## IN TREATY WITH HONOR 'A Romance of Old Quebec.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

TRAITOR OR FREE LANCE ?

What was to be done with us was a question my comrade and I often debated together. It was answered in part one vening in the spring when the comman der of the prison came into our room.

"Here is something of interest to you,

gentlemen," he said, handing to each of a folded paper.

When he was gone I opened mine and read as follows: "Whereas Nial Adair, of the township of Malden in the western district, not having the fear of God before his eyes, and instigated by the devil, not weigh-ing the allegiance he owes her Majesty the Queen, did on the ninth day of January traitorously assemble with wicked and designing men to the number of five hundred and upward, armed with bowie knives, and other warlike weapons, and traitorously devised the death of her Majesty, and with force of arms did then and there-

The document went on to detail, from the Tories' point of view, our attempt to get past Malden on the Ann, and the assembling of the refugees on the island.

"The charge against me is a grave one, certainly," I said, re-reading it to my companions, "my enemies are gener-ous to give me a home at Malden; but how could I possibly devise the death of a little girl just come to the throne in England, three thousand miles away It is past enduring that I, who have always been noted for my love of the ladies should be accused of such ungallant conduct.

At this my fellow prisoners laughed heartily. None of the others taken or board the schooner were mentioned, un others taken on less possibly as numbered among the five hundred wicked and designing men supposed to be in a conspiracy to rob her dear little majesty of her life, and to set at naught her will, her crown, and

her sovereign dignity.

"But, Ramon, you have not shown me your papers," I exclaimed, suddenly struck with his reticence.

"It is nothing," he replied. "I am not to be tried at present; so, Nial, we must devote all our time to the preparation for your defence."

I was not to be deceived by his attemp

to thus divert my attention

said, pretending to Fair play," I said, pretending to ak lightly. "You have just learned speak lightly. "You have just learned what a desperate character is Nial Adair. Now you must let me see what ort of a villain Count Rycerski is made Adair.

Knowing I would not be put off, h gave up the paper. Every word written therein seemed to burn itself upon my brain. Having come to the end of it, I sat down on the wretched pallet that served me for a bed and buried my face in my hands.

The news that I was to be tried for my life I had received with a sense of actual gladness. Feeling that I could not be convicted of treason where I owed no allegiance, and conscious that I had carefully refrained from violating the laws of my adopted country, I confi dently looked forward to having my liberty restored to me. But the presintelligence, which my comrade endeavored to conceal from me a while longer, came as a blow that, figuratively speaking, stunned and cast me down It bade him hold himself ready to be re moved to another prison. was not told.

We were, then, to be separated once more. While we were together the hardships of our lot had been endurable. Now, when we were to be parted, the light seemed to go out of life for both of us. The prison walls narrowed about me, the guards drew a closer cordon around him for the journey; the chances of our being free again grew fewer.

My preparations are indeed made. eiaculated Ramon, "since possess only the clothes on my back. But being ready to go is a different

If we could not help each other, we made many plans. Never shall I forget the succeeding days. So dear they were to us, so precious was every mo-ment we might yet spend together that we found the time passing too quickly even though we were in captivity.

During this interval, two of our con panions, Colonel Lount, once a member of the Canadian parliament, and Peter Matthews, a wealthy land-owner, were convicted of treason and condemned to execution. When they returned to the prison it was to be chained anew. Over our parting with them I will draw a veil. Their sentence was carried out a few weeks later. There are some tragedies so painful that we cannot look them in

the face. Nothing was proved against Montgomery except that as an innkeeper he had sold food to the insurgents gathered before his tavern at a short distance from Toronto. Yet for this his property

was confiscated and he was sentenced to te transported to Bermuda.

On a dreary morning in the first week of May, the commander sent for me My comrade and I exchanged a fev words and a handclasp, yet we both supposed I was summoned only to see the doctor, for I was ill with a pleurisy contracted from the cold and dampness of

he building.
I expected to return in a few minutes; but I never went back to that room. Notwithstanding my petition that Ramon and I might be left together as long as possible, I was placed in a small cell by myself, there to await my trial. He and I had thus no opportunity to wish each other au revoir, or even to say farewell. A short time later I learned that he had been sent on his solitary journey. And this was the darkest day of the many I spent in prison. How my own prospects were regarded I soon heard from the gaoler. "Well, Tummas," I said one day when

tained me a long while; some time, perhaps, I may be able to give you a

better feast, when I again have a home

"Ay, ay," blurted out Tummas, as he shut one eye and surveyed me quizzically with the other, as if my remark were an excellent jest. "But him hafeard, sir, you will never see the States again.

"Indeed! And why do you think so?

"Hoh, hi 'ave hit from good hauthor "Then they intend to hang me?"

"Yes, sir, hi'm sorry to say, you mus be anged. Hi eard the governor say so yesterday to han hofficer who came with 'im to see the commander. You see, sir

nit must be done has an hexample to hothers, you hunderstand, sir?" "So my fate is settled even before my trial?" said I, indifferently. "Yet mind what I say, Tummas, I shall not be hanged, but shall peturn to my country

a free man."
"Hi 'ope so, sir," replied Tummas, rather crest-fallen. And disappointed that his news had so little aroused me, he slammed fast the wicket through which he had handed in the bread, and

vent away.

A week later, coming in the morning

s usual, he said-"Major Hadair, sir, this his the day

set for your trial."

When I had breakfasted he knocked off my chains and requested me to walk out of the cell. Under a strong guard I was taken to the court. The hall was already filled with people, but as I glanced around me, up to the galleries, among the throng of men and women my eyes caught sight of no familiar face. Nevertheless, as I entered the prisoners' dock and stood before the chief justice, murmur of interest with a faint under one of sympathy passed over the crowd.

"Nial Adair," cried the officer of the court in a loud voice, "listen to the charge preferred against you for the offence of high treason toward Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Colonies, and answer whether you are guilty

It was read and I nerved myself to

reply.

"My lord," I said calmly, addressing the judge, "as you see, I have no counsel and have had no opportunity to prepare for trial. Further, since I have never resided in Malden, I am not the person nentioned in this charge."

At this the attorney general sprang in of large frame to his feet. He was a man of large frame his countenance was bloated and ex-pressionless, and a broken nose had earned for him throughout the province the satirical pseudonym of "handsome to his feet. He was a m

"My lord, the prisoner is bound to be repared," he insisted. "The prisoner prepared," he insisted. The prisoner has already cost the government a considerable amount; the crown witness es are present. We will admit the statement that he is a citizen of the United States, that he was first fired upon by the townspeople at Malden, and was later driven by the elements upon our shores.'

These points being recorded the chief justice decided that the trial should continue, the jury was empanelled, and two gentlemen of the bar volunteered to put my protest into legal form. ould gladly assist you farther.

ese men, but I fea the attempt would be useless, and it would only ruin our business." Staggered by this announce

not plunged into despair, I listened while the prosecution presented their case. The witnesses against me swore I had borne arms and fought at St. Denis Eustache, and Malden, that I had addressed public meetings in behalf of whom they were pleased to call those whom they were pleased to cal rebels, and had given money to relieve the distress of Canadian refugees.

These accusations, even if prove would be hardly enough to condemn a man to death, but the attorney-genera made the most of them. In his impas ioned speech to the jury he depicted ge as a traitor, a pirate, a robber, inhuman monster, and last and worst of all, a Yankee. After a burst of eloquence that took up over an hour, he finally sa down,heated, but smiling triumphantly as he mopped his forehead with a large red handkerchief. He was confident he of my impending doom seemed everyon who had to do with the case, that I might not have spoken in my own defence at but for something that happened during

his harangue.

A slight stir at the door of the cour com caused me to turn my gaze in that lirection. Surely my eyes played me a crick! The thought that had haunte trick! ne of late so constantly must, by some osychic phenomenon, have taken visible

form before me.

A redcoat officer was entering the room, and as the throng gave way to permit him to pass, I saw he escorted a lady. A second glance at him caused me to start with surprise, for he was none other than Captain Weston. I had now at least one friend in this assembly the majority of whom waited so eagerly

for my sentence. But the lady!

It was she who made me feel I must be dreaming. As she hurriedly followed the captain to the place he found, I stared at her in a dazed fashion, forgetting judge and jury, forgetting where I was and that I was being tried for my life. Heedless of all around me, and deaf to the strident voice of the prosecutor who was doing his best to argue that life away, I drew a hand across my eyes, thinking to brush aside the halluci-

nation, but it still remained. "My God! have the long weeks of prooding and privation through which I have come overthrown my reason?" I thought. "Am I going mad? It must be, for the happiness of the vision before me is too great a blessing to be true!"

The trim, girlish figure gowned in gray, with a little toque of gray cloth set upon the dark curls clustering about a white neck, graceful as the stem of a flower, the lovely young face, the eyes raised for a second to the captain's and then instantly lowered again as she took the chair he drew forward for her-ah, this indeed was the picture of Jacquette this indeed was the picture of Jacquette that had been with me sleeping and waking during the greater part of the time of my imprisonment. In fact I had loved to conjure it up when alone ever since the day I took leave of this beautiful daughter of the patriots on the shore of the icebound Richelieu.

What would she be doing in Toronto? How could she have come here from her far-off home? How unlikely that she would be with Captain Weston, who as an officer of the Royal Dragoons repre-sented the Tory power against which her people rebelled? The whole idea was preposterous. It could not

Having seated herself the lady, ignorcuriosity of the crowd, apparently unconscious of the ostenta-tion of the court, leaned forward and looked at me Great God! It was Jacquette!

For a moment, across the space ween us, we gazed at each other. Ah, truly I wish every poor wretch guilt-less of crime, save that he has loved the cause of liberty not wisely but too well, may be sustained in his darkest hour by such a glance from the eyes of the voman he loves!

A few minutes before I had been de spondent, reckless, indifferent to the climax of my fate. "Since I must die, my only remaining wish is that the sentence may be prompt and there may be no delay in carrying it out," I had said to myself.

Now, however, my strength of purp was aroused as though by an electric current, the newly discovered force in nature which the scientists say is destined to work such wonders. The blood rushed back to my heart and thrilled through my veins. Jacquette was near me. I could not understand how she happened to be there; but it was nough for me that she was there. Soon, however, a shadow dimmed

brightness of the surlight of presence. She was with Weston. it possible he had wooed and won her Certainly, if ever man fell in love at fir sight, Weston had been conquered by her beauty during the short time he spent as a prisoner at St. Denis. To be sure, he had been content to beguile the time on the border with Phœbe, the and tender Phoebe. But the pretty English girl herself told me they not betrothed.

Had Dr. Nelson, then, in the desperate state of his fortunes and the uncertainty as to what might be his fate, sought to insure the safety of Jacquette by giving her to one of the best men who ever wore a uniform, of whatever cut or color? How foolish I was, for those first blissful moments, in imagining Jacquette had come thus to my side in this hour of my ignominy because she loved me. What had I to do with love, I, a she loved with only a few more days on earth?

Jesu! Marie! How selfish I was Did I want her love that I might cast blight upon her whole life! willingly drag down her heart with me to a felon's grave? Ought I not rather to thank God it was only friendship that she felt for me? Ought I not to be glad that, having forgotten her romantic fancy for Ramon, she had doubtless given her future into the keeping of this noble Englishman?

The Patriot Cause was failing miser ably, chiefly through the weakness of its leaders and the inefficiency of the preparations for the struggle. To the men of the Richelieu must be left the task of teaching the lesson of liberty to the next generation. Perhaps peace and prosperity might come by marrying the daughters of the patriots to redcoat officers as gallant as this young man.

## CHAPTER XV. THE SUPREME MOMENT.

The unexpected presence of Jacquette the dingy court room at this critica moment of my life, nevertheless, gave me new heart. At least I would show her I could meet my fate bravely, that was ready to die for the cause she loved, even though I had nothing left to

me in this world but my honor.
"Nial Adair, have you anything to say in your own behalf?" inquired the judge as a matter of form. It was like the customary question out to a man upon the scaffold

Had I anything to say? Yes, for Jacquette must remember I died worthily. I would boldly confront and arraign my accusers, and give the lie to those who were trying to swear away

After one more glance at the corner where the girl sat white and still, I straightened myself, and turning to those who held my fate in their hands addressed them.

I have seen, gentlemen of the jury, "I have seen, gentremen of the Jury, that the last act of this farce was writ-ten before the first began, and therefore I did not intend to attempt to defend myself," I began. "Respect for my wn feelings, for the friends with whon I have been associated, however, forbids ne to let pass without comment the charges made against me. It has been asserted that I am a British subject and am on trial for high treason, a crime of which only a subject can be guilty But if I am a British subject how can be also a Yankee pirate, as has been announced? Moreover, what proofs have been brought forward that I am also a murderer and a robber, as you have been told with much warmth Gentlemen of the jury, I owe no allegi ance to the crown. I am a citizen o the United States. I admit, I was taken n arms, fighting for an acknowledged

An acknowledged flag!" ejaculated the prosecuting attorney with a vindic

"Yes. The standard was acknow ledged by your late governor in sending a flag of truce to treat with the men who fought at Montgomery's tavern," I answered. "It was the flag of patriots raised at Navy Island. I have never committed a under my comm ney, nor has any one lenged ever vou, gentlemen o the jury, for you were bent upor my conviction when you were sworn into the jury-box. This trial is, then, a mockery; a mere form of law to gild and adorn the preliminaties of my execution. Even the judge on the bench has said in public that I must be made an example of to prevent others from following in my footsteps. You may hang me, indeed, but the act will cost you dear. Had I not as an American a right to express my opinion of the measure of your government at public meetings held in the States? Truly, I was taken

But of course this was not Jacquette. in arms, but your witnesses, to enhance small water-craft into a frigate, irregu-lar musketry into broadsides, and a fray into a battle. Had success crowned the efforts of the patriots, blessings would have been showered upon my head. We

played for a great stake, a nation's lib erty, and we have lost. Your feudal doctrine once a subject always a subject,' cannot be maintained. I am not a traitor any more than was Washington or Jefferson. But, gentlemen of the jury, this drama will not close with your conviction of me or with my existence; the principle involved is dear to my adopted country, and she will defend

As I concluded, there was mong the auditors in the court room, and among my guards I noticed one who wrapt in thought, picked the prisoner box with his bayonet, while honest tears ran down his cheeks.

"Silence, silence!" rang through the

hal'. "Nial Adair," said the court when quiet was once more restored, "you are a young man of no common talent, but I am surprised that you should dare to come before me, still wearing the rebel uniform. This of itself, sir, is flagrant contempt of court." As he spoke he pointed to my surtout, still adorned with the insignia of my command.

"Pardon me, your honor," I said with punctilious courtesy, "I wear this coat because I have no other. When I was taken prisoner at Malden I was obbed of my clothing and money, and what has been sent to me since then was kept from me by order of the commander of the prison. As for these stars on my breast, could they have been easily deached, the soldiers who captured me ould have torn them off. Since I have worn them in conflict and in prison, lesire to continue to wear them during the brief period I have yet to live."

Having failed to intimidate re, the judge cleared his throat and began his charge. It was brief and bitter. The jury were not out long. When they re-turned and lined up, facing me, I knew

my fate was sealed.

"Gentlemen of the jury, look upon the prisoner." ordered the judge, "and you, Nial Adair, look upon these twelves. men who have weighed and considered the evidence against you. Gentlemen what is your verdict?

The foreman stepped in advance of his fellows, "Your honor," he said in a low, hesitating voice, "we find that if the prisoner is a British subject

One might have heard a pin drop in the room, so still it was. The judge the prosecutor, and his assistants were astonished by so extraordinary a verdict. At the realization that it half acknowledgment of my claim that was a citizen of the United States, a nurmur of joy went round the room among those whom sympathy had made

my friends. Silence," cried the officer of the ourt again.

The sounds of congratulation died away momentarily while the judge re-manded me to prison. But as I passed out between my gaolers, I was followed by audible good wishes and prayers from the crowd. More than all, I encountered the beautiful eyes of Jacquette, radiant with hope, and her smile as these eyes met mine made me feel there was yet a joy in life for me of which my enemies could rob me only with my last breath. On the fourth day after my trial, how-

ever, I was again brought and this sentence was passed upon me:
"Nial Adair, you shall be taken to the place whence you last came, and on Tuesday the 12th day of the coming month of June you shall be drawn on urdle to the usual place of execution and shall be there hanged by the neck until dead. Your body shall then be quartered and given to the surgeons for dissection; and may God have mercy on your soul.

Like a statue I stood and listened to the terrible words. But as the judge ceased to speak, I was almost unnerved by a cry that echoed through the room. The next moment there was a sound as of some one falling to the floor, and I heard the guard near me say to his com-rade that a woman had fainted. Unhappily, I knew the wail was the sobbing voice of Jacquette, and it was she wh had slipped from her chair in a swoon.

As to my own fate I was dazed. It was the thought of my darling's distress and poignant sympathy that occupied and poignant sympathy that occupied my mind as I was conducted back to the prison. Report said my execution was to be the last, and for this at least I was thankful. The other prisoners of the uprising were to be transported to Van Dieman's Land or the Barbadoes.

One evening, shortly after my sentence, as I sat at the grated window of my cell, I heard Tummas and Peter the hangman, outside in the prison yard disputing as to the manner in which !

asputing as to the manner in which I should be sent into eternity.

"Now, my hearty," queried the jovial Peter, who had once been a sailor on a man-of-war, "what may be your opinion of the fashion of making ready the By hall means hit should be soaped

declared Turmas, emphatically.

"No. no, shipmate, I see you do no understand the business," retorte Peter, laughing shrilly and with the pride of experience. "It should be slushed. D—n your soap."

"But, d—n your soap."

"But, d—n you, I know something of these matters, too," argued the turnkey. To do the thing neatly, soap must be The hangman swore roundly.

"We will settle the question by con-sulting the major, himself," he suggested. Therewith, coming over to the window, the rascal stated the case to me. After hearing both sides of the argu-

ment, I said—
"You are right, Peter, the rope shall be slushed. I want you to have your own way about it,"

Thankee, thankee," he cried, de lighted. "Your honor appreciates a man of reputation. But you must be hanged to suit yourself, sir. Gad, but a pleasure to do business for a gentleman like you. Long life to your honor!"

Having penetrated this bull, worthy of I could have seen you plainly, and you one of my own countrymen,

Tummas away to the tavern with him leaving me to the gathering-dusk and my own reflections, which were half whimsical even in their gloominess.

During the days that followed I put my affairs in order as far as might be by writing letters to Dr. Nelson, Ramon, and other friends. This being accomplished Latters. plished, I strove to prepare my soul to meet my God. One thing more I wished to do. I wished to leave a few last words for Jacquette, to assure her of my devotion and love to the end. But the thought of her so stirred my heart that, from day to day, I put off the attempt to tell her all this. It seemed so impossible for me to set down upon paper any adequate expression of the emotions surginn in my breast.

One morning as I sat, pen in hand, trying to find words that would make her understand how dear she was to me, Tummas stopped in the hallway outside my cell and said through the grated

"A lady 'as obtained permission to see you, sir."

"A lady!" I exclaimed, glancing around the wretched room. "Surely

this is no place to receive a lady." "Lud! so hanxious is she with you, I'll wager she will not spend hany time in noticing the dust and cobabout you; though, to be sure, might have better lodging, "In fact, there are he said with a grin. two women below, one being the servant of the other, I'll go bail."

Perhaps the gentle benefactres who was accustomed to signal to us had ventured into the prison to give me some last news of my friends," I reflected. The thought was like a ray of sunlight that for a few moments of each day found its way in through the window of my cell.

I hope you told the lady I was at home, Tummas," I replied lightly. "Say to her now that I shall be happy to have "Say the honor of her visit."

Tummas grinned again and disappeared, but returned presently, followed by the strangers. Unlocking the door, he admitted them to the cell, which he locked again on the outside. "You may talk with the prisoner for ten minutes, ma'am," he said, and went away.

The servant-maid stood staring about her in dismay at her temporary incarceration and then darted to o peer into the courtyard. As I stood bowing before the lady, she raised her veil and looked at me, all her soul shining in her eyes.
"Jacquette!" I exclaimed, starting

forward in amazement.

The fair unknown who for weeks had cheered us by appearing almost daily beneath our window and fluttering a white handkerchief in token that we were not forgotten by our friends, the kind ministrant to our comfort who had sent us more appetizing food than the comfort who had coarse prison fare, was none other than my darling whom, during that time, I had supposed to be hundreds of miles

away.
" Jacquette !" I cried again At this moment she caught sight of the shackle upon my ankle and the

heavy iron ball attached to it. "Mon Dieu, Monsieur Adair, so they have chained you like a hound," she faltered, while her eyes grew dim and overflowed.

Spare your tears, sweetheart, this is one of the least of my troubles," I said. In another moment I had clasped her in my arms and was madly kissing her brow, her pale face, and then, oh bliss, her sweet lips, as I pressed her closer to my heart. "Forgive me, dearest one," I pleaded, releasing her at last. "I had not dared to hope you would find a way

to gain admittance here. Your coming is like a visit of an angel from heaven. As I gazed upon her, and then again As I gazed upon her, and then again embraced her, I forgot I had thought she loved Ramon; that a few days before I had concluded she was betrothed to Captain Weston. I remembered only that I loved her and she was come t omfort me, by her dear sympathy, to strengthen me for the final But now the recollection of these sur nises checked my ardor, though I still

held her hot hands firm in mine. "Ah, Jacquette, pardon my insanity," I said, "I should not have forgotten that you belong to another.'

"Another?" she murmured, with her cheeks flushed to a burning crimson.

"Yes, I have heard you are the prom-"Nonsense. It is not true," she answered, looking up at me shyly.
"But it was Ramon you loved," I persisted, crushing her little hands so hard

that an involuntary cry of pain escaped "Nial, do you love me?" asked Jacquette, with a glance that searched my neart of hearts.

"God knows, cherie, I love you with all my strength and power of loving." "As you love me even so I love you," she whispered sweetly, and hid her face upon my breast. The next few moments I will pass over

n silence. Who can adequately describe the happiness of two hearts that were made for each other, when they have come to know the truth at last?

When we could talk quietly again, I placed my one chair for Jacquette and, seated myself beside her on a corner of my rickety table, a position from which I could still look down into her beauti ful eyes. At the window the maid, with commendable discretion, was ab sorbed in watching a sentry in the yard, perhaps passing the time, after the manner of maids both of humble and high degree, in smiling with

numble and high degree, in smiling with tantalizing covness upon him, for she was young and good-looking. "But, Jacquette," I asked in the undertone in which our conversation had been carried on from the beginning "how is it that, often as you signalled to us from the street, you did not once raise your veil and give me the joy of recognizing you, of knowing it was you who brought us aid?"

Again my dear blashed rosy red.

"Indeed, Nial once or twice I did
raise it," she acknowledged hesitatingly, "and you made no sign in response The window was so high it was impos sible to obtain a glimpse of the prisoners from below. Had it been a cell on this tier and facing the street, of course

" None of the lower cells are lighted from the street," I replied absently, and then continued, "It was hard luck cortainly, dearest, that I missed the sight of your sweet face, which is now to in my prison as a vision of paradise, and even Ramon happened not to be at the window when you raised your veil. Had he seen you he would have told me; i not, I would have read the secret in his own gladness.

"I thought you knew," returned my darling in maidenly confusion, "and when you made no sign I comforted my. self with the reflection that even if you did not care who came, I would serve the cause as well. I resolved that every suffering patriot should be the same to I tried to deceive my heart, but -vou had not told me then of your le

Once more I caught her to my breast, Dearest, I have loved you from the first moment I saw you, I shall love you forever and ever," I cried, kissing her passionately. "And now, since I know you love me, I shall die happy."

" Oh. do not speak of dying," she protested with a shudder.

" Jacquette, listen to me," I went on resolutely. "I am condemned to die for the cause we both love, and as you see "—I glanced bitterly now at my fetters-" there is small hope of escape. If the Tories who have accomplished my ruin think to have the satisfaction of be disappointed yet.

"You have a plan? What do you propose to do?" whispered Jacquette, whispered Jacquette, pressing closer to me. "Only this." I returned grimly, "1

know the guard around the scaffold will be composed of my countrymen. Taking advantage of the customary will address them. After I willleap from the scaffold down among thate they may run me them, crying that they may through with their bayonets if the but they shall never strangle modog. If they do it, at least I sh fighting still. But on that day my chains will have been stricken off, some one in the throng may perhaps hands that hind my arms, and it in the melee I shall regain my liberty.

It was the design of a deperate man, "If the worst comes, perhaps your plot may serve," said Jacquette; "but though the days are going so fast you are not yet in such a hopeless strait as you suppose, Nial. Many men, and omen too, are working in your They have sent a petition to the governor and hope to obtain a respite for you. Allons! I did not mean to tell you, for fear of the reaction upon you if we should fail. But we cannot, we must not fail! No. Nial, you shall be saved.

I kissed her once more.
"And who have so interested them-

selves for a doomed man?" I inquired with a thrill of gratitude.
"Your friends throughout Canada and the United States. Captain Weston has been most kind in presenting one petition, and I-I have done what I

" My darling, I know you have done ore than all the others together," I declared fervidly.

Betore we could say more, the turnkey was again in the corridor. "The time is up, madam," he called. "You must leave at once."

The key grated in the lock, and he threw open the door. The maid, seeing it ajar, ran out immediately, glad to be again at liberty.

'This is not the last time," Jacquette whispered to me.

I raised her hands to my lips, but drawing them away hastily her arms around my neck and clung t ne piteously for a moment. As I tried to soothe her she took my face between her dear hands and kissed me on the mouth. Then releasing herself from my arms, she dried her eyes and dropped her veil over her face.

"It is au revoir, not adieu," she said under her breath, and with a forced composure, passed into the corridor. With a sigh she heard the door locked between us, and went a few steps, but at the turn of the passage she stopped and waved her hand, with a little attempt at

gayety meant to encourage me.

It did indeed; for it brought back to ny mind a scene of long, long picture of the husking festival at St. Charles, and of a girl who stood on the balcony of a farmhouse and smiled at me, while at the same time, in sportive co-quetry she flung down a bit of blue ribbon as a gage to my companion. And all that night, as I tossed upon my miserable prison pallet, I dreamed of Dr. Nelson's manor at St. Denis of my friend Ramon, and of Jacquette whose love had changed captivity to heaven for me. Was it the tragic position in which I stood that had centred the dear girl's affections upon me instead of upon Ramon? During this precious interview I had put the question to her squarely, only to see her smile it away. So still it is unanswered. But this is what she said, with tenderly shining

"You want me to tell you how I came to love you, Nial? I loved you, bean chevalier, as a young girl loves, perhaps for your dashing air, your broad shoulders, and the way you have of tossing back your brown hair. Oh, the vanity of men; I see you like the picture. I loved you for your bravery at St. Denis, your loyalty to your friends, especially to Ramon. Above all, I love you now for your indomitable courage when confronted with an ignoble death. All I know is, you are my hero, and I love you.

From this moment my mood changed. I found I was now less resigned to die, having so much more for which to live. Jacquette had promised help, but might

she not be too sanguine? Had my friends the power to assist ne? Would my adopted country inter-

me? Would my adopted councy
vene in time to rescue me?
But three days now remained before
the date appointed for my execution.
In my suspense it seemed to me I suffered the torments of the damner
at least the agonies of the pale she least the agonies of the pale she wander through the dim land purgatorio. It was not, how agony of fear, but of hope. I was not afraid to die, but I wished, oh, so much

to live. In the afternoon, as I sat at my table, writing to Jacquette the words of un-

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