

The Story of The New Moon

The action of the music-play takes place in the years 1792-1793.

The Chevalier Robert Misson is an indentured employee of a planter in America, Beaunoir, and in love with his daughter, Marianne, whom her father wishes to marry Captain Duval. Robert has been obliged to flee from Paris with his servant, Alexander, but the Vicomte Ribaud, the French detective, has traced him.

Robert's old friend, Philippe, has also arrived in America, and conspires with him to start a new colony of free men, but the clever Ribaud lays a trap for Robert and Alexander, arrests them, and commandeers Beaunoir's ship, "The New Moon," to take the prisoners back to France, Robert being led to believe that Marianne betrayed him.

She pretends she is in love with Captain Duval, gains the goodwill of her father's bos'un, Besac, and his crew, and gets her father to consent to her making the voyage.

Philippe with a gang of "stout-hearted men" sails in pursuit and overtakes "The New Moon". Duval prepares to surrender to what he thinks to be a pirate ship, but Robert takes over the command; soon Philippe and Robert realise the new position; they send Captain Duval ashore and decide to start their new colony at the Isle of Pines, Marianne, Ribaud and Besac perform accompanying them.

After twelve months on the island, Ribaud arranges for an armed guard to land from two French ships that have put in at the Bay. Surrendering the island to the King of France, he learns there is no King any longer and that every aristocrat must surrender his title or die. Ribaud proudly refuses and pays the penalty, but Robert and Marianne gladly become Citizen and Citizeness Misson.