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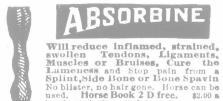


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of Jules Painchaud, his future sonin-law, as he taught him the secrets

of its confection.

With his white cap set rakishly on one side of his head, and arms akimbo, Maitre Guillot gave Jules the famous recipe

"Inside of circular walls of pastry an inch thick, and so rich as easily to be pulled down, and roomy enough within for the Court of King Pepin, lay first a thick stratum of mincemeat of two savory hams of Westphalia, and if you cannot get them, of two hams of our habitans."
"Of our habitans!" ejaculated

Jules, with an air of consternation.
"Precisely! don't interrupt me!" Maitre Guillot grew red about the gills in an instant. Jules was silenced. "I have said it!" cried he; two hams of our habitans! what have you to say against it-stock tish, eh ?

"Oh, nothing, sir," replied Jules, with humility, "only I thought—" Poor Jules would have consented to eat his thought, rather than fall out with the father of his Susette.

"You thought!" Maitre Guillot's face was a study for Hogarth, who alone could have painted the alto tone of voice as it proceeded from his round () of a mouth, "Susette shall remain upon my hands an old maid for the term of her natural life if you dispute the confection of Easter pie!

"Now listen, Jules," continued he, at once mollified by the contrite. submissive air of his future son-inlaw: "Upon the foundation of the mince-meat of two hams of Westphalia-or, if you cannot get them, of two hams of our habitans-place scientifically the nicely-cut pieces of a fat turkey, leaving his head to stick out of the upper crust, in evidence that Master Dindon lies buried there! Add two fat capons, two plump partridges, two pigeons, and the back and thighs of a brace of juicy hares. Fill up the whole with beaten eggs, and the rich contents will resemble, as a poet might say, fossils of the rock in golden yolks embedded and enjellied!' Season as you would a saint. Cover with a slab of pastry. Bake it as you would cook an angel, and not singe a feather. Then let it cool, and eat it! And then, Jules, as the Reverend Father de Berey always says after grace over an Easter pie, Dominus vobiscum!'

CHAPTER XXI.

Sic Itur ad Astra.

The old hall of Belmont had been times of its founder, the Intendant Talon, but it had never contained a nobler company of fair women and brave men, the pick and choice of their race, than to-day met round the hospitable and splendid table of the Bourgeois Philibert, in honor of the fete of his gallant son.

Dinner was duly and decorously despatched. The social fashion of New France was not for the ladies to withdraw when the wine followed the feast, but to remain seated with the gentlemen, purifying the conversation, and by their presence restraining the coarseness which was the al-

most universal vice of the age. A troop of nimble servitors carried of the carved dishes and fragments of the splendid patisseries of Maitre Guillot, in such a state of demolition as satisfied the critical eye of the chief cook that the efforts of his genius had been very successful. He inspected the dishes through spectacles. He knew, by what was left, the ability of the guests to discriminate what they had eaten and to do justice to his skill. He considered himself a sort of pervading divinity, whose culinary ideas passing with his cookery into the bodies of the guests enabled them, on retiring from the feast, to carry away as part of themselves some of the fine essence of Maitre Gobet himself.

At the head of his table, peeling

toning the Litany, ravished the ear the ladies in his vicinity, sat the MORSE OWNERS! USE Bourgeois himself, laughing, jesting, and telling anecdotes with a geniality that was contagious. gods are merry sometimes,' says Homer, 'and their laughter shakes Olympus!''' was the classical remark of Father de Berey, at the other end of the table. Jupiter did not laugh with less loss of dignity than the Bourgeois.

Few of the guests did not remember to the end of their lives the majestic and happy countenance of the Bourgeois on this memorable day.

At his right hand sat Amelie de Repentigny, and the Count de la Galissoniere. The Governor, charmed with the beauty and agreeableness of the young chatelaine, had led her in to dinner, and devoted himself to her and the Lady de Tilly with the perfection of gallantry of a gentleman of the politest court in Europe. On his left sat the radiant, dark-eyed Hortense de Beauharnais. With a gay assumption of independence Hortense had taken the arm of La Corne St Luc, and declared she would eat no dinner unless he would be her cavalier, and sit beside her! The gallant old soldier surrendered at discretion. He laughingly consented to he her captive, he said, for he had no power, and no desire but to obey Hortense was proud of her conquest She seated herself by his side with an air of triumph and mock gravity. tapping him with her fan whenever she detected his eye roving round the table, compassionating, she affirmed her rivals, who had failed where she had won in securing the youngest, the handsomest, and most gallant of all the gentlemen at Belmont.

"Not so fast, Hortense!" claimed the gay Chevalier; "you have captured me by mistake! The tall Swede-he is your man! The other ladies all know that, and are anxious to get me out of your toils, so that you may be free to ensnare the philosopher!

"But you don't wish to get away from me! I am your garland, Chevalier, and you shall wear me to-As for the tall Swede, he has no idea of a fair flower of our sex, except to wear it in his buttonholethis way !" added she, pulling a rose out of a vase, and archly adorning the Chevalier's vest with it.

"All pretence and jealousy, made moiselle. The tall Swede knows how to take down your pride and bring you to a proper sense of your false conceit of the beauty and wit of the ladies of New France

Hortense gave two or three tosses of defiance to express her emphatic

'I wish Herr Kalm would lend me his philosophic scales, to weigh your sex like lambs in market " continued La Corne St. Luc; "but I fear I am too old, Hortense, to measure women except by the fathom, which is the measure of a man.

"And the measure of a man is the measure of an angel too scriptum est, Chevalier!" replied she. Hortense had ten merry meanings in her eye and looked as if bidding him select which he chose. "The learned Swede's philosophy is lost upon me,' continued she; "he can neither weigh by sample nor measure by fathom the girls of New France! She tapped him on the arm. "Listen to me, Chevalier," said she, "you are neglecting me already for sake of Cecile Tourangeau!" La Corne was exchanging some gay badinage with a graceful, pretty young lady on the other side of the table, whose snowy forehead, if you examined it closely, was marked with a red scar in figure of a cross, which, although powdered, and partially concealed by a frizz of her thick blonde hair, was sufficiently distinct to those who looked for it: and many did so, as they whispered to each other the story of how she got it.

Le Gardeur de Repentigny sat by Cecile, talking in a very sociable manner, which was also commented on. His conversation seemed to be very attractive to the young lady,

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