

# TRUXTON KING

A Story of ...Graustark

By GEORGE BARR M'UTCHEON

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## CHAPTER II.

### A MEETING OF THE CABINET.

At this time the principality of Graustark was in a most prosperous condition. Its affairs were under the control of an able ministry, headed by the venerable Count Halford. The Duke of Perse, for years a resident of St. Petersburg and a financier of high standing, had returned to Edelweiss soon after the distressing death of the late Princess Yette and her American husband, and to him was entrusted the treasury portfolio.

The financing of the great railroad project by which Edelweiss was to be connected with the Siberian line in the north fell to his lot at a time when no one else could have saved the little government from heavy losses or even bankruptcy.

The opening of this narrative finds the ministry preparing to float a new 5,000,000 garvo issue of bonds for construction and equipment purposes. Agents of the government were ready to depart for London and Paris to take up the matter with the great banking houses. St. Petersburg and Berlin were not to be given the opportunity to gobble up these extremely fine securities. This seemingly extraordinary exclusion of Russian and German bidders was the result of vigorous objections raised by an utter outsider, the American, John Tullis, long time friend and companion of Grenfall Lorry, consort of the late princess.

Tullis was a strange man in many particulars. He was under forty years of age, but even at that rather immature time of life he had come to be recognized as a shrewd, successful financial power in his home city, New York. At the very zenith of his power he suddenly, and with quixotic disregard for consequences gave up his own business and came to Graustark for residence, following a promise made to Grenfall Lorry when the latter lay dying in a little inn near Brussels.

They had been lifelong friends. Tullis jestingly called himself the little prince's "morganatic godfather." For two years he had been a constant resident of Graustark.

His wide awake, resourceful brain, attuned by nature to the difficulties of administration, lent itself capably to the solving of many knotty financial puzzles; the ministry was never loath to call on him for advice and seldom disposed to disregard it. An outsider, he never offered a suggestion or plan unasked. To this single qualification he owed much of the popularity and esteem in which he was held by the classes and the masses. Socially he was a great favorite. He enjoyed the freedom of the most exclusive homes in Edelweiss.

There was but one man connected with the government to whom the popularity and influence of John Tullis proved distasteful. That man was the Duke of Perse. On more than one occasion the cabinet had chosen to be guided by the sagacity of John Tullis in preference to following the lines laid down by the astute minister of finance. The decision to offer the new bond issue in London and Paris was due to the earnest, forceful argument of John Tullis—outside the cabinet chamber, to be sure. This was but one instance in which the plan of the treasurer was overridden. He resented the plain though delicate influence of the former Wall street man. Tullis had made it plain to the ministry that Graustark could not afford to place itself in debt to the Russians, into whose hands sooner or later the destinies of the railroad might be expected to fall. The wise men of Graustark saw his point without force of argument and voted down in the parliament the duke's proposition to place the loan in St. Petersburg and Berlin. For this particular act of trespass upon the duke's official preserves he won the hatred of the worthy treasurer and his no inconsiderable following among the deputies.

But John Tullis was not in Edelweiss for the purpose of meddling with state affairs. He was there because he elected to stand mentor to the son of his lifelong friend, even though that son was a prince of the blood and controlled by the will of three regents chosen by his own subjects.

To say that the tiny prince loved his big, broad shouldered, ruddy cheeked, adoring mentor would be putting it too gently; he idolized him. Tullis was father, mother and big brother to the little fellow in knickerbockers.

One woman in Graustark was the source of never ending and constantly increasing interest to this stalwart companion to the prince. That woman was, alas, the wife of another man! Moreover, she was the daughter of the Duke of Perse.

Iron Count. Tullis had not seen the count, but he had heard such tales of him that he could not but pity this glorious young creature who called him husband.

At present we are permitted to attend a meeting of the cabinet, which sits occasionally in solemn collectiveness just off the throne room within the tapestried walls of a dark little antechamber known to the outside world as the "room of wrangles."

The question under discussion relates to the loan of 5,000,000 garvos, before mentioned. At the head of the long table, perched upon an augurary pile of lawbooks, surmounted by a little red cushion, sits the prince, almost lost in the huge old walnut chair of his forefathers.

The prince was a sturdy, curly haired lad, with big brown eyes and a lamentably noticeable scratch on his nose, acquired in less stately but more profitable pursuits. (It seems that he had peeled his nose while sliding to second base in a certain American game that he was teaching the juvenile aristocracy how to play.)

About the table sat the three regents and the other men high in the administration of affairs, among them General Braze of the army, Baron Pultz of the mines, Rosion of agriculture. The Duke of Perse was discussing the great loan question. The prince was watching his gaunt, saturnine face with more than usual interest.

"Of course it is not too late to rescind the order promulgated at our last sitting. There are five bankers in St. Petersburg who will finance the loan without delay. We need not delay the interminable length of time necessary to secure the attention and co-operation of bankers in France and England. It is all nonsense to say that Russia has sinister motives in the matter. We need the money before the pile of books and planted himself beside him so suddenly that the bitter words died away on the old man's lips.

"You awful old man!" he cried, trembling all over, his eyes blazing. "Don't you say anything against Uncle Jack. I'll—I'll banish you—yes, sir—banish you like my mother fired Count Marlax out of the country. I won't let you come back here—never. And before you go I'll have Uncle Jack give you a good licking. Oh, he can do it, all right! I—I hate you!"

The duke looked down in amazement into the flushed, writhing face of his little master. For a moment he was stunned by the vigorous outburst. Then the hard lines in his face relaxed, a softer expression came into his eyes, and he smiled kindly on the boy.

But Prince Bobby was still unrepentant. "I could have you beheaded," he said stubbornly. "Couldn't I, Uncle Caspar?"

The Duke of Perse suddenly bent forward and placed his bony hand upon the unshrinking shoulder of the prince, his eyes gleaming kindly, his voice strangely free from its usual harshness. "You are a splendid little man, Prince Robin," he said. "I glory in you. I shall not forget the lesson in loyalty that you have taught me."

Bobby's eyes filled with tears. The genuine humility of the hard old man touched his tempestuous little heart.

"It's—it's all right, du—your grace. I'm sorry I spoke that way too."

As the prince strode soberly from the "room of wrangles" every eye was



"YOU AWFUL OLD MAN!" HE CRIED, upon his sturdy little back, and there was a kindly light in each of them, but none.

Later on the prince in his khaki riding suit loped gayly down the broad mountain road toward Ganlook beside the black mare which carried John Tullis. He had told Tullis of his valiant defense in the antechamber.

"Say, Uncle Jack, when are you going to take me to the witch's hovel?" The thought abruptly banished all else from his eager little brain.

"Some day soon," said Tullis. "You see, I'm not sure that she's receiving visitors these days. A witch is a very arbitrary person. Even princes have to send up their cards."

The witch's hovel was in the mountain across the most rugged of the canyons and was to be reached only after the most hazardous of rides. The old woman of the hills was an ancient character about whom clung a thousand spookish traditions, but who, in the opinion of John Tullis, was nothing more than a wise fortune teller and necromancer who knew every trick in the trade of hoodwinking the superstitious.

As they rode back to the castle after an hour, coming down through Castle avenue from the monastery road, they passed a tall, bronzed young man

whom Tullis at once knew to be an American. He was seated on a big bowlder at the roadside enjoying the shade. At his side was the fussy, well known figure of Cook's interloper eagerly pointing out certain important personages to him as they passed. Of course the approach of the prince was the excuse for considerable agitation and fervor on the part of the man from Cook's. He mounted the bowlder and took off his cap to wave it frantically.

"It's the prince!" he called out to Truxton King. "Stand up! Hurray! Long live the prince!"

The man from Cook's came to grief. He slipped from his perch on the rock and came foundering to the ground.

The spirited pony that the prince was riding shied and reared in quick fright. The boy dropped his crop and clung valiantly to the reins. A guardsman was at the pony's head in an instant.

Truxton King picked up the riding crop, strode out into the roadway and handed it up to the boy in the saddle.

"Thank you," said Prince Bobby. "Don't mention it," said Truxton King, with his most engaging smile. "No trouble at all."

(To Be Continued.)

### YOUNGSTOWN NO LONGER WILL BE A GRETNA GREEN

YOUNGSTOWN, O., March 10.—Ohio's Gretna Green, where 25,000 Pennsylvania couples have been married in the last 15 years, is closed to them now. Probate Judge D. F. Griffiths refused marriage licenses today to seven Pennsylvania couples. He was acting under orders of Judge George R. Robinson of the common pleas court, who informed the probate court it must respect the Ohio law's requirement that the first essential of a marriage license be proof of the bride's residence within the county issuing the license.

Youngstown pastors, justices of the peace and "cabbies" have waxed rich on the proceeds of the "personally conducted" marriage parties which the "cabbies" for years have advertised in Pittsburg papers.

Meeting couples at the stations, the cabbies, for a \$5 fee, tutored them in the means of evading embarrassing questions as to age and residence. Then they gained another \$2 fee for driving the couple to the parson or justice. Suspicion has been roused that they even split the wedding fee with the parson or squire.

### NOTICE.

All members of Canton Daylight are requested to be present at I. O. O. F hall Friday evening, March 11 at 7:30. By order of commandant, 304

### CHURCH PARDONS WOMAN WHO ATTACKED PASTOR

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., March 10.—There was a dramatic scene in the Baptist church tonight, when, after the regular weekly prayer meeting, Mrs. Helen Haggart read an explanation of her position in the clash with the pastor due to his reference in a sermon to two baptized children who played cards and danced.

Mrs. Haggart told a conciliation committee several days ago that she would apologize to the Rev. Mr. Hubbard if he would announce in open meeting that his sermon had no reference to her children. He declined to do that. Nevertheless Mrs. Haggart, without apologizing to the clergyman, made a statement tonight that pleased the church members.

She asserted nothing was said against card playing and dancing when her children were baptized. But she was positive she had never said the deacons had voted to approve dancing, card playing and theater going. Her explanation was accepted by a vote of 50 to 7.

Fourteen trustees opposed to Mr. Hubbard told him last night that his immediate resignation was essential to the welfare of the church. He replied that he would not resign unless a majority of members demanded it.

### The Golden Drift Receiver Suit.

Judge F. M. Calkins held session in chambers in this city on Monday and Tuesday of this week for the purpose of hearing certain equity cases, the most important of which was the matter of the receivership of the Golden Drift Mining company. The motion for removal of the receiver was argued and the court has taken the matter under advisement. Attorney Reames also applied for a total issue of receiver's certificates not to exceed \$40,000, enough to be issued immediately to pay obligations of receiver as shown by his report, and the balance to be issued as may be ordered by the court as it is deemed necessary after a proper showing. This amount is considered ample to carry out every provision of the irrigation contract, although it is thought by the receiver that the whole amount will not be used.—Rogue River Courier.

The ads. that you ought to answer today—will be easy to find.

To learn whether women can write ads., look over the classified columns—here a lot of their work is shown.

### BRYAN IS PRESENTED TO ARGENTINA'S PRESIDENT

BUENOS AYRES, Argentina, Mar. 10.—President Alcora today received William Jennings Bryan, who was presented by American Minister Sherrill. Mr. Bryan gave a reception this evening, after which he left for Montevideo.

Minister Sherrill today presented to President Alcora the Hudson-Fulton celebration gold medal, with an address expressing thanks for Argentina's participation in the celebration and felicitating the president upon the republic's naval representation.

"Of all the vessels composing the notable international fleet gathered in our waters from September 25 to October 9," says the address, "your warship, the sole naval representative from South America, which traveled 6600 miles from Buenos Ayres to New York, came the longest distance from home to attend on celebration. This voyage not only illustrated the vast progress in navigation during the past century and the value of steam propulsion in bringing together people from distant parts of the earth, but it also afforded a striking illustration of the enterprising and progressive spirit of your republic; upon which we offer you our hearty congratulations."

### DISASTROUS RUNAWAY AT GRANTS PASS

A disastrous runaway occurred in the streets of Grants Pass on Monday forenoon in which A. Bower was quite seriously injured. E. C. Underwood, his two sons and his father-in-law, A. Bower, all of whom arrived only a week ago from Des Moines, Iowa, were arranging to move their household goods from a car to their home in Fruitdale. They stopped the team in front of the Jewell hardware store and were making some adjustments in the harness when one of the horses slipped the bridle and Mr. Bower stepped onto the tongue and reached over to fasten the bridle. This frightened the horses and they started to run.

Mr. Bower was thrown down and struck by a wheel in the breast and side, carrying him along for several feet in the soft mud. Young Allen who was in the wagon was unable to get out and had to stay in the race until the horses finally landed against a partition in the Fashion stables, where they were secured without further damage.

Mr. Bower suffered a broken rib and other internal injuries. For the past few days he has been in serious condition, but today he seems much better and will probably recover. Mr. Bower has been for the past 30 years or more a locomotive engineer on the Rock Island route and came West on a vacation, and to help to establish his son and daughter in their new home.

### KICKED IN HEAD BY PLAYFUL EQUINE

(Rogue River Courier.) Ira Edwards is now able to be up and around, having partially recovered from the kick he received in the head a week or more ago. Mr. Edwards, who was working for Dan Jordan at the Dixie ranch, down the river, was leading a frisky horse and while the animal was playing Mr. Edwards gave him the full length of the hope. The horse kicked and struck Mr. Edwards in the face, one point of the shoe cutting a gash in the cheek and the other point striking the forehead. He was knocked senseless. The people at the ranch worked over him and sent for a doctor and finally, after several hours' work, Mr. Edwards regained consciousness. In a week he was able to sit up and is now improving quite rapidly.

### BELASCO SCORES BIG CONTRACT MERGER

The recent signing of contracts, far-reaching and decisive in their scope, has enabled Frederick Belasco of Belasco & Mayer, owners of the Alcazar theater of San Francisco, to positively announce New York successes years before they ordinarily reach this territory.

The first of these is "St. Elmo," the season's dramatic success of the east, and simultaneously with the continuance of the run in New York Mr. Belasco will be presenting it on the Pacific coast with his Special Alcazar Touring company.

This makes an epoch in the theatrical situation of the west, and a date will be arranged for this city on March 17, if the encouragement given the advance representative is sufficient.

### STOMACH MISERY.

#### Get Rid of That Soreness, Gas and Indigestion.

When your stomach is out of order or run down, your food doesn't digest. It ferments in your stomach and forms gas which causes sourness, heartburn, foul breath, pain at the pit of stomach and many other miserable symptoms.

Mi-o-na stomach tablets will give joyful relief in five minutes; if taken regularly for two weeks they will turn your flabby, sour, tired out stomach into a sweet, energetic, perfect working one. You can't be very strong and vigorous if your food only half digests. Your appetite will go and nausea, dizziness, biliousness, nervousness, sick headache and constipation will follow.

Mi-o-na stomach tablets are small and easy to swallow and are guaranteed to banish indigestion and any or all of the above symptoms or money back.

Fifty cents a large box. Sold by druggists everywhere and by Chas. Strang.

### WHY SALVES FAIL TO CURE ECZEMA

Scientists are now agreed that the eczema germs are lodged not in the outer skin or epidermis, but in the inner skin. Hence, a penetrating liquid is required, not an outward salve that clogs the pores.

We recommend to all eczema patients

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In harness, saddles, whips, robes, tents, blankets, wagon sheets, axle grease and gail cure, as well as all kinds of custom work, see

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tients the standard prescription Oil of Wintergreen as compounded in liquid form known as D. D. D. Prescription. A trial bottle of this D. D. D. Prescription, at only 25 cents, will instantly relieve the itch. We have sold and recommended this remedy for years, and know of wonderful cures from its use. We recommend it to our patrons. Medford Pharmacy, Medford, Oregon.

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2 lots on Palm street, 3 blocks from new depot, 56x 124, each ..... \$450  
lots on Hamilton street, 2 blocks from new depot, 56x124, each ..... \$600  
2 lots on Fourth street, 2 blocks off Oakdale, 56x 100, each ..... \$650

Fine residence lots in Crescent subdivision, close in, Call and look over our list in fruit land. They are some of the best in the valley.

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