LAFITTE of LOUISIANA

BY MARY DEVEREUX

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WILSON

(Copyright, 1902, by Little, Brown and Company. All Rights Reserved)

CHAPTER XIX.

Before the week had ended the "Black Petrel" filled her sails for Barataria, with Grelotre's parting words of advice repeating themselves in Lafitte's ears:—

"Wind up your affairs in Louisiana, mon ami, and do as the emperor desires—return to France, and assume your own name and rank."

So back to Louisiana he sailed, with his mind in a turmoil that gave unwonted austerity to his manner, and awed his crew into much speculation.

The fever of his first impulse having now abated, he began to upbraid himself for having left Pierre, and wondered if anything evil might have befallen his foster-brother. Day by day, as the "Black Petrel" drew nearer to Barataria, he kept himself busy by querying as to what, if any, changes would be found there, and as to what progress the war had made.

Louisiana, and especially New Orleans, must, in his judgment, be destined to bear a share in the conflict, even though this might not be until the eleventh hour, for the possession of the Mississippi and its valley had, for many years, been a dream of Great Britain's ambition.

Night and day, thinking matters over, he resolved that his next step would be to gather what he might of men and shipping and wealth, and, in the hope of wiping all stigma from his name, offer these to the Governor of Louisiana, for use in warring against the English. And the possibility of this opportunity being afforded him, with its reward—a pardon for himself and men, covering all past offences—the rehabilitation of himself before his world, made his blood tingle.

This accomplished, he would return to France, assume his father's name and rank, and stand ready to serve the emperor.

And the Island Rose,—how had she been faring all this time, and what, amid the changed conditions he was mapping out for himself, would be her place?

The remembrance of the last time he had seen her, with her girlish face and form manifesting such shrinking terror of him, had its sorrow now lightened by the hope, so strong in his heart, that he would be able to redeem himself in her estimation.

The "Black Petrel," keeping a sharp lookout for English vessels, stole into the Gulf of Mexico, and sped across it. Then, turning to the east and north, Lafitte made for the western shore of Grande Terre and the harbor of Barataria, where, in due time, the brigantine dropped anchor.

It was the evening of Lafitte's arrival. He and Pierre were alone together, and, being unable to count upon unlimited privacy, they seated themselves for a full talk and comparison of notes. Jean to give Pierre the particulars of his recent trip, and to hear from him an account of the happenings at Barataria and New Orleans.

"I wish I might have been with you in Toulon," Pierre said, with what sounded like a sigh. "I have a longing to see France again before I die."

"Before you die!" repeated Jean, a slight touch of testiness in his tone. "Why do you talk thus? One would think you were three-score, at least, in stead of a stalwart giant of half those years;" and he laughe-l, half-playfully, half-deridingly.

There was no answering smile on Pierre's face, which was again turned to the fire. But after a momentary silence he said, abstractedly, as if thinking aloud, "I cannot give a good reason for it, but there has of late been something like a conviction growing upon me that I have not much longer to live. Perhaps"—and he raised his eyes to Jean's wondering face—"it is nothing more than that I am homesick."

"We will wind up our affairs here and go to France," declared Jean decisively. "Rouse thyself, Pierre, and speak no more in such a fashion. What nonsense!—thou, after all the dangers we have met and overcome together, to have such a premonition! I think, my brother," and the tone brought a gratified sparkle to the other man's eyes, "that thou hast missed me."

"Missed thee! Aye, in every way, as I ever do when we are apart. But somehow it was a taste worse this time, perhaps because thou wert away in France, where, as thou hast said, I am growing homesick to go."

"And, as I have also said, we will go together, and soon. We will return to Lagnedoc, thou and I, Pierre, and see the old gardens, and roam in the park, and try to be boys once more." The words ended with a joyous laugh.

"And read of De Soto, and Pizarro, and the tales of Louisiana?" added Pierre interrogatively, a curious sadness touching his voice.

"Nay, indeed not," replied Jean, sobering at once. "We have lived too many practical chapters of a like sort, my Pierre, to ever again enjoy the old book."

"And the emperor," said Pierre irrelevantly; "to think of his keeping the little box of papers for thee!"

"Yet it was like him to do such a thing," asserted Jean, with vibrant tone and glowing face. "Ah, if but he were back in France, and free from those cursed English!"

"Aye," Pierre affirmed, a growl sounding in his voice. "The English there on Elba, their power behind the throne of France, and their ships sneaking in here to snatch at Louisiana and the Mississippi. Cursed English, say I."

From what Pierre told him that night, Jean Lafitte knew, as clearly as though he had remained at Barataria, all that had transpired since his departure.

This had been shortly after Gen. Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Indians at the battle called "Tohopekaliga," a disaster that broke their power, and compelled the English to cease reckoning upon them as allies. And after this signal victory Gen. Jackson had been given command of the Seventh military district, which included the State of Louisiana.

It was now very evident that New Orleans was to be attacked as soon as the English could concentrate a sufficient force for that purpose, and Gov. Claiborne had called a session of the legislature, besides taking all other measures in his power toward raising means for defense. But the legislators were slow to co-operate with him, and the same malcontents whose scheming had already wrought such harm to Louisiana were using all possible means to neutralize the governor's efforts.

"You know my secret, Pierre; for the present let it rest."

As Lafitte listened to all this he congratulated himself anew that the "Black Petrel" lay anchored safely before Grande Terre. He felt also that no time could have been more auspicious for making the offer he proposed to lay before the governor, an offer of service by himself and his followers, in consideration of pardon for all past misdeeds whether actual or alleged.

When he voiced these thoughts and plans to Pierre, the latter agreed unreservedly, and both men were confident of their ability to obtain the acquiescence of their followers.

"But think you, Jean," inquired the more cautious Pierre, "there is not reason to doubt if Gov. Claiborne accept our offer? I do not wish to dampen thy ardor, but we must remember the threats he has made against the Barataria."

"He surely will not make the mistake of refusing our services in such an emergency—at a time when every man able to bear a gun will be sorely needed in New Orleans," was Jean's confident reply; and Pierre raised no more doubts that night.

Among the other items of information he had given (and which, although of slight interest to himself, were otherwise to his listener), was that Count de Cazeneau had, at La Roche's invitation, closed his house in New Orleans, and gone with his granddaughter for a visit to the former's plantation, La Tete des Eaux, near the head of Bayou Bienvenu; also that La Roche had taken this occasion to persuade his ward, the Senorita Lazalle, to join his house party.

"He is now a general in the state militia," Pierre added; "and"—with a laugh—"it is common talk in New Orleans that he is mad for love of the Spanish girl."

"And she?" inquired Jean carelessly, as he patted the head of a hound crouched by his chair.

Pierre shrugged his broad shoulders.

"She is a woman; who, therefore, may say what she thinks, or will do—or not do?"

Jean laughed as he knocked the ashes from his cigar.

"Thou hast a poor opinion of the fair ones, my Pierre."

"Have I? If so, it was thyself taught me the lesson."

The laughing face sobered at once, and a troubled look came into the eyes fixed upon Pierre's half-mocking ones.

"Say you, Pierre, that I taught you any such lesson?"

"Aye, that you have, with your scorn of women and their ways. Seeing through your eyes, I long ago learned to look upon women as the snares, to love whom brings mischief and the ruin of a man's heart."

Pierre wondered at the gentleness of the tone that answered. "If ever I taught you such a thing, I taught, unknowingly, something I never believed myself; for I think a true woman is a thing to reverence as the saints, and that love in a man's life is like—" He stopped short, and his dark face took a dreaming look as he gazed into the fire.

After a short silence he continued, "The lack of love in a man's life is like a world without sunshine, or a lamp without oil—without light. And to live always in darkness would make life little worth the living."

Pierre had been staring at him, and as he stared his slumbering wits awakened.

In a groping but certain way, he began to rightly suspect the possible cause of a hitherto puzzling change he had noticed in his foster-brother, and, satisfied as to this, he now blurted out, "Jean, my brother, tell me, who is she you love?"

Jean started, and his brows contracted into a frown.

"Thou art not angry with me, that I asked?"

"Angry!" The word was repeated with a soft laugh, as if the supposition were too absurd to call for refutation.

"And she loves thee in return?" Pierre ventured, encouraged by the laugh.

Jean shook his head, and a bitter sadness touched the still smiling lips.

"Not love thee!" exclaimed Pierre, incredulously. "Then she must be blind, or a fool," he added, in sudden wrath.

"Neither the one nor the other, my Pierre," Jean answered, as he rose from his chair. "I had never thought to ask her love, nor knew that I loved her, when, by accident, she discovered that I was the terrible pirate, Lafitte, and shunk from me as if I had been the plague, or death itself. That was long ago; and I have not since laid eyes on her."

There was a world of suppressed passion sounding underneath the ring of mockery in his voice, and Pierre saw his hand tremble as he laid his arm against the stone support of the chimney and looked down into the embers.

Pierre now rose and tossed his cigar into the fireplace, appearing to think there was nothing more to be said. But he turned quickly to Jean as the latter laying a hand upon his foster-brother's shoulder, added, "You know my secret, Pierre; for the present let it rest where it is, and give no heed as to who she is. I may yet win her; and I may not. If I do then you shall know her, and you will love her, of that I feel assured.

"Well you may, my Jean, if she is dear to thee, for that she must now be to me."

"Aye, and God bless thee for a true other self," said Jean, grasping the other's hand. "That I could know, without the telling. Still it is pleasant to hear thee say it. I will clear my name, Pierre—thine and mine; that must be first. After that—we shall see."

(To be continued.)

DRESS OF THE JUNGLE LADY.

Simple Costume Sufficient for Her Savage Life.

The low caste Siamese of the jungle have few wants, and live like animals eating chiefly wild fruits and rice which they raise in small cleared spots, wherever they happen to temporarily settle. Like the Karens, the jungle people of Burma, they are always on the move, and in common with all low caste Siamese are petty thieves of an incurable propensity.

Yet they are obedient—servile to an unpleasant degree for white blood. They manufacture nothing save crudest domestic household necessities and personal ornaments from bamboo. Clothes are of slight consequence. On the jungle edge they go uncovered, men and women, above the waist, the panung reaching within four inches of the knee; but deep in the jungle they are practically naked.

Their single implement is a long-bladed, butcherlike knife, used as pathmaker, as weapon (together with a wood spear) and industrially in fashioning out of the ubiquitous bamboo their ornaments, their buckets, their rope, their string, their houses and the food receptacles which take the place of pots and pans and plates.

Nearly all of the jungle folk on both sides of the Siam-Burma line tattoo the thigh, sometimes from knee to hip, more often from the knee to only six inches above. The design may be a turtle, or the much-dreaded tiger done elaborately, but the one most frequently seen, and the simplest, is a sort of lace or fringe pattern in the middle of the thigh, or just below the knee, like a garter. The women do not tattoo, believing in beauty unadorned; heaven knows they need adornment.—Outing.

Illinois Legislature

COMERFORD CASE.

Frank D. Comerford, the expelled and re-elected member of the forty-fourth general assembly from the second senatorial district of Cook county, has made a vague threat that if Speaker Shurtleff refuses to recognize him after he has for the second time been sworn in as a member of the present assembly there will be trouble on the floor of the house.

"I understand," said Comerford, "that I am not to be recognized by the speaker when I am sworn in. I will insist upon my rights. If I am not recognized no one will be, and ink bottles won't stop me."

Comerford is likely to take the oath some time this week, as Mr. Sheen, the prohibitionist member from Peoria, will move the appointment of a special committee on credentials to examine Mr. Comerford's credentials and investigate the rights of that gentleman to be given a seat on the floor of the house as a member of that body.

Speaker Shurtleff stated that if the house approved he would appoint such a committee and he did not anticipate any "unseemly delay" in the finding of a report on Mr. Comerford's case to be presented to the house. It is understood there will be little if any opposition to the appointment of the committee, and that before the week is out the report will have been presented to the house, which if favorable, will be acted upon at once and Mr. Comerford sworn in. There is no disposition, it is stated, to delay unnecessarily the filing of a report.

DRAINAGE DEADLOCK UNBROKEN

The deadlock between the house and senate committees on the drainage bills continues unbroken in spite of the fact that Representative Kleeman called his house committee together. Kleeman has Senator Haas' bill abolishing cumulative voting for sanitary trustees, and Senator Clark has Kleeman's bill requiring the drainage board to make biennial reports to legislature and governor. Haas affirms that Kleeman's bill shall not get out of the committee until his bill has seen the light of day in the house, and Kleeman affirms with equal emphasis that Haas' bill shall not see the light of day until his bill gets out of the senate committee. Between the two affirmatives both bills are likely to be lost unless some means of simultaneous action for both committees be invented.

Calls Insurance Rates High.

With the advent of representatives of the Chicago Underwriters' association, working against the insurance provision of the anti-trust bill, Attorney General Stead issued a brief on the subject in which he attacked the association for its discrimination against small or resident property owners and in favor of big downtown realty holders. Stead gave figures to show how this discrimination works against the small property owner, asserting that the rate, which should be $1.25 for four years, is 75 cents a year on good resident property. The association is represented by R. W. Hosmer of the old board of underwriters which operates the fire patrol system, and President E. M. Teall of the Chicago Underwriters' association. They say Stead's figures are wrong. "The rate of 75 cents on residence property to which the attorney general refers," said Mr. Teall, "is made only on a row of connected frame houses. On frame houses separated by twenty-five feet of ground or by a stone or brick wall the rate is 50 cents. On good residence property it is much lower than the figures Mr. Stead gives."

Marriage License Fees.

Out of pity for the matrimonially inclined the house amended the senate bill revising the fee charges in the public offices of Cook county, so that a marriage license will continue to cost $1.50 and will not be raised to $2. The bill passed the senate providing for the doubling of the marriage fee, but the framers of the measure decided this was too much money to charge for matrimony in Cook county. Market values didn't warrant the increase.

Peter B. Olson, who has been working for the advancement of the bills for county commissioners, said that persons not in affluent circumstances frequently wanted to get married and that $3 was too high a price for them to pay for a license.

With this and a couple of other amendments the house advanced the Cook county fee bills to a third reading. Mr. Olson estimated that the increase in fees provided for will give Cook county $25,000 additional revenue, independent of court fees.

School Bill Protest.

Roman Catholic church officials, parochial school officers and church societies are protesting vigorously against the school bills now under consideration, including a bill allowing the consolidation of school districts to secure larger schools, and providing for free transportation of school children. The church people assert that the free conveyance measure will raise taxation and place additional burden on taxpayers who send their children to parochial schools and derive no benefits from the free school system. Some of the protests come from the Catholic Knights of America.

Sherman's Primary Bill.

The primary election bill upon which Lieutenant Governor Sherman is at work is designed to meet some suggestions which were made during the discussion of the house bill in the senate committee, and, while it does not meet the views of the lieutenant governor on the primary election question, he will submit it as a possible solution of the problem. The main feature of the bill will be a provision to the effect that plurality nominations may be made without the intervention of a delegate convention in the event the successful candidate's vote is at least one-third of the total vote cast. It will also provide that in the event delegates are elected under instructions the same rule shall apply. In other words, the bill will recognize the plurality nomination, but will insist that in all cases the candidate must at least have a third of the votes cast.

Rule for Comerford Case.

Speaker Shurtleff, as chairman of the committee on rules, laid before the house a new rule of procedure in such cases as that presented by F. D. Comerford, providing for reference to the committee on credentials of all certificates of election presented after after the organization of the house. This rule was adopted, and, acting on it, the speaker afterwards appointed a committee consisting of Oglesby, Church, Beebe, Grein and Mitchell, to which he sent Comerford's election certificate. Comerford will be seated when the committee returns his certificate and its report.

No Change in Salary Bill.

Representative Sheen endeavored to get an amendment to Erickson's bill raising the salaries of members of the legislature, but without success. He wanted to have the salary remain as at present, $1,000, instead of being increased to $2,000, but to allow members transportation at regular railroad rates to and from their homes once a week. This amendment was defeated and then the prohibition member endeavored to have the house strike out the provision for the payment of 10 cents a mile for one trip. This also was defeated and the bill went to a third reading.

Push Anti-Loan-Shark Bill.

Senator Dixon's anti-loan-shark bill, which has passed the senate, made its appearance in the house at the short session of that body Monday, and was advanced to second reading. It was stated by Mr. Webster, who called up the bill, that members of the committees of both houses had conferred on the bill, and it is believed this legislation in the form it passed the senate will become a law. The bill makes void all assignments of wages executed by married men unless the wife has joined in the assignment and also makes void all assignments tainted with usury.

Charter Legislation.

The Chicago charter situation is illuminated by promise of action on the municipal courts bill. Representative Pendarvis believes that the senate and house committees can get together this week and have the bill ready for action in both houses by the first of next week. The bill passed by the senate will be amended in some particulars if this proposition goes through, and as amended will be the measure to become a law.

Corporation Suits.

Mr. Hearn's bill amending the present anti-trust act by requiring ten days' notice by the state's attorney of suit against a corporation for not filing affidavits as required by law and providing for dismissal of suits upon filing of the affidavits by the corporation sued, was advanced to third reading.

Advance Bills.

Two other bills of more than passing interest were advanced on the house calendar. They were Mr. Bush's bill requiring sheriffs to raid poolrooms and Mr. Hearn's bill fixing the rates of sleeping car berths.

Sanitarium Measure.

Mr. Glaeckin's bill carrying an appropriation of $50,000 for the establishment of a state sanitarium for the treatment of persons afflicted with tuberculosis was called up by Mr. Trautmann and read the first time.

Work Without Quorum.

The senate was not in session Tuesday, and while the house held morning and afternoon meetings, there was not a quorum present at either session, and great care had to be exercised to prevent this coming to the official knowledge of the body.

Civil Service for Doctors.

The house advanced to third reading the senate bill placing all physicians, surgeons, and internes of Cook county hospital under civil service.

Safety Appliance Bill.

Railroad bills providing for the equipment of cars with safety appliances, appointing a state inspector of safety appliances, and providing for full crews on all trains were advanced to a third reading in the house.

Society of Equity Meeting.

The Clinton county unions of the American Society of Equity will hold a mass meeting in the courthouse in Carlyle April 28. The principal speaker will be C. O. Drayton of Greenville.

ALL BROKEN DOWN.

No Sleep—No Appetite—Just a Continual Backache.

Joseph McCauley, of 144 Sholto street, Chicago, Sachem of Tecumseh Lodge, says: "Two years ago my health was completely broken down. My back ached and was so lame that at times I was hardly able to dress myself. I lost my appetite and was unable to sleep. There seemed to be no relief until I took Doan's Kidney Pills; but four boxes of this remedy effected a complete and permanent cure. If suffering humanity knew the value of Doan's Kidney Pills they would use nothing else, as it is the only positive cure I know."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N.Y.

No More of Herculaneum.

The proposed formation of an international organization to conduct extensive excavations at Herculaneum is regarded at Naples as impracticable, because it is known that the greater part of the buried city was destroyed by incandescent lava, which has penetrated every fissure, and has now become with the old city itself an impenetrable vitreous mass too hard to excavate. The only successful work done by the Italian government at Herculaneum was in places where the ashes of the volcano had prevented the lava from penetrating. The success of the excavation at Pompeii was due to the fact that the whole city had been buried in ashes before the incandescent lava reached the place.

BABY'S AWFUL ECZEMA.

Face Like Raw Beef—Thought She Would Lose Her Ear—Healed Without a Blemish—Mother Thanks Cuticura.

"My little girl had eczema very bad when she was ten months old. I thought she would lose her right ear. It had turned black, and her face was like a piece of raw meat, and very sore. It would bleed when I washed her, and I had to keep cloths on it day and night. There was not a clear spot on her face when I began using Cuticura Soap and Ointment, and now it is completely healed, without scar or blemish, which is more than I had hoped for. (Signed) Mrs. Rose Ether, 291 Eckford St., Brooklyn, N. Y."

Bluestocking Fond of Gayety.

Miss Sallie Heath White Carroll, a Baltimore belle and one of the Carrolls of Carrollton, graduated from the New York university law school a few days ago in brilliant style and will begin the practice of her profession there shortly. As a child she had the run of the finest law libraries in America, collected by generations of Carrolls, for which her father refused an enormous sum. All those volumes go to Miss Carroll, every other member of her family having generously waived his right to them. She is no blue stocking, but a society girl who likes dancing as heartily as every healthy young woman must, and refuses to become poky merely because she is learned.

Preventive of Influenza.

In the year 1890, when influenza was epidemic throughout Europe, many workmen contracted the disease in three watch factories at Madretsch, Germany, and a number died. At one factory at Madretsch, however, the disease did not appear. Investigations showed that oil of turpentine was used in the turning of the metals used for watchcases. The oil became warm and evaporated and the workmen inhaled the air laden with it. This seemed to protect them against the disease. Since then oil of turpentine has been always evaporated in that factory upon a stove and not a case of influenza has ever occurred there.

HONEST CONFESSION.

A Doctor's Talk on Food.

There are no fairer set of men on earth than the doctors, and when they find they have been in error they are usually apt to make honest and manly confession of the fact.

A case in point is that of an eminent practitioner, one of the good old school, who lives in Texas. His plain, unvarnished tale needs no dressing up:

"I had always had an intense prejudice, which I can now see was unwarrantable and unreasonable, against all muchly advertised foods. Hence, I never read a line of the many 'ads.' of Grape-Nuts, nor tested the food till last winter.

"While in Corpus Christi for my health, and visiting my youngest son, who has four of the ruddiest, healthiest little boys I ever saw, I ate my first dish of Grape-Nuts food for supper with my little grandsons. I became exceedingly fond of it and have eaten a package of it every week since, and find it a delicious, refreshing and strengthening food, leaving no ill effects whatever, causing no eructations (with which I was formerly much troubled), no sense of dullness, nausea, nor distress of stomach in any way.

"There is no other food that agrees with me so well, or sits as lightly or pleasantly upon my stomach as this does. I am stronger and more active since I began the use of Grape-Nuts than I have been for 10 years, and am no longer troubled with nausea and indigestion." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

There's a reason.

Look in each pkg. for the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville."