

BY MARY DEVERUX WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WILSON (Copyright, 1912, by Little, Brown and Company) All Rights Reserved.

CHAPTER IX.

"It was late in a sultry, almost breathless evening in September, 1811, that the ship 'Condor,' belonging to Laro and his associates, dropped anchor in the harbor of Port Royal, Martinique. She lay but a single passenger, if such he could be termed; for it was Jean Lafitte, returned recently from a mission which will be referred to more particularly later on, and who had come from New Orleans for the purpose of meeting Laro, whom he expected to find waiting at Port Royal. His search proved unavailing, although he ascertained that Laro had been seen in the town; and after visiting several of the places where he was liable to be found, Lafitte went to an inn not far from the wharves, and ordered supper. Here he sat enjoying the coolness, when there came to his ears the sound of a voice whose mellow, melodious (thrill) him strangely, sending his thoughts whirling into the past. The air was yet vibrating with the merry tones as the speaker came through the door; and a lamp hanging from the ceiling of the balcony flashed its rays into the face of Greloire. The recognition was not mutual; for Greloire, after a careless glance at the younger man, crossed the balcony and seated himself near the rail. Lafitte was, for the moment, undecided as to what to do—whether to reveal his identity, and risk hearing whatever comments Greloire might make upon a name and career which already had become known in two continents, or to remain silent, and thus forego this unlooked-for opportunity for knowing something definite in regard to the man who, perhaps fitted for the career he—our general—had planned for you—one that would

keep you close to him, and insure your future."

"Lafitte and now recovered—apparently, at least—from the effect wrought upon him by Greloire's surprising intelligence. "You will deliver him a message from me?"

"But all his indecision was soon routed by the realization of what was represented by the face and form so close to him, and come to life as it were, from the dead. The living present seemed to animate the dead, and the reality of Greloire gave actual life to the ideal Napoleon. "Pardon, monsieur," he said bowing slightly as Greloire looked up, "but I do not know the pleasure of your name, monsieur many years ago in France."

"Ah," said Greloire, as he turned to the speaker, "my name is Jean Long as in Lausanne, and Toule," replied Lafitte, fixing his black eyes on Greloire's face. "We met at the Chien Houssens, in Toule, and that time I saw you was at the Convention of St. Sulpice, where you were recovering from wounds in the final battle of Austerlitz."

"Mon Dieu!" exclaimed Greloire. "What means all this, monsieur? Can it be possible that you are Jean Lafitte?" The word was cut short by a flash from the young man's eyes as a salutation might lop off the hand raised for a blow.

"The first is the name by which I was known in Toule, and my friends still use it. My second is a title given to me by the enemies, as if I do not recognize as appropriate. He spoke with stern composure, and with a dignity well becoming his tall, slender figure, and which were while Greloire stared at him in silent astonishment.

"Which of the two, monsieur, do you prefer to use?" Lafitte added, now looking at the speaker, and not removing his eyes from Greloire. "To call you Jean, as I did years ago," Greloire exclaimed impetuously, "is to call me Jean Long, which was accompanied by the firm grip of the younger man's strong fingers. "I tell you, monsieur, that I am now a general—marchis, duke, or marshal of France—tell me of yourself, and of—Napoleon."

"The first will take but a short time," Greloire replied laughing; "for I am not a nobleman, nor yet an officer. Indeed, I left the army six years ago on account of my intentions paled to my body and limbs by the emetics of France, who thus rendered me unfit for hard service against them, and I am now a founder of the republic, and a member of the emperor's household. As such I go upon expeditions against the enemies of the republic, and my business here relates to the settlement of some matters connected with certain property belonging to her Majesty the empress, who, as you know, is the ruler of this fair island. A fine place it is, both as climate and people; but Louisiana is far more to my taste."

"The empress?" Greloire asked, looking at the latter said, "I call it—Napoleon, duke, or marshal of France—tell me of yourself, and of—Napoleon."

"Which of the two, monsieur, do you prefer to use?" Lafitte added, now looking at the speaker, and not removing his eyes from Greloire. "To call you Jean, as I did years ago," Greloire exclaimed impetuously, "is to call me Jean Long, which was accompanied by the firm grip of the younger man's strong fingers. "I tell you, monsieur, that I am now a general—marchis, duke, or marshal of France—tell me of yourself, and of—Napoleon."

Real Estate Exchange

Of Whitcomb & Mitchell at the Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

The following is a partial list of farms, city and village lots and real estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list:

1. Farm of 10 acres, well fenced, well improved, with a good house, situated on the corner of Birmingham and Second streets, near the depot. Price \$10,000.00. Will exchange for improved city property for part of the purchase price.

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