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THE DOUBLE CROSS

(Continued.)

"Oh, yes, señor el capitán. I have heard of one of your meetings with the Golden Senorita—your fencing bout with her in the presence of the President."

Joaquin's face flushed crimson, and he glanced furtively at Felipa, as if to discover how much she knew of that story of his crossing of foils with the woman in question.

"Fencing bout?" asked Felipa. "What happened?"

But Joaquin now called up some brother officers and presented Felipa and me. All of us then remounted, Joaquin starting ahead with Felipa—riding not so fast, however, but that I caught the first love-words he addressed to her: "Divina! Primorosa!" and so on.

Presently I rejoined Felipa and the captain, and we three rode together to within half a mile of the hacienda, when Joaquin left us to follow his men into camp after a last black, vicious glance at me.

That Mexican army officer, I felt sure, was to be my inexorable, deadly enemy. I felt, instinctively, that he would resort to any fair or foul means to prevent me from winning Felipa.

CHAPTER XII.

THE HACIENDA.

A few minutes later we drew rein at the portal of the hacienda, an archway through the massive walls forming the entrance. A portero swung the great gates open, and as we rode in Felipa said:

"Tu casa, (your house), señor, Burn it at once."

"Why do you say that?" I asked.

"Because, señor, I am thinking of what happened in the Canon of the Stolen Kiss. By burning the house at once, you might possibly spare the desolation that I feel your coming is to bring to hearts that beat here."

In the patio (a vast, paved courtyard covering a ground space equal to that of Madison Square Garden in New York), three sides of which were formed by the administration buildings, or offices of the great de Gasteneda estate, a score met my eyes that was both picturesque and theatrical. Here were assembled hundreds and hundreds of Aztecs, all talking and gesticulating, some standing in groups, others moving hither and thither—the scene, in color and animation, suggesting the entire cast and complete setting of an act of a grand opera of The Land of the Aztecs.

In the ensemble were perhaps a thousand poems and others—obrero (mine workers); mozos (men-servants); vaqueros (cowboys); porteros; aguadores (water carriers); cardadores (foot messengers and burden bearers); together with Mexican and Spanish and Indian superintendents, managers and foremen. All the hundreds of Aztecs, like Valjejo, the watchman in the canon, wore white cotton suits; huge sombreros; leather sandals; and zarapes of red, blue, pink, green or yellow, hanging from one shoulder.

"It is pay-day," Felipa explained, as we gave our horses into the hands of vaqueros. "These poems are receiving their wages for their work in the mines. All are full-blooded Aztecs. In no other one place in Mexico will you find so many true sons of Montezuma. The de Gastenedas have owned these mines for three hundred years; and for three hundred years the Aztecs of La Luz have worked the mines for our family, regarding us always as their special patrons and protectors. They in turn have always been more than quick in avenging any insult, any dishonor, to any de Gasteneda. That is why you saw me filled with fear when I found that Valjejo, the very leader of these Aztecs, had been witness of the kiss—in the canon. These people are all waiting now to greet my father—a theatrical kind of welcome which they always extend to him upon his return from a protracted absence."

We heard commotion in the archway.

"It is Yaqui, our majordomo," Felipa said. "He entered my father's service long before my mother died, and is now the oldest and most devoted of our servants."

In role of man of striking appearance—tall, lithe, sinewy, a chief, as I learned, of Mexico's unnumbered tribe of Indian warriors, the Yaquis. He wore now the zarape of his tribe,

white slashed with blue, and it fell from his shoulders like the mantle of a Centurion.

At sight of Felipa he dismounted, and came to her to say:

"Thy father, señorita, has met with a slight accident in Guanajuato. A sprained ankle. He will not be able to return to the hacienda till tomorrow morning."

"My poor father! Does he know that our American guest is here?"

"Si, señorita. Don Justino sends his compliments to you, señor," turning to me.

Felipa looked at me in mock consternation as she said:

"Then my father will not come home tonight? We will be alone here?"

She turned to Yaqui.

"Send a messenger to Padre Aurelio, at La Luz, and ask him to come here to supper."

We crossed the patio to a wicket-gate, through which we passed into the garden of the casa, or house, itself. The place teemed with poetry and romance. Here were many palms and magnolia trees and honeysuckle vines, rarities in that arid region.

In the centre of this garden was the fountain which Terry probably had in mind when he compared Felipa's voice to the "fountain splash."

Pike the offices around the patio, the casa itself was built around three sides of the garden, a high dome wall marking the remaining side and separating the garden from the patio.

Felipa clapped her hands—a convenient way of calling servants in the "hot country," where windows and doors are always open. A mozo appeared.

"Bring chocolate, mozo," Felipa ordered. "Serve it in the arbor."

We went to the arbor of honeysuckle, sat down on either side of a table, and presently the mozo brought the chocolate.

A stone corridor (portico or gallery) with its roof supported by frequent columns of heavy timber, ran the entire length of the main building and of both wings of the house. The house itself had only one story. Each room opened upon the corridor.

"Your own room," Señor John, Felipa volunteered, "is that at the end of the left wing. Like mine—opposite, at the end of the right wing—it has two doors, a side-door opening into the patio, as well as the front door opening on this garden. The two best rooms of the house, in many ways. In the room you will occupy—I was born."

"Ah! the room in which your mother died," I said.

"Under circumstances most mysterious, I added, repeating her own words spoken in the canon. (To Be Continued.)

A TERRIBLE RECORD OF CHILDREN'S DEATHS

As every mother knows the death rate of little ones in Canada during the hot summer months far exceeds that of any other season of the year. The reason for this is that the excessive heat brings on those dreaded troubles, cholera infantum, diarrhoea, dysentery and other stomach and bowel complaints. These come on so quickly and with such little warning that often baby is beyond help before the mother realizes he is ill. During the hot summer months the mother must be continually on her guard to see that baby's bowels are working regularly and his little stomach is kept sweet and pure. Baby's Own Tablets should always be kept in the home 'as they are the mother's greatest friend. A dose now and then will prevent these troubles, or if they do come on suddenly they will be quickly banished by the Tablets. The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

MILLIONAIRE'S DAUGHTER ELOPES AND MARRIES

Middleboro, Mass., Aug. 25—An elopement which will cause as much talk as the recent Jack Gerraghty affair took place here yesterday when Chas. Louis Castello, a poor automobile salesman of Brookline, Mass. and Sadie Steward, a millionaire's daughter of Covington, Kentucky, were married by a Catholic priest. Mrs. Castello is 21 and a Protestant.

Her father was millionaire head of Steward Iron Works at Cincinnati. Castello is only 19. They met at Montreal a day before the marriage. At Montreal Miss Steward arrived by steamer from abroad. They visited friends of her mother at Montreal and then came directly here. Last night they wired mother of bride Mrs. Nan Steward 117 Wallace Ave. Covington Ky., and left on honeymoon. Will visit Kentucky and Ohio where bride has lived.

"Little Boy Blue," adapted from the German by A. E. Thomas and Edward Paulton, will be one of the early musical productions of Henry W. Savage.

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THE NEW FALL GOODS

And we are ready to show them to you. Many lines of Merchandise are already in and being sold, others are being marked and placed on sale nearly every day now, we welcome the opportunity to show you these New Goods even though you do not come to buy.

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No. 317—Suburban for Gibson and Marysville, 6.15.

No. 321—Suburban for Gibson and Marysville, 11.15.

No. 323—Suburban for Gibson and Marysville, 16.20.

No. 301—Express for Loggieville, Chatham, Campbellton, Quebec, Montreal, etc., 18.30.

No. 327—Suburban for Gibson and Marysville, 18.40.

No. 329—Suburban for Gibson and Marysville, 22.00.

ARRIVALS.

No. 318—Suburban from Marysville 7.45.

No. 302—Express from Loggieville, Chatham Junction, 11.25.

No. 322—Suburban from Marysville 13.45.

No. 304—Mixed from Loggieville and Chatham Junction, 16.00.

No. 326—Suburban from Marysville 18.20.

No. 328—Suburban from Marysville 19.15.

No. 338—Suburban from Marysville 22.35.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

DEPARTURES.

6.20 a.m.—Express for St. John, Portland, Boston, Woodstock, etc.

9.20 a.m.—Mixed for Woodstock, and points north. Leaves St. Mary's at 9.35.

9.45 a.m.—Express for St. John and points east.

4.10 p.m.—Mixed for Woodstock, via Gibson branch. Leaves St. Mary's 4.40.

5.50 p.m.—Express for Montreal, Boston, Woodstock, St. Stephen, etc.

9.05 p.m.—Express for St. John, and points east.

ARRIVALS.

9.10 a.m.—Express from St. John and points east.

12.30 a.m.—Mixed from Woodstock, via Gibson branch, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

11.35 a.m.—Express from Montreal, Boston, etc.

7.55 p.m.—Express from St. John and points east.

7.40 p.m.—Mixed from Woodstock and points north.

10.50 p.m.—Express from Boston, Portland, Woodstock, St. Stephen, etc.

ST. JOHN S. S. CO.

S. S. Victoria leaves St. John every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8 a.m. Arrives on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 4 p.m.

Steamer Elaine leaves for St. John every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 a.m. Arrives on alternate days at 4 p.m.

Steamer Hampstead leaves Fredericton every week day for Gagetown at 4 p.m. Arrives from Gagetown at 10.30 a.m.

CRYSTAL STREAM S. S. CO.

The steamer Majestic leaves for St. John every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 a.m. Arrives on alternate days at 4.30 p.m.

MINNESOTA TEMPERANCE RALLY

Faribault, Minn., Aug. 22—Temperance workers from every section of the State, among them many noted temperance speakers and lecturers, are gathered here to attend the Minnesota State convention of the women's Christian Temperance Union, which opened here today for a session of four days. Nearly two hundred delegates are present.

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A SIGN OF THE TIMES

New Brunswick boys driven from home by the high tariff policy of the Tories, are beginning to return. Two of them have been in Fredericton this week looking for a chance to buy farms. Reprocity and the larger market is already getting in its work. A policy that will bring back our sons and daughters from foreign lands and fill up the vacant farms ought to be satisfactory to the people of York County.

