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THE WILDCATTERS

(Continued from page 23.)

tossed the gold over, with all eyes in the room upon him. He had gambled and gambled the hours away till there was nothing left in the bank of the Clan. With this would arise the companion-picture of the night he held a dark-eyed, passionate face close to his and kissed the love from off the sensuous lips. Ah! Jean would never forgive. Nor could he ask. It was too much!

"Beteric!" Carl said. "You see this hill behind?"

"Oui."

"It's full of silver."

"Dieu! How you know dat?"

"I have been prospecting up through here for a long time. I was disappointed on many occasions but at last I have struck it. There are millions of dollars in that bluff. Why, Beteric, the veins are right on the surface. I've taken out enough ore with the pick, shovel and a little powder to pay for installing all necessary machinery. It's the richest mine in Cobalt, Beteric, but what use is it to me? All the mines in the world wouldn't be anything now, old friend. I've lost all the treasure of real worth. I want to be alone though. That's why I've stayed with it. The search was a joy. I thought it would be a joy, too, when I would find ore, but it isn't. Beteric, I'd give that whole hill for one kind word of hers."

"Mais, dat girri!—why she no send un apres toi eef elle want toi?" Beteric asked.

"She didn't want me," Carl answered. "Anyway, no one would find me for I gave the camps which I came through the name of Hooper. I didn't give my own and none of them knew me. They're all fresh prospectors down around the Montreal River."

He piled more wood on the fire. "It's getting chilly," he said.

"Non," observed the Voyageur. "Leetle hotter dis night."

"I don't see how you call it hotter," Carl observed. "I shiver at times." He rolled up nearer the fire.

"W'at, cold have toi?"

"Yes."

Beteric rose and came up to him, looking sharply at his face. "Cold have toi like dis?" he asked, passing a hand from the chest down.

Carl nodded. "Why?" he inquired.

Beteric put his palm on the other's forehead. It was burning hot.

"Mon Dieu," he cried, "toi have de fever."

"Pshaw! man, it is only a chill. I got overheated taking out ore to-day."

"Toi have fever nex' matin," Beteric declared. "Mak' bed queeck!"

He forced Carl to go to bed at once. Going off into the dark woods, he found with difficulty some herbs of medicinal value and long into the night he brewed them over the campfire, giving Carl a bitter draught before he himself lay down in his blankets.

(To be continued.)

Russian Censorship of Books

IT looks as if the Russian censor of books will soon have nothing to do. The new edition of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" has been allowed to enter Russia "without any mutilation," this being the first instance on record of a work of such comprehensive importance being admitted scatheless. It is not so long since the visitor to Russia, if he received his foreign books and newspapers at all, had to accept the "blackening-out" of whole columns.

Since the revolution of 1905 a more intelligent attitude has been apparent. Evidently, too, the officials are a good deal less "touchy" than formerly. It is a little amusing to find the "Britannica's" article on Russia stating, in reference to the judicial system, that in 1880 "the fines inflicted by the courts were commonly paid in 'vodka,' which was consumed on the premises by the judges and the parties to the suit." This statement and the further suggestion that this amiable custom has not yet been altogether abandoned had not ruffled the censor.



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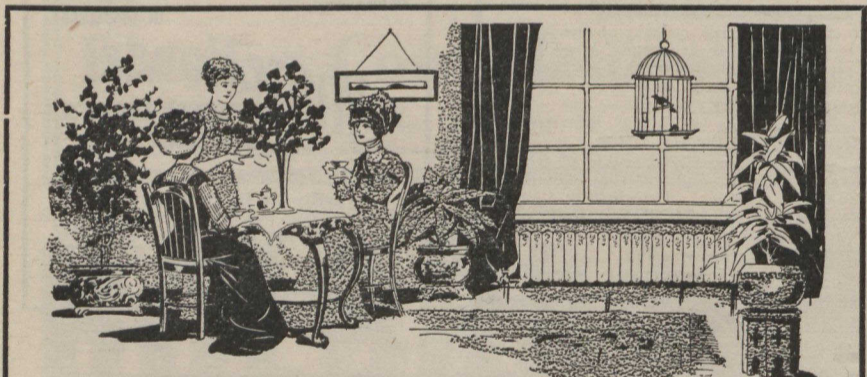


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