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Anderson, So. Car.

An Alsatian Quarrel

By DWIGHT NORWOOD

Ever since the Franco-Prussian war there has been bad blood between the inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine and the German soldiers stationed there to keep them subservient to their conquerors. True, those provinces were wrested from Germany, and many of their inhabitants are Germans. It is the French citizens who are restive under German rule.

Among these French Alsatians who are restive is Jules Laurant, a German soldier, not yet forty, and still fair to look upon. One of the German officers belonging to the army of occupation met her and desired to marry her. But she was not willing to give her son a step-father, and she was too patriotic to marry a man whose business it was to keep her country under a foreign yoke. Besides these reasons, she had no love for her adulter.

Captain von Gottschalk was not especially pleased at his refusal and considered Jules Laurant responsible for it. Consequently he took a great dislike to the young man. But Jules did not resent how the captain had proposed to his mother. Quite likely had he known it he would have vigorously opposed it, but, being ignorant of the matter, he had nothing to do with the refusal.

One day when von Gottschalk was marching at the head of his company some persons standing on the sidewalk looking at the soldiers leered. It happened that Jules Laurant was there. Captain von Gottschalk was very wrath with those who had insulted him and his command and saw Jules standing near them. Jules had not uttered a sound. He had fought the Germans and they had conquered. He was not the man to have another chance to oppose them under arms.

von Gottschalk, feeling this was a good opportunity to vent his spleen on Jules and without being very angry, walked right up to Jules and cursed him. Jules was unmoved, while the captain held a sword to his hand. Jules could not retaliate at the time, but he could challenge his insulter to mortal combat.

Jules went home and told his mother of the circumstance, explaining to her that it was not only his wish, but according to custom that he should challenge to von Gottschalk. She agreed with him.

The matter was a challenge to both of these men, and Jules would be supported by the German government, and Jules, if he won in the fight, would be made to pay for the damages as far as was known, had merely received an insult to himself and his company which no officer of the German army could brook and retain his commission. For these reasons Mme. Laurant took the affair deeply to heart.

Captain von Gottschalk was an accomplished swordsman. To make a show of magnanimity he gave Jules the choice of terms and weapons, though as the challenged party he was entitled to this choice himself. Jules, who consulted his mother in everything, was advised by her to choose pistols at ten paces.

The night before the meeting Jules left his walking in the morning to his mother. She gave him a glass of wine to drink before going to bed into which she had dropped a soporific powder. As soon as he had gone to sleep she took his clothes into her own room and, throwing herself on a lounge, rested for the few hours remaining before going on to the ground. She took the first sign of dawn she saw, took her son's clothes, wrapped a muffler around her throat and the lower part of her face, pulled a felt hat down over the back of her neck to conceal her hair and waited for the second.

Whether she revealed herself to him or not on the way to the meeting has been kept a secret with much of what followed. On reaching the ground it was suggested that she take off some of the weeds, without that concealing her identity, but she refused. Being placed at only ten paces from her adversary, he would easily have recognized her had it not been for the muffler and the trim of her hat, which she pulled down over her forehead. Two signals were given—the one to aim, the other to fire. Between the first and the second signal Mrs. Laurant lifted the trim of her hat and pulled down her muffler, exposing her face.

Never was a man so thoroughly paralyzed by fright as Jules. He was a young man of about a woman's build, a young man who had proposed marriage—or perhaps he is about thirty. Before he had made up his mind which to do she had fired and hit a ball into his chest that dropped him on the ground.

Mrs. Laurant's identity was exposed to all the spectators. Realizing what an unfortunate affair Captain von Gottschalk had fallen into they endeavored to get Jules to escape, but he had no intention of a flight. He remained and endured the worst tortures imaginable for several minutes, three minutes confinement in a fortress. And that was all that was ever known about the affair.

Jules was still asleep when his mother returned. When he awakened she told him all and convinced him that it was in his and her interest that the matter should be kept within the small circle of those who knew about it. With this in view, he went away till the excitement was blown over.



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their confirmation and give it for all it may be worth. Here is the Tennessee's account of the affair.

When the Confederate government abandoned Richmond as its capital all its archives and treasures were sent under strong military escort to Charlotte, N. C. The banks of Richmond took away their treasure under protection of the same escort. President Davis and his cabinet also came to Charlotte and established temporary headquarters.

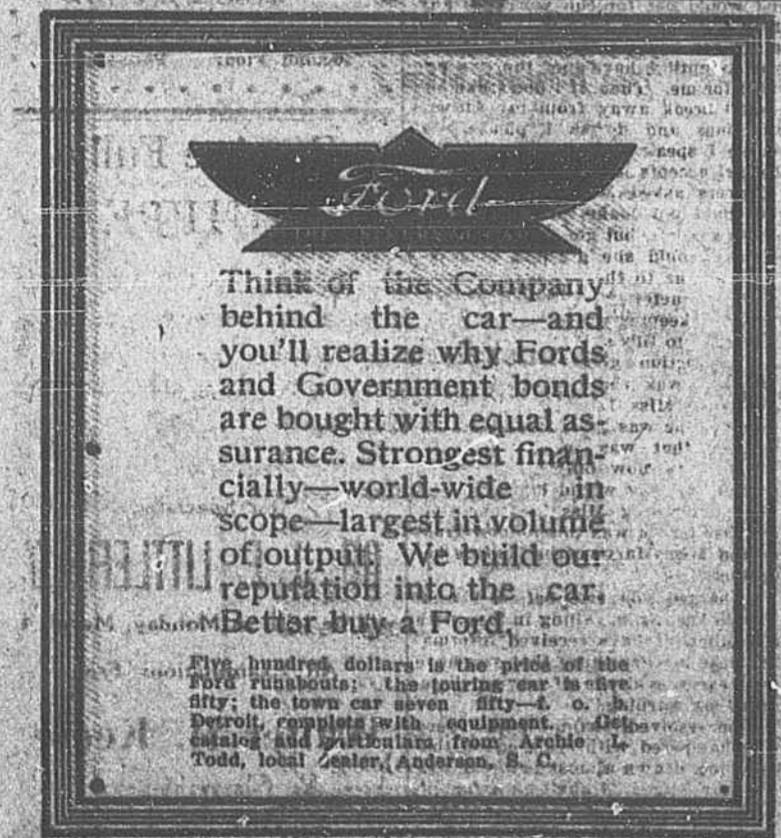
Before they reached Charlotte, Richmond and Petersburg had fallen and Gen. Lee had surrendered, and in a very few days Sherman and Johnston had agreed upon armistice by their celebrated paper under which it was proposed that peace should be made, and that the warring states should resume their treaty. If it had been carried out, would have obliterated reconstruction act of congress, for it covered the entire subject of restoration of peace and return of the southern states to the union, and of their senators and representatives to congress.

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