THE EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, - - - August 3, 1871.

LUDOVICO LANA.

AN ANECDOTE OF MODERN SICILY.

[CONTINUED.]

"The day after to-morrow, no doubt," replied the host.

"And at what hour?"

"Eight in the morning, excellenza, is the usual hour."

"I have a great curosity to see the execution," observed the officer.

"Nothing is easier; your excellenza can return hither from Palermo to-morrow evening, and I will take care to provide a good place for you to witness the execution of this bandit. I have the honor to be acquainted with the judge, and can, I doubt not, procure you a seat by him."

"Just the thing," returned the stranger. "I will return to-morrow night, and in the meantime you will take care to make the proper arrangement."

My servant then went on to narrate the wonder of the host when about to prepare the table for his guest, at learning from the servants that they carried with them various articles of plate and linen for their master's service, who was not accustomed to the rude furniture of a Sicilian locanda, and saw with amazement the preparations made for his accommodation. His curiosity being excited to the highest degree, he contrived to learn that the stranger was a Maltese, enormously rich, who had obtained a high rank in the English service, and was called Colonel Sancta Croce.

The colonel soon after started, as he said, for the residence of his friend Prince Paterno, leaving one of his servants with part of his baggage at the locanda, proposing to return the next night to be in readiness to witness the execution. Meanwhile, the host of the White Cross had informed not only his friend the judge, but all the town, of the great personage who had become his guest, detailing his magnificence with no little exaggeration, and easily obtaining a promise of the place he sought to witness the execution. During the whole of the intervening day the only subjects of discussion in the town were the arrival of this great person at the White Cross, and the approaching event, many believing the assertions of innocence so stoutly maintained by the accused, from whom his confessor had obtained no avowal of his guilt. The confessor himself seemed inclined to believe in the protestations of the condemned. At night another monk had an interview with him in the chapel where he was to pass the last hours of his existence, and remained with him till past eleven o'clock, declaring when he left him that he did not believe him to be guilty, and promising to pray for his deliverance. After this visitor had departed, the penitent seemed more tranquil and resigned than he had been at intervals during the day.

At midnight Colonel Sancta Croce arrived as he had promised at the locanda, and seemed perfectly satisfied with the arrangement he was informed his host had made for him to witness the spectacle of the next day. During the whole night the bells of all the churches and convents were tolled to keep the good people of the town in mind of their duty to pray for the condemned; and at daybreak crowds began to assemble, and the peasantry to arrive from the neighborhood. At seven o'clock the judge and other officials took their stations on a platform prepared for them, and were soon joined after by Colonel Sancta Croce, who was received with all the attention his wealth and rank demanded. At eight o'clock the bells again tolled forth, and announced the approach of the victim, who soon made his appearance mounted on an ass, with his face towards the tail, preceded by the executioner, and surrounded by the Brothers of Mercy, whose especial duty it is to form a part on such melancholy occasions. The procession moved slowly along without any interruption, till it arrived opposite the spot where the authorities were seated, when suddenly the condemned gave a loud shout, and nodding with his head towards Colonel Sancta Croce (for his hands were tied behind his back), cried out to a monk who walked beside him, "Father! father! there sits a gentleman who can save me if he will."

"Where, my son?" asked the priest, with no little amazement.

"There, there—by the judge; that officer in the English uniform—God has brought him here no doubt to save an innocent man—a miracle, father, a miracle!"

"A miracle! a miracle!" shouted the people who were near enough to catch the words, and "a miracle! a miracle!" was repeated by the multitude as the word flew along their ranks. The executioner, however, seemed to have but little faith in the said miracle, and was proceeding to conduct the culprit to his fate, when the priest interfered, and advancing towards the judge, informed him that the condemned had recognized a gentleman near him whose evidence could clearly prove his innocence of the crime laid to his charge, and for which he was about to die, solemnly exhorting the magistrate to enquire into the affair.

"And who is this redoubtable witness?" asked the judge.

"The colonel! — Colonel Sancta Croce!" cried the poor culprit, vehemently:

"Me!" exclaimed the colonel in amazement; "me, my friend; you must be mistaken; and though you know my name, I have no knowledge of you whatever."

"You have no knowledge of the man, colonel?" asked the magistrate.

"None, sir, on my word."

"I thought so," continued the judge; "it is a mere excuse to delay the execution," at the same time making a sign to the executioner to proceed.

"Oh colonel!" cried the unhappy wretch, "do not send me thus to die when a word from you can save an innocent man; only let me ask one question."

"Hear him! hear him, colonel!" cried the mob; "give him a fair hearing!"

"Signior," said the colonel to the judge, "common humanity, I think, requires us to attend to his prayer; if he is seeking to deceive, you will easily detect him; it is only a few moments' delay."

"I will not refuse your excellenza," said the judge; "but I think it is scarcely worth the while to attend to him."

"I ask the favor for my own satisfaction," replied the officer.

The judge bowed and answered—"Be it as your excellenza pleases," at the same time ordering the man to be brought near.

The poor fellow was as pale as death, and trembling violently.

"Now," says the magistrate, "ask your question; the colonel is kind enough to listen."

To be continued.

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A HOUSE just finished, with 9 large and Commodious Rooms, Closets, Halls, &c., situated one Block, north of Temple Block; Suitable for Boarding House or Private Family. Enquire of Mrs. HAYWOOD, on the premises, d126 tf or GEO. GODDARD, Main St.

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☞WATCH No. 1,089, STEM-WINDER.—Bearing Trade-Mark "Frederic Atherton & Co., Marion, N. J.," manufactured by United States Watch Co., has been carried by me from December, 1868, to January 17th 1870, its total variation from mean time being only TWO SECONDS in the entire time.
L. E. CHITTENDEN, Late Reg. U. S. Treas.
New York, January 17th, 1870.

WATCH No. 1,084, STEM-WINDER.—Bearing Trade-Mark "Frederic Atherton & Co., Marion, N. J.," manufactured by the United States Watch Co., has been carried by me fifteen months; its total variation from mean time being only one second per month.
WILLARD DERBY,
Of Derby, Snow & Prentiss, Jersey City, N. J.

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A. L. DENNIS, Pres't. N. J. R. R. & T. Co.
UTICA, Feb. 15th, 1870.

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Claim the same advantages over others of their class as the new Family Machines. These old and well-tried Sewing Machines are applicable to *all kinds of heavy work,* such as Carpets, Clothing, Leather, etc., and run in the most perfect and reliable manner without trouble to the operator.

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occupying about half the room, and being round make the most perfect draft attainable. The joints are cemented with cement, making equivalent to a solid continuous pipe.

They are used in all classes of buildings, and are especially adapted for

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