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**THE SCARLET**  
**PIMPERNEL**

BY BARONESS ORCZY.

(Continued.)  
 "Benjamin Rosenbaum, so it please your Honour," he replied humbly.  
 "It does not please me to hear your voice, but it does please me to give you certain orders, which you will find it easy to obey."  
 "So please your Honour..."  
 "Hold your confounded tongue. You shall stay here, do you hear? with your horse and cart until our return. You have no account to utter the faintest sound, or to breathe even louder than you can help; nor are you, on any consideration whatever, to leave your post, until I give you orders to do so. Do you understand?"  
 "But your Honour..." protested the Jew pitifully.  
 "There is no question of 'but' or of any argument," said Chauvin, in a tone that made the timid old man tremble from head to foot. "If, when I return, I do not find you here, I most solemnly assure you, wherever you may try and hide yourself, I can find you, and that punishment, sure and terrible, will soon or later overtake you. Do you hear?"  
 "But your Excellency..."  
 "I said, do you hear me?"  
 The soldiers had all crept away; the three men stood alone together in the dark and lonely road, with Marguerite there, behind the hedge, listening to Chauvin's orders, as she would to her own death sentence.  
 "I heard your Honour," protested the Jew again, while he tried to draw nearer to Chauvin, and I swear by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that I would obey your Honour most absolutely, and that I could not move from this place until you Honour once more deigned to shed the light of your countenance upon your humble servant; but remember, your Honour, I am a poor old man, my nerves are not as strong as those of a young soldier. If midnight marauders should come prowling round this lonely road, might scream or run in my fright, and in my life to be forfeit, is some terrible punishment to come on my poor old head for that which I cannot help?"  
 "The Jew seemed in real distress; he was shaking from head to foot. Clearly he was not the man to be left by himself on this lonely road. The man spoke as if he might unwittingly, in sheer terror, utter the shriek that might prove a warning to the wily Scarlet Pimpernel."  
 Chauvin reflected for a moment.  
 "Will your horse and cart be safe alone here, do you think?" he asked roughly.  
 "I fancy, your Honour," here interposed Desgas, "that they will be safer, without that dirty, cowardly Jew, as with him. There seems no doubt that, if he gets scared, he will either make a bolt of it, or shriek his head off."  
 "But what am I to do with the brute?"  
 "Will you send him back to Châlis, s'you please?"  
 "No, for we shall want him to drive back the wounded presently," said Chauvin, with grim significance.  
 "There was a pause again—Desgas, waiting for the decision of his chief, and the old Jew whining beside him.  
 "Well, you have, lumbering old fellow," said Chauvin at last, "you had better hustle along this side of the road, and take the fellow's mouth."  
 Chauvin handed a scarf to Desgas, who solemnly began winding it round the Jew's mouth. Meekly Benjamin Rosenbaum allowed himself to be gagged; he evidently preferred this uncomfortable state to that of being left alone on the dark St. Martin Road. Then the three men fell in line.  
 "Quick!" said Chauvin, impatiently, "we have already wasted much valuable time."  
 And the firm footsteps of Chauvin and Desgas, the shuffling gait of the old Jew, soon died away along the footpath.  
 Marguerite had not lost a single one of Chauvin's words of command. Her every nerve was strained to completely grasp the situation first, then to make a final appeal to those wits which had to often been called the sharpest in Europe, and which alone might be of service now.  
 Certainly the situation was desperate enough; a tiny band of menacing men, quietly awaiting the arrival of their prey, who were equally unconscious of the trap laid for them all. It seemed so hor-

rible, this net, as it were drawn in a circle, at dead of night, on a lonely beach, round a few defenceless men, defenceless because they were tricked and unsuspecting; of those one was the husband who idolized, another the brother who loved, she vaguely wondered who the others were, who were also calmly waiting the Scarlet Pimpernel, while death lurked behind every boulder of the cliff.  
 For the moment she could do nothing but follow the soldiers and Chauvin. She feared to lose her way, or she would have rushed forward and found that wooden hut, and perhaps been in time to warn the fugitives and their brave deliverer yet.  
 For a second, the thought flashed through her mind of uttering the shriek, which Chauvin seemed to dread, as a possible warning to the Scarlet Pimpernel and his friends—in the wild hope that they would hear, and have yet time to escape before it was too late. But she did not know how far from the edge of the cliff she was; she did not know if her shriek would reach the ears of the doomed men. Her effort might be premature, and she would never be allowed to make another. Her mouth would be securely gagged, like that of the Jew, and she, a helpless prisoner in the hands of Chauvin's men.  
 Like a ghost she flitted noiselessly behind that hedge; she had taken her shoes off, and her stockings were by now torn off her feet. She felt neither soreness nor weakness; indomitable will to reach her husband in spite of adverse Fate, and of a cunning enemy, killed all sense of bodily pain within her, and rendered her instincts doubly acute.  
 She heard nothing save the soft and measured footsteps of Percy's enemies on the ground; she saw nothing but—in her mind's eye—the wooden hut, and her husband, walking blindly in his doom.  
 Suddenly, she knew instinctively within her that she was being watched, and cover still further within the shadow of the hedge. The moon, which had appeared a friend to her by remaining hidden behind a bank of clouds, now emerged in all the glory of an early autumn night, and in a moment flooded the weird and lonely landscape with a rush of brilliant light.  
 There, not two hundred metres ahead, was the edge of the cliff, and ahead, stretching far away to free and happy England, the sea rolled on smoothly and peacefully. Marguerite's gaze rested for an instant on the brilliant, silvery waters, and she gazed her heart, which had been numb with pain for all these hours, seemed to soften and distend, and her eyes filled with hot tears; not three miles away, on the white cliffs of England, the land of liberty and of hope.  
 The sight of the schooner seemed to infuse into the poor, wretched woman the superhuman strength of despair. There was the edge of the cliff, and some way below was the hut, where presently her husband would meet his death. But the moon was out; she could see her way now; she would see the hut from a distance, run to it, rouse them all, warn them at any rate to be prepared and to sell their lives dearly, rather than be caught like rats in a hole.  
 She stumbled on behind the hedge on the low, thick grass of the ditch. She must have run very fast, and had outdistanced Chauvin and Desgas, for presently she reached the edge of the cliff, and heard their footsteps distinctly behind her. But only a very few yards away, and now the moonlight was full upon her, her figure must have been distinctly silhouetted against the silvery background of the sea.  
 Only for a moment, though; the next she had covered, like some animal doubled up within itself. She peeped down the great rugged cliff—the descent would be easy enough, as they were not precipitous, and the great boulders afforded plenty of foothold. Suddenly, as she gazed, she saw at some little distance on her left, and about midway down the cliff, a rough wooden construction, through the walls of which a tiny red light glimmered like a beacon. Her very heart seemed to stand still, the eagerness of joy was so great, that it felt like an awful pain.  
 She could not gauge how distant the hut was, but without hesitation she began the steep descent, creeping from boulder to boulder, caring nothing for the enemy behind, or for the soldiers, who evidently had all taken cover, since the tall Englishman had not yet appeared.  
 Yesterday a very successful rally day was observed by St. David's Sunday school. A bright programme of choruses by the scholars had been arranged. Andrew Malcolm taught the lesson.

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1906.  
**PROVINCIAL PREMIERS**  
**GET BETTER TERMS**

New Brunswick's Share Will be About \$130,000  
 --- The Total for All the Provinces \$2,250,000 --- McBride of British Columbia Goes Off in a Rage.

Ottawa, Oct. 14.—After a week's stay in Ottawa, the provincial premiers have returned to their homes with the assurance of increased financial aid and a better understanding between themselves and the Dominion on a variety of subjects which in the past have created more or less friction.  
 The result of the work of this conference will mean an additional expenditure to the Dominion of a little more than \$2,250,000, and around the Dominion is not likely to be harassed with such legislation as the commercial travellers' tax and discrimination by the provinces against companies chartered by the Dominion.  
 The way to settle the conflicting jurisdiction of the provinces and the Dominion were passed thanking Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues for their attention and efforts to facilitate the work of the conference and that there should be annual meetings of the provincial premiers to be convened by the premiers of Ontario and Quebec.  
 On Friday the real trouble with British Columbia began. Premier McBride resisted the Dominion's proposal to contribute to an extra subsidy to be referred to arbitration. On motion of Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Weir, a resolution was adopted stating that it was inadvisable that the claim in the way of subsidies of any province be referred to arbitration. All the provinces voted for this except British Columbia, so that it was lost by eight to one.  
 Mr. McBride then laid before the conference the following declaration:  
 "I regret that the question of British Columbia for a reference should not be considered by the conference but that it is a question between the government of British Columbia and the Dominion government."  
 Mr. Whitney moved, seconded by Mr. Murray:  
 "That in view of the large area, geographical position and very exceptional resources of the Dominion of British Columbia, the opinion of this conference that the said province should be referred to arbitration for the purpose of civil jurisdiction in such of the provisions made in the resolutions of 1902 and that such additional allowance should be to the extent of \$100,000 annually for ten years."  
 This was discussed all day at Saturday's meeting. It was moved in amendment by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rutherford:  
 "That the following words be added to Mr. Whitney's motion respecting additional allowance to British Columbia:  
 "In view of the very exceptional conditions of settlement existing in the Province of Manitoba, and also in the Province of Saskatchewan, the Dominion government should be granted for the purpose of the subsidies of \$60,000 per annum in excess of the subsidies provided in the resolutions of 1902 as amended."  
 At this stage Hon. Mr. McBride withdrew from the conference and returned to Vancouver. The conference dividing on the above amendment it was lost on division.  
 The question then being put on Hon. Mr. Whitney's motion the conference adopted it by a vote of 12 to 1.  
 Mr. Roblin moved, seconded by Mr. Peters, that as a result of the deliberations of this conference with the representatives of the government of the Dominion of Canada:  
 1. This conference recommends to each province a subsidy to be paid to the Dominion government for the purpose of civil jurisdiction in such of the provisions made under any act concerning the sale of land in the Dominion of Canada.  
 2. This conference also recommends that the Dominion government should be granted for the purpose of the subsidies of \$60,000 per annum in excess of the subsidies provided in the resolutions of 1902 as amended.  
 As to the second part of this resolution, Mr. Whitney and Mr. Murray stated that they desired to consult with their colleagues before assenting to it. It was adopted.  
 The prime ministers of the several provinces of Canada held each year to consider matters of common interest and to discuss the general situation of the Dominion and the prime minister of the Province of Ontario and the prime minister of the Province of Quebec.  
 It was moved by Mr. Whitney, seconded by Mr. Rutherford, and resolved: That

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Specific Subsidies for Government and Civil Legislation.

Province	Amount	Increase
Ontario	\$240,000	\$20,000
Quebec	240,000	20,000
New Brunswick	130,000	10,000
Manitoba	100,000	10,000
British Columbia	130,000	10,000
P. E. Island	100,000	10,000

On the Per Capita Tax.

Province	Amount	Increase
Ontario	\$1,746,227	\$28,684
Quebec	1,746,227	28,684
New Brunswick	873,113	47,682
Manitoba	654,840	35,761
British Columbia	873,113	47,682
P. E. Island	654,840	35,761

This makes an increase for the old provinces of \$1,107,000 in the per capita subsidy for a population of less than 150,000; population of 200,000, \$100,000; 400,000, \$200,000; 600,000, \$300,000; 800,000, \$400,000; 1,000,000, \$500,000; 1,200,000, \$600,000; 1,400,000, \$700,000; 1,600,000, \$800,000; 1,800,000, \$900,000; 2,000,000, \$1,000,000; 2,200,000, \$1,100,000; 2,400,000, \$1,200,000; 2,600,000, \$1,300,000; 2,800,000, \$1,400,000; 3,000,000, \$1,500,000; 3,200,000, \$1,600,000; 3,400,000, \$1,700,000; 3,600,000, \$1,800,000; 3,800,000, \$1,900,000; 4,000,000, \$2,000,000; 4,200,000, \$2,100,000; 4,400,000, \$2,200,000; 4,600,000, \$2,300,000; 4,800,000, \$2,400,000; 5,000,000, \$2,500,000; 5,200,000, \$2,600,000; 5,400,000, \$2,700,000; 5,600,000, \$2,800,000; 5,800,000, \$2,900,000; 6,000,000, \$3,000,000; 6,200,000, \$3,100,000; 6,400,000, \$3,200,000; 6,600,000, \$3,300,000; 6,800,000, \$3,400,000; 7,000,000, \$3,500,000; 7,200,000, \$3,600,000; 7,400,000, \$3,700,000; 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