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ARMINE.

CHRISTIAN REID

CHAPTER XXXIII.

The next afternoon D'Antignac was alone, lying quietly on his couch after seeing the party of ladies start off for Convent, when the sound of the door-bell was followed a moment later by the entrance of M. de Mar-

D'Antignac's pale, calm face brightened with pleasure, as it always did at sight of this nearest and dearest of all his friends, and he held out his hand with a gesture of welcome.

"One values a pleasure more for its unexpectedness," he said. "I did not know you had returned to Paris." "I have only been in Paris a few hours," the other answered. "I have come here at once. Do I not always come here before I go anywhere else? But to-day I have come with important "Indeed!" said D'Antignac. He

looked keenly at the other's face, as if to determine the character of the news before hearing it. There was certainly no indication of bad news in the serene and slightly smiling expres-sion of the countenance. "It is as I sion of the countenance. "It is as I expected," he said. "You have expected,' found that there was no foundation for Duchesne's belief."

M. de Marigny drew a chair forward and sat down, smiling a little more. Then he said quietly: "Au contraire. I have found his story correct in every particular.'

"Is it possible?" said D'Antignac. He lifted himself to a sitting position, as if, in the eagerness of his interest, unable to remain recumbent. "Do you mean," he said, "that Duchesne was really the heir to the title and estates of Marigny ?"

"I mean," answered the vicomte calmly, "that he had a very good case to carry into a court of law, and might have been declared the true Vicomte de Marigny. But, again, he might not. I have obtained a legal opinion upon the case, and I am told that the issue would be extremely doubtful. The marriage is to be found registered as Duchesne was told—that is, the marriage of a Henri Marigny and Louise Barbeau. But it is necessary to prove that this Henri Marigny was Henri Louis Gaston, Vicomte de Mar-igny, and the only witness of the marriage is long since dead. We have, it strue, the second hand testimony of his son, and the court would decide upon the value of that testimony. The end is this: if Duchesne were living I

should contest his claim, and I doub whether he would succeed in establishing it. But, since he is dead, the case s different. Why?" asked D'Antignac. "For the simple reason that it would have been impossible to surrender to him without a struggle pro-

per y which he would have used in the worst of causes. But with his daughter the matter is different. I have no doubt it will be possible to make an amicable arrangement with her. I shall lay the case before her as it stands, counsel her to take legal advice and to determine what she will accept, or whether she will have her case decided by law.

'Then even in her case you would contest the claim, if brought for the whole estate?"

"I should have no alternative but to do so. My duty to those who are to come after me would demand it. A man who has inherited an old name and an old estate occupies a differen position to that of one who has made his own fortune and, in a certain sense, his own name. The former, at least, is his own to do what he will

with. But one who occupies the place of succession in an old line is no more than a trustee. What was handed down to him he should hand down intact, as far as may be, to those who are to come after him. And therefore, as the guardian of interests not his own, he cannot surrender any part of an in heritance which it is his in a special manner to protect, without absolute assurance of the justice of the claimsuch an assurance as only the decision of a high legal authority can give.

I understand your position," said ntignac. "You are bound for D'Antignac. "You are bound for the sake of others to think of justice rather than of quixotic generosity et, from your speaking of an 'amic ble arrangement' with Armine, judge that you think her claim would

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she has a claim, though whether it can be legally supported is another ques-There is a very good moral cerwhich results from it.'

tion. tainty that a marriage took place, which, though only a civil marriage, would, I presume, be held binding by That being the case, she the Church. is a daughter of the house, and therefore I should be within the bounds of my duty in allowing her whatever was just and right."

D'Antignac lay back on his pillows "I do not think," he said quietly,
"that Armine will accept anything."
"But why should she not—as a
right?" asked the other. "There is no question of generosity in the mat

ter, no room for scruples. Either she has a right or she has not. If she has, why should she hesitate to accept it?
"She will tell you herself," answered D'Antignac. "My opinion is merely an instinct; yet I have never found my instincts with regard to Armine

wrong. "But on what ground do you think her likely to refuse?" "That I do not know. She has not

poken of the matter at all to me. I can only repeat that I have an instinct that she will refuse to press any claim or to take anything."
"But I am told by M. Egerton that

it was her father's dying charge that she should do so.

"Poor Armine!" said D'Antignac Was it not enough for her to have suffered all that she did from her father during his life? Why should he exercise a posthumous tyranny over her now? Egerton, of course, felt obliged to tell her all that Duchesne directed should be told But, that being done, why should there be any farther effort to influence her through his desires, in opposition to her own wishes?"

The vicomte shrugged his shoulders, with a smile. "It would certainly be a singular freak of fate that would make me the advocate of Duchesne's wishes in any respect," he said.
"But it would be strange if they did not influence his daughter, especially as I have seen more than once how strong her sentiment of filial devotion

was."
"It was the strongest sentiment of her nature," said D'Antignac, "and she has been wounded in it, as we are wounded just where pain is most keenly and deeply felt. All her life the cruel struggle has been going on -God on one side, her father on the other; the desire to reverence and the need to excuse, passionate affectionate and intellectual condemnation. She has been torn and crushed; and when, through a most terrible grief, peace has come to her, I must remonstrate against that peace being again disturbed by the image of her father. her, as you propose, the case in all its bearings, give her time to decide upon it, and then accept her decision. I have confidence in Armine. I believe that it will be a wise

"I have confidence in her, too, said the vicomte. "She inspires on with that feeling. Yet she is very young to decide on a matter of so much importance. At least you will promise to give her your advice?"

"If she asks it-certainly. But I annot promise that it will be exactly what you desire.

'I desire only that she shall receive dent that he reflected for a moment before replying. Then he said, with what is justly hers; and you will hardly advise her to reject it?" "I cannot tell until I hear her rea-

the gentle calmness which always "I cannot tell until I hear her reasons for wishing to do so. Armine
sons for wishing to do so. Armine
sons for wishing to do so. I so the sons for wishing to do so. I so that I should
"But it is necessary that I should generally has good reasons for her onduct and opinions. And you must emember that although you are bound to offer whatever is just, she is not bound to accept it."

"She is bound by all the rules of

"Ah! common sense," said D'An-"Well, that is a very good, tignac. very useful, a highly respectable thing; but there is sometimes a sense which is uncommon that is higher and better. I have a great respect for common sense, but I have never made it the standard by which to test all opinions, as a number of worthy people

"Since you have often accused me of something closely verging on quix otism, I suppose I am hardly one of the worthy people," said the vicomte,

laughing.
"No," the other answered, with a smile, "you are not one of them And therefore I shall expect you to be reasonable, if for any motive-which ommon sense perhaps might condemn -Armine declines to profit by this dis

I see that you are firmly of the opinion that she will decline, and that you are also firmly disposed to uphold her in doing so," said the vicomte. Eh bien, I must simply put the mat-er before her myself. When and where can I see her?"

"The 'when' is for you, or for her, to determine," answered D'Antignac.
"But the 'where' is easily arranged, ince she is here.

'Here?" repeated De Marigny glancing involuntarily around. " Not at this moment," said D'An ignac, perceiving the glance. "Just efore you came she went out with Helene and Miss Bertram. But she has been staying with us since she left he convent, to which, as you may renember, she went soon after the death of her father."

"I remember-to be prepared for reception into the Church. She has never been out of the

Church. But she was prepared to receive the sacraments—made a general

his death is the fact that they parted

"His fate was terrible," said the

vicomte; "but I confess that I could

not regret it. He was a man whose

power of doing evil was great in pro-

portion to his natural gifts-and they

were very great. I never heard him

address a multitude, but I can imagine

sessed, and the fiery eloquence which M. the magnetic power which he

Egerton describes as fully equal to that

of Gambetta. And this man, unlike

Gambetta, was not a politician and

self seeker, but he had all the force

which strong, fanatical conviction gives. The day might have come

when he would have played the part of

him more. But how comes on our friend Egerton, who may well speak

feelingly of the eloquence which nearly

"It certainly nearly led him to death," said De Marigny, "but I

doubt if it nearly led him into Social-

ism. He has too clear a mind to be

"I like him exceedingly. There is

something very attractive in his char

acter-an openness and a verve which

promise well. When a man is prepared to hear reason, and is suscept

ble of enthusiasm, one may hope much

with you. It was what he needed

contact with a man of ardent faith,

who is at the same time foremost in

every activity and interest of the world. Generally speaking, it may

be safely said that to convert men of

the world we need those who are, in a

neasure at least, men of the world

also, who possess its polish, its grace,

its keen wisdom, yet use these things

for God and not for the world. And

so I believe that it may be your priv

ilege to bring this soul out of the realm

of shadows-of beliefs without base,

and the vain opinions of men-into

me remind you that to pray is better

than to argue when the conversion of

a soul is in question; and there can

be no doubt whose prayers are of most

"Neither can there be any doubt,"

said D'Antignac, "that, prisoned here on this bed of pain, I am not likely to

forget my friends in the sole thing

When Armine heard of M. de

"I cannot !" she said, shrinking at

D'Antignac did not answer im-

mediately. Her agitation was so evi-

not act merely from an impulsive feel-

"It is not merely an impulsive feel

ing," she said. She came and knelt down by the side of his couch. "Do

you not remember," she said in a low

that divided my father and myself be

gan with—with his seeing me speak to M. de Marigny? And have you

forgotten that I told you how he bade

me never speak to him again? Here

is something in which I can obey him;

D'Antignac, laying his hand tenderly on hers, "I understand all that you

mean and all that you feel; but there

is more to consider than you perhaps

magine. In the first place, it is en

tirely beyond reason that you should

be bound throughout your life by the

arbitrary and hasty command of a

"But M. de Marigny is entirely out

should

of my life," she interrupted quickly

"You cannot have forgotten the com

munication which your father when

dying made to Egerton, and which he

· He disregarded your wishes with

reluctance," said D'Antignac; "but he felt himself bound in honor to

execute as far as possible the trust

There is no reason why I

ever see or speak to him."

onveyed to you

"My dear little Armine,"

and surely I should do so !'

"how all the last cruel trouble

that you will

the mere suggestion. "It is impossible. Do not ask me!"

-vours or mine

that I can still do for them.

reluctance to receiving him.

ask you, and

noment-

one,

I hope much from his association

captivated by such fallacies.'

'You like him, then?"

Nothing would have delighted

But how comes on our

gives.

another Danton."

led him to death?

from him."

divine Truth.

in estrangement - at least on his

never, I fear, entirely recover. ' And yet it must be difficult for her not to feel the relief of the freedom

little cold and reserved.
"I do not think," she said, "that said to myself, "I doubt if she feels it at all," said 'Antignac. "Her nature is too D'Antignac. "Her nature is too deeply affectionate. She was passion-ately attached to her father, and, after violate a secret as a dying confidence." "Not as a dying confidence, if I her fears for his eternal fate, I think that the greatest grief connected with

understand rightly," said D'Antignac,

"but rather as a commission."
"Which he performed when he came to me," she said in the same slightly proud voice, "and therefore with which he had no more to do."

"I do not agree with you," said D'Antignac, exceedingly surprised by this manifestation of character, and under standing more fully the dilemma in which Egerton had found himself. He felt that by the trust which your father had placed in him he was obliged to consider your interest, even if you refused to consider it yourself and, if you have any confidence in my judgment, you may believe that he was right. "I have every confidence in your

judgment," said Armine, with more of her usual manner. "You know that. But I cannot believe that he was right to disregard my wishes and bring upon me, and upon others, annoyance which I wished to avoid. For nothing, M. d'Antignac, nothing shall make me take any step in the matter! What is it to me whether my father had or had not the right to bear a noble name? What is it to me whether a little more or less of wealth might be mine? I in me: I belong to the people, my heart is with the poor and the suffer-ing, and why should I strive to force myself into a noble house that would only scorn the descendant of a peasant and the daughter of a Socialist?

She looked very little like the de scendent of a peasant as she uttered these words, D'Antignac thought. The delicate face was instinct with feeling, the beautiful dark eyes were glowing; he had never been more struck with what he had always remarked in her, the unmistakable signs of inherited refinement.
"I can understand," he said quiet

ly, "that there would be very little to urge you to claim what your fathe regarded as his right, if any struggle were necessary to do so. But if there were none needed—if, instead of scorn ing, the head of the house came volunthe presence of the great reality of tarily to acknowledge and receive you "I will gladly do all that I can to -what then ?" She paused a moment before answer this end," said the vicomte. "But let

ing, and he saw an indescribable change come over her face-a change such as he had often observed when she was touched by a high or beautiful thought. And when she spoke her voice was like a chord of music-so many different tones of feeling blended into it.

"What then?" she repeated. "Only this: that it would be a noble thing for the head of such a house to do, granting that he believed the claim to be just, but that I have no desire for Marigny's visit, and that he desired to the recognition or acknowledgment. see her, she evinced, somewhat to D'Antignac's surprise, the greatest was your father's dying

wish," said D'Antignac. She looked at him with a glance which, even before she spoke, seemed to disarm his power of objection; it was at once so pathetic and so full of the meaning which greater knowledge of a subject gives.

"My father's dying wish has a different significance to you and to me," she said sadly. "You regard it, no doubt, as dictated by solicitude for me, I personal prosperity and happi-But I know my father better for my p than to fancy that. He had not one set of opinions for his public life and another for his private life; he did not preach to others that property and rank are crimes against the brotherhood of humanity, yet grasp at them himself. He was wrong mad, if you will-but I, who spent my life with him, would stake my existence on his sincerity." She paused, for her voice was choked with emotion; but controlling herself after a minute, she "Do you think, therefore vent on: that he wished me to claim rank and wealth in order that I might enjoy privileges that he held to be robbery? Ah! no. What he desired—I know it as certainly as if he had told me-was that I should use them for the ends that he desired, and to which he had given all his own fortune and the labor of his life. I understand now with perfect clearness why it was only after that unhappy visit to Marigny that he began to concern himself about what

I believed, and to endeavor to mould and bend my faith. I remember well how he said that he had thought lightly "There is a very important reason of my opinions as 'merely a girl' why you must of necessity see and speak to him," said D'Antignac. fancy 'until he found that there might be power in my hand for evil or for good; I did not understand him then, but I understand now. The power for good or evil was the inheritance of Marigny, which he thought might be She made a quick gesture as of one mine. Do you think, then, that he would have wished me to possess that power to use for ends which he thought putting a thing away from her - a gesture half-proud, half-pathetic.

"I will have nothing to do with it—
nothing," she said. "What my father evil ?-and you know I could not use it for ends which he thought good. did not claim for himself I shall not

"But you might use it for ends laim in his name. If that is why the which would be truly good?" said Vicomte de Marigny wishes to see me, simply tell him this. I have nothing D'Antignac, anxious to put every view of the case before her, yet certain more to say, only that I am sorry Mr. that she would not be moved. Egerton disregarded my wishes and betrayed the secret confided to him." She shook her head-"Even if I

could," she said-" and that is doubt ful, for what am I but a weak girl without judgment?-you certainly do not think that they would be ends as your father had confided to him, so he came to me for advice. I/agreed with uses it now? Should I take out of his him that M. de Marigny, as head of the hand—if I had the power to do so — Poor child! How changed she was when she returned—quiet, peaceful, almost happy; although her father's certain facts. Yet, after all, it was and defender of all that is most noble

"Yes," he answered, 'I think that death is a blow from which she will not Egerton who informed him, but and of most vital importance to France?

Ab! you do not know." she want on the base a claim, though whether it can prove I feet an increase a claim. myself."
Armine had risen now from her clasping her hands with a familiar Armine had risen now from her clasping her later with the classing position, and stood looking a little cold and reserved.

It is a classing her later with the classical her later with t Mr. Egerton should have come even to you when I requested him to hold inwhich he had received have seen the other side, know must be so long and hard !- something to help those who are to save France, if And now-would she can be saved !' you have me lessen the power for good of one who can do all that I have dreamed of? Oh! no, M. d'Antignac, I am sure you do not wish it; and I am also sure of this, that I would work for my daily bread sooner than touch one centime that came from the rev-

enues of Marigny It was impossible to doubt her earnestness or her resolution, and D'Antig nac smiled a little-an inward and invisible smile, if the phrase may be allowed to describe the slight sense of amusement which does not always find outward expression - as he thought how positively he had prophesied this result, even while ignorant of the rea-

sons which would influence her. "I comprehend your position," he aid after a moment. "You feel that said after a moment. you could not fulfil your father's wish by using anything which came to you brough this claim in the way he desired; so, rather than use it in a way he did not desire, you prefer to leave it in hands where it is certain to be well employed. But you overlook two things-first, that whatever descended to you in such a manner would be absolutely yours, to do what you will with; and you would be no more bound I have enough for my wants, and this with; and you would be no more bound much at least of my father's spirit is by the wishes of your father in the disposition of it than he would have been bound by the wishes of his grandfather — who, we may infer, would certainly not have desired that the family inheritance should be spent in founding a Commune. In the second place, M. de Marigny has a right to decline to retain what he does not feel to be justly his, and you have no right to refuse to hear reasons for believing it to be yours.

She looked at him with the same reluctant expression with which she had first heard the proposal that she should see M. de Martgny.

"You do not know how painful it would be," she said. "Surely it is not Surely you can tell him necessary! what I have said, and assure him that no argument can change my resolution

"I might do that," said D'Antignac, "and still he would be, by the nature of his position, constrained to insist on seeing you; and you have no reason that justifies you in refusing to see

him. "I have the memory of my father's command and of my promise that I would never speak to M. de Marigny

again. My dear Armine, your own good sense must tell you that you are not fettered by such a command or such a promise. Your father himself set both promise. Your father himself set both aside when he directed you to prosecute the claim for the inheritance of Marigny, since it would be impossible to refuse to hold communication with a man who has never injured you and

who is the head of the family. "But I have told you that I have nothing, and can have nothing, to do with the family in one way or another, she said. "Therefore why should I be forced to do this thing? But I do not wish to be childish or unreasonable, she added after a moment, in which only the expression of D'Antignac's face answered her last appeal, "and if you think it absolutely necessary that I should see M. de Marigny, I will e him, though it will be painful-oh! more painful than I can say.

TO BE CONTINUED.

An Old Lenten Pastoral.

The current number of Historical Researches contains a Lenten pastoral by Archbishop Carroll, the Father of the American Hierarchy, copied from the original manuscript, which is preserved in the archives of the Arch-diocese of Baltimore. It is undated, but was probably issued for the Lent of 1811. It is an admirable document, and we are pleased to quote the following passage, which is as timely and practical as when it was first penned, than eighty years ago. Though dead, the great Archbishop yet speaketh to us: "The charity of our Blessed Lord

and Master teaches and constrains the pastors of His Church to estimate, in their general regulations, the measure of fasting, abstinence, and other cor-poral self-denials, by the general con-ditions of those who are to be affected thereby. These pastors must hope that whatever mitigation may be allowed in the law of fasting and abstinence, it will be compensated for by the faithful disciples of Christ, investing themselves with a spirit of interior penance and conformity to the sufferings of their Divine deemer. They will punctually fulfil the exercises of mortification and austerity, for which no dispensation is granted; be assiduous with their families in daily and devout prayer, and in humble petition for the forgiveness of their own offences, and those of their fellow-Christians throughout the world."--Ave. Maria

Many people, with the notion that nature ought to take care of herself, allow a cough to plague them for weeks and months. Whereas, if weeks and months. Whereas, if nature were assisted with a dose or two of Ayer's Cherry Pictoral, the cure might be affected in a very few days.

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