

TRUXTON KING

A Story of
—Graustark—
By GEORGE BARR
M'CUTCHEON

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CHAPTER XVIII. BY THE WATER GATE.

It was a vast, lofty apartment, regal in its subdued lights. An enormous golden bed with gorgeous hangings stood far down the room. So huge was this royal couch that Truxton at first overlooked the figure sitting bolt upright in the middle of it.

An old woman advanced from the head of the couch and motioned Truxton to approach.

"I am deeply honored, your highness," said the visitor, bowing very low.

The prince's legs were now hanging over the edge of the bed. His eyes were dancing with excitement.

"I want you to find Uncle Jack, Mr. King," said Bobby eagerly. "And tell him I didn't mean it when I banished him the other day. I really and truly didn't." He was having difficulty in keeping back the tears.

"I shall deliver the message, your highness," said Truxton, his heart going out to the unhappy youngster.

"Americans always do what they will," said the boy, his eyes snapping.



"BEN GOODEY, AND GOD BLESS YOU," SAID TRUXTON.

"Here's something for you to take with you, Mr. King. It's my lucky stone. It always gives good luck."

He unclasped his small fingers. In the damp palm lay one of those peculiarly milky, half-transparent pebbles common the world over and of value only to small, impressionable boys. Truxton accepted it with profound gravity.

"And when you come back, Mr. King, I'm going to knight you. I'd do it now, only Aunt Lorraine says you'd be worrying about your title all the time and might be 'stracted from your mission. I'm going to make a baron of you. That's higher than a count in Graustark. Vos Ingo is only a count."

Truxton started.

"I shall be overwhelmed," he said. Then his hand went to his mouth in the vain effort to cover the smile that played there.

"My mother used to say that American girls liked titles," said the prince, with ingenuous candor.

"Prince Robin, may I"—he glanced anxiously at the distant nurse—"may I ask how your Aunt Lorraine is feeling?"

"She acted very funny when I sent for you. I'm worried about her."

"What did she do, your highness?"

"She rushed off to her room. I think, Mr. King, she was getting ready to cry or something. You see, she's in trouble."

"She's worried about her brother, of course, and you."

"I just wish I could tell you—No, I won't. It wouldn't be fair," Bobby said, checking himself resolutely.

"She's awful proud of you. I'm sure she likes you, Mr. King."

"I'm very, very glad to hear that."

Truxton bent his knee. "Your highness, as it seems I am not to see her and as you seem to be the very best friend I have, I should very much like to ask a great favor of you. Will you take this old ring of mine and wish it on her finger just as soon as I have left your presence?"

"How did you know she was coming in again?" in wide-eyed wonder.

"Excuse me. I shouldn't ask questions. What shall I wish?" It was the old ring that had come from Spanta's shop. The prince promptly hid it beneath the pillow.

"I'll leave that to you, my best of friends."

"I bet it'll be a good wish, all right. I know what to wish."

"Then, goodbye and God bless you."

said Truxton. "I must be off. Your Uncle Jack is waiting for me up there in the hills."

Truxton found Mr. Hobbs in a state bordering on collapse with Colonel Quinnox and Haddan.

"I say, Mr. King, there's no more chance of getting out of the"—

"Listen, Hobbs, we're going to swim out," said Truxton.

"Swim! Oh, I shy! By hokey, he's gone clean daffy!" Hobbs was eying him with alarm.

"Not yet, Hobbs. Later on, perhaps, I had occasion to make a short tour of investigation this afternoon. Doubtless, gentlemen, you know where the water gate is, back of the castle. Hobbs, you and I will sneak under that slippery old gate like a couple of eels. I forgot to ask if you can swim."

"To be sure I can. Under the gate! My word!"

"I see!" cried Quinnox. "It can be done! No one will be watching at that point."

The sky was overcast, the night as black as ebony. The four men left the officers' quarters at 1 o'clock, making their way to the historic old gate in the glen below the castle.

"God be with you," said Quinnox fervently. The four men shook hands, and King slipped into the water without a moment's hesitation.

"Right after me, Hobbs," he said, and then his head went under.

A minute later he and Hobbs were on the outside of the gate, gasping for breath. Standing in water to their necks, Quinnox and Haddan passed the equipment through the barred openings. There were whispered good-bys and then two invisible heads bobbed off in the night, wading in the swift flowing canal up to their chins. Swimming would have been dangerous on account of the noise.

Holding their belongings high above their heads, with their hearts in their mouths, King and the Englishman felt their way carefully along the bed of the stream.

A hundred yards from the gate they crawled ashore and made their way up over the steep bank into the thick, wild underbrush.

They stealthily stripped themselves of the wet garments and after no end of trouble succeeded in getting into the dry substitutes. Then they lowered the wet bundles into the water and quietly stole off through the brush to the king's highway, a mile or two above town.

"We take this path here for the upper road," finally said Hobbs. "It's a good two hours' walk up the mountain to Rabot's, where we get the horses."

At 4 o'clock, as the sun reached up with his long red fingers from behind the Monastery mountain, Truxton King and Hobbs rode away from Rabot's cottage high in the hills, refreshed and sound of heart. Rabot's son rode with them, a sturdy, loyal lad, who had leaped joyously at the chance to serve his prince.

(To Be Continued.)

Dr. Seely Going East.

Dr. E. R. Seely will leave in a short time for New York to take a course in surgery. He would greatly appreciate the payment of outstanding accounts before he leaves.

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NEW YORK, April 1.—"If it were not for the thin soled stockings and thin soled shoes worn by women, the doctors would probably be bankrupt." So Dr. Mary McMillan said to 200 or more lay and medical men and women yesterday afternoon at the lecture under the joint auspices of the N. Y. County Medical society and hygienic committee of the City Federation of Women's clubs, at the Academy of Medicine, No. 17 West 43d street.

The subject of the lecture was the "Cause and Prevention of Common Colds." All speakers, who included, besides Dr. MacMillan, Dr. Abraham Jacobi, dean of the New York Medical Fraternity; Dr. Emily Lewi, Dr. William Kelly Simpson and Dr. Alexander Lambert, dwelt with emphasis on the ever present need of observing rules of hygiene as a means of avoiding the proverbial "spring cold" and preserving the health generally.

Among the "don'ts" gathered from the speakers' remarks are the following:

- "Don't sit in a drafty car on the way home from a hard day's work."
- "Don't sleep in hot or improperly ventilated rooms."
- "Don't stuff yourself at meal time, because over eating reduces your resistance to colds."
- "Don't expose yourself to sudden changes of temperature."
- "Don't change from heavy to light underclothing with the first touch of spring; wait until the warm weather begins in earnest."
- "Cold water for bathing is one of the greatest foes of colds," said Dr. Jacobi. And I should advise all mothers to get into the habit of treating their growing children with a warm salt water douche to clear the nose."
- Dr. Emily Lewi advised against eating midnight suppers of lobster Welsh rabbit.
- Dr. MacMillan scored the fashion of wearing high collars in the daytime and then changing them for décolleté gowns at night as "deadly."

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\$5500—7 acres inside of city limits; half cash, balance 1 and 2 years 6 per cent.

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\$375—Lot 50x108; close to Jackson street. This price includes shed and walk.

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20 ACRES—Here is what you want; 20 acres the very CREAM of the valley; soil 15 to 20 feet deep; best of black loam; will grow anything you plant; very choice for pears, potatoes, melons and alfalfa. Possession at once. Price \$7500; \$2000 cash, balance 4 years, 6 per cent.

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