

The Vale of Aragon

By Fred McLaughlin

Author of "The Blade of Picardy"

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CHAPTER XIII

A Night of Madness

In the ancient calabozo of Valencia I stood upon the edge of a rough-hewn bunk and, holding to the iron bars of the window, watched a red sun go down behind the hills of Barquisimeto.

Alone and facing my last night of life, I lived, in fancy, through the swift passage of events that had filled the few short weeks since that night of moonlight madness in New Orleans. In actions, in emotions, in love and hate and fear, I had lived a long life in that brief space. I had met brave and honorable men whose friendship had proved a blessing to me; I had made enemies who had filled my soul with a passion for killing; I had seen patriotism in its highest form, had watched a man win an empire; aye, had assisted, even, in the winning of it, and I had spent my life in the service of a lovely lady. And I was carrying away with me to another— and surely more beautiful—world the blessing of her love.

Dulce herself had called my love a madness. Well . . . if madness might glorify one's life with such emotional bliss, then madness was indeed a blessing, and sanity a futile thing. It had been born, I remembered, all at once—that love for the Senorita. She had come, like an angel, out of the mellow moonlight, and love had overwhelmed me in an instant.

My worship had brought me here, here to a gloomy house of horrors which I would leave at dawn to face the rising sun and a file of armed soldiers. Yet I was glad of my service to the Senorita. Her brother was safe, and free of the menace of Colonel Pini, she was doubtless safe. Pini I had vanquished, yet Pini's dead hand reached out to crush me. How strangely doth fate direct our destiny, for, between two sons, the Senorita Lamartina should lose three suitors for her hand.

I laughed aloud at the sheer absurdity of the thing, and turning back to the iron door, found the guard standing there, tapping upon it. "Can you laugh at such a time, Senor?" "Why not?" "I do not know—yet a man seldom laughs at death."

"Is not a laugh easier to fashion?" He considered it. "Who knows?" He brightened up. "I have news. News of interest and profit to the Senor Americano. I would tell you, Senor, of a thing that shall give you freedom. He has returned, Senor."

I removed the futile bandage from her right arm and she put it, with the other, around my neck; so, holding each other close, we lived the swift sweet minutes, oblivious to storms, or wars, or prisons.

"You thought to trick me, eh?" She laughed lightly. "That clever subterfuge could never have been repeated, for there is a glory in the air where you abide. I can feel it, my love for you."

"Your love was ever a madness, Loren; it is such a thing that makes a saint."

"Yet no greater joy could ever come to me." She sighed. "It is so dark, dear heart," she whispered; "I want to see your hair, I want to see the love-light in your eyes—the light of worship that makes a woman happy—and I want to see you smile again."

"And I, dear heart, would look again upon the beauty of your eyes, would see into the purple depths of your eyes, would watch—and envy—tiny shining curls that caress—"

"Ah, my moon-wraith, how sweet a satisfaction is your love!" She laughed happily. "Love has never come to you before?"

"No, my own, and when it came it filled the world with glory." She was silent a moment, and I knew she visualized that night of madness before the Cabildo. "You seemed a wild thing in the silver moonlight, Loren."

"And you were a queen." "Your eyes were full of dreams—you seemed only half real."

"And your eyes turned the silver light to purple." "You—you loved me then, Loren?" "Aye, that instant. I think some gentle Providence put me there—to wait for you to come."

"You brought something, Loren, out of a chivalrous world, to lay before me; the gift of courage, my fine Americano—a thing so rare in this world." "A poor thing, my own."

"We notice courage, Loren, we— we worship it, and the man who possesses it requires little else."

I laughed ruefully, "I have little else—if, indeed, that, and that which you consider courage may be only recklessness."

De Luxe Velvet Suits Now "Say It"

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



THAT which fashion's followers are going to wear this fall and winter in the way of fur-trimmed velvet suits is enough to dazzle the eye of even the most sophisticated. There are no adjectives too extravagant to describe the elegance and beauty of these luxurious furred suits which are in promise for the coming months.

pile to the daintiest of transparent weaves while many leading designers are featuring the very new corded velvets in their collections. It is handsome corded velvet such as is being highlighted on the season's fabric program in a beguiling bottle green, which gives distinction to the patrician jacket-suit on the left of the trio illustrated.

FELTS SUPREME IN MILLINERY FIELD

TRIM WITH DARK FUR

Felts are again in the supremacy with a number of hats in velvet and some in fabrics and in antelope. Tailored felts have brims with a roll which is inclined to go up on the left and down on the right. Their trimming is tailored and flat, or of stiff little feathers, to give a touch of color contrast, or of grosgrain ribbon in the same shade. Most felts have noticeable brims and are variations of the sailor or bowler types.



Choice of Accessories Requires Consideration

Accessories make or break a costume—in the very beginning. It starts with choosing them. Bag and shoes match in color, for instance, and are of the same material. But bag and shoes do strike a pert and expert contrast with the rest of the ensemble—for that all-important surface interest, if for nothing else.

Long Evening Wrap of Velvet Is Newest Note

The long evening wrap of velvet is the newest note of the season. Short jackets and three-quarter wraps are with us in large numbers and their acceptance is unquestioned. Yet we believe it is to the long romantic looking wrap that most women will turn.

Dress of Black Satin Can Be Distinguished

A black satin dress, very simply made, and with relieving touches of white or mesh or beige satin, can be infinitely distinguished. It can be as formal or as informal as you please, depending on the occasion for which you wear it.

Sailor Suit Revived

The "sailor suit" has been revived. Its 1931 version is made of soft wool with a square collar and fagoting for trimming.

John Wesley's Thunder Against "Costly Silks"

I conjure you all who have any regard for me, show me before I go hence that I have not labored in vain for half a century. Let me see, before I die, a Methodist congregation full as plain dressed as a Quaker congregation. Only be more consistent with yourselves. Let your dress be cheap as well as plain. Otherwise you do but trifle with God and me and your own souls. I pray let there be no costly silks among you, how grave soever they may be. Let there be no Quaker linen, proverbially so-called for their exquisite fineness; no Brussels lace, no elephantine hats or bonnets, those scandals of female modesty.

living can afford to waste any part of what God has committed to his trust. And it is far worse than simple waste to spend any part of it on gay or costly apparel.—From John Wesley's Sermons.

Missionaries

The Missionary Research Library says that slightly more than half of the foreign missionaries are not sent from the United States and Canada. They go for most part from Great Britain, Germany, Holland, France, Switzerland, Scandinavia, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

World's Christians

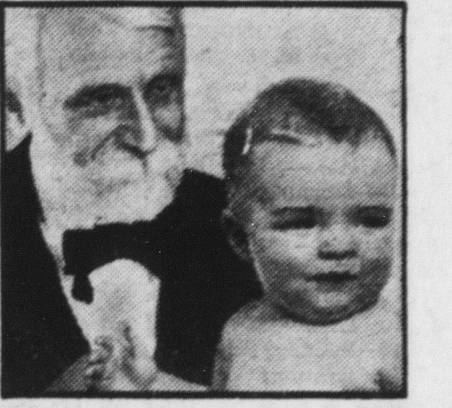
The total number of Christians in the world is estimated at about 882,400,000, about one-third of the total population.

SORE THROAT

FIVE minutes after you rub on Musterole your throat should begin to feel less sore! Continue the treatment once every hour for five hours and you'll be astonished at the relief. This famous blend of oil of mustard, camphor, menthol and other ingredients brings relief naturally. Musterole gets action because it is a "counter-irritant"—not just a salve—it penetrates and stimulates blood circulation and helps to draw out infection and pain. Used by millions for 20 years. Recommended by doctors and nurses. To Mothers—Musterole is also made in milder form for babies and small children. Ask for Children's Musterole.



Odd Wedding Guest
Gayly clad in white silk ribbon and her best purple coat, Rosie, an elephant at a private zoo in Grimby, England, attended the wedding of the head keeper, John Halth, to Alice Sillis. After the ceremony Rosie posed for her photograph with the bride on one side and the bridegroom on the other.



How to train BABY'S BOWELS

Babies, bottle-fed or breast-fed, with any tendency to be constipated, would thrive if they received daily half a teaspoonful of this old family doctor's prescription for the bowels. That is one sure way to train tiny bowels to healthy regularity. To avoid the fretfulness, vomiting, crying, failure to gain, and other ills of constipated babies.

DR. W. B. CALDWELL'S SYRUP PEPSIN

A Doctor's Family Laxative
Book Thief Sees the Light
Employees of the Muskegon public library came to work recently to find 69 volumes, stolen in 1929 and 1930, piled at the outside return box. A letter accompanying the books said the author had "forsaken the ways of sin," and asked forgiveness. "I am sorry that these are all the books I have left; I burned the other three boxes before I received the light," the note said.—Kansas City Star.

Miserable with Backache?

Heed Promptly Kidney and Bladder Irregularities
A nagging backache, with bladder irregularities and a tired, nervous, depressed feeling may warn of certain disordered kidney or bladder conditions. Users everywhere rely on Doan's Pills. This time-tested diuretic has been recommended for 50 years. Sold by all druggists.



Druggist Used One Gillette Style Blade for One Year With GLEE METHOD
The GLEE METHOD gives you cleaner and better shaves than with any blades. Send two dimes (20c) for the complete GLEE METHOD, and shave for one year with just one blade. NO OTHER COST. GLEE SHAVING COMPANY, 471 West Street, South City, Mo., U.S.A.