LAFITTE of LOUISIANA

BY MARY DEVEREUX

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WILSON

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CHAPTER XII.

An hour before sunset the fog rolled up, revealing the man-of-war anchored near enough for the men on her deck to be seen plainly without the aid of a glass. The anchors of both vessels were raised at once, and the chase was renewed, with the pursuer not a mile away, and heading about southwest, which would soon bring her within range of the brigantine, whose course lay due west.

A curl of smoke soon rose from the Englishman's deck, and a few seconds later there came the report of a gun. A pressing invitation for us to show our colors," remarked Lafitte, as he watched the shot strike the water.

A short time passed, with the "Black Petrel's" crew uneasy and Lopez swearing softly in his native tongue. The pursuer then began a more persistent firing with her bow guns, but none of the shots reached their mark.

Presently Lafitte, who was standing near Lopez, asked quietly, "How would a shot work now? Try, and see."

The old gunner, with a shout due to his long repressed feelings, set about leveling his gun, calculated the distance, and obtained the proper elevation.

There was a report, soon followed by a trembling of the enemy's spars, and the brigantine's crew crowded to see the result.

"You have struck their foremast, just behind the futtocks," announced Lafitte, looking through his glass.

"Aye, sir, and I will sing them an other such sweet song," said Lopez coolly, watching his men reload the gun.

The enemy had meantime come a little closer, and was dropping shot viciously about the brigantine.

"Lopez, make haste with the gun!" cried Laro, with an oath. "Give them a dose such as will set them to repairing damages, and"—turning to the crew—"should she get close enough to try any tricks with grappling irons, have the cutlasses ready, my hearties. And remember that it is no quarter."

A sound, half roar, half snarl, came from the men, and the next moment there was a whistling amongst them as a cannon-ball struck the bulwark in front of Laro, filling the air with bits of wood, and then glancing into the water.

A large, sharply pointed piece of ragged wood struck him in the side, and with a cursing cry he sank, face downward, upon the deck, the blood from his wounds spattering those nearest him, several of whom had been hit by the flying splinters.

Lafitte sprang forward, and placing his arms around the quivering form turned the distorted face to the air. Then, looking up at the gunner, who was staring wildly at the sight, he cried, "Fire, Lopez, as you never fired before!"

A prompt discharge followed the order, and a wild shout of joy went up from the crew of the "Black Petrel."

The enemy's foremast was again struck, this time with disastrous effect, as could be readily seen for her crew were getting the sails off with all possible speed. Her fore-royal and top-gallant sails were clewed up, and the topsail yard let go by the run, while the mast was swaying perceptibly.

Laro, by Lafitte's command, had been borne to the main cabin, where he was laid upon a divan, and the brigantine had been ordered to come to anchor. The enemy had already done this, and, in her present crippled condition, there was nothing to fear from her, as the distance between the vessels was too great for advantageous firing, even had the Englishman been in proper form to continue the fight.

Laro was breathing heavily, in broken gasps, and beckoning to Lafitte, he asked to have sent away those who were about him, still striving to check the blood that flowed so freely as to soak the red of the divan until it showed black.

Lafitte sent the others away, and sitting down by the dying man, took one of the hands that were already growing cold.

"Jean, you will take care of Lazalle?" And Laro's black eyes, their mockery forever slain, looked at him with appealing wistfulness.

Lafitte nodded, and pressed the hand he held.

"She will have plenty of wealth, as you know; see that it is delivered to her safely, and kept securely afterward. Take the girl away, Jean; take her to the nuns in New Orleans, as I should have done before this; and do you and she have the church say masses for my soul. My soul!" he repeated, in a quick gasp. "To where will my soul go?"

As Lafitte's lips parted to speak, the dying man, as if divining what he might be about to say, cried with a sudden burst of strength, "No, no, boy; try to tell me no soothing lies! Living, I never knew fear; and dying I scorn it! Ah—Madre de Dios! Christ have mercy!"

And with this last cry, Laro's voice was stilled forever.

Lafitte's heart repeated the prayer, as he folded the dead man's hands across the broad chest, and scarcely had he done this when he was startled by the noise of a commotion above him.

Stopping only to draw a blanket over the face and form of the dead, he went on deck, where a number of excited men were gathered on the side toward the enemy. His glance had already followed the direction of their eyes, and he saw one of the "Black Petrel's" smallest boats being rowed by the Indian, Ehewah, toward the English vessel, and clinging to it, while his hoarse voice poured forth a volley of menacing words was Lopez.

Lopez had loosed one of his hands from the boat's gunwale, and drawing his knife hurled it at the Indian, but Ehewah dodged and it fell into the sea. He then rowed on, and Lopez, no longer shouting, attempted to draw himself over the stern of the boat.

With a cursing cry he sank.

At this, the Indian had stopped rowing, and struck the gunner over the head with an oar, continuing the blows until Lopez released his hold and sank from sight.

A boat which had been lowered from the English ship was now seen pulling rapidly to where Ehewah still paused, appeared waiting for the gunner's body to rise.

This it soon did, and the Indian, showing an agile strength one would not have accredited to his slight frame, drew it into the boat.

The crew of the brigantine saw Ehewah parley with the men from the enemy's vessel, after which he rowed in their company to the man-of-war, and Lafitte, watching through his glass, saw the form of Lopez carried aboard in their midst.

Lafitte, bidding Garonne accompany him, went below to Laro's cabin. Garonne lit the brass lamp swinging over the small table, and turned to Lafitte, who stood looking about him, as if for some sign of Ehewah's treacherous intention, when the gleam of a gold band, hanging over Laro's bunk, caught their eyes.

It was a bracelet which the Indian had always worn upon his naked arm since the day Laro placed it there in a burst of gratitude to Ehewah for having saved his life.

Both Lafitte and Garonne knew enough of the Indian's tribe-lore to understand that this was Ehewah's mute announcement of ended friendship and loyalty.

"He doubtless stole in here to perform what to him was a religious rite, and having hung Laro's gift where we found it, went his way, intending to attempt that which he has now accomplished," mused Lafitte aloud.

Then, as if struck by an afterthought, he went to Laro's bunk, and throwing aside the rich draperies, disclosed a heavy wooden locker.

Its lid was, contrary to custom, locked, and when Lafitte opened it, a disarranged collection of papers and canvas bags showed within.

"It is as I supposed—not a coin nor jewel touched, but charts and papers gone that are of more importance than all the valuables. The rascal knows the way to the Barra de Hierro; and the charts he has taken will inform others, showing them where to find what now belongs to the Senorita Lazalle."

Garonne, forgetful of his usual restraint when in Lafitte's presence, now broke forth into a flood of curses, which the latter checked at once.

The mate turned to the cabin door, where he paused, and asked in a voice trembling with the anger he dared not show, "Have you any orders for me, captain?"

"None, save to let the men have their supper at once, and see to it that only half-allowance of grog is served. The fog is coming in, and we will sail as soon as may be."

Like an army of shrouded ghosts, the fog was again about the "Black Petrel," enclosing her in a world where she was the sole tangible thing. But, as over a path familiar to blind eyes, the hands that manned her could shape an unerring course for their secure haven.

Long before midnight she was feeling her way north, toward the mouth of the treacherous channel that would bring the crew to their island stronghold, the Barra de Hierro.

The early morning air was heavy with odors of aromatic shrubs growing beyond the beach, and the carol of wakening birds was filling it with music, when Lafitte came ashore, leaving Garonne in charge of the brigantine.

His course lay inland, at first over waste fields, and then cultivated ones, of sugar cane, coffee and tobacco. Then came some banana and fig plantations, interspersed with groves of palms and coconut trees, until, after a walk of twenty minutes, he reached a clearing in which stood many small huts, evidently dwellings, and apart from these rose the walls of a stone building, surrounded by a high wall, with circular towers at the angles.

Lafitte crossed the open space, and stopping before a stout oaken door in the wall, called for admission. But there was no response, and, after a longer silence than suited his humor, he fell to striking upon the door, while he called still louder.

This resulted in its soon being opened cautiously, to show a stalwart giant, whose black face and naked arms showed all the darker by contrast with the white cotton of his raiment, draped in a barbaric fashion that told of its not having known thread and needle.

"My young captain!" he exclaimed in Spanish, a pleased surprise lighting his grave face; and catching Lafitte's hand, he kissed it as the latter replied, "Greetings to you, Ezrah. Is it all well here?"

"Yes, my young captain. All is well, but it will be more than well, now that you have returned."

Lafitte waited until the Arab (for such he was) had closed and barred the gate, and then in a few words, he told him of what had taken place, adding that Laro's body would be brought ashore later in the day, for burial.

Ezrah listened with a face showing no emotion whatever, save perhaps that of anger that the nation his master had taught him to hate should have been the means of the former's death.

His young mistress, the Senorita Lazalle, was of course not yet awake; and Lafitte, after bidding the Arab to leave her undisturbed, went to his own apartments.

Lazalle was now sixteen, and, since leaving a convent school in Seville, two years before, her entire time had been passed upon the Barra de Hierro, to which Laro—her only living relative—had brought her, and where she had seemed fully contented with her luxurious and independent life.

Laro, of necessity, passed much of his time away from the Barra de Hierro, and during his absence Lazalle was its head and ruler, except when Lafitte found it necessary to visit the island. Then the Spanish girl gave place—and with entire willingness—to the man whom, from their first meeting, she had loved with all the fervor of her unrurbled nature.

(To be continued.)

Cause of Thanks.

It was a Coffee county boy who married and went to Texas, and upon arriving there wrote promptly back to his friends that he "got there safe and well."

And that was the very last time that he ever did write to them. They waited and they waited, and they wondered and they wondered and they wondered, and never a word further from the wanderers. Some anxiety was felt, or would have been felt, but for one old woman of distant kin, who whenever his name was mentioned would always say:

"Well, he got that safe, and they're all well, thank God."—Nashville Banner.

Novel Relay Swimming Race.

A novel cross-channel swimming race from Calais to Dover has been promoted by the Belgian Swimming federation for a challenge cup, to be known as the cross-channel cup. The competition is open to the world for teams of five amateur swimmers. The first swimmer of each team would swim as far as possible across the channel. The second man would then take up the task, and would be followed by the others in turn. The team whose men first reaches shore would win the cup. The race is to take place in July or August.

ILLINOIS STATE NEWS

BETTER STREETS FOR THE CITY

Belleville to Expend $80,000 Under Decision by Supreme Court.

City Attorney Baer has received the decisions of the supreme court of Illinois in three cases, each of which contained points which affect the municipal improvement situation in Belleville. Shortly after the improvement of certain streets in Belleville was undertaken last fall under the special improvement act of 1903, and the streets had been torn up, the supreme court, in the case of L'Hote against the village of Milford, decided that the law was unconstitutional. The contractors, however, succeeded in obtaining the consent of property owners to complete the work on South High street. The city held that, even if it were necessary for a petition to have been circulated, the property owners should not have waited until the judgments had been confirmed. In one of the decisions the court says: "The property owner is entitled to a hearing before his property is finally charged with a special tax or assessment, and the law has provided such a hearing, but when the property owner has had his day in court the judgment is binding and conclusive as to every defense." This decision means that the $80,000 of Belleville street improvements will be completed as early as the weather will permit, and that the property owners assessed by the confirmation of judgment of the county court will have to pay.

Takes Secret to Prison.

Having confessed to the charge of the embezzlement of funds of the Citizens' Saving and Loan association, of which he was secretary, Fred L. Grant, who for many years has been prominently identified with business interests in Springfield, and who was a popular young man, was sentenced to serve an indeterminate sentence in the Chester penitentiary. Grant's peculations amounted to about $8,000. He has answered all questions put to him except one, and that is what he did with the money. He says that question he will never answer, and he will carry the secret with him to the penitentiary. As he is not known to have any bad or extravagant habits, the case is a very peculiar one.

New Gas Company.

A new gas and electric light company for Decatur has been incorporated for $50,000. The following are the officers: President, W. L. Shellabarger; vice president, Wilson E. Bering; secretary and treasurer, James J. Finn. The officers, with J. M. Gray and C. S. Needham, make up the board of directors. The new company will apply at once for a franchise.

Patrons Reward Rural Carrier.

The patrons of rural mail route No. 2 out of Edwardsville rewarded the carrier, Phil Sommerlad, for his faithful and energetic services by presenting him a handsome new regulation uniform, including cap and extra trousers, and also a set of handmade harness. The route is one of the few out of Edwardsville that is self-sustaining.

Decatur White Cross.

A council of the order of the White Cross was organized in Decatur with 500 members. The following officers were elected: Commander, J. L. Deck; vice commander, W. A. Holman; past commander, John Allen; recorder, H. B. Wise; treasurer, J. H. Latham; trustees, W. H. Black, B. L. Davis and Mrs. Ellerick.

State Institute Sues County.

A suit has been filed in the Clay county circuit court at Flora against Clay county by the Illinois institute for the blind. This institution holds $500 in county orders and can not get the money as the county is behind with its obligations.

To Build Carnegie Library.

The contract has been let for the erection of the Carnegie public library at Edwardsville. The fund guaranteed by Mr. Carnegie for the building is $12,500. The city furnishes the site and $1,250 annually for maintenance.

Breese Trades Assembly.

A trades assembly has been organized in Breese. William Geers is president, William Mahlandt recording secretary, Henry Detmer financial secretary and Ben Reilmann treasurer.

Book Shower for Library.

The annual book shower at the Carnegie library at Flora resulted in the gift of 115 volumes and a substantial cash contribution to the book fund by patrons of the library.

Coroners to Assemble.

Coroner T. C. Buxton has sent letters to coroners in Illinois inviting them to meet in Decatur May 24 and 25, for the purpose of organizing a state association.

Accepts Call to Coffeen.

Rev. J. J. Wilson, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Fairmount, has accepted a call to the church at Coffeen and will be succeeded on April 1 at Fairmount by Rev. T. S. Kerr of the church at Lincoln.

National Bank Election.

The directors of the Morrisonville national bank have elected the following officers: President, J. H. Bertmann; vice president, H. H. Herdman; cashier, Joseph Brockamp; assistant cashier, A. McLean.

PERMIT THIEVES TO ESCAPE

Overzealous Railroad Men Arrest Police Captain While Boys Flee.

The arrest of several boys on a charge of breaking into a Chicago & Alton box car in the Alton yards and trying to carry off a quantity of sacked sugar and flour revealed the fact that Capt. J. N. Ashlock of the night police was arrested as a burglar while he was trying to capture three boys who had broken open the car. Just as the boys were getting ready to climb in the car several employes of the road who had been detailed to watch for the thieves saw Ashlock. They did not recognize him in the dark, and when he whispered to the railroad men to run around the car and help him capture the boys the men seized him for a burglar. Ashlock remonstrated and finally convinced them of his identity. By that time the boys had taken advantage of the warning and escaped.

Decides Against Judge Hope.

A decision was given in the Illinois supreme court adverse to the claim of Judge Hope of Alton for $1,000 for services as special counsel for the city in several law suits. The defense made by the city and sustained by the supreme court was that the city council had no authority to employ Judge Hope without first repealing a city ordinance forbidding the employment of any counsel other than the corporation counsel, and that any fees due Judge Hope should have been paid by the corporation counsel for assistance. A resolution was adopted by the city council over two years ago empowering the mayor to employ special counsel.

Rural Carriers Organize.

The mail carriers of Macoupin county held a meeting at Carlinville and formed an organization, electing the following officers: President, T. W. Brockmiller, Carlinville; vice president, S. J. Bullman, Bunker Hill; secretary and treasurer, Charles Parcher, Carlinville; sergeant-at-arms, C. E. Brockmiller. W. H. Stoddard and S. J. Bullman were elected delegates to the state convention, to be held at Peoria in May.

Rural Carriers Meet.

At a meeting of the rural mail carriers at Quincy Frank Pease was re-elected president, Rollie Castle of Camp Point vice-president, J. B. Frisbie of Menden secretary, George W. Thiotten of Loraine treasurer and W. E. Hulse of Fowler sergeant-at-arms. The next meeting will be held at Camp Point on April 28, when delegates will be elected to attend the state meeting at Peoria in May.

Cairo Grand Army Officers.

The Cairo G. A. R. post has installed the following officers: Commander, Captain N. B. Thistlewood; senior vice commander, A. S. Moss; junior vice commander, J. Y. Turner; adjutant, C. R. Stuart; quartermaster, Judge A. Comings; sergeant major, Van Wilson; officer of the day, H. A. Hannon; sentinel, Frank Cherry; quartermaster sergeant, John W. Howard.

Shippers Organize Association.

A new shipping association has been organized at Alto Pass with the following officers: President, J. W. Pirtle; vice president, H. V. Ingram; secretary and treasurer, J. B. Green; manager, Warren Rendleman; directors, John Minton, Fred Angell, W. F. Robinson, Newbern Smith, John McCaffery and Monroe Gunn. It is incorporated as the People's Shipping association.

Alton Scientists Organize.

A Christian Science society has been organized in Alton, with the following officers: Ralph W. Sharon, president; Miss Anna Nisbett, secretary; Rudolph V. D. Ahe, treasurer; H. C. Matthews and Mrs. H. C. Matthews, readers.

Would Preserve War Flags.

Adjt. Gen. Scott is making an effort to locate all the flags carried in the civil war by Illinois troops that have not already been placed in memorial hall in the state house.

Former Senator Is Ill.

Ex-Senator Arthur Leeper is confined to his home in Virginia by a serious illness resulting from injuries received by a fall on the ice some weeks ago.

To Destroy Canceled Bonds.

St. Patrick's day has been set as the time for the formal destruction of $27,000 in canceled bonds by Shurtleff college.

Woman Slips on Sidewalk.

Mrs. Katherine Caldwell, a pioneer resident of Virginia, was seriously injured by a fall on a slippery sidewalk.

Chautauqua Officers.

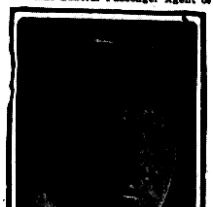
The directors of the Decatur Chautauqua association have elected the following officers: President, George W. Mueller; vice-president, D. S. Shellabarger; secretary, B. B. Dyer; treasurer, Robert I. Hunt.

Suffers From Fall.

Charles Osburn, while carrying his 3-year-old son on Dry street, Alton, slipped on an icy pavement. In his efforts to save the child from injury he sustained a fracture of one rib and slight internal injuries.

To Manage Three Roads' Traffic.

Since the reorganization of the Vanderbilt roads east of Chicago, a short time ago, several changes have been made in the operating department. The most important is the promotion of Mr. C. F. Daly from the position of Assistant General Passenger Agent of



C. F. DALY

the Lake Shore, to that of Passenger Traffic Manager of the Lake Shore, Michigan Central and Lake Erie and Western. The General Passenger Agents of these lines retain their positions.

Mr. Daly came to Chicago three years ago from the Lake Erie & Western, where he had been General Passenger Agent. His promotion to so responsible a position is a deserved tribute to Mr. Daly's ability as a railroad operator. Some further changes in the Vanderbilt lines are expected in the near future but have not yet been announced.

In all the changes so far made no one has been displaced. The promotions being to newly created offices.

LAWS LIKE WHITE MEN'S.

Hopi Indians, in Seven Villages in Northern Arizona, Elect Rulers.

The seven villages of the Hopi, in northern Arizona, have complete democratic government. Every person of age has a voice in the city control. A governor, lieutenant governor, sheriff, war captain, together with two or more caciques, or religious chiefs, and a board of principles, or city council, are duly elected and they serve with dignity and honor to themselves or the reverse, just as white men do in their cities.

There, as elsewhere, personality has much to do with power. As soon as a man ceases to be a controlling force he can no longer be elected to office. There are competitions for honors, and sometimes an election is delayed for weeks owing to the tactics of one candidate or another.

For many years certain of the Hopi villages have looked with disfavor upon the advent of the white man, and no place more so than Shungopavi. But with the election of Lomawini this was changed.

The governor is an active and hard-working man. He is a good silversmith, a necklace he wears being of his own work.

Cured Her Diabetes.

Halo, Ind., Feb. 27th.—(Special.)—If what will cure Diabetes will cure any form of Kidney Disease, as so many physicians say, then Dodd's Kidney Pills will cure any form of Kidney Disease. For Mrs. L. C. Bowers of this place has proved that Dodd's Kidney Pills will cure Diabetes.

"I had Diabetes," Mrs. Bowers says, "my teeth all became loose and part of them came out. I passed a great deal of water with such burning sensations I could hardly bear it. I lost about 40 pounds in weight. I used many medicines and doctored with two local doctors but never got any better till I started to use Dodd's Kidney Pills. They cured me so completely that in three years I have had no return of the disease. I am a well woman now, thanks to Dodd's Kidney Pills."

Dodd's Kidney Pills cure all kidney ailments from Backache to Bright's Disease. Cure your Backache with them and you will never have Bright's Disease, Diabetes or Rheumatism.

Pupils Earn Much Money.

Principal Ames of the Brown school at Hartford, Conn., states that a thorough investigation about a year ago showed that the pupils earned $18,000 a year in selling newspapers.

Those Who Have Tried It

Will use no other. Defiance Cold Water Starch has no equal in strength or quality—16 oz. for 10 cents. Other brands contain only 12 oz.

Now that the supply of vermiform appendices is running low the surgeons are whetting their knives for tonsils.

COME SOUTH TO BUY CHEAP HOMES. Tidewater Virginia has unequalled advantages, mild climate, short winters, productive soil, best markets, fish, game and oysters abound. We have superior facilities for securing desirable locations. Write for Particulars. Southern Land Agency, West Point, Va.

A motto: To-day—so utilize it that you will not regret it to-morrow, when it has become yesterday.

No chromos or cheap premiums, but a better quality and one-third more of Defiance Starch for the same price of other starches.

It is announced that celestial radioactivity is universal! Such a relief!