## MIRAMICHI ADVANCE, CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK, JUNE 5, 1890.

## THE FATE OF LOUIS CAPDAU.

A LEGEND OF LOUISIANA, 1795.

BY MAURICE THOMPSON.

A story told in a summer-house that, standing on stilts in the surf-ripples of the Maximum of the barrengies of the maximum of the starge mob, as it went howling and the starg ing to the palpitations of a Cribbean ed, almost fell before it. breeze.

Late in the eighteenth century, that and that and that!" about the year 1795, perhaps, the narrator's paternal line, flowing down its no one could interfere. course of restless adventure, had found a season of quietude and comparative infamous slanderer!" opulance on a large plantation not far from New Orleans. and said:

Chevalier de Beret, the then head of the family, was a man of note and influence in the colony, a leader of the French element, a fighter, a high liver, and a loving father, whose stern heart as France holds." idolized his only daughter, Mlle. Marie.

At that time the Spaniards had control of the Louisiana territory, and there was no good feeling between the French and their proud and overbearing rulers; but Chevalier de Beret knew well how to avoid friction by offering liberal, even luxuriant, hospitality to the officials of the local government, and to the social controllers of New Orleans

So it came about that one Don Manuel Cortinas saw and fell in love with Mile. Marie de Beret when she was sank down, like one stricken with a just sixteen, beautiful as a flower, and as clever as beautiful.

deadly disease.

"Very well."

But Mlle. Marie's affections were already bestowed upon Louis Capdau, brother of the afterward famous Jean threats of vengeance. Capdau, who became one of the most terrible of the outlaws then infesting the Gulf region. At that time, however, the brothers had a fine plantation near that of Chevalier de Beret, and were young men of fair standing in the colony, although nothing whatever was known of their antecedents. Orleans, and were handsome withal. The rivalry between Don Manuel sed to Don Manuel; Cortinas and Louis Capdau was a very quiet one on the surface. The young men met frequently, exchanged polite greetings, danced in the same parlors, get the proofs--I will kill him-the sat at the same board ; but they hated each other, of course, the Spaniard eset, with perfect coolness. pecially revolving in his mind schemes "Do you doubt my word?" for removing his rival from the scene of action. As for Capdau, feeling sure of his place in Marie's heart, he could Capdau is a gentleman." afford to be generous as well as perfect-"You youch for him?" ly complaisant Chevalier de Beret's plantation was

known in those days as the Cote de Beret, and the mansion, a rude but spacious building, was called the Chateau de Beret. It overlooked a

call it, about his firm mouth. He went up to Don Manuel and spoke to him, saluting him gently, but not warmly. The Spaniard folded his arms loftily, and stepped back, saying: "I do not associate with mulattoes." The words were spoken in a loud.

soldiers to protect the planters. Naturally enough, Cortinas led his little force directly to the Chateau de Beret, thinking to make that his headquarters, and thus, at the same time that he was queling the insur-gents, he could be sure to protect Chevalier de Beret and Marie. He landed his men at the little wharf about the Beret planterion, and march. about the Beret plantation, and marched them thence by a roundabout road (which, however, was the directest Capdau now turned to the company, nd said: "He it is who has poisoned all your ninds against me. What he has said Meantime the furious mob of blacks minds against me. What he has said

is a lie. I am of as good a family as France holds." He turned and strode back to his horse, mounted and rode away. As he passed along the veranda, by where Marie stood, pale and speechess, he spoke low to her: "This vile Spaniard is the fabricator of all thus slander: he is doing it to set

your father against me and to fill you with doubt about my honor. You will between the main body of the Louis Capdau found himself and hi not believe his falschoods, Marie?" He quickly lifted her hand and kissed it. She stood dazed, mute, until she not believe his falsehoods. Marie?" heard him riding away, and then she sank down, like one stricken with a appeared impossible; but even death by fire was far preferable to falling Don Manuel Cortinas, after rallying from the disorder into which Capdau's into the hands of the negroes.

Taking in the situation at a glance, but all unaware of the party of soldiers vigorous onslaught had thrown him, assumed a stern air and uttered savage from New Orleans, Louis Capdau ca threats of vengeance. The social pleasures were at an end, and made a rush for the burning man The social pleasures were at an end, though Chevalier de Beret did all in his power to rally his guests. Marie, who could not control her shocked nerves and overchaaged heart, was taken to her room, and refused to see anyone. Among the gentlemen there was talk Among the gentlemen there was talk They were rich, owned many slaves, moved in the best society of New of a duel; but Chevalier de Beret ended his way to a corner of the verand all this with a single sentence addres-sed to Don Manuel; "You cannot fight him if ha is a "You cannot fight him if he is a "You cannot light him if he is a egro." "He is a negro—a mulatto, I will the room; the flames would soon fol-

low. He scrang inside and called. "Marie! Marie!" brute, the beast!" raged Don Manuel. Groping about blindly with out-stretched arms, he touched her, clasp-ed her, as she reeled, almost insensible "Very well," said Chevalier de Ber-

from suffication. Just then there came a volley o "I do not believe that you are suskerry; then another and anothe correctly informed, that is all. Louis Out through the window to the veran da roof, Louis leaped with his preciou

burden; but how could he descend with it? He tottered back and forth "I do if you desire to meet him." almost delirious with the excitement of "I do not intend to meet him. He the awful moment Down below, in the glare of the fire is a negro, and I will prove it."

light, he saw, but did not realise, that a compact body of white men were dealing out death to the blacks, who So the party was ended and the Chateau de Beret. It vorerlooked a grand sketch of the Mississippi, and, viewed from a boat on the water, it looked not unlike a small castle sunk deep amid its mossy live-oaks and magnolias. Don Manuel Cortinas pressed his

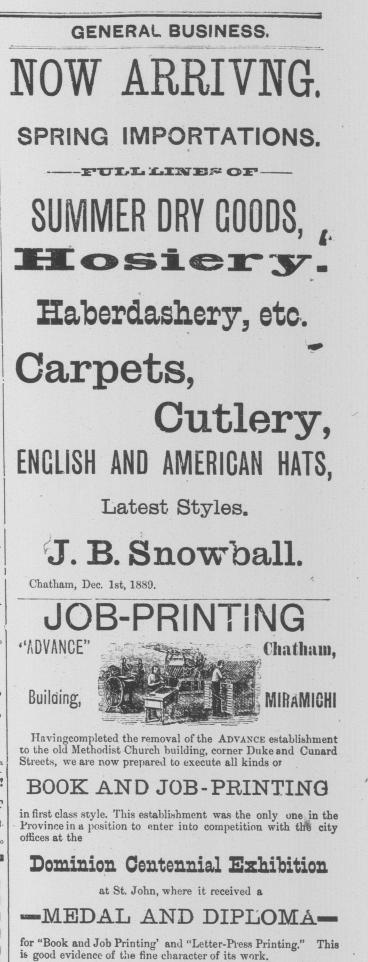
Don Manuel Cortinas pressed his suit, supplementing his attentions to Mlle. Marie with flattering and ex-tremely valuable privileges procured the must supplation of the trainer of the t for her father by force of a close rela- he must substantiate, even with pertor her father by force of a close rela-tion with the Spanish governor. The jured testimony, the charge against her leaped off, with the girl in his arms. lover's purity of blood, he set about scheming to accomplish his end scheming to accomplish his end. On the day following the encounter at the Chateau de Beret, Louis Capdau up, with one leg broken, but still bearsafety, on one hand, and dislike, nay loathing of Don Manuel, on the other, were set against her passion for Louis sented a casket of papers showing that his difference of the state of th

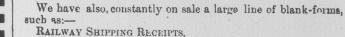


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girl thus found herself occupying an almost unbearable position. Love and scheming to accomplish his end. respect for her father and fear for his safety, on one hand, and dislike, nay

As time passed on, the Chateau de Beret was frequently invaded by partreachery.

No one ever knew how the whisper got afloat, but in some way it came to blessing. be current in New Orleans that the Capdau brothers had good reason for he, more to himself than to the happy uel called to them : had discovered that they had come of this rumor. I understand his purfrom San Domingo, where they were pose."

well-known as of negro blood. The scandal floated about for a good while before it reached the cars of faded from her beautiful cheeks. Chevalier de Beret, who at first was inclined to treat it with contempt ; but she murmured. it grew day by day and would not be The evening of a lovely day fell soft-

daughter's feelings, and secretly ap-proving them, though dreading an open rupture with Don Manuel on ac-count of his influence swith the gover-nor, he was greatly perplexed by the turn that this dark rumor was giving to affairs. This perplexity was aggravat-ed in the last degree by what took place, when one day a number of in-vited guests arrived at the Chateau de

place, when one day a number of in-vited guests arrived at the Chateau de Beret to have dinner and a dance. Mille. Marie was looking her sweetsst, and the house was wreathed with flow-ers in honor of the occasion. Don Manuel, whose vessel had borne the guests by way of the river, looked darker, handsomer, more strangely saturnine thau ever before.

saturnine thau ever before. Louis Capdau arrived late, mounted on a superbly caparisoned horse, hand-ed his bridle-rein to his groom, dis-mounted and came slowly up the shell walk to the veranda, whereon most of the company had assembled to sip wine and enjoy the sweet breeze from the

A

Capdau, so that she knew not what to do a noble family, which the fortunes of French politics had ruined. Their father had died on the scaffold for a by the master of the place. Most of political offense, and they had been the water. these were Spaniards, and among them forced into exile. These proofs were Capdau was alive and recognized his these were Spaniards, and among them always Don Manuel, tall, dark, hand-some, graceful, brilliant, but with something in his dusky eyes and heavy the formation of the source of the sufficien-tor. Chevalier de Beret embraced the something in his dusky eyes and heavy the source of mouth that suggested cruelty and young man, and, calling Marie, em- he strove hard, half lifting himself.

braced her also. He joined the hards of the young people and gave them his "Scoundrel! Villain ! Coward ! Do not touch her—put her down !" Some soldiers came near ; Don Man-"That villainous Don Manuel," said

"Secure that negro; but do not hun the mystery which hung around their lovers, "that villainous Don Manuel him more. I will make an example of family history. Some one, it was said, has been the originator and propagator hiw. He is the ringleader of They took Capdau and bound him

They took Capdau and bound him, while the Spaniard bore the body of Marie to a safe place. The fire roared and leaped; the broad, red flame slanting away before "And I, too," said Louis Capdau. Marie shuddered, and her blushes

the breeze, crisping the tops of the live-oaks, and whisking off the long, "Oh, I fear hlm very, very greatly!" gloomy festoons of vines and moss.

It grew day by day and would not be lightly cast aside. Knowing his daughter's feelings, and secretly ap-

The Spaniard made a motion as if to plunge his sword through him, but

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