

An Adventure of the Scarlet Pimpernel

By The Baroness Orczy

STORY FROM THE START

The Scarlet Pimpernel, known during the French revolution as the most intrepid adventurer in Europe, is an Englishman. At a house party given by Sir Percy Blakeney...

Chapter IV—Continued

"Now," he said very earnestly to him, "you know just what you are going to do? You realize the importance of the mission which is being entrusted to you?"

The officer nodded in reply. He was a young man and ambitious. The task which had been allotted to him had fired his enthusiasm. Indeed, in these days, the capture of that elusive English spy known as the Scarlet Pimpernel was a goal for which every young officer of gendarmerie was wont to strive...

"I will tell you, citizen," the young man said to Chauvelin, "how I have finally laid my plans, and you shall tell me if you approve. About a kilo meter and a half before the road emerges out of the wood, the ground rises gradually, and there are one or two sharp bends in the road until it reaches the crest of the hill. That part of the forest is very lonely, and at a point just before the ground begins to rise I intend to push my mount on for a meter or two ahead of the men, and pretend to examine the leaders of the team. After a while I will call 'halt' and make as if I thought there was something wrong with the traces. The driver is such a fool that he and I will embark on a long argument as to what he should do to remedy the defect, and in the course of the argument I will contrive to slip a small piece of flint which I have in my pocket under the hoof of one of the coach horses."

"You don't think one of your men will see you doing that—and perhaps wonder?"

"Oh, I can be careful. It is done in a moment. Then we shall get on the road again, and five minutes later that same coach horse will be dead. Another halt for examination, this time near the crest of the hill. The bout of a driver will never discover what is amiss. I shall make as if the hurt was serious, and set myself the task of tending it. I thought then subject to your approval, of ordering the troopers to dismount. I have provided them with good wine and certain special rations in their knapsacks. At a word from me they will rest by the roadside, seemingly heedless and unconcerned, but really very wide awake and keen on the alert. The diligence will be at a standstill, with doors shut and curtains closely drawn, but the six men whom we have stowed inside the coach are keen on their work, well armed and, like hungry wolves, eager to get their teeth into the enemies of France. They will be on the alert, their hands on their pistols, ready to spring up and out of the coach at the first sign of an attack. Now, what think you of that setting citizen?" the young officer concluded, "for luring the English spies into a fight? Their methods are usually far from brilliant, but this time they will have to meet us in a hand-to-hand combat and, if they fall into our trap, I know that we can deal with them."

"I can but pronounce your plan admirable, citizen captain," Chauvelin replied approvingly. "You have my best wishes for your success. In the mean while citizen Lauzet and I will be anxiously waiting for news. We'll make a start soon after you, and strike the bridge path through the forest. This gives us a short cut which will bring us to Epone just in time to beat you—news if you have been attacked and we a courier thither as soon as you have the English spies securely bound and gagged inside your coach."

"I'll not fail you, citizen," the young captain rejoined eagerly. Lauzet who had stood by anxious and silent whilst this colloquy was going on shrugged his shoulders with a snarl of philosophy. "And at worst," he said, "it that"

meddlesome Scarlet Pimpernel should think prudent the better part of valor. If he should scent a trap and carefully avoid it, we would always have the satisfaction of sending the Desesse family to the guillotine."

"The English spies," Chauvelin rejoined dryly, "will not scent a trap, nor will they give up the attempt to rescue the Desesse family. This is just a case to rouse their ire against us, and if it prove successful, one to flatter their vanity and redound to their credit in their own country. No," he went on thoughtfully, "I have no fear that the Scarlet Pimpernel will evade us this time. He will attack, I know. The only question is, when he does are we sufficiently prepared to defeat him?"

"With the half-dozen excellent men whom I have picked up here in Mantua," the young officer retorted, "I shall have nine under my command, and we are prepared for the attack. It is the English spies who will be surprised, we who will hold the advantage, even as to numbers, for the Scarlet Pimpernel can only work with two or three followers, and we shall outnumber them three to one."

"Then good luck attend you, citizen captain," Chauvelin said at the last. "You are in a fair way of rendering your country a signal service; see that you let not fame and fortune evade you in the end. Remember that you will have to deal with one of the most astute as well as most daring adventurers of our times, who has baffled men that were cleverer and at least as ambitious as yourself. Stay, the Terrorist added, and placed his thin, claw-like hand as if in warning on the other man's arm. "It is impossible, even for me who knows him as he is and who has seen him in scores of disguises, to give you any accurate description of his personality; but one thing you can bear in mind is that he is tall above the average; tall, even for an Englishman, and his height is the one thing about him that he can not disguise. So beware of every man who is taller than yourself, citizen captain, however innocent he may appear, take the precaution to detain him. Mistrust every tall man, for one of them is of a surety the Scarlet Pimpernel."

He finally reminded the young captain to send him a courier with the welcome news as soon as possible. "Citizen Lauzet and I," he concluded, "will ride by the bridge path and await you at Epone. I shall be dejected with anxiety until I hear from you."

The men were not nervous, not at first. They were merely excited, knowing what awaited them, both during the journey and afterward by way of reward. If they were successful there would be for every man engaged in the undertaking a sufficiency to provide for himself and his family for the rest of his life. The capture of the Scarlet Pimpernel! Half a dozen magic words in truth, and they had spurred Citizen Captain Raffet and his squad with boundless enthusiasm. They felt no discomfort either from tearing wind or driving rain. With eyes fixed before them they rode on, striving to pierce the mist-laden distance where the enemy of France was even now lurking, intent on that adventure which would be his last.

It was long past five o'clock when the diligence with its escort reached the edge of the forest. What little daylight there had been all afternoon was already beginning to wane; the sky was of a leaden color, heavily laden with rain clouds, save way be hind in the west, where a few fiery, crimson streaks cut through the clouds like sharp incisions, there, where the setting sun still lingered in the autumn sky. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

Dodo Easy Victim of Greed and Ignorance

The dodo, often spoken of as a prehistoric bird, is said to have been in existence during the time of Charles I. But it has since been extinct a matter of 200 years, which gives force to the tag, "as extinct as the dodo."

The bird was known only in Mauritius, and soon after the Dutch colonization in 1598 its proverbial fate fell upon it. It was a large fowl, it could not fly, and even at walking or running it was slow and unwieldy. To top these handicaps to its self-preservation, the dodo was, unfortunately for itself, good to eat. Its destruction came quickly. Though the colonizers might have remembered that you can't eat your dodo and have it, and taken steps to insure its continuance, hungry men are not far-sighted. Moreover, the destruction of the dodo was no doubt hastened by the dogs, cats, and swine which accompanied man in his migrations.

Nature Will Out

The gods were once disputing whether it was possible for a living being to change its nature. Jupiter said "Yes," but Venus said "No." So, to try the question, Jupiter turned a cat into a maiden, and gave her to a young man for a wife. The wedding was duly performed, and the young couple sat down to the wedding feast. "See," said Jupiter to Venus, "how becomingly she behaves. Who could tell that yesterday she was but a cat? Surely her nature is changed." "Wait a minute," replied Venus, and let loose a mouse into the room. No sooner did the bride see this than she jumped up from her seat and tried to pounce upon the mouse. "Ah, you see," said Venus, "nature will out."—Aesop.

Passport Annoyances

Few things that governments do are as silly and generally annoying as the handling of passports.—Woods' Home Companion.

NEARBY AND YONDER By T. T. MAXEY

"The Golden Bridge"

IN 1873 the Pennsylvania railroad built a 13-span, single track bridge across the Susquehanna river at Havre de Grace, Maryland. In 1904 the railroad built a double-track bridge to replace the old one and offered to present the original bridge to the counties, which it connects as a highway bridge since it is on one of the main routes between Philadelphia and Washington.

Strange to say, the counties turned up their noses, so to speak, and declined to accept the gift. The railroad then offered the bridge to a group of citizens of these two counties, who accepted it promptly, had a romantic vision, "put up" \$100 each as a working fund and began to operate it as a toll bridge. Auto traffic developed "by leaps and bounds," and the owners made money "hand over fist." From 1910 to 1923 it is said to have netted them more than \$1,000,000, having been nicknamed "The Golden Bridge."

In 1923 the state road commission purchased the structure, under legislative authority, for \$385,000, and continued the tolls until it was paid for and improvements were added.

The old span was narrow. Two trucks could not pass. To overcome this handicap and double its capacity, the annual traffic having grown to about 275,000 vehicles, an ingenious plan was worked out, whereby another deck was anchored to the superstructure. Now, all north-bound traffic moves via the upper deck, and all south-bound traffic via the lower or original deck and the tolls have been cancelled.

"The World's Greatest Organ"

BUILT in Los Angeles and exhibited at the St. Louis World's fair in 1904, where it was played by the great organists of the world, this mammoth instrument was subsequently dismantled and remained mute in a St. Louis warehouse for several years.

And then one day its myriad parts were loaded into thirteen box cars and it was treated to a ride to Philadelphia, where it was enlarged—by 50 per cent, and installed in a great court "in the center of the largest building in the world devoted to retail merchandising." Now, every week day, the passing throngs are privileged to enjoy the melody which peals forth from that which is said to be both the largest and finest, if it is not the very latest improved, musical instrument on earth.

This king of instruments has five manuals, 222 stops and a forest of pipes—17,854, to be exact—ranging in length from three-fourths of an inch to upwards of 37 feet, weighs 375,000 pounds, and including its several blowers of more than 100 horse power—capable of supplying approximately 21,000 cubic feet of air per minute, occupies a space of 118,002 cubic feet. The largest pipe is of wood, 32 feet long, weighs 1,735 pounds and, 'tis said, two men can crawl through it side by side on their hands and knees.

The instrument is played from two consoles—one for ordinary playing and the other for mechanical playing. Needless to say, the organ is majestic—its music, superb.

Statuary Hall

STATUARY HALL, so called, is a great semicircular, high-ceilinged room, with a Grecian theater effect. In our National Capitol in Washington. Formerly used by the house of representatives—its walls have echoed the voices of Webster, Clay, Calhoun and other personages famous in congress in their time—it was set aside in 1864 as a national statuary hall, to which each state might contribute a statue of two of its most distinguished citizens.

Maryland is typified by Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; Massachusetts by Samuel Adams who helped promote the Revolution; New York by George Clinton, its first governor and Pennsylvania by Robert Fulton, the first inventor to practically apply steam power; Virginia by George Washington, in the military costume of the Revolution and Robert E. Lee, who commanded the army of North Virginia during the Civil war, in the uniform of the Confederate service. Sequoia—a Cherokee Indian half-breed—after whom the big trees of California are said to have been named, who developed a written and printed language for his tribe, represents Oklahoma, while that great woman, Frances E. Willard, the founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, symbolizes Illinois. Robbed in the buckskin of pioneer days, Sam Houston, who was president of the republic of Texas when annexed by the United States, depicts the Lone Star state. Space prohibits mention of all. Suffice to say the entire ensemble is an imposing gathering of images of the nation's outstanding characters of their day and generation. (© 1929 Western Newspaper Union.)

Power of Journalist

A journalist is a grumbler, a censor, a giver of advice, a regent of sovereigns, a tutor of nations. Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets.—Napoleon.

Was It an Invitation? Young Chup (much in love)—Miss Dnaly, I'm telling you, I'm to kiss you before I go. Miss Dnaly—Then, sir, will you leave this instant?

OLD DOCTOR'S IDEA IS BIG HELP TO ELDERLY PEOPLE



In 1885, Dr. Caldwell made a discovery for which elderly people the world over praise him today!

Years of practice convinced him that many people were endangering their health by a careless choice of laxatives. So he began a search for a harmless prescription which would be thoroughly effective, yet would neither gripe nor form any habit. At last he found it.

Over and over he wrote it, when he found people bilious, headachy, out of sorts, weak or feverish; with coated tongue, bad breath, no appetite or energy. It relieved the most obstinate cases, and yet was gentle with women, children and elderly people.

Today, this same famous, effective prescription, known as Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, is the world's most popular laxative. It may be obtained from any druggist.

View of a Boss

There are two kinds of men; the kind you can teach and the kind you have to break.—American Magazine.

Accidentally an Arkansas lady cured fits in a valuable dog with Russ Hall Blue. Many others now use it. Never fails, she says.—Adv.

Nobody knows the mental agony of a horse trying to learn a new milk route.

Traffic cop gets summons Even he can't get away with it

"DON'T try to put anything over on Nature," is the way a cop would express it. "Sooner or later she'll get you. Give you a ticket and lay you up in a place where you'd rather not be. Even cops can't get away with it. Like everyone else, if they don't pay attention to the warnings they get a summons that lands them in the doctor's office."

"What the doctor advises is Nujol. Says Nujol will regulate you just like you regulate traffic. Keep things from getting in a jam. And the doctor is right. Just ask the healthiest men on the Force. If they need Nujol—with all the exercise they get—what about the fellows that roll by in their cars?"

"Just take a tip from me. You may have the best intentions in the world. But everybody gets tied up at times. Nature can't always take care of things without help."

"Our Medical Chief tells me that Nujol isn't a medicine. It contains absolutely nothing in the way of medicine or drugs. It's simply a pure natural substance (perfected by the Nujol Laboratories, 2 Park Avenue, New York), that keeps things func-



Nature's law O. K.

tioning at all times as Nature intends them to. Normally. Regularly. It not only keeps an excess of body poisons from forming (we all have them), but aids in their removal.

Start Nujol today. It won't cost you much—not more than the price of some smokes. Worth a try, isn't it?

You'll find Nujol at all drugstores. Sold only in sealed packages. Get some on your way home today.

Proof of the Pudding

Bride—My, there are a lot of mistakes in the cook book. Husband—Yes, I've tasted them.—Cik, Berlin.

Relaxation

"How would you like a detective story?" "No, I'm a detective. Hand me the boot and shoe news."

Read what

Will Rogers writes about LEVI STRAUSS OVERALLS



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Bad Year for City Slickers, Says Rogers

NEW YORK, Nov. 29.—Say, our champion New York university team looked like Man of War till that bunch of Oregon apple knockers got a hold of 'em this afternoon. It was no place for a racoon coat athlete, up against an old bunch of wheat shockers whose college emblem is a pair of Levi overalls.

These old salmon steers from the mouth of the Columbia had the city slickers strewn from goal to goal. With Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and Al Smith going down all in succession, it just looks like it's the old country boys' year. YOURS, WILL ROGERS.



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