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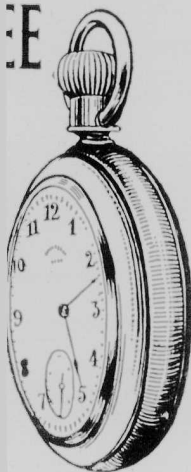
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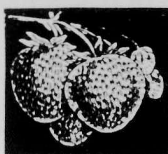
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congregated round the house. The
noise increased to such a degree that
they stopped their conversation, and
both the dame and the Bourgeois
looked out of the window at the in-
creasing multitude that had gathered
in the street.

The crowd had come to the Rue
Buade to see the famous tablet of
the Golden Dog, which was talked of
in every seigniory in New France;
still more, perhaps, to see the Bour-
geois Philibert himself—the great
merchant who contended for the
rights of the habitants, and who would
not yield an inch to the Friponne.

The Bourgeois looked down at the
ever-increasing throng—country peo-
ple for the most part, with their
wives, with not a few citizens, whom
he could easily distinguish by their
dress and manner. The Bourgeois
stood rather withdrawn from the
front, so as not to be recognized, for
he hated intensely anything like a
demonstration, still less an ovation.
He could hear many loud voices,
however, in the crowd, and caught up
the chief topics they discussed with
each other.

His eyes rested several times on a
wiry, jerking little fellow, whom he
recognized as Jean La Marche, the
fiddler, a censitaire of the manor of
Tilly. He was a well-known charac-
ter, and had drawn a large circle
of the crowd around himself.

"I want to see the Bourgeois
Philibert!" exclaimed Jean La
Marche. "He is the bravest mer-
chant in New France—the people's
friend. Bless the Golden Dog, and
curse the Friponne!"

"Hurrah for the Golden Dog, and
curse the Friponne!" exclaimed a
score of voices; "won't you sing,
Jean?"

"Not now; I have a new ballad
ready on the Golden Dog, which I
shall sing to-night—that is, if you
will care to listen to me." Jean
said this with a very demure air of
mock modesty, knowing well that the
reception of a new ballad from him
would equal the furor for a new aria
from the prima donna of the opera at
Paris.

"We will all come to hear it,
Jean!" cried they: "but take care
of your fiddle or you will get it
crushed in the crowd."

"As if I did not know how to take
care of my darling baby!" said Jean,
holding his violin high above his
head. "It is my only child; it will
laugh or cry, and love and scold as I
bid it, and make everybody else do
the same when I touch its heart-
strings." Jean had brought his
violin under his arm, in place of a
spade, to help build up the walls of
the city. He had never heard of
Thebes; but Jean knew that in his
violin lay a power of work by other
hands, if he played while they labored.
"It lightened toil, and made
work go merrily as the bells of Tilly
at a wedding," said he.

There was immense talk, with
plenty of laughter and no thought of
mischievousness, among the crowd. The
habitans of en haut and the habitants
of en bas commingled, as they rarely
did, in a friendly way. Nor was
anything to provoke a quarrel said
even to the Acadians, whose rude
patois was a source of merry jest to
the better-speaking Canadians.

The Acadians had flocked in great
numbers into Quebec on the seizure of
their Province by the English, sturdy,
robust, quarrelsome fellows, who
went about challenging people in their
reckless way.—Etions pas mon
maitre, monsieur?—but all were civil
to-day, and tuques were pulled off and
bows exchanged in a style of easy
politeness that would not have
shamed the streets of Paris.

The crowd kept increasing in the
Rue Buade. The two sturdy beggars
who vigorously kept their places on
the stone steps of the barrier, or
gateway, of the Basse Ville reaped
an unusual harvest of the smallest
coin—Max Grimaud, an old, disabled
soldier, in ragged uniform, which he
had worn at the defence of Prague
under the Marshal de Belleisle, and
blind Bartemy, a mendicant born—the
former, loud tongued and im-
portunate the latter, silent and

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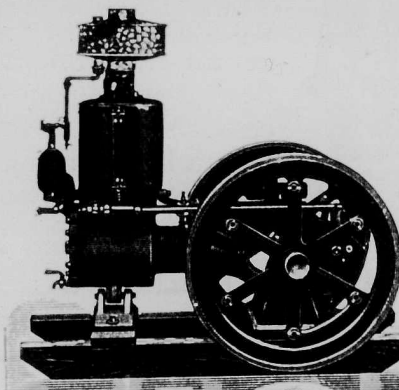
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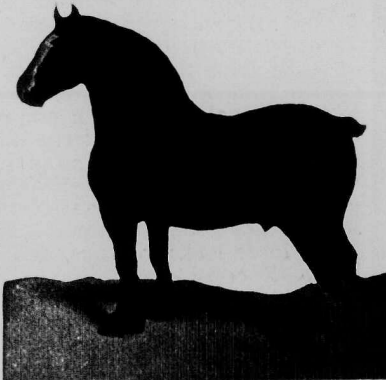
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