

An Adventure of the Scarlet Pimpernel

By the BARONESS ORCZY
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WNU Service

CHAPTER V—Continued

He spoke a great many more equally eloquent words, for he had the gift of speech, had this drover from Alncourt. A rough fellow, it is true, but one with his heart in the right place, and born in the district, too; anyone could tell that by the contemptuous way with which he spoke of any stranger born outside this corner of Seine et Oise.

He was listened to with great attention, was the driver. And his words presently carried all the more weight because something very strange came to light. It appeared that the diligence from Moisson with prisoners and escort had made a halt of several hours in Mantes. The party only made a fresh start in the late afternoon. That was strange enough, in all conscience! What did it mean but that Lauzet was courting the darkness for his schemes? But there was something more mysterious still. While the diligence stood before the posting inn ready to start, horses pawing and champing, the driver on his box, whip in hand, the four troopers who were on guard to right and left of the vehicle would not allow anyone to come within measurable distance of it. Be it noted that all the blinds of the coach were drawn so that it was impossible to get a peep at the inside. But two young men, strangers to the neighborhood, who had since come forward, eager to tell their story, more venturesome than others, had crept under the horses' bellies and tried to peer into the interior of the coach. They were almost immediately driven away with blows and curses by the troopers, but not before they had vaguely perceived that there were more than just the prisoners inside the diligence.

The prisoners were all huddled up in the farthest corner of the vehicle, but there were others. The young men who had had a peep, despite the blows from the troopers, had seen three or four men at least. They might have been ordinary travelers who had picked up the diligence at Mantes. But in that case, why all this secrecy? Why the drawn blinds, the start in the late afternoon so that the shades of evening would actually be drawing in when the diligence and its escort plowed its way through the muddy road of the forest between Mezeres and Epone? Why a feeble escort of only four men when of late as many as eight or ten picked troopers of the national guard had ridden beside the diligence?

Indeed, the drover from Alncourt was right. Indubitably right. Citizen Lauzet and his friend from Paris had entered into a plot, a dastardly, cowardly plot, to cheat the citizens of Moisson of their just share in the capture of the Scarlet Pimpernel. There was no doubt that the Scarlet Pimpernel was already captured, and that Lauzet was having him conveyed in secret to Paris. The escort might appear feeble, but there were men inside the diligence who held the English spy, bound hand and foot, between them with a cocked pistol at his head. Why! The two young strangers who had succeeded in getting a peep at the inside of the diligence quite thought, from the description every one had of him, that one of the men whom they glimpsed was in very truth the Scarlet Pimpernel.

"He was so tall," they said, "so tall that he had to sit almost bent double, otherwise his head would have knocked against the roof of the coach!" They were almost prepared to swear also that this tall man's hands were tied together with ropes.

After that, as the driver from Alncourt very properly said, any man would be a fool who doubted Lauzet's treachery and cupidity. It was resolved to proceed immediately in his wake, to seize him wherever he might be, him and any man who had helped him in his treachery. Aye, if he had an army to protect him, he would find that the men of Moisson and Mantes were not to be flouted and cheated with impunity. The drover from Alncourt was bribed to take the party in his cart as far as Mezeres. He demurred a little at first; seemed to turn crusty and was impervious to threats. Eventually he was offered one hundred livres out of every man's share if the English spy was captured and one livre if he was not.

"En bien!" he said at last in token of consent, and they all scrambled back into the cart.

CHAPTER VI

Surprise

Captain Raffet had given the order to dismount, and the troopers sat by the roadside under the trees, making a pretense to rest. Each man, however, had his sabre ready to his hand, and each had seen to the priming of his pistol, while the captain ostensibly busied himself with examining the fetlock of the mare who had gone lame. The wind had gone down and the torrential rain had ceased, but there was a thin mist-like drizzle that soaked through the men's clothing and chilled them to the bone. The tension had become acute. With nerves on edge the men, those who were in the open as well as those who were crouched up inside the diligence, could do nothing but wait while the time dragged on and the shades of evening drew in around them.

The silence in the woods was full of sounds; of the cracking of twigs, the

fall of rain-laden leaves, the scrunching of earth under tiny, furtive feet scurrying away through the undergrowth. The great, awkward diligence loomed out of the mist like some gigantic, spectral erection, peopled by forms that breathed and lived and hardly emitted a sound. Only very occasionally from the interior there came the painful moan, quickly suppressed, from the poor invalids parched throat.

And all at once something more tangible, a patter of feet, a call, a voice half drowned in the gathering mist. It came way down the road, from the direction of Mezeres. The men sat up, alert, quivering with excitement, their eyes straining to pierce the thicket, since the sharp bend in the road hid the oncomers from view. The order was to feign inattention, to wait for the attack, lest the wily enemy scenting a trap scampered away to safety. And the men waited, very much like greyhounds held in leash, quivering with eagerness, their hot, moist hands grasping sabre and pistol, the while Captain Raffet, as keenly alert as they, carried on a



The Tension Had Become Acute.

desultory conversation with the driver about the mare's injured fetlock. Vague forms began to detach themselves out of the mist, coming round the bend, soon they gained volume and substance. The voice still calling gained power and clarity. It was such as Captain Raffet could do, by muttered word and glance of eye, to keep those human greyhounds of his in check. With the Scarlet Pimpernel perhaps in sight they were straining on the leash to his breaking point.

It was at the very moment that, throwing all prudence to the wind, the men suddenly raised themselves upon their knees and were on the point of springing to their feet, unable to contain their excitement any longer, that Charles-Marie, the loony driver, who had once been a baker's assistant, exclaimed joyfully, "Pardi! If it isn't citizen Plante home from market already!" And the next instant the oncoming figure revealed itself as that of an old man, walking along with the aid of a tall stick, and calling at times to his dog or to the half dozen sheep he was driving before him.

Citizen Plante was not or a gregarious disposition, nor of an inquisitive one apparently, for he passed by without a word or glance of curiosity directed at the troopers or at the vehicle. All that he did was to nod to the driver as he went by, while the men gazed at him wide eyed open mouthed, as if he had been a specter. And like a specter he seemed to glide past them and out of sight. A minute or two later the twilight and the mist had swallowed him up with his sheep and his dog, and had smothered his monotonous calls in the veils of the night.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Heroics of Olden Days Are No Longer Possible

Days when a brave woman could earn the applause of the country by yanking off her red petticoat and flagging a train just as it neared a broken rail are over, mostly because broken rails are rarer and red petticoats extinct. The New Jersey farmer who saved a train by waving a flag and a burlap bag, the other day, recalled those heroines of the past generation to mind, and, being glad to idle speculation, we tried to picture the situation if a modern woman should come across a broken rail. If she removed a garment (any garment) to use as a flag, with the probabilities against her finding one large enough to be seen, the chances favor a horrible wreck, because a really modest engineer could do no less than close his eyes, and speed past. Engineers, no doubt, favor a return of the good old days, in the interest of safety. —Columbus Dispatch.

Fishermen's Mittens

A strange custom of New England coast winter fishermen is to soak their thick, woolen mittens in the sea and wring them out as dry as possible before putting them on. They say their hands keep much warmer than if they don the mittens when dry.

In a recent month the British Isles exported nearly 380,000 tons of iron and steel products.

MACDONALD TO COME



Ramsay MacDonald.

Washington.—Naval reduction negotiations between the United States and Great Britain are rapidly reaching the point where representatives of the two nations will be able to inform the public as to whether a conference will be held this year.

Disclosure at the White House that Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald is expected to arrive in Washington early in October for a conference on the naval situation with President Hoover was interpreted by official Washington as strong indication that a naval parity will be held in December and that it will have a good chance of being successful.

37 NORTHWEST BANKS COMBINE RESOURCES

Funds to Total \$341,000,000; Headquarters in Twin Cities.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Organization of the greatest banking corporation in the Northwest, having combined resources of \$341,000,000 in 37 units, was announced by the First National Banks of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which formed a \$250,000,000 holding company.

Known as the First Bank Stock corporation, the holding company will wield 34 banks in Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Montana into a centralized system directed from headquarters in the twin cities. The new concern will take over control of the 17 banks in the First Bank Stock investment company, organized last spring.

Formation of the new concern brought into the organization four banks in Montana thus assuring definite association of the financial and commercial structure of the twin cities with the metal mining industry of the West.

The Montana banks have combined resources of more than \$46,000,000. They are the Metals Bank and Trust company of Butte, the First National of Great Falls, the Western Montana National of Missoula, the Midland National of Billings, the National Bank of Montana and the Montana Trust and Savings bank, both of Helena, and the First National bank of Miles City.

Some directors of the Montana banks also will sit on the board of the new holding company. They include John D. Ryan, chairman of the board of the Anaconda Copper Mining company; C. F. Kelly, president, and L. C. Evans, general counsel; James E. Woodward, president of the Metals bank of Butte, and Sam Stephenson, head of the Great Falls bank.

C. T. Jaffray, president of the Soo Line railroad, will head the new organization as chairman of the board, while George H. Prince, chairman of the First National of St. Paul, is president of the First Bank Stock corporation. Directors also include the president of the seven leading railroads serving the Northwest territory.

Urge Farmers to Hold Back Wheat Shipments

Minneapolis.—Appeals to farmers to hold back shipments of wheat because of the terminal congestion have been issued by Governor Christenson of Minnesota, and Governor Shafer of North Dakota. Shippers of the Chicago and Minneapolis markets were hopeful that the temporary embargo against shipments of barley, oats and rye to Minneapolis, St. Paul, Superior and Duluth would avoid the necessity of a further restriction. A decision on that matter must await the grain movement situation on September 1.

\$325,000 to Aid Mooseheart

Detroit, Mich.—Three donations, totaling \$325,000, to be used for the expansion of Mooseheart, "the child city," in Illinois, were announced here at the forty-first annual convention of the Loyal Order of Moose.

Woman Air Racer Killed

Phoenix, Ariz.—Death thrust itself into the woman's national air derby with the finding of the body and wrecked airplane of Miss Marvel Crosson, twenty-five, one of the entrants, in the wilds of western Arizona.

All-Metal Blimp Successful

Detroit, Mich.—The first all-metal dirigible, the ZMC-2, built for the United States navy, flew successfully here in its first test.

CHINESE SOLDIERS RUSHING TO FRONT

Red Offensive Against Harbin Is Threatened.

London.—Manchurian railways are crowded with troop trains carrying thousands of Chinese soldiers to the front. Dispatches from many unofficial sources told of border activities by Soviet patrols and of a threatened general offensive against Harbin, center of the Chinese Eastern railway system, which is the subject of the present dispute.

Harbin, with the railroad running southeast to Vladivostok and also northwest through Manchouli to Siberia, is exposed on the northeast to possible gunboat attacks on the Sungari river.

A conference of generals, called by Marshal Chang Hsueh-ling at Mukden, decided to dispatch several additional brigades to the northern fronts and handed over to Gen. Chang Tsung-shang, the "strong man" of Manchuria, the defense of the Harbin area.

So gravely did the conference view the crisis it was decided to withhold 20 per cent of the salaries of all Manchurian officials to purchase war materials. In addition to a division of troops with a machine gun corps and several batteries of artillery sent to Harbin, 50,000 soldiers from Fengtien started for the western border post of Manchouli.

Reports coming by way of Japan were that a considerable body of Russians had already occupied the Chinese town of Mishan and were penetrating farther northwestward of Lake Hanka.

Harbin.—As a result of reports of alleged mistreatment of Soviet prisoners by Chinese authorities here and elsewhere along the Chinese Eastern railway, the German consul, Gen. George Stobbe, who is handling Soviet diplomatic affairs, completed an investigation of the status of prisoners in the Harbin area. Mr. Stobbe said that the investigation disclosed that 333 prisoners are being held and are confined in three separate places.

The first group, termed political offenders, are alleged members of the third internationale and were arrested May 27, during the consular raid. They number 39, including 4 women. They are being held awaiting trial. Due to the long delay, the prisoners staged a hunger strike, which ended upon promise of immediate trial. Mr. Stobbe said this group was held in a local jail, and are provided with sufficient food and bedding.

The second group, comprising 240 persons, among them a few women, are mostly Soviet workers employed by the Chinese Eastern railway. They are charged with sabotage, refusal to work and attempting to block railway service.

The third group, totalling 50, are held prisoners by the general staff of the Chinese railway guards and it is alleged they were confined for three days in a small home. The Chinese military allege that these prisoners are the most dangerous but promised they would receive better treatment.

Canada's Wheat Problem Proves Serious Matter

Montreal, Que.—The Canadian wheat situation is beginning to reach serious proportions. Operators estimate that Montreal storage space has 12,620,123 bushels of its 15,000,000 capacity in use, 36 lake boats are waiting to unload, orders for only 315,070 bushels are on hand, and hundreds of Canadian sailors in Canadian inland waterways are out of employment.

The tieup was considered especially serious due to the fact that harvesting was in progress, and because of the carrying lines being greatly affected.

Canada Steamship Lines, Ltd., reported 30 boats laid up for lack of cargoes at Fort Williams, Starna, Colingwood, Midland and Kingston. It was estimated that the tieup of this line alone resulted in the unemployment of nearly 600 sailors.

Other lines reported lesser tieups, all announcing that they would repair lay their boats off than operate at a loss.

Spokane-N. Y. Non-Stop Roundtrip Flight, First

Felts Field, Spokane, Wash.—Nick Mamer and Art Walker, the first flyers to complete a round trip, nonstop flight across the continent, safely landed the Spokane Sun God at this field.

The two men had been in the air for five full days, during which they traversed 7,200 miles, the greatest lineal mile distance ever completed.

The Sun God started from Spokane with elaborate ceremonies. It flew to San Francisco where two refuelings were made. Then it turned eastward, flying over Cheyenne, North Platte, Neb., and the Middle West to New York.

Wisconsin U. Gets \$10,000,000

Madison, Wis.—By a vote of the general assembly, the University of Wisconsin is to receive \$500,000 a year more than provided at the last session, making a total fund of \$10,000,000.

Germany Awards Hoover Degree

Karlsruhe, Germany.—The honorary degree of doctor of engineering has been awarded to President Hoover by the State Polytechnic Institute.

NEARBY AND YONDER

By T. T. MAXEY

Lafayette National Park

LAFAYETTE National park is the first of all those broadly-varying and matchless areas of outstanding scenic attractiveness, which Uncle Sam has selected, set aside and maintains as national rest-and-play grounds for the benefit and enjoyment of his people, that lies east of the Mississippi.

It is unique among these national domains, in that it is the first having contact with the sea. It is, in fact, surrounded by the sea and its arms, on territory near which a daring French explorer planted his feet long before the Mayflower pulled up at Plymouth. If, as has been said, the coast of Maine is "an eloquent chapter in the continent's ancient history," then, Lafayette National park is "one of the most dramatic paragraphs in the chapter."

The park is located on Mount Desert island, which is celebrated for its picturesque beauty, the largest island in the archipelago east of Penobscot bay and the largest rock-built island on our Atlantic seaboard. It is indeed a superb grouping of natural topographic elements and features—mountains, cradling half-hidden lakes, hills and plains, cliffs and crags, bold and rocky coast line, majestic woodlands made up of various members of the tree tribe, underbrush of strange varieties, beautifully carpeted with a confusion of many-hued wild flowers, mottled by sunshine and shadow, all encompassed by blue-green salt water and overhung by a sky of shifting colors. "Of its own and in its own way," says the guide book, Lafayette National park is "an American masterpiece."

The American Parthenon

THE Parthenon was "the crown of the glory that was Greece." This temple which bordered on the Acropolis at Athens, was dedicated to Pallas Athena, the goddess of wisdom, more than 400 years B. C., and was used throughout the centuries of its existence as a temple of worship.

The pagans occupied it for about one thousand years and the Christians for about another ten centuries. The pagans and the ancient structure became a mosque. In 1087 the Turks were overthrown by the Venetians and the building was ruined.

The Mount of the Holy Cross

THE Mount of the Holy Cross is one of the sky-piercing peaks which constitute the Rocky mountain range. It is located in Eagle county, Colorado, near the town of Minturn. Its hoary head rises to an elevation of 13,978 feet or considerably more than two and one-half miles above the waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific.

On this mountain nature carved a deep ravine some 2,000 feet long running up and down its side, fashioned a transverse ridge some 800 feet long across and above the center of this ravine and thus produced a mighty and holy cross from which the mountain takes its name.

By virtue of its altitude this ridge is almost always covered with snow, high winds cause the snow to drift into the ravine and thus a great, white cross appears on the mountain side and looks out and down upon the world. This inspiring marvel has been referred to as "A Nation's Guiding Emblem of Faith."

Uncle Sam, through his forest service, now has set aside a tract of land of some 350 acres which includes this mountain and is known as Holy Cross National forest, as a shrine for the use of his people for devotional, educational and recreational purposes, and it has come to pass that an annual, non-denominational pilgrimage can be made to the top of Notch mountain, directly opposite this great nature-made cross, by all who desire to "lift up mine eyes" in this unusual and glorious spot.

Stock Exchange Term

The term "preference shares" is used in England as the equivalent of the American preferred stock. These rank ahead of the ordinary shares, besides very often being entitled to a cumulative dividend.

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Shark's Confidence in Pilot Fish Cost Life

A pilot fish failed miserably in its duty and came to grief the other morning, when according to the fishermen, it piloted a 300-pound shark into the seine on the fishing schooner Alden, off South Shoal Lightship, Nantucket shoals. Pilot fish and shark, together with a catch of mackerel, were hauled aboard the schooner. The shark was killed and the pilot fish was brought to the fish pier and probably sent to the museum of comparative zoology at Harvard.

Fishermen at the pier said that they could not remember ever having heard of such a catch being brought in here, and expressed belief that the shark and the pilot were following the mackerel from southern waters. The specimen brought in is eighteen inches long, weighs about two pounds and is of an amber color, transversely banded with darker stripes. The pilot fish is so named because it is often seen swimming with a shark, and sailors are of the belief that it is the shark's constant companion.—Boston Transcript.

Kept the Dog Away

One warm day Albert, age five, complaining of the heat, asked his mother whether he might be permitted to eat his dinner on the porch. Mother, fearing that his dog, a constant companion, would get its nose in the little boy's food, was reluctant to give her consent. She relented, however, after much pleading, but not without a final admonition to keep the dog from the plate.

After the meal was over Albert came into the house, and was asked whether he had obeyed his mother's command.

"Oh, yes," he said, triumphantly. "Every time my dog came too near I hit him with my spoon."



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