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The Captain of the Kansas

By LOUIS TRACY.

(Continued.)

"Why the Vicente de Bragelonne only, and not the Three Musketeers?" she mused aloud. "And if the Life of Goethe, why not his poems, his essays, Werther? Ah, I know—the crowning offence of Werther! A Stevenson library! Each volume he recommends in 'Books which have influenced men.' I suppose? What a charming idea! I shall never forgive myself for not having thought of it long ago."

Courtenay laughed and blushed like any school-girl. Elsie's appreciation had a downright, honest ring in it that went far beyond the platitudes. She accorded him the ready comradeship of a kin soul.

"Many people have been surprised by my collection; you are the first to discover its inspiration," he said.

"That is not strange. There are so few who read. Reading means discerning, interpreting. I am a worshipper of R. L. S., but I have been shocked to find that for a hundred who can talk glibly of his novels there is hardly one who has communed with him in his essays."

"We have actually hit upon a topic that should prove inexhaustible. Believe me, Miss Maxwell, that is my pet subject. More than once, needing a listener, I have even lectured my long-suffering terrier, Joey, on the point."

Isobel laughed softly. The two standing in front of the bookcase strolled apart, with a sudden consciousness that they were speaking unguardedly, for Isobel's mirth had mockery in it—"there was a laughing devil in her sneer."

"By the way, where is Joey?" she asked.

The dog answered her question by appearing, with a stretch and a yawn, from beneath a bunk. He had heard his name in Courtenay's voice. That sufficed for Joey at any time.

"What a strange animal!" went on Isobel. "I should have thought that he would bark, or peep out at us, at the least, when we came in."

"Joey had a disturbed night," said Courtenay. "We passed the evening in the Hotel Colon, and he regards South American hotels as the natural dwelling place of cats, and other bad characters. Here, he is at home, and he knew that I was present."

"Otherwise, he would have classified us as suspicious."

"He is far too discriminating. What do you say, pup?"

Joey looked up at his master. Apparently, he found the conversation trivial; he yawned again, capriciously.

"You darling! You must have slept with one eye open," said Elsie, stooping to pat him.

"Oh, take care!" cried Isobel. "He may bite you."

"Not he! When you see that wistful look in a dog's eyes, have no fear. He wants to speak then. You won't bite me, will you dear?" And Elsie sank on one knee, to stroke Joey's white coat; whereupon Joey tried to lick her face.

"Between the Stevenson Library and the captain's dog you are installed as a prime favorite on board the Kansas," commented Isobel. The other girl rose hurriedly. She had caught the touch of malice in the smooth voice.

"Captain Courtenay is too polite to remind us that we are intruders," she said lightly. "We forget that he is busy. Joey, candidly canine, did not try to hide his feelings."

Isobel swung her chair round to face the door.

"This is quite the best place in the ship," she said. "I am very comfortable, thank you. Please don't send us away, captain."

Before Courtenay could answer, the officer of the watch looked in.

"Cape Caramilla bearing sou'west of

the Buei Rock, sir," he announced, and vanished again.

"Don't hurry," said Courtenay, taking up his cap. "I must leave you for a few minutes."

He was gone, with Joey at his heels. "Really, Isobel, we should go back on deck," urged Elsie, uneasily. Already she half regretted the impulse which led her to intervene in her friend's special hobby.

"I like that. I didn't credit you with such guile, Elsie Maxwell. You snap up my nice captain beneath my very nose, and coolly propose that I should vacate the battlefield. Oh dear, no! I can't talk literature, but I can flirt, and I have not finished with Arthur yet by a long chalk."

"Isobel, if you knew how you hurt me—"

Miss Baring crosses her pretty face, folded her arms, and gave her companion a smiling glance.

"So artful, too. 'Love me, love my dog,' oh? You actually took my breath away. 'It may amaze you to learn that I meant to achieve that much, at any rate,' was Elsie's quiet retort as she turned to select a volume from the queer miscellany in the bookcase.

"Oh, don't be cruel. Leave me my Frenchman! Say you won't wheedle Edward by quoting the classics of his native tongue! Poor me! Here I have been warning a serpent in my bosom."

With a mumble of make-believe anguish Isobel leaned back in her chair. She was insolently conscious of her superior attractions. Was she not the richest heiress in Valparaiso? Had not her father chartered this ship? And was not Elsie even now flying from an unwelcome suitor? She knew full well that her friend would resent the slightest semblance of love-making on the part of any man on board. Already her astonishment at Elsie's unlooked-for vivacity was yielding to the humor of meeting such a rival. The Count might serve as a foil, but the real quarry now was the captain. That very night there would be a moon, and the sea was calm as a sheltered lake. Isobel's lips parted in a delighted smile as she tried to imagine Courtenay deserting her to discuss those celebrities whom Elsie had made the most of. And how she would play off the Count against the captain. They ought to be at daggers drawn long before the Straits of Magellan were reached. Certainly she never expected such sport on board such a humdrum ship as the Kansas.

Suddenly they both heard an excited bark from the dog, and the quick rush of feet along the deck; Courtenay's voice reached them with a new and startling note in it.

"Stop that!" he shouted.

There was an instant's pause. Their alert ears caught the sounds of a distant scuffle. Then a pistol shot jarred the peaceful drone of the ship.

"Sheer off, there!" roared Courtenay again. "Next time I shoot to kill!"

With terror in their eyes, with blanched cheeks, they rushed to the door and peeped out. Courtenay was not to be seen, but the officer of the watch was swinging himself over the canvas shield of the bridge. He disappeared, Joey, barking furiously, trotted into view and ran back again. Creeping forward, they saw the solid sailor within the chart-house squint at the compass and give the wheel a slight turn. That was reassuring. Yet another timorous pace, and through the curving window they could discern Courtenay, holding a revolver in his right hand, but behind his back.

Even in their alarm they realized that nothing very terrible would happen now. But why had the shot been fired, and what had given that tense ring to Courtenay's throat?

Venturing a little further, they gained the bridge. On the main deck, a long way

Daily Fashion Hint for Times Readers.



THE MATERIAL IS A NOVELTY SERGE.

A jaunty runabout suit in one of the new novelty serge weaves, of which there are many this winter. The skirt, while plaited, is not exaggerated in its fullness, being a seven gore model with a wide box plait on each seam. The coat, a pretty youthful shape, is semi-fitting with single-breasted fronts rounded at the corners and fastening with four large black bone buttons.

Hip and breast pockets have rather wide flaps. The collar is lined with black satin and the sleeves are of moderate size and full length. Black and white is the coloring of the material, and to further carry out this fashionable combination, an all white hat with trimmings of huge wings and folded malinette, and black lace gloves and kid boots are worn.

beneath, near an open hatch, a half-caste Chilean was lying on his back. He had evidently been wounded. Blood was flowing from his leg; it smeared the white deck. The officer who had climbed down so specially from the bridge was directing two other men how to lift him. Close by, the chief officer, Mr. Boyle, was staunching a deep cut in his chin with a handkerchief. At the same time he curtly ordered off such deck hands and stewards as came running forward, attracted by the disturbance.

The girls were gazing wide-eyed at this somewhat unbecoming scene, when Courtenay approached.

ALD. FRINK OUT FOR A COMMISSION

Gives Notice That He Will Move for Abolition of City Council and Government of City By a Commission.

At the monthly meeting of the common council yesterday, Ald. Frink gave notice that he would move, at the next regular meeting, that at the civic elections in April next a plebiscite should be taken on the advisability of the dissolution of the common council and the appointment of a commission of five citizens to administer the affairs of the city. The reasons given were the cumbersome nature of the present system and the impossibility of economical administration of civic affairs under it. Ald. Frink said he had been under the impression that the common council was to be dissolved at the next regular meeting, and that the city would be governed by a commission. He said he was disappointed to find that the common council was still in existence, and that he was therefore giving notice that he would move for its abolition at the next regular meeting.

At the opening of the meeting the mayor presented to Capt. J. L. MacIntyre, president of the St. John Rifle Association, the Corporation cup, held this year by E. F. Gladwin.

The report of the treasury board was then taken up.

The recommendation that the bills and by-laws committee prepare a bill to amend the union act so as to provide that the salary of the police clerk should be fixed by the council at a sum not exceeding \$1,700, was agreed to. Ald. Bullock, the chairman, said the board had not yet fixed the salary, but were of opinion that G. A. Henderson, the present holder of the office, was entitled to an increase.

The report of R. A. MacIntyre, the special auditor, showing that the amount of cash unaccounted for by Chamberlain Sandall on Nov. 1 was \$11,228.30, was adopted.

The next section recommended that P. Sandall be removed from the office of chamberlain and receiver of taxes, and that his appointment be cancelled.

After some discussion the section was adopted.

There was considerable discussion on the matter of appointing a controller and permanent auditor, but the recommendation finally passed.

Ald. Bullock moved to add a section to the report that the recorder be instructed to advise on the guarantee company notice of the amount of the deficit and take steps to recover the balance remaining between the value of the securities held by the city and the total default. The alderman mentioned that the amount to be recovered was between \$800 and \$1,200.

Ald. Baskin said he had been opposed to the city accepting any money on behalf of Mr. Sandall. He was told at first that the securities and cash were being held in trust for the guarantee company.

Ald. Bullock replied that he was actuated by the idea of saving Mr. Sandall any way that was possible. He could not forget that he was a brother citizen. It was true that he had gone wrong, disgraced his family and ruined his reputation, but he was a man for all that, and that was why he moved the resolution. It was not going to do the city any great injury.

In closing, Ald. Bullock made a strong and eloquent plea to the council to exercise a little sympathy.

BOARD OF TRADE

Annual Meeting Held Yesterday and John H. McRobbie Re-Elected President.

The annual meeting of the board of trade, held yesterday afternoon, was largely attended. J. H. McRobbie was elected president and Walter E. Foster vice-president.

The members of the incoming council will consider the project of holding an annual banquet at which matters of interest to the city will be discussed.

W. S. Fisher suggested that in order to secure a larger membership, that the fee be reduced from \$10 a year to \$5, which is the rate at Halifax.

In the absence of the president, W. E. Foster presided and announced that he had received a telegram from Mr. McRobbie in which he expressed his regret at not being able to be present.

The annual reports of the council and treasurer were read. In connection with the treasurer's report, W. S. Fisher said it might be well to explain that a charge for borings at band points might be recouped and the cost of the new industries booklet would be met by the collections of members of the committee.

The next order of business was the election of officers, Mr. McRobbie being re-elected president, and Mr. Foster vice-president.

Mr. Foster, in returning thanks for the honor done him, urged all the members to attend the meetings as often as possible.

W. S. Fisher, before the members of the council were elected, urged that some of the younger blood of the board should be chosen. In Halifax, he said, they elect their council for three years, and some retire at the end of each year. St. John sometimes thought the elder city is a bit staid, but there is room here for much forward work and great need for it. He thought that with St. John's population there ought to be 1,000 members of the board. Different schemes had been tried to increase public interest. It might be the annual fee of \$10 is too high. In Halifax it was only \$5, and it ranges from that to \$250 for banking concerns.

Mr. Jarvis endorsed the remarks of Mr. Fisher, and urged that the meetings of the council should be more largely attended.

The following were then elected members of the council: W. H. Thorne, G. E. Barbour, T. H. Estabrooks, John Sealy, W. C. Cross, W. E. Hatheway, J. N. Harvey, G. Hunter White, H. B. Schofield, and W. S. Fisher.

At some future meeting Judge Willich will read a paper on How to Promote New Industries in St. John Along the Lines as in American Cities.

Last year's board of arbitration were re-elected. They are George McKean, Joseph Bullock, W. S. Fisher, Andrew Malcolm, S. S. Hall and James P. Robertson.

Application for membership was received from C. H. Coombes. He was proposed by H. L. Eason and elected.

In connection with the matter of wharfage rates charged by the I. C. R. here and in Halifax, the secretary then read a communication from the deputy minister of public works to the effect that the Inter-colonial wharfage rates both in Halifax and St. John were based on the rates charged by private wharves.

The chairman thought the whole question of rates in the harbor of St. John was a very serious one. He thought that rates here should be on the same basis as at other Atlantic ports. He suggested that the incoming council should obtain all possible information on the subject, including longshore rates.

Items of Interest

It is often difficult to remove the grease and soot from iron cooking utensils, but it will be found that if the pieces, are placed in an old boiler, with a strong solution of soda and a good sized piece of soap and the boiler filled with water, is allowed to boil the grease will be thoroughly removed and the vessels rendered clean and wholesome. After the utensils have been thus cleaned they may be rinsed in clear water, and set on the stove to dry.

A useful suggestion to those who burn wood in open fireplaces or open stoves is that in putting on fresh fuel, draw the pieces already burning to the front and put the new wood at the back. This throws the heat out and prevents smoke.

If distemper is used in the house-hold, any disagreeable odor can be removed by using an ounce of permanganate of potash crystals, which will also destroy any deleterious germs it may contain. The first effect of the drug is to turn the water brownish, but it will clear in two or three days. On this account, it should be used several days before the water may be needed for washing. A few crystals of this drug added to half a pail of water makes an excellent disinfectant for cleaning a refrigerator or sink.

BEATRICE CAREY.

LETTER ENIGMA.

My first is in wild, but not in tame;
My second is in Indian, but not in game;
My third is in nice, but not in good;
My fourth is in iron, but not in wood;
My fifth is in rear, but not in jump;
My sixth is in water, but not in pump;
My whole spells a season
By some called most drear;
And it comes round to see us
'Bout this time each year.

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DYSPEPSIA

is common among business and professional men of sedentary habits, or those subject to excessive mental strain.

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(à la quina du Pérou)

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MONCTON STORE—Employs 21 paid milliners. A hustling, growing enterprise, making marvellous gains each year. This store will prove a gold mine to the lucky purchaser. ASK ABOUT IT.

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Chocolate, Pearl Pink, Lemon, Orange, White, Maple, Almond, and Coconut Cream.

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purifies the blood.

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is a specific in sore throat and lung diseases.

is so prepared that it can be assimilated without the least digestive effort.

is sold under the positive guarantee that a decided improvement will be felt after taking one bottle, or your money will be refunded by the druggist from whom you purchased it.

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Two Sizes—8 ounce bottle 50c; 20 ounce bottle \$1.00

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Being the actual manufacturers of the goods, we can save you at least 50 per cent., and guarantee the quality as well.

When writing kindly state about what price you want to pay, and we will ship accordingly, as we have over 100 coats in stock, from \$40 each upwards.

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