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THE DOUBLE CROSS

(Continued.)
"It was a racing car," said Ruiz, who had been talking with a traveled Mexican.

"Who can be mean by a senorita with hair of gold?" Felipa cried. "There is no golden-haired woman in all this district."

I had my own views on the subject, but I said nothing. I was thinking of the Golden Senorita—though the thought that she might have anything to do with the matter seemed to me not only incredible but wholly impossible. Why should I connect the Golden Senorita with this extraordinary happening? She was in Mexico City.

"You say the senorita appeared right after the wedding, Valledo?" Felipa demanded.

Then, in an aside to me:

"How could that be? Why, it was then only five o'clock. You and I, John, were at that time on our way to the camp. And not a soul knew then of our betrothal except my father and the padre and you and I. Neither my father nor the padre would tell what they knew, of course not. And I myself did not announce it at the camp till after seven o'clock. Yet this strange woman comes and tells the Aztecs at five o'clock. It is more than strange. Who—can she be?"

"I have no more idea," I said, "than that man up there."

And I pointed to the moon.

We rode on. The cavalcade arrived at the portal of the hacienda and hacienda and Felipa asked the officers to come in.

"No, senorita," said Joaquin.

"Most of us are on duty tonight."

"Besides," he added, turning to me with that murderous look in his face, the same look I had noted on camp, "the betrothal of the daughter of Don Justino," he said, "will be grateful to us for saying—adios."

A few minutes later, Felipa and I, having given our horses to vaqueros, were crossing the patio on the way to the house.

"John," Felipa said, "the senorita of the hair of gold evidently knows you. She seems to have a deep interest in your weldate, too. I should be jealous. But I am not jealous. Why am I not jealous?"

"Perhaps," I said, "for the same reason that I cannot, try as I will, think evil of the stranger in the black mask—and you."

Felipa changed the subject by crying:

"And now, John, my father will consent to our betrothal."

"Why will he?" I asked, as we stepped into the garden.

"Because," Felipa whispered, "for me, a senorita of Mexico to visit that camp alone with you and to break bread with those officers, was equivalent to a formal announcement of our betrothal—even had I not spoken the words outright. My father will not intervene now. Tradition will do that which all my pleading failed to accomplish."

Thus at last I understood why the officers had looked at me in such bewilderment and embarrassment when Felipa had told them we had come to "cross." At last, too, I understood the entire significance of that visit to the camp.

"Yes," Felipa said, "the officers would have spread the news and the Aztecs would have learned that they had no need to deal to you tonight the fate of the kiss-stealer of the Hotel Silao. But the mystic senorita got ahead of us. John, in the name of the Virgin!—who was the senorita with the hair of gold?"

I had become so Mexicanized, was so mystified myself, so incredulous and even alarmed at my own thoughts as to that apparition in the plaza at La Luz, that, instead of replying to Felipa's question in words, I merely shrugged my shoulders.

"But Yaqui will enlighten us?" she said.

"Greetings, my children," the Don said, as we reached the corridor.

I sat down near him and Felipa knelt at his feet and took his hand in hers.

"My father," she said, "you have made up your mind about the matters of which we spoke this morn- ing?"

"Nay, daughter. I beg you to say no more of this betrothal—until—"

Here he caught up my swordcase which had been lying across his lap.

Running his hand up and down the stick, he added:

"Until, let us say, a week has passed."

"It is impossible, father, to keep silent one week—or one day," Felipa said. "I could not—not now—if I would. Oh, father, I want your forgiveness. We have done a dreadful thing. We have been to the camp of the Black Cavalry. We have broken bread with the officers. And I have received their felicitations and the senior their congratulations. Father, forgive us."

Don Justino started, uttered exclamations of surprise, showed that he was deeply shocked.

Felipa had thrown her sombrero aside, and the Don now stroked her magnificent tresses. Presently, he said:

"My daughter, it is your inheritance from an American mother."

Felipa looked up and smiled expectantly, saying:

"Yes, father?"

"Your mother's blood coursing through your veins," the Don continued. "It impels you to govern your heart affairs in the way of an American woman, as she did. Felipa mia, you shall be married."

(To Be Continued.)

TORY CANDIDATE THROWS UP SPONGE

Montreal, Sept. 10.—The sensation of the day in politics is the announcement that the Hon. J. A. Ouimet formerly Minister of Public Works during the Conservative regime and later a judge of the Court of King's Bench which place he resigned with a pension equal to the two-thirds of his salary has now abandoned the fight in Yamaska County and following his decision the opposition organizers of that riding are in Montreal today looking for another man to contest the seat against Mr. J. A. O. Gladu, the Liberal candidate and ex-member for the county.

Ex-Judge J. A. Ouimet was a candidate at last election in the County of Yamaska against Mr. Gladu, and although he then enjoyed the full prestige of ex-Minister of the Crown and judge, he was defeated by eighty-eight votes.

It was known that at this election Mr. Ouimet had reluctantly reaccepted the Conservative candidatures, but once he had made up his mind to enter the fray the news of his retirement at this stage of the game was not expected.

What has prompted Mr. Ouimet to take such a decision is not made public, but the fact that Yamaska is a Liberal stronghold and that Mr. Gladu, the Liberal candidate, is more popular than ever, may have induced his opponent to form the opinion that it was best not to take any chances.

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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.

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

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SIFTON FAVORED RECIPROcity

In a newspaper report of a speech delivered by Hon. Clifford Sifton at St. Paul, Jan. 10, 1903, he is reported to have said:

"On the subject of reciprocity Mr. Sifton spoke freely. He endorsed all that Mr. Hill had said on the subject, and expressed himself in favor of any treaty that would give the citizens of both countries equal advantage. He had no sympathy, he said, with those Canadians who expected the United States to give something for nothing, and he thought as little of the Americans who expected the Canadian to do the same thing. The Canadians expect to give one hundred cents for every dollar they get."

