

## ON THE SCENT;

TRACED BY A DIVINING ROD.  
OR,  
BY LADY MARGARET MAKENDE.

### CHAPTER XIII.

Monsieur Leduc did not appear to notice it. "May I have the honor?" he said again, and Arthur, suddenly perceiving that he was addressing him, bowed and introduced himself. Paul Leduc was about the middle height, with a well-made figure, small hands and feet, and the style of beauty most admired in a Frenchman. He had good features, his cheeks perhaps a little too full for his age, which was probably about eight-and-twenty, brilliant eyes, and a small black mustache.

Arthur had a sudden, unaccountable feeling that he had some time in his life seen him before, but how, when, and in what circumstances he could not recollect. He fancied, also, that Paul Leduc was astonished, even slightly taken aback, when he saw him.

He at once assumed the manner of a host, and took them to a salon on the first floor, where a table was already set prepared for a meal. He desired old Battiste to bring in the dinner and offered chairs, as if he alone of the party were really at home. Antoinette sat down timidly; she kept looking at the door, evidently expecting every moment to see her father. Old Battiste slowly brought in the scanty repast and arranged it on the table.

"The lady and gentleman are served," he said, in his best manner. He had on a clean blouse, and boots instead of sabots. Arthur and Antoinette had eaten nothing since they left Leokan, and there did not seem very much on the table for them to eat. There was bread and butter, cheese and a few winter pears.

Paul Leduc said hastily: "Mademoiselle must be tired from her journey, Battiste. See if there is no meat in the larder, no soup, or even eggs."

"There is no meat unless Nanon kill a fowl at once," said Battiste; "but as to an egg or two, if Mademoiselle likes, Nanon can quickly do some at first."

"Antoinette," said Battiste, "will you show me where I can find my father? I cannot recollect till I have seen him."

The old man put down a bottle of cider on the table, and then, with a shaky hand, poured out a glass of it. He began to explain.

"I have told Monsieur that Mademoiselle has come, I shouted it through the door, and, as I expected, I received no answer. My master is no longer young, monsieur et dame. He has acquired fixed habits. At this hour he always retires to his room; it is the rule of the house that we never disturb him. Monsieur Paul only has occasionally accompanied him. He tells me he studies. It may be so."

An odd form contracted Paul Leduc's smooth brow. "We must respect the habits of old age," he said. "I am sure you will agree with me. Is it not so, my fair cousin?"

"I am not sure," said Antoinette. "The case is peculiar. My father wrote to desire me to come to him; he was oppressed with a feeling of nervous fear. He needed protection. It is not wonderful," said Battiste. "Mademoiselle has heard about the dog?"

"Ah! there was mischief meant, I am sure of it, quite sure."

"What was that?" I never heard of it," said Antoinette.

Paul Leduc told her the story, making light of it, and expressing it as his opinion that it was an act of revenge probably on the dog itself, which was a very fierce and unmanageable one. "Your father could hardly have been in earnest when he sought protection from a young and lovely young lady," added Paul, with a disagreeable laugh.

"He sought it from his only daughter," said Antoinette, with a determined look. Arthur knew that such a mode of speech was highly distasteful to her, and he admired the manner in which she put an end to it. "I shall go in search of my father after we have dined," she said.

They sat down to table. Battiste, promising to return immediately with another dish, had hurried away.

"I wish I could have stayed on here," said Paul Leduc, presently. "It would have given me much unfeigned pleasure to have become better acquainted with you, my cousin. With my uncle I have been more fortunate. During the days that I have been staying, first at Goucy, and since the adventure of the dog's death, in this house, he admitted me to an intimacy which, I understand, is not at all common to him."

"You have been staying at Goucy?" said Arthur. "Perhaps, then, you can recommend me an hotel or lodging where I can be certain of a bed to-night?"

Antoinette looked up suddenly and seemed as if she were about to speak; then she changed her mind and leaped back hastily. But Arthur had read in her quick movement a sort of appeal to him not to desert her; but, alas! the matter was no longer in his own hands. He had fulfilled his own part of the transac-

## A 10-CENT MINIMUM

Set by Convention of Southern Cotton Growers

"NIGHT RIDING" IS CONDEMNED

Governor Patterson, of Tennessee, Welcomes Delegates to Memphis Officers of Conference Chosen.

Memphis, Tenn., Special.—The Southern Cotton Conference was called here last week. Gov. M. R. Patterson welcomed the delegates. The responses were made by Charles S. Gray, of Montgomery, and Harvie Jordan, of Atlanta, president of the Southern Cotton Growers' Association. Governor Noel, of Mississippi, also spoke. Harvie Jordan was made permanent chairman, and George Hoppe, of Memphis, and W. H. Gilbert, of Chiclet, Ark., were chosen secretaries.

An address by Bishop Thomas E. Jaiour, of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee, on "The Keynote of the Conference" concluded the formal addresses of the opening session. Mr. Jordan, in his remarks as chairman, said it was fitting that the conference should be assembled in this, the largest interior cotton market in the world.

"We have assembled," he continued, "to safeguard and protect the great staple crop of the South from the artificial and depressing influences of federated interests which operate to the detriment of every business interest in this section of America. We face a serious condition, and whether we will rise equal to the emergency and protect our interests as men of brain and business sagacity, or indifferently accept the situation and parade before the world our voluntary weakness, is the issue which presents itself to this convention."

Mr. Jordan said raw cotton is the only great staple commodity in the world today which is selling below the cost of production, notwithstanding the fact that it represents one of the world's greatest necessities. "That this great staple should ever sell at a price to the cotton growers of less than 10 cents a pound," Mr. Jordan continued, "is a reflection upon the manhood and intelligence of the Southern people. If the cotton growers, bankers, merchants and allied business interests of the South will determine that the price of spot cotton must and shall go back to 10 cents before November passes, that future of the South will be saved; and no spindle in the world will be injured."

Mr. Jordan strongly condemned "night riding" and urged that the convention give its attention to the boll weevil menace. He also recommended the formation of a chain of warehouses wherefrom receipts could be issued which would be acceptable as collateral for short-time loans by the leading financial institutions in this country and in Europe.

## Ten Cents as a Minimum

Memphis, Tenn., Special.—Denunciation of "night-riding," and a fiery defense of the "night-riders" threw the convention of the Southern Cotton Growers' and Ginners' Association into disorder and nearly terminated the session before the program had fairly begun. While excited delegates hurled charges and counter charges, T. U. Sisson, of Mississippi, moved that the convention adjourn sine die.

President Jordan finally brought a semblance of quiet and made a plea for order. The general committee on resolutions presented their report, which was unanimously adopted, recommending that, so far as possible in each individual case, none of the crop of 1908, still in the ownership of the producer, be sold below 10 cents per pound for short staple cotton, and urging growers to hold the crop so as to prevent selling in excess of one-tenth per month of the remaining crop of 1908. The cotton growers are urged to apply to the local banks for loans secured by warehouse receipts representing cotton to be held for the purpose of being marketed only when demanded for actual consumption.

## Over 300 Men Entombed

Heinz, Westphalia, Germany. By Cable.—The greatest mine disaster in many years in Germany occurred Thursday morning in the Radbol mine, about three miles from this place. There was a heavy explosion in the mine about 4 o'clock and almost immediately the mine took fire. There were 350 miners working under the ground at the time and only six escaped without injury. Thirty-five were taken out slightly injured and 37 were dead when brought to the mouth of the pit. The remaining 302 had been given up for lost.

## Tug Sinks in Pamlico Sound—Crew Braced

Norfolk, Va., Special.—News has reached the city of the sinking of the tug Hampton in Pamlico Sound, N. C., during the prevalence of a severe northwest gale, and of the loss of Captain W. J. Rowley, commander. The crew escaped. The tug was bound from Norfolk to Newbern, towing three lumber laden barges. The safety of the barges is still in doubt.

## CHINA'S RULERS DEAD

Shortly After 5 O'Clock, Saturday, the Emperor Breathed His Last—Prince Chun, His Brother, Now Regent, May Be Accepted as Successor.

Pekin, China, By Cable.—The Emperor of China died shortly after 5 o'clock Saturday evening. As early as 3 o'clock in the afternoon, it was reported that the Emperor was so low that his death was regarded as imminent. The Foreign Board of the government has confirmed the report circulated yesterday that the Dowager Empress is also mortally ill.

The Emperor had been ill for a long time and during recent audiences with foreign representatives he was unable either to sit up on the throne or even in an erect position. It was evident for a long time that he would be unable to withstand a crisis which sooner or later must develop in the disease from which he was suffering. Recent climatic extremes caused the development of fatal complications that resulted in his death.

At the moment of death the Emperor, the Dowager Empress' own death chamber chair was waiting in the courtyard. She, too, had been in a serious condition, and word that the Emperor was dying, caused her to collapse. This has prevented her from assuming the relationship of grand mother to the successor to the throne, which, according to the Chinese system would enormously augment her authority.

There is little indication of emotion among the people over the events which have been transpiring. The Emperor's death and the probable death of the Dowager Empress within a very short time have had but little effect upon the Chinese, who are pursuing the even tenor of their way without signs of mourning.

Kuang-Hsu's late life was a pitiable spectacle to his attendants. His feebleness had rendered him a mere puppet and he had suffered long from ill health, which was combined with fear and despair. Lately he showed marked signs of mental disturbances, and even went so far last August as to declare himself mad.

The foregoing dispatch from Peking sets at rest the conflicting rumors of the past two days that have originated in Peking and been published around the world. The Emperor of China is dead. The report from London of his improvement probably refers to a temporary condition only. The Peking message is the first unqualified statement to come from the Chinese capital and it specifically gives the time of the passing away of His Majesty.

The recent is Prince Chun, the Emperor's brother, and if he is accepted by the government before the Dowager Empress dies, the likelihood of any revolutionary outbreak in China will be materially reduced.

## Dowager Empress Dead

Pekin, By Cable.—Tszu Hsi An, the Dowager Empress of China, the autocratic head of the government, which she directed without successful interference since 1861 and without protest since 1881, died at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. The announcement of the Dowager Empress' death was official and followed closely upon the announcement that Kuang-Hsu, the Emperor, had died Saturday at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, but it is believed that the death of both the Emperor and the Dowager Empress occurred a considerable time before that set down in the official statements.

An edict issued at 8 o'clock Sunday morning placed upon the throne Prince Pu-Yi, the 3-year-old son of Prince Chun, the Regent of the Empire, in accordance with a promise given by the Dowager Empress soon after the marriage of Prince Chun in 1903. An edict issued on Friday made Pu-Yi heir presumptive.

## Complaints of Cotton Rates

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—Failing in its suit before the city court of Montgomery to force the Central of Georgia Railway to cease alleged discriminations against the people of Union Springs, Ala., in the cotton compress case the Alabama Railroad Commission has sent a complaint against cotton rates in general. All railroads doing an interstate business in Alabama are made defendants in the complaint.

## NO PUNSTER

The Boston boy baby contemptuously rejected the alphabet blocks that some misguided Western relative had sent him as a present.

## SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS ITEMS

News of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the State and Arranged For Busy Readers

## LUTHERANS AT PROSPERITY.

Synod Will Meet Next at Lexington. Boutwell Business Transacted. Prosperity, Special.—At Saturday afternoon's session of the Lutheran Synod the committee to nominate a Board of directors for the Theological Seminary nominated the Rev. S. T. Hallman, Spartanburg; the Rev. W. F. Fieken, Charleston; the Rev. W. A. D. Mueller, Charleston; the Hon. J. C. Cappelman, Charleston; the Rev. Chas. Koerner, Charleston; Dr. O. B. Mayer, Newberry; the Rev. C. A. Freed, Columbia; Mr. A. D. Halliway, Columbia; the Rev. M. G. G. Sherer, Charleston; Capt. J. C. Seegers, Columbia.

The speakers elected for the next convention of Synod are as follows: Education—The Rev. J. H. Harms, principal; the Rev. J. C. Deitz, assistant. Missions—The Rev. C. Armand Miller, principal; the Rev. J. B. Derdick, assistant. Ordination—The Rev. E. D. Kinnard, principal; the Rev. E. Fulewicz, assistant.

The educational sermon will be preached on Wednesday evening at next session, missions on Thursday evening, and this rule will be observed in the future. The selection of the next place of meeting by ballot resulted in Lexington, with Walhalla a close second, and the time on Wednesday before, and the second Sunday in November, 1909.

The committee on pastoral districts reported no changes asked for and no pastoral relations would be changed. The committee on the report of the treasurer of the Bachman endowment fund reported the accounts properly vouched and the secretary cast the unanimous vote of Synod for the Rev. C. P. Boozer as treasurer. Mr. W. P. Roof was elected treasurer of the Seminary fund. Dr. O. B. Mayer was elected treasurer of the semi-centennial fund.

Mr. A. H. Kohn was re-elected treasurer of the Synod. The committee on vacancies reported the following churches being vacant: St. Stephen's, Mount Pilgrim, Silver Street, St. Stephen's, Enon, St. Peter's, Graniteville, Orange Chapel, Aiken, and St. Mark's, Richland County. These churches were permitted to make their own arrangements for preaching services by and with the consent of Synod.

The report of the president of the board of trustees of Newberry College was pending when Synod adjourned. The Rev. C. A. Miller, D. D., of Charleston, S. C., preached a strong sermon on "The Needs of the Christian Church," at 8 p. m.

## New County Petition Filed

Columbia, Special.—A petition has been filed with Governor Ansel for an election on the establishment of a new county, proposed to be named Rutledge County, that is to be formed out of the counties of Williamsburg, Florence and Charleston. According to the petition and the affidavits filed the proposed territory has an area of 400 square miles, a registered vote of 1,600 and property assessed at two and one-half million dollars. There are 1,100 names on the petition. The new county will take two townships from Florence, and one from Charleston, and the rest of the territory from Williamsburg. The advocates of the proposition are confident of carrying the election if it is ordered. The next step will be the appointment by the Governor of a commission which will report whether or not the law has been complied with, and then on their report the Governor will agree or decline to order an election.

## University Notes.

Columbia, special.—Prof. W. H. Hunt is kept busy in assisting in the development of the high schools of the State. He is writing the chapter on "Secondary Education in the South" for the forthcoming "The South in the Building of the Nation," which is to be issued in four volumes.

Acting President A. C. Moore, represented the university at the exercises at Newberry College last Friday when the new president of that institution was inaugurated. The university sent by him her Godspeed to Newberry college in the noble cause of education.

## Health Situation at Winthrop.

Rock Hill, Special.—The fever status at Winthrop College is about the same. There are no new cases of typhoid and only one suspect. The local health officer and Dr. Williams are doing all possible to discover the cause.

## Nowberry's New President.

Newberry, Special.—A most pleasing feature of the proceedings of the synod was the inauguration of Rev. J. H. Harms, as president of Newberry college. The Synod as a body, together with representative men from the A. R. P. Synod, in session in Newberry, and the board of trustees occupied seats on the rostrum in Holland hall. The Hon. G. S. Mower, vice-president of the board president Rev. G. A. Wright of the Baptist church led in prayer, after which Dr. M. G. G. Sherer, vice president of the college, made a most pleasing address, replete with sparkling wit, sound reasoning and fine taste. Dr. M. G. G. Scherer, retiring president of the Synod, addressed the president-elect on behalf of Synod, dwelling on the high position to which his alma mater and the church had called him, and assuring him of the loyal support of the Synod and church at large. The Hon. G. S. Mower then, in fitting terms, inducted Prof. Harms into the high office to which he had been called. Then followed the inaugural address, which was really a masterpiece of superb oratory and of the highest practical wisdom and judgment. The dignity and splendid work of the smaller colleges was duly emphasized and he showed that no education is complete without Christ. To the ideal colleges it was necessary to educate the head and the heart, to bring out the best in man, to fully develop all his powers, and to produce by close contact between teacher and pupil full rounded Christian character, the manly man, kindness was the keynote in college work and life. No outline, however, could possibly do justice to this address of Prof. Harms. It is sufficient to say that it was a strong presentation of the ideal colleges, and one of the first addresses of its kind ever heard within classic walls of Newberry college.

## Military Guard Court.

Spartanburg, Special.—John Irby and Charles Agnew, both colored, will be tried here next week at a special term of court. Irby on the charge of attempting to make a criminal assault on a young white lady, and Agnew on the charge of wrecking a passenger train, causing the death of the engineer and fireman. It will be recalled that an effort was made to lynch both Irby and Agnew October 15, and both prisoners had to be spirited to Columbia for safe keeping. They will be brought to stand trial. It is not known whether they will be brought here under military guard or not. Recently cards were distributed about the city which read as follows: "Any attorney who consents to defend either rapist or train wrecker should be debarrd from the bar and any good society." It was thought that the mob spirit had subsided, but since the wholesale distribution of the cards it is expected that the trial will be held under military guard.

## Accused of Defrading by Mail.

Florence, Special.—There was interesting preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner Dr. Peter B. Bacon at this place, last week. Mr. David H. Fess, a citizen of Dillon, was brought before the commissioner on the charge of using the United States mail for fraudulent purposes. There were a number of witnesses summoned here to testify in the case from various places in the eastern portion of the State. The commissioner bound Mr. Fess over to the District Court, which meets in Charleston in December, in the sum of \$500.

## Wants Guarantee Fund Back.

Columbia, Special.—Commissioner McMaster of the State insurance department has received from the North Carolina Fire Insurance company an application for the return of the \$10,000 deposited as required by law when the company commenced business in the State. The company has now withdrawn from South Carolina.

## Store Burned at Parker.

Elberton, Special.—The store of the Dantzer-Beck company at Parker, together with its entire contents, was destroyed by fire Thursday night about 12 o'clock. The building was a two-story frame structure and the fire had gained too much headway before it was discovered for those who fought the flames to rescue any of the contents. A trusty colored servant slept in the second story and he barely escaped with his life. The origin of the fire appears to be unknown, but it seemed to have emanated in the first story.

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