

In Temptation.

Mystical Rose, Mystical Rose, How beautiful and fair art thou, Thy leaves of grace, and love unfold, I pray, and shelter me this hour.

TOO STRANGE NOT TO BE TRUE.

BY LADY GEORGIANA FULLERTON.

CHAPTER IV.

I thought to pass away before, And yet alive I am, A still small voice spoke unto me Thou art so full of misery.

But a mere celestial brightness, a mere otherworldly beauty, Shone on her face and attracted her form when, after confession,

A few days later d'Auban met Madame de Moldau coming out of the church of the mission.

He saw her before she could see him. She seemed to be gazing with admiration on the scene before her. It was an afternoon of wintry but exquisite beauty.

"Yes," she said, in answer to his question, "it is as you suppose. I am a Catholic."

"Blessed be this hour and this day," he murmured, with uncontrolled emotion. "It has made us one in faith. May not our hearts and our lives be also forever united?"

"The moment he had uttered the words he would have wished to recall them; for she looked beyond him, moaning, griefed and distressed."

"Oh, yes!" he exclaimed, "the truth—the whole truth."

"The truth which what you said just now compels me to speak. For every possible reason we can never be more than friends; and if you would not drive me away from home, where after much suffering I have found peace, and if you will still help me to be good and happy, you will never allude to this subject again."

"It is not a decision I have had to make; it is, I repeat it, a truth I am telling you."

"You are not free, then?"

"No, I am not free," she paused and hesitated a little. "If I was so there would still be reasons why I could not be your wife."

"He remained silent. The disappointment was severe. She saw it was. Her voice trembled as she said—"

"You have been all kindness to me, and the truest friend ever a woman had. I owe you more than I can ever repay. But do not ask me to explain; if you can, banish the wish to know more about me than that I was once miserable and am now contented—that I had neither faith nor hope when I came here, and that now, thanks to you, I have both."

"That is enough for me!" he eagerly cried—"quite enough. I will seek to banish all other thoughts. The hope I had dared to indulge was not altogether a selfish one."

"I know it well. You wanted to help, to comfort me. Now your friend knows all." She said this, pointing to Father Maret's house. "He has given me the consolation, the advice I so much needed. He is teaching me where to find strength; he will direct my future course. But this I wish to say before I leave you today. Whether we are to continue to dwell in the same place, or should we part not to meet again, there is a thought that will never leave me as long as I live. I may forget many things—many things I would fain forget, but what you have done for me. . . ."

She stopped unable to speak for tears, and pointed to the part of the church where the altar stood, then almost immediately added, "I never can forget that you

brought me here; that you brought me to Him!"

"It was not all at once that d'Auban felt all her thoughts sufficiently to realize fully what passed that day, and how different had been the result from what he had expected. The event he had so ardently desired had indeed come to pass, and ardent also was the gratitude he felt for the great blessing; but the earthly hopes connected with it had suddenly vanished. What he had felt to be the great barrier between him and Madame de Moldau was removed, and yet was he to give up all idea of marrying her. "Not free!" He repeated these words, over and over again. "Not free, and even if free, never to be his wife!" He pondered over the meaning of these words, and formed a thousand different suppositions in connection with them. The mystery was to remain as deep as ever, he had all but promised not to try to discover it. A hard struggle it was, from that day forward, to conceal feelings which were stronger than he was aware of. During the whole of the past year he had looked forward to a time when he might avow them. He had framed projects and built up schemes connected with a vision of domestic happiness. When he used to read aloud to the assembled party at St. Agathe, or when he drove Madame de Moldau in his sledge over the noiseless frozen prairie, or when bringing home St. Agathe, or perhaps he ought to go away himself. This would be scarcely possible, considering how his own and M. de Chamblé's fortunes were embarked in his present undertakings. He felt himself bound, and this was the practical result, he formed, not to conceal his difficulties which might arise on this point by giving way henceforward to the expression of feelings not warranted by simple friendship. He would, by word or look, recall to her mind the words he had hastily spoken, or give her reason to think that he cherished them in his breast—any, but he would try to subdue them. He would work, not seven years only, as the patriarch for his bride, but, if needs be, all his life, without hope or reward. It was a difficult resolution to act up to, but his sense of honor, his feelings of generosity as well as the dictates of conscience, the dread of driving her away from St. Agathe, enabled him to keep it. His strength of character and habits of self-control stood him in good stead. She did not guess how he was suffering, whilst everything went on usual in the course of their daily life.

Meanwhile, another conversation had taken place at St. Agathe. M. de Chamblé, a philosopher of the new school of France, a despiser of creeds, a free thinker, who has taken unbelief for trust as some do their belief; but who, if he worshipped nothing else, worshipped Madame de Moldau—began to feel a leaning towards a religion, which made her look so much happier. Her benevolent, warm, and shivering, weak, and miserable, was laid up for several weeks, Father Maret, like a Jesuit that he was, set up with him night after night and robbed him of his sleep. It occurred to him in the silence of those watches whilst he lay suffering in his uneasy bed, and Christian love and fatherly kindness came near for the first time to his aged heart. There was one green spot in that poor withered heart, but it had never been watered by the dew of heaven. Life had never been much more than a ceremony to him till it had become a suffering. He had bowed and smiled and flattered through his long course, and was puzzled at finding what a weary thing it had become. But when he recovered from his illness, the feeble, wistful face wore a happier look. The timid heart and narrow mind expanded in the sunshine of faith.

A festival day was at hand at the Mission. It was to take place on the 8th of September, and great preparations were making for it both at St. Agathe and at the Concession d'Auban. Wreaths of flowers, large nosegays of roses and magnolias, and heaps of candles made of the pure green wax of the country, had been conveyed across the river on the preceding evening; and early in the morning, Madame de Moldau, Simonette, and Antoine joined Therese and her friend, and helped them to decorate the church. Beautiful were the bunches of feathers brought by the Christian Indians, and the skins of leopards and bisons which carpeted the floor of the sanctuary. Garlands of Spanish moss, intermixed with white and purple blossoms, hung from one pillar to another on both sides of the church.

In the afternoon there was to be a feast of the children, and Simonette had prepared large bowls of saganity sweetened with maple syrup, and bakes caked of Indian corn.

Great was the excitement of the youthful assembly, gay the scene, and happy the faces of the congregation, when, after mass, they spread themselves over the green sward and began to play and eat under the tulip trees. A French fiddler struck up the "Carillon de Danquerque," which set the country people, old and young, dancing as they would. All was light and merriment, and the light hurt his eyes."

"D'Auban thought of the way he had seen her a few hours before playing with the children in the broad sunshine, and a chilling sensation crept to his heart. General Brockdorf made some complimentary remarks on the beauty of St. Agathe, and mentioned his acquaintance with M. de Harlay.

Count Levaehoff, who had also seen him in Paris, playfully described the French

little negro boy, who had jumped into her arms, her hair got unfashioned and rolled down her was out of temper, and opposed "Do call Simonette to put up my hair," she said, with a bright smile, to d'Auban, who was standing a little way off.

"He went to look for her. Therese said she was gone to St. Agathe to get some provisions which had been left behind. She saw, the minute he caught sight of her face, that she was in one of her troubled moods.

"Madame de Moldau wants you," he said. "There are people at your house who want you, sir," she answered. "Have you been there?"

"No, but I saw their servant Hans at the pavilion. He says they have brought you letters."

"Are they French?"

"Simonette says one of her usual shrunks, and said, "She had better make the best of her time, then."

"D'Auban thought her manner very disagreeable, but he knew it always was so when she was just now the case. Simonette went on to the village, whilst he crossed the river, and hastened first to St. Agathe, where he found M. de Chamblé ill in bed, as Simonette had said, and some- what light-headed—and then to his own house, where he found the three gentlemen he had mentioned.

He had never seen any of them before. General Brockdorf was a stiff, military-looking man, a Hanoverian by birth, but an officer in the Russian army. M. Reinhart was also a German, and Count Levaehoff a Russian. He was by far the most pleasing of the three. They had brought him letters of introduction from the Viscount de Harlay, and also from M. Perrier, at whose house they had spent a few days. They were now travelling to Canada through the Illinois and the Arkansas.

After half an hour's conversation, he set before them some refreshments, and, beginning them to excuse him for a short time, he hurried back to St. Agathe, to see if Madame de Moldau had returned. She was so shy of strangers, that he did not venture to bring these travellers to her house without her permission. She had just arrived with Simonette, who had rowed her across the river. He saw at once that she was very nervous.

"Some travellers are just arrived," he said, as she joined them. "So I hear," she answered. "Do they stay long?"

"No, only a few hours. Two of them are friends of De Harlay's. They would like very much to see his folly. Would you have any objection to my bringing them here?"

"Who and what are they?"

"D'Auban mentioned their names, and added, "I have heard of the two first, but I know nothing of M. Reinhart."

"He was on board the boat which brought us up the river. I would rather not have seen him again. Have they told you, or if you like to stay up stairs, I will bring them to you."

"Not much—noting of importance; but everything about the Old World is more or less interesting here."

"Where do they come from?"

"From Paris, in the last instance."

"M. de Moldau bit her lip, and pressed her hand on her forehead. She stood the picture of irresolution.

"It is very provoking that M. de Chamblé should be ill," she said "and too ill even to advise me."

"The tone in which she said words was such that d'Auban felt he had not at the same time observed that her eyes were filled with tears.

"There is really no necessity for your seeing these gentlemen," he gently said. "They need not come at all if it distresses you. If you like to stay up stairs, I could show them the hall and the verandah."

"Oh! of course I know I can do as I like."

"This was said with a slight irritation of temper, which d'Auban seemed to have the greatest difficulty in making up her mind.

"You can bring them here," she said at last, but did not mention whether it was her intention to see them or not.

When he left the house she went up to her father's room. He was dozing, and talked in his sleep of missing volumes, and the binding of a book which had been sent by the King of Poland. She sighed deeply, gave some directions to his Indian nurse, and went to change her dress.

When she came down to the parlor she had put on a large lace veil, which nearly covered her face as well as her head. "Get the shawl," she said "which we used to hang against the window. My eyes are weak; I should like the room darkened."

"This was done, and she sat down with her back to the light. Simonette was looking almost as nervous as her mistress. "Here are the gentlemen," she said, when the hall-door opened.

D'Auban almost started with surprise at finding her in the parlor, and at the darkness of the room. He introduced the strangers.

She greeted them with her usual graceful dignity of manner, and then said in a low muffled voice which did not sound like her own: "I hope, gentlemen, you will excuse my receiving you in so dark a room. My health is not strong, and the light hurts my eyes."

man's ecstasy at finding himself again in the capital of the civilized world. "For my part," he added, "I find it very interesting to travel through a country so unlike what one has seen elsewhere. The grandeur of the scenery is sublime, and makes one forget the vulgar views of insufficient provisions, tormenting insects, and rapacious boatmen. I suppose that the beauty of the country has lost its novelty, and perhaps its charm, for you, madame?"

"The views are beautiful and the climate also," Madame de Moldau answered, in the same unnatural voice. Turning to General Brockdorf, she said: "Is it for the sole purpose of travelling that you visit this country?"

"Not altogether, madame. The Emperor of Russia has commissioned me to draw up a report of the natural features and peculiar productions of this newly-discovered continent. Everything which tends to progress, to enlightenment, and to civilization attracts the attention of his imperial majesty."

"Is the Czar as active as ever," asked d'Auban, "in carrying out his vast designs?"

"He has achieved wonders," the General replied, "and only lives to plan yet greater marvels."

"But are there not men of eminence and worth in Russia who, whilst they allow the merits of some of the Czar's innovations, do not approve of his mode of government, and who, whilst they admire the genius exhibited in the sudden creation of a new capital, have not transferred to it their attachment to the old Russian metropolis—time honoured Moscow?"

"You are right," exclaimed Count Levaehoff, "the heart of Russia is in Moscow."

"Not its brains," said the General. "That last-mentioned article," observed Reinhart, who had not yet spoken, and who kept his eyes fixed on Madame de Moldau with marked pertinacity, "the Czar chiefly imports from foreign countries. St. Petersburg is a haven of refuge for needy Frenchmen and German adventurers. The Czarovitch has announced his intention of sweeping away, when he comes to the throne, the invading hordes, as he calls them. He is a genuine Muscovite."

"He is as great a brute as ever lived," said Levaehoff.

TO BE CONTINUED. THE CANADIAN CONFEDERATION.

FROM THE DEATH OF CHAMPLAIN TO THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNT DE FRONTENAC A. D. 1635-1672.

Written for the Record.

M. de Mezy arrived in Canada in 1663, charged with the inauguration of certain important reforms in the administrative system of the colony. He succeeded to the administration of affairs at a most auspicious moment. The recall of M. d'Avançon, effected through the influence of the bishops, had terrified the friends of the liquor traffic. Supported as he was by the bishop, the secular and the regular clergy of the colony, and appointed directly by the sovereign himself, M. de Mezy enjoyed all the prestige which so many favorable circumstances could invest his selection for the government of Canada. Giving his first attention to the relations of the colonists with the aborigines, he found the chief willing to come to terms with the French. He extended a very gracious reception to the Iroquois envoys, but would not enter into any negotiation for peace, expressing his firm purpose to use every means within his control to crush out foes so faithless, that their lasting peace could not be observed. This threatening reply of the Governor, coupled with the arrival of bodies of soldiers and immigrants at Quebec, witnessed by the aboriginal envoys themselves, served to keep the Iroquois in check.

Previous to the appointment of M. de Mezy no courts of justice, adequate to the growing wants of the colony, existed in Canada. The administration of justice was vested in tribunals carrying with their decisions neither authority nor respect.

M. Dupont was accordingly despatched to Canada with M. de Mezy to make full inquiry into the state of the administration of justice within the colony, with the view of ascertaining the best means of securing the reforms evidently required. The representations of M. Dupont, made after exact enquiry and assiduous deliberation, led to the establishment, in 1663, of a "Royal Administration" and "Sovereign Council." The chief authority over all affairs in the colony—both administrative and judicial—was placed in the Sovereign Council. Through it also all decrees, ordinances and proclamations of the King were to be promulgated to the people. It was likewise vested with the right of trying and deciding all causes, military as well as civil, as a court of supreme and final jurisdiction. The first members of the Council were the Governor and the bishop, with whom were associated the Attorney-General and five others named by the Governor and the bishop conjointly. The number of councillors was afterwards increased to twelve.

The first meeting of the Council was held on the 18th of September, 1663, when the members were to be promulgated to the people. It was likewise vested with the right of trying and deciding all causes, military as well as civil, as a court of supreme and final jurisdiction. The first members of the Council were the Governor and the bishop, with whom were associated the Attorney-General and five others named by the Governor and the bishop conjointly. The number of councillors was afterwards increased to twelve.

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ordinance bearing date the 18th of October, 1663, makes the appointment of a judge, an attorney, and a clerk of court for the Island of Montreal. This ordinance was followed by another on the 23rd day of October in the same year, authorizing M. de Maisonneuve to continue in the exercise of his functions as Governor of the same island.

There had been some difference of opinion manifested in the Council as to the proposed election of municipal officers in Quebec. The breach then opened widened by the further proposed extension of such privileges by the election in urban communities of trustees charged with certain local functions. The Governor became chief of a minority in the Council, whose view was overruled by the bishop and the majority of the Councilors. M. de Mezy, however, determined to secure the triumph of his views by arbitrary means, and accordingly suspended the three Councilors supporting the bishop's opinions, filling their places with three of his own friends. This ill-advised course led to his recall, but before the recall reached him M. de Mezy was no more.

A royal edict, dated May, 1664, ceded Canada to the West India Company, at whose suggestion the King appointed the Marquis de Tracy Viceroy of all the French possessions in the New World and M. de Courelles Governor of Canada. The instructions of the Home Government to M. de Tracy were to first visit the French possessions in the West Indies, thence to proceed to Canada, where he was to employ every means to advance the interests of the colony by keeping in accord with the clergy, and checking the hostile savages. M. de Tracy did not reach Canada till June, 1665. His arrival, earnestly expected by the clergy and people of Quebec, long disturbed by discussions provoked by the hastiness and jealousy of his predecessors, was the signal for prolonged and enthusiastic rejoicings in the metropolis of New France. He was shortly afterwards followed by M. de Courelles, Provincial Governor, and M. Talon Intendant. Col. de Sullieres also came out in the same year at the head of his regiment, which had achieved renown in the wars with the Turks. The arrival of this regiment enabled the Viceroy to prosecute with energy his plans for keeping the Iroquois in check. He accordingly constructed three strong posts about the mouth of the Richelieu, through which these restless savages enjoyed easy communication for several months in the year with the country along the St. Lawrence. While M. de Tracy busied himself in this asserting the determination of the government to protect the French settlements. M. Talon, the Intendant, a man of liberal, independent and comprehensive views, gave his attention to the departments of administration allotted to his care—justice, finance and police. The Sovereign Council was improved by the addition of new members, and the return of the bishop, who had not attended since the arbitrary removal of several of the Councilors by M. de Mezy. The rules for the administration of justice were simplified, and the machinery of the law courts modified to work with the expedition required, especially in a new country.

The events immediately preceding the recall of M. de Mezy led the Intendant to enquire into the causes of discontent, which evidently had for some time distracted the colony, and still left its traces in the relations between the clergy and a certain body of the laity. These of the latter interested in trade with the Indians could not forget the humiliation they had to suffer through the humane energy of M. de Laval and his clergy—regular and parochial—in prohibiting the sale of spirits to the savages. They formulated complaints to M. Talon, of aggressive meddlesomeness on the part of the Jesuits in secular affairs, charging them with controlling the bishop, and through him ruling the colony. These complaints received from that officer the fullest attention. An impartial investigation into the charges, thus advanced, led M. Talon, in his report to the Home Government, to relieve the Jesuits from the odium cast on them by the malignity of their foes. Amongst other representations in this report is one that the King should take the colony out of the hands of the West India Company and open its trading markets to all foreigners. The Sovereign Council, some years after, in a memorial to M. Colbert, presented the same views. The recommendation of the Intendant in favor of less restricted trade had its effect in France. In the spring of 1666 the King in Council extended the trading privileges of the colonists, without, however, entirely removing the monopoly of the Company. Three of the Iroquois nations, intimidated by the manifestation of energy made by M. de Tracy in the erection of the forts near the Richelieu, had sent him delegates to conduct a treaty of peace. But the Mohawks and medias holding aloof, the Viceroy decided on invading their territory, and carrying terror to their remotest settlements. An expedition of three hundred regulars and two hundred militiamen left Quebec under the command of M. de Courelles in midwinter, 1666, to invade the Mohawk country. The expedition pushed its way resolutely through seven hundred miles of unbroken forest to find the enemy, on its arrival in his territory, withdrawn to the recesses of the wilderness. De Courelles was obliged to return without inflicting on the savages that signal punishment their arrogance and cruelty demanded. But the daring and intrepidity evinced by the French in this venturing into hostile territory hundreds of miles from their own settlements in the most rigorous season of the year, filled the Mohawks with terror. M. de Sorel, commander of a fort at the Richelieu, undertook, the following spring, another expedition against the same tribe, which had barbarously murdered their French officers at Fort St. Anne on Lake Champlain. The savages, at the approach of M. de Sorel, sent deputies to meet him, to offer such reparation as he might require for the deaths of the officers. The representations of the Iroquois envoys pleaded the wealth of M. de Sorel, who ordered the envoys to be sent to Quebec. Here they were received with kindness and distinction, but one of them boasting that he himself had slain one of the murdered officers, a relation of the Viceroy, was sentenced to death and executed.

The Viceroy then decided on another expedition against the Mohawks, determined either to extirpate the race or destroy its power for mischief forever. M. de Tracy, though seventy years of age, took the chief command. After reaching the territory of the enemy, through hardships, as severe, it may be said, as soldiers ever underwent, the French troops found the Mohawk villages deserted. The stores of corn and provisions, happily found in good condition in these villages, saved the soldiers from famine. But the discovery of booty so precious could not save the Indian habitations, which were razed to the ground, and their remains with the residue of provisions unrequited by the French commandant consigned to the flames.

The blow thus inflicted on this haughty tribe was severe to its immediate consequence, leading to its extinction with its long train of evils. The expedition, unwilling to pursue the savages into the recesses of the forest, returned to Quebec amid the acclamations of the people of that city, now relieved of the scourge the Iroquois name had so long inspired.

M. de Tracy shortly afterwards returned to France, leaving the chief administration of affairs in the hands of M. de Courelles.

The Civil Government was still administered by M. Talon, who applied his whole energy to the development of the agricultural, mineral, and marine resources of the colony. His efforts to induce emigration from France met, for a time, with any marked success, chiefly through the indifference of the Home Government, leave was obtained for the soldiers stationed in the country to remain in Canada as colonists. The officers were granted extensive seignories, with their faithful followers as vassals. Besides, M. de Talon, on his temporary retirement to France in 1673, succeeded in having an armament with three hundred soldiers and seven hundred emigrants equipped at great cost. By the grants to the soldiers and the arrival of the new immigrants the rapid advancement of the colony was secured. Its population was now more than six thousand, exclusive, of course, of aborigines.

The extent of its trade may be judged from the fact that in one year eleven hundred sail visited the port Quebec, and that the estimated value of the furs exported to France, for a similar period, reached the almost incredible figure of 550,000 francs. This spirit of enterprising activity led the Intendant to encourage the extension of French dominion to the west. In 1670 he dispatched M. de St. Lussan to the great lakes region, and Ottawa. The Jesuit missionaries had already predisposed the native tribes in the west to a ready acceptance of French sovereignty. Accordingly, in May, 1671, by the intermeddling of Father Allouez, to the Algonquins, and by the same Father Lussan to the great lakes region, and Ottawa. The Jesuit missionaries had already predisposed the native tribes in the west to a ready acceptance of French sovereignty. 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