(Continued from last week.)

princess."

grimly.

glory in his folly."

"You will always find me ready to

gravely. "Do you think you can re-

"I have an excellent memory," said

the count steadily. With a graceful

salute to Beverly, Baldos turned and

"A perfect gentleman, Miss Calhoun,

but a wretched soldier," said Marlanx

"He is a hero," she said quietly,

you mean it when you say you are not

going to have him punished? He did

only what a man should do, and I

"I may as well tell you point blank

that you alone can save him. He does

er and it is my province to have him

utterly destroyed not only for this

night's work, but for other and better

reasons. I have positive proof that he

is a spy. He knows I have this proof.

That is why he would have killed me

just now. It is for you to say whether

he shall meet the fate of a spy or go

unscathed. You have but to exchange

promises with me, and the estimable

guardsman goes free-but he goes from

Edelweiss forever. Today he met the

enemy's scouts in the hills, as you

know quite well. Messages were ex-

changed secretly, which you do not

know, of course. Before another day

is gone I expect to see the results of

his treachery. There may be manifes-

tations tonight. You do not believe

me, but wait and see if I am not right.

He is one of Gabriel's cleverest spies."

"I do not believe it. You shall not

accuse him of such things," she cried.

"Besides, if he is a spy why should

you shield him for my sake? Don't

"Here is the princess," said he se-renely. "Your highness," addressing Yetive, "Miss Calhoun has a note

which she refuses to let any one read

but you. Now, my dear young lady,

you may give it directly into the hands.

Beverly gave him a look of scorn,

but without a second's hesitation

placed the missive in Yetive's hand.

The Iron Count's jaw dropped, and he

moistened his lips with his tongue two

or three times. Something told him

"I shall be only too happy to have

your highness read the result of my

first lesson in the Granstark language."

up to the party manifestly excited. Sa-

Other officers of the guard and a few

CHAPTER XX.

that a valuable chance had gone

of her highness."

at once.

count. "What is it?"

ountains to the south,"

out of breath.

you owe it to Graustark to expose"

not deserve leniency. It is in my pow

great calmness coming over her.

member that, Count Marlanx?"

walked away in the darkness.

the bit of paper which had fallen from her hand. It was the note from Ravone to Baidos, which Beverly had forgotten in the excitement of the encounter.

"Count Marlanx, give me that paper!" demanded Beverly breathlessly. "Is it a love letter? Perhaps it is intended for me. At any rate, your highness, it is safe against my heart for the time being. When we reach the castic I shall be happy to restore it. It is safer with me. Come, we go one way and have you not gone, sir?" In his most sarcastic tone to the guard Beverly was trembling.

"No, I have not, and I shall not go until I see you obey the command of her highness. She has asked you for that piece of paper," said Baldos, standing squarely in front of Marianx. "Insolent dog! Do you mean to

question my"-"Give over that paper!"

"If you strike me, fellow, it will

"If I strike you it will be to kill, Count Marlanx. The paper, sir." Baldos towered over the Iron Count, and there was danger in his daredevil voice. Surely, sir, I am but obeying your own Instructions. Protect the princess and all that is hers with your life,' you have said to me."

"Oh, I wish you hadn't done this, Baldos!" cried Beverly, panic stricken,

"You have threatened my life. I shall not forget it, fool! Here is the precious note, your highness, with my condolences to the writer. Mariaux passed the note to her and then looked triumphantly at the guard. "I dare say you have done all you can, sir. Do you wish to add anything more?"

"What can one do when dealing with his superior and finds him a despicable coward?" said Baldos, with cool irony. "You are reputed to be a brave soldier. I know that to be false or I would ask you to draw the sword you carry and"- He was drawing his sword as he spoke.

"Baldos!" implored Beverly. Her evident concern infuriated Marianx. In his heart be knew Baldos to be a man of superior birth and a foeman not to be despised from his own sta-Carried away by passion, he finshed his sword from its sheath.

"You have drawn on me, sir," he snarted. "I must defend myself against even such as you. You will find that I am no coward. Time is short for your gallant lover, madam."

Before she could utter a word of protest the blades had clashed, and they were hungry for blood. It was dark in the shadows of the trees, and the trio were quite alone with their tragedy. She heard Baldos laugh recklessly in response to Marianx's cry of:

"Oh, the shame of fighting with such carrion as you!"

"Don't jest at a time like this, count," said the guard softly. "Remember that I lose, no matter which way it If you kill me I lose, if I beat goest. you I lose. Remember, you can still have me shot for insubordination and conduct unbecoming"

"Stop!" almost shricked Beverly. At the risk of personal injury she rushed Both between the two swordsmen. drew back and dropped their points. Not a dozen passes had been made.

"I beg your highness' pardon," murmured Baldos, but he did not sheathe

"He forced it upon me," cried Marlanx triumphantly "You were witness to It all. I was a fool to let it go as far as this. Put up your sword until another day-if that day ever comes 'He will have you shot for this

Baidon," cried Beverly in her terror. Baldos laughed bitterly

"Tied and blindfolded, too, your highness, to prove that he is a brave man and not a coward. It was short, but it was sweet. Would that you had let There was a spice in It that made life worth living and death worth the dying. Have you other com-mands for me, your highmost? His manner was so cool and defiant that she feit the tears spring to her eyes.

"Only that you put up your sword and out this miserable affair by going to your your room."

"It is punishment enough. Tomorrow's execution can be no harder." Murians had been thinking all this army was brought to its feet with a so called troops of across around phant look he received from Beverly time. Into his soul came the thrill of Jers, that startful even the most am whom suspensed contered, but been Calhoun when the duke's misfortunes triumph, the consciousness of a mighty bittom: slow to solve it.

By; "it won't be as but as that I can stood that the surveillance should be different, but with the reminers of a smissary from the Axphainian governwell afford to overlook your indisers. but little short of incarcovation. He skutking the tion of tanight. There will be no exewas found at the formulas should after the mystery consecret with the first vote and the report concerning the signal first, the mystery consecred with the first. Votes and the crown adherents. Earcutton, as you call it. This was an another than the signal to the following following the following f pretty willing it hand hed you are for

guard's favor, what the old general be- more than one occasion narrowly eslieved and what he could prove were two distinct propositions. He was erafty enough, however, to take advantage of a condition unknown to Beverly Calhoun, the innocent cause of all his bitterness toward Baidos.

As he hastened from the council chamber his eyes swept the crowd of eager, excited women in the grand hall. From among them he picked Beverly and advanced upon her without regard for time and consequence. Despite her animation he was keen enough to see that she was sorely troubled. She did not shrink from him, as he had half a friendly but an important one. The expected, but met him with bold disdain in her eyes.

"This is the work of your champion," he said in tones that did not reach ears fight and to die for her," said Baldos other than her own. "I prophesied it, you must remember. Are you satisfied now that you have been deceived in Princess Volga. His arrival in Edelhim?"

> "I have implicit confidence in him. I suppose you have ordered his arrest?" she asked, with quiet scorn.

"He is under surveillance, at my suggestion. For your sake, and yours alone, I am giving him a chance. He is The sky was black with the clouds of your protege. You are responsible for an approaching storm. The air was his conduct. To accuse him would be to place you in an embarrassing post- from their darkened corner near the tion. the rasen! If I believed that, Miss Calto him, but I know it is not true. You to be watched and reported to me. It The two young women started back in

will be impossible for him to escape. To save him from the vengeance of the army I am permitting him to remain in your service, ostensibly at least. His hours of duty have been changed, however. Henceforth he is in the night guard, from midnight till dawn. I am telling you this, Miss Calhoun, because I want you to know that in spite of all the indignity I have suffered you are more to me than any other being in the world, more to me even than my loyalty to Graustark. Do me the honor and justice to remember this. I have suffered much for you. I am a rough, hardened soldier, and you have misconstrued my devotion. Forgive the harsh words my passion may have inspired. Farewell! I must off to undo the damage we all lay at the door of the man you and I are protecting."

He was too wise to give her the chance to reply. A moment later be was mounted and off for the eastern gates, there to direct the movements of Colonel Braze and his scouts. Beverly flew at once to Yetive with her plea for Baldos. She was confronted by a rather sober faced sovereign. The news of the hour was not comforting to the princess and her ministers.

"You don't believe he is a spy?" cried Beverly, stopping just inside the door, presuming selfishly that Baldos alone was the cause for worry. She resolved to tell Yetive of the conflict in the

"Dear me, Reverly, I am not thinkshe said, smiling gayly upon the count. ing of him. We've discussed him joint-Two men in uniform came rushing ly and severally and every other way. and he has been settled for the time luting the general, both began to speak being. You are the only one who is thinking of him, my dear child: We "One at a time," commanded the have weightler things to annoy us."

"Goodnesos, how you talk! He built annoying. Oh, forgive me, Yerive, for no'demen from the castle came up, I im the silliest addle patedest goose in the kingdom! And you are so from We have discerned signal fires in the hills, your excellency," said one of bled. But do you know that he is bethe men from the fort. There is a sing watched? They suspect him. So circle of fires, and they mean some tild I at first, I'll admit it. But I thing important. For half an bour they don't now. Have you read the note

have been burning near the monastery; I gave to you out there's also to the valley below and on the "Yes, dear, It's hist as I expected. He has known from the beginning There was an instant of deathly at He knew when he caught Dagnar and suce as if the bearers awaited a crash, one spying behind that absolubble Marlanx looked steadily at Beveriy's curtain. But don't worry me any longface, and she saw the triumphant, ac- or about him please. Wan here with cusing gleam in his eyes. He pleasly me until we have reports from the which struck speaker or listener as log she stared into the crowd of faces, troops. I shall not sleep until I know [cal-and there were giggles which Her eyes fell upon Baldos, who sud- what those fires meant. For no Baldos dealy appeared in the background. His for an hour or two for my solds

face were a limited, imploring look. "You dear old princess, I'm an awful The next instant he disappeared among brute, sure 'nough I'll forget him forever for your sake. It won't be hard either. He's just a mere gound. Pooh! He's no prince?

THERE is no time to be lost." Whereupon, recenforced by Mrs. An exclaimed Count Marianx, Suish and the Countess Haltour, she "Ask Colonel Braze to report proceeded to devote herself to the task to me at the contern gate of southing and anorsing the distressed to mess with a detail of picked troopers a turn. Dilicess while the soldiers of Granvigitatic watch over flaidos. He was reportable an war quiet in the threat. Mirror unicomeed to the princess "Nerver fear, my man," he said gas not to be accessed, but it was under good district. Discovering me lying and her friends that he was not an

I is to prove the feet and at the same time as fight the privilege was allowed him or se-

purpose. Apart from the existence of rated squads of robbers, all belonging strong, healthy prejudice in the to one band. My friends and I on caped disaster by prying into the affairs of these signalers. I take it that the squads have been operating in the south and were brought together last night by means of the fires. Doubtless they have some big project of their own sort on foot."

That night the city looked for a repetition of the fires, but the mountains were black from dusk till dawn. Word renched the castle late in the evening from Ganlook that an Axphalnian no bleman and his followers would reach Edelweiss the next day. The visit was nobleman was no other than the young Duke of Mizrox, intimate friend of the unfortunate Prince Lorenz who met his death at the hand of Prince Gabriel and was the leader of the party which opposed the vengeful plans of welss was awaited with deep anxiety, for it was suspected that his news would be of the most important charneter.

Beverly Calhoun sat on the balcony with the princess long after midnight. heavy with foreboding silence. Twice There is a sickening rumor in pillar they saw Baldos as he paced court circles that you have more than steadily past the castle on patrol, with a merely kind and friendly interest in Haddan at his side. Dreamily the watchers in the cool balcony looked houn, I fear my heart could not be kind down upon the somber park and its occasional guardsman. Neither was in have a loftler love to give. He is a the mood to talk. As they rose at last clever scoundrel, and there is no tell- to go to their rooms something whizzed ing how much harm he has already through the air and dropped with a done to Graustark. His every move is slight thud in the center of the balcony. slarm. A faint light from Beverly's window filtered across the stone floor.

"Don't touch it. Beverly!" cried the princess as the girl started forward with an eager exclamation. But Beverly had been thinking of the very object that now quivered before her in the dull light, saucy, aggressive and faunty as it was the night when she

saw it for the first time. A long, sline red feather bobbed to and fro as if saluting her with soldierly fidelity. Its base was an orange, into which it had been stuck by the hand that tossed it from below. Beverly grasped it with more ecstasy than wisdom and then rushed to the stone railing. Yetive looking on in amazement. Diligently she searched the ground be low for the man who had sent the red message, but he was nowhere in sight. Then came the sudden realization that she was revealing a most unmaidenly eagerness, to him as well as to the princess, for she did not doubt that he was watching from the shadows be low. She withdrew from the rail in confusion and fled to her bedchamber, followed by her curious companion. were explanations-none of



"Don't touch it, Beverly!"

completely simplified the situation. Beverly thrust the slim red feather into her hair and struck an attitude that would have set Baldos wild with Joy if he could have seen it. The next day, when she appeared in the park, the feather stood up defiantly from the band of her sailor but, though womanly perverseness impelled her to ignore Baldos when he passed her on his way

The Duke of Mizrox came into the dred of them. I will meet him these my stars ransacked the mounts will. The city hours after the time set for his arbalf an hour." He gave other sharp, toght passed, and the next day was far rival. It was quite dark when the esimperative commands, and in the twin on its way to sunset before the scouts cort sent by Colonel Quinnox drew up king of an eye the peaceful atmost came in with tidings. No reace of the at the custle gates with the visitor. phere was transformed into the turbus mysterious signalers had been found. The duke and his party had been roblent excumgrands of activity. The sig- The embers of the half down fires best by brigands in the broad daylight addeduce of the fires seen in the hills were discovered, but their builders, and at a point not more than five miles could not be chearly heat. Instant ac- were gone. The search took in miles from Edelweiss! And thus the mystery tion was demanded. The city was till of territory, but it was univailing, of the signal fires was explained. Count ed with the commission of alarm, the Not even a struggler was toward. The Marians did not soon forget the triumawallowed by the charlens and take of were announced. Shameless as it may power. He saw the chance to benefit The first fling that General Marianx the hits. Gives from the fourier seem, she rejoiced exceedingly over the by the sudden riash, and he was not did was to instruct Quinnox to set a least to the south name in with the acts of the rabbers.

ment Instead he was but little less the theoret in which you serve the head or heat is reserve in a grant of head of the manner between separation between Mixrox plainty stated his

osition to Yetiye and the prime minster. He asked for protection, but deained to reveal any of the plans then maturing in his home country. This reluctance to become a traitor, even though he was not in sympathy with his sovereign, was respected by the princess. He announced his willing ess to take up arms against Daws ergen, but would in no way antago lize Axphain from an enemy's camp.

The duke admitted that the feeling in Axphain's upper circles was extremely bitter toward Graustark. The ald time war spirit had not died down, Axphain despised her progressive neighbor "I may as well inform your highnes

that the regent holds another and a deeper grudge against Graustark." be said in the audience chamber, where were asembled many of the nobles of the state, late on the night of his arrival. "She insists that you are haroring and even shielding the pretend er to our throne, Prince Frederic. It s known that he is in Graustack, and, presover, it is asserted that he is in rect touch with your government."

Yetive and her companions looked at ne another with glances of compre easton. He spoke in English now for as benefit of Beverly Calhami, an Inre-ted spectator, who felt her heart up suddenly and swiftly into violent surrection.

"Nothing could be more ridiculous, said Yetive after a pause. "We do not mow Producie, and we are not har oring hip

"I am only saying what is believed to be true by Axphain, your highness It is reported that he joined you in the nountains in June and since has held position of trust in your army." World you know Prince Frederic if

you were to see him?" quietly asked "I have not seen him since he was a

very small boy and then but for a moment-on the day when he and his mother were driven through the streets on their way to exile." "We have a new man in the castle

guard, and there is a mystery attached to him. Would you mind looking at him and telling us if he is what Frederic might be in his manhood?" Lorry put the question, and every one pres est drew a deep breath of interest. Mizrox readily consented, and Bal-

dos, intercepted on his rounds, was led unsuspecting into an outer chamber. The duke, accompanied by Lorry and Baron Dangloss, entered the room. They were gone from the assemblage but a few minutes, returning with smiles of uncertainty on their faces. "It is impossible, your highness, for

me to say whether or not it is Frederic," said the duke frankly. "He is what I imagine the pretender might be at his age, but it would be sheer folly for me to speculate. I do not know the man."

Beverly squeezed the Countess Dag uar's arm convulsively.

"Hurrah!" she whispered in great re lief. Dagmar looked at her in astonishment. She could not fathom the whimsical American.

"They have been keeping an inces sant watch over the home of Frederic's cousin. He is to marry her when the time is propitious," volunteered the young duke. "She is the most beautiful girl in Axphain, and the family is one of the wealthiest. Her parents bitterly oppose the match. They were to have been secretly married some months ago, and there is a rumor to the effect that they did succeed in evading the vigilance of her people."

"You mean that they may be married?" asked Yetive, casting a quick glance at Beverly.

"It is not improbable, your highness He is known to be a daring young felow, and he has never failed in a slege gainst the heart of woman. Report as it that he is the most invincible otherio that ever donned love's ar oc." Beverly was conscious of fur ve gances in her direction, and a and pink stole into her temples: "Our ig tive princes are lineky in neither "e nor war," went on the duke, "Poor Jantan, who is hidling from Gabriel, I strothed to the daughter of the presat prime minister of Dawsbergen, the scautiful Iolanda. I have seen her, She is glorious, your highness.

"I, too, have seen her," said Yetive, more gravely than she thought. "The report of their betrothal is true, then?"

"His sudden overthrow prevented the auptials which were to have taken dace in a month had not Cabriel re urned. Her father, the luke of Matz, visely accepted the inevitable and be trac prime minister to Cabriel. Joian a, it is said, remains true to him and sends messages to him as he wanders through the mountains."

Bevery's mind instantly reverted to the confessions of Baidos. He had admitted the sending and receiving of ne sages through Franz. Try as she round, she could not drive the thought from her mind that he was Dantan and now came the distressing fear that his secret messages were words of lave from Iolanda. The audience lasted until late in the night, but she was so occupied with her own thoughts that she knew of but little that transpired. Of one thing she was sure. She could not go to sleep that night.

CHAPTER XXI.

HE next morning Aunt Fanny had a hard time of it. Her mistress was petulant; there was no sunshine in the bright good a constraint to add the state in the st ery morning at 7 o'clock. But how

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