

# THE RED TRAIL

By GUSTAVE AINARD

## CHAPTER XII.

On emerging from the Passo, the capataz went ahead, followed at a respectful distance by Don Sebastian, who entered the Calle del Pajaro, and about the middle of the street saw the capataz's horse, held by an ill-looking fellow, who gazed curiously at him. Don Sebastian stopped before the door, dismounted, threw his bridle to the fellow, and without saying a word to him, resolutely entered the house.

He then found himself in utter darkness, but after groping his way, pushed forward. After crossing the arched entrance, he entered a square yard with several doors; one of these doors was open, and a man was standing on the threshold. It was Carnero.

The tiger slayer went up to him; the other walked on. The capataz took him by the hand and whispered, "Come with me."

His guide led him through several rooms, took him up a flight of stairs, and opening a door conducted him into a room faintly lighted by a lamp.

"Now," said Carnero, after closing the door, from which the Tigero noticed that he removed the key, "sit down and let us talk, for we are in safety. I must give you a few words in explanation of the mysterious way in which I brought you here."

"I am listening to you," the Tigero answered.

"We are in the mansion of General Don Sebastian Guerrero," the capataz then remarked.

"What?" the Tigero exclaimed, with a start of amazement.

"Reassure yourself, no one saw you enter, and your presence here is quite unknown, for the simple reason that I brought you in my private entrance."

"I do not understand you."

"And yet it is very easy to explain. For reasons too long to tell you, and which would interest you but slightly, during Don Sebastian's absence as Governor of Sonora I had a private passage made. Everybody save myself is ignorant of the existence of this communication, which," he added, with a glowing smile, "may at a given moment be of great utility. The room in which we now are forms part of the suite I occupy, in which the general has never yet set foot."

"But suppose you were to be sent for, through the general happening to want you?"

"Certainly, but I have foreseen that: it is my system never to leave anything to chance. Although it has never happened yet, no one can enter here without my being informed soon enough to get rid of any person who may be with me."

"That is capitally arranged, and I am happy to see that you are a man of prudence."

"Prudence is, as you know, senior, the mother of safety. Enough on that head, if you have no objection. A man, whose name it is unnecessary to mention, but to whom, as I have already had the honor of telling you, I am devoted body and soul, sent you to me to obtain the information you require, and which he supposes me able to give."

"Senior," the Tigero answered, "I thank you heartily, for you know as well as I do what perils are connected with the carrying out of these plans."

"What you are saying is true, but it will be better, I fancy, for the present, for me to assume to be ignorant of them."

"Yes, yes, my position is so precarious, the struggle I am engaged in is so wild, that, although I am supported by sincere friends, I must be prudent. Tell me, then, what you know as to the fate of the unfortunate Dona Anita de Torres. Is she really dead?"

"Do you know what happened in the cavern after your fall down the precipice?"

"Alas! no; my ignorance is complete."

Carnero reflected for a moment.

"Listen, Don Sebastian; but I must tell you a long story. Are you ready to hear it?"

"Yes," the other answered, without hesitation, "for there are many things I am ignorant of, which I ought to know. So speak without further delay."

"At the time when the facts occurred I am about to tell you I was living at the Hacienda del Palmar. Hence I was only witness to a portion of the facts; the rest I know from hearsay. When the Comanches came, guided by the white men, Don Sylvia de Torres was lying mortally wounded, holding in his stiffened arms his daughter Anita, who had suddenly gone mad. Don Sebastian Guerrero was the only relation left to the hapless young lady, and hence she was taken to his hacienda."

"What?" Don Sebastian exclaimed in surprise. "Don Sebastian is a relation to Dona Anita?"

"Did you not know that?"

"I had not the slightest idea of it."

"Well, this is how the relationship exists: Don Sebastian married a niece of Don Sylvia's, so you see they were closely connected. Still, for reasons never thoroughly made known, a few years after the general's marriage a dispute broke out which led to a total suspension of intimacy between the families."

The Tigero shook his head. "Go on," he said. "How did the general receive her?"

"He was not at the hacienda at the time; but as express was sent off to him. The general came post haste, seemed greatly moved, gave orders for her to be kindly treated, appointed several women to wait on her, and returned to his post at Sonora."

"Summoned by the French invasion. I presume you are alluding to that?"

"Yes. Almost immediately after these events the general returned to the Palmar. He was no longer the same man. The horrible death of his daughter rendered him gloomier and harsher. For a whole week he remained shut up in his apartments; but, at last, one day he sent for me to inquire as to what had happened at the hacienda during his absence. I had but little to tell him. The general let me say all I had to say, and when

whenever she sees me all that is said and done in the current, and there is a good deal to learn from the conversation of a nun. She takes a great interest in me, and as I am fond of her, too, I listen to her with pleasure."

"Oh, go on! Go on!"

"Well, this time I have nearly finished. It appears from what my relation tells me, that the nuns and the Mother Superior are utterly opposed to the general's plans of marriage."

"Oh, the holy women!" the Tigero exclaimed with simple joy.

"Are they not?" the capataz said with a laugh. "This is probably the reason why they keep so secret the return of their border to her senses, for they doubtless hope that, so long as the poor girl is mad, the general will not dare contract the union he is meditating. Unfortunately they do not know the man with whom they have to deal and the ferocious ambition that devours him; an ambition for the gratification of which he will recoil from no crime, however atrocious it may be."

"Alas!" the Tigero said, despairingly: "You see, my friend, that I am lost."

"Wait, wait, my good sir; your situation, perhaps, is not so desperate as you imagine it. Yesterday I went to the convent, the Mother Superior, to whom I had the honor of speaking, confided to me under the seal of secrecy—for she knows that, although I am a servant of Don Sebastian, I take a deep interest in Dona Anita, and would be glad to see her happy—that the young lady has expressed an intention to confess."

"Hence?" Don Sebastian quickly interrupted him.

"Well, the Mother Superior asked me to bring her a priest or monk in whom I had confidence."

"Ah!"

"You understand, my friend?"

"Yes, yes!"

"And to take him to the convent?"

"And," Don Sebastian asked in a choking voice, "have you found this confessor?"

"I believe so," the capataz answered with a smile.

"At what time are you to take this confessor to the convent?"

"To-morrow."

"Very good, and I presume you have arranged a place to meet him?"

"I should think so; he is to meet me at the Parian."

"I am certain that he will be punctual!"

"And so am I, and now, senior, do you consider that you have lost your time in listening to me?"

"On the contrary," Don Sebastian replied, as he offered him his hand with a smile, "I consider you a first-rate hand at telling a story."

They went out of the room. The Tigero mounted his horse and followed Pilon, while the capataz re-entered the house. After numberless turnings and windings, the rider and the footman at length entered a wide street.

"This is the Segunda Monterilla," said the peon, "and that gentleman," he added, pointing to a horseman who was coming toward them, "is the very Don Antonio you are looking for."

"You are sure of it?" the Tigero asked.

"I know him well."

"If that is the case, accept this pleasure, my friend, and go home, for I no longer need your services."

The peon retired. During the conversation the newcomer had halted in some alarm.

"This is Don Antonio," the Tigero shouted to him. "Come on without fear—I am a friend."

"Oh, oh! It is very late to meet a friend in the street," Don Antonio answered, though he advanced without hesitation, after laying his hand upon his weapon to guard against a surprise.

"I am Martial, the Tigero."

"Oh, that is different; what do you want? A lodging, eh? I will have you led to my home by a servant, and there leave you till to-morrow, as I am in a hurry."

"Agreed; but allow me one word."

"Speak."

"Where is Don Valentine?"

"Do you want to see him?"

"Excessively."

"Then come with me at once, for I am going to Valentine's."

(To be continued.)

**Maple Sugar a Delicacy.**  
Maple sugar is in reality the same as cane or beet sugar, plus a small percentage of mineral substances and an indescribable aroma and delicacy of taste. So it has remained for man to counterfeit maple sugar and to attempt to add to syrups of ordinary sugars such flavors that the mind of the epicure breakfasting off buckwheat cakes reverts to the old sugar camp where he spent the early springtime of his boyhood days.

He has made many imitations: some of them he has even dared to register in the patent office as discoveries of the secret old Mother Nature told the maple tree, but none of them, though they may make good syrup, has made maple syrup except at the sugar orchard, of sap drawn through a spile, caught in a bucket and boiled down over fragrant wood fires—Leslie's Weekly.

**Project for a Greater Berlin.**  
When the project for the consolidating of the suburbs of the city into a "Greater Berlin" has been carried out the Russian and German capital will be the second largest city in Europe and the third largest in the world. It will then have more than 3,000,000 inhabitants and will outrank Paris by about 250,000. At present it has about 2,250,000 inhabitants, 250,000 less than the French capital, and is the third city of Europe and the fourth in the world.

**Anomaly of Disease.**  
"Doctor," said the patient, after the great specialist had sounded and scrutinized and catechized him, "what makes me so nervous?"

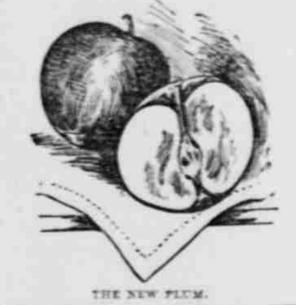
"You've lost your nerve," responded the specialist, demonstrating, however, by his size of his fee, that he retained his own—Philadelphia Ledger.

The China Times, published in Peking, is printed in seven different languages.



**A New Plum of Value.**  
Fruit growers are again indebted to Luther Burbank of California for a new variety of plum, which is exceedingly promising. The illustration shows the variety at about one-quarter its natural size. Mr. Burbank says the variety, which he has named Miracle, is a hybrid seedling, with the French prune as one of its parents. The variety is practically seedless, the stone being a small kernel near the stem end of the fruit.

The Miracle is dark in color with the heavy blue bloom so familiar in the Damson class. The flesh is yellow with a purplish tinge and is sweet and juicy with the highest flavor. The variety has not yet been fully tested outside of California, but Mr. Burbank speaks favorably of its ability to stand the more



rigorous climate to the North, and if it does, it will be a decided acquisition to the already long list of good sorts brought into being by Mr. Burbank.

**Boards vs. Earth as Flooring.**  
At the West Virginia Experiment Station a few years ago a test was made of board floors versus earth floors for laying hens. The test commenced Nov. 24, and continued during the winter for a full period of five months. It was rather expected that the board floor would prove superior to earth floor, but such was not the case. There were thirty-six hens of three breeds on each kind of floor, and the hens on the earth floor laid nearly 30 per cent more eggs than those on the board floor. It was found that the earth floor was warmer during cold weather, and this alone might cause the difference in results. The only sickness of any kind during the test was a case of roup in each lot.

**Alfalfa for Hogs.**  
Wherever alfalfa can be raised, the best, as well as the cheapest, pork and bacon can be produced, for alfalfa gives growth to the muscle, making the lean meat that is the best and sells best. And while growing in the alfalfa fields the hogs get the exercise needed for healthy development. The alfalfa can be raised in very many portions of Texas and wherever it will grow it may be made a highly profitable crop and one that will get out of the swine industry its biggest possible results.

**Spreading Manure.**  
When manure is spread on the hard surface of the ground some of the soluble portions will be carried away by heavy rains. At the same time it is expensive to first plow the ground and then haul manure over it. An excellent plan is to spread the manure and then plow it with a one-horse plow, so as to keep the manure near the surface, and incorporated with the top soil.

**Hen Adopts Puppies.**  
A remarkable spectacle came to light recently at the residence of J. R. Robson of Audubon, near Hazelton, Pa. It consists of a half dozen puppies being nursed by a clucking hen. It appears that the mother of the dogs deserted her offspring, whereupon the hen, with true motherly instinct, took them under her protecting wing.

**Chickens for Market.**  
Chickens sell in the market at as high a figure, compared with beef and mutton, as ordinarily, if they are in good shape and condition. Fancy fowls for breeders command as high figures as heretofore, whenever first-class specimens change hands, and every one who can turn out a better trio or two next fall than can his neighbors will find a ready market for them at even the advanced prices.

**Peaches Without Fuzz.**  
A Maryland fruit grower has succeeded in raising a crop of peaches with skins as devoid of the annoying fuzz as is an apple. Next year he proposes to raise peaches with a skin that can be removed like that of an orange.

**Farm Notes.**  
One robin can pick more cherries than two boys, any day.  
Good seeds must not only look good, but be well bred.  
Agricultural laborers in Germany receive from 42 cents to \$1 a day and women from 30 cents to 60 cents.  
In Denmark 70,000 farmers live on thirty to ninety acres and 100,000 farmers make a living on smaller farms.  
If someone will invent a milk can that will not rust when given reasonable care, he and his can will be welcomed by the dairymen.

Denatured alcohol is now selling at 37 cents per gallon by the barrel and at from 45 to 50 cents at retail. The first consignment under the new law was from the distilleries of Peoria, Ill., and consisted of 8,000 barrels.

A horse that does not naturally carry a high head cannot be made to do so gracefully by high checking. The elevation of the head depends on the slope of shoulder, which when abrupt prevents the neck from being thrown back.

**Stomach Worms in Sheep.**  
The symptoms of infestation by stomach worms in sheep are briefly noted in a government bulletin. In preventing the infestation of lambs with stomach worms two general plans are usually applicable. The ewes may be kept in a bare lot from which the lambs may escape to non-infested pasture for grazing. The danger of infestation is thus reduced to a minimum. Again, wherever practicable, the danger of infestation from stomach worms is largely eliminated if the lambs come in the fall rather than in the spring.

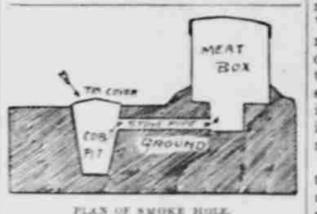
Brief notes are given on the direct remedies for stomach worms, including coal-tar, creosote, bluestone and gasoline.

**A Bird Census.**  
A. O. Gross and H. A. Ray walked across Illinois last fall from the Indiana line to the Mississippi River, taking a bird census as they went. In a strip of country 150 feet wide and 192 miles long they found 4,800 birds of 33 different kinds. Two-thirds of the birds counted were English sparrows, and about one-sixth of the remainder were cowbirds. The next most abundant species were meadow larks, cowbirds, crows, horned larks and mourning doves, ranging in the order named from about 10 per cent to 6 per cent of the whole number of native birds seen.—Hartford Courant.

**A Point in Grafting.**  
The effect of the stock upon the scion is shown in a report recently sent out by the French Academy of Sciences. Two pear trees of the same variety, standing side by side, one grafted on a pear seedling and the other on a quince, bore fruit for a number of years. That from the pear stock was green, while that from the quince stock was a golden yellow, with a rose blush on the side toward the sun. The latter also weighed a third more per specimen, was more dense in both fruit and juice, and was richer in both acid and sugar.

**For Smoking Meat.**  
A writer in the Dakota Farmer gives this account of his simple plan for smoking meat:

"After the meat has been in the brine about two weeks I take it out, put it in a tub of cold water one day and night, and it is then ready to smoke. Take a box about four feet high and two or three feet wide, and knock both



ends out. Dig a hole about 24 feet deep and two feet square; then dig a trench the length of a stove pipe and eight inches deep. Dig a small hole at opposite end from the large hole, put in an old joint of stove pipe and cover over with dirt, then put box over the small hole and bank up with dirt. Put a tin over large hole; an old joint of pipe, uncoupled and flattened out, will do. Make a fire out of corn cobs and you have a smoke box equal to any smoke house."

**Ground Clover.**  
An article of food is now being put on the market which is largely used by those who have tried it—ground clover. Clover hay is ground as fine as meal, and poultrymen add it to the rations of poultry with beneficial results. It is also excellent for young calves and pigs. The ground clover is first scalded with boiling water and thickened with corn meal or any other ground food that may be preferred.

**Timothy Hay.**  
Prof. Patterson of the Maryland Agricultural Station, who made tests to determine the digestibility of foods, is authority for the claim that timothy hay is less digestible by horses than by cattle. This will, no doubt, be a surprise to many, as it has heretofore been supposed that as a food for horses timothy hay was more suitable than any other. Timothy hay is seldom used for cattle, clover being fed to them in preference.

**The Poultry House.**  
In constructing a poultry house it is best to have it face to the southeast, as the sun will then send in its warmth as soon as it rises. The sun will warm the house until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon in the winter. If the house faces the south, as is usually the custom, the sun's rays will not enter before 9 or 10 o'clock, although the morning is the most important time for receiving benefit.

**Horse's Artificial Leg.**  
Professor Udrikski, a Bucharest veterinary surgeon, has succeeded after amputating a horse's leg at the fetlock joint, in fitting a leather artificial leg, by means of which the animal is enabled to walk about and take exercise.

## NORTHWEST HONORED.

Professor Elliott, of W. S. C., contributes to Cyclopaedia.

It is well known that Prof. L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University, has been working for three years past on an extensive publication to be known as The American Cyclopaedia of Agriculture. This is to be published in several volumes and it is expected that it will be accepted by the reading public as the standard reference work on rural affairs. It has been many years since such a work has been attempted and nothing of such an extensive nature has ever been undertaken before in America. Professor Bailey has called to his aid the best known writers on agriculture throughout the entire country, who have written up the various subjects on which they were recognized as authorities. The entire work may be referred to as the combined efforts of the agricultural specialists of America and when published will no doubt find a place in the library of most progressive farmers.

It is significant that when it came to the very important subject of wheat that Professor Bailey recognized the great Northwest and its place as one of the leading wheat producing regions by calling on Professor E. E. Elliott, head of the Agricultural Department at the State College of Washington, to prepare this most important article. This has been done by Prof. Elliott and the matter is now in the hands of the publishers. The article in question consists of about ten thousand words, with numerous illustrations, and would be sufficient in itself to make quite a book if published separately. It covers the entire subject of wheat production in America and at the same time attention is particularly called to the great regions of the Northwest where the production and quality of this cereal have placed it in the forefront. Our wheat growers are to be congratulated in the fact that the article in question has been prepared by one so familiar with the subject and who is doing so much to advance the industry through the work being done by his department at the state experiment station and at the various cereal stations established in the state as well as through the wheat producers organization which was initiated by him.

## AID TO "DRY FARMING."

Washington State College Conducting Extensive Experiments.

The problem of "dry farming" now before the farmers of the semi-arid regions of the Pacific Northwest has been taken up by the Experiment Station of Washington, and it is hoped to work out a method of farming for these regions which will increase their crop bearing capacity. The present operations of experimentation are largely relative to the physics of soil, and are in charge of Professor H. B. Berry, soil physicist of the State college. Discussing this problem, Mr. Berry stated:

"Among the questions which we must answer are: What is the best method of conserving soil moisture? What is the value of diking the summer fallow early in the spring before it can be plowed? What is the value of the sub-surface plow? If the crop suffers from drought, is it because there is not sufficient moisture in the soil, or is it because the plants cannot take the moisture from the soil?"

In the former case we must endeavor to devise a cultural method to conserve moisture; and in the latter case we must develop a strain of plants that can take moisture from the soil, which is a plant breeding problem."

**Figs Thrive in Polk County.**  
Figs as large and perfectly developed as those raised in the most favored portion of California are grown at the town home of Mrs. E. F. Lucas, in Moonmouth. Specimens of the fruit were brought to Dallas by Mrs. Martha Cooper, who had been visiting in the normal school town. The figs were of delicious flavor and were far superior to the California fruit usually found in the Oregon markets.

**Good Money in Peach Crop.**  
Shipments of early Crawford peaches from Roseburg this year will aggregate a total of nearly 20,000 boxes. This is the estimate given by E. F. Drew, who is handling the shipments of the local fruitgrowers' association, whose membership embraces nearly all of the peach growers in that vicinity.

Growers have realized good prices for their product. Peaches of average size and quality brought from 65 to 85 cents per box, while those of higher grade brought as high as \$1.25 per box. After deducting transportation charges, these prices left the growers a net margin of profit. Most of the fruit was marketed in Portland.

**Never Heard of Him.**  
Sunday School Teacher—Gerald, you know one of Bunyan's characters is "Heart's Ease," don't you?  
Little Boy—No, ma'am, but if he had bunions he couldn't have had much heart's ease.

**Conspicuous Advantages.**  
"Johnny," said his grandfather, "you linger too long at the table. I don't hurry with my meals, and yet I finish my dinner before you are half through with yours."  
"Huh!" exclaimed Johnny, with his mouth full. "You've had sixty years' more practice in eating than I have."