

SYNOPSIS

Gretchen, a goose girl, meets a mysterious mountaineer and Carmichael, American consul in Dreiberg, Kingdom of Ehrenstein. Carmichael loves Princess Hildegrade.

Gretchen's lover is Leo, a vinter. The prince regent of Jugendheit sends Hildegarde an offer of marriage from King Frederick The princess you have dreamed about. How would was abducted in infancy and later restored to he father, the grand duke.

Gretchen and Leo are to wed after the vintage. Hans Grumbach of America reaches Dreiberg.

Carmichael becomes fond of Grumbach, who admits he was born in Dreiberg. Hildegrade's bethrothal is announced.

Chancellor Herbeck suspects Grumbach, who later tells Carmicbael his real name is Breunner. said, rising. "I am an old fool." He has a forged passport. King Frederick refuses to marry Hildegarde, who is pleased.

Gretchen takes a letter from a mysterious old woman to Hildegrade. This woman cared for Hildegrade when she was abducted.

Herbeck prevents the grand duk : from declaring war on Jugerdheit, Grambach proves to upon it. "Where did you get a watch have been one of the princess' abductors.

Leo, the vinter, escapes when the police raid a socialist meeting. Gretchen hears he is a spy from Jugendheit. The mountaineer shaco as case, adjusted his glass and dropped him. Leo lays a trap for CarmicLael.

The mountaineer defends Gretchen from insult and offers her a palace and jewels. She watchmaker gasped. "of all my labors, declines. An old clock mender is recognized by to me and to what little I have left!" the mountaineer. Grumbach meets Hildegrace and is amazed by a locket she carries.

against her will is always at heart a coward." said the mountaineer. The colonel selzed the old man by the shoulder to push him aside. He put out one of his arms and clasped gasped. He was in the clutch of a Carpathian bear.

"I will kill you for this!" "So?" The old man thrust him back

several feet without any visible exertion. He let



popinjay stopped you?" he cried. "To the clock mender's." "I've nothing to do. I'll go with you. I've an idea that I should like to talk with you about a very impor-

tant matter. Will you come into the garden with me now?" 'Yes, herr." "So you are going to become a prima donna?" he began, seating himself op-

posite ker on a chair in the garden. "I am going to try," she smiled. "Have you any dreams? I mean the kind one has in the daytime-when the eyes are wide open."

"Oh. yes!" "Who has not dreamed of riding in carriages, of dressing in silks, of wear-

ing rich ornaments?" "Ah!" Gretchen clasped her hands. "And there are palaces too." "To be sure. How would you like a

dream of this kind to come true?" "Do they ever come true?" "In this particular case I mm a fairy.

With one touch of my wand-this oak staff-I can bring you all these things you like a little palace, with servants at your beck and call, with carriages to ride in, with silks and velvets to wear and jewels to adorn your hair?"

A shadow fell upon her face. "By what right should I possess these things ?"

"By the supreme right of beautybeauty alone.

"Come, let us go for your clock," he Gretchen had gone-home with her clock, but still Herr Ludwig, as the mountaineer called himself, tarried in

the dim and musty shop. "I've a watch I should like you to look over." he said to the clockmaker.

The clock mender literally pounced like this?" he demanded suspiciously. "It is mine. You will find my name

engraved inside the back lid." The clock mender pried open the it, shaking with terror.

"So this is the end," the amazed "Fiddlesticks! I am here for no purpose regarding you, comrade. Your

secret is as dead as it ever was." "Gott! For seventeen, eighteen years I have traveled hither and thither, always on some false clew. Never a band of gypsies I heard of that I did not seek them out. Nothing, nothing! You will never know what I have gone the colonel in such a manner that he through, and uselessly, to prove my innocence. What benefit to me would have been a crime like that of which I was accused? Was I not high in honor and wealth? What benefit to me. I say-all my estates confiscated.

> his staff slide "But why the clocks?" in wonder. "It was a pastime of mine when I The colonel was a boy. I used to be tinkering drew his saber

"I understand. But if you are dis covered here you will be harshly dealt with.' The other shrugged and picked up his watch. "Can I be of material assistance? No? Proud old imbecile!" said the mountaineer kindly. "You

done with the

reason unless in-

dence of my in-

right.

"He will never

have been deeply wronged, but some day you will be right. I myself shall see what can be duke." be brought to dubitable evinocence con



en the best of my heart and of PROUD OLD IMBEmy brain to Eh-CILE !" renstein-for

this! I am innocent." "I believe you, Carl. Remember, Ju-

gendheit will always welcome you. I must be going." . . . Carmichael walked his horse. This

morning he had ridden out almost to the frontier and was now on his return.

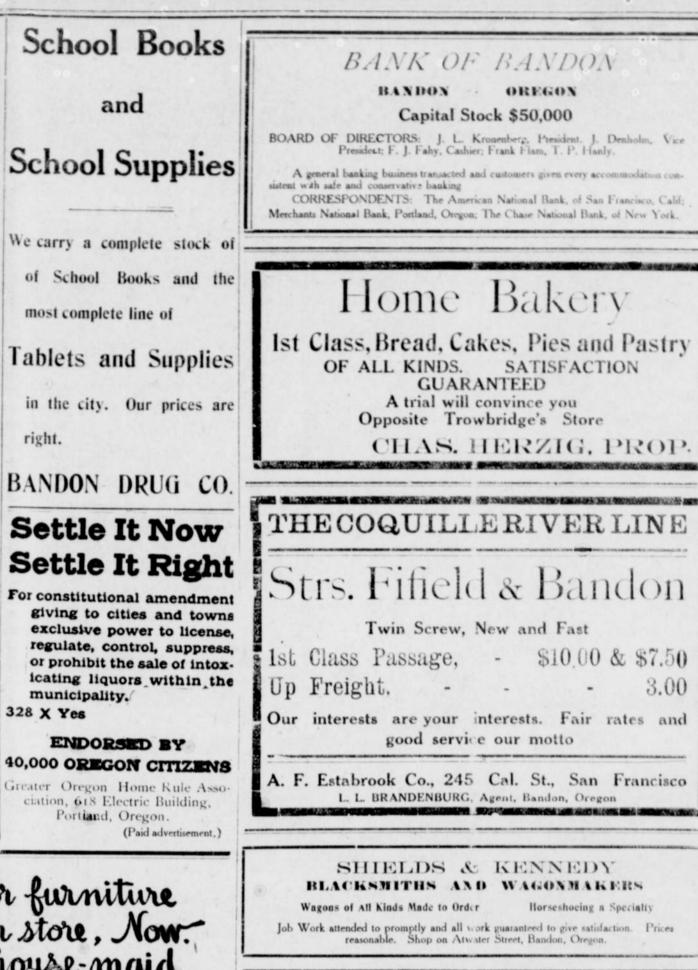
No longer 'did Carmichael take the south pass for his morning rides. That was the favored going of her highness, and he avoided her now. In truth, he dared not meet her now: it would have been out of wisdom. She was to marry the king of Jugendheit; it was in the order of things that he ride For constitutional amendment

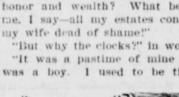
The road to Eissen began about six miles north of the base of the Dreiberg mountain. It swerved to the east. As Carmichael reached the fork he heard the faroff mutter of hoofs. Coming along the road from Eissen were a trio of riders. Caemichael laughed weakly. Should he mount and be off before she made the turn? He walted.

She came in full flight, rosy, radiant, as lovely \$, Dlana. With a short nod of her head she signaled for the two soldiers to fall back.

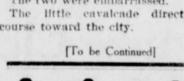
The two were embarrassed. The little cavalcade directed its











laughed. He turned the thrust with his staff. Then the old man struck back The saber rattled to the stone flooring. The victor put his foot upon it. On his part the colonel's * blood

into his hand.

suddenly cooled. " My sword," the colonel demanded. WILL KILL YOU "I could have

FOR THIS." broken it half a dozen times. Here, take it. But be wise in the future and draw it only

in the right." Outside the old man laid his hand

on the colonel's arm. "You must never bother her again. Listen. You are Colonel von Wallenstein; you are something more besides."

"What do you infer?"

duke's affairs. The man is well paid. But you believe, Ludwig?" He is a gambler, and one is always reasonably certain that the gambler | Come to Jugendheit." will be wanting money. Do you understand?"

"Who are you?"

"Who I am is of no present conse- you?" quence. But I know who and what will be allowed to continue in prospergirl again there will be no more gold heit. Now do you understand?" "Yes," weakly,

"Go. But be advised and walk circumspectly."

The colonel, pale and distrait, saw in to the barracks.

CHAPTER X.

GRUMBACH PICKS UP A LOCKET.

"T AM going into the garden, Gretchen. Bring me a stein of brown." The mountaineer smiled genially.

"But I am not working here any more," said Gretchen. "She has had a fortune left her."

said Frau Bauer. "Well, well!" The mountaineer seemed vastly pleased. "And how

much is this fortune?" seemed to be a secret laughter behind

those clear eyes "Handsome! And what will you do

now?" "Study for the opera."

The old man was jubilant.

"Where were you going when this

THE CLOCK MENDER PRIED OPEN THE CASE. among all the clocks in the house. The grand duke has a wonderful Frieslan clock. One day it fell out of order, and the court jeweler could do nothing with it. I was summoned-I! so. I had begun to give up hope when the gypsy I was seeking was seen by

"I infer nothing. Now and then one of my agents. He alone knows there happens strange leakage in the the secret. And I am waiting, waiting, "Carl, you are innocent of it all.

> however unjustly it has treated me." "Yes, yes. But if your gypsy fails

"Still I shall remain. I am only sixunder eighty. There were letters ity, but if you attempt to molest that found in my desk, all forgeries. I fled coming over the frontier from Jugend- there. He believed that I was innocent."

"He keeps a steady hand on the duke."

"But you-what are you doing in Dreiberg in this guise?"

roll of earth. Military informers were uncle who watched over him and his given short shrift. The colonel went affairs. This prince regent had an idea regarding the future welfare of this nephew. He would bring him up to be a man, well educated, broad minded and clean lived. The lad grew eral, a fine prince. In his palace tew you some prices:up clean in mind, strong in body, libsaw anything of him after his fifteenth year. He went into the world under an assumed name. By and by he came home quietly. In one month he was to be coronated. And now what do you think? He must have one more adventure, just one. And one morning his uncle found him gone. Ah! The prince regent set it going that his "Two thousand crowns." Gretchen majesty had gone a-hunting in Bawas not sure, but to her there always varia. Then the prince regent put on some old clothes and went a-venturing

himself." "And the end?"

"God knows," said Ludwig. "And fatuous fool that this uncle was. He tried to marry off his nephew."

MORE INDEPENDENT IN NICE HOME

your guests know what you have on the inside of your house. the right No one recognized me, I have changed pieces of furniture in the right earpets, rugs, draperies places. and pietures that blend in coloring, "No, Ludwig; this is my country, are pleasing to the eye. if you're inexperienced, come to us-advise you are. If you behave yourself you ty-eight, yet no one would believe me with us. parlor chairs, carpets, to Paris. I wrote Herbeek once while rugs and draperies -- sideboards, dining tables and chairs, dressers, chiffoniers, iron and brass beds. his mind's eye a squad of soldiers, a "Well, once upon a time there lived we are experts in dressing homes. the big store with the little prices. come to us. buy now. let us quote

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