

THE WAR-TRAIL!

CHAPTER XLVI (CONTINUED).

"I do, se orita." "Bravo, capitain! Proceed! I shall answer you in all sincerity." "Then, lady, what I would ask—Who is this Cyprio whom you expected?" "Cyprio! Ha, ha, ha! Who should Cyprio be but my mox; he who carried my message to you. Why do you put such a question!" "He who carried your message to me?" "Of course. Yonder is the muchacho himself. Hola, Cyprio! you may return to the house. Carrambo, capitain! both he and you must have sped well. I do not expect you for half an hour; but you soldiers are so soon in the saddle. So much the better, for it is getting late and I have a great deal to say to you." A fight had broke upon me. 'Twas Cyprio I had passed in the forest shade; the boy was the bearer of a message—hence his having hailed me. 'Twas I who was expected to keep the assignation; 'twas I for whom the timepiece had been consulted—for whom those earnest glances had been given! The bitter moments were past, and my heart swelled anew with proud and pleasant emotions. As yet she knew not that I had come without invitation. Cyprio, at the word of command, had gone off without making any reply, and my prompt appearance upon the ground was left unexplained. I was about to account for it, and offer some apology for my brusque behaviour, when I was challenged to the confession I had just promised. Minor thoughts gave way before the important purpose I had formed, and to which the banter now recalled me. So fair an opportunity might never offer again. In the vicissitudes of a soldier's life, the chance of to-day should not be disregarded—to-morrow may bring change either in the scene or the circumstances; and I was skilled enough in love-love to know that an hour unimproved is often followed by an age of regrets. But, in truth, I do some wrong to my character; I was but little under the influence of such cunning cognizance at that moment. I acted not by volition, but rather under pressure of a passion that held complete mastery over my will, and compelled me to the declaration I was about to make. It was simple enough—three little words in either of the two sweet tongues in which we understood each other. I chose the one—of all others most attuned to the tones of the loving heart—and gazing into the liquid depths of those large inquiring eyes, I whispered the sweet, though oft-repeated phrase: "Yo te ano!" The words quivered upon my lips, but their tone proved the sincerity in which I had spoken. No doubt it was further manifest by the earnestness of my manner as I awaited her reply. The habitual smile had departed from her lips; the damask red deepened and rose higher upon her cheeks; the dark fringes drooped downward, and half concealed the burning orbs beneath; the face of the gay girl had suddenly assumed the serious air of womanhood. At first I was terrified by the expression, and could scarcely control my dread; but I drew hope from the flushed cheek, the roseate neck, the swelling bosom. Emotions were stirring in that breast. Oh, what emotions! Will she not speak? Will she not declare them? There was a long interval of silence—to me, it seemed an age. "Senor," she said at length—"twas the first time I had heard that voice tremble—"Senor, you promised to be candid; you have been so; are you equally sincere?" "I have spoken from the depth of my soul." The long lashes were raised, and the love light gleamed from her liquid eyes, for a moment it burned steadily, bathing my heart as with balm. Heaven itself could not have shed a brighter beam upon my spirit. All at once a smile played upon her features, in which I detected, or fancied so, the gay insouciance that springs from indifference. To me it was another moment of pain. She continued: "And pray, capitain, what would you have me do?" I felt embarrassed, and replied not. "Would you have me declare that I love you?" "Oh! you cannot—you do not!" "You have not asked the question!" "No, lady. I doaded the answer." "Ho! what a coward you have grown of late? A pity I am not masked. Shall I draw this veil? Ha, ha, ha!" It was not the manner of love. Love laughs not. My heart was heavy; I made no reply; but with eyes upon the ground, sat in my saddle like one condemned. For some moments her laughter rang in my ears, as I fancied, in mockery. The sweet silvery voice only grated upon my heart. Oh, that I had never listened to its siren tones! I heard the hoof-stroke of her horse; and looking up, saw that she was moving away from the spot. Was she going to leave me thus? (TO BE CONTINUED).

Digestive Process in Horses and Cattle.

The first process of digestion is the mastication of the food by the teeth, which reduces its bulk, breaks up its structure, and, with the aid of the tongue, mixes it with the saliva. The act of swallowing carries it to the stomach, where it is thoroughly mixed with the gastric juice which is secreted from the minute glands within the mucous lining. The peristaltic or grinding action of the muscles immediately commences, and materially aids the process. The action of the gastric fluid is purely a chemical one, dissolving the food, thus making its absorption an easy matter. The food, when dissolved, is about the consistency of cream, and is called chyme. I passes into the small intestine, where it receives the bile from the liver, and the pancreatic fluid from the pancreas. By the action of these agents, it is converted into a fluid of a whitish colour, chyle and residuum which passes into the large intestine, and is excreted from the system. As the contents of the intestine move downward, the chyle is taken up by a villi, or mouths of the lacteals, and is carried into the mesenteric glands, where some change is supposed to take place in it, and from there it flows directly into the blood through the thoracic duct.

In the case of the horse, the large intestine is developed out of all proportion to the small, the head of it being capable of holding four gallons of fluid. The stomach is comparatively small. The horses will drink large quantities of water. This does not all remain in the stomach, but passes through the intestines into the colon, and this suggests a practical point. If water is given immediately after feeding, the food, and especially grain, is carried with it out of the stomach and beyond the point where it can be properly digested, and is voided with the excrement, the animal gaining but little benefit from it. The only process that takes place in the paunch of cattle and sheep is that of softening the food, which generally remains from 16 to 18 hours before it is returned to the mouth. When sufficiently softened it passes into the second stomach, whose principal duty seems to be to roll the food into small balls, moistening it with water, and returning it to the mouth, where it is re-masticated, and some saliva added. When again swallowed it does not go to the first or second stomach, but to the third, where it is more thoroughly macerated or softened, and prepared for the true digestion which takes when it has slowly found its way into the fourth stomach, where the gastric fluid only is produced.

Lime Kiln Club Proceedings.

Among the fifteen or twenty petitions was the following: NOLFOLK, VA., Dec. 10, 1881. Bro. Gardner—Dear Sir: I have been instructed by unanimous vote of the Anatomical and Scientific Society of colored men of Virginia, head quarters of this place, to make application to your club for membership as a body. We number fifty-one bald headed members, each one of high moral character and standing solid on his pins. In case our application meets with success we shall pay our dues for a year in advance, close our hall and labors here, and forward to the library of Limekiln Club several beautifully preserved specimens of shin-bones of deceased poets, comic lecturers, and the man who spits on the floor of the street-car. With confidence, VERTEGRAE JONES, Secretary of the A. and S. Society. Pickels Smith arose for information as to what "anatomical" meant. If it was anything in regard to polishing stoves, the would-be members, should bind themselves not to cut under rates. Trustee Pullback seconded the motion, provided there was any motion to second. He knew of colored men who were blacking stoves for fifteen cents apiece and making no extra charge for wheeling of two or three barrels of ashes. After several others had spoken to the same effect, the President said: "I advise gits astronomy, anatomy, an' antimony all mixed, up, but I ze sartin sush dat none of 'em refer to black'n' stoves. I think we take our chances on votin' dis society in an' thus increasin' our list of distinguished members. Colonel Ebenezer Canister then offered the following single-barrelled resolution: Resolved, Dat this club has no sympathy wid cranks, an' dat it am de seense dis club dat no more hangism would result in less cranksism. The resolution was passed by a unanimous vote and Brother Gardner added: "I feel strongly dat way myself De man who kin pay out an' receive money, trable aroun' de kentry, do bizness an' keep onder de way the butcher carts musn't shoot my ole woman on' den plead hereditary, heretofore hereafter, or an odder sort of insanity. De crank who can't resist tepitashun to steal mus' heep onder my tater patch or take de chances of puttin' a han' full o' shot into his corpus. De crank who am not morally responsible for his utterances will feel de weight of my fust time he calls me a liar. De crank who am not stan-

cially reponsible wants to keep right away from me all de week frew. De crank who are impelled by Deity, Debit, or any odder power to do me bodily injury had better be sartin of his aim, fur if he misses me I'll light down on him like a ton of de reddest bricks he eber saw. I doan' go a cent on any insanity outside of a insantiy. If man am luyy put him among de lunatics. De fact dat he am not put dar am reason for holdin' him legally responsible fur ebery act.—Detroit free Press.



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