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essessessessessesses IN CURIOUS KOREA

Emile Gaboriau

CHAPTER V.

HE Archangel hotel, Mme. Gip-sy's asylum, was the most el-egant building on the Qual St. Michel. A person who paid her fortnight's board in advance was treated with consideration at this hotel. Mme. Alexandre, who had been

a pretty woman, was now stout, tightly laced, always overdressed and fond
of wearing a number of flashy gold
chains, falling in cascades over her fat
bosom. She had bright eyes and white
teeth, but, alas, a red nose. Of all her
weaknesses—and heaven knows she
had indulged in every variety—only
one remained; she loved a good dinner,
with plenty of wine. She loved her with plenty of wine. She loved her husband, and about the time M. Patrigent was leaving the hospital she be-gan to be worried that her "little man" had not returned to dinner. She was about to sit down without him when the hotel boy cried out:
"Here is monsteave"

"Here is monsieur!"

"Why, how late you are, my little man!" she cried as she dropped her knife and fork and rushed forward to embrace him.

But he received her caresses with an

air of abstraction.

"I'm tired." he said. "I have been the whole day playing billiards with Evariste, M. Fauvel's valet, and allowed him to win as often as he wished. I became acquainted with him yesterday, and now I am his best friend. If I wish to enter M. Fauvel's service as a messenger, I can rely upon M. Evariste's good word." M. Evariste's good word." "What, you be an office messenger?

You?" "Of course I would. How c' am I to get into M. Fauvel's house for the

to get into M. Fauvel's house or the purpose of studying my characters?"

"Then the valet gave you no news?"

"Nothing that I could make use of, and yet I turned him inside out like a glove. This banker is a remarkable man. Evariste says he has not a single vice, not even a little defect by which his valet could gain 10 sous. He neither smokes, drinks nor plays—in fact, he is a saint. He is worth millions and lives as respectably and lions and lives as respectably and quietly as a grocer. He is devoted to his wife, adores his children, is very

nis wife, adores his children, is very hospitable, but seldom goes into society."

"Then his wife is young?"

"She must be about fifty."

Mme. Alexandre reflected a moment.

"Did you inquire about the other members of the family?"

"Certainly. The younger son is any

"Certainly. The younger son is an officer in the army. The elder son, Lucien, lives with his parents and is as proper as a young lady."

"And this niece of whom you have

spoken?"
"Evariste could tell me nothing

about her."
Mme. Alexandre shrugged her shoul-"If you have discovered nothing, it is because there is nothing to be dis-covered. Still do you know what I would do if I were in your place?"

"What?"
"I would consult M. Lecoq."
At the mention of this name Fanferlot jumped up as if he had been shot.
"That's pretty advice! Do you want
me to lose my place? M. Lecoq does
not suspect that I have snything to do
with the case except to obey his orders."

ders."
"Who told you to let him know you were investigating it on your own ac-count? You can consult him with an air of indifference, as if you were not at all interested, and after you have got his opinion you can take advantage

The detective weighed his wife's

The detective weighed his wife's words.
"Perhaps you are right," he said.
"Yet M. Lecoq is so devilishly shrewd that he might see through it all."
"Shrewd!" echoed Mme, Alexandre, "Shrewd! All of you at the police office say that so often that you have made his reputation."
"Well, I will think the matter over. But in the meantime what does the life.

But in the meantime what does the lit-tle one say?"

The "little one" was Mme. Nina Gip-

sy. In taking up her abode at the Arch In taking up her shode at the Archangel the poor girl thought she was following good advice, and, as Fanferlot had not shown himself, she was still under the impression that she had obeyed a friend of Prosper. When she received her summons from M. Patrigent, she admired the wonderful skill of the police in discovering her hiding place, for she had established herself at the hotel under a false or, rather, her true name. Palmyre Chocarellle. Artfully questioned by her inquisitive landlady, she had without any mistrust confided her history to her. Thus Fanferiot was able to pose before the judge as a skillful detective when he pretended to have discovered all this information from a variety of sources.

"The little one is still up stairs," answered Mme. Alexandre. "She suspects nothing. But to keep her in her present ignorance becomes daily more difficult. I don't know what the judge told her, but she came home very ansay. She wanted to go and make a tuss at M. Fauvel's. Then she wrote is letter, which she told Jean to post for her. But I kept it to show you."

"What!" interrupted Fanteriot. "You have a letter and did not tell me her

fore? Perhaps it contains the clew to the mystery. Quick! Give it to me!"

Mme. Alexandre opened a little cupboard and took out a letter, which she
handed to her husband.

"Here, take it." she said, "and be
satisfied."

satisfied."
Considering that she used to be a chambermaid, Paimyre Chocareille, since become Mme. Gipsy, wrote a good letter. It was addressed in a free, flowing hand: "M. M. L. de Clameran, Forge-Master, Hotel du Louvre. To be handed to M. Raoul de Lagors. (Very important.)"

Yo be handed to M. Raoul de Lagors. (Very important.)"
"Oh, ho!" said Fanferlot, accompanying his explanation with a little whistle, as was his habit when he thought he had made a grand discovery. "Oh, ho!" ery. "Oh, ho!"
"Do you intend to open it?" question-

of Mme. Alexandre.
"Yes," said Fanferlot as he dexterously opened the envelope.
Mme. Alexandre leaned over the shoulder of her "little man," and they

M. Raoul-Prosper is in prison accused of a robbery which I know he never committed. Three days ago I wrote to you on this subject.
"What!" interrupted Fanferlot. "This silly girl wrote and I never saw the "But, little man, she must have post-ed it herself the day she went to the Palais de Justice."
"Very likely," said Fanferlot, satis-fied. He continued reading:

fied. He continued reading:

I wrote to you three days ago and have no reply. Who will help Prosper if his best triends desert him? If you don't answer this letter, I shall consider myself released from a certain promise and without scruple will tell Prosper of the conversation I overheard between you and M. de Clameran. But I can count on you, can I not? I shall expect you at the Archangel hotel day after tomorrow between 12 and 4.

NINA GIFST.

The letter read, Fanferlot without a word proceeded to copy it.
"Well," said Mme. Alexandre, "what

do you say?"
Fanferlot was delicately resealing the copied letter when the door of the hotel office was suddenly opened, and the

Fanferlot disappeared with marvel-ous celerity into a dark closet. He had barely time to close the door before Mme. Gipsy entered.

Alas, the poor girl was sadly changed. She was pale, her cheeks were hollow and her eyes were red with weeping.
On seeing her Mme. Alexandre could

not repress a cry of surprise.
"Why, my child, you are not going

"I am obliged to do so, madame, and I came to ask you to tell any one that may call during my absence to wait until I return."

"But where are you going at this hour, sick as you are?" Mme. Gipsy hesitated a moment.

"Oh," she said, "you are so good to e that I am tempted to confide in you. Read this note, which a messen ger just now brought to me."

"What!" cried Mme. Alexandre, perfectly aghast. "A messenger come here and go up to your room?"

"Is there anything surprising in

And in a tone loud enough to be heard in the closet she read the note: To Be Continued.

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WHERE THE RUSSIAN AND JAPANESE ARMIES MAY MEET.

ee, in Which Brave Me Defied the Power of Asia-Picturesque Walled Cities-Where a Spartan Band

If Russia and Japan come to blows er their present differences they are ely to find in Korea a field of batin which the desperate deeds of lor of the ancient Greeks will be eated, for Korea is a land of valor of the ancient Greeks will be repeated, for Korea is a land of rocks, mountains, ravines and rivers. Its roads are always suggesting to the traveler Macaulay's words, 'In yon strait path a thousand may well be stopped by three.' The Spartan band business could be done here in a thousand places even better than it was done in the 'glorious days ef old.' In fact, on one occasion Marathen was completely outdone. It was in the sixteenth century, on the highroad between Fusan and Seoul. A Chinese army met a Japanese force on this thoroughfare, near the frontier. A dozen men or se were killed on such side and the second of t Secul. A Chinese army met a Japanese force on this thoroughfare, near the frontier. A dozen men or so were killed on each side, and their bodies so blocked the road that further fighting was impossible. The armies then sat down and tried to tire each other out. At the end of twe weeks both grew so weary that they retired to their respective head-quarters and reported that the war would better be given up. One who passes through these inhospitable gorges cannot but commend the wisdom of the two commanders.

Kores, in spite of its topographical eccentricities, which have given it the name of "the Switzerland of the East," possesses much fertile and arable land, but the natives are too strong to work. They content themselves with doing as little as possible beyond the labar demanded by



one of the chief industries. Fishing is one of the chief industries. The weaving and braiding of rice straw is another. Immense loads of this straw are constantly being carried into the capital on human backs and in boats on the water courses. It is twisted into the water courses. It is twisted into the the curious ropes, used by beatmen and junkmen; into hats and sandals and a hundred other articles. Rice is the chief of the Kereans' dist, with beans, peas and millet "on the side." Tobacce is grown in large quantities, and every Kerean smokes. They use pipes about fifteen inches long, and these are constantly in their mouths.

tong, and these are constantly in their mouths.

The Korean men are generally fine leaking, fairly tall and straight. They resemble the Japanese more than the Chinese and look not untike the American Indians. The women can lay little claim to beauty. What few good looks they change to be born with depart as they grow up. The condition of the women is abject, but with the introduction of foreign ideas is impreving. Girls are married at a very early age and after marriage must be seen by no men except those of their families. This applies only to the upper classes, however. The woman of the lowest classes have almost as much freedom as the man are stated to the control of the lowest classes have almost as much freedom.

classes have almost as much freedom as the men, particularly the freedom to work. Men and women dress very much alike—in baggy trousers covered by a sort of kimono or night-

much alike—in baggy trousers covered by a sort of kimono or nightgown. Bachelors wear their hair in pigtails down their backs. Married men and those about to be married do their locks up in topknots. The women coil thair hair on the backs of their locks up in topknots. The women coil thair hair on the backs of their necks and stick it full of gold and amber hairpins. Marriages are arranged entirely by parents, with commercial views, and the husband is not permitted to see his intended before the wedding. As in China, the mether-in-law is a potent personage, and it is enly in this capacity that a high class Korean woman has any authority at all.

Seoul and Fusan are well laid out communities, with broad streets and houses of stone, but the other cities are squalid. All the cities are walled, and the gates are opened at surrise and clessed with the setting sun. The big bell in the centre of the town rings its warning as the light begins to fade, and the gatekeepers shout out hearsely that time is up, while crowds of men, women and children scramble to get in er out before it is too late. The gates ence town rings its warning as the light begins to fade, and the gatekeepers shout out hearsely that time is up, while crowds of men, women and children scramble to get in er out before it is too late. The gates once allocked and bolted, every good citizen retires to his house.

The main street of Scoul, leading to the royal palace, is immensely wide, so wide that two rows of small thatched house and shops are built in the middle of the street itself. These must be pulled down, though, whenever the empere leaves his sacred seclusion to visit the tombs of his gatestore of Korean architecture is the three reofed, pagodalike effect. All the more portentious buildings and the houses over the city gateways are built in this style.

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