

## An Episode of the Crescent City

By WILLARD BLAKEMAN

It was about 1850 that Arnold Dalmaitre, a cotton factor of New Orleans, went to New York on business.

In the office of a cotton broker in New York was a boy named Alec Tracy, whose health was very delicate. Indeed, the doctors had given him but a short time to live. Tracy, who was but fifteen years old, was assigned to Dalmaitre to perform certain clerical duties and carry messages during the latter's stay in New York. Dalmaitre was one of those men generous, sensitive to their honor, that were typical of the south at that time. He took pity on the boy and, suggesting that a southern climate and a change of scene might restore him to health, offered to take him to New Orleans and give him a position in his office there.

Dalmaitre was a bachelor about forty years old and soon after his return from New York married a woman half his age, celebrated for her beauty. Gay society is usually encumbered with men who consider women a legitimate prey, though the standard of honor in this respect is doubtless higher than it was. A scion of a noble French house, Albert Durier, whose father had left France during the revolution to escape the guillotine, was at that time prominent socially in New Orleans and became devoted to Mme. Dalmaitre. It was not long before his attentions were the subject of remark.

Dalmaitre was not himself socially inclined, and his wife went about a good deal without him. For this reason he did not observe Durier being so much with his wife, and there was no one to caution him except Tracy. The young northerner was conscious of the fact that he owed his life to his benefactor and idolized him. When, therefore, he noticed that Dalmaitre needed a friend to warn him of the danger in which his wife was being placed he considered how he could do so with the least damage to all concerned.

But the more he thought about it the more clearly he saw the difficulties in the way. Not a word could be spoken without bringing on a rupture in Dalmaitre's domestic relations. Tracy believed that the wife was innocent, but imprudent; that she needed to be cautioned, possibly to be withdrawn from the influence of her admirer. This plan, too, he cast aside. Finally he determined to settle the matter with Durier, but in such a way that it would not appear to pertain in any way to the lady.

Meeting Durier at a ball, Tracy, while both were dancing, Durier with Mme. Dalmaitre, purposely shoved him. Durier cast an irritated glance at him, but paid no further attention to the matter. Tracy guided his partner again near Durier and brought about another collision. This time he scowled at Durier, as if to accuse him of being at fault in the matter.

As soon as the music stopped the two men went to another room, where each accused the other of purposely running against him in the dance. Tracy was coolly abusive, tantalizing his enemy into a passion. Finally the latter at a contemptuous remark of Tracy's turned on his heels with the words "You shall hear from me" and, seeking a friend, sent a challenge by him. The episode was witnessed by several persons, who gave the cause as it appeared on the surface.

Dueling at that time was the acknowledged method among gentlemen, especially in the south, of settling disputes, and there was a grove not far from the Crescent City where the duels took place. It was arranged that at sunrise the next morning the parties should meet at this grove and settle at the pistol's mouth which of the two men had joggled the other in the dance. Whether Durier suspected the real cause did not appear.

But there was one person who saw through Tracy's act and had learned the consequences shortly after the words that passed between the two men. Tracy was living in bachelor rooms at the time, and he had scarcely got home from the ball when who should appear but Mme. Dalmaitre.

"This affair between you and Mr. Durier must not take place. Why did you not make your demands on me instead of picking this quarrel with him?"

"I do not understand you, madame." She looked at him keenly for a time, then said, "What do you wish me to do?"

"Nothing."

"My eyes have been opened. I assure you I am perfectly innocent. I will agree never to receive your enemy again. Apologize to him and end the matter between you and him."

"Are you aware that such a course would cause me to be cut by every friend I have?"

"Oh, heavens!"

"You fear that the real cause of the quarrel will be learned by the world."

"Very well. I will send an apology to Durier at once."

She seized his hand and kissed it, then, turning, left him.

The next day Tracy told his benefactor that he had determined to return to New York. Dalmaitre endeavored to dissuade him, but without effect. He departed soon after the episode to escape the contempt of the entire social set of New Orleans. Mme. Dalmaitre gave up many of her social ties and devoted herself to her husband.

## The Claimant

By EUNICE BLAKE

On the estate of Lucien Marivaud, in France, lived a poor man named Soubise and his wife, Marie, the couple having a little son, Francois. M. Marivaud had extensive vineyards, from the product of which he manufactured wine. Soubise had charge of the grape growing, and Marivaud not only valued his services highly, but was very fond of him. Soubise's wife died, and he soon followed her, leaving little Francois without a home.

M. Marivaud had a son, Victor, about Francois' age. When the latter was left an orphan he was taken to the chateau and became a playmate of Victor. There was a brother of Victor, Louis, much younger than either of these two boys.

When Victor was eighteen he entered the military school and became an army officer. Upon graduating he was ordered to join his regiment in Tonkin. Francois was anxious to see service and, enlisting in the same regiment, went out with Victor, who agreed to interest himself in his promotion that he might become an officer.

A year later after a fight Lieutenant Marivaud was reported missing. This meant that he had fallen into the hands of the Chinese, in which case it was quite likely that he had been murdered. When nothing was heard from him for several years he was given up by his family, and when his brother, Louis, came of age he inherited the family patrimony, his father having died without a will. M. Marivaud had purposely omitted to make one because he never ceased to hope that his son would one day turn out to be among the living.

Ten years after the departure of Victor Marivaud, when there was no member of the family living, Louis, who had for some time possessed and managed the wine business, became engaged to Hortense Villaret, the daughter of a neighbor. Mlle. Villaret belonged to an aristocratic family, but the estate had been confiscated during one of the many changes in the sovereignty of France, and she was very poor. She and Louis were much in love with each other, and her father favored the match because Louis was wealthy and could enable Hortense to return to the style of living to which the family had formerly been accustomed.

All went happily for the lovers till a few weeks before the day set for the wedding. Then one day a man appeared at the chateau claiming to be Victor Marivaud. Louis was but twelve years old when his brother left home, and, granting that this man was Victor, he would not have remembered him. There was no other person at hand who had been familiar with Victor to identify him.

But the claimant was able to tell of many incidents that had happened on the estate, which went far to prove that he was what he claimed to be. He explained his long absence in this wise: During the fight in which he was reported missing he was knocked on the head by the butt of a musket in the hands of a Chinaman and stunned. When he came to himself he remembered nothing of the past, not even his name. The dead were lying about him; the wounded had been removed. He arose and walked till he came to a city, where he eventually entered the service of a French merchant. After passing through various vicissitudes he was taken suddenly ill and was removed to a hospital. After having been delirious on returning to his former condition he had exclaimed, "You rascally Chinaman, take that for yours!" But seeing a nurse before him instead of a Chinaman he appeared much surprised. He had returned to a normal state, remembering that he was Victor Marivaud.

His appearance was a terrible blow to the lovers, for, according to the French law of inheritance, Victor Marivaud was the owner of the estate, including the wine business. He told Louis so many things that had occurred during the latter's childhood that Louis became convinced that the stranger was his brother. Nevertheless it was not to be expected that he would be pleased to see a brother of whom he had no remembrance and who would dispossess him of his property. But the severest blow was that M. Villaret immediately withdrew his consent to his daughter's marriage unless

it could be proved that the claimant was an impostor.

There was an old blind woman living on the place, who, on hearing of the claimant, desired that he be brought to her. She asked him a few questions, which seemed to trouble him, though he answered them correctly. Then the old woman directed that he be uncovered to the waist. This was done, and her hand was guided to his chest. She slid her hand around to his side under his right arm, and it rested on a small lump the size of a pea.

"This is Francois Soubise," she said. "I lived with his mother when he was a little boy and often dressed and undressed him. I know him by this lump."

That ended the pretense. Louis Marivaud after this attempt to impose on him went to Tonkin and made a search for his brother, Victor. But, although he spent much time on the matter, he failed to obtain any information whatever. Victor never returned.

## LAWYERS' WORK FOR FRANK.

Highest Court to Sit in Full For Second Time on Georgia Murder Case.

What amounts to a stay of execution in the case of Leo M. Frank of Atlanta, Ga., who was found guilty of the murder of fourteen-year-old Mary Phagan, an employee of the pencil factory of which Frank was superintendent, was issued by Associate Justice Joseph R. Lamar of the United States supreme court. He granted an appeal which for a second time brings the case before the highest court in the land. Following is a chronological history of the case:

May 24, 1913.—Leo Frank indicted for the murder of Mary Phagan, a girl who worked in a pencil factory in Atlanta. James Conley, sweeper in the factory, also held. Aug. 4.—Trial begins in Atlanta. James Conley testifies against Frank. Aug. 24.—Frank found guilty of the murder of Mary Phagan.

Feb. 17, 1914.—Conviction affirmed by the supreme court of Georgia. Feb. 23.—A. McKnight, negro, makes an affidavit that his evidence against Frank was false. March 4.—George Eppes, another witness who testified against Frank, repudiates his testimony. March 7.—Frank is sentenced to death. April 12.—Lawyers for Frank assert that his conviction was invalid in view of the fact that he was not in court when sentence of death was passed on him. April 19.—A. McKnight recants his repudiation of testimony. April 24.—Lawyers for Frank try to show that James Conley is guilty of murdering Mary Phagan. April 25.—Frank is examined to determine if he is sane and is found to be normal. May 10.—A motion is made to annul the verdict against Frank. Nov. 14.—New trial is denied Frank and his conviction is sustained. Nov. 20.—Supreme court of Georgia denies a writ of error to Frank. Nov. 21.—Application is made to the supreme court of the United States for writ of error. Dec. 7.—The supreme court refuses a writ to review the Frank case. Dec. 9.—Frank addresses court in Atlanta and asserts his innocence; is again sentenced to death. Dec. 21.—Appeal for certificate of "probable cause" for appeal denied by Judge Newman in Atlanta. Dec. 23.—United States supreme court grants an appeal.

## MEXICANS ARE STARVING TOO.

Red Cross Reports That Hundreds of Thousands Are in Need.

Hundreds of thousands of people in Mexico are starving, according to advices which reached this country. From Monterey Consul General Hanna reported a condition of serious famine. It developed that the American Red Cross and private citizens are now doing relief work in Mexico on a large scale and that the continuance of revolution has had a much more serious effect than had been realized in this country.

This is a new phase of the Mexican situation and indicates most impressively the general demoralization of the country. It is expected that hunger will play an increasingly important part in Mexico from now on and that these conditions will add to the confusion and anarchy. The Red Cross gave out the following message from Consul General Hanna:

"After four years of war this whole country is short of food. I will make all supplies and money go as far as possible."

How Hadley Proposed.

The way President Arthur Twining Hadley, according to a Yale legend, asked his prospective father-in-law for permission to marry his daughter was characteristic. At the time this gentleman, Luzon B. Morris, occupied an anomalous political position. He had recently been elected governor of Connecticut, but his claim was disputed, and the state was in a political turmoil.

"Mr. Morris," was the way Mr. Hadley approached the subject of his call, "I hope that I—at least—may be permitted to—to call you—governor."—World's Work.

Precaution.

"Why did you insist on having your new servant arrive on Saturday?" asked the neighbor.

"There's no train back till Monday," replied Mrs. Crosslots. "We wanted to be sure of having help for our Sunday dinner."—Washington Star.

Give us an international mind to understand, an international heart to feel.—William D. B. Almy.

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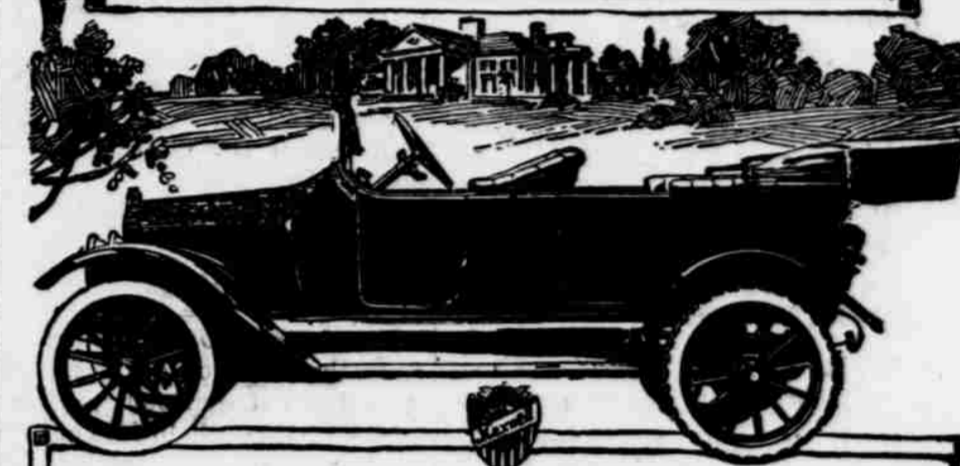
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