

THE RED TRAIL

By GUSTAVE AIMARD

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 occur 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 night. 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. This is what had occurred:

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 capataz, 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 madly 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 fearful 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. Leaping 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 Belhumeur, 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 Belhumeur 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, coldly; "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 loosed 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 disdained any defense. He was condemned to death and his estates confiscated.

(To be continued.)



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 Wianeko, 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.

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, hilling over them if 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.

Bones and Lime for Poultry.

Nearly all kinds of food contain lime. Oyster shells, clam shells, marble, limestone and chalk are of the same composition (carbonate of lime), bones being phosphate of lime. Fowls utilize oyster shells and other forms of lime largely as grit, while fresh bone from the butcher is an excellent food, providing both lime and nitrogen. As green bone cannot be ground, owing to its tough condition, it must be cut with a bone cutter. When bones are dry they may then be ground and can be used at all seasons.

Stubble Fields.

Fields that are left to stubble, or that are covered with weeds, cannot now be benefited by cultivation, where the seeds of the weeds have already been scattered, but as soon as the frost does its work and the weeds are dry, rake over the fields with a horse rake and burn all the refuse. Dead weeds form harboring places for field mice and insects, and during windy days, after the weeds are thoroughly dry, they are blown to other fields. By burning all refuse, there will be fewer weed seeds turned under next spring.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Incurable.

The professor was welcoming a niece, who had just returned from a trip abroad. "Had a fine time, had you?" he asked. "Perfectly splendid." "Yet you were going around between showers all the time?" "Why, how can you talk so! It didn't rain a drop while I—"

"Don't interrupt me, child. I know what I am saying. It was raining when you started away from here and it's raining now. Comprehend?"

WHAT IS PE-RU-NA?

Is it a Catarrh Remedy, or a Tonic, or is it Both?

Some people call Peruna a great tonic. Others refer to Peruna as a great catarrh remedy.

Which of these people are right? Is it more proper to call Peruna a catarrh remedy than to call it a tonic? Our reply is, that Peruna is both a tonic and a catarrh remedy. Indeed, there can be no effectual catarrh remedy that is not also a tonic.

In order to thoroughly relieve any case of catarrh, a remedy must not only have a specific action on the mucous membranes affected by the catarrh, but it must have a general tonic action on the nervous system.

Catarrh, even in persons who are otherwise strong, is a weakened condition of some mucous membrane. There must be something to strengthen the circulation, to give tone to the arteries, and to raise the vital force.

Perhaps no vegetable remedy in the world has attracted so much attention from medical writers as HYDRASTIS CANADENSIS. The wonderful efficacy of this herb has been recognized many years, and is growing in its hold upon the medical profession. When joined with CUBEBS and COPAIBA a trio of medical agents is formed in Peruna which constitutes a specific remedy for catarrh that in the present state of medical progress cannot be improved upon. This action, reinforced by such renowned tonics as COLLINSONIA CANADENSIS, CORYDALIS FORMOSA and CEDRON SEED, ought to make this compound an ideal remedy for catarrh in all its stages and locations in the body.

From a theoretical standpoint, therefore, Peruna is beyond criticism. The use of Peruna, confirms this opinion. Numberless testimonials from every quarter of the earth furnish ample evidence that this judgment is not over enthusiastic. When practical experience confirms a well-grounded theory the result is a truth that cannot be shaken.

Weren't You?

The timorous Chinaman fed with agility, but the boys grabbed his Q and yelled "Kill it!"

Then they cut off the said Q close to his head.

While he danced around like a P in a skillet.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligation made by him in this regard.

WALDO R. KINMAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is also internally acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for Constipation.

When?

"Do you think the railways will be willing to obey the law?"

"Oh, yes," answered Mr. Dustin Star; "we'll obey the law all right. But not until after our lawyers get through explaining it."—Washington Star.

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Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Fitch*

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The Wenatchee Valley Irrigated Apple Orchards are paying \$500 to \$1500 per acre this year. Cascade Orchards, one mile from Leavenworth, is now on sale. Get particulars free from H. C. Peters, 622 Alaska Bldg., Seattle

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