ment, all the mingled emotions that

spelled for him unhappiness, were

"Gilbert," she called, with infinite

pleading, in pathos unutterable, "I

was afraid I wouldn't find you. I've

walked such a long way looking for

"They said-such ugly things-to you.

You hadn't done anything wrong, and

"Why?" he asked, unforgiving.

they-they hurt you, didn't they?"

"I didn't mind that." he averred.

"Then you got angry with me.

heavy in his heart. He stopped.

She advanced.

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CHAPTER I-M. de Valette dwells on his plantation in Louisiana during the period of Andrew Jackson's military career, 1815. The servants procure candles to burn before the coffin of a dead slave. II-Raoul middle aged cousin of De Valette, comes to meet the beautiful 17-year-old daughter, Madeleine de Valette. who has been pledged to him in marriage by De Valette. III-A dancing girl, D'Acadienne, appears and is revealed as a former sweetheart of Raoul, whom he has discarded. IV-Madeline meets M. Raoul for the first time and describes him as "quiet an old

gentleman." V-Madel ine meets Gilbert Steels, a dashing young American, and they fall deeyly in love with each other-love at first sight. But she tells him she is betrothed to M. Raoul de Valette.

L'Acadienne placed her hands on her hips, smiling a little.

"You have my good wish in the fight," she said simply. "I think you have good hearts. That is not so fre-

An idea had come to Wolf. He turned to her. "Are you in any particlar hurry?"

be asked. She smiled again.

an end. What is it that you want?" She shook her head

"That won't matter," be replied. this neighborhood, and he's joined back and went away. Don't you unhis father, so I had to bring his rifle him. I don't want him to be hurt." here for him, He'll be here for it, but I haven't had no chance to give him the word that here's where the company is to meet and start from, and I want him to stay here. Now, if you'd just wait here and tell him for me it'd give me a chance to foller a darned coward"-he glanced in the direction in which Crawley had disappeared-"that I think is going to desert. I could make sure he comes back."

She nodded. Indifferently she said: "I will do it." "Well, I take that kindly of you." he acknowledged. He handed her the ex-ARE YOU ONE tra rifle that he carried and unslung the pathetic little figure before her, the second powderhorn that lay across his shoulder. She took them and went lette!" to the cleft tree that stood by the log.
"I will put them here for him," she

> Wolf turned. "He'll be here," he said; "a likely lookin' young feller with pleasin' manners. Jest ask him if his name's Gil-

he had vanished from sight. She stood. wish to find your Gilbert! Well, I arms akimbo, silent, motionless. Only her eyes moved, and they moved not much. At length she heard the bushes

rustle behind her. She turned, Came toward her Madeleine de Valette. Golden brown hair was disheveled. Her eyes were wide. The hem

red a bit of vine-a bramble.

"Have you seen any one pass this

"Why?" L'Acadienne wondered; the

"I was following some one, but he

was very far ahead and on horseback.

He rode into the woods, and I lost

L'Acadienne shrugged her lithe shoul-

"M. Raoul de Valette is a difficult

man to follow, as many have found."
"M. Raoul de Valette! But I am

"Not be?" L'Acadienne cried, sur-

head that was so like a lily upon th

"One so fortunate as to be betrothed

to M. Raoul de Valette and searching

for another man!" L'Acadienne spoke

shook her little head-the

sight of him, but I kept following."

ders expressively. She said:

ent was in her voice. -

Madeleine came forward slowly.

way?" she asked.

not following him."



far as this before. It is hard coming through these woods." "Who is it?"

demanded the other "Who is it that you fol-"His name is Gilbert" "Chibert Steele?"

cried L'Acadienne culekts "The you know him?" exclained Madeleine enger-"Have you seen blense

"I have a mes-

sage for him looking ut the alender little figure intently. She said suddenly, "It might be time I could save you some little trouble if you

tell me your message." "It isn't a message. "You want to see him?" She said it shrewdly, engerly.

"Oh, yes." L'Acadienne went on esgerly: "You want to look at him? You want to be with him, near by, so that you can talk with him-talk all you like? I'm

"Oh, I must!" Madeleine cried. "He is hurt with me," she went on, explain-"Me?" she said. "My hurry is all at ing rapidly. "He got angry with me so suddenly. He was offended. I "Do you know young Glibert Steele?" | didn't know what to do, and then they all came. My father was so bitter with him and spoke so harshly to him, "He's, a mighty likely young feller of and he said that he would never come Wolf's sharpshooters unbeknowst to derstand? I must see him and tell

"Because," said L'Acadienne slowly. "If he is hurt that hurts you a great deal?" "I can't bear it!" cried Madeleine

"He is such an old friend of yours, then? You have known him a long Madeleine shook her head.

piteously.

"HE IS GOING TO WAR."

to war."

that I did not know where he was pe."

She waited a moment, eying the ea-gerness on Madeleine's face, in her

eyes. At length she said, "He is going

Madeleine de Valette shivered.

L'Acadienne needed to know no more.

She pointed to the cleft in the tree.

"His company meets here. He is coming for that gun. He is to wait."

"When?" cried Madeleine eagerly.

Came from the forest the call of an

"I think your Gilbert comes now."
She turned, laughing a little. "M.
Raoul de Valette," she murmured as

to herself, "is quite an old gentle-

L'Acadienne said simply:

"No." she said. "I have known him only since-since today." In the eyes of L'Acadienne shone a mocking gladness. She was sure

"And," she said, slowly looking at

"you are betrothed to M. Raoul de Va-Madeleine nodded. "Oh, yes," she said, "M. Raoul is

quite an old gentleman." L'Acadienne's mirth was unrestrained. It came back to them from tho arch of the forest.

"So he is!" she cried. "So he is! bert Steele and give 'em to him." And He is quite an old gentleman, is M. he was gone. Raoul de Valette." Then in abrupt EAcadienne had forgotten him ere transition; "And you, ma'm'selle, you have not seen him." Madeleine said slowly, gently, re-

proachfully: "I think you might have told me.

I have lost much time." She turned to go, but the other called to her, "I said I did not know where he of her white dress was torn, and to it was," she declared. "I did not say



"M. RAOUL DE VALETTE IS A DIFFICULT MAN TO FOLLOW, AS

done?" Welling eyes were turned up to meet his own.

"Nothing," he said. hurts me pa"

"I am not angry," he said. "I was so happy," she declared "You and I were talking, and

then suddenly-suddenly you weredifferent. It was like being angry, and it must have been my fault. Was it something I said?" He cried quickly:

was puzzled. "Why, yes," she said. Then: "Was it that? Does that make you unhappy,

Gilbert? Does it?" He gulped swiftly.

She cried earnestly: "But I haven't anything to do with that, Gilbert! They arranged it all." "And you're going to do it?"
"But I'm not doing it," she protested

'My father and Raoul, they do it!" "But you couldn't marry him unless you cared something for him." he de-

"I don't know." "But you mustn't! You mustn't!

He turned to her. "I do!" he cried tensely. Her eyes were on his-deep eyes, wonderful eyes. Suddenly he drew her to him

He cried tensely:

She drew a white hand, palm out across her eyes. She said at length



vibrant, and very soft: "Go with me!" he repeated huskily. "Go with"— Then he took her in his arms again, holding her to him, very, very close. Her arms went around his neck. For a long time they stood like that. At length be said:

but me! eyes was great, great wonder.

didn't understand before. This is be meant - something that makes one soul cling to another in thing that comes all at once!" "It's true," he whispered, "That's

"Madeleine." She looked up at him.

"Alwaya?" he asked. "Always," she repeated - "always and always and always! There'll never be anything else in the world. Only his morning Father O'Mara called me a child," she went on. "But I don't think be will any more. I think I'm a woman now, Gilbert." She paused Came to them only the shrill notes of a bird, far above amid the sun flecked leaves. At length she said, "And only

You must go quickly!"

looked about him.

tle figure in white:

Came the voice of Wolf:

Wolf, looking at him, rejoined:

Andy'll drive 'em out o' Zion,

"Madeigine," he whispered broken-

She did not move. Only she was

"I can't, It came all at once. I

with him!"

thing!"

nestly:

my word."

son's army!"

ly, "Madeleine!"

"Goodby."

to think that if it hadn't been for this you'd have gone off to the war."



looking at him. He murmured softly: MANY HAVE FOUND."

couldn't understand. What had , It broke his gream. Swiftly he start "Madeleine," he cried, "we must be

He turned away a little. "Ah, tell me!" she besought. "It

simply.

"You told me that you were going to marry your cousin, Raoul de Valette!" There was in her eyes surprise. She

"Not if you want to marry him," he

"But how could I care for him?" she cried. "Why, I never saw him until today!"

He said quickly: "And yet you're going to marry him -going away to his house, where I'll never see you again; going to be his wife; going to be with him all the time for the rest of your life!" He went on:

"He'll be your husband! He wouldn't let me see you! He'll hate me because I hate him! I hate him because you'r going to marry bim!" "No, no!" she cried, and then, "But, Gilbert, you don't hate me too!

You mustn't hate me, Gilbertt"

He kissed her. He thrust her from him. She stood dazed, silent, motionless,

"There! Now go and marry you Raoul de Valette!"



very slowly-her voice was low and "No! No! I want to go with you." "Now you can never marry

the wonder of it all-the "No," she said softly, "never.

spite of fear or shame or death-some the way it comes!" There was a long, long pause.

Say my name again," she breathed. se," he said again-"Madene, I-I love you." Came to her lips the ghost of a smile

ed to his feet. She rose, too, fright-

"Father O'Mara!" she exclaimed.

to Raoul." "But," he said in despair, "what can we do? If I have to leave you

"Leave me!" She clung to his sleeve. "I've got to go with the company. I've enlisted. I've promised."

"You could leave me-now?" "They'd call me a coward if I didn't! It's a question of honor. Listen, Madeleine. I'm running away to join them. I gave them my word, and I must keep it. You mustn't speak of my going when you get back home?"

"Home!" she cried brokenly, aghast. "You want me to go home!"

"No!" she breathed. "You must go," he said. You must go while I have the strength to let

married without any delay! The priest But he wouldn't do it! He'd take me

can't!" "But"-She moved a little toward him. Her home. He thinks he has to marry me ace was near to his. "I am going with you," she whispered, and again, "I am going with

They were both very young. Many. things they did not know. Yes She cried piteously:

"I AM GOING WITH TOU," SHE WHISPERED



"YOU MUST GO WHILE I HAVE THE STRENGTH TO LET YOU."

"You must?" ne crieu. "It's growing late. And we were to meet at sunset. and I don't know where. I haven't even found Welf." There had come the sound of fife and drum.

Gilbert despairingly. "They are coming now. If they think I've broken my word"—
She had been standing silent, eyes wide. She had not known, but she had been learning many things. Al

"And I haven't even my rifle?" cried

"They are to meet here. Your rife is there." She pointed to the hollow tree. He leaped to it. He took there-(TO RE CONTINUED.) from gun and powderhorn, slinging the latter across his shoulder. "There," be cried exultantly, "that makes a soldier of me." He turned to

her. "And you'll be a soldier's wife yet, sweetheart! "Ray goodby to me," he becought. "Say goodby, like a brave girl. There's no other way."

He pla

Her face was buried in her hands.

"I can't!" she mouned.

the greatest of all things that are of world had come into their lives, and this then they did know, and this only, the result will surprise you.

Bide by side, through the darkling woods, they went, following the shrill squeak of fife, the rumble of drum and the sound of the singing men. And hen the little glade was empty.



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