

White Hand

A Tale of the Early Settlers of Louisiana.

BY AUSTIN C. BURDICK

CHAPTER II.—(Continued.)

"Here, Simon," uttered the marquis, turning towards his nephew, "don't you remember Goupert St. Denis—our young Goupert, who used to come and shoot my game, and frighten you with his gun and pistols?"

"Ah—a—yes!" said Simon, arising and smiling with an effort. Mr. St. Denis, your humble servant, sir. We are happy to see you among us once more.

Goupert St. Denis had once lived very near to St. Julien's country residence, and among all the youthful visitors he was by far the most welcome. His father was a count and a gentleman, and Goupert was a whole-souled, noble boy.

In those days, Louis and Louise were merry children, and the stout Goupert used to play with them hour after hour and day after day. And in those days, too, he used to carry the lovely little girl in his arms, and he used to tell her that some day she should be his wife, and then she would laugh and clap her little dimpled hands, and sometimes she would pinch his cheek and box his ear, and tell him she should be stronger, and could punish him more severely when she became his wife. But those days were gone now, and while Goupert had only put on a very little more manhood, Louise had grown from a thoughtless child to be a very beautiful maiden.

"But how is it, Goupert?" asked the marquis, after the party had become calm. "What brings you here into this wilderness?"

"Of a truth, my old friend, I came to seek my fortune," returned the young man. "You know my father lost his all in his meddling in the affairs of Spain, and when he died, three years ago, I found myself not only alone in the world, but nearly penniless. The little estate at Suzanne, in Lower Marne, was the only thing left. I sold it, and after paying off all demands, I found myself the owner of the enormous sum of ten thousand francs. What should I do? That would not last me a month if I remained amongst my old associates. The last of my father's wealth he lost in Louisiana's great Mississippi scheme, and now that I was left alone, I was not long in turning my eyes hither. At New Orleans, I heard that a Marquis Brion St. Julien had settled up here somewhere. I think I must have been crazy for awhile after receiving this information, but when I did really come to myself, I started, and here I am."

"But didn't you know that we were here?" asked the marquis.

"Why, no. I thought you were in Canada."

"Yes—here we are!" cried the old man, joyfully, "and now we will live over some of the happy days again."

"Ay," added Goupert, "and forget all the dark ones."

After this, the conversation turned upon affairs in the native country, and for three hours the marquis kept his visitor answering questions and retelling the news of the past six years. It was at a late hour when they separated, and with tears in his eyes, Brion St. Julien called upon heaven to bless his young friend. There was something in Goupert's presence that had called up the brighter days of his past life, and he was happy in the hope that he might keep the youth a long while with him.

But there was one more whom he had seen affected by the young man's presence. Simon Lobois retired to his chamber, and for a while, only a bright joy seemed to move her; but gradually her thoughts seem to take a more serious turn, for her countenance changed to a sober, thoughtful cast, and with her hands clasped upon her bosom, she bowed her head, and thus she remained for a long while, the color of her face changing like the deepening twilight.

But there was one more whom he had seen affected by the young man's presence. Simon Lobois retired to his chamber, and for a while, only a bright joy seemed to move her; but gradually her thoughts seem to take a more serious turn, for her countenance changed to a sober, thoughtful cast, and with her hands clasped upon her bosom, she bowed her head, and thus she remained for a long while, the color of her face changing like the deepening twilight.

"Now, what is it?" asked St. Julien, after they had both become seated.

It was some moments before the nephew replied; but at length he seemed to collect his mental forces, and he commenced:

"M. St. Julien," his voice trembled at first, but it grew more steady as he went on, "I have now been in your family a long while, and my attachments have become strong and fixed. Six years ago you placed your children under my charge, and I have done all I could for them."

"I know—I know, Simon," uttered the old man, "and I have told you a thousand times how grateful I was."

"Yes, sir; and your gratitude has been a choice blessing to me. But remember the hours I have spent with those two children—"

"And haven't they been happy hours, Simon?"

"Indeed they have, sir, been very happy ones. But, alas! the thought has often been with me of late—must they all end in misery now?"

"How, Simon?—misery?" uttered the marquis, in astonishment. "What mean you? Do you fear that I am going to turn you away?"

An instantaneous flash of defiance passed over the younger man's face, but he revealed none of the feeling that had given it birth.

"No, no," he replied, "I did not fear that you do not understand me. Remember, sir, that Louise St. Julien has grown up under my care—that I have seen each opening beauty as it has gradually expanded itself into life, and each bud of promise I have seen blossom into the full rose. She has now grown to be a woman. Think you I have seen and known all this unmoved? No, sir. My heart has been caught in the snare of her charms, and I am but as an outcast now, if I possess her not for mine own. You understand me now?"

Brion St. Julien understood, but he made no reply. He started when the truth first broke upon him; and when Simon ceased speaking he arose to his feet and commenced to pace the room. The nephew watched him for a moment, and then, in a tone as soft and persuasive as he could assume, he resumed:

"Reflect calmly upon this, my lord. Remember, you are growing old; your children are yet young—"

"Too young for this, Simon," whispered the marquis. "And then I am not old, either. I am but fifty-five—that's all."

"I know," pursued the nephew; "but Louise is not young. Her mind is that of a woman."

"But you are one year over and above double her own age," suggested the parent; "almost old enough—ay, fully old enough to be her father."

"And yet I am not old, nor have I yet reached my prime; only five-and-thirty years. But what of all this? Speak plainly, sir, and let me know your mind. Only remember that I have not sought your daughter's society. It has been forced upon me, and I could not avoid the result. Ah, sir, I cannot think you will refuse me."

Now, to speak the truth for the marquis—he had not the fullest confidence in Simon Lobois. He knew that his nephew would work well for pay, but he had long doubted the truth of his heart—the pureness of his motives; and what was more, he had moments when he almost feared him. This latter emotion was a sort of dim, vague, working of mind, without point and without shape; but yet it worked, and had its influence.

"Simon," he said, "when I left France, I left all the rotten, useless usages of society behind me, and here I resolved to form a world of my own. First among the miserable falsehoods of old society, I meant to cast away that plan which makes the marriage of the child a work of the parent. When my child is old enough to marry, she is old enough to select her own husband; and until she is old enough to use her own judgment in that respect, she is not old enough to perform the duties of a wife. Upon the marriage of my children may depend the whole weal or woe of their earthly future. Since being the case, I must leave them to choose for themselves, only hoping that they will seek my counsel, and listen to my advice, so far as my judgment is good."

"What am I to understand by this, sir?" asked Simon, not able to conceal his indignation.

"Simply that Louise may choose her own husband."

"But you will exercise some authority? You will speak in my behalf?"

"First, I would know if the girl chooses you."

There was something in the look, the tone, and the words of the speaker, that struck a transient feeling of awe to Simon's soul, and in a moment he concealed all traces of his anger. He found that there was much of the old blood yet left in the old noble, and that hot words would only serve to blast his own hopes. So he assumed a repentant tone, and with a more modest look, he said:

"Forgive me, sir. I meant not to speak ill of any one, but my tongue ran away with me. Out of my deep love for your noble child sprang a dreadful fear when I saw St. Denis come. But may I not speak with Louise? May I not ask her to be mine?"

"Of course you may."

"And if she says yes?"

"Then I should simply bid her follow her own wishes."

Simon Lobois thanked his uncle, and then left the room, and when he was alone, his hands were clenched and his brow was dark.

CHAPTER IV.

All that day did Simon Lobois watch for an opportunity to speak alone with Louise, and it was not until towards evening that he gained the wished-for opportunity. She was standing in the hall, her brother and Goupert having gone down to the river, while the marquis was somewhere among the blacks, giving directions for the next day's work. Simon touched the maiden upon the arm, and asked her to follow him into the study, as he wished to speak with her a moment. The beautiful girl smiled a reply, and laughingly tripped along by his side to the designated apartment.

"Louise," he commenced, in a very soft, winning tone, and he could speak very sweetly, too, when he chose—"I want you to listen to me candidly, now, and weigh well what I shall say."

"How now, good master?" cried the happy girl, with a merry twinkle of the eye; "am I to take a lesson for not getting into to-day?"

"No, no. Listen, and be sober, for I would be serious. You know how our lives have been spent here for the last six years, and how we have moved about in our little world here in the wilderness. You have been my constant companion. Then Simon introduced the same speech, word for word, that he had made to the parent in the morning, about the expanding beauties and budding promises, and he ended thus: "And now womanhood has come upon you with its loveliness and goodness all nobly developed, and my heart has become captive, and is all your own."

"Good Simon, sweet cousin, I am glad you love me!" said the maiden, with a bright smile.

"Are you, Louise?" the tutor cried eagerly. "O, and will you be mine?"

"Be yours? Be your what?"

"My wife, most lovely girl—my wife!"

Louise St. Julien gazed for some moments into Simon's face, and then burst into a long, loud laugh. "It has been forced upon me, and I could not avoid the result. Ah, sir, I cannot think you will refuse me."

"Mean it? Do not, say you? Louise, I do mean it!" This unexpected turn had thrown him entirely from his studied plan.

"Mean to ask me to be your wife?" spoke the fair girl, giving each word a particular emphasis, and speaking with a pause between every one, as though she would have no misunderstanding.

"Most assuredly I do. I love you as the very core of my soul, and I cannot lose you now. How can I help loving you? How should I be with you thus as I have been, and not love you? O, blessed one, you will not crush me now!"

"It doesn't seem possible!" she uttered, "Wake up, Simon; shake yourself, and see if you have not been dreaming this I be your wife? Why, you are more fit for my father. Don't speak so any more, Simon, for you'll frighten me."

"And can the love of a true and faithful heart frighten you?" he asked.

"Most assuredly not. You may love me as much as you please—as an only cousin ought to love, or as a father ought to love, or yet, as a faithful teacher ought to love a stupid pupil; but if you talk of marriage to me any more, I shall certainly think you are crazy, and then, of course, I should be frightened, for I am afraid of crazy folks. Don't talk so to me any more, or I shall surely think your brain is turned."

EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting to Our Many Readers.

Middlebury, Vt., suffered a \$150,000 fire loss.

The senate has passed the Elkins anti-trust bill.

Canada expects a big immigration from England this year.

The Idaho legislature voted down the measure creating an eight-hour day law.

Frank Maybee, a Chicago postal clerk, has been arrested, charged with riding the mails.

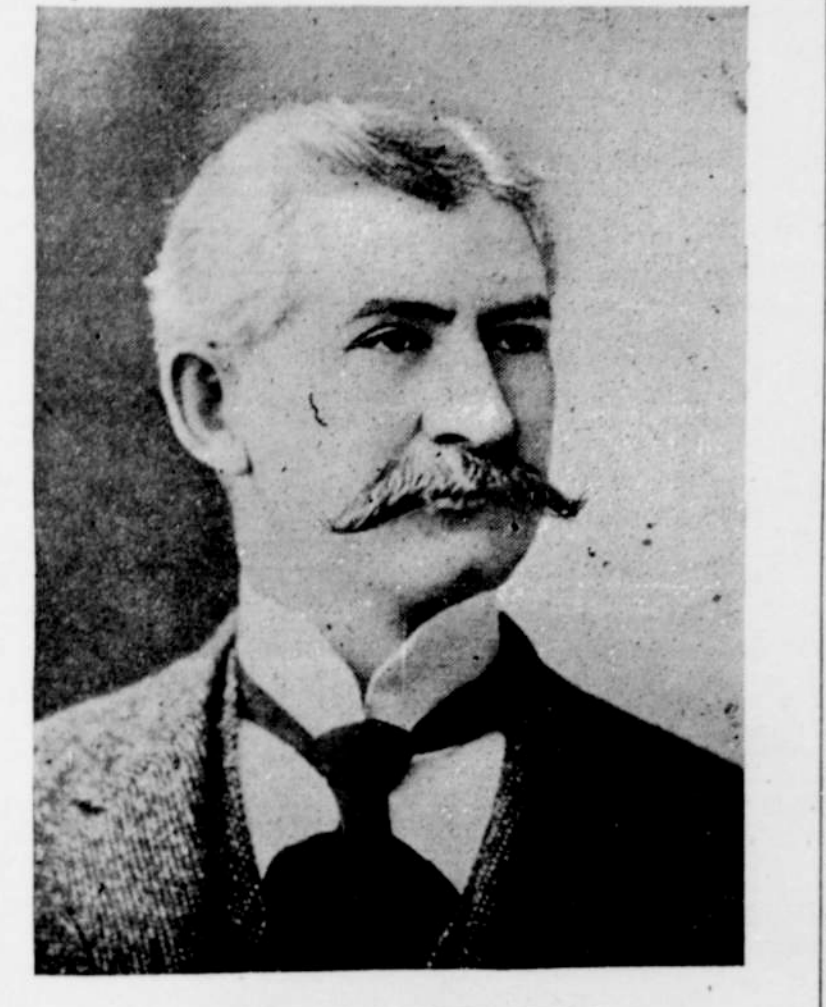
President Castro's troops are said to

MORE FOREST HELD.

Land to the Extent of 4,500 Square Miles to Be Withdrawn in Washington.

Washington, Feb. 6.—In the course of time the Washington and Mount Rainier forest reserves of Washington are to be considerably enlarged, and a new forest reserve is to be created in the Cascade mountain region, between these two reserves, to include all public land there remaining outside of the Northern Pacific grant and private holdings. On recommendation of Commissioner Hermann, Chief Forester Pinchot and the geological survey, the secretary of the interior recently ordered the temporary withdrawal from further entry of lands proposed to be added to the reserve system in Washington, aggregating in all nearly 4,500 square miles.

In making these additions to the Washington reserves the department wishes it to be plainly understood that no lien here is to be created, either with railroad lands or the lands now in private ownership. The Yakima reserve will therefore be a second checkerboard reserve, with the alter-



LEVI ANKENY, OF WALLA WALLA. The Washington legislature elected Mr. Ankeny to represent his state in the United States senate.

be engaged with revolutionary forces 14 miles south of Caracas.

Fire destroyed the plant of the Chicago railway supply foundry company, at West Harvey, causing a loss estimated at \$250,000.

A new pilot bill is before the Washington legislature. It is the first measure of the kind not opposed by the Puget sound tugboat companies.

Professor Bigdel, of Cornell, announces a discovery in transmission of electricity whereby an alternating and direct current may be sent at the same time.

The national debt was decreased \$3,000,000 during January.

Coercion in Ireland has been almost abandoned and better times are in sight.

The Alaska boundary treaty has been returned to the senate with the clerical errors corrected.

Rioting among striking street car men at Waterbury, Conn., continues, despite the presence of troops.

William A. Wilson, who absconded from Manila with \$8,000 of government funds, has been captured at Montreal.

Godfrey Hunter, jr., has been acquitted of the charge of murder growing out of the killing of William Fitzgerald at Guatemala.

The breaking of an elevator cable at Denver caused the maiming and bruising of seven persons, one of whom may be crippled for life.

Nine Union Pacific trainmen who ran between Sydney, Neb., and Cheyenne, Wyo., are under arrest, charged with the theft of goods in transit.

Two stock trains on the Illinois Central collided, killing two men and injuring 11 others. Five cars of stock were consumed in the fire which broke out.

nate sections in the forest reserve, and the others either belonging to the railroad company or to private owners. While no arrangement has yet been made for a transfer, it is expected in the department that in time the railroad company may come forward with a proposal to sell its lands within this reserve to the government for a fair consideration. This, however, is merely speculative, and there has been no such intimation from the railroad itself. The assumption is based merely on the action of the Southern Pacific with regard to its grant, which was checkerboarded out of the San Francisco mountain reserve in Arizona in the same manner that is to be adopted in Washington. The recent withdrawals in Washington are made under the same conditions and are subject to the same course of treatment as the lands withdrawn in Eastern Oregon last summer, with a view to their inclusion in the Blue mountain forest reserve. Considerable complaint is looked for from various quarters, but Secretary Hitchcock has determined that the reserves of Washington shall be enlarged, in accordance with the policy of President Roosevelt, and, moreover, it is asserted that the president is personally interested in the Washington project, and favors the carrying out of Secretary Hitchcock's plan.

Big Fire in Oklahoma. Oklahoma, Feb. 6.—Fire that started in the Lion store, dealers in general merchandise, here this morning, caused a loss of \$250,000. Insurance, about one-third the loss. Another fire in frame buildings on Broadway at the same time, caused an additional loss. Fire apparatus was sent in by El Reno and Guthrie and at 11:30 the fire, which for a time threatened the city, was under control.

Warships Going South. San Francisco, Feb. 6.—The warships in commission in the harbor will be on the way to Ampala, a port on the Pacific coast of Honduras, early next week. The New York, the Boston and the Ranger are now in the bay ready to start on short notice. In view of the orders, Admiral Glass relieved Admiral Casey in the command of the Pacific fleet this afternoon. It had been arranged that the flag of the Admirals should be changed on February 10, but the hurry orders to the fleet to get into Southern waters prompted the change.

Cuban Flag Hauled Down. Havana, Feb. 6.—A cablegram has been published here to the effect that the Cuban flag which was placed over the Hotel de la Paz in Madrid by the Cuban minister has been taken down by order of the Spanish authorities. The house this afternoon passed a resolution asking President Palma to ascertain the facts regarding this alleged incident. The senate has drafted a resolution in favor of the ratification of the reciprocity treaty.

THE LEGISL.

WHAT THE LAWMAKERS OF OREGON ARE DOING AT SALEM.

Bills of Importance That are Being Introduced and Acted Upon in Both Houses—Measures Signed by the Governor—Progress of the Balloting for United States Senator.

Wednesday. The vote—Fulton 34, Geer 16, Wood 17, Mills 12, scattering 9, absent 2. Hume, one of the absent members, has returned, but did not cast his vote for Fulton as expected.

The Senate—The inheritance tax bill has been passed. Senator Mays has a bill to compel circuit judges to render decisions within 90 days in all cases submitted to them. A bill has also been introduced prohibiting the sale of explosives other than ordinary firecrackers to children under 14.

The House—The fellow servant bill was reported favorably. The bill relocating the county seat of Union county passed. Bill amending constitution, changing time of state election, lost. Bill amending constitution so as to authorize state institutions elsewhere than at Salem, indefinitely postponed.

Tuesday. The vote—Fulton 34, Geer 16, Wood 17, Mills 12, scattering 8, absent 3. Paulsen, of Clackamas, voted for Geer, but before the result was announced changed back to Fulton.

The Senate—Among the bills passed was one to authorize the employment of convict labor on the public highways and one to make state officers and employees subject to garnishment. A joint resolution to abrogate section 35, article 1, of the state constitution, relative to negroes and mulattoes, was adopted.

The House—A bill to amend the code relating to marriage licenses was passed. A bill to fix the maximum rates per mile charged by railroad companies was introduced.

Monday. The vote—Fulton 34, Geer 16, Wood 14, Mills 12, scattering 6, absent 8. The Senate—The bill to reapportion the state into senatorial and representative districts was passed. The Smith bill for the creation of a board of health passed with only one dissenting vote. A bill was introduced to repeal the law creating the offices of health officers and boatpouler at Astoria.

The House—The bill to commit inebriates to the insane asylum was lost. A bill to regulate and limit the hours of employment of females was passed. A resolution was adopted by both branches asking the president to visit Oregon on his trip to the coast.

Saturday. The vote—Fulton 32, Geer 16, Wood 14, scattering 18, absent and paired 8, present but not voting 1.

The Senate—Among the bills passed was one relating to licenses for selling intoxicating liquors and one to provide for transfer of prisoners from the penitentiary to the asylum.

The House—Committee on education reported in favor of senate bill appropriating \$20,000 for Eastern Oregon agricultural college. Committee on commerce reported favorably on the house bill for the improvement and use of rivers.

Friday. The vote—Fulton 33, Geer 16, Wood 16, scattering 21, absent 4.

The Senate—Motion to adjourn until Monday voted down. A bill was passed prohibiting child labor under certain ages. A communication was received from the governor calling attention to the scandal at the state prison. A measure was introduced to provide an executive mansion.

The House—Among the bills introduced was one providing a matron at the penitentiary and one for an eight hour working day.

PORTLAND MARKETS. Wheat—Walla Walla, 75c; bluestem, 86c; valley, 75c.

Barley—Feed, \$23.50 per ton; brewing, \$24.

Flour—Best grade, \$4.30@4.85; Graham, \$3.45@3.85.

Middlings—Bran, \$18.19 per ton; middlings, \$23 @ 24; shorts, \$19@20, chop, \$18.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.15 @ 1.20; gray, \$1.12 1/2 @ 1.15 per cental.

Hay—Timothy, \$11@12; clover, \$8@9; cheat, \$9@10 per ton.

Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 60@75c per sack; ordinary, 40@50c per cental, growers' prices; Merced sweets, \$2 @ 2.25 per cental.

Washington... are being made to... promise on the statehood... senators who are decidedly... with the legislative situation... welcome a compromise in order... the way for other legislation... hope was built today on a state... Senator Quay that he "might"... modification to make to his... amendment to the agricultural... prairie bill, and consideration... measure has been postponed at... quest until Friday.

The compromise most favored... admission of Arizona and New... as one state, Quay contending... a provision should be modified... to authorize the admission of Arizona... when it shall develop sufficient... position. It is learned on good... that the president would be... will see such a compromise made, if... further provided that at the... large state was admitted, not... Arizona, but New Mexico... should have an adequate popula... Efforts are being made to reach... a compromise which will not arouse... antagonism when the bill goes back... to house.

MONEY FOR NAVY. Congressmen Favor Big Appropriation for New Vessels.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Sentiment... the house and in the naval affairs... committee is strongly in favor of... Representative Dayton's resolution... call upon the secretary of the navy... permanent programme for the... increase, equipment and manning... the navy, with a view of giving... to United States a navy as efficient... powerful as that of any power in... world. This resolution is now... before the committee on naval affairs... action on it will be delayed until... disposal of the Lessler bribery... case. Many members of congress, some... whom are identified with naval... affairs and some of whom have only... interest of seeing the country... protected by a well manned and... powerful navy have expressed... themselves as unequivocally... in favor of the resolution.

Representative Cannon, of Illinois... chairman of the committee on... appropriations, who believes not... one penny of the government's... money should be other than... wisely spent, endorses Mr. Dayton's proposal.

Similar views are held by many... others in the house. The present... situation in Venezuela has had... considerable effect upon members... of congress, and more than any... event of late years, has... impressed congress with the... necessity of placing the United... States in a better position to... defend itself against the... European powers, if need be.

Tunnel Under East River. New York, Feb. 5.—After lying... idle for 10 years, the tunnel... under the East river, between... Forty-second street, Manhattan... and Long Island City, will... probably soon be rushed to... completion. Plans for the tunnel... are all ready, so the work... could begin today, according... to the engineer. The New York... & Long Island railroad company... owners of the franchise, completely... reorganized, has been studying... the question of resuming the... work for a year. New plans... are complete, and practically... all preparations have been made... for a continuation of the long... delayed project.

Railroad Provides Free Surgeons. New York, Feb. 5.—The New York... Central railroad has perfected... a plan to minimize loss of life... and injuries in accidents by... employing 60 surgeons, who... will live all along the line, so... that they may be reached at... once. Each physician will have... charge of a section. The station... masters will be kept informed... of the whereabouts of the... physicians, so that they may... be reached by wire at any time. These... surgeons will also respond to... calls of passengers taken ill... and to attend employees. Every... train will carry surgeon's tools.

Effect of Free Coal. New York, Feb. 5.—It is the... general opinion among local... dealers that the great inconvenience... caused by scarcity of coal is... at an end, and from now on... the price will continue to drop... especially if the present mild... weather continues. In some places... yesterday hard coal could be... bought for \$7.50 a ton and... one dealer put his price at \$7... with 1,000 tons on hand. The... price of soft coal was as low... as \$2.50 a ton, with independent... dealers retailing coal at \$6... and \$6.50 a ton.

Direct Vote on Senator. Denver, Feb. 5.—A bill introduced... in the legislature by Senator... Rush provides that at the... general election and preceding... the time for election of a... United States senator, each... political party may place on... the ballot the names of five... or less candidates for the... senatorship, and binds the... members of the legislature, under... penalty of expulsion, to vote... for the candidate of their... respective party receiving the... greatest number of the popular... vote.

Philadelphia to Stay at Bremerton. Washington, Feb. 5.—The navy... department has decided to... retain the Philadelphia at the... Bremerton navy yard as a... receiving ship. This vessel... was one of the first cruisers... of the new steel navy and... already has become antiquated... in many respects.

MARKLE PRODUCE... \$10,000.