

Story of a Lost Child

New Orleans, Aug. 17.—The recovery of his lost daughter Alice by old Captain Manuel Terrebbonne is truly a modern miracle, a romance that exceeds the most daring flights of fiction.

Little Alice was torn away from her father and lost in the Gulf of Mexico during the most terrible storm within memory. So remarkable was her escape that it seems as if she must have been saved by an angel. For nearly ten years her father was as certain of her death as he could possibly be of any fact. But now she has been returned to him, after ten years' absence, alive and as well as on the day he last saw her.

Captain Terrebbonne lived with his wife and ten children on the island of Cheniere Camiada, in the gulf. He was a stout-hearted, weather-beaten fisherman, devoted to his family. On October 1, 1893, the morning dawned wet and cloudy. All day there was a slow drizzle. Toward evening the storm clouds, fierce and ominous, began to form themselves over the gulf. At nightfall they broke and swept onward with a rush that brooked no opposition. Earth and heaven seemed to have entered into a league to destroy the little island lying helpless in the path of the wind, the tides and the surf. It was the historic storm of '93.

Captain Terrebbonne had battled with the elements, but this time the strife was too much for him. The waves swept completely over the island. He made the most heroic efforts to save his family. Swimming and battling with the waves, he carried four of them successively to a place of refuge on a ship. While he was carrying the fifth, little Alice, aged only six, he was stricken on the head with a floating spar and rendered momentarily unconscious. In an instant his daughter was snatched away from him and swallowed up in the raging water. In an instant Captain Terrebbonne was picked up himself, but he and everybody else were certain that the little girl had been drowned.

When the great storm was over Captain Terrebbonne had lost his wife and six children, including Alice. He had to begin life anew.

He moved to Grand Isle, where he resumed his struggle with the sea for an existence. His sons grew up and became strong men. Gradually they lifted the burden from his shoulders. Some of them married. He himself remained a widower.

Eight years after the storm Captain Terrebbonne received word that a girl resembling his youngest daughter Alice had been seen at Daisy post-office, La. He could hardly believe it possible, but he went to see for himself, and recognized the child who had been swept away when she was six years old. He could recognize her by her features, but she also possessed a peculiar scar on the ear which no one else would be likely to have. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee had secured her from a wall's home, which in turn had taken her from a Filipino fisherman at Shell Beach.

The child could give no clear account of how she was saved from the storm, but the only explanation seemed to be that she caught hold of a piece of wreckage and was blown across the surface of the waters until she was cast up on the coast of Louisiana.

After finding his child another severe struggle awaited the old captain. Her adoptive parents were unwilling to give the child up. They alleged that a father would be unable to recognize a child who had been lost so young and whom he had not seen for so many years.

It became the one idea of the old man's life to regain his child. Finally, after a year of waiting, during which time he made many unsuccessful attempts to secure possession of his daughter, she was restored to his keeping by order of court.

Little Alice Terrebbonne's life from the time she was swept away by the waves until her appearance with the Filipino is a mystery that will perhaps never be completely unraveled. She could speak French perfectly before the storm, but now she only speaks English. Her mind is a blank so far as the storm is concerned, but this condition has often occurred in older persons who have experienced a great shock.

Her strange history first came to the knowledge of the public in August, 1896, when A. E. Nunez, sheriff of St. Bernard parish, discovered her at the house of Callato Cabballo, a Filipino fisherman, at Shell Beach. Cabballo could give no satisfactory explanation of his possession of the girl. She had been brought to him by his wife, an Indian woman. The woman had never explained in a satisfactory manner how she had come by the child. Identification was much complicated by the disappearance of

the woman, who is now believed to be dead.

There is a large colony of Filipino fishermen long established in this region. They live just as they do in their native wilds. Alice grew up like a little Filipino, happy but savage. She played about on the seashore dressed in nothing but a gunny sack, and was so browned by the sun that her complexion was almost Filipino.

Sheriff Nunez placed the child in the care of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. She was sent by President Clay to the Waifs' Home at Beauvoir, Miss., and entered as Victoria Madelina Hanna, "known as Vic Hanna." The girl was pretty and bright-eyed, and must have won the affections of the Filipino and his companion, for her nickname with them was "Sugar."

In May, 1901, Mrs. Agatha Lee of Daisy postoffice made application to the home for "a brunette girl." After an investigation the authorities of the home signed articles of agreement with her and turned the child "Vic Hanna" over to Mrs. Lee.

In January, 1902, Captain Manuel Terrebbonne went to Daisy and identified the girl as his daughter, Alice. At first the child met him and her brothers with a show of affection and seemed to be willing to go with them. Mr. and Mrs. Lee had also decided to turn the child over, but suddenly they refused to do so on the ground that they were not sure that the child was the daughter of Captain Terrebbonne, and because the child was not willing to leave them.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, at the instigation of Mrs. Lee, promised to make an investigation. Captain Terrebbonne was told that he would have to wait pending this investigation. Agent Raycroft went to Daisy and acknowledged that there was a resemblance between Alice and Captain Terrebbonne. Callato, the Filipino, was found in Baton Rouge, but his statements were conflicting, and he could throw no light on the matter. Callato said that the woman, Rosetta, had brought the child to him three or four years before the storm of 1893. He averred that the woman had said that the father of the child was a steambot man who had been drowned. The Filipino admitted, however, that he was a man "who paid no attention to things."

This was the identification of the girl involved in hopeless confusion, so far as accounting for the method of her transfer from the storm-beaten coast of Cheniere to Shell Beach was concerned, but the father and his sons were sure that the girl was of their flesh and blood. Other links were found, and the struggle between the Terrebbonnes and the Lees culminated in court.

It was at the courthouse of Plaquemines Parish that all the parties concerned met. Emmet Hingle, counsel for Captain Terrebbonne, had filed a writ of habeas corpus, praying for the possession of the child. In the writ it was claimed that the child was the daughter of Captain Terrebbonne, and that she was being held by the Lees, who were educating her in a different religion from that held by her father, and who were using her as a servant.

At noon the skiff ferry brought over Captain Terrebbonne, Mrs. Pesch, a New Orleans woman whose testimony was to add weight to that of Captain Terrebbonne, and his sons, and Henry Mooney, attorney for Mrs. Lee and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Captain Terrebbonne, in blue blouse and trousers, freshly ironed, a stiff black straw hat on his head and a large curved-handled cane in his hand was a picturesque figure. His three sons, ranging from twenty-five to thirty-three, were dressed neatly and more in accordance with city conventions.

Waiting in the courtroom were Mr. and Mrs. Lee and Alice Lee, or Alice Terrebbonne, as she was soon to be declared. Mrs. Lee carried a little girl-baby eight months old. Alice is small and undeveloped for fifteen years of age, but not abnormally so. She wore a neat dress of pink calico, delicately flowered; a hat, with pink and white flowers; black stockings and low-quarter shoes. She consented to have her photograph taken, but was shy, and began to cry when spoken to by anybody but Mrs. Lee.

Captain Terrebbonne, his strong countenance impassive, seated himself in a chair against the front railing. His three sons took seats near him. Farther on were Mr. and Mrs. Lee and the baby. Alice was given a seat to herself, near the judge. Now and then during the proceedings she placed her handkerchief to her eyes. They were big and brown and looked like the eyes of Captain Terrebbonne and his three sons. Her nose and brow, too, were remarkably similar

to these features in the faces of the four men.

Proceedings were opened by the reading of the writ. Then ensued a preliminary legal battle that lasted for almost an hour and a half. Mr. Mooney desired a continuance on the ground that three of his witnesses had not been subpoenaed. First, he took the position that Alice Terrebbonne was called for by the writ and that the Lees knew no Alice Terrebbonne. Mr. Mooney also endeavored to file an intervention for the society. In short, there was a combat for points. Judge Hingle ruled that the trial would have to go on, as a writ of habeas corpus was usually returnable in twelve hours, and the defendants had been given seven days so that there was no excuse on the ground of failure to secure witnesses.

Finally, Captain Terrebbonne was placed on the stand. He and his sons, with one exception, speak nothing but French. Nearly all the inhabitants of Plaquemines speak French, but an interpreter was used for the benefit of counsel from New Orleans.

Captain Terrebbonne told of the loss of his family, and swore that the little girl in the pink dress was his daughter. The demeanor of the old sailor was calm. His answers were made positively, but without any show of excitement. He told of the night of the storm. Alice was in her mother's arms. They were calling to him: He had saped four of his children, but in seeking to reach the mother and Alice he was struck on the head by a wave-tossed board.

First he said that four children had been saved, but afterward he spoke of five having been saved.

"I count now the little girl, Alice," replied the old man simply, when questioned as to the discrepancy.

Captain Terrebbonne said that Alice was six years old when the storm occurred. Her features had not undergone much change. She had grown larger and taller, that was all.

Captain Terrebbonne said that he had not heard anything more of Alice until January, 1901, when his daughter-in-law received a letter from Mrs. John K. Kelly of Nicols postoffice, stating that she had seen Alice with Mrs. Lee, and had been struck with the resemblance to the Terrebbonnes, suggesting that she might be the lost daughter.

In a voice full of emotion, Captain Terrebbonne said that he was willing and able to take care of his daughter, and when the brothers came to the stand they said that should their father die they would watch over the girl.

Captain Terrebbonne said that there was one mark by which he could identify his daughter beyond question. When four or five years old she had torn the lobe of her right ear in playing with some little girls, her earring having been caught in something. This mark the little girl in court showed plainly.

Mrs. Alphonse Pesch of New Orleans gave important testimony. She said that she had been accustomed before the storm to spend three or four months each year at Captain Terrebbonne's house. She was godmother to one of his children. She remembered Alice, and was sure that the girl in the chair was the six-year-old girl whom she had seen playing on the beach two months before the storm. Mrs. Pesch also corroborated Captain Terrebbonne as to the torn ear, and when asked further about it, rose from her seat, and, taking the right ear of Alice, said: "I remember when it was made. Alice had been playing with some little girls on the beach, when she fell, and her earring caught in a friend's dress and was pulled right through the ear."

The Terrebbonne family proved their case beyond a reasonable doubt and the court handed Alice over to her old father. He proudly took her aboard his lugger and sailed away down Socola canal for Grand Isle.

Mr. Lancaster had testified in the steel suit that the entire property of the steel corporation was not worth more than \$500,000,000.

According to Mr. Corrigan, Lancaster was introduced to David Lamar, who "talked to him about the United States Steel Corporation's properties and their value, and he desired an affidavit as to their value."

"Lancaster," according to Corrigan's affidavit, did not know that the affidavit was to be used in litigation and protested that it was impossible for him in so short a time to make an affidavit; but Lamar said that they would be satisfied with his present impressions and what he knew generally about the steel business, and that they would give him (Lancaster) \$100 for the affidavit. Lancaster said he needed the money, and as this was an easy way to make \$100 he was willing to swear to the affidavit, although he supposed it was simply for Lamar's information.

"Lancaster stated that a few days afterward he for the first time ascertained that his affidavit had been used in a suit against the United States Steel Corporation."

Lamar thereupon agreed to pay him \$250 a week and \$10,000 when they succeeded in making a settlement, which he (Lamar) assured Lancaster would not be later than November 15.

Following this affidavit is presented that of Lawyer Geo. A. Day of Omaha, Neb., who swears that a man known here as David Lamar was known to him in Omaha in March, 1890, as David H. Lewis.

This will be a great surprise to the many acquaintances of Lamar in this city who have known him for years as a financier.

Other affidavits by officers of the corporation are to the effect that Lancaster's estimate of \$500,000,000 for the corporation's plants was far below the actual figure.

Sails for Hawaiian Islands.

San Francisco, Aug. 23.—United States Senator Foster of Tacoma, Wash., is at the Palace en route to Honolulu. With Senator Burton of Kansas and Senator Mitchell of Oregon he is on a committee charged with investigating Hawaiian affairs in general. Senator Burton left for Honolulu a few days ago. Senator Foster will sail on the steamer Korea this week with Senator Mitchell, who is due to arrive here tomorrow.

Cuts Down Record.
New York, Aug. 23.—A Cannon steam carriage lowered the world's record for a circular track at the automobile races at Brighton Beach this afternoon.

It covered the mile in 1:08 3-5 and beat the previous record for gasoline machines made by Griffin in Chicago two years ago. Owing to the fact that the machine required two operators the record was not official. A little later J. W. Howard covered an exhibition mile against time in 1:3 3-5, which officially lowered the record of 1:38 for steam carriages, as the machine was of the regulation kind.

At Auditorium—The Senator.

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