

CHAPTER XXIII-Continued. -17-

I clung to his hands, staring back still at the grim outline of the silent be struck me free, a blow which shatfort. I understood his thoughts, his | tered the gun-stock, and left him armed desire to aid his comrades; but, for a moment, my mind was a blank. I fury was on him; dimly I could see could not let him go alone to almost him towering above me, bareheaded. certain death. No, nor would he aban- his clothes torn to rags, the grim barrel don me on such a mission! Was there poised for a blow. no other way by which we could serve? Suddenly a thought crept into my mind.

"Monsieur," I asked breathlessly, "where do you suppose those Illini Indians to be?"

"Back from the river, in a glennof caves and rocks."

"How far from here?"

"Four or five miles; there is a trail from the mouth of the creek."

"And you know the way? and there might be many warriors there? they will remember you, and obey your orders?"

He straightened up, aroused as the full meaning of my questioning occurred to him.

"Ay, there is a chance there, if we find them in time, and in force enough to make foray. Sacre! I know not why such thought has not come to me before. Could we but fall on those devils from the rear in surprise, even with a third of their number, they would run like cats. Mon Dieu! I thank you for the thought."

We plunged into the forest, no longer endeavoring to advance silently, but inspired with a desire to achieve our goal as soon as possible. At the mouth of a stream entering the river, D'Artigny picked me up in his arms and waded across. On the opposite bank be sought eagerly on hands and knees for the old trace he dimly remembered. At last he stood erect.

"Ay, lass, it's here to be easily followed. What hour do you make it now?

"About three."

"So I would have said; and 'tis not daylight until after five. We can scarce make it, yet we will try."

It was not as dark here away from the gloom of the Rock; the forest was open, and yet I will never know how D'Artigny succeeded in following that dim trail at so rapid a gait. As for me, I could see nothing of any path. and merely followed him blindly, not even certain of the nature of the ground under my feet. Again and again I tripped over some obstacle-a root, a tuft of grass-and continually unnoted branches flapped against my face. Once I fell prone, yet so noiselessly that Rene passed beyond view before he realized my misfortune, and returned to help me regain my feet. Not until then, I think, did he comprehend the rapidity of his movements.

flend, until he stood over me. With one wide sweep of his clutched weapon only with the iron bar. But the battle

he came, step by step, fighting like a

"St. Ann!" he cried exultantly. "'Tis a good fight so far-would you have more of it?"

"Hold!" broke in a French voice from out the darkness. "What means this? Are you of white blood?"

"I have always supposed so."

"A renegade consorting with devils of the Iroquois?" "Mon Dieu! No! An officer of Fort

St. Louis."

I could see the white man thrust aside the Indian circle, and strike through. His face was invisible, although I was upon my knees now, but he was a short, heavily built fellow. "Stand back! ay, make room. Saint Guise, we are fighting our own friends.

If you are of the garrison, name yourself." D'Artigny, still clasping his rifle bar-

rel, reached out his other hand, and lifted me to my feet.

"Perchance," he said coolly, "if I were a stickler for etiquette, I might ask you first for some explanation of this attack. However, we have made some heads ring, so I waive that privilege. I am the Sieur d'Artigny, a lieutenant of La Salle's."

"Mon Dieu!" the other stepped forward, his hand outstretched. "'TIs no unknown name to me, although we have never before met by some chance -I am Francois de la Forest."

"La Forest! You were in France three months ago."

"Aye; I was there when Sieur de la Salle landed. He told me the whole tale. I was with him when he had audience with Louis. I am here now bearing the orders of the king, countersigned by La Barre at Quebec, restoring De Tonty to command at Fort St. Louis, and bidding De Baugis and that fool Cassion return to New France."

D'Artigny crushed the man's hand in both his own, dropping the rifle barrel to the ground. His voice trembled as he made answer.

stands there is no evidence. M. Cas- questions, and once a courier du bois the stream, but do not venture from sion holds command by virtue of La Barre's commission, and knows no the meaning clear. As D'Artigny more of Indian war than a Quebec ceased the chief stood for a moment storekeeper. The garrison numbers silent. fifty men, all told; two-thirds soldiers, "We leap upon them from cover?"

"'Tis so we expect-M. de Tonty is

told me others command now. If they

fail, we are but few against many."

The Indian folded his hands across

"Sequitah hears the voice of his

never averse to a fight."

are Frenchmen."

in the darkness.

and a poor lot." he asked calmly, "and the white men "With ammunition and food?" will sally forth to aid us?"

"Ample to eat, but Boisrondet tells

me with scarce a dozen rounds per man. The Iroquois are at the gates, and will attack at daylight."

"You know this?" "The signs are plain. We passed

one party clambering up the cliff-no less than fifty warriors, naked and painted for war. Tuscaroras, madame said from the words she overheard as facing him. There was silence, but they slipped past where we hid. 'Tis not likely they made reconnoissance

alone. The fiends have been a week in this valley, and have swept all clear of our Indian allies; now they can bring their full force against the fort."

"No doubt you are right."

we sought help when we ran into you.

"Illini, mostly, with a handful of Miamis and Kickapoos. We met them at the crossing, hiding in the hills. They were sadly demoralized, and filled with horror at what they had seen, yet agreed to return here under my leadership."

"Who is their chief?"

"Old Sequitab-you know him?"

"Ay, a real warrior. 'Tis better than I dared hope, for I have been in battle with him before. Do you number a hundred?"

"And fifty more, though indifferently armed."

armed. Never have I seen the Illini in action, D'Artigny; they seem to me a poor lot, so frightened of the wolves as to be valueless."

"So they are if left to themselves, but under white leadership they stiffen. They will fight if given the Indian style. They will never stand in defense, but if we lead them to a surinto battle, into a death grapple. They prise, they'll give good account of themselves. That is my plan, La Forest-that we creep up through the woods behind the Iroquois lines. They will expect no attack from the rear. and will have no guard. If we move quickly while it remains dark, we ought to get within a few yards of the red demons without discovery. They will fight desperately, no doubt, for their only hope of escape would be to either plunge down the rocky banks on either side, or cut a way through. You

"Twice before."

"Ay and the view from the top."

ber, there is an open space, then a fringe of forest hiding the clearing bewaiting daylight. Is my thought right?"

spoke up in his own tongue, to make cover. Post your men below the stockade and wait to intercept fugitives. We will do the fighting above. Are the warriors with you armed?"

"All but ten have rifles, monsieur, but I know not if they be of value." "You must make the best use of them you can. Above all things, be quiet, and do nothing to alarm the Iro-"I believe in the Iron Hand; but 'tis quois. You may go."

I leaned forward, watching them as they waded downstream, and then "They will not fail, Sequitah: they climbed the bank, disappearing in the undergrowth. Sequitab had moved past me, and I heard his voice speakhis breast, his eyes on the two men ing in Indian dialect. Along the forest aisles his warriors glided by where I for the slight rustle of moving bodies stood, noiselessly as shadows. In another moment D'Artigny and I were alone, the black night all about us and friend," he announced at last, "and his not a sound reaching our ears to tell words sound wise. The warriors of of those vanished allies. He took my hand, a careas in his touch, a sugges tion of pride in his voice.

"The old chief is warrior still," he said "and, unless all signs fail, the Iroquois will long remember this day. be far behind, and we have walked this dense night shrouded much of this trail before together." hasty preparation, for all I could per Had I not tested it with my own

ears, never would I have believed a hundred men could have made way so noiselessly in the dark, through such thick forest, rock strewn and deeply rutted. Yet not a sound of their stealthy passage was wafted back to us on the wind-no echo of voice, no rasping of foot, no rustle of leaves. Ghosts could not have moved more siguard the slope east of the trail, and these grim savages were thus creephurried forth to cover the greater dising forward to attack and kill, their tance. Yet these could have scarcely advanced far through that jungle when the others were also in line, waitto D'Artigny's arm, shrinking from the The very silence in which all this shadows, my mind filled with namewas accomplished, the noiseless bodles, less fear.

"Adele," he whispered, tenderly, 'you will fear for me in this venture?" "Yes, monsieur."

"There is no need. You heard La Forest say he bore orders of the king to give De Tonty command once more of Fort St. Louis."

stern horror of it seemed to suddenly "Yes, monsieur; but you have algrip me as with icy fingers. Here was ready been tried and condemned. what I had read of, dreamed of, being Even if they have not authority to who were causing trouble in the provenacted before my very eyes. I was shoot you here, they have power to even a part of it, for I was going with transport to Quebec."

"There would be battle first, if I Yet how different everything was know my old comrades well. No, as to from those former pictures of imaginathat there is no cause to fear. I shall been praised for keeping peace in his tion. There was no noise, no excitebe given fair trial now, and welcome dominion. That of being a leader of ment, no shrinking-just those silent, it. My fear has been for you-the venmotionless men standing in the posigeance of Cassion, if ever you came had no desire to .nterfere between one tions assigned to them, the dim light within his grasp again. But that also Jewish sect and another, but it led to gleaming on their naked bodies, their is settled."

me?"

"This, sweetheart; you should know, speaking quietly, giving last instructions as they passed along the lines. Sequitah took his place, not two yards it to me while we were alone yonder, from me, standing like a statue, his face stern and emotionless. Out of for he knew not you were estranged the darkness came D'Artigny, pausing



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LESSON FOR OCTOBER 8

PAUL BEFORE FELIX.

LESSON TEXT-Acts 24 GOLDEN TEXT-Herein I also exercise myself to have a conscience void of of-lense toward God and men always.-Acts

This is a court scene, and it might be well with certain classes to introfuce the lesson by describing such a gathering. The lesson occurred five Come, Adele, 'twill not do for us to days after the last lesson, and twelve lays after Paul reached Jerusalem, bearing the collection for the poor. The place, Caesarea, was the Roman capital of Judea.

I. The Prisoner's Examination (vv. 1-9). In addition to the Roman governor, Felix, attired in his gorgeous official regalia, on a platform nearby, were the high priest of the Jews, in his highly colored and jeweled robes, the lawyer, Tertullus, in his Roman toga, lently. Somehow the very thought that and the elders of the Sanhedrin who had come down from Jerusalem to be witnesses against Paul. Of Tertullus hearts mad with hate, wild beasts of it was said that, by his persuasive prey stalking their victims, yielded me tongue, he could make white seem a strange feeling of horror. I clung black, and could therefore more easily make it appear that Paul was "a danger to the Roman power, and not merely a turbulent and renegade Jew." The

judge, Felix, was an exceptionally bad governor, who two years later was recalled by Nero to Rome. The inference of verse two is that Paul was an inciter of rebellion and robberies, but the exact charges were three-fold: (See vv. 5-6) (a) that Paul was a mover of insurrection; (b) that he was a ringleader of a sect of Nazarenes ince: and (c) that he had profaned the Jewish temple at Jerusalem. The charge of insurrection would be especially obnoxious to Felix who had just heresy was not serious, for the Romans the last one, viz., profaning the tem-"Settled? What is it you would tell ple. The Romans had legalized the Jewish ritual, and for Paul to profane the holy place would be a serious outalthough I would that some other rage. The weakness of Tertullus' case might tell you. La Forest whispered was that he produced no evidence to support his charges. The accusers

were there, but they had no witnesses. 11. The Prisoner's Defense (vv. 10-21). Paul cheerfully made his defense, for he knew the Jews and their customs. and that Felix had married a Jewess, (v. 24). We might consider this defense first negatively and then positively. On the negative side, Paul answers each charge seriatim. In the first

shadow of warriors being grouped together. I could hear voices, never loud. giving swift orders, or calling to this or that individual through the gloom. A party tramped by me, and disappeared, twenty or more naked warriors, headed by a black-bearded Frenchman, bearing a long rifle-the detachment, no doubt, dispatched to

ing the word.

the almost breathless attention, scarce

ly enabled me to realize the true mean-

ing of it all. These men were going

meant to attack five times their own

number. This was no boy's play; it

was war, savage, relentless war. The

I heard the voices of the white men,

"Good-'tis as the white chief

"Then we move at once; La Forest

will guide the rear; you and I will

march together. Give your warriors

them to the field of blood.

ready weapons.

wishes."

hair.

"And fifty more, though indifferently

have been at the fort?"

"Then you know the nature of the ground. 'Tis all woodland until within a few hundred yards of the gates. You recall the great rock beside the trail?"

"My plan would be to creep up that far, with flanking parties on the slopes below. In front, as you may rememfore the stockade. The Iroquois will be gathered behind that fringe of trees

"'Tis the most likely spot." "Then listen: I have thought this all out. You and I, with Sequitah, will ake a hundred of your Indians, cross

the Illini will fight beside the white men." "Twas my judgment, at least, and There was no time lost, although I know but little of what occurred, be-What Indians have you?" ing left alone there while La Forest and D'Artigny divided the men, and arranged the plans of advance. The ceive were flitting figures, or the black

"Your pardon, dear girl," and his lips brushed my hair, as he held me in his arms. "I forgot all but our comrades yonder. The night is dark to your eyes."

"I can see nothing." I confessed regretfully, "yet you have no difficulty."

"'Tis a woodsman's training. I have followed many a dim trail in dark forests, and this is so plain I could keep to it on a run if necessary. Ah! the fort is awake and vigilant-that was rifle fire."

I had not only heard the sharp reports but seen the flash of fire cleaving the darkness.

"The discharges came from the woods yonder-they were Indian guns. monsleur. See! those two last were from the stockade; I could perceive the logs in the flare."

"Ay, and that is all; the lads will waste no ammunition in the gloom, except to tell the savages they are awake and ready."

"How far have we/ traveled, monsteur?"

"A mile, perhaps. At the crooked oak yonder we leave the stream. You met with no harm when you fell?" "No more than a bruise. I can go

on now."

We turned to the right, and plunged into the thicket, the way now so black that I grasped his jacket in fear of becoming lost. We were clambering up a slight hill, careless of everything but | Cassion in the fort yonder?" our footing, when there was a sudden rustling of the low branches on either side our path. D'Artigny stopped. thrusting me back, while at that very forth from the covert. It occurred so madly with the assallants. I heard the crash of blows, an oath of surprise, a guttural exclamation, a groan of pain. enough, comrade?" Hands gripped me savagely; I felt

et, struggling desperately. How are matters there?"

"He won the king's favor? he convinced Louis?"

"No doubt of that-never saw I a greater miracle,"

"And Sleur de la Salle-has he returned ?"

"Nay; he remains in France, to fit out an expedition to sail for the mouth of the great river. He hath special commission from the king. To me was given the honor of bearing his message. Ah! but La Barre raved like a

mad buil when I handed him the king's order. I thought he would burst a blood vessel, and give us a new goverthere, struggling to keep a straight face, for he had no choice but obey. "Twas a hard dose to swallow, but there was Louis' orders in his own hand, all duly sealed; and a command that I be dispatched hither with the

message," "How made you the journey in so short a time?"

"Overland from Detroit, the same trail you traveled with La Salle; 'tis much the shorter."

"Alone?"

"With two couriers du bols; they are with me now. But what is this, D'Artigny, you have with you-a woman?"

CHAPTER XXIV.

Warriors of the Illini.

"Yes, M. de la Forest," I sald, stepping forward to save Reta from a question which would embarrass him. "I am the daughter of Captain la Chesnayne, whom the Sieur d'Artigny hath taken under his protection."

"La Chesnayne's daughter! Ab, I heard the story told in Quebec-'twas La Barre's aid who gave me the facts with many a chuckle, as though he held it an excellent joke. But why are you here, madame? Is not M.

"'Tis a long tale, La Forest," broke in D'Artigny, laying his hand on the other's shoulder, "and will bide a better time for telling. I am a soldier. instant indistinct forms seemed to leap and you may trust my word. We are La Salle's men; let it go at that, for quickly, so silently, that before I even there is graver duty fronting us now realized danger, he was struggling than the retelling of camp gossip. Madame is my friend, and my hand will defend her reputation. Is that

"Ay, enough. My best regards, manaked bodies, struggled wildly to dame," and he bowed low before me. escape, but was flung helplessly to the his words ringing true. "Whoever ground, a haud grasping my hair. 1 Sieur de la Saile has learned to trust nothing, only a confused mass hath my faith also. You have come arms, but D'Artigny was from the fort, I take it, D'Artigny?

nd he had grabbed a "Ill enough; the officers at swords' listened motionless, his face unexpres-

it crashing into the, points, and the men divided into three Back camps, for where De la Durantaye some French phrase, he asked grave

he word." the small river, and advance up the

trail. That leaves fifty warriors to creep through the woods on either slope, twenty-five to a side, led by your two couriers du bois. We will wait at the great rock, and give the signal."

La Forest stood silent a moment, thinking; then rested his hand on D'Artigny's shoulder.

"It looks feasible enough, but the flanking parties may not reach their positions in time."

"The one from the west will not have as far to travel as we do. The other does not make so much differnor. But no such luck. Pah! I stood ence, for if the Iroquois break they will come in this direction-the other side of the trail is sheer rock." "And what about the lady?"

> "I shall go with you, messieurs," I said quietly. "There will be no more danger there than here; besides, you would not leave me alone without a guard, and you will need every fighting man."

I felt the grip of Rene's hand, but it was La Forest's voice that spoke,

"The right ring to that, hey, D'Artigny! Madame answers my last argument. But first let us have word with the chief."

He addressed a word into the crowd of indistinguishable figures, and an Indian came forward. Dim as the light was, I was impressed with the dignity of his carriage, the firm character of his facial outline.

"I am Sequitah, chief of the Mascoutins." he said gravely, "for whom he white chief sent."

D a. tigny stepped forward, standing as erect as the other.

"Sequitah is great chief,"- he said quietly, "a warrior of many battles, the friend of ha Salle. We have smoked the peace-pipe together, and ferred, turning about to question Sewalked side by side on the war-trail. Sequitah knows who speaks?"

"The French warrior they call D'Artigny."

"Right; 'tis not the first time you and I have met the Iroquois! The wolves are here again; they have burned the villages of the Illinois, and killed your women and children. The valley is black with smoke, and red with blood. What says the war chief M. In Forest will accompany them. of the Mascoutins-will his warriors fight? Will they strike with us a blow.

against the beasts?" The chief swept his hand in wide circle.

"We are warriors; we have tasted blood. What are the white man's

words of wisdom?" the results Briefly, in quick, ringing sentences, D'Artigny outlined his plan. Sequitah nakenti

sive of emotion Twice, confused by

He turned and took my hand. "You will walk with me, dear one; you are not afraid?"

an instant before the chief.

"All is well, Sequitah?"

"Not of the peril of coming battle," I answered. "I-I think I hardly realize what that all means; but the risk you run. Rene! If-if you win, you will be a prisoner condemned to death."

He laughed, and bent low, so I felt his lips brush my cheek.

"You do not understand, dear girl A moment and I will explain-once we are beyond the stream. Now I must see that all move together."

We advanced through the woods down a slight incline, the Indians moving like so many phantoms. Not a branch rattled as they glided sliently forward, not a leaf rustled beneath the soft tread of moccasined feet. D'Artigny led me by the hand, alding me to move quietly over the uneven ground, but made no effort to speak. Reside us, not unlike a shadow, strode the chief Sequitah, his stern face up-

lifted, shadowed by long black hair, a rifle gripped in his sinewy arms. We crossed the little river, D'Artigny bearing me easily in his grasp, and, on the opposite shore, waited for the others to follow. They came, a long line of dark, shadowy forms, wading cautious-"On what charge?" ly through the shallow water, and

ranged themselves just below the bank, many still standing in the stream. What light there was flickered over ords." naked bodies, and revealed savage eves

father?"

D'Artigny stepped forward on the exposed root of a tree to where he could see his dusky followers, and La Forest climbed the bank and joined 'tis believed the case will cost him his him. A moment the two men conoffice. But M. Cassion was his agent. and is guilty beyond a doubt." quitah. As they separated I could distinguish D'Artigny's final words. "But, monsieur, who made the

"Very well, then, if it is your wish charges? Who brought the matter to I take command. Sequitah, a hundred the attention of Louis?" warriors will follow you along the "The Comte de Frontenac; he was

trail-you know it well. Have your your father's friend, and won him resbest scouts in advance, and circle your toration of his property. Not until La braves so us to make attack impos-Forest met him in France was he sible. Your scouts will not go beyond aware of the wrong done Captain le the great rock except on my order with La Salle, a Franciscan once sta-

tioned at Montreat, and two officers of This is clear?" The Indian muttered response in his the regiment of Carignan-Salliers. Armed with information thus gained. own tongue; the moke more rapidly, warriors below and the mass he made appeal to Louis. "Tis told me ie greater number changed format the king was so angry he signed the climbing the and grouping order of arrest with his own hand,

darker shadow of themselves in f of the others?"

> Louis . renlied La For-

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way hither. (TO BE CONTINUED) You follow



commissioned by La Barre to return upon the raw material, disciplining and training it. Paul answers the third charge by a simple denial that it had actually taken place, and calls for witnesses. Positively, Paul explains that he had followed the God of his fathers, that he believed in fulfilled prophecyliterally the resurrection of Jesus from the dead-that he came to Jerusalem with alms for the poor, and, as before the council, he stands upon his in-

III. The Judge's Delay (vv. 22-27). Felix had a "more perfect knowledge of that way." We believe he had secured this knowledge from Philip, the evangelist, and from Cornelius, the Roman centurion, both of whom lived in Caesarea. By deferring his decision, Felix avoided an outrageous injustice to Paul, and at the same time gave serious offense to the troublesome Jews who knew of his evil conduct. From verse twenty-three we see that Chesnayne. Later he had converse Paul was given liberty, literally such indulgence in freedom as would be consistent with his safety. Luke, the physician, and Philip, the evangelist, visited him here, bringing food, books and letters. After a time Felix and his wife, Drusilla, sent for Paul to talk with him "concerning the faith in Christ." Drusilla was a daughter of Herod Agrippa I (vv. 12-23), and a sister of Herod II (See Ch. 26). She was a beautiful woman, much younger than Felix who was possibly about sixty years of age. She and her only child perished in the eruption of Vesuvius.

him safely to Quebec for trial."

"Treason to France; the giving of false testimony against a king's officer, and the concealing of official rec-

gleaming from out masses of black

"Mon Dieu! Was it the case of my "Yes; the truth has been made clear. There is, as I understand from what La Forest told me, not sufficient evi- tegrity, dence against La Barre to convict, yet

and handed it to La Forest to execute."

"Not yet. La Forest felt it best to

keep the secret, fearing he might be de-

tained, or possibly ambushed on the

"The governor knows?"