

THE RED

BY GUSTAVE AINARD

TRAIL

CHAPTER XXVI.

In any revolution, the insurgents have always an immense advantage over the government they are attacking, from the fact that, as they hold together, know their numbers and act in accordance with a long worked out plan, they are not only cognizant of what they want, but also whether they are proceeding. The government, on the other hand, however well informed it may be, and however well on its guard, is obliged to remain for a considerable length of time in an attitude of armed expectation, without knowing whence the danger that menaces it will come, or the strength of the rebellion it will have to combat.

On the other hand, again, as the secret of the discovery of the plot remains with a small band of confidential agents of the authorities, the latter do not know at first whom to trust, or whom to reckon on. They suspect everybody, even the very troops defending them, whom they fear to see turning against them at any moment, and overthrowing them. This is more especially the case in Mexico and all the old Spanish colonies, where the governmental system is essentially military, and is consequently only based on naturally unintelligent and venal troops, who are utterly deficient of patriotic feelings, and whom interest alone, that is to say, pay or promotion, can keep to their duty.

The President of the Republic had been informed of the designs of the general, as far as that was possible; he had known for more than a month that a vast plot was being formed; he even was aware of the probable day fixed for the pronouncement, but he did not know a syllable about the plans arranged by Don Sebastian and his adherents. As the plot was to burst out in Mexico, the President had filled the capital with troops, and called in those on whose fidelity he thought he could reckon with the greatest certainty.

But his preparations were necessarily restricted to this, and he had been constrained to wait till the revolution commenced.

It burst forth with the suddenness of a peal of thunder at twenty places simultaneously, at about the second hour of the day. The President, who was at once informed, and who had only come to the circus in order not to be invested in the government places, instantly took the measures he thought most efficacious.

The news, however, rapidly arrived, and became worse and worse, and the insurrection was assuming frightful proportions. The revolutionists at first tried to install themselves on the Plaza Mayor in order to seize the government palace, but being repulsed with loss, after a very serious contest, they ambuscaded themselves in Tacuba, Secunda, Montecilla and San Agustin streets, erected barricades and exchanged a sharp fire with the faithful troops.

The cannon roared in the square and the balls made large gaps in the ranks of the insurgents, who replied with yells of rage and increased firing.

Colonel Lupo had taken possession of two city gates, which he burned down, and through which fresh reinforcements reached the insurgents, who now proclaimed themselves masters of one-third of the city. The foreign merchants, established in Mexico, had hoisted their national flags over their houses, in which they remained shut up and suffering great anxiety.

The President was still standing motionless in the center of the circus, frowning at each new message, or angrily striking the pommel of his saddle with his clenched fist. All at once a man glided secretly between his horse's legs and gently touched his boot. The general turned round quickly.

"Ah!" the general exclaimed, on recognizing him. "At last! Well, Curumilla?" But the Indian, without answering, thrust a folded paper into his hand and disappeared as rapidly as he had come. The general eagerly scanned the letter, which only contained these words, written in French: "All is going on well. Charge vigorously."

The general's face grew brighter, he drew himself up haughtily, and brandishing his sword with a martial air, shouted in a voice heard by all: "Forward, Muchachos!"

Then, digging his spurs into his horse's sides, he galloped out of the circus, followed by the greater part of the troops, the remainder receiving orders to hold their present position until further warning.

"Now," said the President to the officers who pressed round him, "the game is won; within an hour the insurrection will be conquered."

In fact matters had greatly altered. Valentine, as we said, had taken a house in Tacuba street, and another in the vicinity of the San Lazaro gate. During the night that preceded the pronouncement, 400 resolute soldiers, commanded by faithful officers, were introduced into the house in Tacuba street, where they remained so well hidden that no one suspected their presence. A similar number of troops were stowed away in the house at the San Lazaro gate.

Don Martial, at the head of a large body of men, slipped into the small house belonging to the captain, and, being warned by the latter so soon as the general had gone off to attend the review, he passed into his mansion through the masked door we know, and occupied it without striking a blow.

The Tigero straightway set a trap, in which several of the principal chiefs of the insurgents were caught and made prisoners.

These three points occupied, they waited. Colonel Lupo had attacked the San Lazaro gate so vigorously and unexpectedly, that it was impossible to prevent him burning it. A very obstinate fight at once began, and the colonel, after a brave resistance, had been at length compelled to retreat and fall back on the main body of the insurgents, who were masters, or nearly so, of the center of the city.

All at once the terraces in Tacuba street, looking on the Plaza Mayor, were covered with sharpshooters, who began a tremendous fire on the insurgents collected beneath them.

The artillerymen, who had hitherto fired at long range, now brought up their guns almost within pistol shot of the streets, and, in spite of the musketry fire of the insurgents, bravely posted their batteries and began hurling showers of canister among the defenders of the barricades.

Almost simultaneously the troops faithful to the government appeared in the rear of the rebels. The insurgents felt they were lost, for they were caught between three fires; still, they offered a courageous resistance, for, knowing that if they fell alive into the hands of the conqueror they would be mercilessly shot, they allowed themselves to be killed with an Indian stoicism, and did not yield an inch of ground.

The general was in a terrible rage; without a hat, his face blackened with gunpowder and his uniform torn in several places, he leapt his horse over the corpses, and dashed blindly into the thick of the government troops, followed by a small band of friends, who bravely let themselves be killed at his side.

The fight was positively degenerating into a massacre, the two parties, as unhappily always happens in civil wars, fought with the greater fury and obstinacy because brothers were contending against brothers, and many of them, for whom politics were only a pretext, took advantage of the medley to satiate personal hatred and avenge old insults.

However, this could not go on for long thus, and it was necessary to get out of the situation at all risks. General Guerrero, unaware of the occupation of his house, resolved to fight his way thither, barricade himself, and obtain an honorable capitulation for himself and his comrades.

No sooner was the plan conceived than the execution was attempted. Don Sebastian collected round him all the fighting men left, and formed them into a small band—for the canister and bullets had made frightful ravages in the ranks of the insurgents—and placed himself at their head.

"Forward, forward!" he shouted, as he rushed at the enemy.

His men followed him with yells of fury. The collision was terrible, the fight fearful; for four or five minutes a funeral silence brooded over this confused mass of combatants, who attacked each other so savagely.

At length the President's troops fell back slightly, the insurgents took advantage of it to redouble their efforts, which were already superhuman, and reached the general's house. The doors were broken open in an instant, and all rushed pell-mell into the court yard. They were saved, since they had at last reached the shelter where they hoped to defend themselves.

At this moment a frightful thing happened; the gallery commanding the court yard and the stairs were entirely occupied by soldiers, and so soon as the insurgents appeared the muskets were pointed down at them, a tornado of fire passed over them like the blast of death, and in a second a mass of corpses covered the ground.

The insurgents, terrified by this sudden attack, which they were so far from anticipating, hurriedly fell back, instinctively seeking an outlet by which to escape. The tumult then became terrible, and the massacre assumed the proportions of an organized butchery. Driven back into the court yard by the troops who pursued them, and met there by those who had attacked them and now charged at the bayonet point, these wretched men, rendered senseless by terror, did not dream any longer of employing their weapons, but falling on their knees before their executioners, and clasping their trembling hands, they implored the mercy of the troops, who, intoxicated by the smell of blood, and affected by the horrible murder fever which seizes upon even the coolest man on the battle field, killed them like oxen in the shambles, and plunged their sabres and bayonets into their bodies with grins of delight and ferocious laughter, and felt a horrible pleasure in seeing their victims writhe with heartbreaking cries in the last convulsions of death.

General Don Sebastian, though wounded, and who seemed to have been protected by a charm throughout this scene of carnage, defended himself like a lion against several soldiers, who tried in vain to transfix him with their bayonets. Leaning against a column, he whirled his sabre round his head, evidently seeking death, but wishing to sell his life as dearly as possible.

Suddenly Valentine cleft his way through the combatants, followed by Belmueur, Black Elk and Curumilla, who were engaged in warding off the blows the soldiers incessantly made at him, and reached the general.

"Ah!" the latter said, on perceiving him, "here you are at last, then?"

And he dealt him a terrible blow, but Belmueur parried it, and Valentine continued to advance.

"Withdraw," he said to the soldiers who surrounded the general, "this man belongs to me."

The soldiers, though they did not know the hunter, intimidated by the accent with which he uttered these words, and recognizing in him one of those rare men who can always impose on common natures, respectfully fell back without making the slightest objection.

The hunter threw his purse to them. "You dare to defy the lion at bay," the general shouted, gnashing his teeth; "although attacked by dogs, he can still avenge his death."

"You will not die," the hunter said; "throw away the sabre, which is now useless."

"Ah, ah!" Don Sebastian said, with a grin of rage; "I am not to die? And why not, pray?"

"Because," he answered, in a cutting

voice, "death would be a mercy to you, and you must be punished."

"Oh!" he shrieked, and, blinded by rage, he rushed madly at the hunter.

The latter, without falling back a step, contented himself with giving a signal. At the same moment a slip-knot fell on the general's shoulders, and he rolled on the ground with a yell of rage. Curumilla had lassoed him.

In vain did Don Sebastian attempt further resistance; after useless efforts he was reduced to utter impotence, and forced not only to confess he had been vanquished, but to yield himself to the mercy of his conquerors.

The massacre was ended, the insurrection had been drowned in blood. The few rebels who survived the carnage were made prisoners; the victors, in the first moment of enthusiasm, had shot several, and it required the most energetic interference on the part of the officers to check this rather too summary justice.

At this moment joyous shouts burst forth, and the President of the Republic entered the courtyard at the head of a large staff, glistening with embroidery.

"Ah, ah!" he said, as he took a contemptuous glance at the general; "so this is the man who wished to change the institutions of this country?"

Don Sebastian did not deign to reply; but he looked at the speaker with such an expression of implacable hatred that the President could not endure it, and was forced to turn his head away.

"Did this man surrender?" he asked one of his officers.

"No, coward," the general answered, with clenched teeth, "I will not surrender to hangmen."

"Take this man to prison with the others," the President continued, "an example must be made; but take care that they are not insulted by the people."

"Yes," the general muttered, "ever the same system."

"A full and entire pardon," the President continued, "will be granted to the unhappy men who were led astray and have recognized their crime."

"Clemency after the massacre, that is the usual way," the general said again.

The President passed without answering him, and left the courtyard. A few minutes later the prisoners were led away to prison, in spite of the efforts of the exasperated populace to massacre them on the road.

General Don Sebastian Guerrero was one of the first to appear before the tribunal. He disclaimed any defense. He was condemned to death and his estates confiscated.

(To be continued.)

ORIGIN OF THE HALO.

Conventional Emblem of Sanctity Really Designed as an Umbrella.

Few people—few even among artists—have any idea of the humble origin of the halo, that conventional emblem of sanctity in all artistic portrayal," said a well-known painter just returned from a sojourn in Europe. "It is commonly accepted as the badge of holiness on the part of the figure whose head it crowns. The old masters used it generally as the hallmark of a saint regularly canonized as such by the Catholic Church. My attention was first attracted by the fact that the earliest paintings of Glotto did not represent even the members of the Holy Family with the conventional circle of light above the heads of the figures, but instead a flat, opaque disc, somewhat like a mortar-board cap, was limned upon the head of each. This led me into an investigation of the strange head-gear. The result was interesting.

In the eleventh and twelfth centuries, years rich in the building of churches and cathedrals, there were erected around the outside of the sacred edifices statues of the saints, long rows of them sometimes stretching the length of the buildings and placed for the most part just under the eaves. In time the caretakers of the buildings perceived the droppings of birds and the discoloration from the rains falling from the roofs disfigured the images. Accordingly they placed over the tops of them flat wooden discs of sufficient size to protect the statues, embryo umbrellas, as it were. Glotto began to paint holy pictures when a mere country boy, and his ignorance assumed the protecting disc as an essential part of the saint. Hence his earliest paintings represent each sacred figure topped off with what looks much like the bottom of a barrel. Latterly he idealized this into a circle, dark at first but growing more luminous with each successive production of his artistic fancy until he developed the circle of light that has come down unchanged through generations of painters as the badge of sanctity. An artist would as soon think of leaving the rays of light from the picture of a setting sun as the halo from the head of a saint.

"But," concluded the man of colors, "that celestial sign, emblematic of all that is supernal, began business merely as an umbrella."

Would Profit by It.

Vicar—I am so glad your dear daughter is better. I was greatly pleased to see her in church this morning, and shortened the services on purpose for her.

Mother of Dear Daughter—Thank you, Vicar, I shall hope to bring her every Sunday now!—Punch.

Encouraging Him.

"Miss Bub—bub—Bright," began Stutterton, "will you bub—bub—be m—m—my—er, that is, I lul—lul—love—"

"Really," interrupted Miss Bright, "you must give me time to consider, Mr. Stutterton. In the meantime perhaps you will be able to say it."—Philadelphia Press.

Quitters.

Cittman—Aren't any of you suburbanites preparing to grow anything in your gardens this year?

Subbubs—Well, there's one thing most of us have grown already.

Cittman—Indeed? What's that?

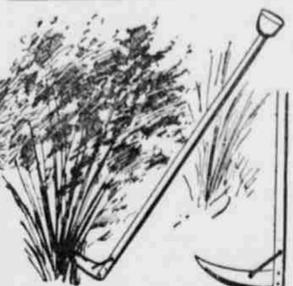
Subbubs—Tired!—Philadelphia Press.



Handy Home-Made Tool.

All growers of blackberries and raspberries know that one of the most disagreeable jobs of the season is the cutting out of the old canes on the plants of these fields. The easiest way of doing this work is to use a sharp tool of some kind so arranged that the operator may stand upright and work. The tool illustrated may be readily made by any handy man, and will do the work required quite as effectually as a more expensive tool.

Take the handle from a worn-out shovel or fork and have the blacksmith attach to it the end of an old scythe blade or, if one has no blade of this kind, the blacksmith can fashion one from old scraps that he may have at small expense. Have this blade fas-



TOOL FOR BERRY GROWER.

tened to the handle in the manner shown in the cut, and when working among the canes of the berry bushes use it in the way illustrated.

This tool will be found extremely handy for this sort of pruning anywhere on the farm. It will work quite well for cutting out suckers in the orchard as in the berry row. If the canes are quite tall a straight handle may be attached to the blade so that one may have it of any desired length. Such a tool costs but little, and if one has a considerable area in berry plants it will pay to have several tools made.

Beans.

"Beans" is the title of a recent farmers' bulletin, by Professor Corbett, the well-known horticulturist of the United States Department of Agriculture. Beans belong to one of the most important families of economic plants with which man has to deal—that of legumes. The bean furnishes food for both man and beast, and at the same time increases the fertility of the soil. It is, therefore, an important crop, both in farm rotation and in market garden work. The new bulletin treats fairly of its cultivation, care and use.

Professor Winako, of Purdue Experiment Station, has just issued an interesting bulletin on soy beans, cow peas and other forage crops. The culture of cow peas and soy beans is becoming important with many farmers, as they make good forage crops and at the same time add fertility to the soil. They belong to the legumes, and the cost of producing is about the same as for corn, while their food value compares very favorably with corn. Several other classes of forage plants are described in the bulletin.

To Pasteurize Milk.

Pasteurizing milk is a very simple process, the operator to be careful of the temperature, however, which is very important. When milk is boiled the natural flavor is destroyed, and some persons object to it. Milk is also injured to a certain extent by boiling. To pasteurize milk, procure long-necked bottle, which must be scrupulously clean; pour in the milk and plug the tops with cotton wool, which excludes all germs. Place the bottles in a deep pan or other vessel and heat to a temperature of 158 degrees, using a thermometer. If the temperature reaches 160 degrees the milk will have the odor of being boiled. Keep the milk heated for half an hour. The cotton stoppers need not be removed until the milk is desired for use. The bottles containing the milk may be placed in a refrigerator or some cool receptacle. Milk so prepared can be kept for two or three days. To sterilize milk it must be boiled, hence Pasteurization is a different process.

Poultry.

A careful observer of poultry needs no better sign of its condition than to watch the comb. A bright red comb shows that the hen or male is healthy and vigorous, and if a hen, she will probably be a good layer. After the egg supply has failed the comb will generally lose its color. In cold weather fowls with large combs must have extra warm quarters, as they are very easily frozen. It is frozen combs more often than anything else that makes Leghorns and Minorcas poor winter layers. As their names imply, they are natives of warm climates, as, indeed, most fowls are. They very rarely get into as warm quarters in winter as they could find anywhere in the countries where they had their original home.

Bee Keeping.

A cellar is a good place to keep bees, but, if sheltered from the winds and exposed to the sun, a strong colony will do well out of doors.

Shredded Stover.

For winter feeding of stock animals this makes one of the finest feeds on the farm. The modern husking and shredding machinery does excellent work, and its man-eating proclivities have been largely eliminated. An ordinary threshing machine can be made to do good shredding, but the grain is not left in the best condition. The greatest drawback in the use of both husker and thresher is that they require a large force of men and teams, hence the work is quite expensive. Perhaps the cheapest corn husking is done with the little old husking peg. But it is almost impossible to feed long stover without considerable waste, and the refuse stalks are a nuisance when it comes to handling the manure. These difficulties may be overcome by running the handhusked stover through a common cutter and shredder. This work can usually be done without employing much, if any outside help. In case everything is hired, the cost of the work, added to that of hand-husking and putting of the corn and stover in crib and mow or stack may equal or even exceed the expense of machine husking and shredding. This is a point for each to decide from his own standpoint.—Agricultural Epitomist.

Composition of Crops.

A bulletin of the Minnesota Experiment Station discusses the composition and characteristics of the more common farm crops, as alfalfa, clover, peas, rape, corn fodder, timothy, millet, etc. In connection with the composition of some of the crops the protein content of the seed is considered. In the case of clover, alfalfa, peas, beans and rape two distinct types of seed are shown to recur, one of high and the other of low protein content, and the relationship of the physical characteristics of the seeds to the chemical composition is noted. The larger protein content of the seed is considered as a possible factor in the production of forage crops of high nutritive value. The quality of the forage in live-stock feeding is of great importance, because by the use of more concentrated nitrogenous forage rations can be prepared requiring smaller amounts of grains and milled products. The result is a material financial saving of stock.

How to Save Steps.

In spite of the extensive development and use of corn harvesting machinery the fact remains that much corn is still cut by hand. Therefore the accompanying sketch recently sent to the New England Homestead by a reader will prove of interest.

He has figured out that if the plan outlined is followed a sixty-four hill shock, or stook, of corn can be cut at a minimum number of steps. The circles in the center represent the four hills tied together or between which the shock is built. After the foundation for the shock is ready the man goes to No. 1 and cuts in the direction



CUTTING A SHOCK OF CORN.

of the numbers until he reaches No. 8. After placing his armful in the shock he begins at No. 9 and cuts to No. 16 again depositing his load and continuing the operation in the way the hills are numbered until the shock is completed. It will be noted that in addition to saving steps this plan brings the cutter near the shock with his heaviest load, or when his arm is full of corn.

Fruit from Seed.

It is doubtful if there is any kind of fruit that will come strictly true to variety when grown from seed, as there is a tendency to deviate from the original. One may secure something superior or the fruit may revert back to some undesirable kind. It is a slow and uncertain process. Chestnuts may be grafted when 1 year old. The nuts are usually placed in the ground in rows, 6 inches deep, early in the spring or late in the fall, billing over them in the fall, and uncovering in the spring. They are very unreliable in germinating and prefer a sandy loam. The European varieties are larger than the native. The native chestnuts vary greatly, no two trees producing nuts exactly alike in size, flavor, etc. The foreign varieties are grafted on the American stocks. Trees grown from American nuts can not be depended upon for quality of product.

A Peaceful Bee.

Beehives on every front porch, giving each family a supply of delicious honey close at hand, while at the same time the bees will inoculate their lesson of industry, are a possibility, for the Department of Agriculture has succeeded in importing from abroad what may be termed a peaceful bee, which finds our fickle climate to its liking. The newcomer is known as the Caucasian bee. The name is derived from its native locality, and is emphasized by habits of life which rank it distinctly as the white man's bee. It is civilized, dignified and high-toned. It rushes with reluctance into anything that smacks of warfare, having, in place of the belligerent instincts of others of its class, a predisposition to arbitration.

THE WEEKLY HISTORICAL



1004—Norwegians defeated the Danes at Fulford.

1198—Richard I. defeated the French at the battle of Gisors.

1327—Edward II. of England married in Berkeley Castle.

1350—English defeated the French at the battle of Poitiers.

1415—Owen Glendower, the Welsh patriot, died at Monnington.

1628—John Endicott's colony arrived at Salem, Mass.

1630—Boston, formerly Trimingham, Mass., named.

1653—New England colonists declared war against the Niantic Indians.

1665—The great plague in London reached its height.

1675—Bloody Brook massacre at Westfield, Mass.

1697—King William's war ended by treaty of Ryswick.

1710—Expedition against the French called from Boston for Port Royal.

1714—George I. landed in England.

1745—Battle of Prestonpann between the Royal troops and the Jacobites.

1747—Marquis de Beauharnais sailed twenty-one year term as governor of Canada.

1750—Quebec capitulated to the British.

1762—St. John's, Newfoundland, captured from the French by the British.

1770—The first Trinity church, New York, destroyed by fire. Built 1698.

1777—Continental Congress left Philadelphia on the approach of the British. British victorious at the battle of Saratoga. British defeated Americans at Paoli, Pa.

1792—Meeting of the first Parliament in Upper Canada.

1793—George Washington laid the cornerstone of the national capitol at Washington.

1801—Robert Emmet, Irish patriot, hanged for treason.

1821—Central American States declared their independence.

1823—Samuel L. Southard of New Jersey became Secretary of the Navy.

1828—Opening of the London and Birmingham railway. Anti-Corn Law League formed at Manchester, England.

1841—Railway opened between London and Brighton.

1847—Shakespeare's house, Stratford-on-Avon, bought for the British nation.

1850—President Fillmore signed fugitive slave law.

1854—Allies defeated the Russians at the battle of Alma.

1856—The last national convention of the Whigs met at Baltimore.

1857—Massacre at Mountain Meadows. Utah. Delhi captured by the British.

1860—The American tour of the Prince of Wales began at Detroit.

1861—New Orleans banks suspended specie payment.

1862—Battle of Antietam ended.

1863—Gen. Bragg began the siege of Chattanooga. First day of the battle of Chickamauga.

1864—Gen. Sheridan victorious at the battle of Winchester. Gen. Fremont withdrew as a candidate for President.

1868—Revolution in Spain commenced.

1870—The Germans invaded Paris.

1871—Lincoln's body removed to its resting place at Springfield, Ill.

1873—Financial panic precipitated the suspension of Jay Cook & Co.

1881—Chester A. Arthur took office as successor to President Garfield.

1891—The St. Clair tunnel under Detroit river opened to traffic.

1894—Chinese defeated with honor at battle of Ping Yang, Korea.

1895—Peary Arctic relief expedition. St. John's, N. F., on return.

1898—Spanish forces began the occupation of Porto Rico. French minister of war ordered the presence of Col. Picquart, in connection with the Dreyfus case.

1899—Anti-trust conference at Chicago ended.

Odds and Ends.

Methodist foreign mission schools over 70,000 pupils.

China and Japan together produced 125,000 tons of silk annually.

Taken the world over, the average annual rainfall is sixty inches.

Coffee plantations in bloom are white and exhale a delicious odor. The blossoms die in a day.

The steel sleeping cars which the man company is building will cost per cent more than the present cars.

As near as can be ascertained, the appropriated and unreserved public lands of the United States amount to 707 acres.

A decade ago, in the fiscal year '97, this country did a business with Latin-American countries amounting to \$234,000,000. In the fiscal year '07 it has done a business with the American countries in excess of \$1,000,000,000.