1900, hr the New York Herald Co. All Rights Reserved. ND what have we here?" murmured the Duke d'Alva to General de la Concha. It was the Marquis de Turgot, French Ambassador to Madrid and the host of the

evening, who gave him his answer. erre Sould, shepherd and gardener, pirate and some now as Minister of the United States," he ered before leaving his two friends. Then he his way, bowing and smilling, toward the group t had appeared in the arched entrance to the ball-

Pierre Soulé, a slight, handsome figure, was escortis wife. At a respectful distance followed their Nevilie. Each of the three would have attracted ttention in any gathering. The Minister was then his fiftieth year and was noted for his resemblance Nevilie. first Napoleon, with his splendld, flashing eyes o the arst Saparon, with his should in making eyes of his quist air of dignity and command. Mrs. Soule ad been one of the beauties of the South and the ears had dealt more than kindly with her. Her harm of feature and manner had been passed to her n, whose strong, clean cut face and upright carriage ought admiring glances from all sides.

The Soules received the formal welcome extended r De Turget with equally formal salutations and sized on into the crowded room, where moved the mer and fashion of diplomatic life and the upper cela circles of the Spanish capital. The Duke arched the little stiff scene in the archway and ned to the General.

"So this is the man who proposes to take Cuba from he asked.

"To take or buy it," nodded the other. "It appears t if we prove amenable we are to have some mill-is of pesos. If we are stubborn and refuse to accept generous offer made by this republic of conton rs and ship builders then must we stand and

"Truly, a flattering policy," snorted D'Alva. "But is this man the authority of his country to advance ish preposterous schemes?"

Not, as I understand, a full commission to negoata. But he has been what they call a Senator and as repeatedly urged in public speeches the annexan of Cuba. President Plerce, we are informed, is cretis in accord with the plan. Such is the explana-in of the presence of Soulé here." on of Cuba.

What did De Turgot mean, gardener, pirate and

"Sould has led an adventurous life. I was at some "Sould has led an adventurous life. I was at some pairs recently to collect information wanted by—well, never used by whom. But it was wanted when we first had word of his appointment. He was born in France and at the age of fifteen was forced to fice to he Pyrences as a result of a political conspiracy names the government. While in hiding he was a depherd, as de Turgot says.

"Late he was a journalist in Paris and was ar-reled for treason. He escaped to Hayti and at the imof twenty-four landed in the United States, penni-ma knowing not a word of English. Yet here he is ton may see, rich, they say, and certainly power-

"A remarkable place, this adopted country of his." iil the Duke, with a sneer. "And how did he bring



Ghe DAY of the DUEL

(A TRUE STORY)

THE WORD OF THE PROMPTER

NEVILLE'S SWORD HAD STRUCK AT THE ANGLE OF THE SHOULDER AND THE NECK.

music came to an end and the dancers intermingled upon the floor, they caught a glimpse of Pierre Soulé.

The Challenge.

"Ah," said the Minister, pacing the room slowly, "Doumouriez. I think I understand. Did the Duke 'He bowed. I took that for acceptance."

"I expected that," said the Minister. Nevlile was indifferent. "You can't expect to bring yourself abreast of the Duke in cleverness within three days," went on Pierre, "But there is one thing you can do. You can learn the difference between swinging a

man, had some small knowledge of sword play. But man, had some small knowledge or sword play. But the fellow was a novice. Was it true, then, that this nation of conton planters never trained theneselves in the essentials of the field? He cought a weak thrust, turned it aside and stepped to with a wicked swing of his blade. Again Neville cought it in thme. The fouke was preparing a quick volloy of blows which, should hear down this awkward guard and end the matter when he was thrown back suddenly from the offensive to laboring defense.

matter when he was thrown back suddenly from the offensive to laboring defence. Newlife had waited but a moment to get the fee, of his weapon and test his adversary. Now, without warning, he put into play his own theory of the broad-sword due!. It was a fight, as he understood it, to be weat by the man who could dent the best fair blow. He had no mind to wait multi he was scientifically splited. He twirled the heavy sabre above his head like a switch and when at his opponent as if cutting a scout in a rank of reeds. swath ha a rank of reeds.

Another Meeting.

The Duke gave before the onstaught, his confidence suddenly describing him. This was not the method be was used to. Neville was hacking at him as if he were a squad of troopers. A warning cry from one of his seconds told him he had reached his time and desperately he turned at hay. Blow after blow same about bis cars and the shining line of light with which he was protecting biniself same. Then came a dazing, aching shock, and the world went black before him. Neville's sweed had struck at the angle of the shoulder and the next.

shoulder and the neck. That alght came another brief and exquisitely formal note from Plerre Sculé to the Marquis de Tar-get. The affair in which his son was engaged having got. The affair in which his son was engaged having come to a happy fermination, the Minister was now at liberiy to resume his own differences with the Am-bassador. He would give bimself the pleasure of having his seconds wait upon any gentlemen desig-nated by De Turgol. The Marquis was ready and named Lord Howden and General Callier. General Valdes and M. Picon acted for Flerra Soulé. Broadswords having gone well with the Soulé fam-ly, the power that had managed the whole affair from Parls sent word to the Ambassador that it would be well if he named platels. Having obeyed so far he did hot draw back at this, and his seconds

would be well if he named platels. Having obeyed so far he did not draw back at this, and his seconds were instructed accordingly. The distance stated in the terms was ten parces, and Pierre Soulé was almost gleeful when the result was announced to him. ¹ On arriving at the appointed place with his attend-ants the Minister found the oppesing group awaiting him. He anted with quickening suspicion that the man who accompanied De Turgot as surgeon was bounouriez, a usin he had quickly identified as a confidential agent of Napoleon III, and the one who had dragged Neville into the quirred with a failse-

Conducting agent of Napoleon 111, and the one who had dragged Neville into the quarrel with a false-hood. He turned to General Valdes. "If I am burt, General, keep that man away from me," he said, indicating Donmouriez. "On no ge-count let him approach ms, and n would be as well if you kept an eye upon him while loading the pis-tols."

Pierre did not think thar Donmourlez was a surgeon or that he had any right to be present in that enparely. But he made no comment. The ground The ground was already chosen and marked and Souli's seconds vere satisfied with the arrangement. The place was

"How shall I say, my friend? It is a nation of nadmen, I think. For a time he was a common horer in a place they call Kentucky. He trained meelf as an advocate and in time became widely med as a pleader. It was then but a step into the lideal field. In their Senate he was a leader of ht faction which seeks to maintain human slavery a his other interest was the annexation of Cuba. all there, so far as I know, you have the story of rre Sould

The two were rejoined a moment later by the Mar-Us who made no secret of his dislike for the newmrs or his irritation at having to receive them,

Close to a Secret.

"He is probably well aware of your sentiments," marked be in Concha after De Turgot had fumed the minutes,

"If the accounts of his passage through France are and uncomfortable for him on route, we are told, and I can well believe it. Louis Napeleon has little we for the American Republic and still less for this antriaic. When one remembers the trouble he has mused over this Cuban affair it is easily seen that imperial master would not strew his path with

The General gianced keenly at him. "Perhaps you receive specific instructions as to your treatment him," he suggested. But De Turgot answered

the a shrug. Presently the orchestra made itself heard above whin of voices and the gayly dressed company gas to separate toward the sides to leave the floar far for the dancers. Those who took no part moved only after a time in decorous promenade, and the me nohiemen watched the procession in silence. dealy D'Alva turned to De Turgot.

"All the same, my friend, this Mme. Sould is the st wonderfully handsome woman in the room.

some little distance away they could see the increases approaching. The opinion ventured by be Daka seemed to be shared by those in the vicinity the Soules, for the wife of the Minister drew many

es. General de la Concha warmiy supported it. 'In truth a noble, queenly woman," he said, watch-g her with enthusinam. The Marquis de Turgot not apprendit and the said of d not answer Immediately. With the movement the crowd the Atoorizana came nearer. A minute isr they were abreast of the noblemen. And then Turgot leaned toward D'Aiva, raising his voice

trille shave the conversational tone. "Do you think so?" he said. "For my part I streety share in your admiration for the woman. e is handsome, if you like, but she reminds me o forcibly of Marguerite de Valois."

His words did not reach the ears of the Soules, but were heard distinctly by several persons who appauled the Americans and were friendly with m. Before they had half completed the circuit the room once more the Minister had been drawn dis and the moulting remark had been repeated him. He needed no elaboration. To his mind, a to all others, the reference to Marguerita de Valois sold only he a deliberate attempt to cast a alur upon frs. Sould, suggesting all that might be associated with that famous beauty of another century, divorced of Henry IV, and licentious daughter of Cathine de Medici.

If the General and the Duke were surprised at the ourse of action chosen by De Turget they showed so sign of H. No further comment was made, but a common purpose held them in their places Some-thing must come of this, and when it did the Marquis would have need of them. Meanwhile De Turgot stemed to have forgotten his remark and his two friends seemed on the base based in the threat was quite in hand, repressed, as was fitting with was quite in hand, repressed, as was fitting with multimen of distinguished hirth and position. And Wan, moving loward them through the press as the seemed not to have heard it.

No one of the three but admitted reluctantly himself that a prince of the blood royal could not have comported himself with greater gallantry. Sould's brad was up and he advanced at a dignified pace. His eyes, always expressive, were like yelled flames but his countenance and actions were under perfeccontrol. Noticing only De Turgot, he came to a halt at that gentleman's side. The Marquis affected not control. Noticing only De Turgot, he came to a hait at that gentleman's side. The Marquis affected not to notice him, keeping his gaze fixed upon a distant corner of the hail. Noting this Sould applied a significant pressure with his elbow and spoke in a

w tone, using French. "I have heard, sir, of your indecent remark. You school 11

all hear from me to morrow." As he turned his back and retraced his steps De As he turned his back and retraced his steps De Turget turned to the others with a significant ges-ture. They understood, without a word of explana-tion, that the Marquis had fulfilled one of the direct and peremptory commands laid upon him from a source brooking no disobedience. General de la Concha permitted himself a quiet smile. But the Dake d'Alva did not smile. His wife was a sister of the Empress Eugenie and he did not always approve of the methods of his imperial brother-in-law. The centre of the floor was almost empty now, and through the space they were interested to see Neville

through the space they were interested to see Neville Soule apparently making his way toward them. "What now?" exclaimed the General. "Is his own

"What now? exclaimed the General, "Is his own son to act as his second, or is the young man to have a chance at you himself. De Turgot?" The Marquis shook his head and waited the approach of the Min-ister's son. When Neville stopped before the three, however, it was evident that whatever his mission he was not concerned with the French Ambassador. His clear, assured glance was fixed upon the Duke d'Alva. The Duke returned the look. When Nevilla was certain that he was observed he spoke. "Pardon me for the intrusion, Monsleur, but may that evenlag. General de la Concha recited the to that evenlag. General de la Concha recited the to

I have a word with you." "Certainly," said d'Alva, stepping forward

"I have the honor to make myself known to you, am Neville Sould II has reached my ears that you made certain romarks concerning mudame, my mother, a few moments ago. You shall hear from me to morrow." The Duke was too surprised to be ready with a reply. He merely bowed and the other walked rapidly away.

"Come. Here is consequence enough for one short sentence in one short evening," the General burst out, "First the Minister challenges De Turgot, then the son calls out D'Alva. Is there not a constr or nu uncle or some one to fail upon me? Will you fight the young fire-calor, D'Alva?"

"Certainly not," returned the other. "I am no murderer. It is a mistake. He will learn what he has done as soon as he and his father compare

"At least, my affair is to no forward," said De Tur-got, grimly, "But 1 am forgetting my hospitality, We will talk further of this. Good evening."

As D'Alva had divined, the two Soules had acted independently. It was not until after they had re-turned to their home at the Embassy that each learned what the other had done.

"Father," began Neville, "I have no doubt you will say I should have told you, but I learned that the Duke d'Alva insulted my mother this evening, and I challenged him."

You challenged D'Alval" exclaimed the other "You were mistakon. It was not the Dake but De Turgot who offended. And I have challenged him." They looked at each other in silence for a moment. "I acted upon exact information," said Neville

"And so did L" returned Pierre. "Who gave you yours?" 'Monsieur Doumonries."

Well, you cannot draw back now and I would handly care to have you. If my suspicious rect the same hand that brought about the situation to-alght would bring it about again if necessary. The Duke is reckoned one of the best duellists in Spain, my son."

same may be said of the Marquis when he The is in France, father." And so they parted for the night

By noon the next day the Duke d'Alva had further occasion to shake his head and grumble over the name of his brother-in-law. It was clear that his remark as to settling the misunderstanding with Neville made at De Turgot's hall had been repeated by wire in Paris not many hours later. He was holding in its hand a clpher message from no less a personage than Louis Napoleon himself.

Broadswords Selected.

The message gave him to understand, in vague terms, that he was no longer to call himself a member of the French Emperor's family if he failed accept Neville's challenge. He did not like it. I He was not accustomed to fighting without due excuse. Such factles savored too much of the ruffler and bravo. But there were very real and vital reasons why he could not afford to sacrifice the friendship and good will of Napoleon III. His decision was fully formed by the time Neville's

seconds called upon him, a few hours later. He is no intimation that there had been a mistake. He gave confined himself to the formal preliminaries. If acknowledged acquaintance with the two gentlement He Secretary Perry and Colonel Milans del Bosch, and referred them to those he had already picked out,

meeting between the four seconds took place that evening. General de la Concha recited the terms of the affair which his principal, as the challenged party, and the right to name. The weapons chosen were broadswords and the time set was three days off. These arrangements were not pleasing to the representatives of the American, who had hoped for off. plainls. Naville had never held a broadsword in his

te, and D'Aiva was an accomplished swordsman. While these matters were being discussed a curt immunication from Pierre Soulé was delivered to the Marquis de Turgot. It called attention to the fact that a meeting was in process of arrangement hetween the Minister's son and a Spanish nobleman. "It is, therefore, Minister Sould's privilege to re-quest the patience of the Marquis de Turgot for a short time. He assures the Marquis tost after the meeting referred to has taken place he will be entirely at the dismont of the Marquis."

at the disposal of the Marquis.

De surgot was quite willing to postpone the affair, and within a few hours it was known throughout Madrid that Neville would have precedence over his father in settling the dispute. Madrid was indiffer nt us to how or in whit order the Americans fought, out it was most anxious lest in some way they should escape the necessity of fighting at all. The popular notion was that Americans had small ston The ch for personal combat, that their sole interest was a keeping a shop or in selling a bale of cotton, and that if actually drazged to the field of honor they must inevitably be killed. Fear was freely expressed hat they would escape under cover of night and cave the country, thus depriving the capital of that evirable consummation, Perry hurried back to the Embassy after the in

rview with Ir'Alva's seconds. Both the Soulds were awaiting him.

"it's rather too had, Noville," was Perry's greet-"lie's picked broadswords, and you've got three

sabre and using a hunting knife. There is master of a broadsword in the city. You shall take a burg lesson each day."

The Duel.

He accompanied Neville to Le Grand, a profes sional duellist, next morning, and for three hours the young man was drilled in the use of the heavy weapon with which he must defend his life. Neville took little interest in the manoeuvres and went through them half-heartedly. His father took him

to task when they went home together. "Consider a moment," said Pierre. "It is your right to risk your skin as often and as careleasly as you please, but it is to be remembered that you are here as an American and that you are fighting for an insult placed upon the name of your mother, whether or not D'Alva was guilty."

"It wearles me, father," was the answer. "I can see no object in all this following of rule. The broads word to a weapon, not a dancing stick. Let D'Alva be a 'villain that fights by the book of arithmethe.' I have learned how to stand on guard and that's enough. Let the Duke look to himself when we have once laid to with the blades." And Pierre, glancing with approval at the athletic build and square shoulders of his sen, was content. In the event it proved just as well that Neville had

ed his own conception of the way in which he for would conduct his share of the duel. When the young man presented himself at the home of the fencing master the next day he learned that Le Grand had left the city hurriedly. The explanation, which Pierre was not slow to grasp, was that the same power of which De Turget and D'Alva were pawns had sent a peremptory order to the duellist

On the morning set for the meeting the young Amerlean, with his two seconds and a surgeon, drove in a carriage to a field about five uiles from the city, ac-cording to prearrangement. The buke arrived a few mluntes inter

The preparations were quickly made. To D'Alva the affair was one of slight moment, now that he was fully embarked upon it. He would kill or scriously wound the young toan and he hoped that his brother in haw would be satisfied. Three parallel lines were marked in the turf with a sword point. Across the central one the men would face each other. Neither must retreat beyond the line behind him on pain of

being branded poltroon and coward. Neville was a model of strength and visile youth as he stood with arms and neck bared, ready for the first word. He was lithe but firmly muscled and he gived on his feet with the exact polse of an animal o D'Alva's seconds he looked dangerons. But the Duke, while approving the handsome figure before him, saw nothing but a fair target for his blade and a man who could not hope to equal the skill of a Spanish duclist. The Dake himself was sturdig built and his reach was a thing to fear. The two men faced each other for a long minute,

eyes dickering against eyes in the first clash of per-sonality that precides such a combat. In Neville's face was no trace of fear or uncashnoss. The Duke's month had set in his fighting sinile. Whatever his opponent might prove to lack in knowledge of the game he knew in that instant that the American would not give an luch. And then General de la Cancha spoke the sharp words of command and rise harsh clash of steel to steel rang out. The Duke opened his play with a graceful feint

and a quick, ripping downward stash. Neville par-ried clumistly and the wrinkles at the sides of d'Alva's month lightened. This was decidedly too stands. He had supposed that the American, apparently a gentle-

protected from passersby on the road by a high stone wall. On the side toward which the American moved, since the other was already occupied by De-He observed the fact, but us it was fully fitty foet behind him he felt that there was fully fitty foet received bullets and raised no objection.

The opponents were of about the same build and sight. Neither showed the alightest degree of nerheight. voltaness or auxiety, for both were old hands at the business of taking and offering life on the field of honor. They received the plotois from their respec-tive chief seconds and stood erect and at attention. General Valdes had won the right to give the word.

"Are you ready, messiours?" he asked after a pause.

'I am ready," and Sould, and the Marquis echoed the phrase.

The Line in the Wall.

"Fire-one-two," hegen Valdes, counting slowly and painsing a full second between each utterance. Somewhat to the surprise of the spectators bether of the duellists raised his arm at the first syllable, neoording to the usual practice. Aparently each had had the same plan, to reserve fire until the opponent had dis-charged his weapon. At "two," however, both men levelled quickly and fired. The reports sounded as one and when the smoke had cleared it was seen that neither Soule nor the Marquis had attered his position. Both had missed.

There was no suggestion of a settlement and the wrapous were quickly reloaded. Once more the adversaries stiffened at their marks and General Valdes stood forward for the work

Messheurs, are you ready? "Ready," they answered, sharply,

There was no hesitation this time. The arms rose like machined and the "one," Almost instantic the explosion drowned the "one," Almost instantic the Marquis was seen to fail. He did not sime slowly, "It

was as if he had been furbed backward by a strong

His seconds, burrying to his side, soon ascertained the cause. He had been dangerously wounded in the grain and the sharp shock had taken the support from under him. Pierre Soule stood with folded array unitary, watching the opposing seconds and Dominiation as they traded their principal.

Distributing an they (maked their principal, "Enveral minutes passed and fire body not ruoved. Theo he was connectory of the width ince of General Valdes coming toward him. Valdes selfed his arm and thread hos apparely about. "Look, tooh?" he used "Loo", at that wall. Do you nee the bits the the manary?" The Minister studied the wall as he was his and finally make out the merit that his associal influenced. From the to be busic in the merit that his associal influenced. From the to be busic in a source change of construction had left a perpandicular time of construction had high a perpandicular time of construction had high a perpandicular time of construction had

Well," he asked, "wine of that?"

"Don't you see?" the other simulat should. "Where was notified they manned, sharple formation. And to that is first 1 failed to see 11.1 sweath by the satisfier t will call out the Turgot myself if he sweavers from this." But Notifi resizationed him with a smile.

"He has enough and he with a sinile." "He has enough, and to any cover it was not the Marquis. He is at least a herer must. Dominiouring did it, counting upon the advantance that he Pargan would instantibly adopt from the presence of the line. And Dominiuricz—is he worth your while" He could again at the grine, so of disgust that swept upon the face of his importance second. It was thought at hist that both 57 Alva and for Turges would die of the injuries that received. Under carceful freedment they recovered. Course the

uder careful treatment they recovered. Guring the satissupport period of Pierro Soule's service as Minis-tor of the United Erates he and all opportuning to him were treated with profound respect to Modeul.