

A Criminal of The Olden Days

In these days the most adroit, prudent, and sagacious criminal cannot fail to suffer periods of imprisonment, says a Paris despatch in the New York Sun. What with extradition treaties, the telegraph, facilities of communication, and scientifically accurate personal description, there is no place on earth where he can secure immunity from arrest. In the eighteenth and earlier centuries the clever rogue was free from these interruptions to professional activity. He was assured of a long and prosperous career before the clumsy police machinery of the period was able to curtail it. This opened a wide field of enterprise to younger sons of noble families, who when they did not enter the army or church in many cases adopted a career of felonious adventure. When taken, if the authority or relatives could command it, instead of dying on the gallows or being broken on the wheel, they were shipped to the colonies, where, usually, they became later the founders of families proud of their ancestry, and many of whose members subsequently attained to great distinction in commercial and other affairs.

These well-born criminals of polished manners were finished linguists, men of society and of the world, always on the move from one European State to another, and as well informed as Saint Simon in domestic secrets and genealogical records. These acquirements enabled them to pose with assurance as members of such noble families as they might select to represent, and to concoct at leisure and with certainty plots for their devastation.

An instance in point is that of the young "Count de Moncade." His real name was never known, nor was he ever captured. He had all the talents—a masterful forger, a remarkable linguist, and was capable of assuming any role his interests might dictate. The story of one exploit I am about to relate is convincing as to his ability. Although the scene is laid in Holland, it comes legitimately within the province of the police of Paris, through papers sent them by the Dutch authorities in the hope of procuring his arrest in France, where it was supposed he had gone. The then Lieutenant-General of Police was moved to such admiration of the completeness and cleverness of the scheme of the young "Count de Moncade" that he retained the records of the case in the archives of his police, instead of returning them to the source from which they had come.

In the early years of the eighteenth century the Marquis de Saint Gilles was Spanish Ambassador at The Hague. In his youth he had been an intimate friend of the Count de Moncade, a grandee of Spain and one of its richest nobles. Through the itineraries of the diplomatic service of one of the two friends they had not met for twenty or more years. A few months after his arrival at The Hague the Marquis received a letter from the Count, who, in recalling their former association, asked him, in these words, a great service.

"You knew," he wrote, "the distress it had caused me not to be able to perpetuate the name of Moncade; but, thanks to heaven, a year or more after you had gone abroad my prayers were answered. I became the father of a son, who as he grew to manhood showed himself worthy of his birth. Unfortunately he fell in love with the most famous actress of the theater of Toledo. I closed my eyes to this inclination, as my son has previously conducted himself to my entire satisfaction. But, learning that passion had led him to give a promise of marriage in writing to the donna, I asked the King to imprison him. My son, informed of this intention, anticipated the order of arrest. He eloped with the woman. For the past six months I have lost all trace of him; but I have reason to believe he is at The Hague. I beg, my dear Marquis, that you will exhaust every effort to learn if this surmise be correct, and if so I ask you to leave no stone unturned to return him to me. It is but just that his companion shall be liberally indemnified provided that she be willing to surrender the written promise of marriage. I give you full authority to pay her any amount you may think advisable in order to secure the relinquishment of the iniquitous contract. You will also equip my son amply in money and effects necessary to his prompt return to Spain." This letter contained an accurate description of the son and his mistress.

The Marquis had no sooner read this communication than he sent confidential agents to every inn in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and The Hague in the hope of getting track of the fugitives, but no clue was obtained. He had commenced to despair of success when it occurred to him that a bright young French

page in his service might solve the mystery. He sent him daily to every place of public resort at The Hague, and at night to the theater, promising a large reward in case of successful results.

One evening at the theater he saw in a box a young couple who answered exactly the description of the lovers. His close scrutiny evidently alarmed them, for they withdrew hurriedly to the rear of the logs, as if to escape observation. The page was now assured that he had discovered the fugitives; he kept close watch upon them, and at the close of the play stationed himself at the entrance of the corridor leading to the boxes. When the couple appeared he followed them until he saw them enter an inn called "Le Vicomte de Turenne." He then hurried to inform the Marquis de Saint Gilles of his discovery.

The Ambassador, accompanied by the page and two servants, hastened to the inn. Upon his arrival there he summoned the landlord and asked him where was located the room of a young couple—describing them—who were stopping at his house. The landlord refused to give the information unless the visitors could furnish the names of the persons they were seeking, nor could it be obtained until the Marquis had warned the landlord that he was addressing the Spanish Ambassador, whose authority it would be dangerous to resist. The landlord said that the two young people had forbidden him to allow anyone to visit them, but out of consideration for the rank of the Marquis he would disregard this order and conduct him to their room.

This was situated in the uppermost storey, and was the most squalid of the inn. When the visitors had reached it they knocked repeatedly at the door without obtaining response. Finally it was partly opened; but at sight of the waiting group an attempt was made to reclose it, but not before the Marquis had forced his way in, leaving his domestics in the corridor.

He was confronted by the young man, who answered most accurately the description of the son of his friend. Behind him was a young woman, beautiful, and well formed, who in color of hair and features was the counterpart, as described, of the Toledo actress. The young man complained of the violence used in intruding upon his privacy in a country where everyone was assured of personal liberty. The Marquis replied that he came as a friend; as the representative of an affectionate father. He implored the young man to accept his good offices and no longer to attempt to conceal his identity. Addressing him as Count he protested that he had no intention to do harm to him or to his interesting companion. The young man repudiated the title of Count, and said that he was nothing more than the son of a Cadiz merchant, travelling for pleasure with his wife. The Marquis, casting his eyes about the squalidly furnished room and observing the slender luggage of the occupants, was moved to tears. He asked the young man if he considered his present abode suited to a son of Count de Moncade. He persisted in this strain, until the youth, as if suddenly moved to repentance and remorse, threw himself at the feet of the Marquis and in acknowledging that he was the son of the Count de Moncade, said he would never return to Spain if it involved abandonment of his adorable companion.

The young woman, who had remained in the background, sobbing bitterly, now came forward, and, clasping the Marquis' hand said with noble sincerity that, notwithstanding tumultuous affection for her lover, she would relinquish claim to him rather than obstruct his return to his father. The Marquis was deeply touched at this exhibition of spontaneous self-abnegation. The young man, however, would not listen to separation from his mistress, from one so sublimely unselfish and generous, until the Marquis had promised to make such provision as would assure her against any vicissitude. The Ambassador not only consented to this, but in consideration of her noble, self-sacrificing spirit would assume the responsibility of largely increasing the amount he was authorized to pay her, when she had delivered to him the written promise of marriage given her by the young Count, but not until he had taken up residence at the embassy preparatory to his return to Spain. The sum agreed upon was 10,000 florins (about \$6,000 of our money).

While this sordid negotiation was in progress the young woman stood as one crushed and humiliated at the thought of exchanging passionate love against a paltry sum of money. In a voice choking with emotion, she said to the Marquis as she drew the promise of marriage from her bosom and gave it to him, that she knew too well the heart of her lover longer to have need of it. The Ambassador, whose tears were flowing in abundance, stood transfixed at such an exhibition of grandeur

of soul. He promised the young woman that so long as he should live he would care for her and protect her. He assured the young Count that his happiness was complete, now that he was about to restore an only son to the arms of a dotting father. What a delight to him to be the intermediary in such a satisfying consummation!

The Marquis, however, knowing the power of love, and fearing that another night of companionship between the lovers might undo all he had accomplished, insisted that the young Count should accompany him forthwith to the embassy. The tears the heart-breaking protestations of affection which accompanied the parting of the lovers, were indescribable, and so deeply touched the heart of the Marquis that in an outburst of sympathy he generously promised the adorable woman a considerable addition out of his own pocket to the amount he had previously agreed to pay her.

The meager luggage of the Count was not difficult of transportation. The same evening saw him installed in sumptuous apartments at the embassy, while the Marquis beaming with joy, pondered over the happy prospect of restoring to the illustrious House of Moncade the future inheritor of its greatness and magnificent estates. The next morning tailors, cloth, and lace merchant presented themselves to take the order of the young Count. Two valets de chambre and three lackeys were assigned to his service. The Marquis, proud of his success, showed the young Count the letter he had written to his father. In this he congratulated his friend upon having a son whose sentiments and qualities shed lustre upon his noble birth. The young woman was not forgotten. The Marquis, in dilating upon the unselfishness she had displayed on a trying occasion, informed the Count of his—the Marquis'—payment to her of 10,000 florins. He hoped this donation would meet with his friend's approval. The amount mentioned was on that day paid the noble and interesting young woman, followed by her immediate departure.

The preparations for the young Count's journey were commenced. A superb outfit of clothing was provided, a comfortable traveling carriage was sent by water from Rotterdam to France to await the arrival of the young Count, who would then continue his journey to Spain by land. A very large sum of money was given him for traveling expenses, and ample letters of credit upon Paris bankers. The parting between the Marquis and the young Count de Moncade was prolonged and affectionate.

The Ambassador awaited with impatience a reply to the letter informing his old friend of the sleepy return to him of an erring son and heir. At the end of four months he received the answer so long desired. The surprise and disgust of the Marquis at what follows may be easily imagined:

"Heaven, my dear Marquis, has never accorded me the pleasure of paternity. Loaded with wealth and honors, the chargin of being deprived of an heir to all this greatness has been the biting sorrow of my life. I learn with inexpressible distress that you have fallen victim to a young adventurer, who has abused the knowledge of the close friendship which exists between us. Your Excellency, although a dupe of this rogue shall not be held responsible for the losses you have suffered through his effrontery. I hope my Marquis, you will decline to accept the enclosed order for 5,000 French louis d'ors (about \$20,000 of our money) payable to you.

The delay of four months which ensued between the despatch of the letter of the Marquis de Saint Gilles to the Count de Moncade and the arrival of a reply from the latter enabled the fictitious young Count and his female accomplice to cash the letters of credit on Paris bankers and with the money and effects so lavishly provided by the Marquis make good their escape.

Saved.

"Whatshallido! Whatshallido!" The popular actress paced the floor in a paroxysm of despair.

"Those hateful creatures of the 400 have killed every form of notoriety worth having. They pose in living picture shows, they lose their diamonds, they star in divorces and other scandals, they are arrested for speeding automobiles, and they even go on the stage. Can't you think of something for a press story?"

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"Saved!" she cried. "We'll have a champagne supper to celebrate."

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A grist mill, carpenter's work shop a dining house, two barns, log house and three acres of land, at Northampton, seven miles below Woodstock, on the east side of the river, situated about two rods from the highway road and about six rods from the river. Apply on premises to HUGH GIBSON, Northampton. Aug. 19/04.

Notice of Sale.

To Solomon Camp Wiggins formerly of the Parish of Woodstock in the County of Carleton and Province of New Brunswick, Lumberman and Miller, and all others whom it may in anywise concern:—

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the twenty-fifth day of August, A. D., 1900, recorded in Carleton County Records in Book B, No. 4, on pages 724, 725 and 726, made between the said Solomon Camp Wiggins of the one part and Louis E. Young of the other part, there will for the purpose of satisfying the moneys secured by the said Indenture, default having been made in the payment thereof, be sold at public auction in front of the office of the said Louis E. Young on Main street in the Town of Woodstock in the said County of Carleton on MONDAY the FIFTH day of DECEMBER next at eleven o'clock in the forenoon all the mortgaged lands in the said Indenture of Mortgage described as follows:—

"All that certain piece or parcel of land lying and being in the Parish of Woodstock in the County of Carleton and Province aforesaid and bounded as follows to wit:—Beginning at the most southerly angle of the front part of lot number forty-eight granted to George H. Conneli, on the south-westerly bank or shore of the River St. John, thence south thirty-nine degrees west one hundred and fourteen chains, thence north fifty-one degrees west eleven chains and fifty links, thence north thirty-nine degrees east one hundred and fourteen chains, and thence south fifty-one degrees east eleven chains and fifty links to the place of beginning, containing one hundred and nineteen acres more or less and distinguished as the south west part of lot number forty-eight southwest of the River St. John, and being same lot granted by the Crown to Asa Dow on the twenty-third day of January, A. D., 1874."

"Also all that other certain tract, piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the Parish of Woodstock, County and Province aforesaid, being the western half of a lot distinguished as lot number forty-nine in a grant from the Crown to one Phillip Long and bounded as follows:—On the east by Chase's creek so called, on the north by lot number fifty granted to one Reuben Chase, on the west by the base line of the said lot number forty-nine, on the south by lot number forty-eight, containing one hundred acres more or less."

Together with all and singular the buildings and improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging.

Dated this 26th day of October, A. D., 1904.
LOUIS E. YOUNG, Mortgagee.

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