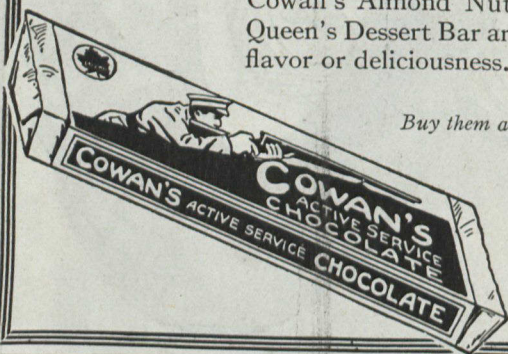


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These Three Things

(Continued from page 5)

he died, two years subsequently, Jean Robichaud found himself the sole proprietor of the large wholesale house which had been established in the Lower Town.

Then he began to look about him for investments. By this time the storm had broken over the seignior's lands that had been worth thousands—and were to be worth tens of thousands later, as the lumber industry grew—became worthless property. Old de Betincourt; was hard hit. He would not sell his estates, but he retrenched, closed his town house and rented a smaller one, dismissed half his servants, and strove to regain by speculation what he had lost through changing conditions.

At one time he held fortune by the hair again. This was when the Government began to lease territories to lumber merchants. De Betincourt had practically closed a deal for some valuable woodland. There was little competition in those days, for the interested firms reached an agreement not to outbid each other, or to encroach on one another's ear-marked tracts. At the last moment De Betincourt found that someone had secretly outbid him. Later he discovered that it was Robichaud.

The deal made Jean rich—one of the richest of the new men in Quebec; but it did not win him favor. He lived in a house of his own in Upper Town now, he affected a carriage, and his fast horses were well-known on the racing-grounds; but many doors which might have been opened to him were closed, and he was not popular. If ever he met Hermine de Betincourt, she looked gravely away and would not recognize him. Sometimes he saw her with Louis Dussault, already growing into celebrity as an advocate, and marked as a rising man and a prospective candidate for the next parliament. Gossip of their engagement was rife; but this had been rife for years.

RUMOR, still more insistent, began to buzz in insistent tones that de Betincourt was a bankrupt. Now Jean foresaw the supreme delight of vengeance, of which he had long dreamed. The day was coming when he would go to the Seigneur, remind him of the night of the blow, and tell him how his threat had come to nought.

And, after long pondering over this, Jean did quite otherwise. With wealth and experience much of his crudity had fallen away; his heart was opening, though he was still to learn his second lesson. He went to the seigneur on the night when he left the court house, ruined and broken, and stood before him, hat in hand, feeling just the same sense of inferiority as when he had stood before him thus on the seignior.

De Betincourt looked up from where he was sitting at his table. He knew him. "Well, Monsieur Robichaud?" he asked.

"I—I have three hundred thousand dollars," stammered Jean Robichaud. "Monsieur, accept as much as you will, in God's name, as a loan without interest, and begin life anew."

As Hermine's pity had driven him to his wild declaration on that night long before, so Robichaud's pity stung de Betincourt to white-hot rage. He rose from his chair, his limbs trembling and his fists clenched and unclenching.

"I thought you had come to tell me why you have ruined me," he said. "There is my door, Monsieur!"

"But—but—" Robichaud stammered. "It is a long time since my father spoke to you, Jean Robichaud, but in those days he did not command twice," said a low voice in the doorway.

Jean saw Hermine there, and her eyes, which he had remembered as mocking or pitying, were wells of hot anger. Jean went out, feeling as if it were he, and not de Betincourt, who was broken.

The two were alone in the hall of the little house. Jean Robichaud turned and went back toward the girl, who stood at the door, watching him.

"Hermine," he said, "all that I have ever done—I know it now—has been because I love you."

She raised her hand, not violently, but with a gesture as if it held a whip—and struck him across the mouth.

That was Jean's second lesson: that vengeance must not masquerade as repentance.

There remained Louis Dussault. Jean's rancor against this man was merciless; yet he seemed powerless to injure him. Moreover, Louis, sensing the hostility of the merchant, with whom he was thrown into touch in many ways, fought Jean in law and business, and carried the honors away. Jean realized that only

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An Economy Hint

By Joan.

NOTHING is so helpful to one in every way as pleasant surroundings. Even a person of a happy-go-lucky, cheerful disposition may become depressed and moody in gloomy quarters, where pretty things find no place. It is so easy to make the home dainty and cheerful, and now that chintzes are so much used a pleasing result may be achieved with no great cost. Plain net curtains—with an edging of torchon lace—form a foundation, and in some cases completely cover the window, and then a smart pleated frill of chintz or casement hides the pole from view, and straight curtains hang from each side. These cheaper fabrics have only one drawback: they are apt to lose color in the sun; and faded articles of this kind look worse than none at all. Why not, then, try dyeing them yourself? The best to use is "Drummer Dye," because it is cheap, being only a few cents per packet, and it never fails to give absolute satisfaction. It is easy to use, and splendid colours are obtainable. It is especially suited to casements, tapestries and chintz, and it is strongly recommended. JOAN.



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