

A LOVE SONG.

By the Great Marquis of Montrose, A. D., 1646.

COMMUNICATED BY VICH DHOMNUL NAN ORD.

My dear and only Love, I pray The little world of Thee Be governed by no other sway But purest Monarchy!

As Alexander I will reign, And I will reign alone! My thoughts did evermore disdain A rival on my Throne.

But I will reign, and govern still, And always give the Law; And have each subject to my will, And all to stand in awe.

But if no faithless action stain Thy love and constant ward, I'll make thee famous by my pen, And glorious by my sword.

A GRENADEER OF FRANCE.

On the morning of the 15th of May, in the year 1756, the sun arose in all its splendour over the fertile plains of Brittany; upon the roof of every house in the little village of Carhaix were reflected the brilliant rays.

The "scene" of action having been reached, the parties took up their respective positions. The attack commenced and amid the general din a stout battle was fought. Shill were the pigny words of command to advance to the charge or retreat given by the youthful leaders, who endeavoured in vain to deepen their voices as though to impart solemnly to the mimic scene and occasionally might be heard the rallying cry after a partial reverse; so that the battle was energetically preserved, until at length the contending forces, finding themselves exhausted by the severity of the engagement, came to a truce and sat down upon the cool refreshing grass (the battlefield) for momentary repose.

After a slight cessation of hostilities, one of the most spirited of the army of "young France" who had scarcely recovered his breath (and whose chubby face was besmeared with paint, which the heat had caused to run farther than was anticipated), evinced a seemingly inclination to resume the combat ere the rays of the declining sun had disappeared beyond the horizon.

"What shall we play now?" "It's tedious," said another, "to be always playing at the same game."

"Hold!" observed a third, "look yonder at that old blind man approaching towards us; look at his spangle!"

"Is he not ugly!" cried the children. At this moment the old man, who was within a few paces of them, approached close to the juvenile camp, and addressing the youngsters in a supplicating tone said:

"Charity, if you please, my dear little gentlemen, charity," and the dog with the intelligence natural to his species, seemed to assume a sorrowful and resigned countenance.

Meanwhile, the mischievous idea entered into the head of one of the children to cut the string attached to the dog's collar, and release the canine from its blind owner, for which purpose the boy raised himself from the grass and drew a knife from his pocket. Most of his companions, without reflection, responded to the proposal with loud huzzas, when, on an instant, one of the party started up, pale with anger and indignation.

"You shall not do it," cried he, "you shall not commit so unworthy an action."

"Who dares prevent me?" said the other, at the same moment snatching the action to the word by severing the cord.

The old man, finding himself no longer guided by his faithful dog, uttered lamentable cries, and the poor animal, regretting the liberty that had been given him in spite of himself, licked mournfully the hand of his afflicted master.

"You are a coward thus to attack and insult the blind," cried the boy, who had refused to listen to the proposal; and rushing upon his comrade and throwing him down upon his knees, in which position he held him, he exclaimed:

"Now repair your fault, and give this old man the money you have in your purse; I hear some crowns clinking in your pocket."

Refusal was out of the question, and the mischievous youngster was obliged to deliver up the contents of the purse to his bold companion, who, after allowing the former—burning with shame and anger—to rise from his vanquished position, advanced towards the dog's neck, and drawing from his own pocket book double the pieces of money he had forced from his thoughtless playmate, said in a goodnatured tone:

"Here my good man, this will purchase you bread for some time to come. My friend is willing through this means to atone for his fault by doing you good."

But Tour d'Auvergne declined to accept the proffered honour, and, laughing, he replied: "I prefer to remain a private soldier!" No life had ever been turned to better account than that of Tour d'Auvergne, the child—destined in maturer years to figure as a distinguished soldier—no soul more generous—no heart more courageous and disinterested. The hero of modern days equalled in his plainness the warriors of ancient times. Like Eschylus—at once a writer and a soldier—Tour d'Auvergne knew how to handle the pen as well as the sword; and the same hand that in the morning had grasped the sabre, was in the evening directed to writing works of erudition and talent.

In the year 1781, Tour d'Auvergne was admitted as a volunteer into the army of Spain that besieged Mahon, then in the power of the British. He refused to accept of either rank or recompense, although he contributed materially toward the success of the enterprise. He signalized himself by acts of great bravery; nevertheless, he only sought an outward satisfaction, rather than the praise of his superiors or the applause of the crowd.

On another occasion, being surprised and taken prisoner by the English, the officer wanted to deprive him of his cockade; but Tour d'Auvergne indignantly snatching it from his cap, attached it to the point of his sword, exclaiming; "There it is! tell him to come and take it!"

At the period of the French revolution, Tour d'Auvergne was made a captain, his modesty and simplicity dictating the refusal of a colonelcy which was offered him; and it was at the head of his company, afterwards distinguished as "The Infernal Column," that he led the assault, and on several occasions routed the battalions of the enemy. At length, old and fatigued, he left the army and returned to Paris, where he learned that the son of his friend was about to depart for the war as a conscript. Tour d'Auvergne however, without a moment's hesitation engaged himself as a substitute, and enrolling himself once more as a volunteer, hastened, with knapsack on his back, to rejoin as a private that army in which he had fought as a superior officer.

France was at that time at war with Austria and Tour d'Auvergne, now 50 years of age, found the opportunity of again displaying energy and boldness. A party of Hungarian grenadiers were desirous of seizing upon a windmill, in which had been placed a store of arms and a quantity of gun powder; but so sharp and deadly was the fire kept from within, that the Hungarians were compelled to retire, with much loss. At length after many hours of heroic defence, the besieged garrison in the mill demanded permission to capitulate; a window opened, and a soldier presented himself. It was Tour d'Auvergne.

"We desire," said he, addressing the enemy, "to evacuate our quarters with all the honours of war, with arms and baggage, drum beating, and colours flying."

These conditions were acceded to by the Austrian chief, who accordingly drew up his men in two lines, to receive the devoted garrison of the windmill. Tour d'Auvergne then slowly descended the steps of the mill, with musket shouldered, and passing between the double ranks of the enemy's bayonets, presented himself before the Austrian officer.

"Well," observed the commander, "where, then, is the garrison?" "Here it is!" replied Tour d'Auvergne, raising his hand, a la militaire, to his cap.

"But where is it, then?" again asked the officer. "Here!" repeated Tour d'Auvergne.

"What! you alone?" observed the Austrian. "I was alone in the windmill," rejoined the veteran; "I was the only garrison!" It was then that Napoleon, admiring the courage of the soldier, and not knowing how to recompense him worthily for his gallant deeds, conferred on Tour d'Auvergne the title of the "First Grenadier of France," sending him at the same time a sabre of honour in compliment of his services. The brave grenadier, desiring still further to show his appreciation of the honours conferred upon him, persisted—in spite of his age and suffering—in remaining with the army of operations. "I ought not to die in my bed," he said to his friends; "I ought rather to perish on the field of battle in the midst of my brave comrades!"

These heroic words were fulfilled on the 25th of June, 1800. He fell mortally wounded, having been pierced with a lance. Thus was his prediction realized.

The old soldiers of the army—those of the gray moustache and furrowed brow, who had never shed a tear since the days of their childhood—wept for their illustrious companion in arms and went into military mourning for his loss. His sabre of honour was deposited amid great pomp in the Hotel des Invalides in Paris, and his name was honorably retained on the regimental roll. His heart, enclosed in a golden case was entrusted to the senior sergeant, whose post was that next to the ensign bearing the colours of the Forty-sixth demi-brigade; and every day at parade, at the call of the name of "Theophile-Malo Corret de la Tour d'Auvergne," the oldest of the grenadier company responded, "Died on the field of honour!"

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Abstract of 35th Annual Report to 30th April, 1882:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. 1. Assets 30th April, 1882. \$5,064,206.65. 2. Income for the year. 1,008,164.34. 3. Income from interest (included in above). 271,232.62. 4. Claims by death and matured endowments. 212,041.86. 5. Do, as estimated by the Company's tables and provided for. 362,858.00. 6. Difference in Company's favor between actual and estimated death rate. 150,816.14. 7. Excess of interest revenue over d.a.h. claims. 59,190.76.

NEW BUSINESS is nearly a FORTIFTH of the returns of 1881 of the 34 Licensed Companies. TOTAL on the Company's Books EXCEEDS A FOURTH of the entire amount in force in Canada. BONUSES ADDITIONS to Life Policies for the past fifteen years have added \$375 to each \$1,000 of Assurance. CASH PROFITS for same period have been from 35 to 39 per cent. of all premiums paid according to age at entry.

Abstract of Life Insurance in Canada for the Year 1881: (Condensed from the Superintendent's Annual Report for 1881.)

Table with 4 columns: Premiums for year, Amount of Policies New, Number of Policies in force at date, Net Amount in force at date. Canada Life: \$968,111, \$3,014,739, 13,998, \$24,904,171. Citizens: 21,168, 163,700, 697, 1,032,354. Confederation: 214,738, 1,917,214, 5,378, 6,063,279. Sun: 37,307, 420,000, 1,263, 1,571,568. North American: 34,353, 1,410,284, 1,316, 1,127,212. Life: 148,564, 1,671,708, 3,047, 4,920,157. Aetna: 403,597, 1,821,362, 9,087, 11,370,008. Equitable: 220,365, 1,079,000, 2,065, 6,449,617. Union Mutual: 94,804, 472,050, 1,925, 2,885,028. Standard: 194,724, 1,072,000, 3,289, 6,870,000.

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