

DODGED A LEGACY

Romance of a Soldier of the French Foreign Legion.

CAST ASIDE MANY MILLIONS.

This Singular Titled Austrian Refuses to Disclose His Identity When His Good Fortune Becomes Known, and His Fate Is an Unsolved Mystery.

The French Foreign Legion is the most picturesque military organization in the world. It is the refuge of men of all nations from wronging despots or monarchs who was too bony themselves in childhood while destined to reign in honorable place in the world of life and death.

The rank and file of the corps is composed of peasants, dukes, magnates, counts and viscounts, generals and of men of all grades, all arms of the armies of all countries, magnates, financiers, diplomats, lawyers and professional functionaries of all walks; honest adventurers who simply want to "see the world," the neuroticists, the dislocated, the unemployed; those who, having lost everything but honor or having lost honor itself, would make a new start.

All this diverse human material comes into the meeting pot together, is eventually moulded into that brave, noble, legal, devout, patient and tenacious personality of the man of arms, the Legionary.

Or the Foreign Legion's thousand romantic tales are told, of which the following true story may be taken as an example.

One day General Brumana, commander of the legion, received a registered letter, postmarked Vienna and signed by the representative of a well known American detective agency, to the following effect:

"Honorable General—Will you kindly inform me if a young man of American descent, now serving as a corporal in the Foreign Legion under the name of Justice Finch, is now in Burns? You will understand the interest we have in this matter, as it concerns the safety of our countrymen in Oregon, and of course, our happiness to have become without his knowledge or expectation, who has been a favorite of Burns, who was a student at the University of Oregon."

The photograph showed a sturdy youth of perhaps twenty to twenty-one years of age, with a somewhat weary body, who was fringed with previous whiskers. He was courageous, which made it difficult to judge of the form and shade of the eyes.

General Brumana's first step was to have his secretary-advisor search the enrollment rolls for the name of Justice Finch. No such name appeared. Then he had all the Americans of the detachment lined up and scanned their faces in the hope of identifying the original of the photograph. Only two, both of whom were recent arrivals showed possible traits of resemblance, and these in a very imperfect degree.

These two Americans were closely examined by Obersturmer, the secretary, who spoke the German language fluently. Both denied suddenly that they had ever seen or heard of the name of Justice Finch.

"Twenty or my hours your wages," promised the secretary, "if I tell you why the general is looking for this Finch. The fellow has just inherited \$20,000,000 dollars. Now, is either one of you Justice Finch?"

"No."

"Send them back to their companies. It is no use," said General Brumana.

Time passed and the incident had been forgotten when in 1920 there came to Burns a formidable looking envelope bearing the government and of the minister of foreign affairs. It contained a letter which drew from the office an expression of surprise.

This letter was a diplomatic parchment of the former legacy by the Vienna secret service agency regarding Justice Finch. It insisted upon further investigation, to be conducted with more care and discretion than in the previous instance. Furthermore, the commandant was confidentially informed that "Justice Finch" was only a pen name and that the real title should be found at any price.

Thus far nothing was known.

After photographs, more recent ones which had accompanied the original, were appended.

And last eyes on this photo-

reduced Burns, "then I

telephoned Obersturmer, who

had been called in for investigation.

He had not been able to

get away from the

secret service agent, but

he had been able to

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