

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

by GASTON LEROUX
Author of The Mystery of The Yellow Room Etc.



CHAPTER V. The Enchanted Violin.

Christine Daae, owing to intrigues to which I will return later, did not immediately continue her triumph at the Opera. After the famous gala night, she sang once at the Duchesse de Zurich's; but this was the last occasion on which she was heard in private. She refused, without plausible excuse, to appear at a charity concert to which she had promised her assistance. She acted throughout as though she were no longer the mistress of her own destiny and as though she feared a fresh triumph.

To last them for a year and slept at night in a barn, refusing a bed at the inn, lying close together on the straw, as when they were so poor in Sweden. At the same time, they were very neatly dressed, made no collection, refused the halfpence offered them; and the people around could not understand the conduct of this rustic fiddler, who tramped the roads with that pretty child who sang like an angel from heaven. They followed them from village to village.

She knew that the Comte de Chagny, to please his brother, had done his best on her behalf with M. Richard; and she wrote to thank him and also to ask him to speak in her behalf. Her reason for this curious attitude was never known. Some pretended that it was due to overweening pride; other spoke of her heavenly modesty. But people on the stage are not so modest as all that; and I think that I shall not be far from the truth if I ascribe her action simply to fear. Yes, I believe that Christine Daae was frightened by what had happened to her.

One day, a little boy, who was out with his governess, made her take a longer walk than he intended, for he could not tear himself from the little girl whose pure, sweet voice seemed to bind him to her. They came to the shore of an inlet which is still called Trestraou, but which now, I believe, harbors a casino of some kind. There was a boat on the water, and a stretch of golden beach. Only, there was also a high wind which blew Christine's scarf out to sea. Christine gave a cry and put out her arms, but the scarf was already far on the waves. Then she heard a voice say:

Monsieur: I have not forgotten the little boy who went into the sea to rescue my scarf. I feel that I must write to you today, when I am going to Perros, in fulfillment of a sacred duty. Tomorrow is the anniversary of the death of my poor father, whom you knew and who was very fond of you. He is buried there, with his violin, at the bottom of the slope where we used to play as children, beside the road where, when we were a little bigger, we said goodby for the last time.

And it seldom happened that they did not have one "given" them; for nearly every old Breton grandame has, at least once in her life, seen the "korrigans" dance by moonlight on the heath.

RESUME OF THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

(By THOMAS C. SHOTWELL.)

New York, May 6.—Having no supreme court decisions on Monday to worry about the stock market was quiet and firm throughout today's session. In the early trading some selling was caused by the Mexican situation but it was so well absorbed that the sellers were discouraged. The market righted itself and continued to the close without important incident.

The manufacturers of the trusts believe these relations are legal and have made no attempt to conceal them. Stockholders of the trusts are fully informed of these relations and while the investigations will undoubtedly produce many startling newspaper stories there is no reason for expecting them to be a depressing influence on the market. Wall Street may be wrong but Wall Street is looking upon these investigations as pure bunkum and they increase the bad feeling that already exists between business men and the politicians.

By Associated Press. Savannah, Ga., May 6.—The purpose of the special meeting of the directors of the Central of Georgia railway today was to effect a settlement with the dissatisfied bondholders who have been suing the company for interest on income bonds.

RESUME OF THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

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The bank statement was not important as it showed but small changes in reserves, the actual statement being better than the average one. Most important of the week's developments in the stock market world was the final realization by the general public that reciprocity can not become a law this year and that the congress at Washington will be unable to bring about any important tariff reforms.

While it is true that the dullness of the stock market is based very largely on general trade conditions it can not be denied that some very important enterprises are being held up awaiting the decisions of the supreme court in the tobacco and oil cases.

There was an unavoidable delay in filling the office of president and I did not assume the duties of the presidency until about the first of March. Having had no connection with the previous litigation, I was in position to consider the difference with the income bondholders with an open mind and, as the final result of discussing the matter with counsel and with members of the executive committee and board of directors, we have accepted in the utmost good faith the decision of the court in the 1907 case and, with this object in view, the income accounts of the company for the year 1908, 1909 and 1910, have been carefully considered and have been revised by crediting to the income account all items which under the decision of the supreme court of Georgia as to the year 1907 should be so credited.

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