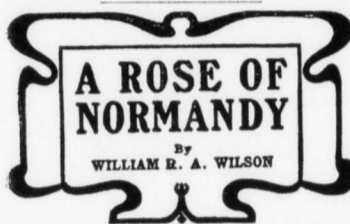




CANE GRINDIN' TIME.

Wish for the weather— Moonlight in the lane: Time to take yer sweetheart To the grindin' of the cane!



CHAPTER II.—CONTINUED.

"Curse him!" he cried in a voice vibrating with passion. "Curse him! I see it all now. It is not the king's fault so much as his minister's. While Mazarin lived my father had no hope, and when this wine merchant's son succeeded him, he feared exposure, too, and so left him to die. Sangue di Dio! is it not enough to risk one's life for a king but that his minion crushes one's heart also? Attention, Pompon, and hear my words. Upon this cross, my sword-hilt, I swear by all the saints of Italy and France, by my father's murdered hand and my mother's heart in Paradise, my sword shall never rest nor my arm grow weak, nor yet my brain cease contriving against this hell-bound, child of Beelzebub, devil's spawn—this Colbert. In court, in camp, in the king's audience-chamber, or on the furthest-most limits of Ind, I shall still oppose and, if I may, kill him. My strength shall oppose his strength, and my cunning his cunning, until one of us fall. Till then I keep my oath, Mary and Joseph and all the angels."

During this speech Pompon's features bespoke a lively sympathy and an ardent hatred. Tontl, after finishing, stood silent a moment, with head uplifted and sword raised in mid-air. Then with a sigh he lowered his eyes, and looked kindly at his companion. "And you, mon cher Pompon, how can I thank or repay you for your service?" The man's eyes became a softened gray, as though the other's feeling had touched him, as he replied: "Monsieur forgets he has cancelled all debts by his aid to-day. I am still his debtor."

CHAPTER III. IN WHICH THE FIRM ADMITS ANOTHER PARTNER AND AN ANCIENT DOCUMENT REVEALS MUCH WISDOM.

The two men were startled at the sound, and looked hastily toward the doorway from whence the voice proceeded. Within it stood a man whose appearance both in manner and physical characteristics were not likely to escape observation wherever he might be placed. Taller by half a head than either Tontl or his companion, and of a decidedly heavier build; bold forehead; dark but not shaggy eyebrows; nose of a strongly marked Roman type, beneath which rested a thin dark mustache with ends twisted upward so as to give the owner a fierce and scornful expression; a full rounded chin that tended to become double—all this betokened a man of vigor and action. But the dress was that of a fop or court dandy. A brown outer coat, embroidered with gold, was the first article that attracted one's attention. This covered a vest ornamented with red ribbons. Above the coat was slung a shoulder-belt of twisted gold-thread supporting a sword; while a throatband of muslin, edged with fine lace, and a broad-brimmed beaver, surmounted by a double row of plumes, completed the upper part of the attire. Close-fitting breeches, of another shade of brown, and high boots, very large and open at the top, completed his fashionable dress. A fine lace handkerchief was held in one hand, and applied daintly to the nostril now and then for the benefit of the cyprus scent with which it was laden. "You will pardon my interruption," he began, "when I have explained my errand, gentlemen. But first let me announce myself as Robert Cavelier—" "Sieur de la Salle, the great explorer?" cried Tontl, coming forward. "The explorer, certainly, but not yet great. It remains for you to help me to become that."

ury; who, because the scheme was an apparent failure at first, was imprisoned by Mazarin and forgotten, and who died within the month of starvation in the Bastille?" Tontl gazed in astonishment. "You know—" he began, but the other interposed with a graceful gesture of his hand containing the scented bit of lace. "Yes, I know all. How you entered the French army at 18 as cadet; fought four campaigns on board ship and three in the galleys. How at Messina you were placed in charge of a camp of 20,000 men. How at Libisso a grenade shot away your left hand, and how, because of the delay in the arrival of the chirurgien, you amputated the remnant of your hand with your dagger. How you were known as 'The Man with the Iron Hand' because of the iron mechanism you had made to take the place of the lost member, and which you still wear. How, taken prisoner at Libisso, you were confined at Metasse for six months and were exchanged for the son of the governor. On your return to France the king rewarded you with a paltry 300 livres and a captaincy, and sent you back to join in the Sicilian campaign in the galleys. How peace has thrown you out of employment. How you are restless and unhappy, and are eager, now that the king has no further need of you, to take up with whatever adventure promises the most gold and glory. How now? Am I not right? Do I not know all?" During the rapid sketch of Tontl's career, he became more and more bewildered as the speaker went on, and when he ceased speaking he could make no reply. "Ah! mon ami," said La Salle, kindly, "do not be disturbed at my knowledge. A friend has told me. The Prince de Conti, whom I consulted in my search for a comrade, a lieutenant, told me you were suited for the post, with a hand indeed of iron and a heart of oak. That is exactly the sort of man I need."

win a pardon and so come home to your latter days in peace?" "Mordieu!" cried Tontl, all aflame with eagerness to carry out the proposed plan. "When do we start?" "As nearly two weeks from to-morrow as we can. The ship is the 'Saint Honore,' and we sail from La Rochelle." "We will go with you," suddenly spoke up Pompon, "and you need look no further for the 20,000 francs; Capt. de Tontl and myself will furnish them as our share of the expedition." Tontl looked at his newly-made friend in a condition bordering upon stupefaction. For himself, he had no money, and this man, just out of the Bastille, he knew could have none either. A look from Pompon checked any exclamation of surprise that he might have made, so he contented himself by offering his hand to La Salle in token of his acceptance. "But how about the royal commission?" he asked. "Will that not be necessary?" "Yes," replied the explorer, "but leave that to me. To-day is Tuesday. Meet me in the king's antechamber on Friday and all will be easy. Now, as for myself, I must go on to the palace. You see now why I interrupted your toast. Fill me another glass and pledge all health and success to the three members of the firm of M. Tontl and Company." So saying, he drained his wine to the last drop, and, picking up his hat and drawing forth his handkerchief, waved a perfumed farewell to the two men and left the room. For a moment there was silence in the room. Then Pompon spoke: "Fortune is a woman; if you neglect her to-day, expect not to regain her to-morrow. She knocks once at every man's door; he is a fool who does not invite her in."

only way to settle the question is to go there. Do you know where Ecouen is?" "Ma foi! No." "It is distant about four leagues from Paris. By leaving here at eight o'clock to-night, we can ride there easily in two hours, do what we have to do, and be back by day. It is for you to borrow 100 livres from your friends and hire a horse and an ass. Leave the ass with the cabaretier in the Rue de la Tanerie, and be yourself near the Porte Dauphin. If you see a monk pass out by the gate mounted on an ass, follow him, but do not address nor try to come up to him, until he speaks to the animal he rides. I shall have to have a few livres to get my disguise with, so you had best be gone to borrow the money." "Par Dieu! a good plan," said Tontl, "I shall do it. You beat me at the game of cunning, but when real open fighting comes, I shall do like this," and, seizing Pompon about the waist, raised him from the ground, and by a sudden powerful exertion held him aloft above his head with his two arms extended. "I have you now, you weazel. Where shall I throw you?" "Your arm may be strong, but my wit is not wanting," was the reply. "You know a mouse can gnaw a rope that a lion cannot break. Come, mon capitaine, it is time now for work; to-morrow we can play." (To Be Continued.)

PORTLAND EXPOSITION NOTES. The manufacture of gold pens will form one of the many interesting working displays at the Lewis and Clark exposition. The Illinois building at the Lewis and Clark exposition is a replica of the home in which Abraham Lincoln lived while a resident of Springfield. This property is said to have been the only real estate the martyred president ever owned. The Massachusetts building at the Lewis and Clark exposition has as its distinguishing feature a replica of the famous Bullfinch front of the old state house in Boston. When the state house was rebuilt Massachusetts went to an expense of \$3,000,000 to retain this front. A single piece of native copper, weighing 1,000 pounds, will be part of the mining display from Josephine county, Oregon, at the Lewis and Clark exposition. The chunk of copper was taken from the Golden Standard ledge, the ores of which have been found to assay \$18 a ton in gold and \$22 in copper. The railroads have agreed upon one fare for the round trip from all eastern points to Portland, during the Lewis and Clark exposition. This is the cheapest first-class transportation ever offered from the east, and will afford opportunity for seeing the Pacific coast country which may not be repeated in many years. Western school-teachers have adopted a novel method of advertising the Lewis and Clark exposition. They give their children as an exercise the task of writing a letter to some relative or friend in the east, extending an invitation to attend the exposition. School children of Moscow, Idaho, recently wrote 1,100 such letters. An excursion that will doubtless attract great interest is one planned by F. R. Drew, of New York city. Mr. Drew will conduct a train of prairie schooners from Portland, Me., to Portland, Ore., the latter part of the journey being traveled along the trail followed by Lewis and Clark a century ago. The travelers expect to reach Portland in October, in time to attend the Lewis and Clark exposition. Where the Money Goes. "Why does Rounderly permit his children to go about looking so shabby and hungry?" "I can't account for it. He's a darned good fellow." "Ah, that accounts for it."—Chicago Sun. No Chance for Ennui. Aunt Ann—How do you girls get along at your club? Miss Mandy—Well, of course, we don't get along at all, but we have a good deal better time than if we did.—Chicago Tribune. Political Joke of the '30s. During the late election at Stamford a violent tory went into the shop of a whig butcher. "What is your pleasure?" demanded the knight of the cleaver. "I want a calf's head," was the reply. The butcher having two, inquired of his tory customer which he would prefer—a tory one or a whig one. "A tory one, to be sure," rejoined the customer. "Very well, sir, I'll send it home for you." When the cook proceeded to dress it, the brains were missing, and the master was speedily made acquainted with the circumstances, when he returned to the butcher's and indignantly inquired of him what had become of them. "Are you not aware, sir," replied cleaver, "that tory heads do not contain brains? And did you not choose a tory calf's head in preference to a whig one?"—Hudson Rural Repository, 1831. Courtship in Shakespeare's England. In Shakespeare's England courtship was not the prolonged and romantic affair it is now, writes Henry T. Finck, in Harper's Magazine. The young fellows did not make and unmake engagements as they pleased, without consulting their parents. The etiquette of betrothal was almost as formal and as rigid as that of marriage is to-day. It consisted of three observances—the joining of hands, a kiss and interchange of rings, all in presence of witnesses, and usually in church. The man had to promise under oath to "take this woman whose name is N. to wife within forty days." It is needless to say that under such circumstances—engagements never lasting as much as six weeks, partners usually chosen by the parents, marriages at the age of fourteen, and honeymoon trips unknown—there was much less opportunity than there is now for the development of romantic love. For Business Reasons. A caller at a boarding house was surprised to see a fine greyhound basking in the sun outside the kitchen door. "I didn't know you had a dog," she said. "He's a beautiful animal. How long have you had him?" "Two or three years." "How does it happen I have never seen him before?" "We don't allow him to leave the back yard," replied the proprietress, with emphasis. "What kind of an advertisement would it be for a boarding house to have a creature as lean as that dog is walking around in front of it?"—Chicago Tribune. The Duration of the Job. It seemed to Mr. Brown that Johnson the carpenter, had taken a ridiculously long time making the repairs he had been hired to do and he determined to come to an understanding. When he reached the place that was being repaired he found the carpenter's son alone in his glory. "Look here, my lad," he said, "I should like to know when you expect to finish here?" "Well, sir," was the young man's reply, "father's gone to look at another job. If he gets it we will finish today; if he don't goodness only knows when we will finish!"—Chicago Record-Herald.

COMPLETELY RESTORED. Mrs. P. Brunzel, wife of P. Brunzel, stock dealer, residence 3111 Grand Ave., Everett, Wash., says: "For fifteen years I suffered with terrible pain in my back. I did not know what it was to enjoy a night's rest and arose in the morning feeling tired and unrefreshed. My suffering sometimes was simply indescribable. When I finished the first box of Doan's Kidney Pills I felt like a different woman. I continued until I had taken five boxes. Doan's Kidney Pills act very effectively, very promptly, relieve the aching pains and all other annoying difficulties." Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all druggists. Price 50 cents per box. "The Simple Life" Proper Food is Really the First Step in Right Living. One of the evils of our complex modern way of living, is our unnatural and unhealthy foods. To have really good health and a good stomach it is necessary to eat simple nourishing food. EGG-O-SEE is the ideal food, and reaches the proper requirements in this direction more nearly than any other cereal now on the market. To make EGG-O-SEE the kernels of the choicest California white wheat are first cleansed by brushes, then thoroughly steam cooked, then flaked and crisped to a maple tint and delicately flavored with natural fruit juice and pure grain sugar. In these delicious flakes, lies the mighty strength-giving power of the whole wheat grain that evenly nourishes every part of the body, and gives physical and mental energy that means splendid health and successful endeavor. A large package at any grocery 10c THE EGG-O-SEE CO. Quincy, Ill.

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