(Continued from last week,)

While the general was explaining one; curate maps of the fort and of all our of the new gun carriages to the countess Beverly walked deliberately over to | walls." Beyond a doubt the baron was where Baldos was standing. Hadden's worried. knowledge of English was exceedingly limited, and he could understand but little of the rapid conversation. Standing squarely in front of Baldos, she questioned him in low tones.

"What did he mean when he said he had given you a lesson?" she demand-His eyes gleamed merrily

"He meant to alarm your highness." "Didn't he give you a talking to?" "He coached me in ethics."

"You are evading the question, sir. Was he mean and nasty to you? Tell me; I want to know

"Well, he said things that a soldier must endure. A civilian or an equal might have run him through for it, your highness." A flush rose to his cheeks, and his lips quivered ever so slightly. But Beverly saw and understood. Her heart was in her eyes.

"That settles it," she said rigidly "You are not to report to him at 9 tomorrow.

"But he will have me shot, your highness," said he gladly.

"He will do nothing of the kind. You are my guard." And her eyes were gleaming dangerously. Then she rejoined the group, the members which had been watching her curiously. "Count Marianx," she said, with entrancing dimples, "will you report to me at 9 tomorrow morning?"

"I have an appointment," he said slowly, but with understanding.

"But you will brenk it. I am sure, she asserted confidently. "I want to give you a lesson in-in lawn tennis." Later on, when the victoria was well away from the fort. Dagmar took her companion to task for holding in publie friendly discourse with a member of the guard, whoever he might be.

"It is altogether contrary to custom and"- But Beverly put her hand over the critical lips and smiled like a guilty child.

'Now, don't scold," she pleaded, and

the countess could go no further. The following morning Count Marlank reported at 9 o'clock with much better grace than he had suspected himself capable of exercising. What she taught him of tennis on the royal courts in the presence of an amused audience was as nothing to what he learned of strategy as it can be practiced by a whimsical girl. Almost before he knew it she had won exemption for Baldos, that being the stake for the first set of singles. To his credit, the count was game. He took the wager, knowing that he in his ignorance could not win from the blithe young expert in petticoats. Then he offered to wager the brass candlestick against her bracelet. She considered for a moment and then in a spirit of enthusiasm accepted the proposition. After all, she coveted the candlestick Half an hour later an orderly was rid ing to the fort with instructions to return at once with Miss Calhonn's candiestick. It is on record that they were "love" sets, which goes to prove that Beverio took no chances

Count Marianx, pulling and perspiring, his joints dismayed and his brain confused, rode away at noon with Baron Dangioos. Beverly, quite happy in her complete victory, culoyed a map of profound sweetness and then was roudy for her walk with the princess. They were strolling leisurely about the beautiful grounds, safe in the shade of the trees from the heat of the July sun, when Baron Dangless approached.

Your royal highness," he began, with his fierce smile, "may I beg a moment's andlence?

"It has to do with Bables, I'll take eath," said Beauty with convertion

Yes, with your guard. Yesterday be visited the fortress. He went in an official capacity, it is true, but he was privileged to sindy the secrets of our defense with starming freeslots. would not corpeled too to that that the atranger has learned everything there Is to know about the fort. This Better ers were alleut. The amilies left their faces, "I am not saying that he would betray us

"No, no ' protested Reverty. "But he is in a position to give the most valuable information to an enemy An off or hos just informed me that Baldon mosed not a detail in regard to the agreement or the location ertal spots to the construction of the

"Dut he wouldn't be no how us to use his knowledge to our measurate cried Your sugardada

We only know that he is not one or It is not beyond your matter his at that at all it arrapaths was firm as

masked fortifications along the city

"Neither am I one of you," said Beverly stoutly. "Why shouldn't I prove to be a traitress?" "You have no quarrel with us, Miss

Calhoun," said Dangloss. "If anything happens, then, I am to

be blamed for It!" she cried in deep distress. "I brought him to Edelweiss, and I believe in him." "For his own sake, your highness,

and, Miss Calhoun, I suggest that no opportunity should be given him to communicate with the outside world. We cannot accuse bim, of course, but we can protect him. I come to ask your permission to have him detailed for duty only in places where no suspicion can attach to any of his ac-

"You mean inside the city walls?" asked Yetive. "Yes, your highness, and as far as

possible from the fortress."

"I think it is a wise precaution. Don't be angry, Beverly," the princess sald gently. "It is for his own sake, you see. I am acting on the presumption that he is wholly innocent of any desire to betray us."

"It would be easy for some one high in position to accuse and convict him," said Dangloss meaningly

"And it would be just like some one, too," agreed Beverly, her thoughts, with the others', going toward none but one man "high in power."

Later in the day she called Baldos to her side as they were riding in the castle avenue. She was determined to try a little experiment of her own. "Baldos, what do you think of the

fortress?" she asked. "I could overthrow it after half an bour's bombardment, your highness," be answered without thinking.

started violently. "Is it possible? Are there so many weak points?" she went on, catching

ber breath. "There are three vital points of weakness, your highness. The magazine can be reached from the outside if one knows the lay of the land, the parade ground exposes the ammunition building to certain disadvantages and the big guns could be silenced in an hour If an enemy had the sense first to bombard from the elevation northeast of the city." "Good heavens!" gasped poor Bever

"Have you studied all this out?" "I was once a real soldier, your highless," he said simply. "It was impos-



Believe would not the printing. sible for me not to see the defects in YOUR PURL

You you haven't teld any one of this, have your also rried, white faces

Not one but your highness. You not employ me note talebeared by it. harmer she and "Would you mind going before the bends of the war department and tolling them just what you have told me . I mean about the

"If it is your command your highness, he said quietly, but he was sur-

You must expect to be summonest, then, so hold yourself in rendmess. And Bannes Acres vone Calendary

"You word say nothing to them of our laying values has matter over beilless they play you down to It, you know."

CHAPTER XX.

PI'W forms more all was dock
and silent structure for existing the
This is solidar's int, my done.

"It is a solidar's int, my done."

"In the may be Primer Damina or ment.

"Frederic or the other one, does you where all the primer in the p in the following the hands dealy

scented the air; the gurgle of fountains was the only music that touched the ear. Beverie Calboun, dismissing Aunt Fanny, stepped from her window out upon the great stone balcony. rich oriental dressing gown, loose and comfortable, was her costume. Something told ber that sleep would be a long time coming, and an hour in the warm, delightful atmosphere of the night was more attractive than the close, sleepless silence of her own room. Every window along the balcony was dark, proving that the entire household had retired to rest. She was troubled. The fear had en

tered her head that the castle folk were regretting the advent of Baldos, that every one was questioning the wisdom of his being in the position he occupied through her devices. Her talk with him did much to upset her tran quillity. That he knew so much of the fortress bore out the subtle suspicions of Dangloss and perhaps others. She was troubled, not that she doubted him, but that if anything went wrong an accusation against him, however unjust, would be difficult to overcome. And she would be to blame in a large degree.

For many minutes she sat in the dark shadow of a great pillar, her elbows upon the cool balustrade, staring dreamily into the star studded vault above. Far away in the air she could see the tiny yellow lights of the monastery, lonely sentinel on the mountain top. From the heights near that abode peace and penitence an enemy could destroy the fortress to the south Had not Baidos told her so? One big gun would do the work if it could be taken to that altitude. Baldos could draw a perfect map of the fortress. He could tell precisely where the shells should fall. And already the chief men in Edelweiss were wondering who be was and to what end he might util ize his knowledge. They were watching him; they were warning her.

For the first time since she came to the castle she felt a sense of loneliness, a certain unhappiness. She could not shake off the feeling that she was, after all, alone in her belief in Baldos Her heart told her that the tall, straightforward fellow she had met in the hills was as honest as the day. She was deceiving him, she realized, but he was misleading no one. Off in a distant part of the castle ground she could see the long square shadow that marked the location of the barracks and mess room. There he was sleeping, confidently believing in her and her power to save him from all harm. Something in her soul cried out to him that she would be stanch and true and that he might sleep without a tremor of apprehensiveness.

Suddenly she smiled nervously and drew back into the shadow of the pillar. It occurred to her that he might looking across the moonlit park, looking directly at her through all that shadowy distance. She was conscious of a strange glow in her cheeks and a quickening of the blood as she pulled the folds of her gown across her bare thront.

"Not the moon, nor the stars, nor the light in St. Valentine's, but the black thing away off there on the earth.' said a soft voice behind her, and Beverly started as if the supernatural had approached her. She turned to face the princess, who stood almost at her side

"Yetive! How did you get here?" "That is what you are looking at, dear," went on Yetive as if completing her charge "Why are you not in bed?" "And y "And you?" 7 thought you were sound farther?"

asleep fong ago " murmured Beverly, aboundaring the guilty feeling that came over her. The princess threw her arm about Beverly's shoulder. "I have been watching you for half

an hour " she said gently "can't two look at the ingon and stars as well as one? Isn't it my grim old castle? Let us all here together, dear, and dream "You dear Yetive," and Rower's draw

her down beside her on the custions. But listen. I want you to get some thing out of your head. I was not looking at anything in particular." "Beverly, I believe you were think-

ing of Baldos," said the other, her fingers straying foundly across the marks

"Hiddenloos" said Beverly, conscious for the first time that he was soldon came like a blow, and her eyes crew very while our there in the darkness,

And you are trashed on his acthe Astronom Hardoor And

married' I brought him two wrenst manthing Should be your to hun't said toud detect involuntarily

Ison't be arried, Beverly, 4 bare as much confidence in him as you have. quick time drew the exact lay of the His eyes are true, Grenfull believes in him, too, and so does Mr. A. aish, and apprehensive looks were exchang-Gren says be would swear by how ue led by the ministers. Manufact when the he?

Terron Danglies is his friend and so is Quintary. They know a man. The count is affiliarent."

"I know that our serotene Rus was

But he has been unfair and a can silence was like death.

cone. If he appeared in manager Brane score the freedoor was for her man companyous

"I don't want to talk about him," said Beverly, but she was disappointed when the princess obligingly changed the subject.

Baldos was not surprised, scarcely more than interested, when, a day or two later, he was summoned to appear before the board of strategy. If any one had told him, however, that on a recent night a pair of dreamy gray eyes had tried to find his window in the great black shadow he might have jumped in amazement and delight. For at that very hour he was looking off toward the castle, and his thoughts were of the girl who drew back into the shadow of the pillar.

The Graustark ministry had received news from the southern frontier. Messengers came in with the alarming and significant report that Dawsbergen was strengthening her fortifications in the passes and moving war supplies northward. It meant that Gabriel and his people expected a fight and were preparing for it. Count Halfout hastily called the ministers together, and Lorry and the princess took part in their deliberations. General Marlanx represented the army, and it was he who finally asked to have Baldos brought before the council.

The Iron Count plainly intimated that the new guard was in a position to transmit valuable information to the enemy. Colonel Quinnox sent for him, and Baldos was soon standing in the presence of Yetive and her advisers. He looked about him with a singular smile. The one whom he was supposed to regard as the princess was not in the council chamber. Lorry opened the examination at the request of Count Halfont, the premier. Baldos quietly answered the questions concerning his present position, his age, his term of enlistment and his interpretations of the obligations required of him.

'Ask him who he really is," suggest ed the Iron Count sarcastically.

"We can expect but one answer to that question," said Lorry, "and that is the one which he chooses to give." "My name is Baldos-Paul Baldos,"

said the guard, but he said it in such a way that no one could mistake his appreciation of the fact that he could give one name as well as another and still serve his own purposes, "That is lie number one," observed

Marianx loudly. Every eye was turned upon Baldos, but his face did not lose its half mocking expression of seren-"Proceed with the examination, Mr.

Lorry," said Count Halfont, interpreting a quick glance from Yetive. 'Are you willing to answer any and

all questions we may ask in connection with your observations since you became a member of the castle guard?" asked Lorry. "I am."

the interior of the fortress when you were there several days ago?" "I did."

"Did you take especial care to study

"Have you discussed your observations with any one since that time?"

"I have." "With whom?"

"With her highness the princess, said Baidos without a quiver. There was a moment's silence, and furtive looks were cast in the direction of Yetive, whose face was a study. Almost instantaneously the entire body of listeners understood that he referred to Beverly Calhoun. Baldos felt that he had been summoned before the board at the instigntion of his fair protectress

"And your impressions have gone no

"They have not, sir. It was most contidential?

"Could you accurately reproduce the plans of the fortress? "I think so. It would be very sim-

Have you studied engineering?"

"And you could scientifically enumerate the defects in the construction of

the fort?"

"It would not be very difficult, sir." "It has come to our ears that you consider the fortress weak in several

particulars. Have you so stated at "I told the princess that the fortress is deplorably weak. In fact, I think I mentioned that it could be taken with ease," He was not looking at Count

Marianx, but he knew that the old out of her thoughts. The resiliation man's eyes were flaming. Then be proceeded to tell the board how he could overcome the fortress, elaborating on his remarks to Beverly. The ministers listened in wonder to the Well Yelive why shouldn't I be words of this calm, indifferent young "Will you oblige us by making s such draft of the fort's interior?" ask-

ti Larry after a solemn pause. Balher took the paper and in remarkably forfress. The sketch went the rounds

"It is accurate, by Jove," exclaimed But the others?" Beverly whis Lorry. "I doubt if a dweller in the fort could do better. You must have been very observing." "And very much interested," snarled

Marlanx.

"Only so far as I imagined my ob- lights me," "Huste" He has not wrouned con in servations might be of benefit to some one else," said Baldes coolly. Again fort," said Anguish, "His knowledge

To you know what you are saying Baldes?" naked Lorry after a mo-

The there is no server to be a fine or to be a

have the Length of your superior intel No. gentlemen, all this prat

a togality need not deceive us. ed, springing to his feet. "The fellow is nothing more nor less than an inferant spy, and the Tower is the place for him! He can do no harm there."

"If it were my intention to do larra do you imagine that smeal 1 withhold my information for days?" asked Baldos. "If I am a spy you may rest assured that Count Mar Linx's kindnesses should not have been so long disregarded. A spy does not believe in delays.

"My-my kindnesses?" cried Mar

horx. "What do you mean, sir?" "I mean this, Count Marlanx," said Baldos, looking steadily into the eyes of the head of the army. "It was kind and considerate of you to admit me to the fortress, no matter in what capacity, especially at a critical time like this You did not know me, you had no way of telling whether my intentions were nonest or otherwise, and yet I was permitted to go through the fort from end to end. No spy could wish for greater generosity than that."

An almost imperceptible smile went around the table, and every listener but one breathed more freely. The candor and boldness of the guard won the respect and confidence of all except Marianx. The Iron Count was white with auger. He took the examination out of Lorry's hands and plied the stranger with insulting questions, each ealm answer making him more furious than before. At last, in sheer impotence, he relapsed into silence, waving his hand to Lorry to indicate that he might resume.

"You will understand, Baldos, that we have some cause for apprehension," said Lorry, immensely gratified by the outcome of the tilt. "You are a stranger, and, whether you admit it or not, there is reason to believe that you are not what you represent yourself to

"I am a humble guard at present, sir, and a loyal one. My life is yours should I prove otherwise."

Yetive whispered something in Lor ry's ear at this juncture. She was vis fbly pleased and excited. He looked doubtful for an instant and then an parently followed her suggestion, regardless of consequences, Would you be willing to utilize your

knowledge as an engineer by suggesting means to strengthen the fortress? The others stared in fresh amazement. Marianx went as white as death. "Never!" he blurted out hoarsely.

"I will do anything the princess commands me to do," said Baldos easily. "You mean that you serve her only?"

"I serve her first, sir. If she were here she could command me to die, and there would be an end to Baldos." And he smiled as he said it. The real princess looked at him with a new, eager expression, as if something had just become clear to her. There was a chorus of coughs and a round of sly

"She could hardly ask you to die," said Yetive, addressing him for the first time.

"A princess is like April weather, madam," sam Baldos, with rare humor, and the laugh was general. Yetive resolved to talk privately with this excellent wit before the hour was over. She was confident that he knew her to be the princess.

"I would like to ask the fellow another question," said Marlanx, fingering his sword hilt nervously. "You say you serve the princess. Do you mean by that that you imagine your duties as a soldier to comprise dancing polite within these walls?"

"I believe I enlisted as a member of the castle guard, sir. The duty of the guard is to protect the person of the ruler of Graustark and to do that to the death.

"It is my belief that you are a spy You can show evidence of good faith entlying to dglit against Dawsberm and by shooting to kill," said the mit, with a sinister gleam in his And if I decline to serve in any

other eagueity than the one I now". Then I shall brand you as a spy and

"You have already called me a spy, cour excellency. It will not make it I refuse to take up arms against ther Impatergen or Axphain."

The remark created a profound senution: "Then you are employed by both in-

stead of one!" shouled the Iron Count sefully. "I am employed as a guard for her oyal badmess," said Baldos, with a

softure glance at Yetive, and not as a whiter in the ranks. I will fight till eath for her, but not for Graustark." CHAPTER XVI.

dove. I the that fellow's coolness," said Lorry to Harry Anguish, after the meeting. "He's after my own Why, he treats us as though we were the suppliants, he the nimsgiver. He is playing a game, I'll admit, but he does it with an assurance that de-"He is right about that darned old

of such things proves conclusively that he is no ordinary person." "Yetive had a bit of a talk with him

just now," said Lorry, with a reflec-"Certainly, Mr. Lorry. It is the duty live smile. "She asked him point blank of any servant of her highness to give if he knew who she was. He did not hesitate a second. I remember seeing you in the audience chamber recently. that was I fincer for Yetive. 'I assure energy to the passing that he is the fort, smarked Marianx, have been your friend who rustled the Everything nest and clear "Why don't you do it sir, and let us curtains? said the confounded bluffer.

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