

A SACRIFICE OF BEAUTY.

Why Augustine Carmine, a Prisoner at the Barge Office, is Called a "Criminal."

A ROMANCE OF SUNNY ITALY AND ITS SEQUEL

His Sweetheart Made Him Cut Ugly Gashes in Her Cheeks to Save Her from Marrying a More Wealthy Suitor.

Augustine Carmine is a meek, inoffensive-looking Neapolitan Christmas exotic who was landed here just on the eve of the joyous festival. He is now a prisoner at the Barge Office, a self-confessed criminal. As such America's gates are barred against him. Augustine is the hero of a romantic and

almost tragic love story. The story of how he won a pretty, vivacious seventeen-year-old Neapolitan maiden shows that he became a criminal for love's sake. In sunny Italy, in the little town of Cambasso, overlooking the sparkling blue waters of the Bay of Naples, this dark-eyed beauty is anxiously

waiting to hear some tidings of her beloved Augustine.

He was born and reared in Cambasso. He is a shoemaker by trade, and until recently owned a little shop in Cambasso. On the same street there lived one of Naples' most influential citizens, a man of wealth and importance. He was a wine merchant, and throughout Naples the brands of Falscar's wines are famed.

Falscar was a stern, dignified-looking Neapolitan. Meek Shoemaker Carmine, when he got down on his knees to measure Wine Merchant Falscar for his boots and shoes, used to tremble under his imperious look and the fridity of his manner. But the wine merchant was a power in Naples, and the modest shoemaker was proud to class him among his customers.

One day some three years ago when Shoemaker Carmine went to the Falscar mansion with a pair of boots for its master he saw the wine merchant's lovely seventeen-year-old daughter Josephine. Josephine's lustrous dark eyes, her cheeks of a fascinating olive, her faultless figure and coquettish manner made the good looking young shoemaker her slave at once and he fell deeply in love with her.

THE WINE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER.

She had many suitors who offered her wealth and position, and her parents, who were so proud of their daughter's loveliness as they were ambitious for her future, wanted her to marry one of these. But Josephine's heart was untouched and she refused them all.

Josephine's love, when once unbridled was the passionate, fervent love characteristic of the Southern races. There was something in the modest shoemaker that struck the beauty's heart that day when they met in her father's mansion. There was a sympathetic look in his clear gray eye



HE MEASURED HER CHEEK.

that there and then made Josephine his friend. From that day her visits to his little cobbling shop were frequent.

The suspicions of the father were aroused too late to release his daughter from the web of Augustine's love. There was a storm

of indignation in Josephine's home when her infatuation for the cobbler became known. The parents began a close watch on the girl, so that she could not continue her visits to her lover's little shop, but the more obdurate they became the more determined was Josephine.

SHE CLUNG TO HER LOVER.

She refused to abandon her poor young lover and accept a wealthier suitor. She declared she would remain true to Augustine, and that she would marry him.

Although the lovers were closely watched they succeeded at intervals in meeting. Augustine often in his impassioned language of love urged Josephine to elope, but she was not willing to do this, and told him to wait patiently until she won the consent of her parents to their marriage.

Fair Josephine knew that her father's suitors for her affections loved her only for her beauty. She dreamed one night that she had lost this and that her wealthy suitors ceased to annoy her. She dreamed that then her parents listened to her pleading and sanctioned her lover's suit.

So Josephine conceived a unique and sensational way of not only destroying her beauty, but of testing the purity of Augustine's love for her. She would have her cobbler wooer cut a horrible gash into each of her cheeks—a gash which would ever leave marks of disfigurement upon her face.

She proposed this to Augustine, but he attempted to dissuade her from her purpose. She urged him with irresistible eloquence and finally said:

"Destroy my beauty and I will marry you."

SACRIFICED HER BEAUTY.

The cobbler consented. He cut a cruel



AUGUSTINE CARMINE TELLING HIS STORY AT THE BARGE OFFICE.

gash in each of his sweetheart's cheeks. With the blood streaming from the wounds Josephine went home to her parents and told them that rather than marry any of her wealthy suitors she had sacrificed her beauty to her love for the humble cobbler. She then pleaded with them to allow her to become Carmine's wife.

The parents were amazed and indignant. They regarded the cobbler as a human fiend. They thought their idolized daughter had been bereft of her senses. The enraged

father immediately sought the police and demanded the cobbler's arrest.

Augustine admitted he committed the deed, and to the magistrate he told the story of his love for the wine merchant's daughter and how it was reciprocated. He told how she came to him and pleaded with him to destroy her beauty.

Josephine, too, came into court and pleaded eloquently for her lover. She corroborated his story that he committed the deed at her urgent request, and pathetically asked the Court to restore her lover to her. Her evidence was regarded as that of a lunatic.

BRANDED A CRIMINAL.

The cobbler was convicted of a malicious, wilful assault upon the girl and was sentenced to seven months' imprisonment. Augustine willingly accepted his fate because he knew that Josephine would be true to him.

During the cobbler's confinement another trial came to Josephine. Both her father and mother succumbed to a fever and Josephine was left an orphan. It was found that her father, instead of being wealthy, had left little or nothing.

A ray of hope was left to Josephine. She knew that her incarcerated lover would be true to her even in her poverty and distress and this fact reconciled her to her fate. As soon as Augustine's term of imprisonment expired he fulfilled his promise and made Josephine his happy and contented wife.

A month ago Augustine decided to come to America. His young wife reluctantly

parted with him and he promised her that as soon as he had prepared a nice little home for her he would send on money and she could join him in the new Eldorado.

SAILING FOR AMERICA.

When the steamship Hindoostan sailed down the bay of Naples less than a month ago it bore away Josephine's young husband. There had been a sad, pathetic farewell, but Josephine dreamed only of what cordial greeting she would receive when she again met her husband in America.

When Augustine reached the Barge Office Christmas Eve one of the registry clerks asked him if he had ever been imprisoned. Innocently he answered "Yes." He was prevented from leaving the Barge Office and the words "detained," "a criminal," were written after his name.

The unthinking immigrant then repented having told the truth, and when he realized that he was debarred from landing, and would probably be sent back to Italy he became very disconsolate. Then he told his story.

THE GATES CLOSED AGAINST HIM.

But the authorities were as relentless as the Neapolitan Judge who convicted him. They refused to release him, and with the stigma of "criminal" attached to him Augustine is still a prisoner at the Barge Office.

Collector Erhardt has the papers in the case and he has not given his decision yet. The Italian hopes for a New Year's gift in the form of his release and permission to make a home for himself and wife in the new country.