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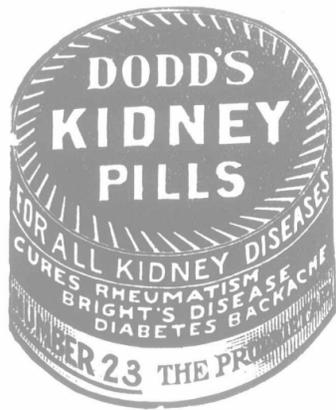
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**JOHN HALLAM, TORONTO**

Mistress—Why, Mary, what are you sitting still for with all the work there is to do?  
New Cook—You told me to follow the rule in the book, ma'am, and it says, "Do not stir while it is boiling."



"Why, there is only one way that I can see. We know she did not do the murder herself, therefore she has done it by the hand of another. Here is proof of a confederate, Bigot—I picked this up in the secret chamber." Cadet drew out of his pocket the fragment of the letter torn in Pieces by La Corriveau. "Is this the handwriting of Angelique?" asked he.

Bigot seized the scrap of paper, read it, turned it over and scrutinized it, striving to find resemblances between the writing and that of everyone known to him. His scrutiny was in vain.

"This writing is not Angelique's," said he. "It is utterly unknown to me. It is a woman's hand, but certainly not the hand of any woman of my acquaintance, and I have letters and billets from almost every lady in Quebec. It is proof of a confederate, however, for listen, Cadet! It arranges for an interview with Caroline, poor girl! It was thus she was betrayed to her death. It is torn, but enough remains to make the sense clear—listen! At the arched door about midnight—if she pleased to admit her, she would learn important matters concerning herself—the Intendant and the Baron de St. Castin—speedily arrive in the Colony. That throws light upon the mystery, Cadet! A woman was to have an interview with Caroline at midnight! Good God, Cadet! not two hours before we arrived! And we deferred starting in order that we might rook the Seigneur de Port Neuf! Too late! too late! Oh cursed word that ever seals our fate when we propose a good deed!" and Bigot felt himself a poor injured and neglected by Providence.

"Important matters relating to herself," repeated Bigot, reading again the scrap of writing. "The Intendant and the Baron de St. Castin—speedily to arrive in the Colony. No one knew but the sworn Councillors of the Governor that the Baron de St. Castin was coming out to the Colony. A woman has done the deed, and she has been informed of secrets spoken in Council by some

Councillor present on that day at the Castle. Who was he? and who was she?" questioned Bigot, excitedly.

"The argument runs like water down hill, Bigot! but, par Dieu! I would not have believed that New France contained two women of such mettle as the one to contrive, the other to execute, a masterpiece of devilment like that!"

"Since we find another hand in the dish, it may not have been Angelique after all," remarked Bigot. "It is hard to believe one so fair and free-spoken guilty of so dark and damnable a crime." Bigot would evidently be glad to find himself in error touching his suspicions.

"Fairest without is often foulest within, Bigot," answered Cadet, doggedly. "Open speech in a woman is often an open trap to catch fools! Angelique des Meloises is free-spoken and open-handed enough to deceive a concave of cardinals; but she has the lightest heels in the city. Would you not like to see her dance a ballet de triomphe on the broad flagstone I laid over the grave of that poor girl? If you would, you have only to marry her, and she will give a ball in the secret chamber!"

"Be still, Cadet! I could take you by the throat for suggesting it! But I will make her prove herself innocent!" exclaimed Bigot, angry at the cool persistence of Cadet.

"I hope you will not try it to-day, Bigot," Cadet spoke gravely now. "Let the dead sleep, and let all sleeping dogs and chimenes be still. Zounds! we are in greater danger than she is! You cannot stir in this matter without getting yourself in her power. Angelique has got hold of the secret of Caroline and of the Baron de St. Castin; what if she clear herself by accusing you? The King would put you in the Bastille for the magnificent lie you told the Governor, and La Pompadour would send you to the Place de Greve when the Baron de St. Castin returned with the bones of his daughter, dug up in your Chateau!"

"It is a cursed dilemma!" Bigot fairly writhed with perplexity. "Dark as the bottomless pit, turn which way

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