# **GRAUSTARK**

GEORGE BARR McCUTCHEON

I was morally certain that Gabriel killed the prince. There was no way on earth to prove it, however, and I'll admit it was intuition or something of that sort which convinced me. He had tried to abduct the princess, and he was madly jealous of Lorenz. Although he knew there was to be a duel, he was not certain that Lorenz would lose, so he adopted a clever plan to get rid of two rivals by killing one and casting suspicion on the other. These deductions I made soon after the murder, but, of course, could secure no

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"Early this morning at the hotel I made up my mind to denounce him suddenly if I had the chance, risking failure, but hoping for such an exhibition as that which you saw. It was clear to me that he had an accomplice to stand guard while he did the stabbing, but I did not dream it was Berrowag. Lorry's sensational appearance, when I believed him to be far away from here, disturbed me greatly, but it made it all the more necessary that I should take the risk with Gabriel. As I watched him I became absolutely convinced of his guilt. only way to accuse him was to do it boldly and thoroughly; so I rang in the accomplice and the witness features. You all know how the 'bluff' worked." "And you had no more proof than this?" asked Dangloss weakly.

"That's all," laughed the delighted strategist.

Dangloss stared at him for a moment, then threw up his hands and walked away, shaking his head, whether in stupefied admiration or utter disbelief no one knew. The others covered Anguish with compliments, and he was more than ever the hero of the day. Such confidence paralyzed the people. The only one who was not overcome with astonishment was his country-

"You did it well," he said in an undertone to Anguish—"devilish well!"
"You might at least say I did it to
the queen's taste," growled Anguish

"Well, then, you did," laughed Lorry.

CHAPTER XXVII.

ON THE BALCONY AGAIN. HREE persons in the royal castle of Graustark, worn by the dread and anxiety of weeks, fatigued by the sleepless nights just past, slumbered through the long afternoon with the motionless, deathlike sleep of the utterly fagged. Yetive in her darkened bedchamber dreamed with smiling lips of a tall soldier and a throne on which cobwebs multiplied. Grenfall Lorry saw in his dreams a slim soldier with troubled face and averted, timid eyes, standing guard over him with a brave, stiff back and chin painfully uplifted. Captain Quinnox dreamed not, for his mind was tranquil in the assurance that he had been forgiven by the princess.

While Lorry slept in the room set apart for him Anguish roamed the park with a happy faced, slender young lady into whose ears he poured the history of a certain affection, from the tender beginning to the distracting end, and she smiled and trembled with delight, closing not her ears against the sound of his voice nor her heart to the love that craved admis-They were not dreaming.

After dinner that evening Lorry led the princess out into the moonlit night. The November breezes were soft and balmy and the shadows deep.

"Let us leave the park to Dagmar and her hero, to the soldiers and the musicians," said Yetive. "There is a broad portico here, with the tenderest of memories. Do you remember a night like this a month or more agothe moon, the sentinel and some sorrows? I would again stand where we stood on that night and again look up to the moon and the solemn sentinel, but not as we saw them then, with heartache and evasion."

"The balcony, then, without the old restrictions," Lorry agreed. "I want to see that dark old monastery again and to tell you how I looked from its lofty windows through the chill of wind and the chill of life into the fairest Eden that was ever denied man." "In an hour, then, I will meet you

"I must correct you. In an hour you

will find me there.' She left him, retiring with her aunt and the Countess Dagmar. Lorry remained in the hall with Halfont, Prince Bolaroz, Mizrox and Anguish. The conversation ran once more into the ever recurring topic of the day, Gabriel's confession. The Prince of Dawsbergen was confined in the tower with his confederate, Berrowag. Reports from Dangloss late in the afternoon conveyed the intelligence that the prisoner had fallen into melancholta. Berrowag admitted to the police that he had stood guard at the door while Gabriel entered the prince's room and killed him as he slept. He described

the cunning, deliberate effort to turn suspicion to the American by leaving blood stains. The other Dawsbergen nobles, with the exception of two who had gone to the capital of their country with the news of the catastrophe, remained close to the hotel. One of them con-

be felt at home for Gabriel, who was

was talk among them of Prince Dantan, his younger brother, as his suc cessor to the throne. The young prince was a favorite with the people

Bolaroz was pleased with the outcome of the sensational accusation and the consequent removal of complications which had in reality been unpleasant to him.

One feature of the scene in the throneroom was not discussed, although it was uppermost in the minds of all. The positive stand taken by the princess and her open avowal of love for the dashing American were never to be forgotten. The serious wrinkles on the brow of Halfont and the faraway expression that came frequently to his eyes revealed the nature of his thoughts. The greatest problem of them all was still to be solved.

As they left the room he dropped be-hind and walked out beside Lorry, rather timidly detaining him until the others were some distance ahead. "You were closeted with the princess

this morning, Mr. Lorry, and perhaps you can give me the information I de She has called a meeting of the ministers and leading men of the country for tomorrow morning. Do you know why she has issued this rather unusual call? She did not offer any explanation to me."

"I am only at liberty to say, your excellency, that it concerns the welfare of Graustark," answered the other aft er a moment's thought. They walked on in silence for some distance

"I am her uncle, sir, but I love her as I would love my own child. My life has been given to her from the day that her mother, my sister, died. You will grant me the right to ask you a plain question. Have you told her that you love her?" The count's face was drawn and white.

"I have, sir. I loved her before I knew she was a princess. As her protector it was to you that I would have told the story of my unfortunate love long ago, but my arrest and escape prevented. My love has not been will-

ingly clandestine, and it has been in spite of her most righteous objections. We have both seen the futility of love, however strong and pure it may be. I have hoped, your excellency, and al-

"She has confessed her love to you privately?" asked Halfont. "Against her will, against her judg-

ment, sir."

"Then the worst has come to pass," groaned the old count. Neither spoke for some time. They were near the foot of the staircase when Halfont paused and grasped Lorry's arm. Steadily they looked into each other's

"I admire you more than any man I have ever known," said the count huskily. "You are the soul of honor, of courage, of manliness. But you cannot become the husband of a princess of Granstark! I need not tell you that however. You surely must under stand."

"I do understand," said Lorry dizzily. "I am not a prince, as you are saying over and over again to your self. In my land you will find the poor man climbing to the highest pinnacle side by side with the rich man. The woman I love is a princess. Until death destroys this power to love and to hope I must say to Sou that I shall not consider the Princess Yetive beyond my reach. Frankly, I cannot, sir."

The count heard him through, unconscious admiration mingling with the sadness in his eyes. "There are some obstacles that bray

ery and perseverance cannot overcome, my friend," he said slowly. "One of

"As fate is not governed by law or custom, I have the best reason in the world to hope," said Lorry, yet modestly.

"I would indeed, sir, that you were a prince of the realm?" fervently cried the count, and Lorry was struck by the fact that he repeated, word for word, the wish Gaspon had uttered some hours before.

By this time they were joined by the others, whereupon Grenfall hurried eagerly to the balcony, conscious of being half an hour early, but glad of the chance afforded for reflection and solitude. Voices came up from below, as they did on that night five weeks ago, bringing the laughter and song of happy hearts. Music swelled through the park from the band gallery; from afar off came the sounds of revelry. The people of Edelweiss were rejoicing over the unexpected deliverance from a fate so certain that the escape seemed barely short of miraculous.

Every sound, every rustle of the wind through the plants that were scattered over the balcony caused him to look toward the door through which she must come to him.

At last she appeared, and he hastened to meet her. As he took her hands in his she said softly, dreamily, looking over his shoulder toward the mountain's crest, "The same fair moon," and smiled into his eyes.

"The same fair maid and the same man," he added. "I believe the band is playing the same air-upon my soul I fessed that but little sympathy would

"Yes. the same air 'La Paloma.' It is

my minary. Come, let us want. I can-not sit quietly now. Talk to me. Let

ne listen and be happy." Slowly they paced the wide balcony, through the moonlight and the shadows, her hand resting on his arm, his clasping it gently. Lorry talked but little, she not at all, and yet they understood each other.

"Why are you so quiet?" he asked at last, stopping near the rail.

"I cannot tell you why. It seems to me that I am afraid of you," she answered, a shy quaver in her voice. "Afraid of me? I don't understand." "Nor do I. You are not as you were



'They are very happy," said Lorry. ent-yes, you make me feel that I am weak and helpless and that you can say to me 'Come' and 'Go' and I must obey. Isn't it odd that I, who have never known submissiveness, should so suddenly find myself tyrannized?" she asked, smiling faintly.

"Shall I tell you why you are afraid of me?" he asked. You will say it is because I am for-

getting to be a princess." "No; it is because you no longer look upon me as you did in other days. Yesterday you were the princess and looked down upon the impossible suitor; today you find that you have given yourself to him and that you do not regard the barrier as insurmountable. You are afraid of me because I am no longer a dream, but a reality. Am I not right, Yetive?

She looked out over the hazy, moonlit

"Yesterday I might have disputed all you say; today I can deny nothing."

Leaning upon the railing, they fell into a silent study of the parade ground and its strollers. Their thoughts were not of the walkers and chatterers, nor of the music, nor of the night. They were of the day to come

"I shall never forget how you said Because I love him, this morning, sweetheart," said Lorry, betraying his reflections. "You defied the whole world in those four words. They were

worth dying for." "How could I help it? You must not forget that you had just leaped into the lion's den defenseless because you loved me. Could I deny you then? Until that moment I had been the princess adamant. In a second's time you swept away every safeguard, every battlement, and I surrendered as only a woman can. But it really sounded shocking, didn't it? So theatrical!"

dear. You couldn't help it, remember," he said approvingly. "Ach, I dread tomorrow's ordeal!"

she said, and he felt the arm that touched his own tremble. "What will they say? What will they do?" "Tomorrow will tell. It means a

great deal to both of us. If they will not submit, what then?"

"What then, what then?" she mur-

mured faintly. Across the parade, coming from the direction of the fountain, Harry Anguish and Dagmar were slowly walking. They were very close together, and his head was bent until it almost touched hers. As they drew nearer the dreamy watchers on the balcony

recognized them. "They are very happy," said Lorry, knowing that she was also watching

the strollers. "They are so sure of each other,"

CHAPTER XXVIII.

she replied sadly.

XPECTANCY, concern, dread of uncertainty marked the countenances of Grau-stark's ministers and her chief men as they sat in the council chamber on the day following, awaiting the appearance of their princess, at whose call they were unexpectedly assem-

bled. All realized an emergency. Not one in that assembly but had heard the vivid, soulful sentence from the throne. Not one but wished in secret as Gaspon and Halfont had wished in open

When the princess entered with the prime minister they narrowly scanned the face so dear to them. After the greetings she requested them to draw chairs about the great table. Seating herself in her accustomed seat, she gazed over the circle of auxious faces and realized, more than at any time in her young life, that she was frail and weak beyond all comparison. How small she was to rule over those strong, wise men of hers. How feeble the hand that held the scenter!

"My lords," she said, summoning all her strength of mind and heart, "I am gratified to find you so ready to respond to the call of your whimsical sovereign. Yesterday you came with hearts bowed lown and in deepest woe. Today I assemble you here that I may ask your

strange day. Bolaroz will do as he has promised. We are to have the extension papers this afternoon, and Graustark may breathe again the strong, deep breath of hope. You well remem ber my attitude on yesterday. If on yesterday I would not let my kingdom stand between me and my love, I cannot do so today. I have called you here preme court to advance for hearing the COST OF LIFE IS TOO GREAT to tell you, my lords, that I have promised to become the wife of the man Henry P. Dimond from the decision of Sinking of the Russian Fleet Was who would have given his life for you and for me-that I love as a woman,

not as a princess.' The silence of death stole into the Every man's eyes were glued upon the white face of the princess, and none could break the spell. Not a word was uttered for many seconds. Then old Caspar's tense muscles relaxed and his arms dropped limply from their crossed position on his breast.

"My child, my child!" he cried life-

"You cannot do this thing!" "But the people?" cried Gaspon, his eyes gleaming. "You cannot act against the will of the people. Our laws, natural and otherwise, proscribe the very act you have in mind. The American cannot go upon our throne. No man, unless he be of royal blood, can share it with you. If you marry him, the laws of our land-you know them well -will prohibit us from recognizing the marriage."

"Knowing that, my lords, I have come to ask you to revise our laws. My throne will not be disgraced by the man I would have share it with me." She spoke as calmly as if she were making the most trivial request instead of asking her ministers to overthrow Department of Agriculture Also Reand undo the laws and customs of ages and of dynasties.

"The law of nature cannot be chang-

ed," muttered Caspar as if to himself. "In the event that the custom cannot be changed I shall be compelled to relinquish my right to occupy the throne and to depart from among you. It would break my beart, my lords, to resort to this monstrous sacrifice, but I love one man first, my crown and my people after him."

"You would not leave us-you would not throw aside as despised the crown your ancestors wore for centuries?" cried Gaspon.

The others were staring with open mouths and icy hearts.

"Yes, as much as it would grieve me, I would do all this," she answered firmly, not daring to look at her uncle. Her heart ached to turn to him with a prayer for forgiveness, but there could be no faltering now.

"I ask you, my lords, to acknowledge the marriage of your ruler to Grenfall Lorry. I am to be his wife, but I entreat you to grant me happiness with-

out making me endure the misery that will come to me if I desert my father's throne and the people who have worshiped me and to whom I am bound by a tie that cannot be broken. I do not plead so much for the right to rule as I do for the one who may rule after I am gone. I want my own to follow me on the throne of Graustark."

Then followed a long, animated discussion, growing brighter and more hopeful as the speakers' willing hearts warmed to the proposition. Lorry was a favorite, but he could not be their Hereditary law prohibited. Many times the princess and her wise men met and overcame obstacles, huge at first, minimized in the end, all beary custom, as suggested by the prin- merchandise on a liner. cess, coupled with the threat to abdi-"Don't look so distressed about it, cate, was the weightiest yet the most delicate question that had ever come gasoline engines have been installed. before the chief men of Graustark. Each is expected to develop a 300the first time there had been no direct men is already aboard the boat, which male helr to the throne. With the is 80 feet long. Below deck it is not death of old Prince Ganlook the mas- possible to stand erect, for there is only culine side of the illustrious family a five foot space. Should the passage took for a husband, the line was bro- effectually bottled up as it in a subrich American? argued some. Count Caspar held out until all were against him, giving way finally in a burst of navigated. oratory which ended in tears and sobs and which made the sense of the gath- tube. One of the five watertight comering unanimous.

The Princess Yetive won the day, so far as her own position was concerned, but there was Lorry to be considered.

"Mr. Lorry knows that I called you together in consultation, but he does not know that I would have given up my crown for him. I dared not tell him that. He knows only that I was to ask your advice on the question of marriage, and that alone. I fear he will object to the plan we have agreed upon," she went on. "He is sensitive, and it is possible he will not like the idea of putting our marriage to the popular vote of the people.'

"I insist, however, that the people be considered in the matter," said Gaspon. "In three months' time the whole nation can say whether it sanctions the

revision of our laws of heredity." "I have no hesitancy in saying that Graustark already idolizes this brave American," said Halfont warmly, "He has won her affection. I will vouch consort!"

a very busy young man who was hurrying down the platform of the Edelweiss railway station toward the special train which was puffing impatient-

(Concluded next week.)

### TO RUSH LAND FRAUD CASES.

Nation Asks Appeals of Hyde, Benson and Dimond be Heard.

Washington, Dec. 13 .- Solicitor Gen eral Hoyt, on behalf of the government. today filed a motion asking the suappeal taken by Frederick A. Hyde and Judge Morrow, of San Francisco, who directed that they be brought to Washington for trial on indictments for conspiracy to defraud the government out of large tracts of public lands. In his of delay and to prevent the appellants from being removed to the District of Columbia for trial."

A similar motion was also filed in regard to the appeal of John A. Benson, also alleged to be a member of the San Francisco land ring, who was arrested in New York on a Washington indict ment charging him with bribing officials in the general land office. Bensen is out on \$10,000 bail and

rying to escape trial in Washington. The solicitor general expects to be given a hearing today in support of his motion, and if the court advances the ases there is every prospect that the placed on trial in this city during the present winter.

#### DECREASE IN WHEAT ACREAGE.

ports on Condition of Crops.

Agriculture says:

Returns to the chief of the bureau of Statistics of the department of Agriculture indicate that the newly seeded area cannot comprehend the failure of the acres, a decrease of 1.6 per cent from possible damage on the Japanese fleet. the area sown in the fall of 1903, as even at the cost of weakening the effinally estimated. The condition of fective garris n. winter wheat on December 1 was 82.9, as compared with 86.6 in 1903, 99.8 in mated at 96 7 per cent of the area sown | the Dardanelles. in the fall of 1903. The condition of winter rye on December 1 was 90.6, as compared with 92.7 on December 1. 1903, 98.1 at the corresponding date in 1902, and 96.2 the mean of December verages of the last ten years.

The percentage of acreage sown to winter rye this fall as comapred with that sown last year is 86.7, the average ondition December 1, 1904, was 90.5. Corresponding averages for 1903 and 1902 were 92.7 and 98 1, respectively, centration plant and other mining maand the mean of the December average the last ten years 96.2.

The final estimates of the total acreage production and farm values of the tion to the mining exhibit, which principal crops for 1904 will be issued promises to be the most notable ever on December 28 at 4 o'clock P. M.

WAR CRAFT TO GO ON LINER.

Tornedo Boats for Russia Shipped from New Jersey Yard.

New York, Dec. 13 .- Nine torpedo boats, built at Perth Amboy, N. J., for the Russian government, have been completed, and left the yards today cause they loved her and she loved They were loaded on a barge and towed them. The departure from tradition to New York. They will be shipped as

The tenth boat will cross the ocean under its own power. Two six-cylinder ended. No matter whom his daughter be stormy, the crew will be almost a Why not the bold, progressive, marine. The only entrance to the compartments below deck is through a onning tower, from which the boat is

> Each boat will carry one torpedo partments into which the hull is divided will contain the spare torpedoes

School to Teach Socialism.

New York, Dec. 13 -Inspired by the national vote of 600,000 for Debs at the last election, the New York section of the Socialist party issued a statement today to the effect that it has laid plans for establishing a school of social ism. A board of instructors has been appointed, consisting of Morris Hilquist, Algernon Lee, Henry L. Slobodin and John Sparge. The school term is to extend from the first week in Jannary to the last week in May, and there will be one lesson each week, or 21 lessons in all.

## Kuropatkin Reports Encounters.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 13 -General Kuropatkin reports some unimportant encounters during the night of December 8. Russian sharpshooters reconfor it that the whole nation will rise noitering south of Bentsiapu, attacked and cry: 'Long live the princess! Long a Japanese post, bayoneted a numb r of the case of Hyde and Dimond, under live the princess! Long live the prince Japanese and took 11 prisoners, of indictment in the district of California whom only four were wounded. same night a number of Japanese at- appealed from the order of the Federal "Goin' back, I see," said Sitzky, the tacks were made on Russian advanced guard, some months later, addressing intrenchments near the railroad. They of habeas corpus, and the attorney genwere all repulsed.

May Have Sunk Own Ships.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 13 .- The state ment that the Russian warships at Port "Hello, Sitzky! Is it you? I'm glad Arthur were sunk by the Russians as a to see you again. Yes, we are going protection from the Japanese gun fire back to the land of the stars and is regarded at the admirally as being stripes." The speaker was Mr. An- quite possible. If true, it is interpret

#### STARVE **FORT**

Japs Make Fewer Assaults on Port Arthur.

Main Object of the Recent Desperate Attacks.

Tokio, Dec. 12. - In disabiling the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, precludpetition the solicitor general states that the appeals were "taken for purposes reinforce the second Pacific consider reinforce the second Pacific squadron, the Japanese have accomplished the main object of the desperate assaults against the fortress which they have been making for the past three months. There is now a strong probability that, while continuing the siege, they will avoid losses of the magnitude already attending their efforts, and, instead of assaulting will rely on starving out the garrison until it is finally captured.

Considerabe astonishment pressed here over the fact that the Russians in no way resisted the disabing of the Port Arthur fleet. In certain quarters the opinion is expressed that famous San Francisco land ring will be the Russians opened the seacocks of the submerged vessels to lessen their exposure to the Japanese fire.

The recent cessation of mine clearing was taken as evidence that the fleet did not intend to make a sortie.

There was no sign of life on the Russian ships during the bombardment, and from this fact it is concluded that Washington, Dec. 13 .- The crop re- the blue ackets took refuge on land or ort issued today by the department of that they are engaged in the land de-

With the Russian second Pacific squadron approaching, those in Tokio of winter wheat is about 31,155,000 Russians to die hard and to inflict all

Now that the Port Arthur fleet has been disabled, it is deemed impossible 1902, and a 10 year average of 92.1. for the Russians to overcome the infer-The acreage as compared with last year | iority of the second Pacific squadron to is 98.4 per cent. The newly seeded rogo's fleet, unless at present unfore-area of winter rye is provisionally esti-seen, the Black sea fleet should pass

DEAL IS CLOSED.

Stamp Mill to Operate During Lewis and Clark Fair.

Portland, Dec. 12. - Negotiations were practically completed with a big Colorado mining company yesterday for the installation at the Lewis and chinery, showing the treatment accorded raw ore in converting it into bullion. This will form a valuable addi-

made. The company in question is the Colorado Fuel & Iron company, one of the largest of its kind in eixstence. The proposition was made to the exposition management in the form of an offer to install the machinery providing Oregon mining men would furnish sufficient ore to keep the machinery busy during the exposition hours. a canvass of Oregon producers the exposition management was able to assure the company that no difficulty will be experienced in supplying all of the ore

that will be required. It is possible that an annex to the nining building will the new working exhibit, as the space For the first time in the history of the horsepower, and drive the little boat at in the main building is now well taken country a woman was sovereign; for a speed of 20 knots. The crew of eight and no great allotments can be made to one enterprise since the interests of individuals and districts which wish to

participate must be protected. General interest is being displayed in the Lewis and Clark mining exhibit. Miners and mining men all over the country are preparing their choicest ores for shipment here, and judging from the number of offers of miperals now on file at exposition headquarters there will be more ores on hand than can possibly be shelved. This will necessitate the selection of choice specimens, although it will not cause any exhibit to be ruled out, as all exhibitors will be given a chance.

\$1,000,000 For Improvements.

Denver, Dec. 12 .- The News today days: Plans to spend \$1,000,000 in improvements at Pueblo have been announced from the office of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company in Denver. The money is part of the \$8,000.000 appropriation under the recent reorganization scheme for extension of properties. The big tin plate mill and the merchant mill, both of which are incomplete, will be finished at once, and the latest machinery for the manufacture of all sorts of merchant steel is to be installed.

To Rush Fraud Case.

Washington, Dec. 12 .- The attorney general will make a motion in the supreme court next Monday to advance The for land frauds in California. They court in Cailfornia denving them writs eral is anxious to have the appeal decided in order to go on with the trial in Washington.

Denies She Offered to Buy Ships.

London, Dec. 12.—The foreign office says there is no foundation for the story that Great Britain has offered Turkey money to buy Argentine and ed as a sign that General Stoessel be- Chilean warships in return for conlieves the fortress can hold out until cessions which would permit Great the arrival of the second Pacific squad- Britain to erect a second Gibraltar on ron. The supposition is that the gar- the coast of Yemen, which would give rison, as a last resort, will retire to the Great Britain control of the lower entrance to the Red sea.