

## Romantic Career of One of The Greatest Rogues in International History.

"The Most Perfect Scoundrel That Has Marked the World's History," According to Thomas Carlyle.—A Truly Remarkable Man, Who Turned His Great Talents the Wrong Way.

The quack of quacks, the most perfect scoundrel that in these latter ages has marked the world's history," is what Thomas Carlyle wrote of Count Cagliostro, a name assumed by Joseph Balsalmo, a famous impostor whose accomplishments have actually been immortalized. His swindling schemes extended over Italy, his native country, then into France, where he made Paris his headquarters, and subsequently throughout the continent. He was born in Palermo in 1742. The most celebrated victim of Cagliostro's art was Cardinal de Rohan in the great diamond necklace case that so scandalously involved Marie Antoinette, Louis XV., Madame du Barry, and other ladies and gentlemen of that glamorous and rotten period of the French court that set the morals of the people.

### Early Traits.

As a boy this Joseph Balsalmo had very few, if any qualities that would have even indicated genius enough to become either knave or scoundrel. He was recorded as being "indolent and unruly." He was put into a monastery when he was fifteen, and after a few months, when expelled, began a criminal career and a dissolute life. He had, it is true, studied on branch of learning that afterwards stood him in good stead, but occasionally got others into trouble.

This was chemistry; it appealed to his spectacular nature as well as to his inventive genius in crime. It came theatrically to his aid in his incantation scenes, and in his offices of sorcery. He posed as an alchemist, a dealer of miracles and an inventor of an extraordinary elixir of life—forging testimony, and at the same time getting enough money to advance himself by forging his uncle's will.

Indeed, the list of his crimes, while yet in his teens, is so long and various that I might recite most anything here from my own imagination and go unchallenged. I dare say that a lot of very interesting history is made up in this way. But here I propose to stick to truths so long as I can find them.

### His Journeys.

In Messina, Cagliostro made the acquaintance of a professor—Althotas, a man said to have had great learning as a skillful occultist—and at once became his disciple. They went to Malta and induced the Grand Master of Knights to give them a laboratory, in which they could manufacture gold and fabricate valuable letters of introduction. Then they went to Rome, where Cagliostro forged a number of engravings.

He now began to announce himself a wonderworker, and made some startling innovations and improvements on the old game. While he so successfully hoodwinked the people he almost began to believe in himself—thought that he could transmute metals and make himself invisible. He adopted the full name of Count Alessandro Cagliostro, a nobility creation of his own.

### A Profitable Marriage.

Up to this time he had employed a number of aliases that were well known, but not for a long time discovered as belonging to the same individual. Among his acquaintances in Rome was a beautiful girl by the name of Lorenza de Feliciani, the daughter of a lace-maker, to whom many young men were paying court. She has figured in various romances. One I think by Dumas, and in several biographical sketches of Cagliostro has appeared in as many different lights.

But the consensus of opinion is that in her personal character she was singularly well adapted to the com-

panionship of just such a faker and impostor, as the man she chose. She had many seductive charms; she was strikingly graceful, clever in her conversation, lovely in every way, and so honestly convincing in manner that she had no difficulty in finding plenty of fish for her husband's expansive net. This remarkable compound of passionate feminine nature and general duplicity is represented as existing however in a faithful wife.

### Looking up Fools!

After the marriage a purposeful wedding journey was made into several countries where it was thought their future schemes might be started among a peculiarly susceptible people. They went about it systematically to record all their private observations and special information regarding persons and things in public life.

Much of this same sort of thing is done to-day by stage magicians and mesmerists—and spiritualists. In the case of the noted young "mind-reader," Washington Irving, Bishop of some twenty-five years ago, which has come into my particular knowledge, it was not uncommon for him to have more than a hundred confederates in each city that he visited. Nearly every one of his "tricks" depended on these people, and on his positive intelligence secured in advance.

Managers, ushers and scene-shifters in theatres were in league to supply instruction concerning many people in the audience known to them, and where there was any possible doubt of the desired class attending, complimentary tickets were cunningly and cautiously distributed. Cagliostro went into the business even more industriously and with more serious purpose, for, in alliance with his public charlatanism, he was pursuing every possible form of swindle in obtaining other people's money. "Occultism" was the fashionable study and entertainment.

In this profession Cagliostro was a past master in every trick. He had gathered many valuable ideas in the East—much of his imagery from ancient Egyptian records. All this time very little was known about Egypt; it was not until a dozen years after that, before Dr. Young was able to translate hieroglyphic inscriptions. So in his lectures on the occult he was shrewd enough in making cabalistic signs to use mainly those from the Zodiac and entanglement. He was forty years old at this period, and was described by one who met him at the house of the Comtesse de la Motte in Paris, as being of medium height, fair olive-colored, with a bull-neck, round face, big protuberant eyes, and a snub nose with open nostrils.

His appearance was thus further described: "He wore a coiffure new in France; his hair parted in several little cadenottes (queues) uniting the back of the head in the form known as a catogan (bunched). A dress, French fashion, of bronze laced with gold, scarlet waistcoat broided with bold point de spaine red breeches, a basket-belted sword and a hat with white plumes."

### A Parisian Success.

Cagliostro met with tremendous success in Paris. The Frenchman is susceptible to a wizard as he is to a pretty girl, and the gorgeous displays of Cagliostro's "properties" made up of able cloths with cabalistic emblems, and other scarfs and hangings with scarlet decorations in religious symbols attracted them immediately. Standing conspicuously in his solemn displays was always an impressive gilt crucifix, and his performances began by an invocation on his knees, whom he declared to be as pure as a virgin.

His "assistant" was a young girl newly-born angel, with marvellous sensibilities. Whilst this beautiful angel would keep her big blue eyes (perhaps they verged on mauve—how knows?) fastened on a crystal globe of water he would give his lecture made up of appalling statements of his own fictitious experiences, and absurd prophecies based on what Miss Smith (perhaps that was her name) was then seeing in the glass globe.

He also claimed most seriously that he had been living for centuries, had in fact been a contemporary of Christ's and had at that time predicted the Crucifixion. All these things with a lot of medical lore thrown in, led up to the subject in hand—selling his Elixir at 1,000 per cent. profit on the bottle. He next started in to found a new branch of Freemasonry with the sole purpose of defrauding the members, half of whom were women.

He was the "Cophte" and his wife was the "Grand Priestess." Out of the painfully susceptible followers he extracted by his incantations and Shamanism, a large amount of money which he quickly proceeded to spend in gratification of his numerous desires. Personally, he had no fear of moral degeneration, for was he not actually claiming that, among other mysterious ailments, his Elixir would restore lost innocence?

### The Best of Them All.

There have been others engaged in Cagliostro's game, but never one with such magnificent gail, nor ever one who dealt his cards with prince, potentate, and saint as did he. The episode of the Queen's Necklace gave him his particular place in history. It associated his name with some of the most prominent people of Europe, and that has been dealt with in so much detail, and fictionalized to such an extent that as time goes by the glamour will be still further increased.

### The Queen's Necklace.

The Queen was a martyr in an obscure plot by swindlers, who assailed not only her honor but her throne. It was claimed that the Cardinal Rohan purchased it for her, but he had been roped into the game by a Madame de la Motte. Cagliostro was a friend of this woman's husband, and not only forged the letter that was supposed to have come from the Queen commissioning the Cardinal to purchase the necklace, but was an active conspirator.

The Cardinal's position in the whole affair was a matter of opinion then, and is now. No one doubts the Queen's innocence. In the trial that followed the unveiling of this scandalous plot, the Comte de la Motte was banished for life; his wife was condemned to the carcan—to be branded on both shoulders with the letter V, to be whipped and then be imprisoned for life.

### The Same Old Story.

Cagliostro was sent to the bastille, but after a few months managed to secure his liberation. He at once went into his wonder-working schemes, travelling with his strangely faithful wife over Europe. He again put a great dash in his displays of clothing and jewelry. His income was going on in the revenues from his established Egyptian lodges, and among the contributors was the Cardinal himself. At this time Goethe, whose name had become great came upon Cagliostro's family (the Balsalnos) in Palermo, and took a peculiar interest in them and learned much concerning him, their son and brother. He became impressed somehow as he said, "with this pious and quiet family."

After a sojourn in England, where he addressed startling letters to the people of France, Cagliostro, on account of the rows with which he became surrounded, fled in 1787 to Switzerland, first to Basle. Then he got back to Rome, like the proverbial moth was shortly after arrested as a Freemason, and sent to prison for life, while Donna Lorenza, his wife, was shut in the convent of St. Apollina.

Cagliostro, the revolutionary alchemist, died in the Castle Leone, October 1, 1795.

### Rotary Has Mishap.

The rotary snow plow which has been engaged all the week clearing the Topsails of snow and which has had a hard fight to do so owing to incessant snow and drift, yesterday afternoon had one of its axles broken when about four miles from Kitty's Brook. The machine was thus put out of commission and the train which left here at 7 p.m. yesterday took out a new axle and wheels to be fitted to the damaged plow which was being "jacked" up by a gang of men last evening and night. When this is done she will be side tracked to enable trains to move. The work of putting the rotary in condition to resume operations will be rushed.

### Marine Notes.

The S. S. Ameriana is now due. The S. S. Baleine left Harbor Breton yesterday for Halifax fish laden. The S. S. Tobasco reached Halifax yesterday from this port. The S. S. Durango leaves Halifax today for here.

Rev. Mr. Winsor, Methodist clergyman, of Shoal Harbour, T. B., who was here for a while left by yesterday's train for home.

Still fighting the battle of your dollar and exhausting every means at our disposal to give you service.

## "LET US GO IN HERE"

Said she,—No, No, No! That's four times you tried to put me off the right track this evening and upset my plans for buying. I have made up my mind before leaving the house to go in nowhere only DEVINE'S, where the Genuine Sale is. I know what I am doing, or least I ought after buying for forty years. I tell you again, when DEVINE'S have a Sale it is a Sale, and while the chance is here now I am going to buy up a few things and lay them aside, because it will be a long time before these things will be so cheap again.

Only six more days, ladies and gentlemen. Make good use of the time.

Feel free when you visit this store

Move round and examine the BAR-GAINS.

What Dollars are doing at DEVINE'S. WHAT \$1.00 WILL DO AT DEVINE'S GREAT CHANGE OF BUSINESS SALE.

'Twill buy 10 yards London Smoke in Grey or Pink, usually worth 14c. per yard.

'Twill buy 12 yards Good White Shirting, usually worth 12c. per yard.

'Twill buy 12 yards Striped Flannellette of good quality, usually selling at 12c. per yard.

'Twill buy 3 Curtain Poles and fittings complete, in mahogany or oak shades. Great time to buy these goods.

'Twill buy enough Dress Material to make a skirt, in Grey, Black, Green or Navy.

Coming to Town.

Persons having \$10.00, \$15.00 or \$20.00 to spend will find it to their advantage to look us up.

### WHAT \$2.00 WILL DO.

'Twill buy a pair warm Woollen Blankets, usually \$3.00. Of course this appeals to you and every housekeeper.

'Twill buy a serviceable nicely trimmed Cloth Skirt.

'Twill buy a strong, substantial Pants for man that wants the best; nay, more.

'Twill buy just what you want if you wear Overalls—a pair of Combinations, made of strong, durable Cotton Tweed; wear-resisting and guaranteed for twelve months. Ask to see the Combinations.

'Twill buy a genuine Wool Jersey, worth \$2.50 usually. Nothing more comfortable for a man engaged in outdoor work.

'Twill buy a Sailor or Eton Suit for your boy, with daintily trimmed collar, worth \$2.80 to \$3.00.

'Twill buy a suit of warm Wool Underwear for men. Worth \$3.00 in ordinary way. Why wear cotton when you can get wool at cotton price?

'Twill buy 4 Negligee Shirts, 65c. usual price. A great time to lay in a stock of shirts.

### WHAT \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00, \$7.00, \$8.00 & \$10.00 WILL BUY.

Men's and Boys' Suits and Overcoats, Ladies' and Gent's Mackintoshes, Ladies' Coats, Sweater Coats. We have an excellent line of Ladies' Sweater Coats (all wool) in shades of Slate and Myrtle, White and Cardinal, Fawn and Grey, and Pain Grey.

# J. M. DEVINE,

The Right House, Water St., East.

### At The Nickel

One of the finest programmes ever presented at the Nickel Theatre was seen last evening and the hundreds of patrons were delighted. There were two very funny comedies, viz. Tom Tilling's Baby and Father's Bluff—everybody works but father. Then there was the great drama entitled "The Office Favorite," and a Gaumont graphic reproducing scenes as they occurred thousands of miles away. If you desire to attend an enjoyable hour attend this evening.

### A Neglected Cold May Cause Consumption.

Thousands of people die every year from the effects of this dreaded disease, which, if treated in its first stages with

MATHIEU'S SYRUP of Tar and Cod Liver Oil and other medicinal extracts, will cure the diseased lungs and give strength to the patient. sold every where.

PORT GREVILLE, C.B., Dec 27, '09. Blacking & Mercantile Co., Ltd. Dear Sirs.—Please ship by next express, if possible, 3 doz Mathieu's Syrup. It is the best Cough Mixture on the market. Yours truly, W. STERLING.

CHURCH POINT, July 31, '08. Blacking & Mercantile Co., Ltd., Amherst, N.S. Dear Sirs.—Nearly one year ago I had my first order of "Mathieu's Syrup" from you. It was not known in this country, and I gave samples to several families whom I knew would use it. After a few weeks I began to have a call for it, and trade has increased wonderfully since. I have not the least doubt but that it will soon be the best selling remedy for coughs, colds, etc., on the market. In my store here sales are good and our people ask for it. Several stores in this county now keep it in stock and report sales increasing. I have bought from you since August 16th, 1907, 4 Gross and have only three dozen of hand at this date, and which I am holding for retail trade in my store. Yours truly, LOUIS A. McLANSON.

MATHIEU'S NERVE POWDERS are free from opium, chloral and other dangerous drugs and they are supreme against headache, sick headache, neuralgia, overwork. 25 cts. per box of 18 powders. Prepared by J. L. MATHIEU Co., Sherbrooke, Can.

THOS. McMURDO Co., Wholesale Chemists and Druggists, St. John's, Nfld.

### Joking The Police

Yesterday afternoon a crowd of people ran towards the King's Wharf. They thought there was a big fight on as about a half dozen fellows had disported themselves and appeared to be hard at it. When Constable Tucker and another officer visited the scene they found the bout to be only friendly and dispersed the crowd.

Only One "BROMO QUININE," that is, **Laxative Bromo Quinine**. Cures a Cold in One Day, Grip in 2 Days.

**E. J. Shaw** On box 25c. **Fishery News**

The Board of Trade have received information from Channel and Port aux Basques that hook and line men there are doing poorly with fish but that trawlers have met with much success. The weather on that section of the coast continues very stormy.

### Here and There.

**GOES ON DOCK.**—Baird's barq. Gaspe will be dry docked next week to receive some slight repairs after which she loads fish for Brazil.

**FLORIZEL AT HALIFAX.**—The S. S. Florizel, Capt. Smith, reached Halifax at 5 p.m. yesterday after a forty-eight hours passage from this port. She leaves there to-day for New York.

**FALSE REMOIR.**—There was a rumour about in the West End last night that a dead body had been found near Mundy's Pond. Investigation proved it to be untrue.

**MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES GAR-GET IN COWS.**

### Here and There

Don't forget 'As You Like It,' Monday next, in Casino Theatre, at 8 o'clock.—Feb 1, 21

**THREE PRISONERS.**—The police arrested three prisoners last evening. Two were drunks and one disorderly.

**FOR ASYLUM.**—By the shore train which arrived at 1 p.m. yesterday a woman came from Carbonear for the Lunatic Asylum; she was accompanied by her husband.

**LAI TO REST.**—The funeral of the late Mr. D. Sullivan, veteran Customs Officer, took place yesterday afternoon and a large concourse of citizens attended. Interment was at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

**HOSPITAL PATIENTS.**—A boy named Parsons and a girl named Murphy were taken to the Hospital yesterday; both are very ill. A young man, a resident of Circular Road, ill of scarlet fever, was sent to the Fever Hospital.

### A FAULTLESS FOOD PRODUCT

## EPPS'S COCOA

Breakfast is made a delight with "Epps's" steaming from every cup.

ON raw cold mornings EPPS'S COCOA gives you a glow of generous warmth which makes you defy the cold. It contains the most nutritive product of the finest cocoa beans, viz. the cocoa butter. "Epps's" is a favourite throughout the world, and is as strengthening as it is delightful to the palate.

Children Thrive on "EP-S'S"

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DAND-RUFF.