

Among the gay young seigneurs who had been drawn into the vortex of Bigot's splendid dissipation, was the brave, handsome Le Gardeur de Repentigny—a captain of the Royal Marine, a Colonial corps recently embodied at Quebec. In general form and feature, Le Gardeur was a manly reflex of his beautiful sister Amelie, but his countenance was marred with traces of debauchery. His face was inflamed, and his dark eyes, so like his sister's, by nature tender and true, were now glittering with the adder tongues of the cursed wine-serpent.

Taking the cue from Bigot, Le Gardeur responded madly to the challenges to drink from all around him. Wine was now flooding every brain, and the table was one scene of riotous debauch.

"Fill up again, Le Gardeur!" exclaimed the Intendant, with a loud and still clear voice; "the lying clock says it is day—broad day—but neither cock crows nor day dawns in the Chateau of Beaumanoir, save at the will of its master and his merry guests! Fill up, companions all! the lamplight in the wine-cup is brighter than the clearest sun that ever shone!"

"Bravo Bigot! name your toast, and we will pledge it till the seven stars count fourteen!" replied Le Gardeur, looking hazily at the great clock in the hall. "I see four clocks in the room, and every one of them lies if it says it is day!"

"You are mending, Le Gardeur de Repentigny! You are worthy to belong to the Grand Company! But you shall have my toast. We have drunk it twenty times already, but it will stand drinking twenty times more. It is the best prologue to wine ever devised by wit of man—a woman—"

"And the best epilogue, too, Bigot!" interjected Varin, visibly drunk; "but let us have the toast, my cup is waiting."

"Well, fill up all, then; and we will drink the health, wealth, and love by stealth, of the jolliest dame in sunny France—The Marquise de Pompadour!"

"La Pompadour! La Pompadour!" Every tongue repeated the name, the goblets were drained to the bottoms, and a thunder of applause and clattering of glasses followed the toast of the mistress of Louis XV., who was the special protectress of the Grand Company—a goodly share of whose profits in the monopoly of trade in New France was thrown into the lap of the powerful favorite.

"Come, Varin! your turn now!" cried Bigot, turning to the Commissary; "a toast for Ville Marie! Merry Montreal! where they eat like rats of Poitou, and drink till they ring the fire-bells, as the Bordelais did to welcome the collectors of the gabelle. The Montrealers have not rung the fire-bells yet against you, Varin, but they will by and by!"

Varin filled his cup with an unsteady hand until it ran over, and, propping his body against the table as he stood up, replied, "A toast for Ville Marie! and our friends in need!—The blue caps of the Riche-lieu!" This was in allusion to a recent ordinance of the Intendant, authorizing him to seize all the corn in store at Montreal and in the surrounding country—under pretence of supplying the army, and really to secure the monopoly of it for the Grand Company.

The toast was drunk, amid rapturous applause. "Well said, Varin!" exclaimed Bigot; "that toast implied both business and pleasure. The business was to sweep out the granges of the farmers; the pleasure is to drink in honor of your success."

"My foragers sweep clean!" said Varin, resuming his seat, and looking under his hand to steady his gaze. "Better brooms were never made in Besancon. The country is swept as clean as a ball-room. Your Excellency and the Marquise might

lead the dance over it, and not a straw lie in your way!"

"And did you manage it without a fight, Varin?" asked the Sieur d'Estebe, with a half-sneer.

"Fight! Why fight? The habitants will never resist the King's name. We conjure the devil down with that. When we skin our eels we don't begin at the tail! If we did, the habitants would be like the eels of Melun—cry out before they were hurt. No! no! D'Estebe! We are more polite in Ville Marie. We tell them the King's troops need the corn. They doff their caps, and with tears in their eyes, say, 'Monsieur le Commissaire, the King can have all we possess, and ourselves, too, if he will only save Canada from the Bostonnais.' This is better than stealing the honey and killing the bees that made it, D'Estebe!"

"But what became of the families of the habitants after this swoop of your foragers?" asked the Seigneur de Beauce, a country gentleman who retained a few honorable ideas floating on top of the wine he had swallowed.

"Oh! the families—that is the women and children, for we took the men for the army. You see, De Beauce," replied Varin, with a mocking air, as he crossed his thumbs, like a peasant of Languedoc when he wishes to inspire belief in his words, "the families have to do what the gentlemen of Beauce practice in times of scarcity—breakfast by gaping! or they can eat wind, like the people of Poitou; it will make them spit clean!"

De Beauce was irritated at the mocking sign and the proverbial allusion to the gaping of the people of Beauce. He started up in wrath, and striking his fist on the table, "Monsieur Varin!" cried he, "do not cross your thumbs at me, or I will cut them off! Let me tell you the gentlemen of Beauce do not breakfast on gaping, but have plenty of corn to stuff even a Commissary of Montreal!"

The Sieur Le Mercier, at a sign from Bigot, interposed to stop the rising quarrel. "Don't mind Varin," said he, whispering to De Beauce; "he is drunk, and a row will anger the Intendant. Wait, and by and by you shall toast Varin as the chief baker of Pharaoh, who got hanged because he stole the King's corn."

"As he deserves to be, for his insult to the gentlemen of Beauce," insinuated Bigot, leaning over to his angry guest, as the same time winking good-humoredly to Varin. "Come, now, De Beauce, friends all, amantium ire, you know—which is Latin for love—and I will sing you a stave in praise of this good wine, which is better than Bacchus ever drank. The Intendant rose up, and, holding a brimming glass in his hand, chanted in full, musical voice a favorite ditty of the day, as a ready mode of restoring harmony among the company:

"Amis! dans ma bouteille,
Voila le vin de France!
C'est le bon vin qui danse ici,
C'est le bon vin qui danse.
Gai lon la!
Vive la lorette!
Des Filettes
Il y en aura!"

Vivent les Filettes! The girls of Quebec—first in beauty, last in love, and nowhere in scorn of a gallant worthy of them!" continued Bigot. "What say you, De Pean? Are you not prepared to toast the belles of Quebec?"

"That I am, your Excellency!" De Pean was unsteady upon his feet, as he rose to respond to the Intendant's challenge. He pot-valiantly drew his sword, and laid it on the table. "I will call on the honorable company to drink this toast on their knees, and there is my sword to cut the legs off any gentleman who will not kneel down and drink a full cup to the bright eyes of the belle of Quebec—The incomparable Angelique des Meloises!"

The toast suited their mood. Every one filled up his cup in honor of a beauty so universally admired.

"Kneel down, all," cried the Intendant, "or De Pean will hamstring us!" All knelt down with a crash—some of them unable to rise again. "We will drink to the Angelique charms of the fair Des Meloises. Come, now, all together!—as the jolly Dutchmen of Albany say, 'Upp seys over!'"

(To be continued.)

Current Events.

Several persons have been killed in recent earthquake shocks in Turkey.

The salary of the President of the United States has been increased to \$100,000 per annum.

Valuable discoveries of zinc, lead and gold have been made near Rossport, Thunder Bay District, Ont.

Mr. Noel Chevrier, of Winnipeg, has been appointed to the Senate, in succession to the late Senator Bernier.

Parliament was opened in Ottawa on January 20th, Mr. Charles Marclé being elected speaker of the House of Commons.

GOSSIP.

THE EDWARDS, DRUMMOND, WHITE SALE.

The first week in February will be a memorable week in cattle-breeding circles in Toronto, the annual meeting of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, and of other breed societies being slated for the same week, together with three exceptionally important auction sales at the Union Stock-yards, of selections from noted Shorthorn herds, and one of Ayrshires and Yorkshire swine.

The Shorthorn breeders meet on Tuesday, February 2nd. The Pettit-Watt sale takes place on Wednesday, February 3rd, at 1 p. m.; the Miller, Birrell and Johnson sale on Thursday, February 4th, at 10 a. m., and the Edwards, Drummond, White sale the same day, Thursday, at 1 p. m.

The catalogue of the last named contingent, 21 bulls and 18 females, shows a richness of breeding on popular lines probably unequalled in any former offering at public sale in America. While the individual merit of the bull end of it is said to be of an exceptionally high order, the calibre of the young cows and heifers is quite on a par. Such an opportunity to secure high-class young stock for improving or founding a herd has never before opened in Ontario.

The Edwards contribution comprises 16 young bulls, of serviceable age, sired by the noted stock bulls at the head of the Pine Grove herd, viz.: Missie Champion, Prince of Fashion, Chief Ruler, and Royal Favorite, a Toronto grand champion, and out of dams representing many of the most notable Cruickshank and other Scotch families. A half dozen choice young cows and heifers from the same herd are equally richly bred and finished in form and quality. The Huntlywood herd of Sir Geo. Drummond contributes the handsome roan yearling bull, Golden Lavender 2nd, by Imp. Gold Cup, out of the choicely-bred cow, Lavender 44th, by Imp. Cicely's Pride, bred by H. M. the King, and a Toronto first-prize winner. Five yearling heifers, by Cicely's Pride, and Gold Cup (imp.), and a handsome red two-year-old imported heifer, Queen of Sunshine, bred by the King, are also contributed from the Huntlywood herd. The Belmar Parc herd of Peter White, of Pembroke, contributes four yearling bulls, three reds and a roan, sired by the Bruce Mayflower, and Rosewood, Miss Ramsden and Duchess of Gloster bulls at the head of the herd, from which a half dozen richly-bred heifers have also been selected for the sale, among which is a red Lavender, by Nonpareil Eclipse, and two Bruce Augusta and Rosewood representatives. There should be a large gathering at this sale, as considering the character of the offering, the probability is that some good bargains will present themselves, as all will be sold, without reserve, and fancy prices are not looked for.

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POULTRY AND EGGS

Condensed advertisements will be inserted under this heading at two cents per word each insertion. Each initial counts for one word, and figures for two words. Names and addresses are counted. Cash must always accompany the order for any advertisement under this heading. Parties having good pure-bred poultry and eggs for sale will find plenty of customers by using our advertising columns. No advertisement inserted for less than 50 cents.

BREEDER of high-class Barred Plymouth Rocks. Choice stock for sale at times. Eggs in season. Leslie Kerns, Freeman, Ont.

BEAUTIFUL White Leghorn cockerels, S. comb laying strain, \$1.25 each. Satisfaction guaranteed. A. E. Donaghv, Colborne, Ont.

CHOICE White Wyandotte cockerels and pullets at reasonable prices. W. D. Monkman, Bond Head, Ont.

COLUMBIAN Wyandottes. Best fowl yet introduced. Also Toulouse geese. Emerson Tufts, Welland, Ont.

MAMMOTH Bronze turkeys. Show birds. Bred from prizewinning heavyweight stock. Young toms 22 to 27 lbs. Pairs not akin. R. G. Rose, Glanworth, Ont.

OVER 400 Bronze turkeys have been shown at Guelph Winter Fair the past nine years by 25 exhibitors. I was awarded 30 first prizes, leaving only 24 firsts for the other 24 exhibitors. I have furnished first-prize winners at Dominion Exhibition (Calgary), Manitoba Poultry Show (Neepawa), and Winnipeg Poultry Show the past year, besides winners at Madison Square Garden, N. Y., and largest shows in Indiana. Choice stock for sale—all ages—at moderate prices, considering quality. W. J. Bell, Angus, Ont.

SELLING out, half price, incubators, brooders, White Wyandottes, collies, bone mill, Wright Bros., Brockville, Ont.

TOULOUSE geese, two dollars each. R. I. Red, one dollar each. Emerson Tufts, Welland, Ont.

WHITE Wyandottes for sale. A few pullets from prizewinning stock. Eggs in season. Also Partridge Wyandotte eggs. A. Matton & Son, Mitchell, Ont.

A choice lot of young MAMMOTH BRONZE TURKEYS Bred from the heavyweight M. B. tom, first-prize winner at Toronto and London, 1908. Also a choice lot of English Red Caps for sale. W. E. Wright, Glanworth, Ont.



Advertisements will be inserted under this heading, such as Farm Properties, Help and Situations Wanted, and Pet Stock. TERMS—Three cents per word each insertion. Each initial counts for one word and figures for two words. Names and addresses are counted. Cash must always accompany the order. No advertisement inserted for less than 50 cents.

CHOICE farm for sale, County of Welland, 117 acres; 25 acres in bush. Brick house (eleven rooms) and outbuildings in good condition. Well watered. Possession arranged. A bargain. R. F. Argles & Co., 6 King St., West, Toronto.

FOR SALE—One of the best farms in Elgin Co. 100 acres. 20 acres hardwood timber. 5 miles from St. Thomas. All conveniences. For all particulars apply to Box 79, Fingal, Ont.

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RESPONSIBLE agents wanted for unallotted territory. Complete line of all No. 9 woven and coiled wire fencing, gates and fire escapes. National Wire Fence Co., Prescott, Ont., Hamilton, Ont.

WANTED—A situation on a first-class stock farm, or would take farm on shares. References if required. Lovett, Kintore, Ont.

WHEAT FARM FOR SALE in the famous Moose Jaw district. Only two miles from railroad and good town with four elevators, churches, hotels, stores and schools, district school on one corner of the farm. 640 acres, every foot of it first-class wheat land. 550 acres under cultivation. 390 acres ready to crop this year. 200 acres fenced. 2 houses. First-class stable for 20 head horses. Stabling for 25 head of cattle. 2 granaries. 2 good wells and 3 pond reservoirs. 14 head of good work horses. 14 head of cattle. And a complete line of implements, sufficient for farm of this size. Price \$26 an acre. This figure takes the whole thing—farm, stock and implements. Write us for particulars. Henry Y. Smith, Box 1096, Moose Jaw, Sask.

WANTED A THE DELHI TANNERY Hides, Skins and Furs to tan for Robes, Coats and Gauntlets Mitts, etc. Tanned soft and pliable. Never get hard. B. F. BELL, DELHI, ONTARIO