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The King's Scapegoat

An Account of a Duel Fought In the Sixteenth Century.

By F. A. MITCHEL

[This story is more than a story. It is a historical account of a duel that occurred 400 years ago and a fine illustration of the difference between the method of settling affairs of honor among men in the olden time and the beginning of the nineteenth century, when mortal combat to settle difficulties between individuals may be said to have received its quietus in the new world in the death of Alexander Hamilton at the hands of Aaron Burr.]

"How comes it, Guichot, that you are able to make so brave a show with the revenues which you have, for I know that they are not excessive?"

The question was asked of Guy Chabot, Sieur de Jarnac by the dauphin, who afterward became Henry II., king of France.

Jarnac, embarrassed at such a question, was unfortunate in the choice of words used in his reply. He said that his stepmother kept him, giving him everything he required. Henry delicately misconstrued the statement and reported to members of the court that Jarnac had boasted of a love affair with his stepmother.

Horrified, indignant at such an accusation, the young man publicly declared that whoever had made the assertion was "a malicious villain and had wickedly lied." Then, hastening to his father's chamber, he threw himself at his feet and protested that he was innocent of the charge. Having convinced his father, he returned to court intent upon avenging the injury done him.

The dauphin found himself in a very unpleasant position. When princes err there must be a scapegoat. Francis Vivonne, Sieur de Chatagnerie, a courtier in favor both with King Francis and the dauphin, a young warrior of great prowess, though a friend of Jarnac, seeing that he would confer a great favor on the future king by doing so, took up the quarrel in his behalf, declaring that it was to him and him alone that Jarnac had made his boast.

Duels at this time were a part of the feudal tradition and law of France, requiring the consent of the king. Francis referred the matter to the privy council, which after a long debate recommended that permission to fight be refused. But no sooner had the king died and the dauphin ascended the throne than Chatagnerie addressed a letter to the new king, repeating his accusation, whereupon Jarnac made a request that the duel be permitted to take place. The king consented, and arrangements for the contest were forthwith made.

Chatagnerie was twenty-six years old, while his adversary was thirty-six. The former was also of great strength and very ready with his sword. He was continually boasting of his feats of arms and ever ready to pick a quarrel. In short, he was just the man to vindicate his royal master in his contemptible charge.

At that time the same rule of the code, that the challenged party should have the choice of arms, existed as it has since. Jarnac had accused his adversary of a lie and had been challenged; therefore he was permitted to fight in any way he pleased. Upon the advice of his fencing master he demanded the heavy armor and long double edged swords in vogue a century before. The reason for this was that his opponent had been wounded in battle in the right arm and had never regained perfect use of it, and the heavy iron gauntlet and sword would naturally hamper the movements of this arm. Chatagnerie's great strength gave him an advantage in closing with his enemy, downing him and stabbing him while prostrate. The armor in this case would be to his disadvantage. Jarnac also stipulated for heavy shields, which would be an advantage to the weaker party, who would naturally be on the defensive.

Chatagnerie seemed to have no fear whatever of making an easy conquest of his adversary. As he was accustomed to boast of the deeds he had performed, he now boasted of the deed he was about to perform. He ordered a banquet to be served in his tent on the field, to which he invited the court to celebrate his victory.

Naturally the affair was the sensation of the day. The courtiers were largely on the side of the king's scapegoat, and Henry did not deny that his own sympathies were with Chatagnerie. The provincial nobility, of whom the Jarnac family were members, regarded Jarnac as the defender



of their honor and looked upon him as their champion. One of the powerful Guise family was to act as second for the royal scapegoat, and the Duke de Vendome of a rival family to the Guises asked the king's permission to act for Jarnac. He was refused and, disgusted at the king's favoritism, withdrew, followed by the other princes of the blood. The constable of France then filled the position.

The king having announced his intention to preside at the encounter, the constable made arrangements in accordance with the dignity of the occasion. The field having been selected, a space for the combat was marked out

and suitable accommodations provided for the king, court and nobility, the king and his tribune in the center, the tribune being the constable and marshals of France, who were the judges.

The day of the duel was a beautiful morning in midsummer. Crowds from Paris began early to pour forth toward the battleground. The archers of the guard took the place of modern policemen in keeping the crowd from breaking through the barrier and invading the field of battle. The king arrived, attended by his sister, princes of the blood and many nobles. A singular feature was an executioner and his assistants, who were intended to take charge of the corpse of the vanquished, in case he was killed, for hanging on a gibbet.

As soon as the king was seated the herald advanced and proclaimed the combat, asserting that no one should interfere with either of the combatants on peril of his life. Chatagnerie left his tent, accompanied by some 500 of his friends. Jarnac next appeared, escorted by the grand equerry and 120 gentlemen wearing his colors. The shields of the combatants were hung on either side of the king. Then came the ceremony of the presentation of the arms, which was principally a testing of the weapons. This having been accomplished, there was another long proclamation from the herald, and the combatants having paraded around the field, preceded by their arms, after a religious ceremony in which each affirmed his cause to be a just one, they were conducted to their stations, and the herald, advancing, shouted, "Laissez aller les bons combattants," which means in plain American, "Let 'em go!"

Such is a condensation of the preliminaries to a duel in high life during the middle of the sixteenth century. The fight was by no means commensurate with the preparation, for it was decided quickly. The duellists advanced. Jarnac slowly, protecting himself with his shield; Chatagnerie rapidly and full of confidence. As soon as they met the latter sprang upon his opponent, aiming a crushing blow at his head. Jarnac, instead of waving off the blow with his sword, as was to be expected, received it on his shield and, ducking, made a thrust for his opponent's legs. He struck Chatagnerie in the hollow of the knee. Before the latter could recover himself Jarnac repeated the thrust at the same point and cut the tendons, giving a new phrase to fencing—the coup de Jarnac, which in those days was not a foul, but perfectly legitimate. Chatagnerie staggered, dropped his sword and fell, the blood flowing from his wound.

A cry of amazement greeted this conquest of the champion swordsman of France within a few seconds by one who had no especial reputation as a man at arms.

By the code of that day three courses were open to the victor—he might kill his opponent and hand his body over to the executioner to be hanged; he might spare his life after exacting a restoration of his honor by the vanquished confessing himself to be in error, or he might surrender him to the king. Jarnac called upon his enemy to restore him his honor. Chatagnerie's reply was an attempt to rise, but it failed. Jarnac, then advancing to the king, said:

"Sire, I entreat you to esteem me a man of honor. I give you Chatagnerie's life. It is our youth alone which is the cause of this trouble. Let no imputation rest either on his family or upon him on account of his offense, for I surrender him to you."

But the king, not realizing that his scapegoat was unable to continue the fight, made no answer. Jarnac raised his eyes to heaven. "Lord, I am not worthy, for it is not to myself, but to thee, that I owe the victory." Then,

returning to Chatagnerie, he begged him to surrender. But the scapegoat, raising himself on one knee and regaining his lost sword, endeavored to strike. Jarnac stepped back, saying, "Do not move or I will kill you." "Kill me," replied the vanquished man and fell back exhausted from loss of blood.

Again Jarnac went to the king and implored him to give him the victory, a victory which condemned the king himself, but Henry refused. Jarnac, expecting that his former friend would bleed to death, cried: "Sire, he is dying. For the love of heaven, accept his life at my hands!" Henry, refusing to pronounce his own condemnation, still refused till the constable joined his entreaties to those of Jarnac. Then Henry, seeing that the sympathies of the assembly were against him, said to Jarnac, "You have done your duty, and your honor should be restored to you." And he ordered that Chatagnerie be removed. Jarnac had the right to be escorted from the field by his followers to the sound of martial music, but he declined the honor. When he refused the king, having had time to curb his disappointment, called him to the tribune and, as the victor was about to kneel to him, embraced him, saying that he had fought like Caesar and spoken like Aristotle.

Never was there such multiplicity of preparation for so brief a contest, never a more flagrant case of a man guilty of a contemptible act accepting the defense of another and being judge of the issue, withholding the verdict until forced by opinion to pronounce it.

At the conclusion of the tournament the brilliant assembly broke up, and the king leading the way, all returned to Paris.

Jarnac's victory fell no less heavily on the king than on his defender. Chatagnerie felt his fall so keenly that he refused to live after it. The surgeons bound his knee with bandages, but he tore them off. Again they put them on, and again the miserable man tore them off, repeating the act till at last he bled to death.

The Sixteenth Century Carver.
At the formal banquet of the sixteenth century the man who carved the meat was bound with the red tape of precedent. When carving for distinguished guests he had to remember that certain parts of the birds or meat must be set aside. In carving for his lord and lady he was expected to exercise great discretion in the size of the pieces he sent round, "for ladies will be soon angry and their thoughts soon changed, and some lords are soon pleased and some not, as they be of complexion." He was expected to have the rules both of the kitchen and the peerage at his knife's end. A pike, for instance, must be dished up whole for a lord and in slices for commoner folk. The rank of his diners, too, determined whether a pig was to be served up whole, sliced, plain or with gold leaf or whether new bread or bread three days old should be eaten.

Care of the Ear.
Never be alarmed if a living insect enters the ears. Pouring warm water into the canal will drown it, when it will generally come to the surface and can easily be removed by the fingers. A few puffs of tobacco smoke blown into the ear will stupefy the insect. Never meddle with the ear if a foreign body, such as a bead, button or seed enters it. Leave it absolutely alone, and have a physician attend to it. More damage has been done by injudicious attempts at the extraction of a foreign body than could ever come from its presence in the ear.—Health.

Attacked in Front and Rear.
A youngster of our acquaintance who has a faculty for getting into scrapes recently expressed the wish that he was a postage stamp. When asked why, he answered, "Because a postage stamp can only be licked once," whereupon we pointed out that the stamp received, besides the licking, a severe punch in the face.—Boston Transcript.

Distinction.
"What distinction do you make between 'entertainment' and 'art'?" "Entertainment," replied the theater manager, "is what people want. 'Art' is what people want to make other people think they want."—Washington Star.

Pretty Thin.
"Thin?" replied the man who was talking about a mutual acquaintance. "Well, he's so thin that when he eats macaroni he can only swallow it one piece at a time!"—Pittsburgh Press.

Declined With Thanks.
Beggar—Won't you give me a nickel for my starving wife, sir? Pedestrian—Nothing doing. I'm married already.—Philadelphia Ledger.

To persevere in one's duty and to be silent is the first answer to calumny.—Washington.

FACIAL PLASTER CASTS.

Having One of Them Made is a Mighty Disagreeable Process.

Perhaps nothing can be imagined more disagreeable than the process of taking a plaster impression of the features.

The person whose face is to be "taken" is placed flat upon his back, his hair smoothed back with pomatum to prevent it covering any part of the face, and a conical piece of paper, a straw or a quill put in each nostril to breathe through. The eyes and mouth are then closed, and the entire face completely and carefully covered with salad oil.

The plaster, mixed to a proper consistency, is then poured over the features to the thickness of one-quarter or one-half inch.

In three or four minutes this plaster can be taken off as if it were a film, but they are very long minutes. The victim must not sneeze, smile, cough or otherwise move a muscle, or the whole process will have to be repeated.

When a cast of the entire head or of the whole human figure is required, either a cast of the face is added to a mass of clay which is to be modeled to the entire figure, or the whole figure is modeled from drawings prepared for the purpose. This is the work of the sculptor.

When the clay model is finished a mould is made from it. A thin ridge of clay is laid along the figure from the head to the base, and the front is first completed up to the ridge by filling up the depressions two or three inches deep.

The ridge of clay is now removed, the edges of the plaster are oiled, and the other half is done in a similar way. The two halves are then tied together with cords, and the plaster poured in.

In complicated figures, like the Laocoon, the statue is oiled and covered with gelatin, which is cut off in sections by means of a thin, sharp knife, each piece serving as a mold for its own part of the new statue.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

HE WENT BY THE RULE.

But He Should Have Halted a Moment and Noted the Exceptions.

It is not bewildering forebodings alone who fall into the traps for the unwary that our confusing grammar and orthography lay. Many a despairing American with no natural aptitude for spelling hesitates or flies to the dictionary long after his student days are over because, although he remembers the rule, he does not remember the exceptions.

"And in our rules of spelling," protested one unfortunate professor—not of orthography—"it isn't even a case of 'majority rules'; it's merely plurality. Sometimes, I'm sure, the minority of exceptions to a rule is beaten by the words that comply with it by more than one."

A correspondent of the New York Sun recalls an illustrative incident of his school days. His teacher was self satisfied and young, though he knew it all—but did not.

There was in the class a young lady who rejoiced in the good Scots name of Gilles. When the class was organizing the "professor" read her name as "Jillies." The young lady protested, but in vain; "g" before "t" is soft.

Well, of course an eighth of a quart is a jill, but what of a fish's gill? And the "know it all" teacher should have been hanged on a gibbet, but even he would not have asked the hardware man for a jilmet. Not in his jildest moment of pedagogic authority would he have said, "Jilbert, give me a jilt wheeled jig," if he wanted the liveryman to supply him a gig with gilded spokes for his holiday diversions. Not even he, snapshot arbiter of linguistic niceties, would have asked at the library for Jilbon's "Decline and Fall." And if he has a daughter who she be a girl? But Gilles must be called Jillies because "g" before "t" is soft.—Youth's Companion.

Napoleon III.
Kinglake, the British historian, gave a curious explanation of the origin of the title of Napoleon III., assumed by Louis Napoleon. He said that when Louis Napoleon's adherents were manufacturing public sentiment to receive him a subservient minister, who was preparing a proclamation, wrote these words: "The people's cry will be 'Vive Napoleon III!'" The printer mistook the three exclamation marks for three I's, and the proclamation was so issued. This was considered a good story when it was related, but it has lacked confirmation.

Chicago.
The word Chicago is taken from the Indian word "Chicagana," the redskin word for thunder and name of the Indian thunder god. The name was given by the Indians to the "Chicago river" an inlet into Lake Michigan, and this gives its name to the city.—Indianapolis News.

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Voters List-1915

Municipality of the Township

Warwick, County of Lambton.

NOTICE is hereby given that I have trans

or delivered to the persons mentioned in

and '9 of "The Ontario Voters' List Act,"

copies required by said sections to be so trans

or delivered of the list, made pursuant to said A

all persons appearing by the list, revised assen

roll of the said Municipality to be entitled to ve

the said Municipality at elections for members o

Legislative Assembly and at Municipal Elect

and that said list was first posted up at my offic

Warwick, on 27th day of July, 1915, and re

there for inspection, and I hereby call up

voters to take immediate proceedings to have

errors or omissions corrected according to law.

Dated at Warwick this 28th day of July, A.D.,

N. HERBERT,

Clerk of Warwick

Newspaper Extras

One the prevalent misconceptions

garding the war is that "it is a g

thing for the newspapers." The ob

ation is the result of a prevalent co

tion that there is money in newsp

"extras." Nothing could be fur

from the truth. There is no money

and '9 of "The Ontario Voters' List Act,"

copies required by said sections to be so trans

or delivered of the list, made pursuant to said A

all persons appearing by the list, revised assen

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