

The Contrabandist; OR One Life's Secret!

A TRUE STORY OF THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

CHAPTER XII.—(Continued.)

The brigands were having a merry carousal after their return; and Gasparde, madly in love with her prisoner, and with reflecting on the loss of the prize he had thought so safe, joined rancelessly in the insane riot.

Egerton's own. What could it mean? He reflected a moment. Yes—they had been seeking her—the people from the chateau—And this torch was evidently one which had been carried in their search by night.

Stealing noiselessly in, he scattered upon the dying embers, from a small parcel in his hand, a fine powder that caused a light crackling sound as it fell among them, and almost immediately a cloud of this white vapor, spreading and circling till it filled the entire cavern, and a curious odor, faint, yet overpowering, was perceptibly proceeding from it.

Even as he spoke he suddenly seemed to hear voices shouting, one to another, at a distance, though so faintly that he paused to find whether he were not deceived. Not faintly still, but sufficiently perceptible not to be mistaken, the echo of those voices came to his ear on the still, clear air of the morning, and the sound came from the direction in which he was going.



LOUIS PERSUAD BY GASPARDE.

Safe enough now, monsieur le capitaine, I'll warrant," he muttered, with a low chuckle. "You should be a little less careless. All people are not as honest as yourself."

"His! he quiet, monsieur le comte?" he whispered, as Louis, recognizing him, sprang to his feet, with a half-suppressed exclamation of surprise; "do not speak. I have come to give you your liberty."

My liberty, Raimonde! Where are the brigands? Where is Gasparde?" "Sound asleep, monsieur; and I won't wake some reason to believe they won't wake in a hurry. I will take them something to help. Here—I will give you these jewels of yours; I dare say you won't be sorry to be rid of them."

"Ten thousand thanks, Raimonde!" exclaimed Louis, warmly. "But how did you know we had been taken?" "I had returned to the cavern to get something which I had left here, monsieur, and was going away again, when I saw the men coming back with you and Jacques. You were in a swoon, I suppose, for it took two or three to carry you. We had some ado to get out of their way—Michel and I—without being seen. I watched, afterwards, while they were carousing around the fire, and stole into the cavern. They are quiet enough now. Come, monsieur; but stop a moment. I see you will need something more than what you wear now. I will come back in a moment."

He left the cell, and directly returned, carrying a bundle of garments very much like those Louis was accustomed to wear on his excursions into the country. The young man lost no time in assuming them, and then left the cell with his companion. How his heart leaped! What a thrill ran through him as he felt that he was once more at liberty!

Raimonde's next step was to liberate Jacques. The poor fellow was almost beside himself with joy, and only the absolute need of silence kept him from giving unbounded expression to his delight. Stepping cautiously among the extended forms of the drugged slumbers, the scene of combat, with exclamations of joy, Louis and his uncle threw themselves into each other's arms; while Francis Egerton waved his cap gallily in the air, and stepped lightly forward to greet Louis, calling, "Found—found! my dear—dear fellow!" and he clasped the young man in a cordial and laughing embrace; his handsome, deep-blue eyes sparkled with tears.

"Now, monsieur le comte, I will leave you, as I wish to strike off to the right here, I should like to have Jacques go with me."

What was to be the fate of Louis? They were four to one! But the other three, tearing forward to the assistance of their master, suddenly paused, and then hastily turned and fled. Neither Louis nor Gasparde, however, saw anything beyond each other, while the young count, with firm courage, grappled with the brigand chief, and wrenching the discharged weapon from his grasp, cast him at full length upon the turf.

And now all was at hand; for the Marquis of Montauban and Francis Egerton, followed by two or three of the villagers, dashed into the little glade, to the scene of combat. With exclamations of joy, Louis and his uncle threw themselves into each other's arms; while Francis Egerton waved his cap gallily in the air, and stepped lightly forward to greet Louis, calling, "Found—found! my dear—dear fellow!" and he clasped the young man in a cordial and laughing embrace; his handsome, deep-blue eyes sparkled with tears.

But their attention was attracted in another direction; for Gasparde had risen to his feet, and his cry of rage and despair rang through the forest. Deserted by his companions, who had fled on witnessing the numbers of the approaching party, and with bounding away, when a shot from one of the villagers struck him. With one horrible cry he sprang into the air and then fell heavily to the earth. There was a convulsive movement of the limbs, a contraction, a sudden spasm, and the form was stretched out in motionless silence. Gasparde was dead!

EVENTS OF THE DAY

ALASKA COMMISSIONERS LET ONE STRETCH GO—NO DATA TO WORK ON.

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All European powers have indorsed the attitude of the United States in the Colombian matter. Colombia says she will be able to put down the revolution if the United States keeps her hands off.

Senate and house leaders can't agree as to the method of putting the Cuban reciprocity treaty into effect. There are 2,900,000 sheep on the Oregon ranges. The worth of this year's wool output is placed at \$2,550,000.

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The senate committee will stand by Smoot, the Utah senator, despite numerous protests. The San Francisco street railway arbitrators have rendered a decision granting an increase in wages.

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A reward of \$5,000 is offered for the arrest and conviction of the persons who wrecked the Santa Fe train at Ashishpa creek last week.

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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.

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HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

HOLD ON TO YOUR PRUNES.

Advice Given to Growers by ex-Commissioner Reynolds. Salem—"Prunegrowers who have not already sold their fruit should hold it for a price that will give them a fair profit," says Lloyd T. Reynolds, formerly horticultural commissioner for the second district.

"Dealers are around offering to pay a basis price of 1 1/2 cents. Probably a majority of the prune crop this year will average in the 50-60 to-the-pound size, and at this basis growers would get only 3 cents a pound for their fruit. Since the cost of labor and fuel has advanced, 3 cents a pound is about the actual cost of production. Growers are cutting their own throats when they sell at such figures."

"The condition of the fruit market does not warrant such low prices. France had a very short crop and is buying prunes heavily in this country. The dispatches from New York tell us that the packing houses in this country have had difficulty in filling the orders as fast as they are received. The apple crop of the United States is 1,000,000 barrels short and prices for that fruit will be high. Canned goods have advanced very materially. In every view of the situation I can see no reason why prunegrowers should not receive a fair price, if they will ask for it."

"It seems to me to be certain that all the prunes will be wanted and the proper course for the growers is to wait until a living price is offered. I do not advise holding for speculative prices, but for a living price. Oregon prunes this year are of first-class quality and they give satisfaction wherever sold."

LIQUOR REJECTIONS LARGE. Land Agent West Puts Records in Order and Gathers Figures. Salem—State Land Agent Oswald West has just completed the classification and filing of the correspondence and papers relating to state liquor selections in Oregon. Heretofore the records have been in confusion and one seeking information regarding any particular selection would have difficulty in finding it. Now the records are arranged so that any desired information may be had at a moment's notice. The list shows that the liquor selections upon mineral base, which have been passed upon by the Federal Land Department within the past year or two aggregate 74,000 acres, of which about 4,000 acres have been clear listed and about 70,000 has either been rejected or is still pending with the outlook poor for its approval.

Pendleton Owns Its First Park. Pendleton—Pendleton is now the owner of a city park. For years such a move has been agitated, but nothing was done until a week or so ago, when the council bargained for the property in the east part of the city, where the water supply is secured. The money has been paid over and the deeds filed. The land was purchased from Jessie S. Vert, consisting of one entire block, and for which she received \$1500, and four lots from V. Stroble. The city purchased this property to prevent buildings from being erected there.

Release of 171 Mortgages. Pendleton—The Pendleton savings bank has filed with the county recorder releases of 171 mortgages. This is the biggest bunch of mortgages that has ever been paid off at one time for a number of years. The banking company held these mortgages, principally against farmers, sheep and cattle men. The amount of some of the mortgages was as high as \$16,000, while some of them were as low as \$50. They averaged \$1500, making the total amount paid \$256,500.

Put Up Much Fruit. Ashland—The Ashland Preserving Company, which has been operating an extensive cannery in this city the present season, will close operations for the year this week. The season has been longer than usual and there have been more people employed than ever before, the average number of operatives being between 40 and 50. Manager Charles Pierce reports that during the four months' run the plant has canned 15 tons of Bartlett pears, 21 tons of peaches, 10 tons of string beans and seven tons of blackberries.

Wood \$7 a Cord. Pendleton—There is a scarcity of wood in Pendleton. This is due to the lack of cars to bring it from the Blue Mountains, from where Pendleton gets her supply. There seems to be plenty of wood at the belt. Prices are exceptionally high. Fir is selling at \$7 per cord and pine at \$6.50. This price is nearly \$1 higher than last year. Coal is selling at \$5 per ton.

Sale of Great Timber Tract. Astoria—A deed has been filed for record whereby the Oregon & Montana Lumber Company, of Helena, Mont., sells to Samuel McClure, of Stillwater, Wash., 1566.29 acres of timber land in the Lewis and Clark district. The consideration named is \$1000, but it is supposed a much higher price was paid.

Vacancies in Legislature. Salem—Not only will a special session of the legislature be necessary to cure the defect in the taxation law, but a special election will be necessary to fill several vacancies in the legislature. The vacancies must be filled before the session is held, according to the language of the constitution.

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

WILL MANUFACTURE STAVES.

Houlton Will Have a Plant That Will Employ 100 Men. St. Helens—It is now a settled fact that the Western Coopers Company, composed of Kentucky capitalists, will build a large stave factory at Houlton, on the Northern Pacific railroad, just on the outer edge of the corporate limits of St. Helens. A dozen men are already at work getting camps ready in the woods, where the bolts for the staves will be cut up and split into the usual size.

A factory site has been purchased from W. H. Dolman, at Houlton, which has ample space for switches and side tracks. Options have been secured on several tracts of timber land, and a contract has been entered into with the Oregon Wood Stave Company to float 800,000 cords of stave bolts annually. Construction work will begin on the factory at once, and the management state that fully one hundred men will be employed in the mill and miller.

This company owns factories in Kentucky, Arkansas, Georgia and at Seattle and Aberdeen, Wash.

MILL IN SOUTHERN OREGON. Pennsylvania Capitalists Preparing for a Heavy Cut of Vimbler. Roseburg—The Kelleher-Skelley Lumber Company has just been incorporated here, by W. J. Kelleher, John K. Skelley and W. H. Sykes with a paid up capital of \$50,000. The company has already acquired about 5000 acres of fine timber land on Billy Creek, a few miles west of Yoncalla, in this county.

A sawmill building has already been erected and part of the machinery is now in place. The plant will have a daily capacity of 50,000 feet of lumber to begin with, and will be ready for production within 30 days. A flume will be put from the mill to carry the product direct to the Southern Pacific railroad track at Drain, where a lumber yard will also be established.

Looking for Reservoir Sites. Ashland—H. E. Green and J. E. Reese, of the hydrographic branch of the United States Geological Survey, arrived in Ashland last night from San Francisco. They are in the reclamation service and will cross the mountains eastward from here on an extended expedition and investigating trip to locate possible sites for reservoirs for irrigation purposes. They are Sprague River Valley, Bly and Bonanza, and their itinerary will take in all the Modoc lava beds and the Honey Lake district.

In the Sugar Beet Fields. La Grande—The sugar beet factory here has already this season received 10,000 tons of beets, and has worked over 7000 tons, which means 16,000 sacks of sugar. It is expected that about 1000 tons more of beets will be received by the factory this season, and that the run will continue until about November 15. So far the beet harvest has proved a success. Although there was a shortage in the crop, the sugar material in the beet was heavier than last year.

October Asylum Report. Salem—The report of Superintendent J. F. Calbreath, of the State Insane Asylum, for the month of October shows that the general health of the patients is good. The total cost of articles consumed was \$718.39, and the expenditures for salaries \$5999.10, or a total of \$13,163.09. The average daily enrollment was 1330, making the cost per capita per month \$9.89, and per capita per day 32 cents.

Malheur County Clean-Up. Baker City—General Manager O. C. Johnson brought in the clean-up of a 68-day run from the Rich Creek placer mine of the Eldorado Mine & Ditch Company, of Malheur county, today. The clean-up amounted to about 800 ounces valued at about \$16,000. R. E. Corburn, of Carroll, Ia., is the principal owner of the diggings.

PORTLAND MARKETS. Wheat—Walla Walla, 75c; blue-stem, 76c; valley, 78c. Flour—Feed, \$20 per ton; brewing, \$22; roller, \$21. Barley—Valley, \$3.75@3.85 per barrel; hard wheat straight, \$3.75@4.10; hard wheat patent, \$4.20@4.50; granular, \$3.35@3.75; whole wheat, \$3.65 @4; rye wheat, \$4.50. Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.07 1/2; gray, \$1.05 per cental. Millstuffs—Bran, \$20 per ton; middlings, \$24; shorts, \$20; chop, \$18; linned dairy food, \$19. Hay—Timothy, \$16 per ton; clover, \$13; grain, \$11; cheat, \$11. Butter—Fancy creamery, 27 1/2 @30c per pound; dairy, 16 1/2 @20c; store, 16c. Cheese—Full cream, twins, 15c; Young America, 16 @16c; factory prices, 10 @15c less. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 10 @10 1/2c per pound; spring, 11 1/2c; hens, 11 @12c; broilers, \$2.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 14 @15c per pound; dressed, 16 @18c; ducks, 16 @17c per dozen; geese, 87 @10. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 30c; Eastern, fresh, 24 @26 1/2c. Potatoes—Oregon, 50 @65c per sack; sweet potatoes, 2 @2 1/2c. Hops—1903 crop, 12 @22c per pound, according to quality. Wool—Valley, 17 @18c; Eastern Oregon, 12 @15c; mohair, 35 @37 1/2c. Beef—Dressed, 6 @6 1/2c per pound. Veal—Small, 7 1/2 @8c; large, 8 1/2 @9c. Mutton—Dressed, 4 @5c; lambs, dressed, 6c. Pork—Dressed, 6 @6 1/2c.