Jacqueline of Golden River

By VICTOR ROUSSEAU

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"I MARRIED THEM."

Paul Hewlett, loitering at night in Madison square, New York, is approached by an Eskimo dog. He follows the dog to a gambling house and meets the animal's mistress coming out with a large amount of money. She is beautiful and in distress and he follows her. After protecting her from two assailants he takes her in charge, and puts her in his own rooms for the rest of the night. He returns a little later to find a murdered man in his rooms and Jacqueline dazed, with her memory gone. He decides to protect Jacqueline, gets rid of the body and prepares to take her to Quebec in a search for her home. Simon Leroux, searching for Jacqueline for some unfriendly purpose, finds them, but Hewlett evades him. Hewlett calls the girl his sister. In Quebec he learns that she is the daughter of a recluse in the wilds, Charles Duchaine.

CHAPTER V—Continued.

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I could not but connect him with our presence there. Leroux was due to arrive at any moment. I realized that great issues were at stake, that the man would never cease in his attempts to get hold of Jacqueline. Only when I had returned her to her father's house would I feel safe from him.

After dinner I had some conversation with one of the hotel clerks. I discovered that St. Boniface was little known, the only occupants of those parts being trappers and Indians.

"You could hire dogs and a sleigh at St. Boniface for wherever your final destination is," he said, "because the dog mail has been suspended owing to the new government mail boats, and their sleighs are idle. I think Captain Dubois would take you on his boat as far as that point, and I believe he makes his next trip in a couple of days."

He gave me the captain's address, and I resolved to call on him early the following day and make arrangements.

I took Jacqueline for a stroll on the terrace, and while we walked I pondered over the problem. Jacqueline was very quiet, and I wondered what she remembered. I dreaded always awakening her memory, lest, with that of her home, came that other of the dead man.

Our rooms were on the side of the Chateau facing the town, and as we passed beneath the arch I saw two men standing no great distance away and watching us, it seemed to me.

One wore the cassock of a priest, and I could have sworn that he was Pere Antoine; the other resembled the suspicious stranger. As we drew near they moved behind a pillar. Thus, inexorably, the chase drew near.

My suspicions received confirmation a few minutes later, for we had hardly reached our rooms, and I was, in fact, standing at the door of Jacqueline's, bidding her good night when a bellboy came along the passage and announced that the gentleman whom I was expecting was coming up the stairs.

I said good night to Jacqueline and went into my room and waited. I had thought it would be the stranger but it was the priest.

I invited him to enter and he came in and stood with his fur cap on his head, looking direfully at me.

"Well, monsieur, what is the purpose of this visit?" I asked.

"To tell you," he thundered, "that you must give up the unhappy woman who has accompanied you here."

"That is precisely what I intend to do," I answered.

"To me," he said. "Her husband—"

I felt my brain whirling. I knew now that I had always cherished a hope, despite the ring—what a fool I had been!

"I married them," continued Pere Antoine.

"Where is he?" I demanded.

He appeared disconcerted. I gathered from his stare that he had supposed I knew.

"This is a Catholic country," he went on more quietly. "There is no divorce; there can be none. Marriage is a sacrament. Sinning as she is—"

I pinced my hand on his shoulder. "I will not hear any more," I said. "Go!" I pointed toward the door.

"I am going to take her away with me," he said, and crossing the threshold into the corridor placed one hand on the door of Jacqueline's room.

I got there first. I thrust him violently aside—it was like pushing a monument—turned the key, which happily was still outside, and put it in my pocket.

"I am ready to deal with her husband," I said. "I am not ready to deal with you. Leave at once or I will have you arrested, priest or no priest. How do I know she has a husband? How do I know you are not in league with her persecutors? How do I know you are a priest at all?"

He seemed amazed at the violence of my manner.

"This is the first time my priesthood has been denied," he said quietly. "Well, I have offered you your chance. I cannot use violence. If you refuse you will bring your own punishment upon your head, and hers on that of the unhappy woman whom you have led into sin."

"Go!" I shouted, pointing down the passage.

He turned and went, his soutane sweeping against the door of Jacqueline's room as he went by.

I unlocked the door of Jacqueline's room. I saw her standing at the foot of the bed. Her face was white. As I entered she looked up piteously at me.

"Who—was—that?" she asked in a frightened whisper.

"An impudent fellow—that is all, Jacqueline."

"I thought I knew his voice," she answered slowly. "It made me—almost—remember. And I do not want to remember, Paul."

She put her arms about my neck and cried. I tried to comfort her, but it was a long time before I succeeded.

I locked her door on the outside and that night I slept with the key beneath my pillow.

CHAPTER VI.

At the Foot of the Cliff.

The next afternoon I went to Paul street and found M. Dubois at home.

When I explained that I wanted to secure two passages to St. Boniface his brows contracted.

"Dieu! So you, too, are going to the Chateau Duchaine!" he exclaimed. "Is there not room for two more on the boat of Captain Duhamel?"

"Why do you suppose that I am going to the Chateau Duchaine?" I inquired angrily.

He flared up too. "Diable!" he burst out. "Do you suppose all Quebec does not know what is in the wind? But since you are so ignorant, monsieur, I will enlighten you. Let us suppose that the affairs of M. Charles Duchaine have interested a gentleman of business and politics whom we will call M. Leroux—just for the sake of giving him a name, you understand," he resumed, looking at me maliciously. "And this M. Leroux imagines that there is more than spruce timber to be found on the seigniory. Bien, but consider further that this M. Leroux is a mole, as we call our politicians here. It would not suit him to appear openly in such an enterprise?

"Let us say, then, that he arranges with a Captain Duhamel to convey his party to St. Boniface, to which point he will go secretly by another route,

"Who—Was—That?"

and that he will join them there and—in short, monsieur, take yourself and your friend to the devil, for I won't give you passage. Go back to him—for I know he sent you to me—and tell him he cannot hire Alfred Dubois for all the money in Canada."

"I am glad to hear you say that," I answered, "because Leroux is no friend of mine. Now listen to me, Captain Dubois. It is true that I am going to the chateau, if I can get there, but I did not know that Leroux had made his arrangements already. In brief, he is in pursuit of me and I have urgent reasons for avoiding him. My companion is a lady—"

"Eh!" he exclaimed, looking stupidly at me.

"And I am anxious to take her to the chateau, where we shall be safe from the man—"

"A lady!" exclaimed the captain. "A young one? Diable! Why didn't you tell me so at first, monsieur? I'll take you. I will do anything for an enemy of Leroux.

"But a lady! I do not know your business, monsieur, but I can guess, perhaps—"

"But you must not misunderstand me," I interposed. "She is not—"

"Diable! It's all right!" said the captain, slapping me upon the back. "No explanations! Not a word, I assure you. I am the most discreet of men. Madeleine!"

This last word was a deep-chested bellow, and in response a little girl came running in, staggering under the weight of the captain's overcoat of raccoon fur.

"That is my overcoat voice," he explained, stroking the child's head. "My niece, monsieur. By the tone in which I call Madeleine knows whether it is my overcoat or my pipe or slippers that I want, or whether I am growing hungry."

I thought that the captain's hunger voice must shake the rafters of the old building.

"And now, monsieur," he continued seriously, when we had left the house, "I am going to tell you as much as I know concerning the plans of that scoundrel. In brief, it is known that a party of his friends has been quartered for some time at the chateau; they come and go, in fact, and now he is either taking more or the same ones back again, and God knows why he takes them to so desolate a region, unless, as the rumor is, he has discovered coal fields upon the seigniory and holds M. Duchaine in his power. Well, monsieur, a party sails with Captain Duhamel on tonight's tide, which will carry me down the gulf also. Captain Duhamel's boat is berthed at the same pier as mine upon the opposite side.

"We start together, then, but I shall expect to gain several hours during the four days' journey, for I know the Claire well, and she cannot keep pace with my Sainte-Vierge. You must bring your lady aboard the Sainte-Vierge by nine tonight.

"I shall telegraph to my friend Danton at St. Boniface to have a sleigh and dogs at your disposal when you arrive, and a tent, food and sleeping bags," continued Captain Dubois, "for it must be a hundred and fifty miles from St. Boniface to the Chateau Duchaine. And so, with half a day's start, you will have nothing to fear from Leroux—only remember that he has no scruples. Still I do not think he will catch you and Mlle. Jacqueline before you reach Chateau Duchaine," he ended, chuckling at his sagacity.

"Ah, well, monsieur, who else could your lady be?" he asked, smiling at my surprise. "I knew well that some day she must leave those wilds. Besides, did I not convey her here from St. Boniface on my return, less than a week ago, when she pleaded for secrecy? I suspected something agitated her then. So it was to find a husband that she departed thus?"

So Jacqueline had left her home not more than a week before! And the captain had no suspicion that she was married then! Yet Pere Antoine claimed to have performed the ceremony.

To whom? And where was the man who should have stood in my place and shielded her against Leroux?

I made Dubois understand, not without difficulty, that we were still unmarried. His face fell when he realized that I was in earnest, but after a little he made the best of the situation, though it was evident that some of the glamour was scratched from the romance, in his opinion.

By now we had arrived at the wharf. Wedged in among the floes lay the Claire and the Sainte-Vierge respectively. The latter vessel lay upon our right as we approached the end of the wharf.

There was a small cabin for Jacqueline and another for myself adjoining. I was very well satisfied and inquired the terms.

"Diable! If it were not for the children there should be no terms!" exclaimed the captain. "But it is hard, monsieur, with prices rising and the hungry mouths always open, like little birds."

He was overjoyed at the sight of the fifty dollars which I tendered him.

"By the way," I said, "do you know a priest named Pere Antoine?"

"An old man? A strong old man? Why, assuredly, monsieur," answered the captain. "Everybody knows him. He has the parish of the Riviere d'Or district, and the largest in Quebec. A saint, monsieur! You will do well to make his acquaintance."

The captain parted from me on the wharf on his way to the telegraph office, repeating his instructions to the effect that we were to be aboard the boat by nine.

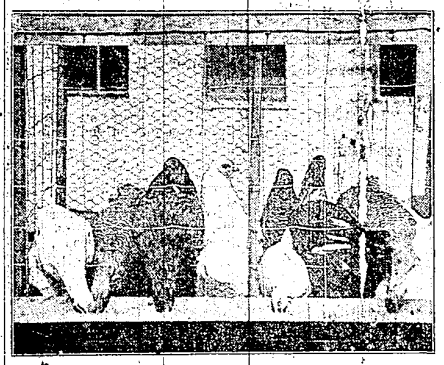
I had grown dark long before and looking at my watch, I was surprised to see that it was already past six o'clock. I had no time to lose in returning to the Chateau.

But though I could see it outlined upon the cliff I soon found myself lost among the maze of narrow streets in which I was wandering. A man was coming up the street behind me, and I turned to question him, but as I decreased my pace he diminished his also, and when I quickened mine he went faster as well. I begin to have an uneasy sense that he might be following me, and accordingly hastened onward until I came to a road which seemed to lead up the hill toward the ramparts.

Hewlett is waylaid and knocked out, but escapes to rejoin Jacqueline.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CONVERT SURPLUS COCKERELS INTO CASH AND GIVE EGG-PRODUCING PULLETS ROOM



Serve-Self System for Fattening Cockerels.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Because their room is more desirable than their company, the cockerels in the flock during the late spring and early summer are about as popular as the appearance of Jack Frost during peach-budding season. That is why it pays the average poultryman to start a clean-up campaign in his yards which will result in selling all the surplus cockerels as soon as they reach marketable size. This disposition of the male birds will provide more commodious quarters for the pullets which are to be raised to maturity. Furthermore, as a general proposition, the earlier the cockerels are marketed, after they reach suitable size, the higher are the prices they will bring, other conditions being equal, while on the other hand, the longer the cockerels are kept in the flock the smaller will be the net profit they will yield when finally sold.

It is desirable that each poultryman retain the choicest, most vigorous and best-grown cockerels in his flock for subsequent breeding operations, while it may also pay him to hold back and grow to a larger size such birds as he desires to use for the family table. The common practice to be recommended is to sell the cockerels as soon as they attain marketable size. In sections where special and fancy markets are available, cockerels of the lighter breeds, such as the Leghorn, may be sold as squab broilers when weighing from three-quarters of a pound to one pound apiece. On the more general markets where frying chickens are desired and with the larger breeds especially, the cockerels may be fattened to weigh from one and one-half to two and one-half pounds apiece before being sold.

Coventry for the Cockerels.

The cockerels which are retained for breeding purposes should be kept apart from the rest of the flock. In the case of the male birds designed for market it often is possible and practicable to fatten them for a few days before selling them. This extra attention gets the birds into the best condition, and even means the difference between marketing them with the fancy trade, which is willing to pay premium prices, and selling to consumers who desire goods of mediocre quality because they are cheap.

The following rations may be fed profitably to cockerels which are confined and cooped in order to be fattened for market:

The first ration consists of a mixture of six parts by weight of corn meal and four parts of low-grade wheat flour or middlings; the second ration is one part by weight of shorts or middlings, two parts of low-grade flour and three parts of corn meal; while the third feeding mixture is composed of equal parts by weight of corn meal, wheat flour or middlings, and oat flour.

With each or all of these grain mixtures either whole milk or skim milk should be fed, in amount sufficient to bring the mixture to the consistency of porridge, so that it will drop from the end of a spoon. If no milk is available, the farmer should add 10 per cent of chopped vegetables and 5 per cent of meat meal to the above rations. If water is used for mixing the feed, enough should be used to make a crumbly, moist mixture. Water may also be given to the fowls for drinking purposes where this feeding combination is used, but in the case where milk is used in the ration it is not advisable to supply any additional water.

Feed Light Rations at First.

When the birds are first confined for fattening purposes they should be fed lightly for two to three days, after which they may be furnished all that they will clean up in 30 minutes, two or three times a day. Their heaviest meal for the day should always be the last one. Comprehensive experiments by the United States department of agriculture show that it takes 7¼ pounds of grain to produce one pound of gain on fattening poultry. Usually it costs considerably more to fatten mature hens than it does to flesh up cockerels and younger stock. According to the experts of the department specialists, the general purpose birds are the most desirable for fattening purposes.

As a rule the fattening period usually lasts from seven to seventeen days, during which time the fowls are confined in coops. The younger or smaller birds give good results where they are fed for the longer period. What has been said in the foregoing paragraphs applies with equal force to the fattening of all poultry.

The accompanying illustration shows a practical home-made fattening battery in which the mash rations may be fed in troughs, so that the birds can eat cafeteria fashion.

PRICE OF PRODUCTS AND FARM LABORERS

Bureau of Crop Estimates Makes Interesting Comparison.

Wage Rates Have Not Kept Pace With Advance of Farm Products During War—Began to Converge During Year of 1918.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A composite crop and live stock price has been provided by the bureau of crop estimates, United States department of agriculture, and the advance of this price since 1914, or the beginning of the war, may be compared with the advance in the wage rates paid for farm labor. From 1914 to 1915 wage rates gained 1 per cent, and the price of crops fell 3 per cent, but since 1915 wage rates have not gained on 1914 as much as the price of crops and live stock has. The advance in wages in 1916 was 10 per cent above 1914, while the price of crops and live stock advanced 12 per cent. In the next year, 1917, wages rose 27 per cent above 1916, while the price of crops and live stock rose 74 per cent, but in 1918 the disparity between the two in the advance was slightly reduced and the gain of wages over 1914 was 65 per cent and of price of crops and live stock 90 per cent.

It is well known that wage rates are more stable than prices, as a general fact, and it is according to rule that the wage rates of farm labor have not kept pace with the advance of prices of farm products during the war, even though much labor was drawn from the farm by higher wage rates elsewhere. The two movements began to converge in 1918 and their places with regard to each other in more normal times to follow remain for the future to determine.

ASSOCIATION FOR PURE SEED

Farmers of Kansas County Organize for Purpose of Producing More Desirable Seed.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Through the efforts of their county agent the farmers of Ford county, Kan., are organizing a pure seed growers' association. For some time the farmers in the vicinity of Dodge City have felt the need of some sources of dependable seed.

At the suggestion of the county agent, John T. Hicks, they recently met and decided it would be of advantage to unite. An association being formed will be one of the few of the kind in the southwest country. The members plan to plant pure seed; to keep the stock pure; and to advertise their products, and thereby to command a better market.

The growers, through their association, will be able to produce desirable seed of standard varieties most accepted and to attract buyers.

Ford county lies in the heart of the Kansas sorghum district and is in position to command recognition for the product of its farms if co-operative efforts.

POULTRY NOTES

GLEANED BY THE WAYSIDE

Keep up the fight against lice.

* * *

Charcoal is of value in the poultry ration.

* * *

Blackhead is the plague of turkey growers.

* * *

Geese need practically the same care as ducks.

* * *

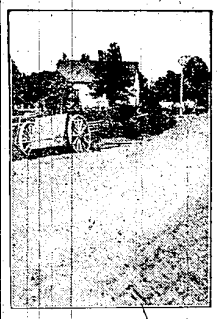
Some breeders of poultry have suffered severe losses by trying to use grain that is of inferior quality.

ROAD BUILDING

ATTENTION TO EARTH ROADS

Authority on Highway Construction Likes Concrete, but Favors More Care of Lanes.

"More attention has got to be paid to the earth roads if the coming bond elections are to go over." This is the opinion of E. L. Stevens, inventor and road expert. Mr. Stevens is, perhaps, one of the most unique characters in the road-building world. A graduate civil engineer, he felt the tremendous need for the perfection and development of the road system of America. He stepped out from the promising channels of the regular engineering profession and went down almost below the level of ordinary men to study road building, says Rocky Mountain News. He has made road building and maintenance his life work and is now, probably, as well qualified as any man



Sand-Clay Road Well Cared For.

to tell the methods for the proper upbuilding of the nation's highway system.

For a number of years Mr. Stevens has been highway commissioner for the Estes Park highway. This piece of road work in itself is a testimony to his ideals. He is also the inventor of the Stevens improved road drag, one of the simplest and most efficient road machines on the American market.

Mr. Stevens believes in concrete highways and prepared boulevards, but he also believes that the earth road, which comprises more than 80 per cent of the country's highways, is of no less importance. "A concrete highway isn't going to do a farmer much good if he has got to haul his load three miles through hub-deep mud before he gets to it," is Mr. Stevens' attitude.

The farmer is the man who is going to pay for most of the country roads, and although concrete roads are needed where the traffic is sufficiently heavy, the earth roads that feed the concrete road must be kept up.

As an inventor of road machinery, a road engineer, a road supervisor and a road worker for his practicalities and the life cream of better roads as his idealism, Mr. Stevens is ably qualified to judge highway problems.

UTAH TO SPEND $8,000,000

Part of Money Is to Be Spent for Improvements on Arrowhead Trail to California.

The state of Utah has decided to spend about $8,000,000 on roads in the next two years, with an expenditure this year of about $2,000,000. Some of the Utah millions, which are made up of state and federal funds, are going to be used on the development of the Arrowhead trail, which is tributary to all parts of southern California, from San Diego and Imperial valley on the south to Fresno and San Luis Obispo on the north.

$300,000,000 FOR HIGHWAYS

Sum Which If Capitalized at 5 Per Cent Would Represent Investment of $6,000,000,000.

Government road officials estimate that road construction and maintenance in the United States involve an annual outlay of over $300,000,000, a sum, which, if capitalized at 5 per cent, would represent an investment of $6,000,000,000. There has never been a nation-wide traffic census to show either the direction or volume of traffic over these highways.

Roads Must Be Linked Up.

If we are to keep costs down, our highways must be linked up and there must be through trunk lines provided to which feeders can be built.

Lower Hauling Costs.

Hauling costs are lowered by good roads because the size of the load is limited by the worst spot in the road.

One of Major Activities.

Road building will shortly become one of the major activities of our government.