

# THE RED TRAIL

By GUSTAVE AIMARD

## CHAPTER XXVII.

The Spanish custom—a custom which has been kept up in all the old colonies of that power—of placing persons condemned to death in a chapel, requires explanation, in order that it may be thoroughly understood and appreciated, as it deserves to be.

Frenchmen, over whom the great revolution of '93 passed like a hurricane, and carried off most of their belief in its sanguinary cloak, may smile with pity and regard as a fanatic remainder of another age this custom of placing the condemned in chapel. Among us, it is true, matters are managed much more simply; a man, when condemned by the law, eats, drinks and remains alone in his cell. If he desire it he is visited by the chaplain, whom he is at liberty to converse with, if he likes; if not, he remains perfectly quiet, and nobody pays any attention to him, during a period more or less long, and determined by the rejection of his appeal. Then, one fine morning, when he is least thinking of it, the governor of the prison announces to him, when he wakes, as the most simple thing in the world, that he is to be executed that same day, and only an hour is granted him to recommend his soul to the divine clemency. The fatal toilet is made by the executioner and his assistant, the condemned man is placed in a close carriage, conveyed to the place of execution, and in a twinkling launched into eternity, before he has had a moment to look round him.

When a man is condemned to death from that moment he is, de facto, cut off from that society to which he no longer belongs, through the sentence passed on him; he is consequently separated from his fellow men.

He is shut up in a room, at one end of which is an altar; the walls are hung in black drapery, studded with silver tears, and here and there mourning inscriptions, drawn from Holy Writ. Near his bed is placed the coffin in which his body is to be deposited after execution, while two priests, who relieve each other, but of whom one constantly remains in the room, say mass in turn, and exhort the criminal to repent of his crimes, and implore Divine clemency. This custom, which, if carried to an extreme, would appear in our country before all, barbarous and cruel, perfectly agrees with Spanish manners, and the thoroughly believing spirit of this impressionable nation; it is intended to draw the culprit back to pious thought, and rarely fails to produce the desired effect upon him.

The general was, therefore, placed in capilla, and two monks belonging to the order of St. Francis, the most respected, and, in fact, respectable in Mexico, entered it with him.

The first hours he passed there were terrible; this proud mind, this powerful organization, revolted against adversity, and would not accept defeat. Gloomy and silent, with frowning brows, and fists clenched on his bosom, the general sought shelter like a wild beast in a corner of the room, recalling his whole life, and seeing with starts of terror the bloody victims scattered along his path, and sacrificed in turn to his devouring ambition, sadly defile before him.

Then he reverted to his early years. When residing at the Palmar, his magnificent family hacienda, his life passed away calm, pure, gentle and tranquil, without regrets, and without desires, among his faithful servants. Then he was so glad to be nothing, and to wish to be nothing.

By degrees his thoughts followed the bias of his recollections; the present was effaced; his contracted features grew softer, and two burning tears, the first perhaps this man of iron had ever shed, coursed slowly down his cheeks, which grief had hollowed. He fell into the arms open to receive him, exclaiming, with an expression of desperate grief, impossible to render:

"Have mercy, heaven; have mercy!"

The struggle had been short but terrible; faith had conquered doubt, and humanity had regained its rights.

The general then had with the monks a conversation, protracted far into the night, in which he confessed all his crimes and sins, and humbly asked pardon of God whom he had outraged, and before whom he was about to appear.

The next day, a little after sunrise, one of the monks, who had been absent about an hour, returned, bringing with him the general's capataz. It had only been with extreme reluctance that Carnero had consented to come, for he justly dreaded his old master's reproaches. His surprise was therefore extreme at being received with a smile, and kindly, and on finding that the general did not make the slightest allusion to his treachery, which the evidence before the court-martial had fully revealed.

Carnero looked inquiringly at the two monks, for he did not dare put faith in his master's words, and each moment expected to hear him burst out into reproaches. But to his amazement nothing of the sort took place; the general continued the conversation as he had begun it, speaking to him gently and kindly.

At the moment when the capataz was about to withdraw, the general stopped him.

"One moment," he said to him; "you know Don Valentine, the French hunter, for whom I so long cherished an insensate hatred?"

"Yes," Carnero stammered.

"Be kind enough to ask him to grant me the favor of a short visit; he is a noble-hearted man, and I am convinced that he will not refuse to come. I should be glad if he consented to bring with him Don Martial, the Tigero, who has so much cause to complain of me, as well as my niece, Dona Anita de Torres. Will you undertake this commission, the last I shall doubtless give you?"

"Yes, general," the capataz answered, affected in spite of himself by such gentleness.

"Now go; be happy and pray for me, for we shall never meet again."

The capataz went out in a very different frame of mind from that in which

he had entered the capilla, and hastened off to Valentine.

"I will go," said Valentine simply, and he dismissed him.

Curumilla was at once sent off to M. Rallier's quinta with a letter, and during his absence Valentine had a long conversation with Belhumeur and Black Elk. At about 5 in the evening a carriage entered the courtyard of Valentine's house at a gallop; it contained M. Rallier, Dona Anita and Don Martial.

"Thanks!" he said on seeing them.

"You ordered me to come, so I obeyed as usual," the Tigero answered.

"You were right, my friend."

"And now what do you want of us?"

"That you should accompany me to the place whither I am going at this moment."

"Would it be indiscreet to ask you—?"

"Where?" the hunter interrupted him with a laugh. "Not at all; I am going to lead you, Dona Anita, and the persons here present to the capataz in which General Guerrero is confined."

"The capilla?" the Tigero exclaimed in amazement, "for what purpose?"

"What does that concern you? The general has requested to see you, and you cannot refuse the request of a man who has but a few hours left to live."

The Tigero hung his head without answering.

"Oh! I will go!" Dona Anita exclaimed impulsively, as she wiped away the tears that ran down her cheeks.

"Since you insist, Don Valentine, I will go," said the Tigero.

"I do not insist, my friend; I only ask, that is all."

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

Valentine, Dona Anita, M. Rallier and Don Martial got into the carriage. The two Canadians and the chief followed them on horseback, and they proceeded at a gallop to the chapel where the condemned man was confined.

All along the road they found marks of the obstinate struggle which had deluged the city with blood a few days previously; the barricades had not been entirely removed, and though the distance was in reality very short, they did not reach the prison until midnight, owing to the detours they were forced to make.

Valentine begged his friends to remain outside, and only entered with Dona Anita and the Tigero. The general was impatiently expecting them, and testified a great joy on perceiving them.

The young lady could not restrain her emotion, and threw herself into her uncle's arms with an outburst of passionate grief. The general pressed her tenderly to his bosom and kissed her on the forehead.

"I am the more affected by these marks of affection, my child," he said, with much emotion, "because I have been very harsh to you. Can you ever forgive me the sufferings I have caused you?"

"Oh, uncle, speak not so. Are you not, alas! the only relation I have remaining?"

"For a short time," he said, with a sad smile, "that is the reason why I ought, without further delay, to provide for your future."

"Do not talk about that at such a moment, uncle," she continued, bursting into tears.

"On the contrary, my child, it is at this moment, when I am going to leave you, that I am bound to insure you a protector. Don Martial, I have done you great wrong; here is my hand, accept it as that of a man who has completely recognized his faults, and sincerely repents the evil he has done."

The Tigero, more affected than he liked to display, took a step forward and cordially pressed the hand offered him.

"General," he said, in a voice which he tried in vain to render firm, "this moment, which I never dared hope to see, fills me with joy, but at the same time with grief."

"Well, you can do something for me by proving to me that you have really forgiven me."

"Speak, general, and no matter, if it is in my power—" he exclaimed, warmly.

"I believe you, Don Martial," Don Sebastian answered, with his sad smile. "Consent to accept my niece from my hand and marry her at once in this chapel."

One of the monks had prepared everything beforehand.

When the hunters and the French banker entered, followed by Curumilla and the officer commanding the capilla guard, who had been warned beforehand, the general walked eagerly toward them.

"Senores," he said, "I would ask you to do me the honor of witnessing the marriage of my niece, Dona Anita de Torres, with this caballero. One moment, I have something more yet, if you please. I now wish to make you witness of a great reparation."

They stopped and looked at the general with the greatest surprise as he walked up to Valentine.

"Caballero," he said to him, "I know all the motives of hatred you have against me, and those motives I allow to be just. I am now in the same position in which I placed Count de Prebols Crance, your dearest friend. Like him, I shall be shot to-morrow at daybreak, but with this difference, that he fell as a martyr to a holy cause and innocent of crimes of which I accused him, while I am guilty, and deserve the sentence passed on me. Don Valentine, I repent from the bottom of my heart the iniquitous murder of your friend, Don Valentine, do you forgive me?"

"General Don Sebastian Guerrero, I forgive you the murder of my friend," the hunter answered in a firm voice.

"You forgive me?"

"I forgive you the life of grief to which I am henceforth condemned by you."

"You pardon me unreservedly?"

"Unreservedly I do."

"Thanks. We were made to love instead hate one another."

"You think so now."

"I misunderstood you; but yours is a

great and noble heart. Now let death come, and I shall accept it gladly, for I feel convinced that heaven will have pity on me on account of my sincere repentance. Be happy, niece, with the husband of your choice. Senores, all accept my thanks. Don Valentine, once more I thank you. And now leave me, all, for I no longer belong to the world, so let me think of my salvation."

"But one word," Valentine said. "General, I have forgiven you, and it is now my turn to ask your pardon."

"What can you mean?"

"I have deceived you!"

"Deceived me!"

"Yes; take this paper. The President of the Republic, employing his sovereign right of mercy, has, on my pressing entreaty, revoked the sentence passed on you. You are free."

His hearers burst into a cry of admiration. The general turned pale. He tottered, and for a moment it was fancied that he was about to fall. A cold perspiration stood on his temples.

"Fathers," he said, turning to the monks, "lead me to your monastery. General Guerrero is dead, and henceforth I shall be a monk of your order."

Two days after the scene we have described Valentine and his companions left Mexico and returned to Sonora. On reaching the frontier the hunter, in spite of the pressing entreaties of his friends, separated from them and returned to the desert.

Don Martial and Dona Anita settled in Mexico near the Ralliers. A month after Valentine's departure Dona Helena returned to the convent, and at the end of a year, in spite of the entreaties of her family, who were surprised at so strange a resolution, which nothing apparently explained, the young lady took the vows.

When I met Valentine Guillois on the banks of the Rio Joaquin some time after the events recorded in this long story, he was going with Curumilla to attempt a hazardous expedition across the Rocky Mountains, from which, he said to me, with the soft, melancholy smile which he generally assumed when speaking to me, he hoped never to return.

I accompanied him for several days, and then we were compelled to separate. He pressed my hand, and followed by his dumb friend, he entered the mountains. For a long time I looked after him, for I involuntarily felt my heart contracted by a sad foreboding. He turned round for the last time, waved his hand in farewell and disappeared round a bend of the track. I was fated never to see him again.

Since then nothing has been heard of him nor of Curumilla. All my endeavors to join them or even obtain news of them were vain.

Are they still living? No one can say. Darkness has settled down over these two magnificent men, and time itself will, in all probability, never remove the veil that conceals their fate. For all, unhappily, leads me to suppose that they perished in that gloomy expedition from which Valentine hoped, alas! never to return.

(The End.)

## SOME JOKES ON ROYALTY.

Even the German Kaiser Cannot Overawe the Funny Man.

Rulers do not always escape the practical joker, although royalty, as a rule, is impatient of trifling and sensitive to ridicule. Even the Kaiser is ruffled, now and then, by an irreverent jest at his expense.

What makes these jokes the funnier to the world in general is the fact that the joker has to beware the diverse and dreadful penalties for lese majeste. The monarch himself may not notice them, but there are always obsequious officials who think to recover the royal dignity by pursuing the humorist.

A couple of years ago a German paper, presumably for a joke, published a paragraph to the effect that the favorite flower of the Kaiser was a red carnation. The paragraph was copied in almost every paper in the country, and when, a few days later, the emperor visited Aix-la-Chapelle, all those deputed to receive him wore red carnations in their buttonholes.

The Kaiser frowned angrily, but no one knew until next day, when some one, a little wiser than the rest, informed them that the flower was the emblem of his pet abominations, the Social Democrats.

One of the most extraordinary hoaxes on record is said to have been played upon the Dewan Lalla Moolraj, a native potentate of the Punjab, during the second Sikh War, in the winter of 1848-1849. The British army, commanded by Sir Hugh Gough, had shut up the Dewan and his forces in the fortified city of Mooltan. One day the besiegers were amazed by the thunderous sound of a most extraordinary cannonade followed, not by shot or shell, but by an assortment of miscellaneous provisions in a very fragmentary condition raining into the British lines.

The Sikh chieftain, it was afterward discovered, had found in the city a large store of canned meats, of the nature of which he was completely ignorant. A native spy in British pay gravely informed him that they were powerful explosives, and hence, for some days the British camp was greeted with showers of Strasburg patés and other more or less mangled but perfectly eatable tinned food.

Similarity of Writing.

"From my pile of autographs I take one of a statesman well known and lay it side by side with the autographs of a great author and a great ecclesiastic," writes a British publicist. "All three are very small, exquisitely neat, very little slanted, absolutely legible. Well as I knew the three writers, I doubt if I could tell which wrote which. They were Cardinal Manning, Mr. Froude and Lord Rosebery. Will the experts tell me if in this case similarity of writing bodied forth similarity of gifts or qualities?"

Only one couple in over 11,000 live to celebrate their diamond wedding.



## FARMS AND FARMERS

### Preserving Meats.

A method of preserving meat has been brought out in France by H. de Lapparent, which seems to have met with considerable success. It can be also applied on a small scale for household purposes, says the Scientific American. The principle consists in exposing the meat to sulphurous acid fumes. By burning a small amount of sulphur in a receptacle containing the meat hung up in place it can be preserved for several days, even in summer. There is no taste left from the sulphur fumes, and there seems to be no danger to health. Such a method can be used also on a large scale for preserving meat for army use, as it is quite simple and easy to apply in practice. From experiments made on a large scale it appears that the meat fumigated with sulphur did not contain more than 22 grams (340 grains) of sulphurous acid gas per 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of meat, which is on the order of ten thousandths. The meat should be fumigated as soon as possible after killing, and preferably on parts which have no cut bones. Lean meat is found to keep best. To preserve it for several months meat can be enclosed in vessels full of carbonic acid gas. It has the appearance of fresh meat, and its taste is not changed after cooking. In England Mr. Lascalle Scott proposed a method which consists in immersing the meat in a solution of bisulphite of lime.

### Color of Eggs.

At the California Agricultural Experiment Station, the chief object in making a chemical examination of brown-shelled and white-shelled eggs was to determine whether there is any superiority of one over the other as to quality. The test shows that the shells and their color have but slight effect on the food value of the eggs. It has been said by some that the brown eggs are richer than the white ones, but this statement is not borne out by a chemical analysis, and the physical examination proves that the main points of superiority, though slight, are possessed by the white eggs. The minute differences that are found between the two groups are exceeded by variation between varieties within the same group. It may be stated that there are practically no differences so far as the food value is concerned between white-shelled and brown-shelled eggs.

### Raising Ducks.

The most frequent troubles with ducks and geese is vertigo. They drop down on their feet or fall on one side suddenly, at times recovering as suddenly or dying immediately. This happens only when ducks or geese are fed too much grain. The best prevention is to make their feeding ground a pasture, where the grass is short but abundant, and let them get more of their subsistence for themselves. They will require but little food after warm weather comes, as they are then well over the laying period, becoming non-producers. The non-producers should have no grain. There is a saving in expense and there will be fewer losses occurring from diseases—Poultry Farmer.

### A Chicken Village.

On the road from East Auburn to Turner there is a novel sight, a chicken village, it may be termed, for at the side of a well-kept farmhouse there is a village of perhaps a dozen little white peak-roofed houses, and the house nearest to the road is built to represent a church. The steeple is as perfect as if the tiny building were really intended for a place of worship. These miniature houses are nothing more or less than chicken coops, yet so perfectly is everything arranged that the passer-by might, at a first glance, think it a "play town" belonging to some child.—Kenebec (Me.) Journal.

### A Potato Coverer.

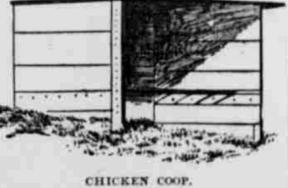
B. P. Wagner of Missouri has devised the following: The illustration shows how I make my potato coverer. Get two boards about 3 1/2 feet long; fasten together to come to a point, with a brace at open end. The singletree is attached to brace by means of clewleas and chain. The horse walks in the row, and this tool will do the covering nicely.

### Saving Seed.

Do not attempt to save your own seeds unless you have used every precaution necessary to prevent cross-fertilization. Plants often mix without the knowledge of the grower. A melon, it is claimed, may be fertilized by a pumpkin, and though the fruit of this season may be apparently genuine, yet the seeds of such, if used next season, may cause a failure of the crop or destroy the quality.

### Old Geese for Breeding.

Eggs from young geese are often infertile. It is best to keep old geese for breeders. One gander to three or four geese is a good mating. Where there are as many ganders as geese, they often pair off and only mate together.



CHICKEN COOP.

three feet high. The front and bottom are removed. Two strips are nailed perpendicular on the front corner, projecting a foot below the bottom of the box. This raises the front and gives the roof the necessary pitch when facing a downhill position. Two strips nailed on each side form a support for porches which are fastened together by crosspieces so all may be removed at one operation to be sprayed.

We move this coop twice a week, and it is always clean and fresh. The open front and bottom seem a little risky, considering the possibility of wandering cats, rats or weasels. But we are willing to run some risks if we can fill our own and customers' pens in the fall with large, robust stock. This one plan has enabled us to produce Orpingtons well up to standard size, which some fall to do. The accompanying sketch of coop will explain itself.

### Thorough Cultivation.

Thorough and frequent cultivation is regarded by many as the best mulch for spring, summer and fall, which induces the roots to seek food in every direction, thereby becoming more numerous and deeply imbedded, as well as going further beyond the penetration of cold in winter. In this condition it is only in climates where the cold is severe that a covering of straw or other bulky material is required. Such coverings should be removed as early in spring as the season will permit, and the cultivator used. If the crop is such as to permit of its use. Even in the fall a thorough stirring of the soil will admit the air and afford protection in the winter, but it is possible that late stirring of the soil, leaving the ground bare in the winter season, may permit of loss of fertility of the soil, by leaching of the soluble portions by rains and melting snows, to avoid which some farmers sow the land to rye late in October and plow it under early in the spring.

### Birds and Insects.

It is much easier to destroy birds than insects, but as the number of birds is reduced the insects multiply. The wren is a very useful bird, and may be induced to remain near the dwelling houses if boxes are provided for them, but as they are unable to contend against English sparrows, the entrance to the wren boxes should not exceed an inch in diameter, as the wren is very small and can only protect itself by going where the sparrow cannot follow. Every encouragement should be given birds by feeding them and providing suitable places for their protection and accommodation.



- ## THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN
- 1322—Bavarians defeated the Austrians at Muhldorf.
  - 1396—Turks defeated the Christians at Nicopolis.
  - 1450—Yorkists victorious at Blewbury (War of the Roses.)
  - 1493—Columbus sailed from Cadix his second expedition to America.
  - 1513—Balboa discovered the Pacific ocean.
  - 1565—Menedez, the Spanish conqueror of Florida, murdered 200 French.
  - 1597—City of Amiens taken by Spaniards and English.
  - 1630—Death of Ambrosia, Maria Spinoia, the great Spanish captain.
  - 1664—The French in America made the first treaty with the Iroquois Indians.
  - 1690—"Public Occurrences," first newspaper printed in America, issued in Boston.
  - 1692—Martha Cory hanged at Salem, Mass., for witchcraft.
  - 1732—First issue of The Rhode Island Gazette.
  - 1743—Gov. Clinton dissolved the New York Legislature.
  - 1750—The Tilbury wrecked off St. Peter, Cape Breton, with loss of lives. Military force from Orléans attacked the Cherokees in Tennessee and destroyed many of their towns.
  - 1763—Montagu Wilnot succeeded in that Belcher as Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.
  - 1774—Massachusetts Legislature dissolved by the royalist governor.
  - 1775—The Americans made an unsuccessful attack on Montreal.
  - 1779—Savannah, Ga., besieged by French fleet and a part of Southern army. John Jay as the American commissioner in Spain. Paul Jones, with the homonymous Richard, defeated the British frigate Serapis off the coast of the land.
  - 1780—Major Andre, who plotted the Benedict Arnold for the betrayal of West Point, captured near the town. Benedict Arnold fled to British sloop Vulture.
  - 1781—Washington's army and French allies arrived at York and began the siege.
  - 1789—Thomas Jefferson of Virginia came Secretary of State.
  - 1803—Wellington's victory at Assiniboine.
  - 1804—The remodeling of the White House at Washington was started.
  - 1813—Gen. William Henry Harrison won Canada from Detroit.
  - 1814—James Monroe of Virginia became acting Secretary of War.
  - 1815—The Holy Alliance ratified in Paris.
  - 1829—Thirteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States passed by a two-thirds vote. A mill cleaning rice was invented by General of South Carolina.
  - 1831—Anti-Masons nominated a ticket at Baltimore.
  - 1843—Fremont's expedition reached Columbia river, in Oregon.
  - 1846—The planet Neptune discovered. Monterey, Mexico, surrendered to Americans.
  - 1854—Russians closed the harbor of Sevastopol by sinking ships in entrance. Allies advanced on Balaklava. Over 300 lives lost in collision of a British steamer and French bark near Cape Race.
  - 1869—"Black Friday," financial result of attempt to corner gold.
  - 1871—Joint high commission organized at Washington to adjust claims against Great Britain by United States growing out of Civil War.
  - 1874—Typhoon at Hongkong resulted in loss of over 1,000 lives.
  - 1881—National fast day appointed the death of President Garfield.
  - 1884—Mormon colony in Wilson, Tenn., ordered by regulators of the State.
  - 1892—Nancy Hanks trotted a mile in 2:04 at Terre Haute, Ind.
  - 1895—Alleged Cuban filibusters arrested by a jury at Wilmington.
  - 1898—Chile and Argentina agreed to submit their boundary dispute to arbitration.
  - 1904—Don Jose Pardo proclaimed president of Peru.
- Use of Seismograph in War
- According to dispatches from some important experiments were during the recent Ostend gunnery by Prof. Belar, director of the earthquake observatory, who used a seismographic apparatus to see if vibrations of the earth the location direction of distant artillery. Experiments were satisfactory, and will be continued during the coming autumn artillery maneuvers in the waken hills.