

The Ladder of Life

By P. L. BEAZLEY

OHAPTER XVII.

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Albert was assigned duty as a sentinct in the garden of the Castle, and with a comrade was looking through the iron grating of a cage in which the Duke kept a collection of wild beasts. The pride of the collection, a noble white olephant, was walking up and down past the grating with majestic stride. Albert gazed at the splendid beast with much pleasure, and threw in some apples that he had in his pockets. The elephant turned towards him in a friendly manner, bent its trunk upwards, and caught one apple after another as they were thing in. When Albert delayed before throwing one in it, played round him with the trunk as if to warn him to make haste. The elephant's keeper, a man with an unpleasant, knavish countenance, came up. The beast held out its foot to enable him to dimb on to its back. No sconer had he got there than he began to plague the elephant with all sorts of treks. Again and again he threw on the ground a whip which he had been carrying, and the beast picked it up for him. Once the elephant in doing so stumbled, and the keeper belabored him savagely about the trunk and the yees.

"You ought to be ashamed to abuse the rachtle heast like that!" gried Al.

nim. Once the seepann in coing so stumbled, and the keeper belabored him savagely about the trunk and the eyes.

"Tou ought to be ashamed to abuse the noble beast like that!" oried Albert in indignation. "If he were not better tempered than you he would have crushed you to death by this."

The keeper sprang to the ground, laughing mockingly as he did so. He pulled a brandy-bottle out of his pooket, and, walking backwards, held it before the elephant, which put out its trunk to get hold of it. Then he beat the animal again with the whip.

"One meets with abuse and tyranny everywhere here," said Albert to himself, and he turned about to go so as not to be any longer a witness of the cruelty. Just then there can along one of the walks of the garden a crowd of ladies and gentlemen, all dressed with great taste.

"The Princess Rosa, the Duke's nicee," said Albert's companion, and bott gave the usual salute. The company came nearer. At their head was a girl of singular bauty, and beside her a fair young knight. His dress and bearing indicated that he was a prince's son, and as he passed Albert and his comrade he seemed to be whispering confidential matters into her ear.

When the sentinels had saluted, the Princes, in acknowledging the salute, seemed to be at him, blushed, cast here yes on the ground, and when she had gone some paces turned to look at him again.

The oompany mounted a balcony verlooking the wild beaste' case.

oyas on the geoes turned to look at him again.

The company mounted a balcony overlooking the wild beasts' cage.

"Wat a beauty the Princess is!" said Albert's companion. "It is a pity that we shall soon loss her!"

"Loss her! What do you mean?" asked Albert, who was not at all insensible to the Princess's charms.

"She is as good as married," answered the sentinel, "for the Prince who is with her has sued for her and is to take her home,"

"That's not true!" said Albert, in a voleo of thunder.

Surely you must be mad!" cried

his companion.

Scarcely had he uttered these words when their attention was attracted by sounds proceeding from the wild beasts' cage. The unfortunate elephant had been brought forward to amuse the company and to go through all his performances.

"Get him to bow his knees to the Princess." cried the Prince from the baloony. "Strength should do homage to beauty."

balcony. "Strength autonous developments and the beauty,"

"He doesn't like to do it, your Highness," replied the keeper. He has a wound on the left knee. But we shall see."

He ordered the heast to kneel, but it would not obey, whirled its tronk around, and trumpeted almost in human tones.

nan tones.

Please don't tease him for my
e," said the Princess. "He doesn't
to kneel."

like to kneel."

"He must do it!' oried the keeper, who felt his professional reputation at stake. He raused his whip, and Albert, to avoid seeing him strike the poor besst, turned away from the

grating.

In a moment a terrible cry rang
from the balcony.

"God have mercy on us!" said his
companion, and ran off at his quickest

pace.
Albert looked in the direction of the elephant, and a fearful sight met his eyes. The beast had flung the keeper into the air with his trunk, and when he reached the ground crushed him to Jest.

death.

The Prince, who was deadly pale, rushed down the stairs of the balcony, followed by Rosa and the rest of the company, whilst the elephant, trumpating frightfully, rushed at the iron grating and tried to break through.

grating and tried to break tarrough.

Albort graspel more firmly the halberd which he carried and rushed to
the protection of the Princess. Sho
had 'run = short distance, and then
stood still and clung to a tree.

"For Heaven's sake," cried Albert,
"fly, Princess. The beast is smashing the grating?"
"I have spraused my foot," replied
the Princess. "I can't move another

the Princess. "I can't move another step."
Albert looked around despatringly. The company had disappeared, and he could see the Prince hasteining towards the castle at full speed.
"Forgive the liberty I am taking," said Albert, and, soizing the trembling girl in his arms, he bore her away.

M'annyhile the elephant, finding that the grating did not give way, became more furious, and dashed against it again and again with the whole weight of his body.

"The grating has been broken,"

came more furious, and dashed against it again and again with the whole weight of his body.

"The grating has been broken," said the Princess, and immediately Albert heard the beast on his track.
"He is coming up to us," cried Rosa. "You can't save me, good-hearted man, and I am hindering you from getting away. Save yourself whilst there is time."

Buddenly received, Albert laid his fair burden lightly on the ground and with extended halberd advanced against the elephant.

The beast came along raging, and when it came to the spot where Albert was standing it also stood still. The remembrance of the apples it had received seemed to setton its wrath. Still, the threatening position of the senting seemed to setton its wrath. Still, the threatening position of the sentinel seemed an input to its pride. It thrust forward its trunk, dragged the halberd out of Albert's hands, smashed it to pieces, turned round, and went back slowly and triumphantly to the cage.

"God was with us," cried Albert, with a grateful heart, lifting up the Princess, who lay in a faint, and bearing her towards the castle, from which the Duke's bodyguard was just setting out to make war on the elephant.

The Duke stood at the window wringing his hands, and the Prince had mounted his horse, which was particularly obstinate that day and refused to leave the countyard.

"The Princess is saved!" should walked his hands in thanksgiving to God.

"The perices Ross saved!" cried the Prince in ecstacy, springing from

folded his hands in thanksgiving to God.

"The peerless Rosa saved!" cried the Frince in cestacy, springing from his horse and hastening to take the lady from Albert's hands.
"Pardon me," said Albert, rather defiantly. "Having brought the Princess of far, I intend to place her in her uncle's arms."

"Say what is your wish, Rosa," called out the Prince with irritation.
"I shall not trouble you," replied the lady coldly; you have been alarmed like myself and need rest."

Albert hurricd into the castle with his fair burden, and the Prince stood gazing after them fiercely.

CHAPTER XVIII.

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Rosa told her uncle of the peril she had escaped. Albert was about to re-tire, but the Duke beckened to him to

tire, but the Duke beekened to him to remain.

"My poor, dear child, you must have sufered the anguleh of years in a few moments," said the Duke to his nicee. Then looking a 'Albert, who stood near the door, he remarked: "A pleasant-looking youth. But it was rather a rough beginning for you to face the beast, when there was such little hope of success."

"I didn't hope to succeed," replied Albert. "Despairing of saving the Princess, I wished to die before her."
The Princess, whose eyes were filled with tears of gratitude, reached him her hand, and he covered it with kisses.

him her hand, and he covered it with kisses.

As he did so the Prince came up and said to the Duke: "The Colonel of the bodyguard desires to infurm you that the elephant has been again caged and the cage safely closed. The mortar-piece is fixed, and we are now awaiting your orders."

"I plead for the life of the noble beast that spared the innocent in its wrath," said Rosa.

"But your life was in danger," said

wrath," said Ross.

"But your life was in danger," said the Duke,

"It would not have been had not the beast been first tormented," observed the Princess. "Do space its life. I cannot permit it to be put to death for my sake."

"May God bless you for your good heart!" cried Albert, in a burst of admiration.

"The elephant is pardoned," said the Duke, touched by the pleading of the Princess.

mistakes which deserved qunishment. But the corporal, remembering the lesson he had received, didn't notice any of the errors. He was not easy-going in the case of Albert's companion on the left. On the contrary, he poured out upon his head all the vials of his anger. Nothing that the recruit could do would please him. Occupied with pleasing visions, Albert af first took no notice, but after a while he became alive to his companion's distress.

no uceame anve to me companion's distress.

"Is the corporal busing you again?"
sked Albert.
"He'll torture me to death," replied the sufferer, "because my father went to the captain iusteed of to him to try and get me released from service."
"Whydyon tolerate the brutality?" said Albert.
"Surely you don't want me to attack my superior and be put to a shamoful death, whatover happen."
The exercises began, again the corporal ill-treated the unfortunate recruit, at last hitting him on the face with a rod which he carried and drawing blood.
"Go and tell your father," said the corporal, with a mocking laugh.
Searcely had he uttered the words when Albert sprang out of the rauks and felled him to the ground with a blow of his fist. Then he seized him, and, dragging him off, flung him before the feet of the captain, who was then engaged with a troog of veterans.
"What is that?" cried the captain, in a tone of surprise and indignation.
"This wretch," answered Albert, "has by his cruelty brought digrace on the Duke's name. I beg that we may both have justice done to us."
The captain ordered that Albert's sword should be taken from him and that he should be led off to prison.
"If you go on like this," said Ralph, stepping into his prison a few days afterwards, "you'll make acquantance with all the gaols in the Duchy."
"If he seaffold be before me I could not have done anything else," replied Albert.
"I hope is will not go of far this time," remarked Ralph. "Your good fortune and your friends have bear working in your favor. A close investigation was revealed the coproral's guit. The Duke has pardoned you, and as a reward for having saved the Princess has appointed you captain of the opital? "Soid Albert, with feeling."
"Bo quickly, and so far from the opital? "Said Albert, with feeling."
"The Duke has had as wise purpose in the sum of the remarks, and is in a very bad temper. The fair Ros has not hesitated to draw comparisons hetween his hasty retreat and your steadlastness. His pride was badly wounded, and he has return

an army."
"I wish I had the opportunity of punishing the coward for his impudence in seeking the hand of a lady so fair and so perfect," remarked Albert.

denote in second on a say so fair and so perfect," remarked Albert.

"Gently, now," urged Ralph. "I certainly should like to see you leading the army as a general and a true buke. But you know that for the time being such high-soaring ambition is of no use to a man who has just been named a captain.

"You are right," said Albert, bitter ly. "I am condemned to serve for my life long,"

"Do you 'hink that service is such a contemptible thing? Believe my that he cannot rule who has not learnt to serve.

As if he felt that he had said too much, Ralph left instantly.

OHAPTER XX.

Albert sat at the fortress of Hunen-tein pensively examining folios, maps, and plans of battles, and vainly striv-ing to banish thoughts of the fair hoss. The colonel of the garrison, a merry and somewhat noisy man, enter-

ed and said:
"Why, you must not shut yourself
up like this or you will become splenetio. Take my advice and indulge a
little more in jollity with your comrades."

"But your life was in danger," said the Duke.

"It would not have been had not the beast been first tormented," observed the Princess. "Do space its life. I cannot permit it to be put to death for my sake."

"May God bless you for your good heart!" oried Albert, in a burst of admiration.

"The elephant is pardoned," said the Duke touched by the pleading of the Princess.

"The beast has had a lucky star to day," said the Princess.

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"The volume of the time hand over the command to you."

"To me, colonel!" said Albert, astonished. "I am the youngest captain in the fortness."

"As commander I have the right to choose my representative and I have most confidence in you."

"I am your debtor, sentinel," radit the Duke to Albert, in a kindly voice.

"I have had my reward," replied Albert. "You owe me nothing."

And with a tender look at the Princes, which was fully returned, he withdrew.

OHAPTER XIX.

Next morning Albert's troop was again mustered for parade. His thoughts were not intent on military movements, and he committed many movements, and he committed many

recommend you to all commanders as a model locum-tenens."

The colonel went off on furlough, and Albert began his task with a general examination of the fortress. Having looked carefully at the works, he called the clerk to obtain some necessary information. He notleed that the list of the men in the garrison did not correspond with the actual number, and asked for an explanation.

"It will be all right, sir, if you add the number on furlough," said the clerk.

the number on furlough," said the clerk.

"And are the men on furlough paid?"

"No," replied the clerk. "Their pay goes to the colonel."

"According to what law?"

"According to an ancient custom."

"A century's wrong doing does not make a thing right for a moment," observed Albert. "Here, too," he continued, are claims on behalf of the men in hospital, and I counted but five who were sick."

"One thing must help out the other," stammered the clerk. "The colonel approved of the arrangement."

"Then I find that money is asked for fodder for a larger number of horses than we possess. Who profits by the affair?"

"The colonel," answered the clerk.

"There is aice a charge for the support of three prisences of State.

"The colonel," answered the support of three prisoners of State, and I know of only one."
"The two others died over a year ago," said the clerk.
"Then they don't want food and cleibing."

olcthing."
"Triflee such as that fall to the share of the commander," said the

share of the commander," said the clerk.

"I find likewise that there is a charge for building a wall which is in ruins. I cannot put my name to statements which are lies," continued he, tearing up the list of accounts which the clerk had given him "Make cut another list, and take care that it be correct."

"The colonel won't like that," murmured the clerk.

"Well, I am in command at present," said Albert with decision.

"And my duty," added the clerk, "is obedience." Then bowing deeply, he withdrew.

Albert next examined the State

he withdrew.

Albert next examined the State prison, and found there an unhappy man who had been immured for ten years. The condition of the prisoner was deplorable. His beard, which was unkempt, had grown to his waist, and he lay on straw that had remained there or many a day.

"You must have committed some very serious crime," said Albert, "that you should have been treated so severals."

severely.

severely."
"Ten years ago," replied the prisoner, "I wrote against the oppression of the land by the Chancellor, and I was taken out of my bed at night and brought here. I had neither hearing not trial."

was taken out of my bed at night and brought here. I had neither hearing not trial."

Daring the conversation he heard a tumult, and asked what had happened.

"A very unpleasant affair," said one of three capiains who had been convoying a body into the quarters.

"We were hunting, and my comrade declared that his Tiras was better than my Nero. A quarrel arose and was followed by a duel, which will, it is to be feared, have a fatal result, for my opponent, the doctor thinks, will scarcely live till merning."

Albert, to the captain's astonishment, ordered him to give up his sword and had him locked up.

The confusion which had reigned at the garrison disappeared, the prisoner had received his liberty, and a strict inquiry into the duel had been ordered, when the colonel returned from his furlough and resumed command. As he examined the state of the finances in Albert's room he became crimeon and pale by turns, and at last, flinging the paper at Albert's room he became crimeon and pale by turns, and at last, flinging the paper at Albert's room he feet, he cried : "You have acted like a rascal and not like a comrade."

"Buch a remark from a man of your stamp doesn't hurt me," replied Albert; "but I will not allow you to insult me in this room."

Thereupen he seized the colonel and flung him outside the door.

In a few minutes all the saptains of the garrison pressed into the room and demanded that he should give the colonel astisfaction by fighting a duel.

Albert scornfully remarked that he could not fight with a thief.

Albert scornfully remarked that he would not fight with a thief.

"Then leave the service!" cried one of the captains. "Take off that uniform which you have diagraced and give up the sword with which you have been afraid to defend your honor."

In a moment Albert's blood was up. He drew his sword, and several of the captains fell upon him at once. He fought his way through them, got out at the door, mounted a horse which he found in the yard and rode rapidly away. When he had gone some distance he felt that he was growing faint, and discovered that he was wounded. Blood was flowing from his head and right arm. He dismounted and lay down on the grass at the roadside. Then he swooned away.

CHAPTER XXI.

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Ralph again proved his guardian angel, and when he opened his eyes he found himself in Otto Bram's castle, with the owner and Ralph gazing sympathetically at him.

"Oh, father?" cried he, "now that I am at home, don't send me out

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again. I have had erough of the ways of the world."

"Well," said Squire Otto, "your apprenticeship is at an end and the time of action is begun, for the country requires your help. Thank God, your wounds are light."

Albert then learned that the neighboring Duke had died and his son, Prince Florentin, who had sought the hand of the fair Rosa, had resolved to make war on her uncle. With him two other princes had formed an alliance. Squire Otto got together a special force, and of this, when his wounds were quite healed, Albert took command. Some fierce battles followed when the enemy commenced the attack. Albert distinguished himself in each engagement. Finally the three princes were made prisoners, and their troops yielded or fied. Prince Florentin was taken after a hand-to-hand encounter with Albert, who was acknowledged to be the principal instrument of victory. He was led by Squire Otto to the Duke's tent, who in the presence of the gentile Rosa embraced him and thanked him most heattly. As the Duke did this he was suddenly startled, and, placing his hand before his eyes, he cried: "The dead arise from their graves!" At that moment Squire Otto came up and whispered in the Duke's ear: "I am still alive, Arno, and come to pardon you."

The Duke then ordered that all should retire except Squire Otto, Albert and his niece Rosa. From the explanations which took place it presented that twenty years before the Duke had put to death the only son of his brother, Squire Otto, Muse had before the other squire Otto disguised himself and stole the Duke's only son. He intended to put him to death, but the boy smiled so innocently in his face that he had not the heart to do him harm. He resolved to rear him as his own son. This was Albert, and with the experience he gained the reader is acquainted. The old Duke, who was deeply touched, took him to his heart. Albert's joy was at first rather sober, for he thought that marriage with the fair Rosa would be out of the question as shis own non. This was Albert, and with the Ro



continuance means death or instantly. The continuance means death or instantly was a second of the continuance means and the continuance of the continuance of the continuance of the home without the humilating local treatment so universally insisted upon by physiciars. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription does this and more. It sets directly on the delicate organs concerned and makes them strong and healthy. It banishes the usual discomforts of the expression and the continuance of the expression of the continuance of the

W. R. Malcolm, Hsq., of Knobel, Clay Co., Ark., erites: "My wife for perhaps four months pre-tions to the birth of our child took the 'Favorite

of our baby."

Rose checks. The rich, pure, red blood of the large them. Keep the blood of the large them to be the large them to the larg

FIRESIDE PUN.

Donald: "Have yer got a loight?" onald: "Yes, but it's oot."

Why is a schoolmistress like the letter O? Because she makes classes

Why is a hard-working correcter like the bright sun? Because he is putting beams in all day.

What is the name of that lady who is always welcome but whose daughter we never wish to see? Fortune. Why does the cook make more noise than the bell? Because the one makes a din, but the other a dinner.

a am, but the other a dinner.

Why is a donkey like the most unfortunate creditor in the world? Because he gets nothing in the pound.

What tongue is it that frequently hurts and grieves you and yet does not speak a word? The tongue of your shoe.

snoe.
"They say he is short in his accounts, don't they?" "That is what they say; but the fact is, he is short in his cash.

Why is a woman's tongue like a planet? Because nothing short of the power that created it is able to stop it in its course.

stop it in its course.

In boot-making, what is the difference between the first stitch and the last? One is a wax end and the other is a piece of wood.

"De great difficulty about abgyin' on politics," said Uncle Eben, "is dat the better you does it de madder you's li'ole to make some eb yoh bes' friends."

triends."

"Old Waylaong says he feels as young as he did when he was twenty-one."

"Shouldn't wonder if he does. The day I was twenty-one I felt absolutely venerable."

Extravagant Son: "Of course I keep a running account at my tailors." Practical Father: "Running account? He tells me it has been standing for eighteen months." Prince Talleyrand was startled out of his sleep by a pistol-shot, and seeing his man-servant in the room he asked him what it was all about. "May it please your Highness, there was a mouse in your room, and fearing it might disturb your rest, I shot it."

After Annexation.—"It's a disgrace to the party," said the Goo-Goo. "The idea of such a man for President! Why, he is a moral leper!" "That's just it, exactly, replied the practical politicism. "Haven't we got to do something to attract the leper vote? Have you forgotten the last returns from Molokai?"
Palies Judge. "Have you ever seen

from Molokai?"
Police Judge: "Have you ever seen
the prisoner at the bar?" Witness
Stevens: "Never, your Honor; but
Pve seen him when I strongly suspected he'd been at it."

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENGE.

At the last regular meeting of Division No. 1, Daughters of Erin, Auxiliary to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the hancient Order of Hibernians, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas it has pleased our Divine Lord to remove from this world of sorrow the beloved daughter of our respected Provincial President of the A.O.H., Brother Hugh McOaffrey, therefore be it

Resolved that we the members of Division No. 1, Daughters of Erin, do extend to our bereaved brother and his family, in this their hour of silliction the love and sympathy which our sistenthood aims to inculcate in the hearts of its members, and we pray that God in His infinite goodness will comfort and sustain them in their sad sfiliction.

Besolved that a conv of this reaching

affliction.

Resolved that a copy of this resolu-tion be inserted in the minutes of this meeting, a copy tendered to Brother McCaffrey, and one sent to THE CATH-

Committee K. O'BRIEN,
A. GILROY,
MRS. MALONE. Columbus' Greatest Admirer.

Columbus' Greatest Admirer.

To many interested in the honors that may be paid by the Church to Christopher Columbus, the "last of the Crusaders," and discovere of America, it will be a matter of concern to learn of the death of Count Roselly de Lurgues. This admirable French gentleman tensciously advocated for over thirty years the honor of Beatification for the man be had regarded as a hero. In obadience to the command of Fine IX. Count Roselly de Lorgues wrote of Criumbus as the Ambassador, of Heaven, and showed the grand and notile qualities of the great navigator. In 1895 his literary career began with "Ohrist Before the World," a successful bock which in twelve years went through sixteen editions, and was translated into several languages. Pine IX. reserved his works on Columbus, and at the opening of the Vatioan Council, Cardinal Donnet, Archhishop of Bordesux, with numerous prelates, signed a supplica praying the Pope to beatify Christopher Columbus. In 1892 the Queen Regent of Spain chargod Roselly to present Leo XIII. with a postulation in favor of the same cause. This Count was an excellent Catholic. At his death he was in the ninety-third year of his age. The Rome Cor. Boston Pilot.