

At Swords' Points;

A SOLDIER OF THE RHINE.

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CHAPTER XXIII. Conclusions.

When the little martinet thus announced his decision it created something of an excitement.

Hildegard's face lost its pallor, and Paul smiled grimly, at the same time he kept an eye on Almee.

Just as he expected, the baffled countess aimed to carry out a desperate plan.

"It is a lie, a base forgery, a trick to deceive fools; but it cannot hoodwink me. What is this you say—that the man shall go free, he, caught red handed in the act, a spy, a hated German spy, fit only for the halter? And you dare to say that, you who swore on bended knees that my word should be law?"

The poor major, victim of cross purposes, could only shrug his shoulders.

"There is a previous oath, ma'maello, my vow to my country to obey my superiors. That is above life to me, since my honored name is involved. Even for you I dare not order my men to arrest one who is under the protection of such a sacred document, written by Marshal Bazaine himself."

The countess, apparently cheated out of her prey, and deserted by an ally whom she had believed could be depended upon through thick and thin, looked about her sullenly. Desperation had made her temporarily mad, and she would risk even her own destruction in order to gain revenge.

From figure to figure this glance went—and then he saw a fierce joy flash over her face.

It was as though she had discovered that all was not yet quite lost. Ah! it was Karl!

Remembering as he did that the other had candidly confessed he was in Metz as a secret agent of the German forces, no wonder Paul felt a sudden fall of his spirits when he recollected that the magic document of his British friend would not cover two companions, and that the dreadful fate of death at the hands of the mob, from which he had just escaped by a mere scratch, would probably be the doom of his friend and brother, poor Karl.

Still keeping her eyes glued upon Karl, the countess once more addressed the major, resolved to test the last remainder of her power over that worthy.

"One has escaped us, you say, but do not forget, my friend, there are two. Yonder man, his comrade, is the spy we seek. You prate of your sacred duty as a soldier—let us see some of it now—arrest that man and search him for positive evidence of his guilt."

The major woke up. He was once more the warrior bold, eager to faithfully serve the woman he adored.

Heaven help the poor devil upon whom his concentrated wrath now fell, for, having been held in the leash so long the fighting major was apt to be exceedingly ferocious.

However, if the bellicose soldier anticipated any quailing on the part of Karl Von Stettin, he made the most grievous mistake of his life.

The young Heidelberg philosopher even smiled as brightly as one could wish.

In fact, he even appeared pleased to have all eyes concentrated in his direction.

This was not braggadocio. What could it mean?

Beatrix crept up beside Karl, and caught hold of his arm.

Her action could not be mistaken—it meant as plainly as those words of old which Ruth spoke to Naomi:

"Whither thou goest I shall go, thy country shall be my country, thy God my God."

Karl put an arm around the girl and strained her to his heart.

And into Hildegard's cheeks, hitherto as white as marble, the color surged, as the light of a great revelation began to force its way.

Paul, then, was not lost—he had not been unfaithful—he was all her most fervid fancy had ever painted him—and deep down in her heart she knew he loved her.

No wonder, then, she glowed with sudden hope and the world took on a new brightness—after all, it is our condition of mind that makes or mars the scene. To the happy soul even a dreary day of rain affords seasons of rejoicing.

Thus one good thing had come about through this concentration of attention upon Karl.

Utterly helpless himself, in so far as assisting his comrade was concerned, Paul could only turn to watch the progress of events, praying that Sir Noel could see the way to lead a hand, or that Karl himself might have a card concealed up his sleeve that would sweep the board.

"Your name?" demanded the major, gruffly, as he frowned upon the smiling young student-soldier, who stood with one arm thrown reassuringly around the girl.

"Karl Von Stettin," came the prompt reply.

"Native of Germany?"

"It is true."

All I have with it. I do not wish to hear the story now—at some other time, perhaps. Stop, do not insist. I may have an idea as to the truth, but it is enough for me to know you are innocent. I am only too happy to trust my whole future in your hands."

He sealed the compact as any bold lover would have done, and the bargain made while German shells still exploded in the streets of Metz was founded upon such mutual respect and perfect faith that neither could ever regret it.

The sturdy Briton appeared to be especially tickled over the fact that Karl had seen his lead and gone him one better in the way of legerdemain.

"You came very near ending our friend for good. I declare, the major was so staggered his life hung by a thread," he laughed.

Perhaps there was a tinge of curiosity in his tone.

"You heard enough to give you an inkling of the truth, gentlemen, and now I feel in duty bound to tell all. I am not in Metz as a spy, though I thought it my duty to allow even Paul here to believe it for a time, as my mission was supposed to be a dead secret. On the contrary, I have come here at the written solicitation of Marshal Bazaine, who desires to discover the best terms he could secure for his brave army of the Rhine.

"At first he demanded that there be some allowance made for their emigration to Algiers, which the Crown Prince declined, and matters have become so bad that the French commander has agreed to an unconditional surrender. At midnight I shall go out of Metz bearing his acceptance, and after that time, when this document is in the hands of the Crown Prince, not another bomb will fall within these walls, for Metz will have fallen."

Paul looked delighted, and even the non-partisan Briton seemed pleased to know the era of bloodshed in this particular region was at an end.

"Thank God!" he said, reverently, "then peace will follow when Paris also falls."

"Yes, we have much to be thankful for," said Paul, glancing toward Hildegard.

As for the doctor, spying a bottle of wine with three glasses upon a sideboard, he poured some into the crystal receptacles.

"Gentlemen, join with me in this toast—here's to the gallant major!"

"And may he escape the almost universal fate of those who worship at Almee's shrine," added the Rhinelander, earnestly.

And so they drank it down.

Little did they guess that at the very moment Countess Almee was being carried into the hospital, a victim of an exploding Prussian shell, and that if she lived through the dreadful shock it would be as a helpless wreck of her past beautiful self.

The judgment had come at last, and in this hour her myriad victims were avenged.

What more need be said? Paul and Karl served until Paris fell and peace came upon the stricken fields of France.

There is no necessity to tell how they married, and what joys or sorrows came their way, for this world holds its share of both for all who love and who are chosen.

Paul tenderly cared for his mother the rest of her years, and at her request finally laid her away in the American cemetery, where rested the husband who had been so fearfully wronged, yet who, with his last dying breath, had pardoned all in the greatness of his love, believing that to those who have sinned much, if they truly repent, everything shall be forgiven.

THE END.

DIFFERENT SIGNS.

The following story was once told by Dr. John Marshall, dean of the University of Pennsylvania, during a lecture:

"There lived in a small English village a curate whose custom it was to drive his horses tandem. His parishioners evidently thought such a style was unbecoming for a minister and spoke to him on the subject. Their words had no effect, and they complained to the bishop. The bishop sent for the curate and advised him to drive his horses side by side.

"But," said the curate, "what difference does it make whether I drive my horses side by side or tandem? The horses are the same, and there is only a difference of position."

"That's just it, my good man," said the bishop—"the position. Now, when I extend my hands this way," and he stretched them over the curate's head, "it's a sign of a blessing, but when I put them this way," and the bishop placed one hand in front of the other before his nose, "it is a sign of derision."

Should Have Satisfied Him.

President Tucker of Dartmouth College, with his family, has spent a number of summers on a farm in New Hampshire. During the past year, however, the pedagogue was greatly annoyed by two things—the proximity of the pig-pen and the manners of the "hired girl." Therefore when the owner of the farm wrote to him recently, asking whether he would again have the president of Dartmouth as his boarder, the latter sent back a decided negative, stating his reasons for not wishing to return. In a few days he received the following reply: "Dear Sir: There ain't been no hogs since you left, and Hannah has went."—New York Times.

WEEK'S DOINGS IN CONGRESS

Business Transacted by the House and Senate in the National Capital.

AMENDS IMMIGRATION BILL

House Passes in Entire Day on Measure, Making Many Changes and Additions, Including Educational Test for Would-Be American Residents.

Tuesday, May 20
A bill to regulate the introduction of eggs of game birds into the United States for propagation was passed by the senate. The Philippine bill was again taken up, and the concentration of the inhabitants into camps was the leading topic of discussion. Mr. Bacon of Georgia attacked the policy of concentration, likening it to the concentration camps established by General Weyler in Cuba. Mr. Foraker of Ohio defended the action of the military authorities in establishing the camps in the Philippines as wise and proper, and as a means of protecting the friendly Filipinos from assassination at the hands of roving bands of insurgents.

The house agreed to the conference report on the omnibus bill and passed the measure. The urgency deficiency bill making appropriations for the several departments of the government was passed. During consideration of bills on the private calendar a measure to pay George Rushberger of Johnstown, Pa., \$5,000 for discovering and capturing Santa Ana's money at Cerro Gordo, N. M., in 1847, was called up and the bill defeated. A resolution offered by Mr. Hill, chairman of the foreign affairs committee felicitating Cuba on her independence, was passed unanimously.

Wednesday, May 21.

The senate adopted a resolution of congratulation to Cuba on its entry into the family of independent nations. A motion was adopted to adjourn from Friday until Monday in order that the body might take part in the Rochambeau monument unveiling on Saturday. The conference report on the agricultural appropriation bill was agreed to. Consideration of the Philippine bill was then resumed, Mr. Wellington of Maryland and Mr. Bacon of Georgia speaking against the measure. Consideration of the bill was laid aside and the omnibus public building appropriation bill passed. With the senate amendments it carries \$21,225,150. Adjourned at 6:25 o'clock.

Consideration of the immigration bill was begun in the house. Mr. Shattuc (Ohio), of the committee on immigration, was severe in his condemnation of the manner in which immigrants are introduced through Canada. Mr. Underwood (Ala.) gave notice of an amendment to provide an educational test, and much of the discussion during the day was upon this subject. The resolutions seating Charles R. Thomas (third North Carolina district), K. Emmett Tompkins (twelfth Ohio district), whose seat was contested by John R. Lentz, and conferring the right of Mr. Rhea (ninth Virginia district) were adopted. Bills were passed granting to the U. S. A. R. the right to be quartered in the unfinished government printing office during the coming national encampment; authorizing the erection of buildings by the Y. M. C. A. on military reservations of the United States; authorizing the sale of a part of the Fort Nibbrara military reservation in Nebraska, and regulating compensation for good conduct for United States prisoners. It was agreed that adjournment to-morrow be until next Monday because of the Rochambeau ceremonies.

Thursday, May 22.

A resolution offered by Mr. Hale (Me.) was adopted directing the secretary of the navy to furnish the senate with detailed items under the head of "the pay of the navy." A bill was passed to establish an assay office at Portland, Ore. When the Philippine government bill was under consideration Mr. Hoar made a two-and-a-half-hour speech in which he denounced the policy of the administration in making war on the Philippines; criticized the methods pursued by General Funston in the capture of Aguinaldo, and made a plea that the Philippines be allowed to form a government of their own.

The Rev. Dr. Coudeau, the chaplain of the house, made reference to the birth of the new republic of Cuba. These bills were passed: To establish an additional life-saving station on Monomoy Island, Massachusetts; to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Savannah river from Aiken county, South Carolina, to Richmond county, Georgia. The senate amendments to the omnibus public building bill were disagreed to and the bill went to conference. Consideration of the immigration bill was resumed.

Friday, May 23.

Mr. Hale introduced a bill, which the senate passed, making an additional appropriation of \$98,500 to the urgent deficiency bill for the current fiscal year. Mr. Stewart offered a joint resolution, which was passed, providing for the modification of certain provisions of the Indian appropriation bill relating to the making of allotments to the Indians of the Spokane Indian reservation, to the payment to certain Indians of an amount aggregating \$70,064, and to the settlement of the Indian lands. The army appropriation bill, with a message from the house asking for a conference, was laid before the senate. It was debated and action deferred. The senate agreed to a conference with the house on the omnibus public building bill, and Messrs. Fairbanks, Warren and Rawlins were named as conferees. Consideration of the Philippine government bill was then resumed, Mr. Dubois speaking against the measure. Mr. Beveridge replied and consideration of the bill was then laid aside to pass a bill providing for the appointment of James W. Long on the retired list of the army, as a captain of infantry.

In the house the day was devoted to private pension bills and to a few other minor measures. Mr. Loud (Cal.) criticized the special pension legislation as a disgrace and drew emphatic responses from Messrs. Sullo-way (N. H.), Sulzer (N. Y.) and Miles (Ind.). In all 105 private pension bills were passed. A bill was also passed appropriating \$15,000 to establish storm-warning stations at South Manitou Island, Lake Michigan.

Saturday, May 24.

Neither the Senate nor House was in session, having adjourned until Monday on account of the Rochambeau ceremonies.

HEAVYWEIGHTS FIGHT JULY 25

Jeffries and Fitzsimmons Arrange for Their Coming Battle.

San Francisco special Final articles for the battle between Jeffries and Fitzsimmons for the championship of the world were signed Friday, and all arrangements completed for the contest. The fight will take place on the evening of July 25, probably at the Mechanics pavilion. Edward M. Grady will referee the contest.

Michigan Union Joins in Call.

Saginaw, Mich., dispatch: The executive board of the United Mine Workers of Michigan met here, National Vice President T. L. Lewis also being here. The board took up the appeal from the anthracite districts of Pennsylvania for a call on President Mitchell for a special convention to consider a strike of the entire national body of mine workers. After discussion the executive board decided to officially sign the appeal for the convention. The board also formulated plans for continuing the strike, and sixteen men will be sent out to the principal cities in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to solicit funds for strikers here, who have been out since April 1 and have lost \$300,000 in wages.

Four Indiana Boys Drown.

North Vernon, Indiana, dispatch: Edward Miller, aged 16; Harry Myers, aged 15; Harold Kraig, aged 13; Fred Schwake, aged 13, and Frank Casson, aged 14, while sailing a skiff on the Muscatuck river, which was very high from the recent rain, were carried over the waterworks dam and the last four were drowned. Casson escaped by swimming ashore. None of the bodies was recovered.

India Imposes Sugar Tax.

Simla, India, cable: With the object of preventing India from being loaded with "cartel" sugar, a bill has been introduced in the Indian council empowering the government to impose a countervailing duty on bountied sugar until the Brussels convention becomes effective. Sugar shipped prior to May 23 will be exempt.

Poles Refused Pardon.

Berlin cable: Emperor William has rejected the appeal for pardon lodged by the Poles who were imprisoned as a result of taking part in the educational riots at Weischen, Prussian Poland, in November last.

Piano Factory Burns.

New York dispatch: The Bradbury piano factory in Brooklyn was destroyed by fire. The building was owned and the business conducted by Frederic G. Smith. It is estimated that the loss will reach \$50,000.

Receives Abducted Child.

London cablegram: A. V. Taylor of Cincinnati, who came here to recover his daughter, set sail for his home accompanied by the girl. Mr. Taylor is jubilant at again having his daughter in his possession.

Must Assess Franchise.

Lincoln, Neb., special: The supreme court has issued a writ ordering the State Board of Equalization to reassess and reduce railroad property to include valuation of franchise.

DEDICATE STAIRS TO ROCHAMBEAU

Great Military Display Marks the International Event.

MARSEILLAISE AND AMERICA

Presidential Party Escorted from White House to Scene of Unveiling by Minute Men Dressed in Uniforms of 1776.

The bronze statue of Lieutenant General, the Count de Rochambeau, who commanded the French army at Yorktown, in the revolutionary war, was unveiled at Washington.

The ceremony was a brilliant affair, participated in by President Roosevelt, the leading officers of the army and navy, the diplomatic corps, and a distinguished company of French army and navy officers.

Seldom has an event presented so many brilliant features of military pageantry, and at the same time given occasion for the manifestation of the strong bonds of friendship existing between the French republic and the United States.

For the first time in its history the national capital witnessed the sight of rank on rank of French soldiers swinging through Pennsylvania avenue and mingling their cheers with those of the American blue jackets and soldiers, while at the same time the French tricolors were entwined with the Stars and Stripes and the sound of the "Marseillaise" was heard along with the "Star-Spangled Banner."

The ceremony of unveiling occurred at the southwest corner of Lafayette Square, almost opposite the White house, where the massive figure of the French general has been erected.

Minute Men Escort President

President Roosevelt and the members of the cabinet were escorted from the White house by a file of minute men dressed in the uniform of continental days. When the president arrived at the presidential stand the entire assemblage arose and greeted him with a lusty cheer. After an impressive invocation by the Rev. Dr. Stafford, President Roosevelt delivered the address of welcome. He spoke in strong voice and with great earnestness, pausing frequently at the outbursts of applause.

As the president concluded his address the Countess de Rochambeau caught up the cords of the drape enveloping the statue and the massive figure emerged through the folds of red, white and blue. At the same instant an artillery salute came from a battery of heavy guns nearby, and the strains of the "Marseillaise" came from the Marine band.

It was an inspiring moment, and led by President Roosevelt, the entire assemblage joined in cheering. Another demonstration occurred at the close of Gen. Brugere's address, when, with characteristic French vehemence, he gave this pledge of undying Franco-American friendship: "Entre vous, entre nous; a la vie, a la mort!" "Between you, between us; in life, in death."

FIRE DESTROYS MILFORD, IND.

Nearly Every Store in Town Wiped Out by Blaze.

Milford, Ind., special: The business section of this town was destroyed by fire. Twelve buildings were burned. The loss is estimated at \$40,000, with \$9,000 insurance. The origin of the fire, which started in Retzer's blacksmith shop, is unknown. Among the buildings burned were the newspaper office, the bank and nearly every store in the town.

Nicaragua Wants Canal.

Washington dispatch: Minister Correa of Nicaragua has been empowered by his government to convey assurances to the government of the United States of Nicaragua's disposition to make any change in the base lines of the projected treaty providing for the construction of a Nicaraguan canal to meet the wishes of the United States government.

Babcock is Better.

Washington dispatch: Representative Babcock returned from Atlantic City greatly improved in health. The executive committee of the Republican congressional committee in a few days will select campaign headquarters in Chicago and New York, with a branch headquarters in Washington.

Governor Commands Hospital.

Peoria, Ill., special: Gov. Yates' inspection of the hospital for incurable insane at South Bartonville was productive of nothing but commendation of the methods being used by the trustees and Dr. Carriel, the acting superintendent.

American Wheat for Africa.

Portland, Ore., dispatch: The largest cargo of wheat that has ever left the Pacific coast for South Africa will be shipped from Portland only in June on the big ship Speke, the largest three-masted ship afloat.

Ordinance Company Incorporated.

Albany, N. Y., special: The Albany Machine and Ordnance Company of New York has been incorporated with a capital of \$10,000,000 to manufacture and deal in machine guns and other ordnance.