

# VALIANT DUST

by Percival Christopher Wren

**Chapter 24**  
**HERR SCHLACHT'S PROPOSAL**  
"WHAT? How do you know that he...?"  
"Ah!"  
And Herr Schlacht wagged a stout forefinger at Margaret. "You appeal to your husband for help then?"  
"How do you know he...?"  
"Ah!... I watch our friend Ralsul like mouse watches cat; I see his liddle game to make the young Herr ver drunk, and when Papa Maligni say,  
"I am liddle tipsh, but this naughty boy ver tipsy, help me put him in my room so as not to shock nice liddle Anglich wife," I say,  
"Ja, ja. Ver goot, and then I come back and watch Ralsul. And my servant, who looks like ver 'stupid Moor, and is ver' clever Arab, watch too. So I know."  
Margaret felt a strong inclination to sit down.  
"I t'ink you ver' brave girl, and I admira, respectfully much. Ver' brave, ver' clever. Look see, I am not what you call in your beautiful language dam-firt, isn't it? Lady-kisser... no, lady-killer, isn't it? I hat dearly-beloved wife whom I dearly belove, God bless, waiting for me at my home. So I only admira most respectfully, and wish to help. And you help me. You tell me all t'ings you know, and I be your friend. No? Isn't it?"  
"What sort of things?"  
"Joost anyt'ing that happens in this Castle; anyt'ing you hear that the Kaid is going to do, or anyt'ing you hear Pedro Maligni is going to do, or the good Ralsul."  
"They are hardly likely to consult me, or inform me beforehand, are they?"  
"No, no. But they may consult the young Herr Jules, your husband, or inform him beforehand, and he might tell you."  
"Do you think it likely I should repeat to you anything that my husband told me of other people's affairs?"  
"Yes; if it were more better so for your husband and for you, and if, in return for what you have told me, I have told you t'ings useful; perhaps to save yourself, perhaps to save the life of the young Herr Jules."  
"And pray how should his life be in danger?"  
"Everyone's life here is in danger. The Kaid and Ralsul from the French and Spaniards, whom they will defy and fight; Herr Pedro and Herr Jules from Ralsul and the Lady Zainub, if they offend—especially Herr Jules, if the Lady Zainub t'ink perhaps he kill Ralsul or the Kaid himself.  
"My life is in danger, if all I promise does not happen, or if other Government send other emissary, and he t'ink I am in the way; or perhaps Moorish officers get jealous if Kaid put me over them, and listen to no in council.  
"Even ladies' lives in danger; Lady El isa, Beth el Ain, if Zainub get jealous about all Maligni family; Lady Zainub herself, if Kaid say, "Time I get new wife, this pattern old-fashioned. Sara latest model."  
"Sara's life in danger, if Lady Zainub say,  
"I must keep her a good girl; the only good girls are dead girls."  
In spite of herself, Margaret smiled, and against reason and circumstance, she instinctively and intuitively liked and trusted this amazing person, whose knowledge was phenomenal, uncanny, and whose observations were as disturbing as they were convincing.  
"And I t'ink," continued Herr Schlacht, "that apart from wickedness of Ralsul, the life of yourself may be in danger."  
"Oh, what nonsense!" expostulated Margaret. "I never heard such a lot of absurd rubbish and..."  
"Look you, my dear young lady, you are not now in London, or green peaceful English country. You are in place uncivilized, and among people barbarous, where might is right, and there is no law but will and desire. Joost that much law. And all man's motto is 'What a man dares, he may do.'"  
"Roosevelt Dream in Bill."  
WASHINGTON, Mar. 10.—(AP)—A bill described as representing general President Roosevelt's plans for a gigantic improvement project in the Tennessee valley was introduced today by Senator Norris (R., Neb.)  
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# JAPANESE ORDER GENERAL ATTACK

CHINCHOW, Manchuria, March 9. (AP)—Headquarters of the Kwantung (Japanese forces in Manchuria) army is ordering a general attack tomorrow for the purpose of annihilating all Chinese troops still resisting along the great wall district inside Jehol province.  
The Japanese refer to the Japanese army in Manchuria as the Kwantung army because the chief mission of the Japanese forces in Manchuria before fighting began in September, 1931, with the Chinese garrison, was the small Kwantung leased territory.  
The Catholic Ladies' Rummage Sale announced for March 9th and 10th has been indefinitely postponed on account of present conditions.

# COIN CIRCULATION SHOWING INCREASE

WASHINGTON, March 9.—(AP)—Circulation of money in the United States increased \$906,000,000 to a total of \$8,545,617,139 in the month of February.  
Gold in circulation increased from \$478,837,314 to \$571,337,850 and the per capita circulation of the country jumped from \$45.08 to \$52.23, the highest per capita circulation since October 31, 1920, while the total circulation was the highest on record up to that time.  
Broken windows glazed by Trowbridge Cabinet Works.

# BACK ROOSEVELT IS MEIER'S PLEA

SALEM, Mar. 9.—(AP)—By official proclamation, Governor Julius L. Meier late yesterday commended to the people of Oregon firm support of President Roosevelt and American institutions by expressing their complete confidence and by appealing to congress to support the presidential program.  
Similar proclamations were being issued by the governors of every other state in the union.

# S'MATTER POP—



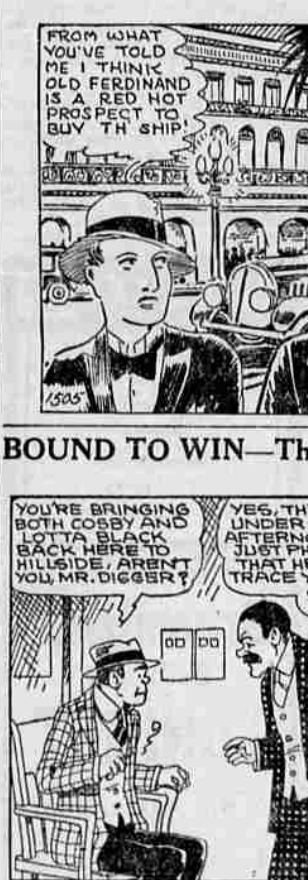
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