



(Continued from last week.)

ter of this splendid disguise.

"I don't know what all this commotion is about," she said. "I only know that I have been dragged into it shamelessly by that old man over there. If you step to the window you may see Baldos himself. He has not He is on duty!"

Baldos was striding stendily across the park in plain view of all.

CHAPTER XXVII.

OTH Yetive and Beverly experienced an amazing sense of relief. They did not stop to cousider why or how he had returned to the castle grounds. It was sufficient that he was actually there, sound, well and apparently satisfied.

"I dare say Count Marianx will withdraw his infamous charge against our guest," said Lorry, with deadly directness. Marlanx was mopping his damp forehead. His eyes were fastened upon the figure of the guard, and there was something like awe in their steely depths. It seemed to him that the su pernatural had been enlisted against

"He left the castle last night," be muttered, half to himself.

"There seems to be no doubt of that," agreed Gaspon, the grand treasurer, "Colonel Quinnox reports his strange disappearance." Clearly the case was a puzzling one. Men looked at one another in wonder and uneasiness.

"I think I understand the situation," exclaimed Marianx, suddenly trium-"It bears out all that I have phant. enid. Baldos left the castle last night, as I have sworn, but not for the purpose of escaping. He went forth to carry information to our enemies. Can any one doubt that he is a spy? Has be not returned to carry out his work? And now, gentlemen, I ask you-would he return unless he felt secure of protection here?"

It was a facer. Yetive and Beverly felt as though a steel trap suddenly had been closed down upon them. Lorry and Anguish were undeniably disconcerted. There was a restless, undecided movement among the ministers.

"Colonel Quinnox, will you fetch Baldos to the veranda at once?" asked Lorry, his quick American perception telling him that immediate action was necessary. "It is cooler out there." He gave Beverly a look of inquiry She flushed painfully, guiltily, and be was troubled in consequence.

"As a mere subject, I demand the arrest of this man," Marlanx was say ing excitedly. "We must go to the bottom of this hellish plot to injure Graustark."

"My dear count," said Anguish, standing over him, "up to this time we have been unable to discern any reasons for or signs of the treachery you preach about. I don't believe we have been befrayed at all.

"But I have absolute proof, sir." grated the count.

"I'd advise you to produce it. We must have something to work on, you

"What right have you to give advice. sir? You are not one of us. You are a meddler an impertinent alien. Your heart is not with Granktark, as mine How long must we endure the in solonge of these Americans?"

The count was fuming with anger. As might have been expected, the easy going Yankees laughed unreservedly at his taunt. The princess was pale with Indignation.

"Count Marlanx, you will confine your remarks to the man whom you dos by the arm. His eyes were stern have charged with treachery," she said "You have asked for his arrest, and you are to be his accuser. At the prop-er time you will produce the proof. I warn you now that if you do not sustain these charges the displeasure of the crown will fall heavily moon you.

"I only ask your highness to order "He is of the castle guard and can be sensed only on your command.

"Phildes is At the chatte steps, your bletmess " and Colonel Quinnox from the dearway. The optice party last the council chamber and passed out to the great stone porets. It must be confeesed that the princess leaned rather heavily upon Larry's arm She and Beverly trembled with anxiety as they who but come back to them so mys-

goodby to him not so many hours beshe was amazed, puzzled by his sud after you had fied?" glad. His quick wits saw that a Calboun while she slept. It was my tan's sister?" Her hand clasped his crisis had arrived. The air was full sworn duty to guard her from the man convolutively as he modded assent of it. The dread of this very moment who had accused her. This boy is a was the thing which had drawn him member of the band to which I belong.

bery near the park wall. "It is not true," he said clearly in answer to Lorry's question. Both Beverly and Marlanx started as the sharp falsehood fell from his lips. "Who made such an accusation?" he demand-

"Count Marianx is our informant." "Then Count Marianx lies," came coolly from the guard. A snarl of fury burst from the throat of the deposed general. His eyes were red and his tongue was half palsied by rage.

"Dog! Dog!" he shouted, running down the steps. "Infamous dog! 1 swear by my soul that he"-

"Where is your proof, Count Marinnx?" sternly interrupted Lorry. "You have made a serious accusation against our honored guest. It cannot be overlooked."

Marianx hesitated a moment and then threw his bomb at the feet of the conspirators.

"I was in the chapel when she opened the secret panel for him."

spoke first. She was as calm as a spring morning.

may I ask why you, the head of Grau- nerve!" exclaimed Lorry. stark's army, did not intercept the spy when you had the chance?"

Marianx flushed guiltily. The question had caught him unprepared. dared not acknowledge his presence there with the hired assassins.

"I-I was not in a position to restrain him." be mumbled.

You preferred to wait until he was safely gone before making the effort to protect Graustark from his evil designs. Is that it? What was your object in going to the chapel-to pray? Besides, what right had you to enter the castle in the night?" she asked fron-"Your highness, may I be heard?"

asked Baldos easily. He was smiling up at Yetive from the bottom of the steps. She nodded her head a trifle un-"It is quite true that I left the eastle by means of your secret passage | prise. last night."

"There," shricked Marlanx. "He ad mits that he'

"But I wish to add that Count Mar-Calhoun was my accomplice. His eyes sanctuary. Perhaps he is not accussouthern gate? Your august gaze may asleep there in the shadow of the friendly cedar. If Count Marianx had looked closely enough last night he might have seen that it was a boy who last night." went with me and not"-

"Fool! Don't you suppose I know a woman's skirts?" erled the Iron Count "Better than most men, I fancy," entury responded Baldos. "My young friend were the garments of a woman,

tet me aild." Lorry came down and grasped Bal-

and accusing Above, Yetive and Beverly had clasped hands and were look ing on dumbly. What did Baidos mean? Then, you did go through the pas-

sage? And you were accompanied by this boy, a stranger? How comes this, siry demanded Lorry. Every eye was nomina the guard at this juncture The men were descending the steps as if to surround him:

person 11 to brown by the way, to the way, to the rest to the winder of the relation of the re Its worst is known to note than one are next, person it is known by the way, to the con-Baldos stoni at the fact of the stone stops a subset on each side of the stone stops a subset on each side of the stone stops a subset on each side of the stone of these was the diametrical the supset of these was the diametrical to subset of these was the subset of these was the diametrical to subset of these was the diametrical to subset of the sub

the part of her protege. Again every eye was turned upon the bold, smiling

"I have been bitterly deceived in you," said Lorry, genuine pain in his voice, "We trusted you implicitly. I will be cared for. You are a prisoner. didn't think it of you. Baldos. After all, it is honorable of you to expose so denly breaking in upon her. "Please thoroughly your own infamy in order wait, Colonel Quinnox." He hesitated, to acquit an innocent person who be his broad shoulders between her and lleved in you. You did not have to the gaping crowd below. She saw come back to the castle. You might with grateful heart that Yetive and have escaped punishment by using Lorry were holding the steps as if Miss Calhoun as a shield from her against a warlike for. "Is she-is she highness wrath. But none the less you your wife?" compel me to give countenance to all that Count Marlanx has said."

"I insist that it was Miss Calhoun who went through the panel with him," the slender accomplice who had said said Marianx eagerly. "If it was this boy who accommanied you, what was fore at the castle gate. He knew that his excuse in returning to the castle

and he watched while I went forth on into the castle grounds at early dawn and he watched while I went forth on He had watched for his chance to glide a pretty business of my own. It will in unobserved and had snatched a few be useless to ask what that business was. I will not tell. Nor will the boy. hours' sleep in the shelter of the shrub-You may kill us, but our secrets die with us. This much I will say: We have done nothing disloyal to Graustark. You may believe me or not. It has been necessary for me to communicate with my friends, and I found the means soon after my arrival here. All the foxes that live in the bills have not four legs," he concluded significantly.

"You are a marvel" exclaimed Lorry, and there was real admiration in his voice. "I'm sorry you were fool enough to come back and get caught like this. Don't look surprised, gentlemen, for I believe in your hearts you admire him quite as much as I do.' The faint smile that went the rounds was confirmation enough. Nearly every man there had been trained in English speaking lands and not a word of the conversation had been missed.

I expected to be arrested, Mr. Lorry," said Baldos calmly. "I knew that the warrant awaited me. I knew that my flight of last night was no secret. I came back willingly, gladly, your Not a word was uttered for a full highness, and now I am ready to face It was Beverly Calhoun who my accuser. There is nothing for me to

oring morning.

"And after you have confessed to all these actions? By George, I like your "I have been amply vindicated,"

cried Marianx. "Put him in irons-and that boy too." "We'll interview the boy," said Lor-

ry, remembering the lad beneath the 'See; he's sleeping so sweetly," said

Baldos gently. "Poor lad, he has not known sleep for many hours. I suppose he'll have to be awakened, poor little beggar." Colonel Quinnox and Haddan crossed the grounds to the big cedar. The boy

sprang to his feet at their call and looked wildly about. Two big hands clasped his arms, and a moment later the slight figure came pathetically across the intervening space between the stalwart guards.

"Why has he remained here, certain of acrest?" demanded Lorry in sur

"He was safer with me than any where else, Mr. Lorry, You may shoot me a thousand times, but I implore you to deal gently with my un lank is in error when he says that Miss | happy friend. He has done no wrong clothes you see upon that frem were not keen in the darkness of the bling figure are torturing the poot heart more than you can tomed to the light one finds in a chapel burning flush upon that check is the side of the astonished princess at the bour of 2. Will your highness red of modesty. Your highness and kindly look in the direction of the gentlemen, I ask you to have pity on tall upon the reclining figure of a boy his arm about the shoulder of the slight figure as it drooped against him "Count Marianx was right. It was it woman he saw with me in the chape'

statement was stargering. The flushed before the eyes of a grim sudjence. Womanly Instinct impelled Years to shield the timid naisperader fler strange association with Baldos was not of enough consequence in the eyes Bablox giving him her hand to kiss. of this tender ruler to check the impulse of pewleness that swept avet wrongstoing was plain to be seen fler bruthers state love you for all this.

rant of these astounding movements on is why I came back. I could not leave you to meet it alone. Was I not right? Let them put me into trons-let them kill me

"Come!" cried Colonel Quinnox, reaching his side at this instant. "The girl "Wait" implored Beverly, light sud-

"Good heavens, nor" gasped Baldos "Your aweetheart?" piteously

"She is the sister of the man I serve so poorly," he whispered. Quinnox allowed them to wall, a few paces down the flagging, away from the curious gaze of the persons below.

"Oh. Baildos," she cried, her heart "He came tack to watch over Miss suddenly melting. "Is she Prince Dan-"Now I do love you."

"Thank God!" he whispered joyous-"I knew it, but I was afraid you never would speak the words. I am happy-I am wild with joy,"

But they may shoot you," she shud-"You have condemned yourself. Oh. I cannot talk to you as I want to-cut here before all these people. Don't move, Colonel Quinnox, They can't see through you. Please stand still."

"They will not shoot me, Beverly, I am not a spy," said Baldos, looking down into the eyes of the slender boyish figure who stood beside the princess. "It is better that I should however," he went on bitterly, "Life will not be worth living without You would not give yourself to the lowly, humble hunter, so I"-

"I will marry you, Paul. I love you. Can't anything be done to"

"It is bound to come out all right in the end," he cried, throwing up his head to drink in the new joy of liv-"They will find that I have done nothing to injure Graustark. Wait. dearest, until the day gives up its news. It will not be long in coming. Ah, this promise of yours gives me new life, new joy. I could shout it from the housetops!" "But don't!" she cried nervously.

How does she happen to be here with you? Tell me, Paul. Oh, isn't she a dear?

"You shall know everything in time Watch over her, dearest. I have lied today for you, but it was a lie I loved. Care for her if you love me. When I am free and in favor again you will-He broke off suddenly with Ah!" an exclamation. His eyes were bent eagerly on the circle of trees just beyoud the parade ground. Then his hand clasped hers in one spasmodic grip of relief. An instant later he was towering, with head bare, at the top of the steps, his band pointing dramatically toward the trees.

Rayone, still in his ragged uniform, haggard, but eager, was standing like a gaunt specter in the sunlight that flooded the terrace. The vagabond, with the eyes of all opon him, raised and lowered his arms thrice, and the face of Baldos became radiant.

Your highness," he cried to Yetive, waving his hand toward the stranger, "I have the honor to announce the Prince of Dawstiergen.

CHAPTER XXVIII

and her eyes spurided.

"And this, your highness, is his sis, not do more, ter the Princess Candnes," he annonneed a and, bewing low before the that the class of people they carry in face was unmistakably that of a young the timil, eringing boy. Her chin went will not put up with this custom, and girl At that instant she consed to be chair ears and high-backed coach seats up in truly regul state as she calmly, even brauditily, responded to the dazed. half carnest solutes of the men. With jection to a passenger changing his a rare smile a knowing one, in which mischler was paramount she spoke to able. He may ride in slippers, if he

your sweetest triumph-the theatrical hostrils of the other passengers. Your highness" and she turned to Ye mer habit of Jerry Simpson, so that, the with a captiviting spile "is the on taking of his raw hides, there is was in the man very addition of an Buckless sister of Dunium welcome in bothing left on his feet not given him The manufacture of the princes ment about the your ensite? May I rest here in peace? by Dame Nature.

It has been a birterly long year, this: It is claimed that this practice must "It is not the first time that I have gone through the passage, sir," said Baillon number of the passage, sir," said stemation. The passage is the first time that I have gone through the passage, sir," said Baillon number of the passage is the first time for a passage in the passage is the first time for a well for a well for a well for a relief of railway traveling. As she down the slight figure up the steps and the first time for a well for a well for a relief of railway traveling. As she down the slight figure up the steps are not permitted to carry into tourist the form the steps are not permitted to carry into tourist the first time for a well find a said to be minimers.

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Rallway passengers who remove their shoes to ease their feet in an all night journey are not permitted to oc cupy sents in the chair cars.

The porter who finds a man sitting in his stracking feet gently orders him to put his shoes on or go into the smoking compartment. This rule is now in force on the

Omaha line of the Illinois Central, and was quite recently enforced on an Iowa stockman, who was an extensive shipper of live stock over the Central's western lines, states the Chicago Trib-The passenger demurred, appealed to the conductor, and was promptly ruled against by that official. Other Chicago roads are no less particular in this respect, and still others will probably adopt the rule. It has long since been the custom of

many passengers, who are obliged to sit in a seat for many hours, to remove their footwear. Some are pinched with tight-fitting shoes. Others have sorns and bunions, while the pedal extremeties of still others are wont to swell to about twice their natural size and thus make hours of misery for their owners. Sleeping car passengers have no

trouble of this kind. The man, however, who curis himself up in a coach seat or stretches out in a reclining chair wants to ease his feet before he closes his eyes, even before the conductor has taken his ticket. Here is where most of the trouble

comes in. After a man has settled H18 startling announcement himself for a reason of slumber there threw the company into the is no telling what he will do with his greatest excitement. Buldos heels. The most natural act is to eleon the head rest of the chair imme-"Prince Duntah" she cried, unbeliev. diately in front. If that sent happens to be occupied then there is trouble. He pushed the boyish figure aside The passenger who enddenly awakens and whispered earnestly into Yeriyo's to find 40 square inches of a fat, woolear. She smiled warmly in response, covered foot scraping his face is liable to raise objections, even if he does

The railway people have found out they are moving to stop it. The effet has gone forth that there is no obfootwear to something more comfortchooses, but passengers in socks are "All dear Baides, you have achieved but permitted to offend the sight or

mer habit of Jerry Simpson, so that,

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