#### TEN YEARS AFTER

FROM THE FRANCII OF J. MORAND.

From the French of J. Moreco.

It was New Year's Day, when a little boy of some ten years of age, accompanied by an old servant-man, was walking from Plemboer to Dolmon, near Dman. The child was laughing and talking all the way, and he walked at such a rate that the poor old servitor could searcely keep up with him.

It was the young Viscount Herve de Plenhoee, and he was on his way to the chatcau of the Marquase du Dolmen, to wish her a Heppy New Year. He was a handsome lad, upright and straight as a dart; and his large, dark cyes had an houest, frank look in them that won all hearts.

Presently they came within sight of the old manor house, with tower and turrets, and the little Viscount bounded on his hurry to arrive Very unceremonicusly he rushed through the hallint to he long, tapestry-hung drawing room, which, with its huge, old fashioued furnuture and high coiling, looked I'.ca corner of some cathedral. A stately-looking old lady was seated, and, indeed, was al most baried, in an immense arm-chair, whilst in the wide fireplace a cherful log, fire was cracking.

"Why, Herve, you must have risen early this morning to get here at this time," exclaimed the Marquise, look ing admiringly at the handsemo boy who had rushed in like a whirlwind. "Oh, grannie, and I had learn such a piece of pootry to say to you, but—I am afraid I have forgotten every word of it, I was in such a hurry to get here," said Herve ruefully, "Never mind, we'll have it another time," said the indulgent old lady

overy wonhurry to get hore, 'said Herve no
fully.

'Nover mind, we'll have it another
time," said the indulgent old lady
"You shall see first how you like

"You shall see first how you like your presents."
On the table near were the said presents, some story-books, some games, and—a gun, a real gun! Herre was nearly beside himself with light for two long years he had wished for a gun, but his paronts had always been afraid of an accident, and had refused to get him one. His large oyes lighted up with pride and delight as he handled his precious treasure; and, oh! how he wished there were some enemy now before him that he could try his aim at once.

Herve belonged to a family in which all the men had been soldiers, and most of his ancestors had met their death on the battlefield. His grandfather had been killed in the Crimean Wur, during the siege of Sebastopol; and Herve had always delighted in hearing tales of wars.

On his way home again that afturnon Herve kept admiring his precious gun. The old servitor was carrying all the other presents, but the boy could not trust his tressure to any other hands, and he kept pulling the rigger and delighting in the click it made as he loosed it.

They had gone along come distance when Herve became aware that a little boy was following them, and as he kept quite near all the time, the little Viscount turned round at last and looked at him. He vas a boy of about his own age, but very poorly lad; and thris sunken oheeks, and pale face, told of hunger and auffering, while the cark eyes looked so wistully at him that Herve said kindly—

"What is it you want, little boy?" Nothing; I was only looking at the gun, "replied the little lad, abashed "What's your name?" asked Herve.

"Tanneguy," replied the other child. "I live near your house, and I often watch you ridung on your pony"; and then, emboldened by Herve's kindly manner, the poor little fellow ventured to put one finger or the shining trigger of the marvellous treasure.

"It's one of my the table near were the said

"It's one of my presents," said Herve; "isn't it a fine one? Have you had any presents?" he asked. The poor little fellow laughed bit-

The poor more services any tining. My parents are dead."

Herve looked at all the parcels the old servant man was carrying, and he said, eagerly:—

"Choose one of my presents, little

"Choose one of my presents, little boy."
The lad glanced at all the parcels indifferently and then his eyes went back to the one treasure, the coveted gun, and he shook his head.
"No; books and games wouldn't he much use to me. Can I look at the gun? Can I hold it a minute?'
Herre handed it to him, and they all three waiked slong a little way together, Tanneguy pressing the trigger and listening with delight to the click, as Herve had done. The little Vis count looked very thoughtful, and then he said:—
"And you haven't got a mother nor anyone, and you haven't had one present?"
"No," replied the other, sorrowfully, his eyes still fixed on the weapon he was holding so carefully.
Herve was silent againfor a minute. He was having an inward struggle with himself; at length he said impetuously, as, though afraid of allowing himself to hestitate:—
"Little boy, you can keep my gun, because you have not a mother, or anyone"
Tanneguy gazed at him speechless with astouishment and joy. His pale cheeks flushed and the tears came into his eyes, but he could not find any words with which to thank the little Viscount.



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Time passed by, and Herve went away to college; but in the holidays he always saw Tanneguy, who was omployed on a farm on the Plenboce estate.

estate.

"I have always kept the gun," said "I have always kept the gun," said "I meguy, one day, to the young Viscount. "It was the one happiness of my childhood, and I shall never part with it. If over the day should come when you should have need of one, you can count on me"—and the young Broton's voice vibrated with earnestness, so that Herve knew that these were no vain words. these were no vain words

At the ago of eighteen the young Viscount entered the military school of Saint Cyr, determined as he was to embrace 'the career of his ancestors. Two years later the terrible war of 70 broke out, and Herve, with some of his conrades of Saint Cyr, was appointed officer in a regiment.

No sooner did Tanneguy hear of this than he hastened to engage himself in the same regiment, and this poor young peasant, ignorant and uneducated as he was, proved himself a veritable hero. Their regiment be longed to the Army of the Northy commanded by Faidherbe, and after avery combat the two friends sought each other anxiously.

In spite of his heroic efforts, Faird-

each other anxiously.

In spite of his heroic efforts, Fairdherbe was not able to provent the advance of the enemy. On the 29rd December, 1870, at the Battle of Pont Noyelles, Tanneguy distinguished himself by his bravery, and was promoted on the battle field, and Herve at the same time was appointed captain. On New Year's Day, 1871, they were in camp near Arras, and were nearly worn out with fatigue and privations.

"Gaptain." said Tanneguy, "this

"Captain," said Tanneguy, "this time ten years ago was the day when you gave me the little gun; do you remember?"

you gave me the little gun; do you remember?"

"Yes," said Herve, smiling as he romembered his own childish delight on receiving the little weapon.

"You gave me the only pleasure I ever had it in my life," said Tanneguy. Three days later the Battle of Bap aums took place, and when it was growing dusk and the combat was nearly over. Tanneguy looked round in search of the Captain de Plenhoec, knowing that he was sure to be found in the thickest of the fight. Tanneguy suddenly caught sight of him struggling to rise from under his horse, which had just been shot dead. A Prussian was advancing towards herve with his bayonet pointed at the young captain. He was just preparing to kill his victim, intoxicated as he was with the smoke and the blood ali round him. Herve had only just risen to his feet when he saw the Prussian's weapon pointed at him, and he felt sure that his lest moment had come.

had come.

Suddenly a man bounded between him and his enemy, and with a sword thrust laid the Prussian dead before him. It was Tanneguy, who in sees ing Hervé's peril had rushed to the rescue, bounding over every obstacte, trampling under foot the dead and dying, and only just arriving in time to avert the darager.

Tanneguy stopped down, and, suatching from the dead soldier his gun, presented it to Herve, who was disarmed.

"Captain, you once gave me a gun, let me pay my debt to you with this

ono—"

Before be had finished speaking, and whilst holding the weapon out to Herve, poor Tauneguy staggered back and fell. A ball had just struck him and pierced his heart. Herve grasped the fire arm, all covered with blood as it was, and, as though in a dream, a vision of the past rose before him, and he saw the wide road in Brittany, where he had given his little gun to a peasant lad!

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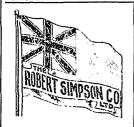
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