LAFIT LOUISIANE

BY MARY DEVEREUX

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WILSON

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CHAPTER III.

The gray was flushing with rose tints from the coming sun when a loud knocking upon the entrance door aroused the soldier on guard in the hall.

"Open the door!" a voice shouted peremptorily. "Tatro! Pierre! A thousand devils! Hear, fools inside there, open the door, I say!"

The disturbance brought Grelotte from his improvised couch at the rear of the hall; and climbing the ladder, he pushed his head through the broken window for a sight of who might be outside.

"Who are you?" demanded the young man standing before the door, his voice indicating surprise as he looked at the face of the soldier above him.

"That is what I should like to have you tell me of yourself, m'sieur," answered Grelotte, in his usual drawl, his not over friendly eyes noting the details of the attire worn by the aristocratically clad visitor.

"Dame!" now exclaimed the latter, evidently more angry than before. "What business can it be of yours? Who are you, that dare cavil over opening to me the door of my father's house?"

"He is but one; and there are two of us to handle such a cocksparrow as I could easily overcome alone, with one hand," said Grelotte scornfully, as the bars fell, and Etienne entered, somewhat paler than usual, and his hair and raiment disheveled from an all-night's concealment in one of the outbuildings of the chateau.

Wishing to see the baron, in order to press his demand for more funds, the young man had, unannounced, come down from Paris, and chanced to arrive the evening before, during the wholesale part of the melee.

He was by this time accustomed to such outbreaks; and suspecting quickly the position of affairs, had lost no time in finding a hiding place in a grove, not far from the house.

At the tidings of his father's death, a new expression came to Etienne's face, softening its coldness, but that quickly changed into a reply to his query as to who was in command of the escort, Grelotte answered, "Lieutenant Beaumarie."

An oath that made both soldiers stare burst from the young man's lips. "I will go to my apartments," he added, with a return of all his haughtiness; "and do not let you see to it that I am not disturbed by your orders."

With this he stalked through the hall, and up the stairway, shuddering as he passed the bloodstains upon the floor.

Etienne's steps on the upper stairs and along the oaken-floored hall brought Tatro to the door of the room where lay the two wounded soldiers, one of whom was evidently dying, while the other was sleeping quietly.

"Ah, Monsieur Etienne, is it you, sir?" Tatro exclaimed, turning with "Pardon—Monsieur le Baron," he burst forth in a quavering voice, "it is surely a sad return for you."

Somewhat softened by the old man's words, and now realizing more fully the horrors of the night before, Etienne replied in an unusually kind fashion, "But where he ended by ordering that a repast be brought to his room. Tatro's face showed a surprise he dared not voice; for he wondered that his new master could think of sustenance for himself, so soon after coming upon the scene of his recent loss.

Margot had slept little during the night, but by thinking of what changes were likely to come, now that the baron was dead. An intuition warned her to secure the money and valuables which the baron had intrusted to her care, to take them from their present hiding place, and have them at hand, in case some additional disaster should come. And, too, learning in mind her master's command that she remove Jean from Etienne's rule in case of that befalling which now had come to pass, her perplexed brain had at last revolved a plan which seemed both wise and feasible. But before attempting to put it into execution, a curious impulse urged her to take the young officer into her confidence. Looking up into the cold, stern face before her, she asked, "You will not leave here to-day, Monsieur?"

"Perhaps; I cannot decide until later."

"Before you go, monsieur, I would take it as a great favor should you see fit to give me some advice as to a matter concerning him you seem to love." And she glanced at Jean, who was standing in the doorway, with his back to them.

The officer, if he felt any surprise, showed none, for he answered her with kindly assurance. He then joined Jean, and the two went below, where breakfast awaited them.

The slain dead soldiers were buried early in the afternoon; but the stars were coming out when the door of the great vault was closed, and the late baron left to sleep with his ancestors.

Etienne, silent and repelling, stood by, nonchalanting little notice of anyone about. Jean, who had been care to keep away from his half-brother, had in the latter replied with some asperity to the lieutenant's salutation, when they met on the grounds, near the baron's body was borne from the house.

Margot was not of those who had stood about the tomb. Etienne's temporary absence from the house being assured, she had improved the opportunity to open the secret panel and remove the metal box and bags of coin, which she hid away amongst her own belongings. She proposed with Jean and Pierre, to seek a new home in Toulon, where a large number of Royalists, together with others who had suffered persecution from the Revolutionists, had found refuge.

Presently she saw Etienne enter the drawing room, where Jean had remained, having refused to leave the lieutenant, who was now seated at a table, examining some papers found upon the dead Fauchel and considerable, this an opportune time to make known her plans, she had turned toward the door, when Etienne's voice, full of its old-time arrogance, came to her.

"Jean, leave the room instantly, and go to your bed."

Margot paused in the doorway and saw Jean's head raised with a belligerent poise. "I will not go for you, Etienne, when you order me in such a rude fashion," he said, his voice ringing with rage.

Uttering a vile oath, Etienne strode forward, and seizing him by the collar, dragged the boy from the chair and began striking him.

"Monsieur Etienne, do not you do that!" cried Margot, rushing to him. "Ah, mon Dieu! How can you have the heart, and at such a time as this?"

Jean was struggling in a wild fury, his fair face and hair flushed to deep scarlet, which he did in a way that seemed to recall memories of some scene of two years before, in the Tuileries garden.

"Jean, Monsieur le Baron," he said, distinctly and calmly. "I have the right to tell you that you cannot thus assert your authority in my presence."

Etienne, as once before, released Jean, and turned to face the speaker, to whom the boy now rushed, clinging to him with a storm of passionate sobs, coming partly from anger, and partly from a bruised heart.

Margot had drawn nearer to his side; and, as Jean's sobs ceased, the three confronted Etienne, who now burst into a loud, derisive laugh.

"What, can a bastard, and the friends and dependents of a bastard, expect better?" he demanded, now speaking deliberately, his pale face distorted by malice.

Margot retorted indignantly, an angry flame springing into her eyes; and the lieutenant said in a low tone, whose very calmness was a menace, "It is scarcely the act of a gentleman to insult the defenseless and the dead."

"Insult!" cried Etienne, now letting the veil of the vials of his hatred relentlessly. "Pest! How can he be worse than I will him, when his mother was no wife?"

"Tis false!" declared Margot, fearless of everything like habitual respect.

"It is not," Etienne retorted; "and you are a liar when you say otherwise."

Jean, with paling face, his burning eyes fastened upon his brother, seemed stunned.

"It is not," Etienne repeated less vehemently, "as Pere Huot could tell you, if you asked him. My mother, the late baronne, died but three years ago, in I regret to say, a madhouse, at Paris. My sire, as you know, was the baronne; and that other woman, the mother of this young man, there, was no wife of my father's, as you must now admit. The church would never recognize the union, he being a true Catholic, and no priest performed the marriage ceremony between him and that cursed Huguenot."

Etienne uttered an epithet too vile for repetition—an epithet that stung Jean's soul to madness. He, with a cry of rage, such as might come from a lone Cain wakened to life, snatched a dagger from a bric-a-brac stream upon a near-by table, and rushed upon Etienne, who, the musket blade into his side.

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Illinois News

Choice items from over the state, specially selected for our readers.

GARDEN FARMERS' ELECTION

Illinois Horticulturists Select Officers For the Ensuing Year.

The forty-ninth annual meeting of the Illinois Horticultural society came to a close at Bloomington after a session full of interest. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, H. A. Aldrich, Neoga; vice president, Mrs. Ella Funk, Bloomington; secretary, L. R. Bryant, Princeton; treasurer, J. W. Stanton, Richview. The following is the new executive board: H. A. Aldrich, Neoga; L. R. Bryant, Princeton; H. T. Thompson, Marengo; J. L. Hartwell, Dixon; G. J. Foster, Normal; J. R. Roseman, Urbana; J. W. Stanton, Richview; A. V. Richermerhorn, Kimmundy. The directors of experiment stations are: A. F. Riebl, Alton; George J. Foster, Normal; L. R. Bryant, Princeton. A paper by W. R. Soverhill of Tiskilwa on the care of orchards furnished the principal discussion of the closing day.

The vegetable awards were announced. A. J. Dunlap of Olney and George Kerr of Bloomington winning nearly all the prizes.

The next meeting place was left with the executive board. Bloomington extended an urgent invitation.

DOG NABS ESCAPING PRISONER

Seizes Him by the Trousers and Awaits Arrival of Officers.

"Spot," the faithful watchdog at the Belleville jail and workhouse, captured Bruno Schaefer, who made his escape when the guards were not watching. Bruno was brought back up from East St. Louis to serve a thirty days' sentence for vagrancy. Shortly after the prisoner had been returned to the workhouse after taking dinner at the jail, Blaine scaled the walls and was running at a rapid rate when "Spot" gave chase, and, before a run of about one-fourth a mile, seized him by the trousers' leg and held him until deputy Schaefer, one of the guards, arrived and took him in charge. The dog is of the bull terrier and this is the second prisoner he has captured in a similar manner since Sheriff Thompson took charge of the jail, two years ago. A few months ago the dog prevented a wholesale jail delivery of twenty-three prisoners by howling while he stood guard at a hole the women were digging through the wall.

Carlyle's Paper Mill.

Work on the new plant of the Carlyle Paper company is progressing rapidly. All of the buildings are now under roof and the machinery is being installed. The plant will have a value of $100,000 when completed, and will be one of the largest mills in the state. The daily output will be twenty-four tons of paper, just double the capacity of the mill which was destroyed by fire.

Honor Old Conductor.

The officials of the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railroad company have announced that the name of Clinton Smith, the small conductor, who, east end of Clinton county, will be changed to Ferren, as a compliment to J. S. McFerren, one of the oldest conductors on the road.

Clay County Farmers.

The Clay county farmers' institute, which has heretofore been held in Clay City, has been located for the season of 1905 in Louisville. John T. Campbell is the new president and Sumner Hays secretary.

RYAN ROASTS JOSEPH LEITER.

Miner Declares Operator Is in the Wrong in His Contention.

After State Secretary-Treasurer Ryan of the United Mine Workers of Illinois had learned of the controversy between Joseph Leiter and Gov. Yates relative to the situation at Zeigler, at which Leiter stated that the strike used at Zeigler were the same that had been used at Carterville, he (Mr. Ryan) made the following statement:

"I do not know that guns are used there, and, even if they are, I suppose the strikers have as good a right to protect themselves as have the men in the stockade. This is no excuse. It is the duty of the guard there to arrest all offenders and prosecute them. There were several arrests made at Carterville for murder, but not one man was convicted.

"I will say that if the troops are withdrawn from Zeigler it will not be a week before half of the men working there will have left. The troops, in my judgment, are there for the purpose of inducing the workmen to believe that they will be sooner if they leave. The miners have assaulted no one there, and not one has been arrested, except for alleged violation of the injunction.

"Leiter said that he is not opposing the union, but wishes to conduct his business to suit himself. Perhaps this is true, but it is the people of the country have been fooled. When the cold weather set in, the coal operators was lauded by all sides, and, according to Leiter's expression, it is all wrong. I cannot believe that the American people have been mistaken all this time, and that Leiter is right."

Building at Springfield.

Statistics compiled relative to building improvements made in Springfield during the past year include the following: Street railway, $465,000; federal building, $700,000; manufacturing, $100,000; hotels, $120,000; business buildings, $210,000; residences, $300,000. The grand total is figured at $2,245,000, showing one of the most prohibitive years in the history of the city.

Flora Gets a Factory.

The Flora Commercial association has signed a contract with D. H. Lambert of Roseville, Ind., to move his carriage factory from that city to Flora. According to agreement, Mr. Lambert is given $15,000 in cash, 400 electric lights for five years and is donated a factory site of three acres. Ground will be broken and work will begin on the plant immediately.

To Conduct Corn School.

Dwight S. Dalbey, corn expert, of Jerseyville, has been engaged to conduct a corn school at Decatur next month during the session of the Macon county farmers' institute.

Get Poultry Show Cups.

The poultry show at Decatur, which was a big success, has closed. The presentable cups were won by William H. Fathauer of Mowaqua and Klein & Anderson of Macon.

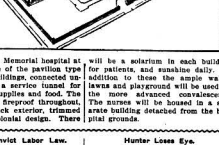
Accepts Officer's Resignation.

Adjt. Gen. Dorsey has issued an order accepting the resignation of Second Lieutenant Hawley of troop G, First Illinois cavalry, of Bloomington.

Kills Big Black Eagle.

A black eagle measuring 6 feet 6 inches from tip to tip and weighing 70 pounds was killed by Joseph Lipsey near his home in Old Dupont.

CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.



The Children's Memorial hospital at Chicago is to be built on a tract of land with separate buildings, connected with underground with a service tunnel for distribution of supplies and food. The building will be fireproof throughout, and pressed brick exteriors, trimmed with stone in colonial design. There will be a solarium in each building for the use of patients daily. In addition to these the ample walks, lawns and playground will be used by the children advanced convalescents. The nurses will be housed in a separate building detached from the hospital grounds.

ONE DEMOCRAT IN CONGRESS

Henry T. Rainey Escapes the Landslide of Ballots on Nov. 8.

Secretary of State James A. Rose has issued a list of state officers elected Nov. 8, as shown by the official canvass. According to this list elected on the Democratic congressional ticket, Henry T. Rainey, of the 20th district, in the Fifty-ninth Congress. The Republicans elected twenty-four of the twenty-five members of the state board of equalization, Louis D. Hershelmer of Pittsfield, also from the Democrat who pitched, being the only Democrat who polled through. The official canvass showed that the state senate will have forty-one Republicans and ten Democrats, a gain of three Republicans over the 43d general assembly. In the house there will be ninety-one Republicans, fifty-six Democrats, two Socialists, two Prohibitionists and one Independent.

NEW PRISON COMMISSIONER.

Rev. James M. Phelps, whose appointment as one of the commissioners of the Joliet penitentiary is announced, was assigned to the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal church, of Joliet last fall. He is a personal friend of Gov. Yates and while at Bloomington he took an active part in politics. Among the strong supporters of Mr. Phelps for this appointment were Republican leaders in both Sts-

REV. JAMES M. PHELPS

phenson and Carroll counties. The latter commissioner is a graduate of the Union College of Law of Chicago, now the law department of the Northwestern university. He received the degree of LL. D. and afterward of Ph. D. He graduated from the Garrett Biblical institute in 1890 and has since been in the ministry in Illinois Districts of Coal City, whose place Mr. Phelps will take, will not resign until Jan. 1. Dudgeon has a newly elected state representative from his district.

PLAN SPLENDID INAUGURATION

Elaborate Ceremony to Mark Deneen's Induction into Office.

Gov.-elect Charles S. Deneen will be inducted into office on Monday, Jan. 9, with an elaborate ceremony, and, according to plans for inaugural festivities, will be inaugurated at a meeting of the inauguration committee, state officials, judges of the supreme court and other dignitaries and their wives will participate. There will be a military inaugural parade, with Adjt. Gen. Scott as grand marshal. The inaugural address will be delivered at the state house. A luncheon will be served at the Leland, and the day's ceremony will be crowned with a public reception at the new arsenal in the evening. This is the second time where the memorable deadlocked Republican state convention was held, and where Gov. Deneen was nominated after a battle of ballots which lasted for weeks.

Railways Must Protect Crossings.

Notice has been served on the agents of all the railroads in Alton that watchmen must be placed at every street intersection of the streets and the railroad tracks in the city, in conformity to a resolution which Mayor Herman Sparks at the last meeting of the council. One of the reasons for the action is the first step toward retaliation against the Wabash. Four and Alton railways for withdrawing some of their best trains, which are now sent around the city by the belt line.

Negroes Assault Aged Man.

What may prove to be a murder case developed at Bloomington. Patrick Dugan, who is a retired business property owner in the railroad district of the city, was unmercifully assaulted by a colored man and woman. The assailants were said to have been chasing a woman unknown to Dugan. He, when the old man ran to her aid. He was then cut in a horrible manner with a knife.

May Postpone Court Term.

The January term of the federal court for the southern district of Illinois, which is to meet at Springfield Jan. 9, may be postponed two weeks until the court room in the new federal building is completed.

Judge Early is Appointed Trustee.

Gov. Yates has appointed Judge William E. Early of Edwardsville, former circuit judge, on the board of trustees of the industrial training school for girls at Geneva, vice Alla R. Dow of Geneva.

Enforces Convict Labor Law.

Gen. James Smith, warden of Chester penitentiary has made his report to the state auditor of industrial statistics showing that there are 1,007 convicts confined in that penitentiary. He said the convict labor law was rigidly enforced.

Falls From Windows.

Willie Roach, a check boy in a dry goods store at Decatur, fell from a window to the sidewalk, a distance of eight feet. He was badly injured.

Hunter Loses Eye.

J. E. Heifer, of Centralia, who was accidentally shot while out hunting a few days ago, was compelled to submit to having his left eye removed, as a small fragment had lodged in the center of the eyeball.

Violates His Parole.

Robert Brown, a paroled convict of the Chester penitentiary, was caught in the act of stealing a set of chicken coops at Olney and has been returned to the penitentiary.