

The Contrabandist; OR One Life's Secret!

A TRUE STORY OF THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

CHAPTER IX.—(Continued.)

Helen Montauban did not answer. But, at that moment, Lord Egerton directed towards her a glance, sorrowful and unquiet, and she bent over her, and touched her, in the midst of her happiness, almost to tears, it told so eloquently of his true feelings, which he had been trying to hide ever since the arrival of Louis. It warned her that she was yet not forgotten—that he loved her yet—that he would have given worlds for the place occupied by another near her, and which he was not allowed to secure.

The following morning, Louis, entering the library during his uncle's absence, found Rose reading in a great arm-chair by herself. She rose, with a slight blush, as he entered, and after exchanging a few words with him, was about to leave the apartment.

"Say, Rose—do not go away quite yet," he said, in a gentle tone. "I have something I would say to you. Will you not wait one moment?"

"If you please, monsieur," she answered.

"In a little town, not many leagues from here, I met a friend of yours, or one who I professed to be so. I am not quite sure that he is not an impostor—but no matter. His name was—Robin."

"Ah—Robin!" she repeated, in a subdued tone of mingled sadness and tenderness.

"You know him, then, dear Rose?" said Louis.

"But listen, dear cousin. This young gardener declared to me that you

She said it with mournful calmness. She bent and touched her lips to his hand. Then, turning, she left the room, without once looking back.

CHAPTER X.

The next day a domestic came to the door of the chamber, and gave to Rose a note which she stated had been delivered to Jean Morel, one of her fellow-servants, who had entrusted it to her for mademoiselle.

"Who gave it to Jean, my good girl?" asked Rose, thoughtfully.

"A rough-looking fellow, mademoiselle, he told me. He came up to the chateau a few minutes ago. But Jean did not know who he was. He has never seen him before."

"She went away, and, wondering, Rose unfolded the paper. Inside was written merely the words: 'Come down to the cottage, dear Rose, a few moments. I will meet you there. I must speak with you directly.—Hugh Lamonte.'

"He has returned, then?" said Rose to herself.

"Yes! I will go this moment. I will ask him to stay at home and take me back, and then I will tell them. They will be glad, perhaps, to have me go, when they learn that I have taken my destiny into my own hands."

Throwing a handkerchief over her head, and wrapping a light mantle about her, she fastened the door of her apartment, and without saying a word to any

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.

Both Russia and Japan are steadily preparing for war.

William E. Lecky, of London, a noted historian, is dead.

Nicaragua has appointed a commission for the St. Louis 1904 fair.

Captain E. M. Johnson, of the regular army, will likely be detailed to instruct the Oregon national guard.

Dowie has left New York. He and his family departed in the night for Boston without making any announcement of his leaving.

Land frauds will prompt President Roosevelt to ask congress to give control of reserves into the hands of the forestry bureau exclusively.

It is said that Sir Henry Durand, British ambassador at Madrid, will be appointed to succeed the late Sir Michael Herbert at Washington.

A New York street car jumped the track on a curve and caught fire from the third rail. All of the 50 passengers were severely bruised but escaped fatal injuries.

More coke ovens in Pennsylvania have been shut down.

Russo-Japanese negotiations have taken a less favorable turn. One report goes so far as to say war has been declared.

Yellow fever is spreading in Texas towns. The state and federal authorities have taken charge of the situation at San Antonio.

Three bandits broke open the bank safe at Burrton, Kan., and secured between \$1,000 and \$2,000 in currency besides several sacks of coin.

Six Wisconsin desperadoes stole an engine near Beloit and when discovered shouted defiance. All traffic was stopped on account of the wild engine.

All the properties of the Amalgamated company in Monatna have shut down for an indefinite period. It is estimated that nearly 20,000 men are made idle. The cause is a fight in the courts between that company and a rival over property. The court decided against the Amalgamated company.

The umpire in the Venezuelan arbitration case has decided that that country has no right to collect local taxes twice.

China is said to have negotiated a secret treaty with Russia by which the latter is practically conceded Manchuria.

By the president and his cabinet the Alaskan boundary decision is regarded as the greatest diplomatic success for a generation.

Mrs. Carrie Nation attended one of Dowie's meetings and when she insisted on asking questions "Elijah" had his guards eject her.

Canada is very bitter toward England and the result in the Alaskan boundary case and relations may never again be as friendly as formerly.

The transport Grant, converted to a sea dredge, will be at the mouth of the Columbia early next month. The name has been changed to Chinook to avoid confusion with the revenue cutter Grant.

Russo-Japanese negotiations are again at a standstill.

The sultan of Turkey has refused to receive the Austro-Russian note urging reforms in the Balkans.

The estimate of the Puget sound navy yard commandant has been cut from \$2,955,000 to \$340,966.

Albert E. Bell, the daring mailpouch robber and forger, eluded his guards and escaped after being taken from Denver to Philadelphia.

Harriman will not spend any more money improving his railroads after this year, but will cut down expenses as much as possible.

Dowie claims New York newspaper men as "dirty dogs," some clergymen as "mena dogs," is general in his abuse and is hissed by those attending the meetings.

The jury in the Miller-Johns postal fraud case was unable to agree and was discharged.

Aberdeen citizens will at once rebuild their burned town in a much more substantial manner.

Roosevelt has ordered withdrawals of land along Alaskan streams with the idea of establishing salmon hatcheries.

The Dowieite meetings in New York are greatly disturbed by the curious "Elijah II" scores them collectively and individually.

Fifteen Italian laborers were killed and 40 injured in a collision of trains near Trenton, N. J.

The navy department rather than be held up by a landowner, will strike out estimates for the enlargement of the Puget Sound navy yard.

General Funston, in his annual report on department of Columbia affairs, recommends that Fort Walla Walla be abandoned. He says the pay of the private is too small.

Sheep growers find that the finer the wool the poorer is the skin for tanning purposes.

BACK TO DOMAIN.

Oregon, Washington and California Withdrawals Not Permanent.

Washington, Oct. 24.—The disclosure of the operations of the land grafting in Oregon, California and Washington, brings out what appears to be the true reason why temporary withdrawals of vast areas "for forest reserve purposes" have been made in these three states on very slight showing of justification for withholding such enormous tracts of vacant lands from entry. Chief Gifford Pinchot, of the bureau of forestry, as well as other officials, state that only a minor part of the lands now withdrawn will ever be converted into forest reserves. In some cases, practically the entire withdrawals will ultimately be restored to entry.

There appear to have been two prime reasons for withdrawing these lands, and in many cases the more important of the two was to place the valuable vacant public timberland beyond the reach of "scrippers," speculators and land grabbers. The only way this could be done, while existing laws continue in force, was by withdrawing the lands from entry and, of course, bonafide entrymen have to suffer along with the land thieves. As long as these lands can be kept in withdrawal, under pretense of examination to determine their desirability for forest reserves, so long will the public timber be protected.

In the meantime, the interior department, with the full sanction and approval of the administration, is preparing to put in a hard winter's work before congress, in an effort to secure remedial public land legislation, such as the repeal of the timber and stone act, the desert land law, and commutation clause of the homestead act, but more than all else, the repeal of the forest reserve lien land law, which is responsible for many of the frauds that have been perpetrated by the land grant ring.

LEDGES BLAZE WITH GOLD.

Remarkable Richness of the New Find on Owl Creek.

Butte, Mont., Oct. 24.—Almost fabulous finds of gold ore rivaling the Klondike discoveries have been made on Owl creek, near Hamilton, Mont., according to reports received in Butte. The greatest excitement prevails, and a stampede is on to the new fields. Miles Romney, mayor of Hamilton, and one of the well known editors of the state, has returned after spending several weeks at the scene of the discovery, and his account of gold finds sounds like a fairy tale.

Ten massive ledges exposed on the mountain side fairly blaze in many spots from the glint of shining gold particles, dazzling the eye. A towering cliff overhangs the leads and a large gulch below is choked with boulders of ore sloughed from the heights. These chunks of gold laden rock, Romney declares, range from the size of a hazelnut to masses as large as dwelling houses. Enough gold ore is in sight, he says, to run a thousand stamps a hundred years.

W. D. Gross, a Denver mining expert, made the first discovery of deposits on Owl creek on August 1. Conservative estimates of the value of the ore place the figures between \$14 and \$300 a ton, this calculation including thousands of tons of ore lying on the surface. Sections of the veins will run into the thousands of dollars' worth of gold. Within the past few days over a hundred claims have been staked out. Associated with Gross is Senator George Green, of New York, who with others represents a capital of \$50,000,000.

They are now engaged in incorporating a company, and have 20 men at work on the property.

Shakes War on Thugs.

Ogden, Utah, Oct. 24.—Five hundred citizens tonight attended a mass meeting, which was called for the purpose of taking some action concerning the numerous hold-ups and robberies in this city recently. As a result of the meeting a vigilance committee, to be known as the Citizens' League, was formed, and over 100 men signed a roll rendering them subject to call for the purpose of ridding the city of suspicious characters. The organization, under Mayor Glasmann, will begin operations at once.

Immigrants Appeal to Washington.

Philadelphia, Oct. 24.—Appeals against deportation were sent to Washington tonight by the Welsh miners who are detained here by the immigration commissioners as violators of the contract law on their way to work at Ellsworth, Pa. A decision is expected by them before the hour fixed for their sailing. British Consul Powell and the Welsh society of Philadelphia are taking an interest in the men and are trying to stop the deportation.

Internal Revenue Receipts Decrease.

Washington, Oct. 24.—The monthly report of the collections of internal revenue shows that for the month of September, 1903, the total receipts were \$19,708,241, a decrease as compared with September, 1902, of \$177,128.

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

PRUNES IN POOR DEMAND.

Association Holds Price Up to Two and One-Half Cents.

Salem—Dullness and uncertainty prevail in the prune market. The greater portion of the crop in this vicinity has been harvested and by the middle of the week all the growers in the hill country south of Salem will have their prunes cured. The yield has been large and the quality is first class. The prunes are rich in sugar, of excellent flavor and of unusually good texture. The dried fruit this year shows no "bloters" such as are found some years. The crop having turned out better than was expected, the growers have nothing now to trouble them but selling the crop.

It is estimated that the Oregon crop, including that of Clark county, Washington, will amount to about 1,000 carloads. Of this quantity probably a little more than one-third has been sold at prices ranging from 4 to 4½ cents for the 40 to 50 to the pound size. The sales at the higher price were made early and recently 4 cents for 40s, or 2½-cent basis, has prevailed. Lower prices have been made by a number of dealers. A little less than one-third of the entire crop will pass through the hands of the Willmette Valley Prune association, the Umpqua Valley association and the Clark County association and individual dealers who are at present holding for a 2½-cent basis price. It is estimated that more than a third of the crop is unsold and in the hands of the growers who are not identified with associations and who are looking for a chance to sell at the best price they can get.

FIND OF PHONOLITE.

Large Body of Ringstone Located South of Baker City.

Baker City—A large body of phonolite, said to be as rich in gold as that found in Cripple Creek, Colo., has been discovered on East Camp creek, 55 miles south of this city. The discovery was made some time ago by J. H. Graham and J. W. Miller, but they were not certain that it was phonolite until they sent samples to Denver and to Washington and had assays made by the local assayers. They have received reports from all sources confirming the fact that it is phonolite. Samples of the ore range in value from \$4 to \$600 per ton. Phonolite, or ringstone, as it is called, is said to exist only in sections where there are very rich gold ledges.

The discovery has caused a great deal of excitement here and a number of prominent citizens and mining prospectors will leave for the new gold field at once. One specimen of float rock was picked up on the ground near the original discovery last week which only weighed a few pounds, yet it yielded the owner \$35 in free gold.

Educator for German Congress.

Salem—W. T. Harris, United States commissioner of education, has written Governor Chamberlain calling attention to the international congress and school hygiene, which will hold a session at Nuremberg, Germany, April 4 to 9, 1904. It is desired that Governor Chamberlain appoint a delegate to represent this state. If any resident who is interested in the subject to be discussed by the congress is going to Germany at that time, Governor Chamberlain will be pleased to communicate with him.

Farmers Are Seeding Wheat.

Pendleton—Wheat seeding is at its height in this portion of the Blue mountain district. Nearly all fall wheat will have been planted in two weeks' time. Not in years has such excellent weather prevailed during the fall seeding season. The ground is in fine condition. There has been some rain, but only sufficient to give the grain a good start. In the Adams district some of the farmers are planting 100 acres per day.

State School Funds Put at Interest.

Salem—The surplus school funds in the state treasury were diminished by \$82,700 last week when the state land board approved 60 applications for loans aggregating that amount. The loans are secured by mortgages on real estate of three times the value of the loan. The money draws 6 per cent interest and the proceeds go into the state school fund which is distributed among the counties each year.

Sugar Beet Pulp for Food.

La Grande—The farmers of this district use the pulp from the sugar beets after they have passed the process at the sugar factory as stock food. A large number of sheep will be brought to yards near the factory and will be fed there until the produce is gone. Some of the farmers are buying it and hauling it to their ranches for their cattle. It is much cheaper than hay.

Cold Storage Plant Site.

Pendleton—A deed to Messrs. Schwanz & Greulich for a lot at the rear of the W. & C. R. station, Webb street, from Peter West has been filed. The consideration was \$1,250. This is the site on which the Empire meat company is erecting a cold storage plant.

SURVEY IN HARNEY VALLEY.

Whistler's Party Investigating Proposed Reservoir Sites.

Harney—The field party of the geological survey in Oregon, under the direction of John T. Whistler, district engineer, consisting of M. D. Williams and Frederick C. Huber, is continuing the development of topography of irrigable lands in Harney valley. Something over one-half of the valley north of Malheur Lake has now been covered. It is estimated that the work can be completed by December 1.

Another field party, consisting of Herbert D. Newell and Edmund I. Davis, is investigating an additional reservoir site on lower Bully creek and one on upper Willow creek. The Willow creek reservoir site is being studied with a view of ascertaining the possibility of covering certain lands on the west side of upper Willow creek valley. The work on the Umattila project has been in charge of Thomas B. White and a party of four assistants. After a full examination of the reservoir site, the canal line to Umattila river will be taken up, topographic work being carried on at the same time.

A representative body of citizens of Union county, has presented to the chief engineer of the United States geological survey a statement of the existing conditions in that county, accompanied with a request that investigations and surveys be made of certain reservoir sites and of the possibilities of developing an underground water supply by means of artesian wells. The petition asserts that Union county contains more than 100,000 acres of fertile irrigable land, and that the present water supply during the two months of low water suffices to irrigate only about 1,000 acres.

WARNER SETTLERS WILL SUB.

Will Test Validity of Deeds Issued to the Stock Company.

Salem—Attorney John Hall, of Portland, is preparing papers for the commencement of a suit in behalf of the settlers of Warner valley, Lake county, in their contest with the Warner valley stock company. When Mr. Hall was in Salem a few days ago he said that a suit will be filed in Lake county to test the validity of the deeds issued by the state for the lands which are in dispute.

The proceedings heretofore have been conducted in the general land office and the department of the interior. The decision in the department was adverse to the settlers, who are homesteaders, and claimed title from the United States.

May Move Fibre Factory.

La Grande—It is rumored here that the main factory of the Oregon Pine Needle Fibre company, now operating at Grant's Pass, is to be established at Summerville, a small town a short distance from here. Attorney Turner Oliver of this city has secured a controlling interest in the plant, and it is said he intends to bring the institution here. The factory will have a capacity of 2,500 pounds of fibre per day. If the understanding is carried out successfully, it may mean the establishment of a mattress factory in this city.

Would Cut the Insurance Rate.

La Grande—Fire Chief J. H. Pierce, who has been to Portland to ask insurance men if a reduction in insurance would be given if a fire alarm system is installed here, has returned home. He brought with him a letter to the city council offering a 10 per cent reduction. It is estimated that by a 10 per cent reduction about \$2,600 will be thrown off premiums paid in La Grande per year. The new system would cost about \$4,500.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 74c; blue-stem, 78c; valley, 76c@77c.
Barley—Feed, \$20 per ton; brewing, \$21; rolled, \$21.
Flour—Valley, \$3.75@3.85 per barrel; hard wheat straight, \$3.75@4.10; hard wheat patents, \$4.20@4.50; Graham, \$3.35@3.75; whole wheat, \$3.65@4; rye wheat, \$4.50.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.10; gray, \$1@1.05 per cental.
Millstuffs Bran, \$20 per ton; middlings, \$24; shorts, \$20; chop, \$18; linseed dairy food, \$19.
Hay—Timothy, \$16 per ton; clover, \$13; grain, \$10; cheat, \$10.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 25@27¢ per pound; dairy, 16¢@20¢; store, 15¢@16¢.
Cheese—Full cream, twins, 14c; Young America, 15¢@16¢; factory prices, 1¢@1½¢ less.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 10¢@10½¢ per pound; spring, 10¢; hens, 11¢@11½¢; broilers, \$1.75 per dozen; turkeys, live, 15¢@16¢ per dozen; dressed, 16¢@18¢; ducks, \$6@7 per dozen; geese, \$7@10.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 27¢; Eastern, fresh, 26¢.
Potatoes—Oregon, 65¢@75¢ per sack; sweet potatoes, 2¢@2½¢.
Hops—1903 crop, 19¢@22¢ per pound, according to quality.
Wool—Valley, 17¢@18¢; Eastern Oregon, 12¢@15¢; mohair, 35¢@37½¢.
Beef—Dressed, 6¢@7¢ per pound.
Veal—Small, 7¢@8¢; large, 8¢@9¢ per pound.
Mutton—Dressed, 5¢@5½¢; lambs, dressed, 6¢.
Pork—Dressed, 7¢@8¢.



GASPARDE'S DESPERATE THREAT.

were betrothed to him! He had been in my employ. I had discharged him because he no longer wished to remain with me. But he returned, after a long absence. He wished to become the possessor of a certain sum, he said, in order that he might purchase a small farm, and settle down; and in questioning further, I gained this information. Was not such an assertion ridiculous, dear Rose?"

With an earnest, unquiet glance, he watched her countenance. It was covered with a deep blush. Tears were in her eyes.

"It is true!" she said, in a low and sad voice.

He looked at her a moment in silence.

"Rose, is this possible?" he asked, at length, with an accent of subdued astonishment.

"I have said it," returned the young girl, inexpressibly pained by his manner.

"But, Rose, think a moment—a gardener! You, so young, so beautiful, the spoiled child of a nobleman of most princely wealth! But forgive me—forgive me, dear child! I would not offend you, but you are surprised—horrified—away by this unexpected announcement—this confirmation of a most unpleasant fact. Rose, does my uncle know of this?"

"Alas, no!" answered the weeping girl.

"Nor Helen?"

"No."

"My poor Rose! Ah, they take so much pride in you—we are all so proud of you! We love you, my child. We would give you a higher lot than this—a station more worthy of you. What will they say? Think, dear Rose—what a terrible blow to them!"

"I know it," she said, in a troubled voice—"I know it! I should have told them when they wished to take me. I should have known that I should only have remained in the lowly home they took me from. Ah, I shall repay with ingratitude their kindness to me—the love they feel for me!"

She leaned forward upon the table, and hid her face in her hands.

"But, dear Rose, reflect; there is time yet," he urged, with a tone of earnestness and affection. "You would degrade yourself, dear Rose, were you to wed him. You would not render him happy, for he could not understand you. You would both be miserable, and you will break our hearts, Rose!"

She raised her head; and checking her tears, looked at Louis mournfully.

"Monsieur, I cannot break his heart!" she said, gently. "He loves me—he trusts in me. I will not break his promise; I cannot do it. I will make Robin happy."

"Rose! and you will love him still?"

"He listened, breathless."

"I shall love him and serve him till I die, monsieur."

one concerning her intention or allowing herself to be seen, she silently and secretly left the chateau by a side door, and going round the descent to the valley by a little-frequented path, was soon on the path leading to her former home. Rose looked to see her father at the door; but he was not there, and concluding that she should find him within, she hastened forward, and had almost reached the door, when Gasparde appeared on the threshold.

"Good morning, my fair cousin!" he said, in answer to her brief and somewhat surprised greeting. "May I ask whom you seek?"

"My father, Gasparde. He is here—is he not?"

"He is ready to see you, if you will enter," answered Gasparde, stepping aside for her to pass in.

Rose was about to do so, when something in the glance or manner of this man struck her unpleasantly. She hesitated—paused.

"If he is within," she said, "why does he not come to meet me when he hears my voice?"

"You must come in, Rose, before you can see him," he returned. "Come—enter! What are you afraid of? Come in."

"But I will not come in till I have seen him. He must come to the door. Will you ask him to do so? Father!" she called.

There was utter silence.

"I do not believe he is here. You are deceiving me, Gasparde!" she cried. A horrible fear—a suspicion of treachery, filled her mind; she trembled and turned deadly pale.

Gasparde smiled. It was the smile of an incarnate fiend. His hand was laid upon her arm.

"Ah! you begin to suspect, my pretty one!" he said.

"Let me go, Gasparde!" she cried, frightfully. "I forgive you, no, and I do not wish to see you again. O, pity—pity!"

"Nay—don't be in a hurry, my sweet Rose; you see I am not," he said, still holding her arm. "Yes—you are right; your father is not here, nor will he be. I sent you to come. I waited for you. And now it is your turn to beg. You know how scornful you were once. You would not listen to my prayers. Times are changed now. I have trapped you cleverly; you shall not escape, I promise you!"

"O, have mercy, Gasparde!" she pleaded.

"Go on, my dear! I like to hear you. Ah, this is charming!"

"Gasparde, you told me once you were sorry for persecuting me so, and I believed you—I forgave you. You do not mean to keep me here; you will let me

mean to keep me here; you will let me