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208

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BEGIN HERE TO-DAY.

To escape hanging on the charge of sedition, Andre-Louis Moreau flees from his native town of Gavrillac and hides his identity as a member of a band of strolling players in which he makes a great success in the character of Scaramouche.

His flight has caused him to delay revenge on the great and powerful Marquis de La Tour D'Azyr, who pricked Andre's dearest friend, Philippe de Vilmorin, a divinity student, into a duel and then killed him because he feared the idealist's "dangerous gift of eloquence." Over the dead body of his friend, Andre-Louis swore an oath on his work of reforming the lot of the peasants.

Scaramouche, as Andre-Louis is now called, falls in love with Climene, daughter of the owner of the troupe, but tries to forget the beautiful Aline de Kercadiou, whom, he thinks, loves the Marquis. Climene [illegible] him with coldness.

[illegible] WITH THE STORY.

CHAPTER IX.

[illegible] now," said Climene, "that [illegible] the explanation which [illegible]

[illegible] alone together, lingering [illegible] to which Andre-Louis [illegible] gladly.

[illegible] 2" he questioned. "But [illegible]

[illegible] of the deception [illegible] I on us on me. You [illegible] have pretended to be a [illegible] lawyer, which of [illegible] could see that you are [illegible]

[illegible] said, and pulled at his [illegible] are wrong, Climene. I [illegible] nor less than I have [illegible] myself."

[illegible] fine lady who car[illegible] her cabriolet? What is [illegible]

"A [illegible] sister!" She was in[illegible] again forestold that you [illegible] he was amusing him[illegible] a name, I suppose, this [illegible]

[illegible] has a name. She is [illegible] Kercadiou, the niece of [illegible] Lord of Gav[illegible]

[illegible] evidently fine [illegible] sister. What [illegible]

[illegible] their relation[illegible] and deplored the [illegible] of shrewishness, [illegible]

[illegible] Kercadiou, is [illegible] is popularly be[illegible] that M. de Ker[illegible] He has cer[illegible] rearing from my [illegible] owe to him every[illegible] To-day I possess [illegible] I can earn for [illegible] theatre or elsewhere."

[illegible] and pale under [illegible] swelling pride. "[illegible] have told me this be[illegible] she said, in a dull voice that [illegible] steady.

"He has [illegible] could. But does it [illegible]

"[illegible]" suppressed her fury to ask the question. "You say Get this M. de Kercadiou is popularly believed to be your father. What [illegible] precisely do you mean?"

"Just that. It is a belief that I do not share. It is a matter of instinct, perhaps, with me. Moreover, once I asked M. de Kercadiou point-blank, and I received from him a denial."

"And your mother, was she equally ignorant?" She was sneering, but he did not remark it. Her back was to the light.

"He would not disclose her name to me. He confessed her to be a dear friend of his."

She startled him by laughing, and her laugh was not pleasant.

"A very dear friend, you may be sure, you simpleton. What name do you bear?"

He restrained his own rising indignation to answer her question calmly: "Moreau. It was given me, so I am told, from the Brittany village in which I was born. In fact, I have no name, unless it be Scaramouche, to which I have earned a title. So that you see, my dear," he ended with a smile, "I have practiced no deception whatever."

"No, no. I see that now." She laughed without mirth, then drew a deep breath and rose. "I am very tired," she said.

She moved towards the door, dragging her feet a little. He sprang to open it, and she passed out without looking at him.

On the morrow Andre-Louis found his mind distracted by thoughts of both Climene and Aline. It was Aline who provided the deeper perturbation. Climene's attitude he regarded as a passing phase. But the thought of Aline's conduct toward him kept rankling, and still more deeply rankled the thought of her possible betrothal to M. de La Tour d'Azyr.

This was that brought forcibly to his mind the self-imposed but by now half-forgotten mission that he had made his own. He had boasted that he would make the voice which M. de La Tour d'Azyr had sought to silence ring through the length and breadth of the land. What a fine contrast between the promise and the fulfilment!

It happened that the first person he saw when he took the stage on that Thursday evening was Aline; the second was the Marquis de La Tour d'Azyr. They occupied a box on the right of, and immediately above, the stage.

That was the evening's first shock. The next came after the second act. Entering the green-room he found at the far end with Climene, over whom he was bending from his fine height, his eyes intent upon her face, M. de La Tour d'Azyr.

That night there were high words between Andre-Louis and Climene, the high words proceeding from Climene. When Andre-Louis again enjoined prudence upon his betrothed, she shrieked and stunned him by her virulent, shrewish tone, and her still more unexpected force of invective.

"I'll not tolerate your insensate jealousy. A girl in the theatre must make it her business to accept homage from all."

"Agreed, and there is no harm, provided she gives nothing in exchange."

White-faced, with flaming eyes, she turned on him at that.

"How? You dare?"

"I know M. de La Tour d'Azyr," he answered her. "He is a man who takes what he wants wherever he finds it, and whether it is given willingly or not; a man who reckons nothing of the misery he scatters on his self-indulgent way. Ponder it, Climene, and ask yourself if I do you less than honor in warning you."

He went out on that, feeling a degradation in continuing the subject.

On Tuesday of the following week, Andre-Louis ran into a slightly built, sallow-complexioned gentleman very neatly dressed in black.

"Moreau! Where the devil have you been hiding yourself these months?"

It was Le Chapelier, the lawyer, the leader of the Literary Chamber of Rennes. Without halting for reply, he continued: "You are the man we have been seeking everywhere, and—behold!—you drop from the skies into my path."

They crossed the square and entered the cafe.

"I suppose you haven't heard of the royal order for the convocation of the States General, or the terms of them—that we are to have what we demanded, what you demanded for us here in Nantes! You haven't heard of the fresh uproar in Rennes, last month. The order was that the three estates should sit together at the States General but in Rennes the nobles took up arms, headed by your old friend, M. de La Tour d'Azyr, and they were for slashing us—the members of the Third Estate—into ribbons so as to put an end to our insolence." He laughed delicately. "But we showed them that we, too, could take up arms. We fought them a pitched battle in the streets, and so peppered them that they were glad to take shelter in the Cordelier Convent."

"It is odd," said Andre-Louis, "that I should never perceive that Nantes is being politically active."

That night at the theatre he had a mischievous impulse to test what Le Chapelier had told him of the state of public feeling in the city. They were playing "The Terrible Captain," in the last act of which the empty cowardice of the bullying braggart Rhodomont is revealed by Scaramouche.

After the laughter which the exposure of the roaring captain invariably produced, it remained for Scaramouche contemptuously to dismiss him in a phrase that varied nightly. This time he chose to give his phrase a political complexion:

"Thus, coward, is your emptiness exposed. Because of your long length and your great sword people have imagined you to be as terrible and as formidable as you insolently make yourself appear. But at the first touch of true spirit you crumple up, you tremble, you whine pitifully, and the great sword remains in your scabbard. You remind me of the Privileged Orders when confronted by the Third Estate."

It was audacious of him, and he was prepared for anything—a laugh, applause, indignation, or all together. But he was not prepared for what came. And it came so suddenly and spontaneously from the groundlings and the body of those in the amphitheatre that he was almost scared by it— as a boy may be scared who has held a match to a sun-scorched hayrick. It was a hurricane of furious applause. Men leapt to their feet, sprang upon the benches, waving their hats in the air, deafening him with the terrific uproar of their acclamations. And it rolled on and on, nor ceased until the curtain fell.

(To be continued.)

TRAGEDY OF FLOOD TOLD IN LETTER

Correspondent of Miss Mary Ancona Describes Suffering That Drove Victims Insane.

A man and his wife stood two days and nights with their six children in their marooned Mississippi Valley home. Their supply of food was eaten the first day.

Exhausted, the parents were unable to hold their children and the two smallest drowned when the water rose still higher the third morning. Crazed, the man spent all that day trying to drown his wife and the surviving children.

When the family was rescued that night by a Red Cross boat the mother also had lost her reason. The parents now are convalescing at Camp Hayes.

Such is the tragic story of the flood in a letter from Mrs. Bertie C. S. Waggaman, who is registering refugees on a barge at Vicksburg.

Aged Negro Drowned

She also told of an aged Negro who ran two miles before he was overtaken and drowned by the water pouring through the crevasse at Stopps Landing.

"We understand here," Mrs. Bertie write, "that if the country contributed the fifteen millions needed, that the Red Cross will not only get all these refugees right back where they came from, but will give them also the bare necessities of life and perhaps enough seed to plant a crop and start afresh.

"There are no words too strong to use in praise to the Red Cross. I cannot understand to this day how they were able to handle this situation so efficiently and so rapidly, and to bring food and other supplies in such a short time. There are thousands of people in Mississippi who owe a debt of gratitude which they can never repay to the Red Cross workers here. The spirit of co-operation between them and the people of Vicksburg has been most remarkable due not only to the tact and diplomacy of the Red Cross workers, but also to the hospitable character of the Vicksburg people.

The Chief Tragedy

"The chief tragedy of the flood is the separation of families. The father will stay behind to pack up and will send his wife and family down on the boat. Several days later he follows, and is much alarmed at not finding them at once. Our registration seeks to prevent such occurrences, but even so, it seems probable that some of these people may never get together again.

"Already Vicksburg has doubled its population, and five or six refugee camps, five miles from town, have been organized like army cantonments for the 2,000 refugees. The medical supervision has been so excellent that there has been only one case of typhoid and two of smallpox. Every one is vaccinated and given typhoid injections, and no townspeople are permitted to visit the camps nor refugees to leave them.

"The breaking of a levee at Duckport, ten miles north of Vicksburg, transformed the city into a peninsula, with all train service discontinued except on the lines from New Orleans. The Red Cross had not entirely finished rescuing the inhabitants of Greenville and the surrounding country after the break at Stopps Landing, when refugees started pouring in on us from Louisiana. The captain of one of the boats said the water broke through the crevasse with such a terrific roar and with such force that it dug a hole 1000 feet and rushed across the land, uprooting trees and everything in its path."

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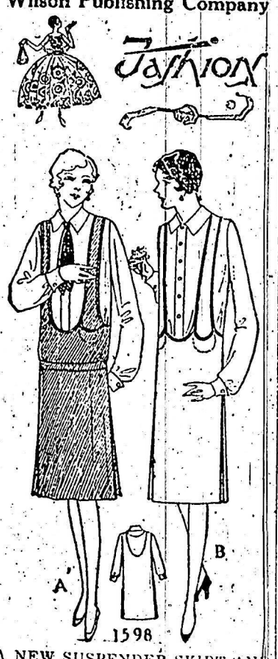

A NEW SUSPENDER SKIRT AND TAILORED BLOUSE.

Of unusual smartness is the suspender skirt shown here. There is an inverted plait at each side seam to provide for the necessary fulness and the back may be cut high or low. The straps are attached to the back at the shoulders and the lower ends are set under the top of the skirt to form pockets. No. 1598 is in sizes 36, 38 and 44 inches bust. Any size requires 2½ yards 36 or 40-inch material. Price 20c the pattern.

The blouse has an applied yoke at the back, a centre front opening, long sleeves gathered to wrist-bands, a shaped collar and patch-pocket. The blouse is No. 1509 and is for Ladies and Misses and is in sizes 16, 18 years, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Size 38 requires 2¼ yards 39-inch, or 1¾ yards 54-inch material. Price 20c the pattern.

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Detroit to Legalize Bridging Its Streets.

Detroit—The Detroit City Council after unanimously passing an ordinance permitting the American Transit Company, sponsoring the $21,000,000 international bridge across the Detroit River between Detroit and Windsor, to cross certain West End streets has decided upon June 28 as the date for a special election at which the ordinance will be submitted to the voters. A majority vote will be sufficient for approval.

This election has been called at the request of the bridge company and its cost, amounting to about $45,000, will be paid by the company. Preliminary construction work on the bridge is being done on private property.

Britain and Canada Assist migrants.

London—An increase of £4 per head is announced in the joint grant made by the British and Canadian governments to children proceeding as emigrants to western Canada.

Hitherto this grant has been £16. It is now raised to £20. It applies to British boy or girl between the ages of 14 and 17, who goes to any point west of Ontario, under the auspices of any recognized society.

If any of these popular questions make you feel like a goose, why not duck them?

FOURTH PRIZE ESSAY

The Confederation of Canada.

Miss Irma writes in part as follows:

I was very pleased to hear that my essay had won a prize and wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for it.

I was born in Stouffville and have lived here all my life attending the Stouffville Public and Continuation Schools. Last year I tried the High School entrance examinations and succeeded in passing them with honors, and this year, so far, I believe, I have led my classes. Composition has been about my best subject and I believe it is the one subject I really like for I really enjoy writing a composition on an interesting subject though I have by no means any great talent or ability for it.

I am very fond of reading books and have read a great many of them of many different classes and it is very hard indeed to leave my books and attend my school duties. But though I enjoy reading books I am by no means the proverbial "book-worm" because sports of all kind form an important part in my life. In the winter to speed swiftly around the rink on skates, in the exhilarating air which brings the roses to your cheeks, to me is life. Or perhaps it is a long snowshoe tramp to the pond. Just now we are actively engaged in basketball at school and enjoy it greatly, especially as we seem to have the winning team, but we are trying to learn to be good losers as well as good winners for we cannot always win. Then there is an endless list of water sports and land sports too numerous to mention. I am a member of the United Church of Canada here and consequently engaged in the activities of the societies connected with it.

A LOVER OF SPORT

IRMA S. GERRIN, Stouffville, Ont.

Sportsmanship no Disqualification to a Good Writing.

"The Confederation of Canada."

Through more than three centuries of conflict and doubt, the history of Canada has gradually unfolded itself, until to-day we have a nation. The daring of the early pioneers in war and trade; the courage of the Roman Catholic missionaries; the Frenchman's loyalty to creed, race and language; the love of liberty of the United Empire Loyalists; these and many other influences have gone to mould Canadian institutions and Canadian character. The men who drew together all these complicated threads into a united whole and held it true to British loyalty while retaining an independence of its own are known in Canadian history as "The Fathers of Confederation," a band of men drawn together by a great idea. George Brown, Sir George Cartier, Sir Oliver Mowat, Sir Charles Tupper and others all exercised their influence and used their persuasive powers, seeing the need of unity and working for a great objective, Confederation. All did their best but the man who carried the greater part of the burden and who did more than all to hold the nation together after it was united was Sir John A. Macdonald. They won for Canada Confederation, freedom, independence, unity and still remained loyal to the Motherland; and Confederation, the B.N.A. Act has made Canada a nation, a glorious home for children proud to call themselves Canadians.

The Quebec Act and Constitutional Act had given new forms of government but were not entirely satisfactory. Then Lord Durham was sent out and recommended responsible government and union and was aided by Sydenham, Metcalfe and Lord Elgin. As a result the two provinces were united and responsible government won.

There had been many suggestions of union in the last century. Colonel Morse suggested it in 1777, the independent loyalists in 1791, John H. Robinson in 1822, and Lord Durham had favored it at first but gave up the cause of the French Canadians.

By 1864 there had been three years of two elections and deadlocked parliaments and the two parties in Canada were at a deadlock. It was thought that if all British North America were united, new members would come in from the Maritime Provinces and give one party the majority. About this time, although for years they had been bitter enemies because they were inspired by Confederation and heard the call of Canada, Macdonald and Brown united in her service. Great Britain favored union and the abolition of her Corn Laws forced Canada to look for new trade. In 1851 the Reciprocity treaty gave her free trade with United States but it was soon abolished. So she thought that if she could not trade north and south, why not east and west? To do this there must be a railway to the Maritime Provinces and for this there must be some kind of union. Also, during the American Civil War, fear of a United States invasion made Canada see that for strength she must have union.

The French feared that by becoming not one of two provinces but one of four to five they would be swamped, but Cartier persuaded them of the opposite.

The Maritime Provinces were suggesting union of their own and sent delegates to the Charlottetown conference where Upper and Lower Canada sent representatives to ask for larger union. They then adjourned to Quebec and drew up a scheme of Confederation which in 1867 was passed by the Canadian Parliament.

Upper Canada, Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island objected, but the objections were overcome by Cartier in Quebec, Tupper in Nova Scotia and Tilley in New Brunswick.

In 1866 delegates from Upper Canada, Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia met at London where the Quebec resolutions became the British Government proposal but the most prominent feature was Sir John A. Macdonald. At London the British North America Act was drawn and on March 29, 1867, passed in Great Britain and on July 1, 1867, Canada became a Dominion.

The terms of the Act which made Canada a free Dominion across the sea from her Motherland are.

(1) Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were united to form one Dominion under the name of Canada.

(2) Upper and Lower Canada were to form two separate provinces, Ontario and Quebec.

(3) The head was to be represented by a Governor-General appointed by the King.

(4) There was to be a cabinet of thirteen members, which was responsible to the people represented in Parliament, to advise him.

(5) The Senate and Lower Houses; the Senate appointed for life by the Governor-General, and the House of Commons elected by the people for five years. [illegible] Governor-General [illegible] proportionately [illegible]

Canada became [illegible] Dominion in 1931 [illegible] Statute of Westminster [illegible] Canada [illegible] Great Britain [illegible] Canada [illegible] Great Britain [illegible] Canada [illegible] Great Britain