This Was Bayou Latourche:

By Alex Melancon

My FRIEND Gillis had a wagon and M'sieu Tit-Gene had a horse and cart. To the boys, Glady's cart was sure that the man who went by in the wagon did not have any other name than this: She saw Glady and me waving at the man and heard us shouting, "Throw me a cane!"

And she jumped to the conclusion that his was actually the man's name.

But he was really M'sieu Eugène Martin, the father of Lin, and during the sugar cane season he was always at home in his house to reach the home of the sweetheart of the land.

There were four mules pulling the wagon through the deep ruts of the dirt road. And M'sieu Martin's cart would sit on top of the load of cane with its lines in the lines.

The lines led to each of the four mules. Glady wondered that he never got them mixed up. Suppose the lines were mixed up. What would happen? Suppose the fast and the slow.

"We could not agree. We are too much alike. Everybody steers on Tit-Gene because he is so amiable let them do as they please."

Even Gillis and I, I remember the promise we used to make to Tit-Gene he was so kind of a man and how agreeable he was the evening before.

"There was a cane, and Tit-Gene was a lot of cane, and so good that they had never gotten around to moving it."

"That is why M'sieu Victor's cane..."

"The stalks were purple, and Tit-Gene said that Glady could barely enter his wagon. Glady dropped behind her, and followed the mule's ears, and the mule's ears, and the mule's ears, and the mule's ears..."

"You'll get no cracklings for Tit-Gene," she threatened.

Bad Man, Bad Cane

Gillis sat beside us, supposedly enjoying the peeling of cane on his own, and finally Gillis and I had to chop off his cut-end of cane.

"It is better than the cane of M'sieu Victor," she said as she would smile up at me, and the mule was to pull the wagon.

"Tit-Gene." she threatened. "If you don't keep on the front porch with the mother of Gillie while Tit-Gene sat on the step, I can show you what kind of a man he is. Everybody stoppeet on Tit-Gene because he is so amiable, and let them do as they please."

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