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THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL

BY BARONESS ORCZY.

(Continued.)

"The old man asked the young one, if he were sure that was the right place. 'Oh, yes,' he replied, "'tis the place sure enough,' and by the light of the charcoal fire he showed to his companion a paper, which he carried. 'Here is the plan,' he said, 'which he gave me before I left London. We were to adhere strictly to that plan, unless I had contrary orders, and I have had none. Here is the road we followed, see . . . here the fork . . . . here we cut across the St Martin Road . . . . and here is the footpath which brought us to the edge of the cliff.' I must have made a slight noise then, for the young man came to the door of the hut, and peered anxiously all round him. When he again joined his companion, they whispered so low, that I could no longer hear them."

"Well?—and?" asked Chauvelin, impatiently.

"There were six of us altogether, patrolling that part of the beach, so we consulted together, and thought it best that four should remain behind and keep the hut in sight, and I and my comrade rode back at once to make report of what we had seen."

"You saw nothing of the tall stranger?"

"Nothing, citoyen."

"If your comrades see him, what would they do?"

"Not lose sight of him for a moment, and if he showed signs of escape, or any boat came in sight, they would close in on him, and, if necessary, they would shoot; the firing would bring the rest of the patrol to the spot. In any case they would not let the stranger go."

"Aye! but I did not want the stranger hurt—not just yet," murmured Chauvelin, savagely, "but there, you've done your best. The Fates grant that I may not be too late . . . ."

"We met half a dozen men just now who have been patrolling this road for several hours."

"Well?"

"They have seen no stranger either."

"Yet he is on ahead somewhere, in a cart or else . . . . Here! there is not a moment to lose. How far is that hut from here?"

"About a couple of leagues, citoyen."

"You can find it again?—at once —without hesitation?"

"I have absolutely no doubt, citoyen."

"The footpath, to the edge of the cliff? —Even in the dark?"

"It is not a dark night, citoyen, and I know I can find my way," repeated the soldier firmly.

"Fall in behind then. Let your comrade take both your horses back to Calais. You won't want them. Keep beside the cart, and direct the Jew to drive straight ahead; then stop him, within a quarter of a league of the footpath; see that he takes the most direct road."

Whilst Chauvelin spoke, Desgas and his men were fast approaching, and Marguerite could hear their foot steps within a hundred yards behind her now. She thought it unsafe to stay where she was, and unnecessary too, as she had heard enough. She seemed suddenly to have lost all faculty even for suffering; her heart, her nerves, her brain seemed to have become numb after all these hours of ceaseless anguish, culminating in this awful despair.

For now there was absolutely not the faintest hope. Within two short leagues of this spot, the fugitives were waiting for their brave deliverer. He was on his way, somewhere on this lonely road, and presently he would join them; then the well-laid trap would close, two dozen men, led by one, whose hatred was as deadly as his cunning was malicious, would close round the small band of fugitives, and their daring leader. They would all be captured. Armand, according to Chauvelin's pledged word would be restored to her, but her husband, Percy, whom with every breath she drew she seemed to love and worship more and more, he would fall into the hands of a remorseless enemy, who had no pity for a brave heart, no admiration for the courage of a noble soul, who would show nothing but hatred for the cunning antagonist, who had baffled him so long.

She heard the soldier giving a few brief directions to the Jew, then she retired quickly to the edge of the road, and covered behind some low shrubs, whilst Desgas and his men came up.

All fell in noiselessly behind the cart, and slowly they all started down the dark road. Marguerite waited until she reckoned that they were well outside the range of earshot, then, she too in the darkness, which suddenly seemed to have become more intense, crept noiselessly along.

CHAPTER XXVIII

THE PERE BLANCHARD'S HUT.

As in a dream, Marguerite followed on: the web was drawing more and more tightly every moment round the beloved life, which had become dearer than all. To see her husband once again, to tell him how she had suffered, how much she had wronged, and how little understood him, had become now her only aim. She had abandoned all hope of saving him: she saw him gradually hemmed in onal sides, and, in despair, she gazed round her into the darkness, and wondered whence he would presently come, to fall into the deathtrap which his relentless enemy had prepared for him.

The distant roar of the waves now made her shudder; the distant cry of an owl, or a sea-gull, filled her with unspeakable horror. She thought of the ravenous beasts—in human shape—who lay in wait for their prey, and destroyed them, as mercilessly as any hungry wolf, for the satisfaction of their own appetite of hate. Marguerite was not afraid of the darkness, she only feared that man, on ahead, who sitting at the bottom a rough wooden cart, nursing thoughts of vengeance, which would have made the very demons in hell chuckle with delight.

Her feet were sore. Her knees shook under her, from sheer bodily fatigue. For days now she had lived in a wild turmoil of excitement; she had not had a quiet rest for three nights; now, she had walked on a slippery road, for nearly two hours, and yet her determination never swerved for a moment. She would see her husband, tell him all, and, if he was ready to forgive the crime, which she had committed in her blind ingorance, she would yet have the happiness of dying by his side.

She must have walked on almost in a trance, instinct alone keeping her up, and guiding her in the wake of the enemy, when suddenly her ears, attuned to the slightest sound, by that same blind instinct, told her that the cart had stopped, and that the soldiers had halted. They had come to their destination. No doubt on the right, somewhere close ahead, was the footpath that led to the edge of the cliff and to the hut.

Heedless of any risks, she crept quite close up to where Chauvelin stood, surrounded by his little troop: he had descended from the cart and gave some orders to the men. These she wanted to hear; what little chance she yet had, of being useful to Percy, consisted in hearing absolutely every word of his enemy's plans.

The spot where all the party had halted must have lain some eight hundred metres from the coast; the sound of the sea came only very faintly, as from a distance. Chauvelin and Desgas, followed by the soldiers, had turned off sharply to the right of the road, apparently on the footpath, which led to the cliffs. The Jew had remained on the road, with his cart and nag.

Marguerite, with infinite caution, and literally crawling on her hands and knees, had also turned off to the right: to accomplish this she had to creep through the rough, low shrubs, trying to make as little noise as possible as she went along, tearing her face and hands against the dry twigs, intent only upon hearing without being seen or heard. Fortunately—as is usual in this part of France—the footpath was bordered by low, rough hedge, beyond which was a dry ditch, filled with coarse grass. In this Marguerite managed to find shelter; she was quite hidden from view, yet could contrive to get within three yards of where Chauvelin stood, giving orders to his men.

"Now," he was saying in a low and peremptory whisper, "where is the Pere Blanchard's hut?"

"About eight hundred metres from here, along the footpath," said the soldier who had lately been directing the party, "and half-way down the cliff."

"Very good. You shall lead us. Before we begin to descend the cliff, you shall creep down to the hut, as noiselessly as possible, and ascertain if the traitor royalists are there? Do you understand?"

"I understand, citoyen."

"Now listen very attentively, all of you," continued Chauvelin, impressively, and addressing the soldiers collectively, "for after this we may not be able to exchange another word, so remember every syllable I utter, as if your very lives depended on your memory. Perhaps they do," he added drily.

"We listen, citoyen," said Desgas, "and a soldier of the Republic never forgets an order."

"You, who have crept up to the hut, will try to peep inside. If an Englishman is there with those traitors, a man who is tall above the average, or who stoops as if he would disguise his height, then give a sharp, quick whistle as a signal to your comrades. All of you," he added, once more speaking to the soldiers collectively, "then quickly surround and rush into the hut, and each seize one of the men there, before they have time to draw their firearms; if any of them struggle, shoot at their legs or arms, but on no account kill the tall man. Do you understand?"

"We understand, citoyen."

"The man who is tall above the average, is probable also strong above the average; it will take four or five of you at least to overpower him."

There was a little pause, then Chauvelin continued.—

"If the royalist traitors are still alone, which is more than likely to be the case, then warn your comrades who are lying in wait there, and all of you creep and take cover behind the rocks and boulders round the hut, and wait there, in dead silence, until the tall Englishman arrives; then only rush the hut when he is safely within its doors. But remember, that you must be as silent as the wolf is at night, when he prowls around the pens. I do not wish those royalists to be on the alert —the firing of a pistol, a shriek or call on their part would be sufficient, perhaps, to warn the tall personage to keep clear of the cliffs, and of the hut, and," he added emphatically, "it is the tall Englishman whom it is your duty to capture tonight."

"You shall be implicitly obeyed, citoyen."

"Then get along as noiselessly as possible, and I will follow you."

"What about the Jew, citoyen?" asked Desgas, as silently like noiseless shadows, one by one the soldiers began to creep along through the narrow footpath.

"Ah, yes! I had forgotten the Jew," said Chauvelin, and, turning towards the Jew, he called him peremptorily.

"Here, you . . . Aaron, Moses, Abraham, or whatever your confounded name may be," he said to the old man, who had quietly stood beside his lean nag, as far away from the soldiers as possible.

(To be continued.)

Saved Baby's Life

There are thousands of mothers throughout Canada who have no hesitation in saying that the good health enjoyed by their little ones is entirely due to the judicious use of Baby's Own Tablets. And there are many mothers who do not hesitate to say that at critical periods the Tablets have saved a baby's life. Mrs. Wm. Fortin, St. Genevieve, Que., says: "I feel sure that Baby's Own Tablets saved my baby's life. When I first began giving them to him he was so badly constipated that the bowels could only be moved by injection, and he suffered terribly. After the first day I saw a marked change, and in less than a week the trouble was entirely removed, and he has since enjoyed the best of health." You can get Baby's Own Tablets from your druggist or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

RECENT DEATHS

The death of Mrs. Mary Moore, widow of George Moore, took place yesterday afternoon at her home, 57 Smythe street. Mrs. Moore was born in County Clare (Ire.), but for some fifty-two years had lived in St. John. She was sick only for a short time, and practically died of old age. She leaves four sons—William, Robert, James and David, and two daughters —Mrs. Thos. Rourke, of Boston, and Miss Annie, at home. The funeral will be held on Sunday at 2.30 o'clock.

Ernest J. Conway, son of Terrance Conway, of Little River (N. B.), died in the General Public Hospital yesterday morning. He leaves, besides his parents, eight brothers, three of whom, Joseph, Charles and Louis, live in St. John. Two others, Terrance and Peter, are connected with the C. P. R., the former at McAdam and the latter at Chapleau (Ont.)

Sussex, N. B., Oct. 12—(Special)—John G. Smith, the well-known livery man, died tonight at 11 o'clock, aged sixty-one years. He had been ill for several months and while his death was at any time expected, his demise will be learned with regret by his host of friends throughout the Maritime Provinces.

The deceased, who was a general favorite with everybody, was a son of the late Robert and Elizabeth Smith. Beside his esteemed wife he leaves a brother, James, of Dorchester (Mass.), and four sisters—Mrs. Floyd, Mrs. Ross, of Dorchester (Mass.); Mrs. Grove, of Melrose Highlands, and Mrs. McCormack, of Charlestown (Mass.). The funeral will be held on Tuesday at 2.30 o'clock.

Samuel Dunlop, for years a leading citizen, died last night at his home, 209 Duke street, at the age of eighty-two years. He had lived and had active part in the times when St. John became famous for its wooden shipping, for he carried on work closely allied to those interests.

Mr. Dunlop was born in the Isle of Man and in early boyhood came to St. John to join his uncle, already carrying on a flourishing business here as a rigger. The lad learned the business and became an expert at it, and during the palmy days of wooden shipping here his name became widely known. The business still goes on, being managed by his son, but for the past seven years Mr. Dunlop had not been able to leave his home, though only for the past month had he been seriously ill.

He won the respect of all during his long life and many will be sorry to learn of his death. Mr. Dunlop was for years a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. He is survived by two sons, Samuel J., of this city, and Frederick, of Texas, and two daughters—Mrs. Herbert Manks, of Boston, and Miss Elizabeth, at home. Among mementos of the past which Mr. Dunlop treasured at his home is the banner borne by the riggers of the city in the procession at the time of the turning of the sod for the railway, now the Intercolonial.

St. Stephen, N. B., Oct. 12—(Special)—Schooner Maple Leaf, of Parrsboro (N. S.), arrived at Red Beach yesterday with plaster. In the gale of Tuesday she made a record run across the bay, covering the distance of 108 miles from Spencers Island to Head Harbor in ten hours. When about twenty miles south of St. John one of her boats, sixteen feet long, was washed away and lost.

Chatham, N. B., Oct. 12—(Special)—Schooner Jacques, bound for Chatham from Pictou, ran on Portage Island Sunday to escape the wind. A hole was pounded in her side, and the captain and crew of three crossed to Burnt Church in a boat, and were brought here last night on the steamboat Alexander.

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IN THE WORLD OF LABOR

At a recent meeting in Birmingham, England, the Metal Trades' Federation, of Great Britain was formed. This federation will bring under one head the unions of men in all parts of the kingdom who work at the metal trades, from ironplate work to silversmithing. The affiliation will have a membership of about 300,000.

An effort is being made to thoroughly organize the watch case engravers in the United States and Canada.

With the exception of some of the railway organizations, the bricklayers and masons is the largest national or international union not affiliated with the A. F. of L.

The labor unionists of Pittsburg are going to erect a labor temple to cost $100,000. Each union subscribing for the stock will be entitled to one director on the board.

The South Australian Tobacco Workers' Union has decided to register a union label for all tobacco made by union labor.

A strike is on at the mines in Fernie, B. C.; 900 are out.

When the census of 1900 was taken the total number of child laborers in the United States was 1,703,000. It is estimated by competent authority that the number today is close to 2,500,000.

Five thousand male wage earners are out of work at the present time in Melbourne, Australia, and 50,000 people in Victoria are existing below the poverty line.

It is estimated that the Farmers' Union has a membership of over 500,000 in the cotton-growing states of the south alone.

The Cigarmakers' International Union has 495 locals throughout the country, and has about $700,000 in its treasury. If the proposed plan meets with the approval of the membership, a local co-operative factory will be started in connection with each local.

Dock workers in Baltimore are striking.

The federal grand jury at Knoxville, Tenn., is investigating peonage charges against railroad contractors.

Walla Walla, Wash., trades unionists have made their first payment on their new labor temple.

The brewery workers have been interested for a long time in the question of child labor and hold some decided views on the subject. They have recently taken definite action and at their late convention in Toronto started the ball rolling, which will gather impetus with time. Milwaukee and St. Louis, as the great centres of the brewing industries, have been selected as the initial battle ground.

The glass bottle blowers of Indianpolis have been organized and start with 72 charter members.

The Conductors and Motormen's Union gained 4,000 members the past twelve months.

Carriage workers have won their strike in Boston, Mass., and Memphis, Tenn.

Canadian trade union circles are now being stirred by a proposition to form an all-Canada body which would necessitate their withdrawal from the American Federation of Labor, According to the records of labor, the total number of labor organizations in Canada is 1,600.

Unionists of Louisville, Ky., are striving for an eight hour day for employes in municipal work, and $1.75 per day wages.

The Amalgamated Association of Electric Railway Employes is pledged to arbitration of all disputes before suspending work.

Ninety per cent of the plate printers are organized.

It is reported that there are continual collision between troops and strikers at Grenoble, France, and several on both sides have been wounded. The strike movement is extending.

As a result of being organized into a union, the millmen of Chicago, Ill., in four years, have cut the hours of labor in two, and have secured a net increase in wages amounting to 25 per cent.

The International Association of Machinists, of Pittsburg, Pa., have formally sent to the Manufacturers' Association of that city a request for an eight-hour day, with a minimum of forty cents per hour.

The resolution adopted by the Colorado Springs convention of the International Typographical Union, recommending that the last Sunday in May be known as Labor Memorial Day, is meeting with hearty endorsement from all quarters.

The international officers of the Iron Moulders' Union are hard at work on a plan to establish municipal foundries in those cities where the organization's members are on strike or locked out.

India is having her share of industrial troubles, which include a strike of railway employes on the East Indian Railway. Discontent of the natives at the recent partition of Bengal is stated to have caused the strikes.

Pavers and realia workers of Detriot, Mich., have organized.

The Ottawa Typographical Union, with 400 members, and the second largest local in Canada, has decided to secede from the International and start a purely Canadian association, to be known as the Ottawa Typographical Association.

The Philadelphia Board of Education has decided to raise the salaries of teachers in the elementary schools $50 a year, and to create a teachers' retirement fund.

The Melbourne, Victoria, Trades Hall Council has resolved to protest against Premier Bent's proposal to start the manufacture of wire netting with prison labor; also to ask the parliamentary labor party to take action.

Miners in Indian Territory had the 1903 scale restored after a strike.

The British government has appointed a committee of scientists to inquire into the probable economic effect of an eight-hour working day in the mines.

Employes of the Pennsylvania Railroad have been made uneasy by a rumor that the civil service rule on the road is doomed. It is declared to be the intention of a new coterie, rapidly coming into power on the Pennsylvania, to wipe out the old civil service policy and to get any man who can get results, regardless of length of service on the road.

Charles E. Magoon, ex-governor of the Panama Canal zone, says that the best solution of the labor problem there is the employment of negro labor, particular Jamaica laborers.

The Canadian Trades Congress decided to form an independent labor party to enter federal and local politics. It has decided to call a convention of the executives of the various provinces to arrange details for the formation of the party, which will be the third party in Canadian politics.

The Garment Workers' Union is the largest in the United States, which is composed chiefly of women.

Efforts are being made to have a bill passed in Nevada making the first Monday in September Labor Day.

The photo-engravers of Omaha have organized.

It is announced that a satisfactory settlement has been reached with the conductors of the Seaboard Air Line system, who recently made demands for increased pay.

TO PROMOTE CLOSER UNION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

(Toronto World).

To the current number of The Queen's Quarterly, Principal Gordon of that university contributes an article on "An Imperial Intelligence Union as a Means of Promoting Consolidation of the Empire," which has been reprinted in pamphlet form ,and is being circulated by the Canadian Club of Ottawa. It is based on the sessional paper lately issued by parliament regarding the establishment of an imperial intelligence service and a system of imperial cables. This proposal meets with Principal Gordon's sympathy and approval, and he regards such a service as a necessary preparation for any forward movement in the direction of an imperial council or other representative assembly taking special cognizance of those interests which affect the empire at large and in whose deliberations the views of each part of the empire might be heard.

Whether the formation of an imperial council with such functions be feasible or not, it is undeniable that the closer union of the empire, whatever form it may take, will be accelerated by bringing its component states into close touch with each other. Ignorance of local conditions is the fruitful source of discord and misunderstanding—knowledge if it does not always bring disagreement at least provides a basis for discussion and accommodation. In states springing from a common origin, based on substantially identical constitutional basis and inheriting common traditions and modes of thought, it ought not to be difficult to find a basis for continuous co-operation and mutual support without infringing the autonomy which each is determined to retain in all its fullness. Obviously if a congeries of practically independent states are to maintain a united front, knowledge of each other's conditions is a paramount necessity.

As one of the means of bringing the imperial states into direct touch, the state paper referred to suggested a chain of cable telegraphs wholly state owned and state controlled, the cost of which, it was estimated, would not exceed $257,000,000. For its utilization to the utmost advantage, a central board of intelligence in London is advocated, with branch boards in the various self-governing states and other imperial dominions. These boards would collect authentic information and unbiased opinions on all subjects of general interest and disseminate these throughout the empire. After fulfilling its primary purpose these state controlled cables would, as Principal Gordon observes, be of the greatest value in connection with the extension of commerce and be a profitable investment, as, according to evidence submitted, the charges for over-sea messages could be greatly reduced.

The proposal for an imperial intelligence service has received the endorsement of chambers of commerce everywhere. It was unanimously approved by the fifth congress of chambers of commerce, held in Montreal in 1903, and again confirmed by the sixth congress recently held in London. In addition, Principal Gordon emphasizes the testimony given by over fifty Canadian representative men, all of whom agree in regarding the scheme as thoroughly practical, and of the greatest importance. Their views appear in the sessional paper under four heads—according as they are given by statesmen, judges, heads of universities and colleges and prominent clergymen, located throughout the Dominion. Notable extracts from their opinions are quoted by the principal, who regards them as demonstrating that men who may be fairly regarded as representing the educated opinion of Canada are in remarkable agreement upon this subject. But as Principal Patrick of Manitoba College, Dr. Milligan of this city and others consulted rightly urge—an imperial constitution can only be a growth which must not be forced. It is no less clear that nothing can assist growth more effectually than the mutual knowledge which would come by the operation of an imperial intelligence department wisely administered.

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Talk No. 11

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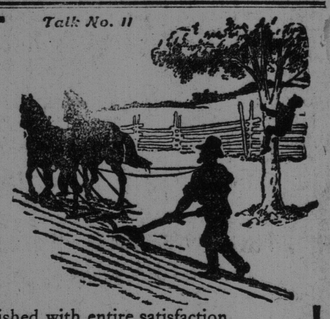

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