EXPLOITS OF A BRIGADIER GENERAL.

EOW THE BRIGADIER WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL.

The spring is at hand, my friends. I can see the the little green spearheads breaking out once more upon the chestnut trees, and the cafe tables have all been moved into the sunshine. It is more pleasant to sit there, and yet I do not wish to tell my little stories to the whole town. You have heard my doings as a lieutenant, as a squadron officer, as a colonel, as the chief of a brigade. But now I suddenly become something higher and more important. become history.

If you have read of those closing years of the life of the Emperor which were spent in the Island of St. Helena, you will remember that, again and again, he implored permission to send out one single letter which should be unopened by those who held him. Many times he made this request, and even went so far as to promise further resistance is useless, and that it can that he would provide for his own wants and cease to be an expense to the British Government if it were granted to him. But his guardians knew that he was a terrible man, this pale, fat gentleman in the straw hat, and they dared not grant him what he asked. Many have wondered who it was to whom he could have any. thing so secret to say. Some have supposed that it was his wife, and some that it was his father-in-law; some that it was to the Emperor Alexander, and some to Marshal Soult. What will you think of me, my friends, when I tell you it was to me-to me, the Brigadier Gerard-that the Emperor wished to write! Yes, humbleas you see me, with only my 100 francs a month of half-pay between me and hunger, it is none the less true that I was always in the Emperor's mind, and that he would have given his left hand for five minutes' talk with me. I will tell you to-night how this him. same about.

noise, where the conscripts in their blouses and their sabots made such a fine stand, Emperor Alexander either." that we, the more long-headed of us, began to understand that it was all over with us. Our reserve ammunition had been taken in of my the battle, and we were left with silent guns and empty caissons. Our cavalry, too, was in a deplorable condition, and my own brigade had been destroyed in the great charge at Craonne. Then came the news that the enemy had taken Paris, that the citizens had mounted the white cockade; and finally, most terrible of all, that Marmont and his corps had gone over to the Bourbons. We looked at each other and asked how many more of our generals were going to turn against us. Already there were Jourdan, Marmont, Murat, Bernadotte, and Jomini-though nobody minded much about Jomini, for his pen was always sharper than his sword. We had been ready to fight Europe, but it looked now as though we were to fight Europe and half France as well.

We had come to Fontainbleau by a long, forced march, and there we were assembled, the poor remnants of us, the corps of Ney, the corps of my cousin Gerard, and the corps of Macdonald; twenty-five thousand in all, with seven thousand of the guard. But we had our prestige, which was worth fifty thousand, and our Emperor, who was worth fifty thousand more. He was always among us, serene, smiling, confident, taking his anuff and playing with his little riding-whip. Never in the days of his greatest victories have I admired him as much as I did during the Campaign of France.

One evening I was with a few of my officers drinking a glass of wine of Suresnes. I mention that it was wine of Suresnes just to show you that times were not very good with us. Suddenly I was disturbed by a message from Berthier that he wished to see me. When I speak of my old comrades-in-arms, I will, with your permission, leave out all the fine foreign titles which they had picked up during the wars. They are excellent for a Court, but you never heard them in the camp, for we could not afford to do away with our Ney, our Rapp, or our Soultnames which were as stirring to our ears as the blare of our trumpets blowing the reveille. It was Berthier, then, who sent to say that he wished to see me.

He had a suite of rooms at the end of the gallery of Francis the First, not very far from those of the Emperor. In the ante-chamber were waiting two men whom I knew well: Colonel Despienne, of the 57th of the line, and Captain Tremeau, of the Voltigeurs. They were both old soldiers-Tremeau had carried a musket famous in the army for their courage and them in the same spirit. His lips were but Despienne was capable at his ed myself with muttering "Atrocious! best of making me exert myself. He was Unspeakable !" -- so that he might know the whole of France, you are those whom a tiny fellow, about three inches short of that I was in agreement with him. the proper height for a man-he was exactly three inches shorter than myself-but furiously up and down, and I seated in the both with the sabre and with the small- corner, when suddenly a most extraordinary sword he had several times almost held his uproar broke out in the room which we had own against me when we used to exhibit at just quitted. There was a snarling, worrying divorce from Josephine, of my legal mar-Verron's Hall of Arms in the Palais Royal. growl, like that of a fierce dog which has You may think that it made us sniff some- got his grip. Then came a crash and a thing in the wind when we found three voice calling for help. In we rushed, the such men called together into one room. two of us, and, my faith, we were none too You cannot see the lettuce and the dress. soon. ing without suspecting a salad.

barrack-room fashion. " Are we then ex- the top of them. "The Captain had one of of no more value than this riding switch pecting three champions of the Bourbons!" | his great, skinny, yellow hands upon the improbable. Certainly in the whole army lead-colored, and his eyes were starting you may realize the enormous importance we were the very three who might have from their sockets. As to Tremeau, he was of the task which I am committing to

speak with the Brigadier Gerard," said a upon him that I am convinced, had we not and what you are to do with them. footman, appearing at the door,

In I went, leaving my two companions consumed with impatience behind me. It was a small room, but very gorgeously the power of his grasp. furnished. Berthier was seated opposite to me at a little table, with a pen in his hand and a note-book opened before him. he was looking weary and slovenly-very different from that Berthier who used to

hair by trimming his pelisse with fur, one campaign, and with grey astrakhan the next. On his clean-shaven, comely face there was an expression of trouble, and he looked at me as I entered his chamber in a way which had in it something furtive and displeasing.

"Chief of Brigade Gerard !" said he. "At your service, your Highness !" answered.

"I must ask you, before I go farther, to promise me, upon your honor as a gentleman and a soldier, that what is about to pass between us shall never be mentioned to any third person."

My word, this was a fine beginning ! had no choice but to give the promise re-

quired. "You must know, then, that it is all over with the Emperor," said he, looking down at the table and speaking very slowly, as if he had a hard task in getting out the words. "Jourdan at Rouen and Marmont at Paris have both mounted the white cockade, and it is rumored that Talleyrand has talked Ney into doing the same. It is evident that only bring misery upon our country. I wish to ask you, therefore, whether you are prepared to join me in laying hands upon the Emperor's person, and bringing the war to a conclusion by delivering him over to the allies."

I assure you that when I heard this infamous proposition put forward by the man who had been the earliest friend of the Emperor, and who had received greater favours from him than any of his followers, I could only stand and stare at him in amazement. For his part he tapped his pen handle against his teeth, and looked at me with a slanting head. "Well?" he asked.

"I am a little deaf upon one side," said coldly. "There are some things which cannot hear. I beg that you will permit me to return to my duties."

"Nay, but you must not be headstrong," said he, rising up and laying his hand upon my shoulder. "You areaware that the Senate has declared against Napoleon, and that the Emperor Alexander refuses to treat with

"Sir," I cried, with passion, "I would It was after the Battle of Fere-Champe- have you know that I do not care the dregs of a wine-glass for the Senate or for the

> "Then for what do you care?" " For my own honour and for the service glorious master, the Emperor Napoleon.

> "That is all very well," said Berthier, peevishly, shrugging his shoulders. "Facts are facts, and as men of the world, we must look them in the face. Are we to stand against the will of the nation? Are we to have civil war on the top of all our misfortunes? And, besides, we are thinning away. Every hour comes the news of fresh desertions. We have still time to make our peace, and indeed, to earn the highest reward, by giving up the Emperor."

I shook so with passion that my sabre

clattered against my thigh. "Sir," I cried, "I never thought to have seen the day when a Marshal o France would have so far degraded himself as to put forward such a proposal. I leave you to your own conscience; but as for me, until I have the Emperor's own order, there shall always be the sword of Etienne Gerard between his enemies and

the fine position which I had taken up, that my voice broke, and I could hardly refrain from tears. I should have liked the whole army to have seen me as I stood with my head so proudly erect and my hand upon my heart proclaming my devotion to the Emperor in his adversity. It

was one of the supreme moments of my life. "Very good," said Berthier, ringing a bell for the lackey. "You will show the Chief of Brigade Gerard into the salon."

The footman led me into an inner room, where he desired me to be seated. For my own part, my only desire was to get away, and I could not understand why they should wish to detain me. When one has had no change of uniform during a whole winter's campaign, one does not feel at

home in a palace. I had been there about a quarter of an hour when the footman opened the door again, and in came Colonel Despienne. Good heavens, what a sight he was! His face was as white as a guardsman's gaiters, his eyes projecting, the veins swollen upon his forehead, and every hair of his moustache bristling like those of an angry cat. He was too angry to speak and could only shake his hands at the ceiling and make a gurgling in his throat. "Parricide! Viper!" those were the words that I could catch as he stamped up and down the room.

Of course it was evident to me that he had been subjected to the same infamous in Egypt-and they were also both proposals as I had, and that he had received their skill with weapons. Tremeau had sealed to me, as mine were to him, by the They must be secured and concealed by become a little stiff in the wrist, promise which we had taken, but I content-

Well, we were still there, he striding

"Name of a pipe !" said Tremeau, in his together upon the floor, with the table upon francs-an immense sum, my friends, but To all of us the idea appeared not Marshal's throat, and already his face was have spoken. I tell you these things that beside himself, with foam upon the corners your care. Listen, now, while I inform "The Prince of Neufchatel desires to of his lips, and such a frantic expression you where you are to get these papers, loosened his iron grip, finger by finger, that it would never have relaxed while the Marshal lived. His nails were white with

"I have been tempted by the devil !" he cried, as he staggered to his feet. "Yes, I have been tempted by the devil !"

As to Berthier, he could only lean against know but herself. She has been warned the wall, and pant for a couple of minutes, | that her carriage will be stopped, outside give the fashion to the army, and who had putting his hands up to his throat and so often set us poerer officers tearing our rolling his head about. Then, with an

curtain which hung behind his chair.

Emperor stepped out into the room. We her as a receipt for her papers. sprang to the salute, we three old soldiers, gaze had upon most of us. Then he walked | will dig a hole three feet deep in the north-

to nobility." He spoke in that soft caress- and you will then report to me at the ing manner which he could assume. There | palace." was no one who could make the French tongue sound so pretty as the Emperor, and no one could make it more harsh and ter-

"I believe he would have killed me,"cried

Rerthier, still rolling his head about. help had these officers not heard your cries. But I trust that you are not really hurt !" He spoke with earnestness, for he was in truth very fond of Berthier-more so than of any man, unless it were of poor Duroc.

from French hands," said he.

tinguished! They still burn up when you as this new and most intimate commission. think that your Emperor is wronged. And even listen to the tempter. And you, marshals yet.' Gerard, your faithful sword is ever to be between me and my enemies. Well, well, I have had some traitors about me, but are the true men."

joy which it gave us when the greatest man | avoid the gossip which might get about if in the whole world spoke to us in this | three men who were so well known were fashion. Tremeau shook until I thought | to be seen riding out together. My little he would have fallen, and the tears ran Violette had cast a shoe that morning, and down his gigantic moustache. If you had the farrier was at work upon her when I not seen it, you could never believe the returned, so that my comrades were already influence which the Emperor had upon | there when I arrived at the trysting-place.

"if you will follow me into this room, I with a mallet for knocking in the charges. will explain to you the meaning of this They had cost me a hundred and fifty little farce which we have been acting. I francs at Trouvel's in the Rue de Rivoli beg, Berthier, that you will remain in this but they would carry far further and chamber, and so make sure that no one straighter than the others. It was with interrupts us."

It was new for us to be doing business, life at Leipzig. with a Marshal of France as sentry at the door. However, we followed the Emperor | brilliant moon behind us, so that we always as we were ordered, and he led us into the had three black horsemen riding down the recess of the window, gathering us around | white road in front of us. The country is him and sinking his voice as he addressed so thickly wooded, however, that we could

my soldiers. I was convinced that you from starting. were all three men who would never waver your valour."

"To the death, sire !" cried Tremeau, and we both repeated it after him. Napoleon drew us all yet a little closer

to him, and sank his voice still lower. "What I say to you now I have said to no one-not to my wife or my brothers; only to you. It is all up with us, my friends. We have come to our last rally. The game is finished, and we must make provision accordingly."

My heart seemed to have changed to a nine-pounder ball as I listened to him. We had hoped against hope, but now when he, the man who was always serene and who always had reserves -- when he, in that quiet, impassive voice of his, said that everything was over, we realized that the clouds had shut for ever, and the last gleam gone. Tremeau snarled and gripped at his sabre, Despienne ground his teeth, and for my own part I threw out my chest and clicked my heels to show the Emperor that out. there were some spirits which would rise to adversity.

"My papers and my fortune must be secured," whispered the Emperor. "The whole course of the future may depend upon my having them safe. They are our base for the next attempt-for I am very sure that these poor Bourbons would find that my footstool is too large to make a throne for them. Where am I to keep these precious things? My belongings will be searched -so will the houses of my supporters. men whom I can trust with that which is more precious to me than my life. Out of I have chosen for this sacred trust.

" In the first place, I will tell you what these papers are. You shall not say that I have made you blind agents in the matter. They are the official proof of my riage to Marie Louise, and of the birth of my son and heir, the King of Rome. If we cannot prove each of these, the future claim of my family to the throne of France falls to the ground. Then there are Old Tremeau and Berthier were rolling securities to the value of forty millions of compared to the other papers of which I

"They were handed over to my trusty friend, the Countess Walewski, at Paris, this morning. At five o'clock she starts for Fontainebleau ir her blue berline. She should reach here between half-past nine and ten. The papers will be concealed in the berline, in a hiding-place which none the town by three mounted officers, and she will hand the packet over to your care.

angry gesture, he turned to the heavy blue You are the younger man, Gerard, but you are of the senior grade. I confide to "There, sire !" he cried, furiously, "I | your care this amethyst ring, which you told you exactly what would come of it." will show the lady as a token of your The curtain was torn to one side and the mission, and which you will leave with

but it was all like a scene in a dream to us, ride with it into the forest as far as the and our eyes were as far out as Berthier's had ruined dove-house-the Colombier. It is little silver-headed switch in his hand. He | send my body-servant, Mustapha, whose looked at us each in turn, with a smile directions you may take as being mine. upon his face-that frightful smile in which | There is no roof to the Colombier, and tofor that was the effect which the Emperor's leaning against the wall. With these you across to Berthier and put his hand upon his eastern corner-that is, in the corner to

given with such an accuracy and minuteness of detail such as no one but bimself could put into an order. When he had finished, he made us swear to keep his secret as long as he lived, and as long as his inevitable failures but to help others to "Tut, tut! I should have come to your | the papers should remain buried. Again and again he made us swear it before he dismissed us from his presence.

Colonel Despienne had quarters at the my Egyptian grenadiers, were you not, from the lips of the Emperor himself, but and had your musket of honour at Mar- neither the incident of the Ajaccio murderfriend. So the old fires are not yet ex- Paris appeared to offer such opportunities train from Cape Town) is

"If things go right with the Emperor," you, Colonel Despienne, you would not said Despienne, "we shall all live to be

We drank with him to our future cocked

hats and our batons. It was agreed between us that we should now at last we are beginning to see who | make our pay separately to our rendezvous, which was to be the first milestone upon You can fancy, my friends, the thrill of the Paris road. In this way we should those coarse-grained, savage old veterans. I had taken with me not only my sabre, but "Well, my faithful friends," said he, also my new pair of English rifled pistols, one of them that I had saved old Bouvet's

The night was cloudless, and there was a not see very far. The great palace clock "I have picked you out of the whole had already struck ten, but there was no army," said he, "as being not only the most | sign of the Countess. We began to fear formidable but also the most faithful of that something might have prevented her

And then suddenly we heard her in the in your fidelity to me. If I have ventured | distance. Very faint at first were the birr to put that fidelity to the proof, and to of wheels and the tat-tat-tat of the horses watch you whilst attempts were at my feet. Then they grew louder and clearer orders made upon your honour, it was only and louder yet, until a pair of yellow lanbecause, in the days when I have found terns swung round the curve, and in their the blackest treason amongst my own flesh light we saw the two big brown horses and blood, it is necessary that I should be | tearing along with the high, blue carriage I was so moved by my own words and by doubly circumspect. Suffice it that I am at the back of them. The position pulled well convinced now that I can rely upon | them up panting and foaming within a few yards of us. In a moment we were at the window and had raised our hands in a salute to the beautiful pale face which looked out

> "We are the three officers of the Emperor, madame," said I, in a low voice, leaning my face down to the open window. "You have already been warned that we should wait upon you."

> The countess had a very beautiful. cream-tinted complexion of a sort which I particularly admired, but she grew whiter and whiter as she looked up at me. Harsh lines deepened upon her face until she seemed, even as I looked at her, to turn from youth into age.

"It is evident to me," she said, "that you are three impostors." If she had struck me across the face with her delicate hand she could not have startled

me more. It was not her words only, but

the bitterness with which he hissed them

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Poultry Industry.

Prince Edward Island makes \$200,000 this year through the butter and cheese industries. The expenditure on promotion and education was trifling; the results in the compound, eat mealy meal (local enormous. It is to be hoped that the Government will direct its attention to other branches of agriculture. There is a rule, pigeon English, but are infinitely the poultry industry, as an example. Eng. more impressed when spoken to in Dutch, land purchased \$22,000,000 worth of eggs athough some of them know not a word last year from France, Denmark, and Con- beyond their own special dialect : they are tinental countries. We can get some of supposed to do the work of a general serthese millions if our farmers will keep the vant. These "boys," as they are calledfowls which lay the large eggs, and if eggs irrespective of age-spend about ten years are sent over in good condition for the of their lives (from about 17 to 27) in ser-English market. What is wanted is in- vice, during which time many of them struction in the business of keeping the contrive to save a goodly sum of money; right kind of poultry, of feeding it to the and, when not mulcted of it by the white best advantage, and of marketing the eggs. | men, they return to their kraals, buy cattle Along with egg exportations will of course, and wives and luxuriate in utter idleness, go poultry exportations. For poultry there while their women-folk tend the cattle and is also a large market in England. Mr. cook the scoff (food). While living in Gilbert, of the Poultry Department, is Johannesburg or in the adjacent locality already doing excellent work. But he can allotted to them, they are subjected to do more, and with great benefit, if the certain special laws, which are more honoropportunity and the facilities for doing it | ed in the breach than in the observance. are afforded him.

The New Deal.

I'm a man and she's a woman I must fight the battle through-Hold on. I guess not. Thank you. She is a woman new.

Good Plan.

What did your tailor charge you for that

Nothing. What! How did that happen? He didn't charge it. I paid him for it. SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD FIELDS.

Look Through the Boom City of Johannesburg.

Some nine or ten years ago, when the "Having received the packet, you will Kimberley days were drawing to an end, owing to the diamond fields having become been. Napoleon was dressed in his green- possible that I may meet you there-but practically a monopoly, faint murmurs of coated chasseur uniform, and he held his if it seems to me to be dangerous, I will gold to be found "up country" crept inte the moist, warm air, and revived the drooping spirits of the ardent little Kimberneither eyes nor brow joined-and each in night will be a full moon. At the right ley colony. Regardless of hardship-nay, turn had, I believe, a pringling on his skin, of the entrance you will find three spades misery-buoyant with hope, and with an esprit de corps seldom seen outside a mining camp, they trekked in wagons drawn by the left of the door, and nearest to Fon- mules or oxen, and in this primitive "You must not quarrel with blows, my tainebleau. Having buried the papers, manner—the only one possible at the time dear Prince," said he ; "they are your title you will replace the soil with great care, -they left the home of their lost prosperity to seek a new El Dorado in unknown These were the Emperor's directions, but regions. Seldom, if ever, is the pioneer of any enterprise the man who resps the benefit of his temerity; his struggles serve but to point the way to newcomers, and success. Johannesburg leapt into life from these first few wagonloads, which were tentatively outspanned on a barren, sandy "Sign of the Pheasant," and it was there | tract of land, around which, in an incredibly that we supped together. We were all short time, new wagon loads, tin shanties Berthier laughed, though not in a very three men who had been trained to take and canteens collected. The gold fever, the strangest turns of fortune as part of our always incipient, broke out with its usual "It is new for me to receive my injuries daily life and business, yet we were all virulence, drawing within its miasmatic flushed and moved by the extraordinary reach all sorts and conditions of men to lay "And yet it was in the cause of France," interview which we had had, and by the the foundations of the town. Then began returned the Emperor. Then, turning to | thought of the great adventure which lay | the prospecting, the pegging out of claims, us, he took old Tremeau by the ear. "Ah, before us. For my own part, it had been the formation both of bogus and bona fide old grumbler," said he, "you were one of my fate several times to take my orders companies and syndicates, the rapid buying

To-day the newcomer alighting at the engo. I remember you very well my good ers nor the famous ride which I made to Park Station (presuming that he arrives by

PLEASANTLY IMPRESSED.

He sees a bright, lively, and promising little town, picturesque, scattered, and busy. The soil is of a bright brickdust red, which tones well with the emerald green of the newly planted gum trees. The bungalow dwelling houses boast each a stoop (veranda), and a small plot of ground, and seem to tell a tale of simple satisfaction, lending a charm which lasts about a week. let us say, for the dullest person does not take long to find out that almost every erection in the town it "jerry" built. Windows are not made to exclude the air, nor doors to reach their lintels, the walls do nothing much towards deadening sound, and the ceilings, though very often formed of polished wooden panels, are not so frequently impervious to rain; in fact, umbrellas and mackintoshes have on occasions been used, even in bed, as a protection from intruding raindrops.

Such bungalows, which are the homes of the middle classes, consist of three or four bed rooms, a sitting room, kitchen and small larder, with a compound (yard) and small garden attached, and costs in town from about £20 to £25, and within a ten minutes radius from the town about £12 to £15 a month, most contracts and all payments being made by the month. Therefore, to move from one house to another several times in a year is not a very unusual occurrence, nor is it attended by much difficulty, for the household goods are few, and the residents are averse to increasing the number of their possessions from lack of space in which to place them. "Art" muslin, packing-cases and paraffine oil tine form a large item in the economy of those who can not afford to import furniture from home. Muslin window curtains, sometimes of the lighest coloring, are very effective in the bright sunshine, which is seldom dulled for long. The possibilities of packing cases are almost beyond limit, for, with a little dexterity, they can be converted from dressing table to divan from linen press to larder, and so on, while empty oil tins refilled with the

RICH RED VIRGIN SOIL,

which will grow almost everything, are, when planted with creepers, ferns and flowers, and placed along the stoop, almost as decorative as the flower box which occupies the window sill of a London house. More substantial furniture is mostly bought at sales, which occur very frequently, as homes are always being sold up.

Here, as elsewhere, the everyday detail of living holds a prominent place in the adjustment of everyday life; and the womenkind of each household have there to take an unusually active part in the management of domestic affairs. For the kitchen boy, almost the only servant obtainable, costs from £2 10s to £3 or more per month, and is an endless source of annoyance and difficulty. Some of them are raw Kaffirs from "up country," who enter service knowing nothing of civilization, and have to be taught their duties from beginning to end; but even these are better than the so-called Christians, who are usually more or less dishonest and given to drink. They sleep in an outhouse built name for an inferior sort of Indian corn) or scraps and leavings, at which they are now beginning to protest. They speak, as

An Unfeeling Estimate.

So you wouldn't take me to be twenty. five, tittered Miss Twitters. What would you take me for, then ? About thirty-six, replied inconsiderate Mr. Swayback.

Always at Hand.

Husband (rummaging through a drawer) -Well, it's very strange; I can never find anything. Wife-You can always find fault, it seems