STORIES OF ADVENTURE

EXPLOITS OF A BRIGADIER GENERAL

DEVIL. The spring is at hand, my friends. I can

see the the little green spearheads breaking out once more upon the chestnut trees, and the eafe tables have all been moved into the sunshine. It is more pleasant to sit there, and yet I do not wish to tell my little stories to the whole town. You have heard my doings as a lieutenant, as a squadron officer, as a colonel, as the chief of a brigade. But now I suddenly become something higher and more important. 1 become history.

If you have read of those closing years of the life of the Emperor which were spent in the Island of St. Helena, you will remember that, again and again, he implored permission to send out one single letter which should be unopened by those who held him. Many times he made this request, and even went so far as to promise that he would provide for his own wants and cease to be an expense to the British Government if it were granted to him. But his guardians knew that he was a terrible man, this pale, fat gentleman in the straw hat, and they dared not grant him what he asked. Many have wondered who it was to whom he could have any. thing so secret to say. Some have supposed that it was his wife, and some that it was his father-in-law; some that it was to the Emperor Alexander, and some to Marshal Soult. What will you think of me, my friends, when I tell you it was to me—to me, the Brigadier Gerard—that the me—to me, the Brigadier Gerard—that vill Emperor wished to write! Yes, humble as you see me, with only my 100 francs a month of half-pay between me and hunger it in y between me and hunger, it is none s true that I was always in the Emperor's mind, and that he would have given his left hand for five minutes' talk I will tell you to-night how this

It was after the Battle of Fere-Champewhere the conscripts in their blouses and their sabots made such a fine stand, that we, the more long-headed of us, began to understand that it was all over with us. Our reserve animunition had been taken in the battle, and we were left with silont guns and empty caissons. Our cavalry, too, was in a deplorable condition, and my own brigade had been destroyed in the great that the enemy had taken Paris, that the enemy had taken Paris, that the citizens had mounted the white cockade; and finally, most terrible of all, that Marmont and his corps had gone over to the is corps had gone over to the We looked at each other and mont and his corps had gone over to the Bourbons. We looked at each other and asked how many more of our generals were going to turn against us. Already there were Jourdan, Marmont, Murat, Bernadotte, and Jomini—though nobody minded much about Jomini, for his pen was always sharper than his sword. We had been ready to fight, Europe, but it looked now as though we were to fight Europe and half France as well.

ance as well.

We had come to Fontainbleau by a long, forced march, and there we were assembled, the poor remnants of us, the corps of Ney, the corps of my cousin Gerard, and the corps the corps of my cousin Gerard, and the corps of Macdonald; twenty-five thousand in all, with seven thousand of the guard. But we had our prestige, which was worth fifty thousand, and our Emperor, who was worth fifty thousand more. He was always among us, serene, smiling, confident, taking his snuff and playing with his little riding-whip. Never in the days of his greatest victories er in the days of his greatest victories Jadmired him as much as I did during

he wished to see me. When I speak of my old comrades in arms, I will, with

he wished to see me. When I speak of my old comrades in arms, I will, with your permission, leave out all the fine foreign titles which they had picked up during the wars. They are excellent for a Court, but you never heard them in the camp for we could not afford to do away with our Ney, our Rapp, or our Soult—names which were as stirring to oprears as the blare of our trumpets blowing the reveille. It was Berthier, then, who sent to say that he wished to see me.

He had a suite of rooms at the end of the gallery of Francis the First, not very far from those of the Emperor. In the waste of the Emperor, In the waste of the Emperor. In the waste of the Emperor, In the waste of the Emperor, In the waste of the Emperor. In the waste of the Emperor, In the waste of the Emperor, In the waste of the Emperor. In the waste of the Emperor of the there were some spirits which would rise to deversity. "My papers and my fortune must be secured," whispered the Emperor. In the waste of the waste of the Emperor. In the waste of the Emperor of the Emperor of the Emperor. In the waste of the Emperor of the Emperor. In 57th of the line, and Captain Tremeau, of the Voltigeurs. They were both old soldiers—Tremeau had carried a musket in Egypt—and they were also both famous in the army for their courage and their skill with weapons. Tremeau had become a little stiff in the wrist, but Despienne was capable at his edwyself with muttering "Atrocious! best of making me exert myself. He was a tiny fellow, about three inches short of the proper height for a man—he was exactly three inches shorter than myself—but hoth with the sabre and with the smallboth with the sabre and with the small-sword he had several times almost held his own against me when we used to exhibit at Verron's Hall of Arnis in the Palais Royal. You may think that it made us sniff something in the wind when we found three such men called together into one room. You cannot see the lettuce and the dressing without suspecting a salad.

ing without suspecting a saiad.
"Name of a pipe!" said Tremeau, in his barrack-room fashion.
"Are we then ex-Pane of a pipe!" said Tremeau, in his barrack-room fashion. "Are we then expecting three champions of the Bourbons?" To all of us the idea appeared not improbable. Certainly in the whole army we were the very three who might have been chosen to meet them.

"The Prince of Neufchatel desires to speak with the Brigadiar Georged" said as

speak with the Brigadier Gerard," said a footman, appearing at the door,

In I went, leaving my two companions onsumed with impatience behind n.e. It

EOW THE BRIGADIER WAS TEMPTED BY THE | hair by trimming his pelisse with fur, one campaign, and with grey astrakhan the next. On his clean-shaven, comely face there was an expression of trouble, and he looked at me as I entered his chamber in a way which had in it something furtive and displeasing.

"Chief of Brigade Gerard!" said he.

"At your service, your Highness!" I answered.

I must ask you, before I go farther, to promise me, upon your honor as a gentle-man and a soldier, that what is about to pass between us shall never be mentioned

to any third person."

My word, this was a fine beginning! I had ne choice but to give the promise re-

quired.

"You must know, then, that it is all over with the Emperor," said he, looking down at the table and speaking very slowly, as if he had a hard task in getting out the words. "Jourdan at Rouen and Marmont at Paris have both mounted the white cockade, and it is rumored that Talleyrand has talked Ney into doing the same. It is evident that further resistance is useless, and that it can only bring misery upon our country. I wish Turther resistance is useless, and that it can only bring misery upon our country. I wish to ask you, therefore, whether you are prepared to join me in laying hands upon the Emperor's person, and bringing the war to a conclusion by delivering him over to the allies."

I assure you that when I heard this in I assure you that when I heard this infamous proposition put forward by the man who had been the earliest friend of the Emperor, and who had received greater favours from him than any of his followers, I could only stand and stare at him in amazement. For his part he tapped his pen handle against his teeth, and looked at megith a starting head. with a slanting head.

"Well?" he asked.
"I am a little deaf upon one side,"said I, coldly. "There are some things which I cannot hear. I beg that you will permit me to return to my duties."
"Nay, but you must not be headstrong,"

my shoulder. "You are aware that the Senate has declared against Napoleon, and that the Emperor Alexander refuses to treat with

"Sir," I cried, with passion, "I would have you know that Ido not care the dregs of a wine-glass for the Senate or for the Emperor Alexander either."
"Then for what do you care?"

"For my own honour and for the service f my glorious master, the Emperor

That is all very well," said Berthier, That is all very well, said perture, peevishly, shrugging his shoulders. "Facts are facts, and as men of the world, we must look them in the face. Are we to stand against the will of the nation? Are we to have civil war on the top of all our mis-fortunes? And, besides, we are thinning away. Every hour comes the news of fresh desertions. We have still time to make our peace, and indeed, to earn the highest reward, by giving up the Emperor."

reward, by giving up the Emperor."

I shook so with passion that my sabre clattered against my thigh.

"Sir," I cried, "I never thought to have seen the day when a Marshal of France would have so far degraded himself as to put forward such a proposal. I leave you to your own conscience; but as for me, until I have the Emperor's own order, there shall always be, the sword of Etienne Gerard between his enemies and himself."

I was so moved by my own words and by the fine position which I had taken up, that my voice broke, and I could hardly refrain from tears. I should have liked the whole army to have seen me as I stood with my head so proudly erect and my hand upon my heart proclaming, my devotion to the Emperor in his adversity. It was one of the supreme moments of my life. "Very good," said Berthier, ringing a bell for the lackey. "You will show the Chief of Brigade Gerard into the salon." The footman led me into an inner room.

corner, when suddenly a most extraordinary uproar broke out in the room which we had just quitted. There was a snarling, worrying growl, like that of a fierce dog which has got his grip. Then came a crash and a voice calling for help. In we rushed, the two of us, and, my faith, we were none too soon.

Soon.
Old Tremeau and Berthier were rolling together upon the floor, with the table upon the top of them. The Captain had one of the top of them. The Captain had one of his great, skinny, yellow hands upon the Marshal's throat, and already his face was lead-colored, and his eyes were starting from their sockets. As to Tremeau, he was beside himself, with foam upon the corners of his lips, and such a frantic expression upon him that I am convinced, had we not loosened his iron grip, finger by finger, that it would never have relaxed while the Marshal lived. His nails were whits with the power of his grasp.

across to Berthier and put his hand upon his shoulder.

"You must not quarrel with blows, my dear Prince," said he; "they are your title to nobility." He spoke in that soft caressing manner which he could assume. There was no one who could make the French tongue sound so pretty as the Emperor, and no one could make it more harsh and ter-

"I believe he would have killed me," oried Rerthier, still rolling his head about.
"Tut, tut! I should have come to your help had these officers not heard your cries. But I trust that you are not really hurt!" He spoke with earnestness, for he was in truth very fond of Berthier—more so than of any man, unless it were of poor Duroc. Berthier laughed, though not in a very good grace.

good grace.
"It is new for me to receive my injuries

"It is new for me to receive my injuries from French hands," said he.

"And yet it was in the cause of France," i returned the Empezor. Then, turning to us, he took old Tremeau by the ear. "Ah, old grumbler," said he, "you were one of my Egyptian grenadiers, were you not, and had your musket of honour at Marengo. I remember you very well my good friend. So the old fires are not yet critiquished! They still burn up when you think that your Emperor is wronged. And you, Colonel Despienne, you would not even listen to the tempter. And you, Gerard, your faithful sword is ever to be between me and my enemies. Well, well, I have had some traitors about me, but between me and my enemies. Well, well, I have had some traitors about me, but now at last we are are the true men. last we are beginning to see who

are the true men."
You can fancy, my friends, the thrill of joy which it gave us when the greatest man in the whole world spoke to us in this fashion. Tremeau shook until Lithought he would have fallen, and the tears ran down his gigantic moustache. If you had not seen it, you could never believe the influence which the Emperor had upon those coarse grained, savage old veterans.

"Well, my faithful friends," said he, "if you will follow me into this room, I will explain to you the meaning of this little farce which we have been acting. I beg, Berthier, that you will remain in this chamber, and so make sure that no one interrupts us."

It was new for us to be doing business, with a Marshal of France as sentry at the door. However, we followed the Emperor as we were ordered, and he led us into the interrupts us. recess of the window, gathering us around him and sinking his voice as he addressed

us.

"I have picked you out of the whole army, said he, "as being not only the most formidable but also the most faithful of my soldiers. I was convinced that you my soldiers. I was convinced that you were all three men who would never waver in your fidelity to me. If I have ventured to put that fidelity to the proof, and to watch you whilst attempts were at my orders made upon your honour, it was only because, in the days when I have found the blackest treason amongst my own flesh and blood, it is necessary that I should be doubly circumspect. Suffice it that I am well convinced now that I can rely upon your valour."

"To the death, sire!" cried Tremeau, and we both repeated it after him.

and we both repeated it after him.

Napoleon drew us all yet a little closer
to him, and sank his voice still lower.

"What I say to you now I have said to no one—not to my wife or my brothers; only to you. It is all up with us, my friends. We have come to our last rally. The game is finished, and we must make

Chief of Brigade Gerard into the selon."

The footman led me into an inner room, where he desired me to be seated. For my own part, my only desire was to get away, and I could not understand why they should wish to detain me. When one has had no change of uniform during a whole winter's campaign, one does not feel at the country of th

men whom I can trust with that which is more precious to me than my life. Out of the whole of France, you are those whom I have chosen for this sacred trust.

"In the first place, I will tell you what these papers are. You shall not say that I have made you blind agents in the matter. They are the official proof of my divorce from Josephine, of my legal marriage to Marie Louise, and of the birth of my son and heir, the King of Rome. If we cannot prove each of these, the future claim of my family to the throne of France fails to the ground. Then there are fails to the ground. Then there are securities to the value of forty millions of securities to the value of forty millions of france—an immense sum, my friends, but of no more value than this riding switch compared to the other papers of which I have spoken. I tell you these things that you may realize the enormous importance of the task which I am committing to your care. Listen, now, while I inform you where you are to get these papers, and what you are to do with them.

"They were handed ever to my trusty friend, the Countess Walewski, at Paris, this morning. At five o'clock she starts

In I went, leaving my two companions consumed with impatience behind n.e. It was a small room, but very gorgeously furnished. Berthier was seated opposite to me at a little table, with a pen in his hand and a note-book opened before him. He was looking weary and slovenly—very different from that Berthier who used to give the fashion to the army, and who had so often set us poorer officers tearing our it would never have rejaxed while the marked while the Marshal lived. His nails were whits with the power of his grasp. "I have been tempted by the devil!" he cried, as he staggered to his feet. "Yes, I hand and a note-book opened before him. As to Berthier, he could only lean against the wall, and pant for a couple of minutes, putting his hands up to his throat and rolling his head about. Then, with an often set us poorer officers tearing our strength of the countess Walewski, at Paris, this morning. At five o'clock she starts for Fontainebleau ir her blue berline. She should reach here between half-past nine and ten. The papers will be concealed in the berline, in a hiding-place which none know but herself. She has been warned that her carriage will be stopped outside the town by three mounted officers, and she will hand the packet over to your care,

angry gesture, he turned to the heavy blue curtain which hung behind his chair.

"There, sire!" he cried, furiously, "I told you exactly what would come of it."

The curtain was torn to one side and the Emperor stepped out into the room. We sprang to the salute, we three old soldiers, but it was all like a scene in a dream to us, and our eyes were as far outas Berthier's had been. Napoleon was dressed in his green-coated chasseur uniform, and he held his little silver-headed switch in his hand. He looked at us each in turn, with a smile upon his face—that frightful smile in which neither eyes nor brow joined—and each in turn had, I believe, a pringling on his skin, for that was the effect which the Emperor's gaze had upon most of us. Then he walked across to Berthier and put his hand upon his shoulder.

"You must not quarrel with blows, my dear Prince," said he; "they are your tile to nobility." He spoke in that soft caressing manner which he could assume, There was no one who could make the French tongue sound so pretty as the Emperor, and together the soil with great care, and you will treplace the soil with great care, and you will such an accuracy and minute.

These were the younger man, Gerard, but you are of the senior grade. I confide to your care this amethyat ring, which you will send which you will leave with her as a receipt for her papers.

"Having received the packet, you will fit into the forest as far as the ruined dove-house—the Colombier. It is possible that I may meet you will fit seems to me to be daugerous, I will send my body-servant, Mustapha, whose directions you may take as being mine. There is no root to the Colombier, and to rice with it into the Colombier. It is fit seems to me to be daugerous, I will send my body-servant, Mustapha, whose directions you may take as being mine. There is no root to the Colombier, and the view will be a full moon. At the right of the entrance you will find three spades learning against the wall. With these you will dig a hole three feet deep in the north

and you will then report to me at the palace."

These were the Emperor's directions, but given with such an accuracy and minuteness of detail such as no one but himself could put into an order. When he had finished, he made us swear to keep his secret as long as he lived, and as long as the papers should remain buried. Again and again he made us swear it before he dismissed us from his presence.

Colonel Despienne had quarters at the "Sign of the Pheasant," and it was there that we supped together. We were all three men who had been trained to take the strangest turns of fortune as part of our daily life and business, yet we were all flushed and moved by the extraordinary interview which we had had, and by the thought of the great adventure which lay before us. For my own part, it had been my fate several times to take my orders from the lips of the Emperor himself, but neither the incident of the Ajaccio murderers nor the famous ride which I made to Paris appeared to offer such opportunities as this new and most intimate commission. "If things go right with the Emperor," said Despienne, "we shall all live to be marshals yet."

said Despienne, "we shall all live to be marshals yet,"
We drank with him to our future cocked

hats and our batons.
It was agreed between us that we should It was agreed between us that we should make our pay separately to our rendezvous, which was to be the first milestone upon it he Paris road. In this way we should avoid the gossip which might get about if three men who were so well known were to be seen riding out together. My lictle Violette had cast a shoe that morning, and the farrier was at work upon her when I returned, so that my comrades were already there when I arrived at the trysting-place. I had taken with me not only my sabre, but also my new pair of English rifled pistols, with a mallet for knocking in the charges. They had cost me a hundred and fifty francs at Trouvel's in the Rue de Rivoli, but they would carry far further and straighter than the others. It was with one of them that I had saved old Bouvet's life at Leipzig.

straighter than the others. It was a some of them that I had saved old Bouvet's life at Leipzig.

The night was cloudless, and there was a brilliant moon behind us, so that we always had three black horsemen riding down the white road in front of us. The country is so thickly wooded, however, that we could not see very far. The great palace clock had already struck ten, but there was no sign of the Countess. We began to fear that something might have prevented her from starting.

that something might have prevented her from starting.

And then suddenly we heard her in the distance. Very faint at first were the birr of wheels and the tat-tat-tat of the horses feet. Then they grew louder and clearer and louder yet, until a pair of yellow lanterns swung round the curve, and in their light we saw the two big brown horses traing along with the high, blue carriage at the back of them. The position pulled them up panting and foaming within a few yards of us. In a moment we were at the window and had raised our hands in a salute to the beautiful pale face which looked out at us.

to the beautiful pale face which looked out at us.

"We are the three officers of the Emperor, madame," said I, in a low voice, leaning my face down to the open window. "You have already been warned that we should wait upon you."

The countess had a very beautiful, cream-tinted complexion of a sort which I particularly admired, but she grow whiter and whiter as she looked up at me. Harsh lines deepened upon her face until she seemed, even as I looked at her, to turn from youth into age.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Poultry Industry.

enormous. It is to be hoped that the Government will direct its attention to other branches of agriculture. There is the poultry industry, as an example. England purchased \$22,000,000 worth of eggs last year from France, Denmark, and Continental countries. We can get some of these millions if our farmers will keep the fowls which lay the large eggs, and if eggs are sent over in good condition for the English market. What is wanted is instruction in the business of keeping the right kind of poultry, of feeding it to the best advantage, and of marketing the eggs. English market. What is wanted is instruction in the business of keeping the right kind of poultry, of feeding it to the best advantage, and of marketing the eggs. Along with egg exportations will of course, go poultry exportations. For poultry there is also a large market in England. Mr. Gilbert, of the Poultry Department, is already doing excellent work. But he can do more, and with great benefit, if the opportunity and the facilities for doing it are afforded him.

The New Deal.

I'm a man and she's a woman I must fight the battle through—Hold on. I guess not. Thank you. She is a woman new.

Good Plan.

What did your tailor charge you for that

Nothing. How did that happen? He didn't charge it. I paid him for it. SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD FIELDS

Look Through the Boom City of

Some nine or ten years ago, when the Kimberley days were drawing to an end, owing to the diamond fields having become practically a monopoly, faint murmurs of gold to be found ' 'up country" crept inte the moist, warm air, and revived the drooping spirits of the ardent little Kimberley colony. Regardless of hardship—nay, misery—buoyant with hope, and with an esprit de corps seldom seen outside a mining camp, they trekked in wagons drawn by mules or oxen, and in this primitive manner—the only one possible at the time -they left the home of their lost prosperity to seek a new El Dorado in unknown regions. Seldom, if ever, is the pioneer of any enterprise the man who reaps the benefit of his temerity; his struggles serve but to point the way to newcomers, and his inevitable failures but to help others to success. Johannesburg leapt into life from these first few wagonloads, which were these first few wagonloads, which were tentatively outspanned on a barren, sandy tract of land, around which, in an incredibly short time, new wagon loads, tin shanties and canteens collected. The gold fever, always incipient, broke out with its usual virulence, drawing within its miasmatic reach all sorts and conditions of men to lay the foundations of the town. Then began the prospecting, the pegging out of claims, the prospecting, the pegging out of claims, the formation both of bogus and bona fide companies and syndicates, the rapid buying up of farms and farmsteads.

To-day the newcomer alighting at the Park Station (presuming that he arrives by train from Cape Town) is

PLEASANTLY IMPRESSED.

He sees a bright, lively, and promising little town, picturesque, scattered, and busy. The soil is of a bright brickdust red, which tones well with the emerald green of the newly planted gum trees. The bungalow dwelling houses boast each a stoop (veranda), and a small plot of ground, and seem to tell a tale of simple satisfaction, lending a charm which lasts about a week, let us say, for the dullest person does not take long to find out that almost every erection in the town it "jerry" built. Windows are not made to exclude the air, nor doors to reach their lintels, the walls do nothing much towards deadening sound, and the ceilings, though very often formed of polished wooden panels, are not so frequently impervious to rain; in fact, umbrellas and mackintoshes have on occasions been used, even in bed, as a protection He sees a bright, lively, and promising

quently impervious to rain; in fact, umbrellas and mackintoshes have on occasions been used, even in bed, as a protection from intruding raindrops.

Such bungalows, which are the homes of the middle classes, consist of three or four bed rooms, a sitting room, kitchen and small larder, with a compound (yard) and small garden attached, and costs in town from about £20 to £25, and within a ten minutes radius from the town about £12 to £15 a month, most contracts and all minutes radius from the town about to £15 a month, most contracts and all payments being made by the month. Therefore, to move from one house to another several times in a year is not a very unusual in attended by much several times in a year is not a very unusual occurrence, nor is it attended by much difficulty, for the household goods are few, and the residents are averse to increasing the number of their possessions from lack of space in which to place them. "Art" muslin, packing-cases and paraffine oil time form a large item in the economy of thoso who can not afford to import furniyure from home. Muslin window curtains, sometimes of the lighest coloring, are very effective in the bright sunshine, which is seldom dulled for long. The possibilities of packing cases are almost beyond limit, for, with a little dexterity, they can be converted from dressing table to divan from linen press to larder, and so on, while empty off time refilled with the

RICH RED VIRGIN SOIL,

which will grow almost everything, are, when planted with creepers, ferns and flowers, and placed along the stoop, almost as decorative as the flower box which occu-

particularly admired, but she grow whiter and whiter as she looked up at me. Harsh lines deepened upon her face until she seemed, even as I looked at her, to turn from youth into age.

"It is evident to me," she said, "that you are three impostors."

If she had struck me across the face with her delicate hand she could not have startled me more. It was not her words only, but the bitterness with which he hissed them out. tainable, costs from £2 10s to £3 or more per month, and is an endless source of annoyance and difficulty. Some of them are raw Kaffirs from "up country," who enter service knowing nothing of civiliza-The Poultry Industry.

Prince Edward Island makes \$200,000 this year through the butter and cheese industries. The expenditure on promotion and education was trifing; the results in the compound, eat mealy meal (local name for an inferior sort of Indian corn) or Government will direct its attention to scraps and leavings, at which they are

An Unfeeling Estimate.

So you wouldn't take me to be twenty-five, tittered Miss Twitters. What would you take me for, then?
About thirty six, replied inconsiderate
Mr. Swayback.

Always at Hand.

Husband (rummaging through a drawer) -Well, it's very strange; I can never find anything.
Wife—You can always find fault, it seems

to me.