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White Hand A Tale of the Early Settlers of Louisiana. BY AUSTIN C. BURDICK

CHAPTER XXI. Slowly and painfully dragged away the hours and the days to the poor sick wife in New Orleans. Old Loppa was very kind, and so was the physician. Yet Louise had a very severe sickness, and a part of the time she was out of her head. But gradually the delirium passed away, and she was at length able to sit up. Three weeks had she lain thus, but she could rise from her bed; but on the fourth week she was able to walk about the room. It was at the close of the fourth week that her husband returned. "How long have you been away longer than you expected?" he asked. "No," was the quiet reply, "for I've expected nothing about it."

CHAPTER XXII. "Bless heaven!" cried old Tony, bounding into the hall at a wild hop and planting himself directly in the middle of the floor. "We've cotched 'um, mas'-we've cotched 'um, an' here dey am!" At this White Hand and Couqualla came forward. Simon Lobois was the first to recognize, beneath the Natchez garb and the walnut stain, the youth whom he had hoped to destroy, and a stifled cry broke from his lips, while he turned pale and trembled like an aspen. The next to recognize the living truth was Louise, and with one bound the brother and sister were in each other's arms. Their stifled exclamations of joy awoke the parent to his senses, and in a moment more he held them both upon his bosom. "My children," he cried, raising his streaming eyes to heaven, "O, how blest is this moment! Almost it makes me feel to bow in humble resignation to the

terrible blow that has been inflicted upon me." "Louie, my dear boy," at this juncture exclaimed Simon, having now recovered his presence of mind sufficiently to hide his real emotions of fear and chagrin. "Dear Louie, let me welcome you back to our home." And as he spoke he advanced and extended his hand, the youth gazed upon him a moment in stertor. "Simon Lobois," he uttered, drawing proudly up, "I did not think you would offer me that hand!" "How—a—sh?" gasped the wretch, turning pale again. "You should not thus reject the hand of your brother-in-law." White Hand started. "Brother-in-law?" he repeated. "Are you mad?" "No—I am a husband." White Hand crossed over to where Louise stood, and took her by the hand. They withdrew together a moment, and then the youth turned towards Simon. "Villain!" he exclaimed, "you forced her to this!" "She consented to the marriage," returned Simon, triumphantly. "St. Denis sprang to his feet. He moved to Louise's side, and grasped her hand. "Louise," he said, in a broken voice, "tell me all; tell me in your own words, what you have done in the years of darkness that shall follow this blow, it will afford a glimmer of light to know I am not all forgotten by my soul's idol." "Goupard, he forced me to the marriage—"

RUSSIA DEMANDS ANSWER. Wants to Know Why China Rejects Her Terms. London, May 4.—In a dispatch from Peking the correspondent of the Times says that in an interview held on Wednesday with all the ministers of the Chinese office, M. Planchon, Russian charge d'affaires, pressed for reasons for the rejection of the Russian demands. The ministers replied that they were unable to give the reasons separately. M. Planchon then, on behalf of his government, requested a statement of China's intentions, first, the contemplated alteration in the government of Mongolia; second, the non-alienation by lease, concession or otherwise of any portion of the Liaon valley to any other power, and third, the opening of new treaty ports in Manchuria. To the first clause the ministers replied that the alteration had not received imperial sanction; to the second, that China had no intention of alienating any of her territory; and to the third, that the opening of ports would depend upon trade developments. M. Planchon professed to be satisfied with these answers, but the Chinese are still uncomfortable, knowing how impossible it is for her to resist Russia's demand. It is announced that M. Lessar, the Russian minister to China, is returning to Peking, and that the fulfillment of the terms of the Manchurian convention will be postponed until after his arrival and will result from his negotiations. "The fact that Russia now appears anxious to repudiate the orders given M. Planchon," concludes the Times correspondent, "does not mean that her demands have been abandoned; by these orders Russia has acquainted China with what she expects."

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON. WANT HIGH PRICES. FOR A GREAT STATE FAIR. Larger Appropriations for Agricultural Premiums—Interest increasing. The state fair this fall will mean more to Oregon as an advertising medium than it ever has before. The large immigration now coming to this state gives the people of the different sections of Oregon an opportunity to represent their resources and advantages to a large number of new-comers at comparatively little cost. A majority of those who come to the coast seeking new homes do not invest until after they have spent several weeks or even months looking around. Their desire is to find the locality that will suit their individual preferences and occupations best. Through the annual state fair it will be possible to present, in an attractive form, information regarding the industries of every county in the state, and by visiting the fair, strangers will learn more about the different localities than they could in any other way at the same expense. The last legislature increased the state fair appropriation from \$8,000 a year to \$10,000, and it is provided that all this sum must be offered and awarded as premiums for agricultural and other industrial products. The increase in the appropriation for premiums is sufficient to make it certain that if the season be favorable to crops, this year's fair will be ahead of anything yet had. Big Mills Start Up. The big planing mill and saw and door factory of Williams Bros. & Kendall, in Grants Pass, have begun operations. While not all of the machinery has been installed, enough is in place to allow work to begin that the owners of the mills may make a start on the long list of orders for building material they have on hand. These mills are the second in size of their class on the Pacific coast. They contain over 30 machines of various kinds, up-to-date and of the best pattern, for cutting and finishing all grades. Government Surveyors at Albany. A government surveying party, consisting of C. H. Semler, C. P. Jones, A. D. Patterson, Frank Neal and Ray Leonard, is in Albany preparing to make a survey of that part of the valley. The survey is for a general topographical map, and lines will be run out from Albany in all directions 224 feet above the sea level. Fast Cutting the Timber. Van Houten & Messenger have received the machinery for a new saw-mill, to be erected in the timber east of Union with a capacity of 20,000 feet per day. A number of other mills are going in, and within a month it is estimated there will be eight sawmills in operation near that city. Varney Cannot Be President. Rev. George R. Varney has sent a note to the board of trustees of the McMinnville college, refusing to allow his name to be used as a successor of President Boardman. Mr. Varney had previously been elected pastor of the New Whatcom Baptist church, which refused to release him. PORTLAND MARKETS. Wheat—Walla Walla, 70¢/71¢; Umatem, 76¢/77¢; valley, 76¢/77¢. Barley—Feed, \$21.50 per ton; brewing, \$23. Flour—Best grade, \$3.95@4.25 granam, \$3.45@3.55. Millstuffs — Bran, \$19 per ton; middlings, \$24; shorts, \$19.50@20; chop, \$18. Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.15 @ 1.20; gray, \$1.12@1.15 per cental. Hay — Timothy, \$13@13.50; clover, \$10@11; cheat, \$11@12 per ton. Potatoes—Best Burbank, 50¢ per sack; ordinary, 25¢@40¢ per cental, growers' prices; Merced sweets, \$23 3.50 per cental. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 11¢@12¢; young, 13¢@14¢; hens, 13¢; turkeys, live, 16¢@17¢; dressed, 20¢@22¢; ducks, \$7@7.50 per dozen; geese, \$6@6.50. Cheese—Full cream, twins, 16¢/17¢; factory prices, 16¢/17¢ less. Butter — Fancy creamery, 22¢ per pound; extras, 21¢; dairy, 20¢@22¢; store, 18¢@19¢. Eggs—18¢@17¢ per dozen. Hops—Cholco, 18¢@20¢ per pound. Wool—Valley, 12¢@16¢; Eastern Oregon, 8¢@14¢; mohair, 38¢@36¢. Beef — Cows, 3¢@4¢ per pound; steers, 4¢@5¢; dressed, 7¢/8¢. Veal — 8¢@9¢. Mutton — Gross, 7¢@7½¢ per pound; dressed, 8¢@9¢. Lambs — Gross, 4¢ per pound; dressed, 7¢/8¢. Hogs—Gross, 7¢@7½¢ per pound; dressed, 8¢@8½¢. Fat Words in Literature. There are pet words in literature—words which become the fashion for a time and then take rank again in obscurity. Thus in the eighteenth century we find such words as "vastly," "bugly," "the quality," "gentle," etc. "Elegant" still lingers conspicuously in America and in England at the present time special favor seems to be shown to "convincing," "wholly" and "strenuous."

Charge of Booting Against Builders of Philippine Gunboats. Victoria, B. C., May 4.—Two Japanese papers published stories to the effect that the American officers sent over to watch the construction of the Manila gunboats for the United States by the Uruguay dock company were bribed and passed work which resulted in structural defects in the first gunboat. The Niroku Shippo says that three United States officers superintended the construction of the first gunboat and some Japanese officers who took her to Manila saw that, although outwardly the vessel was well constructed, there were some defects. They reported to Washington, and new inspectors were sent, and the first gunboats now on the stocks are being reconstructed at a heavy loss to the builders. The Japan Mail discredits the stories of bribing. CABLE TO MANILA. Will Be Finished by Next Independence Day if Possible. Chicago, May 4.—A dispatch from Washington, D. C., says: By July 4 there will be direct cable communication between the United States and the Philippine islands. This promise has been made by Vice President Ward, of the Postal cable company, during an extended conference with the assistant secretary of the navy. Since the cable was opened to Honolulu the work of laying the cable from Hawaii across the Pacific has proceeded with great rapidity. The present plan is to make the Fourth of July, 1903, in Manila memorable by the establishment of communication with the home government, through an American direct cable. Fire Destroys Oil Wells. Bradford, Pa., May 4.—Late advice from Watsonville, the town reported to have been wiped out by fire, indicate that it escaped almost miraculously from the fate which had been predicted for it. The property losses in the vicinity, however, are large. Mount Jewett also escaped with small losses. But in the vicinity of Simpson and Bingham the destruction of oil property was complete over a wide area. It is estimated that at least 1,000 oil wells in McKean county were destroyed. Surplus Still Grows. Washington, May 4.—The monthly statement of government finances shows that for the month of April, 1903, the total receipts were \$43,420,100 and the expenditures \$41,633,814, leaving a surplus for the month of \$1,786,286. Custom receipts showed an increase for the month of \$1,640,000, and the internal revenue receipts a decrease of \$3,102,000. For the 10 months of the present fiscal year the receipts exceeded the expenditures by \$35,419,646. Gunboat to the Rescue. Peking, May 4.—The United States consul at Canton has notified Minister Conger that a mob recently attacked a party of engineers at work on the Canton-Hanow railroad. The United States gunboat Callao was dispatched to the nearest point up the river to aid the engineers. Mr. Conger has requested the Chinese foreign office to investigate the matter and instruct the viceroy to give the engineers protection.