VALERIE;

(Continued from Sixth page.)

Abbot's Leigh itself stood on a height, and the road by-and-by grew sufficiently steep to require a more moderate pace for the horses.

Lady Elinor had gone herself with the carriage to meet her guests, and she and Mrs. Langley kept up a fire of talk the whole way; but Valerie spoke very little. She had ample employment in looking about her, and admiration of the scenery left her less, for, to tell the truth, her thoughts wandered.

A noble horseman, truly this was! How justly proud Mrs. Beauregard must be of him! How he must love it!

"Lord Westbrook and Mr. Dallas arrived last night," explained Lady Elinor, as the carriage began to mount the hill. "And Major Travers and Mrs. Dudley come to-day; we expect Miss Edgewood to-morrow, and we may have one or two others later—military friends of Max's—but it is not quite certain yet."

Valerie turned a quick look towards the house, but her hear, thrilled as she caught a glimpse of its gray battlemented walls.

A few minutes more, and they came in full sight of the south or rather south-west front—a grand old pile of buildings, with stately terraces brilliant with flowers, and windows richly diaphanous, glittering in the level rays of the sun.

"Well, Valerie," said Mrs. Langley, smiling, for the girl's soul was in her face, "what do you think of Abbot's Leigh?"

"Oh!" she said, under her breath, "it is a glorious old place!"

"And may be yours," said Mrs. Langley, to herself, "may, she be yours!"

The carriage rolled under a great Gothic gateway, the carriage of which were black with age, as were the armorial bearings of the Beauregards on the crown of the arch, and into a vast courtyard, where, of old, lords and ladies in rich attire had gathered for the hawking; and then the coachman drew up before the grand entrance—a gateway rather than a doorway, deep set under a noble arch; and from the hall beyond—the doors stood open—appeared the tall figure of Max Beauregard, and came down the broad steps to the side of the carriage.

"Welcome to Abbot's Leigh," he said, shaking hands with Mrs. Langley, and then he turned to Valerie, and took her hand for a moment, including her in the words just spoken; but in his heart meaning far more than welcome! Ay, a thousand times more than welcome! He handed out Mrs. Langley, then Elinor, then Valerie; and as he drew her hand on his arm to escort her into the house, following Lady Elinor and Mrs. Langley, he bent down to her and said softly, with more than a touch of the old tenderness:

"I hope we may be able to make your stay here a happy one, Valerie."

Tears rushed to the girl's eyes; the hand that rested on his arm trembled. With an effort she answered him, and her voice faltered:

"Thank you so much for that kind wish!" was all she could say; and then they passed through the lofty doorway, into the noble hall, with its groined roof and painted windows, its grim suits of armor, and ancient weapons and trophies of the chase, and costly bronzes; and with a strange thrill of mingled pain and joy, Valerie raised her eyes and looked above her, around her, as she stood in Max Beauregard's house—by its master's side.

There was no lack of modern luxury in the rooms to which Valerie was conducted—sitting-room, dressing-room, and bedroom *en suite*; but she was more enchanted with painted ceilings and paneled walls, and Gothic casement-windows set in deep embrasures, and portraits of Beauregard cavaliers and dames, than with silk and lace draperies and velvet lounges, and the rest. She let the tea that was brought her get cold—much to Fanchon's distress—while she roamed about admiring quaint old cabinets, looking at the pictures, gazing from the windows, which faced south-west, and commanded a splendid sweep of country, and trying to make out subjects of the paintings in the ceiling. At last Fanchon tried to bring her to the present moment with:

"What dress will Mademoiselle wear?"

"Oh!" said Valerie, dreamily—she was tracing the story of Joseph and his brethren carved in *alto relievo* on the high mantelpiece. "I—that is—I wonder what the date is?—oh! here it is! How deliciously old—1488!"

"Mademoiselle will be late," said Fanchon, desperately.

"Yes!" the girl started. "I forgot. I was looking at that wood-carving. What will I wear, did you ask? Cream and gold plush—no jewels—only flowers. I can make a selection from the flowers here—see, what beauties!"

It did not occur to Valerie—whose native simplicity nothing could really destroy—that, by entering the drawing-room the last, she might incur the suspicion of doing so purposely; she never thought about it, till, when the servant opened the drawing-room door, she saw Lady Elinor, Mrs. Langley, almost everyone else, was already in the room.

Max Beauregard talking to Mrs. Langley, looked up, and every pulse quickened as his eyes rested on the beautiful girl he loved so passionately, yet whom he could never claim as his own. Lady Elinor glanced involuntarily from Valerie to Angela, and set her lips together.

Lord Westbrook, Hal Dallas, Travers, Mrs. Dudley, all came forward to greet Valerie, and at once Angela was almost deserted. Lady Elinor leaned over to where the girl sat, and tapped her with her fan.

"We were beginning to fear you had escaped to the picture-galleries, or were hunting up curios in some out-of-the-way place," she said, laughingly.

"Not quite so bad as that, Lady Elinor; but I found so many delightful old things in my rooms, that, but for Fanchon, I should not have saved my manners, and on the way here I could have stopped a dozen times."

"At that rate," said Colonel Beauregard, joining the group, "you will require a keeper in going about the house, or you will box yourself up in some old chest, like Ginevra."

"Is there such a chest?" asked she.

"There may be—very likely; but there is something more in your line in the park."

"What is that?"

But he shook his head, laughing.

"I'll tell you another time," he said.

"Oh!" cried Lord Westbrook and Mrs. Dudley in a breath; "to excite our curiosity and then refuse to satisfy it!"

And Dallas added:

"For shame, Beau! Miss Herbert, make him tell!"

But Valerie, though she wondered what her host meant, only answered:

"He would not tell for anything I might say. It would be no use asking."

"Miss Herbert!" remonstrated Lord Westbrook, leaning over her chair, and adding lower, "As if any man could refuse whatever you asked!"

"You couldn't, perhaps," with a saucy upward flash of her bright eyes into his, which gave him a taste of the seventh heaven; "but Colonel Beauregard is made of sterner stuff. Besides, I am content to be patient."

(*To be continued.*)

DOMINION NEWS.

Mr. Mercier is reported to be improving in health.

The Western railways are still cutting rates.

The British War Office is going to try a mobilization experiment.

Severe fighting between the Dervishes and the Abyssinians at Kassala is reported.

The majority for Mr. Clarke in East Northumberland is officially stated to be 94.

Russia is expected to submit proposals regarding Bulgaria to the Powers immediately.

It is now reported that chloroform was used in the operation on the Crown Prince's throat.

The traffic business is increasing on both the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways.

The Labor Commission is expected to close its Montreal session towards the end of the week.

Mullman, the Prince Edward Island murderer, has been sentenced to be hanged on April 10.

The C.P.R. will start a series of colonist trains on Feb. 28 for Manitoba and the Northwest.

Mrs. Nichols of Peterboro has forwarded $1.00 cash towards the Queen's Jubilee endowment fund.

Wm. Waugh of Craighurst, Ont., was fined $50 and costs at Barrie on Feb. 11 for violation of the Scott Act.

A list of contributors to the deficit in the Central Bank funds was filed in Mr. Hodgins' office on Feb. 11.

Mr. A. T. Kerr, ex-broker, was arrested on Feb. 11 on the charge of forging the Central Bank ledgerkeeper's initials on a check.

Winnipeg bankers have been interviewed regarding the wheat blockade, and agree in stating that it seriously injures business.

The governors of King's College, Halifax, are investigating charges seriously affecting the moral reputation of some of its prominent professors.

There are a great number of people going to the Northwest just now. A batch of fifty, mostly from Western Ontario, left for Winnipeg on Feb. 9.

The Winnipeg Board of Trade, on Feb. 9, adopted a resolution condemning the action of the Dominion Government in refusing bonding facilities for grain at the boundary.

William Ewan & Son, wholesale clothiers of Montreal, suspended payment on Feb. 11. The liabilities amount to about $100,000. The firm will probably obtain a settlement from their creditors.

According to the statements of grain inspectors at Winnipeg and Port Arthur, six million bushels of wheat have been sent out of Manitoba and the Northwest since the harvest up to Feb. 1.

A resident of Montreal has received a letter from a miner at Sudbury giving marvelous accounts of the richness of the gold mines in that district. The writer asserts that a piece of native gold valued at $50,000 was taken from one vein.

Mr. Ogle, accountant of the Central Bank, was examined on the 10th inst. before the Master-in-Ordinary, and gave evidence as to the loose manner in which the business of the bank was conducted.

On Feb. 11, at Goderich, the captain and crew of the lifeboat were presented with medals on behalf of the United States Government for their heroic rescue of the crew of the American schooner Maxwell during a violent storm in December, 1885.

Prominent citizens of Ottawa are taking steps to tender a public banquet to Lord Lansdowne previous to his departure from Canada. It is considered probable, however, that his Excellency will stay to prorogue Parliament, and will not leave before June.

It is understood that a start will be made on the proposed new line of railway from Ottawa to Vaudreuil, via Caledonia Springs and Hawkesbury, about May 1. Promises of liberal bonuses have been received from the municipalities along the route, and several landowners will give right of way.

The Ontario Fruit Growers' Association closed its annual meeting on the 9th instant at Ottawa. Among other subjects discussed at the session were the grievances of fruit growers against railroads, the chief complaint being delay in shipping and loss and damage caused by shunting. A resolution declaring war on the English sparrows was also passed. Arrangements are being made for holding a Dominion Fruit Growers' convention next year, to last four days.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

Violent snowstorms have visited Austria and Turkey.

An extensive agrarian movement has been discovered in Southern Russia.

Rent reductions asked for by tenants on the Kingstown estate have been granted.

All the vessels of the Italian navy have received orders to be in readiness for active service.

The Imperial Parliament was opened on Feb. 9, the Queen's speech being read by Royal commission.

Dr. Schroetter of Vienna maintains that the disease from which the Crown Prince is suffering is cancer.

A Government measure having been rejected by the Italian Senate, the Crispi Ministry is expected to resign.

Lord Clanricarde has definitely made up his mind and expresses his intention to evict 1600 of his Galway tenants.

It is expected that Mr. Goschen will apply his surplus of nearly two million pounds to reducing the income tax by a penny.

The United States Senate, in secret session, has rejected the Extradition Treaty with Great Britain by a vote of 23 to 21.

An action was commenced in Dublin on Feb. 11 by Mr. Wilfrid Blunt against the police for $20,000 for illegal arrest.

Special prayer for the recovery of the Crown Prince was offered on Feb. 12 in some of the Episcopal churches in England.

The imprisoned Parnellite members are willing to resign, so as not to reduce the strength of the Irish party in the House.

It is reported that a circular note is to be sent from the Russian Foreign Office to the Powers in relation to the Bulgarian situation.

Prince William of Prussia at a public dinner indignantly repudiated the thirst for war that has been imputed to him by a section of the public.

A man named Templer, employed at Chatham, has been discovered selling secrets of the Balloon Department to the Italian Government.

A station and a mail train were buried by an avalanche on an Austrian railway, and 2000 men are at work endeavoring to rescue the imprisoned passengers.

James G. Blaine has written a letter to the chairman of the National Republican Committee, declining to allow his name to be put up for the Presidential nomination.

A raid was made on Feb. 11 by the police on a number of bucket shops in New York, thirty-eight men being arrested on the charge of maintaining gambling houses.

The arrest in London of Mr. Gilhooly and Mr. Pyne gives a new turn to the Parliamentary situation. It will be made by Mr. Parnell the subject of a question of privilege, and will occasion a hot debate.

Tracheotomy was performed on the Crown Prince on the 10th inst. The Prince slept well after the operation; he takes his food easily and his general condition is satisfactory, but the German experts do not believe he can live beyond August next.

It is stated that the attempts made by the Russian Government to float a loan have not been successful. It is further declared that the supposed railway loan recently negotiated was in reality a state loan.

Military activity continues on the continent of Europe, and the opinion prevails in Berlin that the peace illusion, with which Prince Bismarck's speech averted the situation, has passed away and that war has been postponed it is full inevitable.

The steamer Swanee from Baltimore for London collided with and sunk a tawier off Start Point. Four of the tawier's crew were drowned.

A palace has been engaged in Florence for Queen Victoria's occupancy, and it is also stated that she will pay a visit to San Remo during the month of February.

THE U. S. INTERSTATE BILL

A FOOLISH PROPOSAL AIMED AT CANADIAN RAILROADS.

The Discussion at Washington—Canada to be Forced into Annexation—Watt Fill the West is Heard From—Results as Viewed by Canada.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—There was quite a discussion before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee yesterday affecting Canadian interests. Briefly, the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific do not come under the Interstate law; nevertheless, according to United States law goods may be sent from a point in the United States, across Canada in bond, for delivery at another point in the first-named country. Over fifty roads and companies are now bonded under the act of 1885 and allowed to take goods through Canada. The list includes the Grand Trunk, the Canadian Pacific, the Michigan Southern, Wells, Fargo & Co., Pennsylvania, New York Central, Erie, in fact, all the big transportation companies. A return from Secretary Fairchild shows that the revenue has been fully protected against frauds in this matter.

General J. H. Wilson appeared before the committee and advocated absolute prohibition of the shipping of American goods over Canadian roads. He alleged that the Canadians would not allow their goods to be bonded through the United States. This is an error, as goods are often bonded between Ontario and Manitoba.] What the American roads complained of most was not the freight they lost to the Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway, but that these latter did not come under the Interstate law. Wilson went on to show that his proposal would force Canadians into annexation—under his proposal they would soon be bankrupt.

Senator Hiscock asked if the proposed change would not result in raising the rates of freight to American shippers. Mr. Wilson thought not. So did Senator Reagan.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—In reference to the above The Tribune correspondent at Washington says that the committee are likely to report remedial provisions, as the expressions were unanimous in favor of putting a stop to the Canadian favoritism complained of.

The Sun goes further and raises a howl over the subject. It insists on the adoption of this clause:

"And nothing in this act shall be construed to allow any common carrier to receive any freight in the United States to be carried in sealed cars or in bond by railway through a foreign country to any other place in the United States free of duty; and all laws and regulations which have been construed to permit such practice are hereby repealed."

The Sun lays special stress on a statement that the Canadian Government refuses to allow Manitoba wheat to be bonded through the United States.

HALIFAX BRANCH OF THE I. N. L.

A Letter From Secretary Ruttan Which Causes Much Comment.

HALIFAX, N.S., Feb. 13.—The Halifax branch of the Irish National League has received a letter from John P. Ruttan, Secretary of the Irish National League of America, in which he says: "When I appeared before the people of Halifax, some two years ago, I recognized one great and regrettable fact, and that was the indisposition of the majority of what may be called the wealthier class of Irishmen to identify themselves with the Irish national movement. The Irish cause was not fashionable. Its advocacy was tabooed because it would offend the delicate sensibilities of the British Garrison." The letter closes with an appeal to every Irishman to aid the movement. It has caused much comment here.

TORONTO TOPICS.

Peter Ryan, J. A. Proctor and Adam Armstrong have received their commissions as license commissioners for the city. The new board has not yet met for organization.

Chief of Police Grasett received a telegram from Detective Slemin, saying that he had left Port Arthur for Toronto at 1.45 Monday afternoon with James H. Samo in custody.

Monday morning Mr. Justice Falconbridge delivered judgment in the West Middlesex election case, voiding the election of Dr. Wm. F. Roome, the successful Conservative candidate at the general election in February last. The doctor defeated Mr. D. M. Cameron.

After judgment was delivered application was made for the prosecution of several parties for corrupt practices. The consideration of the court was reserved. Mr. C. J. Holman appeared for the petitioner and Mr. H. Becher, Q.C., London, for the respondent.

The Parkhill Brute Lodged in Jail.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—Allan Patton, who is charged with criminally assaulting a girl of 15 or 16 while out cutter riding at Parkhill, was lodged in the jail here to-day. The girl's name is Hannah Rowe, and she was in the employ of Mr. Simon McLeod, Warden of Middlesex, who laid the information in the case. According to the testimony the assault was a most brutal one. Miss Rowe in her endeavors to escape from Patton jumped from the sleigh and sprained her ankle.

Death at Monte Carlo of a Cobourg Lady.

COBOURG, Feb. 15.—A cablegram from Monte Carlo has brought the tidings of the death of Mrs. Rosamond, wife of Wm. Rosamond, President of the Cobourg Woolen Manufacturing Company. Mrs. Rosamond was the eldest daughter of Col. Skill, a retired officer in Her Majesty's army. She was 20 years of age and was held in high esteem.

TORONTO TOPICS.

TORONTO, Feb. 16.

Jacob B. Huber, the alleged forger from Lancaster, Pa., was again brought before Judge Macdougall to-day to show cause why he should not be extradited, but the private prosecutor announced his inability to proceed, and requested a further enlargement. Mr. Bigelow protested that his client had been detained in jail since Jan. 9, and so far no evidence whatever had been brought against him. The Judge gave the prosecution twenty-four hours in which to produce their evidence.

The Ontario Booksellers' Association held their semi-annual meeting yesterday, President Sharpe in the chair. Nothing was done regarding the copyright law. With regard to postage on periodicals, etc., between Canada and the States, the association decided that, in view of present arrangements, no action should be taken. A deputation will be sent eastwards to form minor organizations.

A Canadian Pacific Railway engineering party left Cooksville yesterday to survey a route for the railway's new line from that point to Hamilton. It is expected that the C.P.R. will have trains running between Toronto and the Niagara River before this year is out.

The benchers of the Law Society propose to have the portraits of Chief Justices Galt and Armour painted, with their permission.

Mr. Justice Robertson was engaged yesterday in the Master's court room hearing the case of Township of Nottawasaga v. the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway. This is an action to enforce an agreement entered into by defendants as a condition of obtaining a bonus from plaintiffs to keep a station at Avening, and for damages for not doing so. The Northern Railway was made a party defendant. Judgment was reserved.

The Chancery Divisional Court sittings will begin to-day.

Mr. Samo, the ex-furniture dealer and alleged forger, arrived here yesterday from Port Arthur in charge of Detective Slemin. He was taken to the Agnes-street Police Station, where he spent the night. No application for bail would be entertained. He will appear before the Magistrate this morning.

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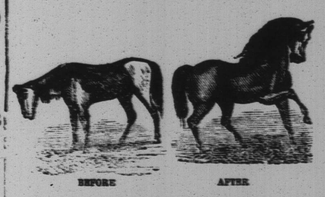

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