving man at sea."

As the [illegible] lamented over the iniquity of [illegible] a man to five years in the galleys for a mere lack of ten ducats, the valley slave condescended to [illegible] him. "With ten ducats," he [illegible] "I would have greased the [illegible]. Enough. I say no more, but go along like a dog on a string."

The tales of all the other prisoners were equally [illegible]. Don Quixote recognized that they were not innocent lambs; yet, on the whole, he thought that much might be said for them as well as against them. Therefore he turned to the guards and demanded that they unlock the chains. "Let them answer for their sins in another world," said he.

"Take your empty pate about its own business!" responded the leader with great impoliteness. "Those who play with cats will get scratched."

This insolence from one whom the chivalry [illegible] Sancho to as a "scalid," so [illegible] the warrior that he changed. The [illegible] taken by surprise, [illegible] head over heels and [illegible] Don Quixote's horse. Rosinante, in a scramble, did not fall down as it usually did after one of these knightly charges.

The [illegible] promptly attacked the other guards and [illegible] them so well that Sancho Panza, who was always ready for brave deeds that did not involve fighting, danger or other similar risks, managed to secure the keys and unlock the chains.

The guards decided that good heels were better just then than many pairs of hands. As soon as they had fled, Don Quixote barred the ex-prisoners road and demanded that they go with their chains on their shoulders to present themselves to his lady and give her an exact account of his achievement.

"To expect this of us," said the biggest galley slave, "is to expect pears from elm trees."

He winked at his fellows and picked up a stone. They fell back to right and left and sent such a shower of mineral at Don Quixote that his shield was no protection, and he tumbled to the ground where his armor kept him effectively pinned fast, while poor Rosinante quivered in anguish as the stones drummed on her bony sides.

The greedy band sprang on the knight and stripped him. They took everything except his stockings, and even some of these taken there too had of not been for the iron legarmor, which they could not remove.

Sancho Panza, being unprovoked by missiles of any kind, was easier to win. When they went away, he was [illegible] off behind his hide.

The sorrowful and [illegible] squire looked [illegible] upon Sancho Panza's [illegible] Doggie sighed as melancholy [illegible] changing his charming head [illegible] and still shaking his ears in [illegible] as if [illegible] he [illegible] Rosinante, weary [illegible] had fallen down and [illegible] in hopeless gloom.

"I have always heard," said sighed [illegible] "that to do a kindness to the unworthy is like carrying water into the sea."

"Don Quixote" was written to [illegible] the true knighthood and the [illegible] and chivalry of the golden [illegible] to expose and [illegible] the false and [illegible] romantic notions of the [illegible] that had been gotten on the world by [illegible] romances. It was the derisive [illegible] of the romances that were [illegible] written about the [illegible] that crowded the shelves of [illegible].

He himself would have been the last of men to belittle the profession of arms or anything that called for courage or clean honors; for Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra himself was a soldier and had a career as wildly romantic as that of any knight.

Mrs Lydi Landman of Hunnewell is visiting friends and relatives

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Mrs C J Nicodson returned to Clarence Saturday after a visit in this city.

Mrs T. McLaughlin returned to her home in Kansas City, Saturday having been called here by the death of her mother, Mrs Mary Hardesty

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Jewell Dreschsr, who is employed by Senator McCllinchie in Jefferson City spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Dreschsr.

C. F. Bower, engineer in charge of the surveying and other work on the new Burlington line between this city and Moberly, spent the week end with his family in Chicago.

"The Eternal Sapho" with Miss Theda Bara, America's most popular actress in the drama of the Soul, Sapho. Matinee 5 and 10c. Night 5 and 15c. Gem Thursday Feb. 22.

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A Black Eye

Several weeks ago the Monroe High School Basket Ball Team played a game against the Moberly H. S. They lost, as usual but, as most unusual, they brought back with them reports of foul treatment on the part of their opponents, not the players, but the referee, crowd, etc. We knew, as it was the first time Monroe players had complained of foul weather, that there was something wrong but, thinking that this abuse was purely unintentional, as is often the case, we said nothing about it. But, in a clipping from the University Missourian, published at Columbia, Missouri, we find that unfair treatment seems to be a failing in the Moberly athletic department. Here is what Don Sapne, coach of the University High School basketball team has to say: "Nowhere have I seen a more unsportsmanlike spirit on the part of the referee, coach and crowd as in the game last Friday night with Moberly. They denied my team the use of a ball in practice and the use of resin as a protection against the slick floor."

Moberly won this game by a score of 28 to 18. They had been defeated a short time before by this same bunch in Columbia by a score of 50 to 25. This coupled with the treatment our boys received, makes things look rather bad for somebody, doesn't it? Although they were defeated at Moberly, we are confident that if they were given a real good, honest to God, fair chance on neutral grounds, they could and would lick the stuffin' out of that Moberly aggregation.

Boys, an honorable defeat is worth a dozen shady victories. He who loses a game honorably, although the sting of defeat is rough for a while, feels much better in the end than he who wins the game through pure and unadulterated crookenness.

Several members of the Knights of Pythias lodge of this city visited the Hannibal lodge last night.

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