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SYNOPSIS.

Coq le Roi, the highwayman, otherwise known as the Little Red Man, was famous for his exploits at Paris, in the time of Louis XV. He is sleeping one night at a tavern in the stables, when a mysterious stranger brings him word that the house is surrounded by the officers of the lieutenant of police, M. de Sartines. The stranger helps him to escape through a secret passage in a wall. M. de Sartines, the evening after, his plans for the capture of Coq le Roi having failed, goes to dine at the house of Mlle. Corinne de Moutesson, a brilliant and fascinating lady of the court. He hopes to obtain sympathy and assistance from her, for she is familiar with the goings on of all the thieves and vagabonds in Paris. Mlle. de Moutesson astonishes him by being an old doctor, a friend of hers, relate to the lieutenant several exploits which Coq le Roi has performed since his escape. The lieutenant doubts these statements, when Corinne declares that he can ask the highwayman himself, who is now her guest, in another part of her palace.

PART IV.

She led the way from the room, while the lieutenant was still raving with his astonishment, and he, not knowing whether he stood upon his head or his heels, followed her into the courtyard of the old house, and thence across a pretty garden, darkened by great chestnut trees and labyrinth of bushes. The Hotel Beaufreillis, as Corinne's home was called, formed a part of the once royal palace of St. Paul; and many strange old towers and turrets and pavilions then stood in its beautiful gardens. It was to one of these pavilions that the girl now conducted Sartines; and the excellent lieutenant was not a little surprised to find two sturdy Swiss guards standing sentry at its iron-barred door. "Pardon," cried he, "you watch your guests well, my dear lady." "Nay," she cried, "it is the king's wish." "How? The king knows that the man is here?" "Certainly, or rather, he knows that I await him."

and to give him precise instructions for the good Coq le Roi. "Take a file of men," said he to the captain, "and surround the pavilion of St. Paul, in the garden of the Hotel Beaufreillis. Coq le Roi, the highwayman, is there. Shoot him if he attempts to leave the place. Otherwise, keep the guard posted until you hear from me."

The captain saluted and withdrew. When he had gone, Sartines called for a cup of wine and drank it at a draught. Then he took snuff in huge quantities, seeking vainly to compose his thoughts. "Dame," said he to himself, "what a tale to tell. That she should be the friend of assassins. And the king supports her. Either I am mad, or I have dreamed the things of this night. Jacques Cabot, her guest! Ciel—she will burn the Bastille next!"

Long he paced his apartment, his brain burning with his changing thoughts. Twelve o'clock rang out from Notre Dame, one o'clock was told by all the churches of Paris, and still his coach waited to carry him to his own house in the Faubourg St. Germain. At a quarter past one, when sleep had begun to battle with his perplexity, a new clatter of hoofs disturbed the silent courts of the Hotel de Ville, and awoke him from his stupor. He had scarce started up from his chair to learn the moment of the interruption, when a horseman, dripping wet and splashed from head to foot with mud, burst into his room and stood at the saluted before him.

"Well," cried Sartines, "I have the honor to inform your excellency," cried the man, "that Monsieur l'Abbe Lamotte was stopped upon the road to Cholsy at half-past ten to-night, and robbed of a hundred crowns by the man called Coq le Roi." "What?" roared Sartines, "at half-past ten. You lie, rogue—I was with Coq le Roi myself at that hour." "It is as I say, sir—I was one of the company, and I could pick the man from a thousand."



COQ LE ROI, THE HIGHWAYMAN. WAS SEEN THIS MORNING IN THE WOODS BEYOND YERES."

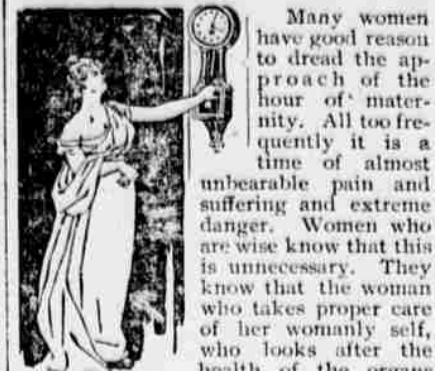
declared, either that he had dreamed the thing, or that these new stories were false. The king had made the robber a prisoner in this way, for some secret purpose. That purpose he must find out. Perhaps, after all, it was only his majesty's love for a pair of pretty blue eyes.

He arrived at Versailles at eight o'clock; but learnt to his chagrin that the king had set out to the hunt, and was not to return to the palace until the afternoon. This was an irritating foil to his plans; but he spent the day in seeking audiences of his friends, and endeavoring vainly to glean some hints from which he could forge a key to his perplexity. Disappointed in this, he conceived the notion of walking a little way in the park, and so of catching his majesty before he should be surrounded by the host of idlers and pleasure seekers who lay waiting to whisper a word into the royal ear.

The following appointments have been made on the Baltimore and Ohio: E. J. McCurdy has been appointed freight and ticket agent at Dunbar, Pa. vice G. Z. Hershberger. W. H. Walker has been appointed freight agent at Parkersburg, W. Va. vice John Adair. U. B. Williams has been appointed train master of the middle division with headquarters at Cumberland, Md.; J. E. Glenn has been appointed freight and ticket agent at Harrisonburg, Va. vice R. D. Douthat, resigned.

Advertisement for HOOD'S PILLS, featuring a portrait of George H. Sticher, Engine Dispatcher of the Morris and Essex Division.

more. Refusing even the coffee which his servants offered to him, he called for his coach and set out at a gallop for Versailles. No fool under any circumstances, this mystery seemed to be making a fool of him. He told himself, while he drove, that all Paris would be laughing at him before night fall. He could have wagered his life that he had seen Coq le Roi fast asleep in the turfed pavilion of Corinne's house. He years of age his father died, leaving his widow and four children, the eldest of which was fourteen years of age. The family continued to reside in Scranton and George went to work selling newspapers. At the age of fourteen we find him as a newsboy on the Lackawanna, in which position he attracted the notice of Watts Cooke, then master mechanic of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad at Scranton and now president of the Passaic Rolling Mill company, of Paterson, N. J. Mr. Cooke placed George in the shops to learn the machinist's trade, where he remained until he was nineteen years old, when his family having removed to New York, he obtained a transfer of position from Scranton to the machine shops at Hoboken. Mr. Sticher remained in Hoboken about a year when he was transferred to Chatham as engine dispatcher. At this time the late Samuel Schoch was superintending and Luke Tronson master mechanic of the Morris and Essex division, and the Boonton branch was in the course of construction. He remained at Chatham until the branch was opened, when he was transferred to Port Morris as dispatcher. He was afterwards transferred to Hoboken and from that point to Newark in a similar position. When assuming charge at Newark he was twenty-two years of age. He remained at Newark until when he was transferred to the position of engineer of the Dover express train, which position he held until his promotion as engine dispatcher last March. Mr. Sticher has for the past twenty-five years been prominently identified with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. He was one of the organizers of Division 171, of Hoboken, and has been chief engineer of that division for ten terms and their representative to three conventions, viz., New York, Pittsburg and New Orleans. Mr. Sticher was also one of the organizers of the general legislative board of railroad employees of New Jersey and is a member of the executive board of that body, representing the Morris and Essex Railroad Employees' association.



Many women have good reason to dread the approach of maternity. All too frequently it is a time of almost unbearable pain and suffering and extreme danger. Women who are wise know that this is unnecessary. They know that the woman who takes proper care of her womanly self, who looks after the health of the organs that make motherhood possible, need have no fear of approaching maternity. They know that there is a sure and safe cure for all weakness and disease of these organs. Over seven hundred women have testified in writing to the virtues of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

It is the discovery of Dr. R. V. Pierce, a regularly graduated physician and an eminent skillful specialist, who is and for thirty years has been chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, at Buffalo, N. Y. This "Favorite Prescription" makes the organs of womanhood strong and healthy. It cures all weakness and disease. It prepares for approaching maternity. It does away with the discomforts of the expectant period. It alleviates the pains of parturition and makes baby's advent easy and safe. Druggists sell more of it than of all other remedies for these troubles combined.

Woman should know herself. She should not be dependent in every emergency great and small upon a physician. She should be familiar with her own physical make-up. Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser will reveal a world of important truths to the woman who is ignorant upon these points. It contains many chapters and illustrations devoted to the reproductive physiology of women. It is written in plain, straightforward language. The book contains a full, up-to-date list of all the remedies that will be mailed absolutely free to any one who sends twenty-one one-cent stamps, to cover the cost of mailing only, to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, No. 663, Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y. Cloth binding, 25 cents; paper back extra, thirty-one cents in all.

Advertisement for Crown Camel Oil, described as the best light in the world and absolutely safe for sale by Atlantic Refining Co. Scranton Station.

Advertisement for the Canadian Pacific R'y, located in the finest fishing and hunting grounds in the world, offering first-class sleeping and dining cars.

Advertisement for Pennyroyal Pills, featuring a testimonial from Sarah Bernhard, a well-known actress.

Advertisement for Pennyroyal Pills, highlighting its effectiveness for various ailments.

Advertisement for Reviv, a health tonic that restores vitality and makes a well man of a weak man.

Advertisement for the French Remedy, a powerful treatment for various ailments and weaknesses.

Advertisement for THE LEADER newspaper, featuring an immense clearance sale beginning Monday, January 4th, at 124-126 Wyoming Ave.

Advertisement for SILKS AND DRESS GOODS, offering special bargains in cloaks and jackets at the Leader's department.

Advertisement for LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD SYSTEM, listing various routes and services.

Advertisement for JAMES MOIR, THE MERCHANT TAILOR, located at 402 Lackawanna Avenue, offering a full line of woolsens.

Advertisement for MOOSIC POWDER CO., a mining and blasting powder company located in Scranton, Pa.

Advertisement for PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD, listing various routes and services.

Advertisement for Houses for Sale or Rent, including a list of properties for sale and rental.



AND THERE HE SAW COQ LE ROI.

sea, and clothes which spoke of long hours in the saddle, you might have taken him for a hunchback of Notre Dame or a tailor of the Rue St. Germain. All the city called him the "Little Red Man," and the title fitted him like a glove. When Sartines then saw him he was sleeping, still dressed, upon a couch, and the light from mademoiselle's lantern, playing upon his strange face, lit up features which might have been those of a girl. Beyond this, the man was splashed to his shoulders with mud; and two great pistols he always carried, were displayed threateningly upon the table, beside the relics of the admirable supper he had just partaken of.

messenger was speaking to him, he found himself looking instinctively for the diamond ring upon the third finger of his left hand. It still glistened there, and he chuckled grimly when he saw it. "Bah," said he, "it is the king's jest. He has posted his own guards in the Rue St. Paul, and tomorrow he will deliver up Cabot to my charge. His words prove that. 'Until he shall steal the diamond ring from the finger of Monsieur de Sartines.' Dame, if the liberty of Coq le Roi depend upon that, he will remain a prisoner until the day of judgment. Steal my ring—ciel, I would like to see the man you could do it."

"The thought somewhat comforted him. He determined to go to his son's house, and to get what sleep he could before dawn broke. He said that this report of a new outrage must be untrue, since Coq le Roi was watched by his own guards in the Rue St. Paul. He remembered that the king was still at Versailles, and that, if luck were willing, he would be able to find his mistress there in the early hours of daylight. As for the stupendous mystery now hovering about the Hotel Beaufreillis and Corinne de Moutesson, his tired brain could not grapple with that. He swore when he thought of it. He recalled the days when the people had declared the girl to be a witch. At last, only to dream that Coq le Roi had stolen his ring, and that the king himself was wearing it."

"The sun had been up an hour, when the lieutenant awoke from his troubled sleep. He found his valet standing at his bedside, prostrate in apology for the intrusion."

"I am sorry to disturb your excellency," he said, "but there is a mounted messenger below who has news which will not wait." "Send him up," cried the lieutenant, springing from his bed and beginning to dress hurriedly. "Does he come from the Provost?" "I know nothing," said the man, "save that he craves audience." A moment later, the messenger, one of the new guard, was saluting his chief.

Advertisement for Political Handbook and Household Encyclopedia. Price 25c. For 1897 is the most complete work of its kind ever published in this locality. The demand for this very valuable work has greatly exceeded our expectations, and we were compelled to print a second edition, as the demand from our carriers, nearly all of whom returned for a second supply, completely exhausted the entire first edition. The second edition is now ready, and can be purchased at our Business Office at TWENTY-FIVE CENTS A COPY. No home should be without this most valuable reference work.