

THE WAR-TRAIL!

CHAPTER L.—(CONTINUED)

"You must draw," I shouted with emphasis. "You or I have now to die. If you do not defend yourself I shall run, you through the body. Coward! would you have me kill you with your blade in its sheath?"

Even the taunt did not nerve him. Never saw I so complete a poltroon. His white lips trembled, his eyes rolled wildly from side to side, seeking an opportunity to escape, for I am certain that could he have hoped to get clear, he would at that crisis have turned and run.

All at once, and to my surprise, the coward appeared smitten with courage; and grasping the hilt of his sabre, he drew the blade from its scabbard, with all the energy of a determined man! His reluctance to fight seemed suddenly to have forsaken him. Had I mistaken my man? or was it despair that was nerving his arm?

His coward look had disappeared; his eyes flashed with fury and vengeance; his teeth gritted together; and a fierce *carajo* hissed from his lips.

Our blades met—the sparks crackled from the creasing steel, and the combat began.

Fortunate for me, that, in avoiding the first lunge of my antagonist, I had to turn half round; fortunately I turned so soon, else I should never have left that glade alive.

As I faced in the new direction, I saw two men running towards us, sword in hand. A single glance told me they were guerrieros. They were already within ten paces of the spot, and must have been seen long before by Jijra.

This was the key to his altered demeanor. Their approach it was that had inspired him with courage to begin the fight, for he had calculated the time when they should be able to get up, and assail me from behind.

"Hola!" shouted he, seeing that I had discovered them—"Hola! El Zorro!—Jose! and! and! Mueran los Yankees al muerte con el picaro!"

For the first time, I felt myself in danger. Three swords to one was awkward odds; and the red giant, with a companion nearly as large as himself, would no doubt prove very different antagonists from the poltroon with whom I was engaged. Yes, I was conscious of danger, and might have retreated, had I deemed such a course possible; but my horse was too far off, and the new comers were directly in the path I should have to take to reach him. I could not hope to escape on foot; I well knew that these men run as lightly as Indians, for we had often proved their capacity in that accomplishment. They were already too near. I should be overtaken, struck down, pierced, with my back to the foe.

I had no time to reflect—just enough to leap back a pace or two, so as to bring all three of them in front of me, when I found my sword clashing against their blades, and parrying their blows one after the other.

I can describe the unequal combat no further. It was a confused medley of cut and thrust, in which I both gave wounds and received them. I was wounded in several places, and felt the warm blood running under my clothes and over my face. I was wearied to death, and every second growing weaker and fainter. I saw the red giant before me with his hand raised on high. His blade had already drawn my blood, and was crimsoned at the point; it was about to descend with a finishing stroke. I should be unable to parry it, for I had just exhausted my strength in guarding against a blow from Jijra. My hopeless peril wrung from me a cry of despair.

Was it my cry that caused the blade to drop from the hand of my antagonist, and the uplifted arm to drop loosely by his side? Was it my cry that created the consternation suddenly visible in the face of my foes? I might have fancied so, had I not heard a sharp crack from behind, and seen that the arm of El Zorro was broken by a shot!

It seemed like the awaking from some horrid dream. One moment I was battling, face to face, with three desperate men; the instant after, their backs were towards me, and all three were running as for life!

I followed them with my eyes, but not far; for at twenty paces off they plunged into the thicket, and disappeared.

I turned in the opposite direction. A man was running across the open ground with a gun in his hand; he was advancing toward the spot where I stood. It was he who had fired the shot. I saw that he was in Mexican costume; surely he was one of the guerrieros—he had aimed at me, and wounded his comrade?

For some seconds, I fancied that such might be the case. Evidently he was bolder than any of the three, for he continued to advance, as if determined to attack me alone!

I placed myself in readiness for this new antagonist, taking a fresh grasp on my sword, and wiping the blood from my eyes, that I might the better receive him.

It was not till he was close to the point of my blade, that I recognized the long ape like arms, and crooked maceless limbs of Elijah Quackerboss!

TO BE CONTINUED.

PEA SOUP (very nice), at Beer & Goff's.

Found at Last.

A DESERTED WIFE DISCOVERS HER TRUANT HUSBAND'S LOCATION—A TWENTY YEAR'S SEARCH ENDED.

Recently the arrival of a visitor at a farm house near Berlin, Ont., on the Grand Trunk, caused a great deal of consternation among the quiet inmates. The visitor was a young man of about twenty, who spoke English with an effort, and was evidently a foreigner. He enquired for the owner, and on that gentleman presenting himself he stated his errand. He said that his name was August Tresinsky; that he came from Riga, in Russia, and he greatly startled the farmer's wife and her daughter, by claiming the head of the house as his father, and affirming that his name was Tresinsky. The father disclaimed the relationship, and said that he had never been in Russia. The young man reiterated his statement, and was finally compelled to leave the house. On the day following the same youth accompanied by his mother put in appearance and the farmer manifested great emotion and uneasiness at seeing her. She claimed him as her husband, but as before he denied all knowledge of her, and ordered her from the house.

THE WOMAN'S STORY.

Mrs. Tresinsky talks German, and told a resident of that German settlement the following story:—Twenty-two years ago she was married to Jacob Tresinsky in Riga. They lived happily together until after the birth of her son, when being thrown out of employment, he became morose and frequently ill-treated her. Suddenly, about twenty years ago he left home, and all efforts to discover him proving unavailing, he considered him dead. Three years ago a man who had returned to Russia informed her that her husband was living in Canada. Want of means prevented her immediate departure to this country, but last fall she arrived, and then commenced her weary search for the truant husband. She knew that he lived in the county of Waterloo, but his change of name, of which she had not been informed, rendered it extremely difficult for her to trace him, and now, when found the long-lost husband disowns both her and her son. The farmer is quite wealthy, and has a family of sons and daughters, to whom the news has been a severe shock. Mrs. Tresinsky states that she will appeal to the law for her rights, and there the matter will rest for the present.

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St. Lawrence Hotel. THE above Hotel is now REOPENED, having been thoroughly repaired and refurnished in the best style. Being centrally situated and within three minutes walk of the Railway Depot and Steamboats, it offers inducements to the travelling public. Permanent and Transient Boarders accommodation unsurpassed by any other Hotel in the city. WM. E. HICKEY, Proprietor. Ch'town, Dec. 21, '81.

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By order of the Board,

CHARLES DRINKWATER, Secretary.

Montreal, December 1st, 1881.

[to 17 3m 2aw

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SIGN OF THE PADLOCK.

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CHARLES I. MORRISON.

Ch'town, Feb. 2, 1882.

Prince Edward Island RAILWAY.

TIME TABLE NO. 17.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT.

To take effect on the 1st Dec., 1881.

TRAINS OUTWARD.

Table with columns: STATIONS, MIXED, MIXED, MIXED. Rows include Ch'town, Royalty, N. Wilts, Hunter R'r, Bradalaba, Coty Line, Freetown, Kensington, Sunnyside, Wellington, Port Hill, O'Leary, Bloomfield, Alberton, Tignish, Royalty, Bedford, Mt. Stewart, Cardigan, George's, Mt. Stewart, Morrell, St. Peter's, Bear River, Souris.

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L. B. ARCHIBALD, Superintendent. Railway Office, Charlottetown, Nov. 29, 1881 [to 16, wkly]

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