You must, you shall! You must go

back to the monastery tonight! Oh,

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of taste. It is important, though, that the frames set properly on the nose and at the right distance from the eyes; that the lenses be perfectly centered, and how are you to know when one is guess

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GRAUSTARY

GEORGE BARR McCUTCHEON

CHAPTER XXL FROM A WINDOW ABOVE. HE longest month in Lorry's life was that which followed his romantic flight from the tower. To his impatient mind the days were irksome weeks. The cold monastery was worse than a prison. He looked from its windows as a convict looks through his bars, always hoping, always disappointed. With each of the infrequent visits of Captain Quinnox his heart leaped at the prospect of liberty, only to sink deeper in despair upon the receipt of emphatic

though kindly assurances that the time

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had not yet come for him to leave the haven of safety into which he had been thrust by loving hands. The prior was kind to him. Everything that could be done to provide comfort where comfort was a stranger was employed in his behalf. He lived well until his appetite deserted him. He had no questions to answer, for no one asked why he was there; he had no danger to fear, for no foe knew where he lived. From the city came the promise of ultimate escape, verbal I repair Stoves, Pumps and run water messages from those who loved him, vals, however. Quinnox's visits were captain came only at night and in disguise. He bore verbal messages, a wise precaution against mishap. Not once did he bring a word of love from the princess, an omission which caused the fugitive deep misery until a ray of intelligence showed him that she could

not give to Quinnox the speeches from her heart, proud woman that she was. Anguish sent words of cheer, with commands to be patient. He never failed to tell him through Quinnox that he was doing all in his power to find the real murderer and that he had the secret co-operation of the old police captain. Of course the hidden man heard of the reward and the frenzied search prosecuted by both principalities. He laughed hyterically over the deception that was being practiced by the blue eyed, slender woman who held the key to the situation in her keeping.

It was not until the night of the 18th of November that Quinnox confirmed his fears by telling him of the conditions imposed by Prince Bolaroz. For some reason the young officer had deceived Lorry in regard to the all important matter. The American repeatedly had begged for information about the fatal 20th, but on all previous occasions his visitor doggedly maintained a show of ignorance, vowing that he knew nothing of the circumstances. Finally Lorry, completely out of patience and determined to know the true state of affairs, soundly upbraided him and sent word to the princess that if she did not acquaint him with the inside facts he would leave the monastery and find them out for himself. This authoritative message brought

full story of the exciting conference. She implored him to remain where he was and asked his forgiveness for having kept the ugly truth from him. Quinnox added to his anguish by hastily informing him that there was a possibility of succor from another prin- to be with her, recognizing no obstacle knowing that he was cutting his lis-

cipality. Prince Gabriel, he said, not that might thwart him in the effort. tener to the heart, was daily with the and we'll untangle a few complications princess, and it was believed that he before we reach the end of the book. was ready to loan Graustark sufficient money to meet the demand of Bolaroz. for hers, for your own. I must get The mere thought that Gabriel was with her aroused the fiercest resentment in Lorry's breast.

so violently that he cried aloud and I am to go. I can be ready in five staggered against the wall, his eyes minutes. Ye gods, think of what she fixed on the face of the startled soldier. may be sacrificing for me!" Perhaps she might submit to Gabriel, The sacrifice-but no, he would not believe that such affliction could come to her! Marry Gabriel - the man who had planned to seize her and make her his wanton! He ground his teeth and glared at Quinnox as if he were the object of his hatred, his vicious jeal-

ousy. The captain stepped backward in sudden alarm. "Don't be afraid!" Lorry cried savagely. "I'm not crazy. It's your news -your news! Does she expect me to

stay up here while that state of affairs exists down there? Let me see; this is the 18th, and day after tomorrow is the 20th. There is no time to be lost, All collections have prompt atten- Captain Quinnox. I shall accompany you when you leave St. Valentine's tonight." "Impossible!" exclaimed Quinnox. "I

cannot allow that, sir. My instructions are to"-

structions on earth can't compel me to with a man whom I am supposed to be sit up here and see this sacrifice made. I am determined to see her and put a stop to the whole affair. It is what I' feared would come to pass. She is willing to sacrifice herself or half her kingdom, one or the other, in order that I may escape. It's not right, captain; it's not right, and I'm going to stop it. How soon can we leave this place?" JOSEPH SPROTT | He was pacing the floor, happy in the decision he had reached, notwithstand-

ing the danger it promised. "You are mad, sir, to talk like this," protested the other despairingly. "Edelwelss swarms with Axphain soldiers; our own men are on the alert to win the great reward. You cannot go to For many years it has been supposed that the city. When a safe time comes, you Catarrh of the Stomach caused indigestion will be taken from this place, into the mountains instead of through the city, and given escort to Dassas, 100 miles east. That step will not be taken until the way is perfectly clear. I tell you,

sir, you cannot hope to escape if you leave the monastery now. The mountains are full of soldiers every night." "I didn't say anything about an escape, did 1? On the contrary, I want

have Gabriel thrown over the castle wall and say to Bolaroz: 'Here is your man. I've gained the ten years of grace.' That's the point, Quinnox. Can't you see it? And I want to say to you now I'm going whether you con- bright, throwing its refulgent splendor sent or refuse. I'd just as soon be in jall down there as up here anyhow. The only favor I have to ask of you is | Lorry seen the moon so accursedly that you do the best you can to get | bright. me safely to her. I must talk with her

before I go back to the tower." "God help me, sir, I cannot take you to her?" groaned Quinnox, trying to centrol his nervous apprehension. "I down. It won't do to risk it now. Can have sworn to her that I will keep you | we not go somewhere to keep warm | from all harm, and it would be to break | for an hour or so?"

faith with her if I led you imo that mob down there." "I respect your oath, my friend, but I



"I implore you to be considerate."

too, if I have to shoot every man who attempts to prevent me. I'm desperate, man, desperate! She's everything in the world to me, and I'll die before I'll see her suffer." Quinnox calmly placed his hands on

the other's shoulders, and, looking him in the eye, said quietly:

"Her suffering now is as nothing compared to what it will be if you go back to the tower. You forget how much pain she is enduring to avoid that very suffering. If you care for my mistress, sir, add no weight to the burden she already carries. Remain here, as she desires. You can be of no service down there. I implore you to be considerate."

It was an eloquent appeal, and it struck home. Lorry wavered, but his resolution would not weaken. Ife argued first with Quireox, then with himself, finally returning to the reckless determination to brave all and save her from herself. The soldier begged him to listen to reason, implored him to reconsider, at last turning in anger upon the stubborn American with a torrent of maledictions. Lorry heard him through and quietly, unswervingly, announced that he was ready to leave the monastery at any time his guide cared to depart. Quinnox gave up in despair at this, gazing hopelessly at the man he had sworn to protect, who insisted on placing his head in the lion's jaw. He sat down at the window and murmured deject

"What will she say to me-what will she say to me?"

"I shall exonerate you, captain. She can have no fault to find with your ac tion after I have told her how loyal you are and how-how-well, how un-Quinnox back two nights later with the reasonable I am," said Lorry kindly. "You may never live to tell her this,

sir. Then what is to become of me? I could not look her in the face again. I could only die!"

"Don't be so faint hearted, Quinnox!" cried Lorry, stimulated by the desire "We'll get through safe and sound, Brace up, for heaven's sake, for mine, to her before everything is lost. The fear that she may marry Gabriel will drive me mad if I am left here an-As he paced his narrow room dis- other night. Come! Let us prepare to tractedly a horrid thought struck him start. We must notify the abbot that

Lorry soon was attired in the guard's hibited in Dangloss' disciplinary rules.

Officers on duty were not to wear nosegavs. "Dangloss will not see my violets. By the way, the moon shines brightly,

doesn't it?" "It is almost as light as day. Our trip is made extremely hazardous for that reason. I am sorely afraid, rash sir, that we cannot reach the castle

unseen. "We must go about it boldly; that's

"Has it occurred to you, sir, that you are placing me in a terrible position? highness."

Lorry turned cold. He had not thought of this alarming possibility. But his ready wit came again to his relief, and with bright, confident eyes he swept away the obstacle.

"If discovered, you are at once to reward."

"In that case you will not go to the castle, but to the tower."

"Not if you obey orders. The offer of to the undersigned. You will take me to her and not to the tower." Quinnox smiled and threw up his

hands as if unable to combat the quick logic of his companion. Together they made their way to the prior's cell, afterward to the abbot's apartment. It was barely 11 o'clock, and he had not retired. He questioned Quinnox closely, bade Lorry farewell and biessed him, sent his benediction to the princess gates. Ten minutes later they stood outside

the wall, the great gates having been closed sharply behind them. Above brilliancy of day. Never before had

"'Gad, it is like day," he exclaimed. "As I told you, sir," agreed the other, reproof in his voice. "We must wait until the moon goes

"There is a cave farther down the mountain. Shall we take the chance of

reaching it?" "Ev all means. I can't endure the cold after being cooped up for so long."

They followed the winding road for some distance down the mountain, coming at last to a point where a small path branched off. It was the path leading down the side of the steep overlooking the city, and upon that side no wagon road could be built. Seven thousand feet below stretched the sleeping, moonlit city. Standing out on the brow of the mountain, they seemed to be the only living objects in the world. There was no sign of life above, below or beside them.

"How long should we be in making the descent?" asked Lorry, a sort of terror possessing him as he looked from the dizzy height into the ghostlike dimness below.

"Three hours if you are strong. "And how are we to get into the castle? I hadn't thought of that."

"There is a secret entrance," Quinnox, maliciously enjoying the insistent one's acknowledgment of weakness. "If we reach it safely, I can take you under ground to the old dungeons beneath the castle. It may be some time before you can enter the halls above, for the secret passage is guarded jealously. There are but five people who know of its existence." "Great confidence is placed in you, I

see, and worthily, I am sure. How is it that you are trusted so implicitly?"

"I inherit the confidence. The captain of the guard is born to his position. My ancestors held the place before me, and not one betrayed the trust. The firstborn in the last ten generations has been the captain of the guard in the royal palace, possessing all its secrets. I shall be the first to betray the trust, and for a man who is nothing to me." "I suppose you consider me selfish

tion," said Lorry, somewhat contritely. "No. I have begun the task, and I will complete it, come what may," answered the captain firmly. "You are the only being in the world for whom I would sacrifice my honor voluntarily save one." "I have wondered why you were

and vile for placing you in this posi-

princess and claim the fortune that is represented in the reward." "Not for 5,000,000 gayyos, sir! "By George, you are a faithful lot-

Dangloss, Allode and Ogbot and yourself, four honest men to whom she trusts her life, her honor! You belong to a rare species, and I am proud to know you."

The stealthy couple found the cave and spent an hour or more within its walls, sallying forth after the tardy darkness had crept down over the mountain and into the peaceful valley. Then began the tortuous descent. Quinnox in the lead, they walked, crawled and ran down the narrow path, bruised, scratched and aching by the phain and Dawsbergen. I have includtime they reached the topmost of the ed my own land because its ruler is summer houses along the face of the most vitally interested. He would easier, but stealthiness made their know, and he would satisfy Axphain. progress slow. Frequently as they It is in my power to give you aid at neared the base they were obliged to this last, trying hour, and I implore dodge behind houses or to drop into you to listen to my words of sincerest the ditches by the roadside in order to friendship-yes, adoration. Tomorrow avoid patrolling police guards or Ax- you are to pay to Prince Bolaroz over phain sleuthhounds.

At last, stiff and sore, they stole into the narrow streets of Edelweiss. Lorthough the air was warm and balmy. He had truly been out of the world. Not until this instant did he fully appreciate the dread that possesses a repeat my friendly offer and to give man who is being hunted down by unquestioned bond as to my ability to tireless foes. Never did man's heart go out in gratitude and trustfulness as did his toward the strong defender whose sinewy arm he clasped as if in

"You understand what this means to me," said Quinnox gravely as they paused to rest. "She will call me your murderer and curse me for my miserable treason. I am the first to dishonor the name of Quinnox."

CHAPTER XXII.

GRENFALL LORRY'S FOE. HE Princess Yetive had not flinched a hair's breadth from the resolution formed on that stormy night when she sacrificed pride and duty on the altar of love and justice. Prince Bolaroz's ultifor in submitting she could save not uniform he had worn from the tower | matum overwhelmed her, but she arose only Graustark, but the man she loved. a month before. His pistol was in his from the wreckage that was strewn pocket, and the bunch of violets she about her conscience and remained had sent to him that very night was loyal, steadfast and true to the man in pinned defiantly above his heart. Quin- the monastery. To save his life was nox smiled when he observed this bit all she could hope to accomplish, and of sentiment, and grimly informed him this she was bound to do at any cost. that he was committing an act pro- She could be nothing to him, not even friend. So long as he lived he would be considered the murderer of Lorenz, and until the end a price would hang carry it out. If you agree to accept over his head. She, Princess of Grauthe loan I extend - 10,000,000 gavvos stark, had offered a reward for him. for fifteen years at the usual rate of in-For that reason he was always to be a | terest-you can on tomorrow morning fugitive, and she least of all could place in the hand of Axphain when he hope to see him. There had been a makes his formal demand the full brief, happy dream, but it was swept amount of your indebtedness in gold. away by the unrelenting rush of real- Ricardo, open the chest!" ity. The mere fact that she, and she alone, was responsible for his flight the chest. It was filled with gold placed between them an unsurmount-

able barrier. Clinging tenaciously to her purpose. the charge without exposing her royal Graustark blindly trusted and adored the greatest happiness that could come her. To undeceive them would be to to him." administer a shock from which they could never recover.

Her highness' manner was at all times frank and untroubled. She was you ask, I understand," said Halfont apparently light hearted. Her cheeks slowly, his black eyes glittering. "You had lost none of their freshness. Her ask something that Graustark cannot proclaim me a prisoner, take the credit eyes were bright. Her smile was quick and will not barter—the hand of its for having caught me and claim the and merry, her wit unclouded. Recep- sovereign. If you are willing to make tions, drawing rooms and state func- this loan, naming a fair rate of intions found her always vivacious, so terest, withdrawing your proposal of much so that her court wondered not marriage, we can come to an agreea little. Daily reports brought no news | ment." reward says that I must be delivered of the fugitive, but while others were beginning to acquire the haggard air pointment, his breast heaved and his of worry and uncertainty she was calmly resigned. The 15th, the 16th, the 17th, the 18th and now the 19th of November came and still the princess he said. "She shall never want for revealed no marked sign of distress. Heavy hearted and with bowed heads | pain." the people of Graustark saw the 19th the end of power. At court there was

fade in the night, the breaking of to your original proposition?" demandwhich would bring the crush of pride, ed the count. to give myself up to her. Then she can and ordered them conducted to the the silent dread and the dying hope that relief might come at the last hour. Men with pale faces and tearful eyes wandered through the ancient castle, speechless, nerveless, miserable. Brave them hung the silvery moon, full and soldiers crept about, shorn of pride and filled with woe. Citizens sat and stared over the mountain top with all the aimlessly for hours, thinking of naught but the disaster so near at hand and so other word. Her court saw her standunavoidable. The whole nation surged | ing straight and immovable, her white as if in the last throes of death. To- face transfigured.

> twain, disgraced before the world. And on the throne of this afflicted land sat the girl Yetive, proud, tender, courageous. Tomorrow would see the north torn from the south, the divi-

morrow the potency of Graustark was

to die, its domain was to be cleft in

sion of families, the rending of homes, the bursting of hearts. She sanctioned all this because she loved Lorry and

because he had done no wrong. Aware of her financial troubles and pursuing the advantage that his rival's death had opened to him, Prince Gabriel of Dawsbergen renewed his ardent suit. Scarce had the body of the murdered prince left the domain before lie made his presence marked. Knowing that he was in truth the mysterious Michael who had planned her abduction, she feared and despised him, yet dared make no public denunciation. As Dawsbergen was too powerful to be antagonized at this critical time, she was constantly forced to submit to the most trying and repulsive of ordeals. Tact and policy were required to control the violent, hot blooded young ruler from the south. Day after day he haunted the castle, persistent in his efforts to induce her to accept his proposition. So fierce was his passion, so implacable his desire, that he went among the people of Edelwhich oppressed her. weiss, presenting to them his proposal,

hoping thereby to add public feeling to his claims. He tried to organize a committee of citizens to go before the princess with the petition that his offer be accepted and the country saved. But Graustark was loyal to its princess. Not one of her citizens listened to the wily prince, and more than one told him or his emissaries that the loss of the whole kingdom was preferable to the marriage he desired. The city sickened at the thought. His last and master stroke in the struggle to persuade came on the afternoon of the 19th, at an hour when all Edelweiss was in gloom and when the princess was taxed to the point where

the mask of courage was so frail that she could scarce hide her bleeding soul behind it. Bolaroz of Axphain, to quote from the news dispatch, was in Edelweiss, a guest, with a few of his lords, in the North of the city were encastle. camped 5,000 men. He had come prepared to cancel the little obligation of fifteen years' standing. With the hated creditor in the castle, his influence Lovering above the town, the populace dis-

tracted by the thoughts of the day to come. Gabriel played what he considered his best card. He asked for and obtained a final interview with Yetive, never tempted to turn traitor to the not in her boudoir or her reception room, but in the thronersom, where she was to meet Bolaroz in the morn-

> The princess, scated on her throne, awaited the approach of the resourceful, tenacious suitor. He came, and behind him strode eight stalwart men bearing a long iron bound chest, the result of his effort with his bankers. Yetive and her nobles looked in surprise on this unusual performance. Dropping to his knee before the throne, Gabriel said, his voice trembling slight-

ly with eagerness and fear: "Your highness, tomorrow will see the turning point in the history of two, possibly three, nations-Graustark, Ax-After this walking was serve and save Graustark, as you 25,000,000 gavvos or relinquish the entire north half of your domain. I understand the lamentable situation. You ry glanced back and shivered, al- can raise no more than 15,000,000, and you are helpless. He will grant no extension of time. You know what I have proffered before. I come today to



"Go! I will not hear you!"

An attendant threw open the lid of coins.

"This box contains 100,000 gavvos. There are in your halls nine boxes she was still cognizant of the debt she holding nine times as much as you see "Hang your instructions! All the in- the guard, for slinking about at night owed the trusting, loving people of here, and there are nine times as much Graustark. One word from her could all told on the way. This is an evitracking to earth? Discovery will avert the calamity that was to fall dence of my good faith. Here is the with the dawn of the fatal 20th. All gold. Pay Bolaroz and owe Gabriel,

There was a dead slience after this theatrical action.

"The interest on this loan is not all Gabriel's eyes deadened with disap-

fingers twitched. "I have the happiness of your sovereign at heart as much as my own,"

devotion; she shall never know a

"You are determined, then, to adhere "She would have married Lorenz to

save her land, to protect her people. Am I not as good as Lorenz? Why not give"- began Gabriel viciously, but Yetive arose and, with gleaming eyes and flushing cheeks, interrupted him. "Go! I will not hear you-not one word!" He passed from the room without an-

CHAPTER XXIII. THE VISITOR AT MIDNIGHT. ELOW the castle and its distressed occupants, in a dark, damp little room, Grenfall Lor-

- rv. lived a vear in a day. On

the break of dawn on the 19th, Captain Quinnox guided him from the dangerous streets of Edelweiss to the secret passage, and he was safe for the time being. The entrance to the passage was through a skillfully hidden opening in the wall that inclosed the park. A stone doorway so cleverly constructed that it defied detection led to a set of steps, which in turn took one to a long, narrow passage. This ended in a stairway fully a quarter of a mile from its beginning. Ascending this stairway one came to a secret panel through which, by pressing a spring, the interior of the castle was reached. The location of the panel was in one of the recesses in the wall of the chap-

el, near the altar. It was in this chapel that Yetive exchanged her male attire for a loose gown weeks before, and the servant who saw her come from arm. the door at an unearthly hour in the morning believed she had gone there to seek surcease from the troubles Lorry was impatient to rush forth from his place of hiding and to end all pered.

suspense, but Quinnox demurred. He begged the eager American to remain in the passage until the night of the 19th, when, all things going well, be might be so fortunate as to reach the princess without being seen. It was the secret hope of the guilty motain that his charge could be induced by the princess to return to the monastery to avoid complications. He promised to inform her highness of his presence in for a meeting. The miserable fellow could not find courage to confess his disobedience to his trusting mistress. Many times during the day she had seen him hovering near, approaching and then retreating, and had wondered not a little at his pecul'ar manner.

And so it was that Lorry chafel and writhed through a long day of suspense and agony. Quinnox had brought to the little room some cand'es, food and bedding, but he utilized only the former. The hours went by and no summons called him to her side. What was to become of him? What west to be the end of this drama? Wh t would the night, the morrow, bring about? It was 9 o'clock in the evening when

Quinnox returned to the little room. The waiting one had looked at his watch a hundred times, had run insanely up and down the passage in quest of the secret exit, had shouted loud in the arenzy of desperation. "Have you seen her?" he cried, graspng the newcomer's hand.

"I have; but, before God, I could not tell her what I had done! Your visit will be a surprise, I fear a shock." "Then how am I to see her? Fool Am I to wait bere forever"-"Have patience! I will take you to

her tonight-aye, within an hour. Tomorrow morning she signs away the northern provinces, and her instructions are that she is not to be disturbed tonight. Not even will sue see the Countess Dagmar after 9 o'clock. It breaks my heart to see the sorrow that abounds in the castle tonight. Her highness insists on being alone, and Bassot, the new guard, has orders to admit no one to her apartments. He is ill, and I have promised that a substitute shall relieve him at 11 o'clock. You are to be the substitute. Here is a part of an old uniform of mine, and here is a coat that belonged to Dannox, who was about your size. Please exchange the clothes you now have on strength down about my ears. Look. for these. apprehend no trouble in On my desk is a letter I was writing to dissuade me. It must be as I wish. Oh, reaching her door, for the household is in gloom and the halls seem barren of

life." He threw the bundle on a chair, and Lorry at once proceeded to don the contents. In a very short time he wore instead of the cellkeeper's garments a neat fitting uniform of the royal guard. He was trembling violently, chilled to the bone with nervousness, as they began the ascent of the stairs leading to the chapel. The crisis in his life, he felt, was near at hand.

Under the stealthy hand of Quinnox

the panel opened, and they listened in-

tently for some moments. There was no one in the dimly lighted chapel, so they made their way to the door at the opposite end. Before unlocking the door the captain pointed to a lance which stood against the wall near by. "You are to carry that lance," he said briefly. Then he cautiously peered forth. A moment later they were in the broad hall, boldly striding toward the distant stairway. Lorry had been instructed to proceed without the least sign of timidity. They passed several attendants in the hall and heard Count Halfont's voice in conversation with some one in an antercom. As they neared the broad steps who should come tripping down but Harry Anguish. He saluted Quinnox and walked rapidly down the corridor, evidently taking his departure after a call

on the countess. "There goes your hostage," said the captain grimly. It had required all of Lorry's self possession to restrain the cry of joyful recognition. Up the staircase they went, meeting several ladies and gentlemen coming down, and were soon before the apartments of the princess. A tall guard stood in front of the boudoir door.

careless glance at the strange soldier the sick man trudged off down the hall, glad to seek his bed.

"Is she there?" whispered Lorry, dizzy and faint with expectancy. "Yes. This may mean your death and mine, sir, but you would do it. Will you explain to her how I came to

play her false?"

the passage."

annoved.

"She shall know the truth, good friend.' "After I have gone twenty paces down the hall do you rap on the door. She may not admit you at first, but do not give up. If she bid you enter or asks your mission, enter quickly and close the door. It is unlocked. She may swoon or scream, and you must

prevent either if possible. In an hour

I shall return and you must go back to

"Never! I have come to save her and her country, and I intend to do so by surrendering myself this very night." "I had hoped to dissuade you. But, sir, you cannot do so tonight. You forget that this visit compromises her." "True. I had forgotten. Well, I'll go back with you, but tomorrow I am

your prisoner, not your friend." "Be careful," cautioned the captain as he moved away. Lorry feverishly tapped his knuckles on the panel of the door and waited with motionless heart for the response. It came not, and he rapped harder, a strange fear darting into his mind. "Well?" came from within, the voice

he adored. Impetuous haste marked his next movement. He dashed open the door, sprang inside and closed it quickly. She was sitting before her escritoire. writing, and looked up, surprised and

"I was not to be disturbed-oh"-

She staggered to her feet and was in | fear that they suspect me and that I | his arms before the breath of her ex- am being watched. Where is Captain

the night of the 18th or rather near clamation had died away. Had he not supported her she would have dropped to the floor. Her hands, her face, were like ice, her breast was pulseless, and there was the wildest terror in her

"My darling-my queen!" he cried passionately. "At last I am with you! how I pray that you may reach it in Don't look at me like that! It is really I-I could not stay away-I could not permit this sacrifice of yours! Speak to me! Do not stare like that!"

Her wide blue eyes slowly swept his face, piteous wonder and doubt struggling in their depths.

"Am I awake?" she murmured, touching his face with her bewildered, questioning hands. "Is it truly you?" A smile illumined her face, but her joy was short lived. An expression of terror came to her eyes, and there was agony in the fingers that clasped his "Why do you come here?" she cried. "It is madness! How and why

came you to this room?" He laughed like a delighted boy and hastily narrated the events of the past twenty-four hours, ending with the trick that gave him entrance to her room.

"And all this to see me?" she whis-

"To see you and to save you. I hear that Gabriel has been annoying you and that you are to give up half of the kingdom tomorrow. Tell me everything. It is another reason for my coming.'

Sitting beside him on the divan, she told of Gabriel's visit and his dismissal, the underground room and to arrange | the outlook for the next day, and then sought to convince him of the happiness it afforded her to protect him from an undeserved death. He obtained for Quinnox the royal pardon and lauded him to the skies. So ravishing were the moments, so ecstatic the sensations that possessed them, that neiforgot the real import of his reckless visit until she commanded him to stand erect before her that she might see what manner of soldier he was. With a laugh, he leaped to his feet and stood before her-attention! She leaned back among the cushions and surveyed him which slowly closed as if to shut out you and yours." temptation.

"You are a perfect soldier," she said. her lashes parting ever so slightly. "No more perfect than you!" he cried. She remembered, with confusion, her own masquerading, but it was unkind of him to remember it. Her allusion to detest the throne which separates to his uniform turned his thoughts into the channel through which they had might be a pauper, but you shall not been surging so turbulently up to the moment that found him tapping at her | that lingers in my heart. You shall door. He had not told her of his determination, and the task grew harder as he saw the sparkle glow brighter

and brighter in her eye. "You are a brave soldier, then," she substituted. "It required courage to come to Edelweiss with hundreds of men ready to seize you at sight, a pack of bloodhounds."

"I should have been a miserable coward to stay up there while you are so bravely facing disaster alone down here. I came to help you, as I should." "But you can do nothing, dear, and you only make matters worse by coming to me. I have fought so hard to

overcome the desire to be near you, 1 have struggled against myself for days and days, and I had won the battle when you came to pull my walls of you. No, you shall not read it. No one shall ever know what it contains." She darted to the desk, snatched up the sheets of paper and held them over the waxed taper. He stood in the middle of the room, a feeling of intense desolation settling down upon him. How could be lose this woman?

"Tomorrow night Quinnox is to take you from the monastery and conduct



"You are a perfect soldier," she said. you to a distant city. It has all been planned. Your friend, Mr. Anguish, is to meet you in three days, and you are to hurry to America by way of Athens. This was a letter to you. In it I said many things and was trying to write gives him a trifling sum of money. farewell when you came to this room. Ach, what peril you are in here! You each girl, washes his face and dons his may go," said Quinnox, and with a are innocent, but nothing could save wedding dress, which must be first acyou. The proof is too strong. Mizrox curately weighed three times by a lad. has found a man who swears he saw you enter Lorenz's room."

"What a damnable lie!" cried Lorry

"But you can see what means they

will adopt to convict you. You are

lightly. "I was not near his room!"

doomed if caught by my men or theirs. I cannot save you again. You know now that I love you. Could you not | 300 years and can be published in 150 have been content with that last goodby at the monastery? It is cruel to both of us, to me especially, that we must have the parting again." She had gone to the divan and now dropped limply among the cushions, rest-

ing her head on her hand. "I was determined to see you," be said. "They shall not kill me, nor are you to sacrifice your father's domain. Worse than all, I feared that you might yield to Gabriel"-"Ach! You insult me when you say

that! I yielded to Lorenz because I thought it my duty and because I dared not admit to myself that I loved you. But Gabriel! Ach!" she cried scornfully. "Grenfall Lorry, I shall marry no man. You I love, but you I cannot marry. It is folly to dream of the history and origin of the most comit even as a possibility. When you go mon articles they daily use? We cat, from Graustark tomorrow night, you drink, wear without thinking whence take my heart, my life, my soul, with you. I shall never see you again-God among the Romans more than 1,800 help me to say this-I shall never allow years ago, as is proved by paintings you to see me again. I tell you, I found in the ruins of Pompeii. They could not bear it. The weakest and the strongest of God's creations is wo- useful. In the colder climate of northern man." She started suddenly, half rising. "Did any one see you come to my the manufacture of them became a

room? Was Quinnox sure?" "We passed people, but no one knew me. I will go if you are distressed over my being here." "It is not that-not that. Some spy

may have seen you. I have a strange

Quinnox? "He said he would return for me in an hour. The time is almost gone. How it has flown! Yetive, Yetive, Iwill not give you up!" he cried, sinking to his knees before her.

> safety! And you must leave this wretched country at once. Will you see if Quinnox is outside the door? Be quick! I am mad with fear that you may be found here, that you may be taken before you can return to St. Valentine's."

He arose and stood looking down at the intense face, all aquiver with the battle between temptation and solici-

tude. "I am not going back to St. Valen

tine's," he said slowly. "But it is all arranged for you to start from there tomorrow. You cannot escape the city guard except through St. Valentine's." "Yetive, has it not occurred to you

that I may not wish to escape the city

"May not wish to escape the-what lo you mean?" she cried, bewildered. "I am not going to leave Edelweiss, dearest. It is my intention to surrender myself to the authorities"

She gazed at him in horror for a mo ment and then fell back, with a low

"For God's sake do not say that!" she wailed. "I forbid you to think of it. You cannot do this after all I have done to save you. Ach, you are jesting

I should have known." He sat down and drew her to his side. Some moments passed before he

could speak. "I cannot and will not permit you to make such a sacrifice for me. The proposition of Bolaroz is known to me. If you produce me for trial, you are to ther thought of the consequences if he have a ten years' extension. My duty were to be discovered in her room, dis- is plain. I am no cowardly criminal, guised as one of her guardsmen. He and I am not afraid to face my accusers. At the worst I can die but

> "Die but once," she repeated as if in a dream.

"I came here to tell you of my decision, to ask you to save your lands, protect your people and to remember that through the glowing, impassioned eyes I would die a thousand times to serve

"After all I have done-after all I have done," she murmured piteously. "No. no! You shall not! You are more to me than all my kingdom, than all the people in the world. You have made me love you, you have caused me us, you have made me pray that Iforce me to destroy the mite of hope not crush the hope that there may be a-a-some day!"

"A some day? Some day when you will be mine?" he cried. "I will not say that, but for my sake -for my sake-go away from this place. Save yourself! You are all I

have to live for." Her arms were about

his neck, and her imploring words

went to his heart like great thrusts of "You forget the thousands who love and trust you. Do they deserve to be wronged? "No, no-ach, God, how I have suffered because of them! I have betrayed them, have stolen their rights and made them a nation of beggars. But I would not, for all this nation, have an innocent man condemned-nor could

why does not Quinnox come for you! She arose and paced the floor distractedly. He was revolving a selfish, cowardly capitulation to love and injustice, when

sharp tap was heard at the door.

my people ask that of me. You cannot

Leaping to his feet he whispered: "Quinnox! He has come for me. Now to get out of your room without being seen!" The Princess Yetive ran to him and, placing her hands on his shoulders,

"You will go back to the monastery? You will leave Graustark? For my sake-for my sake?" He hesitated and then surrendered, his honor falling weak and faint by the pathway of passion.

cried with the fierceness of despair:

"Yes!" he cried hoarsely. Tap! tap! tap! at the door. Lorry took one look at the rapturous face and released her.

The door flew open, an attendant saluted, and in stepped-Gabriel!

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

"Come!" she called.

Bulgarian Wedding Customs. A curious wedding custom which exists in Bulgaria is the shaving of the bridegroom on the wedding day. While the barber is engaged upon his face a dancing crowd of boys and girls surround the bridegroom. When his

hair has been cut, the pieces are care-

fully collected by some of the girls, to

be preserved in one of the bride's chests. After- the barber has finished his work he receives a small white linen cloth as a present, and each person Then the bridegroom kisses the hand of These strange customs are said to date back to pre-Christian days, but they are still strictly observed, especially in country districts.

Forty Bibles a Minute. The Bible publications of the Oxford University Press have been issued for languages and dialects. Orders for 100,000 Bibles are quite common. An order for half a million copies can, according to the Caxton Magazine, be readily filled. On an average from thirty to forty Bibles are furnished every minute. There are 110 different editions of the Oxford Bibles in English, varying from the magnificent folio edition for pulpit use to the "brilliant" Bible, the smallest edition of the Scriptures in the world. The largest folio Bible printed in Oxford measures 19 by 12 inches, and no erratum has as yet been found in it. The "Brilliant Text Bible" measures 3% by 21/3 inches and is three-fourths of an inch thick.

How many readers are familiar with

or wherefore. Stockings were known were considered more ornamental than Europe they became a necessity, and recognized employment in the twelfth century, when they were fashioned chiefly of cloth. In the reign of Edward II. they assumed a resemblance to those now worn. At the courts of Spain and Italy they were fashioned of silk and were made enormously large.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM