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Robert W. Herter, Lawrenceville, Mo.

THE THREE GUARDSMEN

BY ALEXANDRE DUMAS

maud. Athos made him a sign to come to him.

"D'Artagnan," said Athos, "tell us what sort of a night you have had, and we will describe yours."

"Gentlemen," said Athos, "I have a wager to propose."

"I take it," said M. de Busigny, "you let us fix the stakes."

"But where are you going to eat my breakfast?" said the host.

"We have some very important matters to communicate to each other, and it was impossible to talk five minutes in that inn without being annoyed."

"But for such an expedition we surely ought to have brought our muskets," said Porthos.

"Well, I shall find their muskets, their cartridges and their flasks, and instead of four musketeers and twelve balls we shall have fifteen guns and a hundred charges of fire."

"Not quite so yet," replied Athos, "for by the way, you must have left the shores of France."

"But, after all," asked Porthos, "who is my lady?"

"A very charming woman," said Athos, "who has demanded D'Artagnan's hand of the cardinal."

"What is the matter, Grimaud?" said Athos. "What do you see?"

"I have just seen a man who looks like you, and who is carrying a bag of gold."

And the four friends, seconded by Grimaud, pushed with the barrels of their muskets an enormous chest of the wall, which bent over as if acted upon by the wind.

"Can we have destroyed them all?" said Athos. "No," cried Porthos, "there are three or four."

"In fact, three or four of these unfortunate men, covered with dirt and blood, were flying along the hollow ramp which led to the breach of the city. These were all that were left of the little troop."

"Gentlemen," said he, "we have been here an hour, and our wages is won. Now for my idea. This military—this pomp—this creature—this demon, has a brother-in-law, Lord de Winter, in London."

"You were saying," said D'Artagnan, "that after having demanded my hand of the cardinal, the lady had left the shores of France. Where is she going to?"

"With the view of assassinating or causing to be assassinated the Duke of Buckingham," said D'Artagnan.

"That paper must be torn to pieces," said D'Artagnan, who fancied he had read it in his sentence of death.

"That evening the cardinal spoke to M. de Treville of the exploit of the night of the 20th, which was the whole of the story."

"D'Artagnan was beside himself with joy. We know that the dream of his life had been to become a musketeer. The three friends were likewise greatly delighted."

"That evening D'Artagnan went to present his compliments to M. Desessart and inform him of his promotion. He begged him to take the diamond which he had just received."

"I have an idea," said D'Artagnan. "What is it?" said the musketeers. "To arm myself."

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returning. That will reduce the sum to 5,000 livres. We will each take 1,000 livres to be employed as seems good to each, and we will leave a fund of 1,000 livres under the guardianship of M. Fable here for extraordinary occasions or common wants."

"It was so agreed. Planchet was sent for and instructions were given him."

"Now," continued D'Artagnan, addressing Planchet, "you have eight days to get an interview with Lord de Winter, you have eight days to return in, in all sixteen days. If on the sixteenth day after your departure at 8 o'clock in the evening you are not here no money, even if it be but five minutes past 8."

"On the morning of the eighth day, Bazin, freshly shaved and smiling according to custom, entered the inn of Paspallot as the four friends were sitting down to breakfast, saying, as had been agreed upon:

"M. Aramis, here is the answer from your cousin."

"The letter reads: My dear cousin, I am a little in arrears in my studies and I entertain great fear of them, but of yours it may be said, I hope, every dream is an illusion. Adieu! Take care of yourself and act so that we may from time to time hear you speak of."

"Bazin had not, by his fortunate return, removed more than a part of the uneasiness which weighed upon the four friends. The days of expectation are long, and D'Artagnan, in particular, would have wagered that the days were forty-four hours long."

"But all at once a shadow appeared in the darkness, the outline of which was that of a man in a military uniform."

"D'Artagnan with a Trembling Hand Broke the Seal and Read the Letter."

"I have a note," said he to Athos and his friends. "That's well," said Athos. "Let us go home and read it."

"In the tent of D'Artagnan they lit a lamp, and while Planchet stood at the entrance, that the four friends might not be surprised, D'Artagnan with a trembling hand broke the seal and opened the letter."

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THE FOLLOWERS. Winner in the Pittsburg Post.

FARMER GETS LESS, BUT—

He Has to Pay More for What He Doesn't Raise.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has just announced that notwithstanding the increased cost of living among the people as a whole there was a greater decline in the prices paid to farmers from Aug. 1 to Sept. 1 this year than there was last year.

The average farm prices of the important crops (corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed, potatoes, tobacco, cotton and hay, which represent about three-fourths of the value of all the country's crops) declined 7 per cent. during the month, while in that time last year they declined in price only 4.4 per cent., and during the last four years the decline in price averaged 3.8 per cent. The average of farm prices on Sept. 1 was 2.8 per cent. lower than on that date last year.

Table with 2 columns: Articles, 1912, 1911. Rows include Corn, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Buckwheat, Flaxseed, Potatoes, Hay, Cotton, Butter, Chickens, Eggs.

Where He Found Safety. During his first curfew a clergyman found the ladies of the parish entirely too helpful. Such a storm of petty squabbles arose from their overzealousness to help that in despair he gave up the place. Not long afterward he met his successor.

Heredit. "Oh, hubby, dear, what do you think are the best words our baby will say?" said Mrs. Matron. "Well, if she takes after you they will probably be, 'This is a nice time to come home,' said the brute."

Tomatoes in Park. The city council of Milliken, Colo., has planned the city park, consisting of several acres, with tomatoes in place of grass. The money received from the crop will be used to purchase shade trees for the park.

The Trials of a Traveler. "I am a traveling salesman," writes E. E. Young, of Berkshire, Vt., "and was often troubled with constipation and indigestion till I began to use Dr. King's New Life Pills, which I have found an excellent remedy." For all stomach, liver or kidney troubles they are unequalled. Only 25 cents at Graham Drug Co.

When relieved from duty on a morning lately Zeno Carter, the negro fireman at a saw mill at Linden, 13 miles from Fayetteville, lay down in the boiler room and went to sleep. A plug blew out of the boiler and boiling water poured on Carter, scalding him so badly that he died.

There is plenty of peace about the East today, but nobody claims "it passeth understanding."

Woodrow Wilson says to the long-suffering farmer who buys in a trust-controlled, highly protected market and sells his wares in a free market: "Walk into your own house and take possession."

How many of those who are struggling with the "High Cost of Living" believe there is to be any relief if the Republican party, which brought it about, remains in power?

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Along the Garden Paths.

When watering plants do not force the water against the plant; let it fall in the form of a shower. Cabbage and all other plants of the cabbage family require a very fertile and cool, moist soil for good growth.

Carrots are splendid for folks who need iron in their blood. One of the best ways to get it is to eat these nice roots. Sunshine, rainfall and temperature are three important factors in cantaloupe culture beyond the control of the grower.

If your best rows are too thick pull out some and sell them for greens. Nothing better in the world for this purpose. Let no cucumbers go to seed or the productiveness of the vines will be stopped. Pick them often, whether you want them or not.

As fast as the boxes, frames and stakes have done their work take them out, so that no insects will make their homes about them. If it is dry slip a can or two of water on the stone and let the horses draw it out to the garden for use on the celery and things that most healthily depend on water when you come to gather in the harvest.

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