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BARDELYS The Magnificent
by RAFAEL SABATINI

(Continued)

She rewarded me with a smile—half vicious, half whimsical, and mounted the step. Saint-Eustache would have interfered. He came at me as if resenting that shoulder-thrust of mine and for a second I almost thought he would have committed the madness of striking me.

"Take care, Saint-Eustache," I said very quietly, my eyes fixed on his. And much as dead Caesar's ghost may have threatened Brutus with Philip—"We meet at Toulouse, Chevalier," said I, and closing the carriage door I stepped back.

There was a flutter of skirts behind me. It was mademoiselle. So grave and outwardly so calm until now, the moment of actual separation—and added thereto perhaps her mother's going and the keenness that for herself she foresaw—proved more than she could endure. I stepped aside, and she swept past me and caught at the leather curtain of the coach.

"Father!" she sobbed.

There are some things that a man of breeding may not witness—some things to look upon which is near akin to eavesdropping or reading the letters of another. Such a scene did I now account the present one, and, turning, I moved away. But Saint-Eustache cut it short, for scarce had I taken three paces when his voice rang out the common to move. The driver hesitated, for the girl was still hanging at the window. But a second command, accompanied by a vigorous oath, overcame his hesitation. He gathered up his reins, cracked his whip, and the lumbering wheels began to move.

"Have a care, child!" I heard the vicomte cry—"have a care! Adieu, mon enfant!"

She sprang back, sobbing, and assuredly she would have fallen, thrown out of balance by the movement of the coach, but that I put forth my hands and caught her. I do not think she knew whose were the arms that held her for that brief space, so desolated was she by the grief so long repressed. At last she realized that it was this worthless Bardelys against whom she rested; this man who had wedged that he would win and wed her; this impostor who had come to her under an assumed name; this knave who had led her as no gentleman could have led, swearing to love her, whilst, in reality, he did no more than seek to win a wager. When all this she realized, she shuddered a second, then moved abruptly from my grasp, and without so much as a glance at me, she left me, and ascending the steps of the chateau, she passed from my sight.

I gave the order to dismount as the last of Saint-Eustache's followers vanished under the portcullis.

CHAPTER XIX
THE FLINT AND THE STEEL

"Mademoiselle will see you, monsieur," said Anatole at last.

Twice already had he carried unwillingly my request that Roxalanne should accord me an interview ere I departed. On this third occasion I had bidden him say that I would not stir from Lavedan until he had done me the honor of hearing me. Seemingly that threat had prevailed where entrance had been scorned.

I followed Anatole from the hall, light of the hall in which I had been pacing into the salon over-looking the terraces and the river, where Roxalanne awaited me. She was standing at the farther end of the room by one of the long windows which was open, for although we were already in the first week of October, the air of Languedoc was as warm and balmy as that of Paris or Picardy in summer.

I advanced to the center of the chamber, and there I paused and waited until it should please her to acknowledge my presence and turn to face me. I was no flogging, I had seen much, I had learnt much and been in many places, and my bearing was wont to convey it. Never in my life had I been so gentle, for which my parents, and if years ago—long years ago—a certain timidity had marked my first introductions to the Louvre and the Luxembourg, that timidity was something from which I had long since parted company. And yet it seemed to me, as I stood in that pretty, sunlit room awaiting the pleasure of that child, scarce out of her teens, that some of the awkwardness I had escaped in earlier years, some of the timidity of long ago, came to me then. I shifted the weight of my body from one leg to the other; I fingered the table by which I stood; I pulled at the hat I held; my color came and went; I looked at her furtively and when I looked at her brows and under her bent back being towards me she might not see the clown I must have seemed.

At length, unable longer to brook that discomposing silence—"Mademoiselle!" I called softly. The sound of my own voice seemed to invigorate me, to strip me of my awkwardness and self-consciousness. It broke the spell that for a moment had been over me, and brought me back to myself—to the vain, self-confident, flamboyant Bardelys that perhaps you have pictured from my writings.

"I hope, monsieur," she answered, without turning, "that what you may have to say may justify in

REPORTS OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF P. E. ISLAND

North River Ninjas members attended the January meeting of this Branch held at the home of Mrs. John Moreside. The meeting opened in the usual manner but on account of the absence of so many members there were no reports from different committees. At the conclusion of the business meeting, a pleasant social hour was enjoyed, and the conclusion of which refreshments were served. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Edison Mutch, when roll call will be answered with "Different Ways of Using Potatoes."

"Helping Hand" The first regular meeting of this new institute was held at the home of Mrs. George MacLean, Lewis Lot 60 with an attendance of seven members and one visitor. The meeting opened by singing the Ode and roll call was answered with "My Earliest Recollection." The minutes of the organization meeting were read, approved and signed. Branch Convenors were appointed. Interesting readings by the Misses Mary and Margaret MacLean were enjoyed. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Thomas MacPherson and a special roll call answer was chosen. The business meeting closed by repeating the Creed in unison. Lunch was then served and a social hour greatly enjoyed.

Elmira The January meeting of this Branch was held at the home of Miss Margaret Bailey with an attendance of eight members and three visitors. Roll call was answered with New Year's Resolutions for the Institute. The regular business routine was carried out. The New Library was discussed and Mrs. Stephen Mellick was appointed Librarian. In this connection, it was decided to subscribe to magazines, and also to buy some books from Lakewick Institute. The holding of a Concert was discussed and January 29th chosen as a suitable date for same. The following program was discussed and given: Recitation, "The Padm's of Ann's Fear" read by the Secretary, Miss Campbell; Accordion selections by Mrs. Bailey and Violin selections by Mr. Bailey. The meeting closed with the national Anthem. The members will meet next month with Mrs. M. Campbell.

Seal River North Seven members and two visitors attended the January meeting of this Institute held in the schoolhouse on the 5th inst. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and discussed. Reports of committees given and commented upon. Lea MacDonald and Mrs. Alex. McDonald appointed to visit the school in February. Roll call was answered with "My Earliest Recollection." It was decided to hold a "What's New" party on February 5th, the proceeds from which to be given to charity. Lunch was served by the members. The next meeting will be held in the school.

St. Peter's South Eight members met at the home of Mrs. Chester Pratt on December 29th where the regular meeting of this Institute was held. The meeting opened with the Ode and roll call was responded to with "The Christmas Recollection." Several business matters were discussed. The Pump for the school had been completed. Proceeds from the Christmas concert read, it was decided to install a Hot Lunch System in the School and Mrs. Power the necessary articles. A committee of two ladies were appointed to visit a former member who is sick. It was decided also to buy a new wash basin for the school. The business meeting was brought to a close by singing "Love's Old Sweet Song" after which refreshments were served by the hostess and a social hour was enjoyed. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Milton Wayne.

Lower Montague On December 17th, seven members and two visitors met at the home of Mrs. H. H. Horton where the regular meeting of this Branch was held. The meeting opened by singing the Christmas Carol after which the Creed was repeated. Roll call was answered with Christmas verses and the minutes of the last meeting read and adopted. Mrs. Schriener reported that a new curtain had been hung in the Hall, and also that the walls of the interior had been kalsomined by the Women's Institute. It was also reported that shades had been bought for the school. Arrangements are being made to begin work for a Bazaar. Mrs. George Anear read a paper entitled "The Kinds of Members." A nice lunch was served by the hostess and the meeting adjourned with the National Anthem. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. George Anear.

Alberton South Eight members and three visitors attended the January meeting of this Institute held at the schoolhouse. The meeting opened in the usual manner and it was reported that the splendid sum of \$70.10 had been realized at a recent bazaar. Two short readings were enjoyed by the members. This Institute is grateful to S. R. Burke of Alberton, for a gift of \$15.00. A committee of four ladies, Mrs. Hutt, Mrs. MacNeill, Mrs. H. Fraser and Mrs. C. Perry were appointed to bring lunch to the next meeting which will be held in the schoolhouse, and to which each member is asked to bring a visitor.

Springfield On December 31st, seven members and five visitors met at the home of Mrs. H. B. Haslam where the regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held. The meeting opened with the Ode, and roll call was answered with "My Favorite Vegetable and How I Prepare It." Bills amounting to \$15.60, in connection with the School Christmas Tree, the new chair and coat hooks for the school, were paid. Plans were made for holding an entertainment and box social on January 21st. One new member was welcomed. Some of the members read a play, entitled, "Sewing for the Heathen" and it was decided to learn it. Lunch was served and the meeting closed with the National Anthem.

Cardigan Eight members attended the December meeting of this Branch, held at the home of Mrs. James E. MacDonald. The usual routine was carried out, and owing to the small attendance due to inclement weather, no new business was taken up. Two interesting papers were read by Mrs. J. E. and Mrs. J. A. MacDonald. Lunch was served and the meeting closed with the National Anthem. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. P. D. Murphy.

"Golden Rule" The first regular meeting of this new Institute was held at the home of Mrs. John Stewart, Mrs. with an attendance of eight members. The meeting opened with the Creed and the members fees paid. Various committees were appointed and the third Friday of each month was chosen as the regular date of meeting. Mrs. Hume and Mrs. Purchase were appointed to visit the Sick and Mrs. Stewart and Miss Morrison to visit the schools. Papers were read and a social hour enjoyed. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Purchase, Mr. Vernon.

"Avonia" Ten members and five visitors attended the December meeting of this Institute held at the home of Mrs. Townsend MacNeill. The meeting opened in the usual manner and roll call was answered with "The Christmas Recollection." Reports of Rustic committees were given and the Cavendish committees were re-elected. It was decided to hold a "Burn's Night" at the next regular meeting. Enjoyed recitations were given by Mrs. B. C. Wolcott, Jennie MacNeill and Dorothy Toulson. Lunch was served and a social hour enjoyed. The meeting closed by singing "Auld Lang Syne."

Pleasant Valley On December 14th, nine members and two visitors attended the regular meeting of this Branch, held at the home of Mrs. James E. MacDonald. The meeting opened by singing the Ode and roll call was answered with "My Earliest Recollection." Minutes were read and adopted. Reports of various committees were given, including that of the Secretary who reported that \$19.65 were the proceeds from the Bean Supper. Various bills were presented and paid and new committees appointed. Arrangements were made for the Christmas Tree in the school and it was decided to supply a gift for each pupil. Two new members welcomed. Lunch was served and a social hour enjoyed. The meeting closed with the National Anthem when roll call will be answered with "How I would Spend \$1,000."

"Lakeview" The December meeting of this Institute was held at the home of Mrs. E. D. Fraser with eighteen members and one visitor present. The meeting opened by singing O Canada, and roll call was answered with suggestions for inexpensive Christmas gifts and Christmas Dots. Some discussion took place on securing a music teacher for the surrounding districts. It was decided to sell some of the Library books that had been used by all the members and to purchase new ones. An interesting program was carried out and consisted of the following: A Recitation by Mrs. S. J. Rose, "My Josiah," Community Singing and a Demonstration on "Trifle Sweet" by Miss Marjorie Rose. Those who attended a hearty vote of thanks for her helpful demonstration. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. J. E. Dingwell when roll call will be answered with a "New Year's Verse." This Institute mourns the loss of a valued member, the late Mrs. M. C. McDonald, and extends deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Hazel Grove Institute met on December 18th at the home of Mrs. Catherine Buchanan with an attendance of seven members and five visitors. The meeting opened in the usual manner and arrangements were made for a Christmas Treat for the school children. It was moved, seconded and carried that Mrs. Ben Craswell buy material for making bloomers for the Orphanage. Sick and school committees were appointed. The next meeting will be at the home of Miss Edith Buchanan when roll call will be answered with Jokes.

Central Bedford Six members and four visitors attended the January meeting of this Institute which was held at the home of Mrs. George Green. The meeting opened by repeating the Creed, followed by roll call and minutes. The members decided to send flowers to Mrs. A. Schurman. Plans were made for completing the top of the quilt at the next meeting. The remainder of the evening was spent socially. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. John Frizel.

Peter's Road Eight members and one visitor attended the December meeting of this Institute held at the home of Mrs. Ben Reid. The meeting opened with the Creed and the minutes read and approved. An interesting reading "Bell Across the Snow" was given by Miss Leon Johnson. Lunch was served and a social hour enjoyed. After singing the national Anthem, the meeting adjourned, to meet next month with Mrs. Fred Johnson.

Montague Institute held their January meeting in the League Rooms with an attendance of fifteen members and one visitor. The meeting opened by reading the Institute Creed and reports of school and sick committees were heard and new committees appointed. Mrs. Fraser gave an interesting talk on the history of the community. Committees were appointed to look after the treats for the children at the opening of the school, also for other matters connected with this important event. Plans were made for holding a big Bazaar and Valentine Supper, the proceeds to be for the new school. A committee was appointed to entertain the members at the next regular meeting with the Life and Readings of Lucy Maud Montgomery. One new member was welcomed.

Rollo Bay West Thirteen members and five visitors attended the first regular monthly meeting of this new Institute which was held at the home of Mrs. James McCormick. The meeting opened by singing the Ode, members were enrolled and fees paid. A discussion was held on the ways and means of raising money and plans made for holding a "What's New" party in the school in January. A committee was appointed to visit the school once a month and it was decided that the school should be scrubbed by the members monthly. At the conclusion of the business meeting, lunch was served by the hostess and a social hour enjoyed. Instrumental music was furnished and the meeting closed with the National Anthem. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. James McKinnon when roll call will be answered with Valentine Verses.

Mt. Albon The January meeting of this Branch was held at the home of Mrs. Robert Jenkins with an attendance of fourteen members and several visitors. Three new members were welcomed. The meeting opened in the usual manner with Roll call and the reading and approval of the minutes. The members decided to treat the school children at the semi-annual examination held in January. The members decided to extend an invitation to the Supervisor to attend the February meeting which is to be held at the home of Mrs. Benj. Horton. The meeting closed by singing the National Anthem. At this meeting, among the new work undertaken was the planning of a New Social and Concert to be held in the near future.

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Sheltered Employment Workshops still continue to be of benefit to ex-members of the forces who find it impossible to obtain employment owing to their disabilities.

The staff of the Department shows a further reduction, the number at the 31st March, 1925, being 2,418, as against 2,922 a year previously. 94.5 per cent. of the male staff are returned soldiers. Since the end of the fiscal year there has been a further reduction in the staff, the number on the 31st October being 2,212, which includes all Doctors, Nurses, Orderlies and staff in hospitals, as well as the employees of the orthopaedic and Surgical appliance workshops and offices of the Department.

Under the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Division the number of policies in force on the 31st March was 27,517, representing an insurance of \$61,328,306.00. This Division has been operating during the year with the collection of premiums, a large proportion of which are payable monthly, and the payment of death claims under the existing policies, the latter numbering 272. The total amount collected for premiums was \$1,618,983.99.

The report sets forth very clearly how the moneys appropriated by Parliament have been applied. The total expenditure during the fiscal year was \$52,064,289.35. Of this amount more than \$43,000,000.00 was paid direct to men and dependents in cash, these payments consisting of pensions, pay and allowances, relief, etc. Over \$5,000,000.00 was paid for hospital treatment, orthopaedic appliances, transportation, funeral expenses, etc. There are certain other items, such as payments to outside organizations, a small amount of capital expenditure, and about one and one-half million dollars for recoverable expenditure and casual revenue. The total cost of administration including salaries, telephones, telegrams, transportation, stationery, rent, light, heat, etc., amounts to \$1,946,184.25, or 3.816 per cent. on the turnover of the Department. The cost one year previously was 1.863 per cent., so that a reduction of one per cent has been effected. The expenditure on Canadian pensions shows an increase of \$1,421,426.86, while the cost of administration shows a net decrease of \$532,160.82.

SOLDIERS' REESTABLISHMENT

The report of the Department of Soldiers' Re-establishment for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1925, was tabled today in the Senate by the Honorable H. S. Ireland, Minister of that Department. A study of this Report indicates that the work of the Department is being ably administered and that every effort has been put forth during the fiscal year to reduce the cost of operation and administration. Some of the figures quoted are of more than passing interest. 3,529 patients were undergoing treatment as against 3,834 one year previously. The clinic treatments still show an average of 11,920 per week and the pensions examinations \$41 per week. Some of the divisions of the Report indicate the scope of the Department's activities, which are as follows:—General treatment, treatment of tuberculosis, treatment for mental diseases; Dental Services; Employment; Relief; Sheltered Employment; Returned Soldiers' Insurance; Prosthetic and Surgical Appliances; Pay and Pensions; Imperial Division; Engineering Division; Purchasing and Stores; Accounts Division.

The amount expended on unemployment relief was some \$90,000.00 greater than the previous year, the total amount of relief orders being \$406,327.90, covering individual applications amounting to 40,704.

Reference is made to three Rehabilitation Committees consisting of public spirited men in the cities of Toronto, Montreal and Edmonton, and the excellent work being done through concentrated effort by these committees in the placement of ex-members of the forces in employment.

It is gratifying to note that the

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DON'T MIND IF I DO, OTIS. TRY ONE OF MY CORONAS.

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THIS MORNING A FRIEND OF MINE GAVE ME SUCH A BUNK ONE THAT IT KNOCKED ME FOR A WOP AND I GOT TO GET EVEN.

HAVE ANOTHER CIGAR, OTIS, NOthin' LIKE A SMOKE AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK.

NO THANKS, JOHN

I SWORE OFF THIS AFTERNOON

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