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BY ROBERT BARR,

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(Continued.) Her rapidly beating heart had now opportunity to lessen its pulsations, and as she soon found that she was practically unnoticed her natural calmness began to return to her. She remembered why she was there, and her discerning eye enabled her to stamp on a reten-



There was no recognition in the large frightened eyes.

tive memory the various particulars of so unaccustomed a spectacle, whose very unfamiliarity made the greater impression on the girl's mind. She moved away from the group, determined to saunter through the numerous rooms thrown open for the occasion, and thus, as it were, get her bearings. In a short time all fear of discovery left her, and she began to feel very much at home in the lofty, crowded salons, pausing even to enjoy a selection which a military band, partly concealed in the foliage, was rendering in a masterly manner, led by the most famous impresario of the day. The remote probability of meeting any one here who knew the princess reassured her, and there speedily came over her a sense of delight in all the befriend her until the final gantlet of leave taking had to be run-a trial

Jennie was in this complaisant frame of mind when she was suddenly startled by a voice at her side.

"Ah, princess, I have been searching everywhere for you, catching glimpses of you now and then, only to lose you, as, alas, has been my fate on a more serious occasion! May I flatter myself with the belief that you also remember?"

There was no recognition in the large frightened eyes that were turned upon him. They saw a young man bowing low over the unresisting hand he had mistakably English. Jennie saw his closely cropped auburn head, and, as it raised until it overtopped her own, the girl, terrified as she was, could not but admire the sweeping blond mustache that overshadowed a smile, half wistful, half humorous, that lighted up his handsome face. The ribbon of some order was worn athwart his breast; otherwise he wore court dress, which well became his stalwart frame.

"I am disconsolate to see that I am indeed forgotten, princess, and so another cherished delusion fades away

Her fan concealed the lower part of the girl's face, and she looked at him

over its fleecy semicircle.

"Put not your trust in princesses, she murmured, a sparkle of latent mischief lighting up her eyes.

The young man laughed. "Indeed." he said. "had I served my country as faithfully as I have been true to my remembrance of you, princess, I would have been an embassador long ere this, covered with decorations. Have you, then, lost all recollection of that winter in Washington five years ago, that whirlwind of gayety which ended by wafting you away to a foreign country. so that the eventful season clings to my memory as if it were a disastrous western cyclone? Is it possible that I must reintroduce myself as Donal Stirling?"

"Not Lord Donal Stirling?" asked Jennie, dimly remembering that she had heard this name in connection with something diplomatic, and her guess that he was in that service was strengthened by his previous remark about be-

ing an embassador. "Yes, Lord Donal, if you will cruelly insist on calling me so, but this cannot take from me the consolation that once, in the conservatory of the White House. under the very shadow of the president. you condescended to call me Don."

"You cannot expect one to remember what happened in Washington five years ago. You know the administration changes every four years, and memories seldom carry back even so far as that.

"I had hoped that my most outspoken adoration would have left reminiscence that might outlast administration. I have not found forgetting so easy.

"Are you quite sure of that, Lord Donal?" asked the girl archly, closing

her fan and giving him for the first time a full view of her face.

The young man seemed for a moment perplexed, but she went on, giving him little time for reflection, "Have your diplomatic duties taken you away from

Washington?" "Yes, to the other end of the earth. I am now in St. Petersburg, with ultimate hopes of Vienna, princess. I happened to be in London this week, and, hearing you were to be here. I moved heaven and earth for an invitation."

"Which you obtained only to find yourself forgotten. How hollow this world is, isn't it?"

"Alas, yes! A man in my profession sees a good deal of the seamy side of life, and I fully believe that my rapidly lessening dependence on human veracity will be shattered by my superiors sending me to Constantinople. But let me him. find you a seat out of this crowd where we may talk of old times.'

"I don't care so much about the past as I do about the present. Let us go up | coldly into that gallery, where you will point out to me the celebrities. I suppose you know them all, while I am an entire stranger to London society."

"That is a capital idea!" cried the young man enthusiastically. "Yes, I think I know most of the people here, at least by name. Ah, here comes the royal party! We shall just be in time to have a good look at them."

The band played the national anthem. and Lord Donal got two chairs, which he placed at the edge of the gallery. well hidden from the promenaders by spreading tropical plants. "Oh, this is jolly!" cried Jennie,

quite forgetting the dignity of a princess. "You told me why you came to the ball. Do you know why I am here ?" "On the remote chance of meeting

me, whom you pretended to have forgotten," replied the young man anda-

"Of course," laughed Jennie. "But, aside from that, I came to see the costumes. You know we women are libelously said to dress for each other. Away from the world, in the Tyrol, I have little opportunity of seeing anything fine in the way of dress, and so I accepted the invitation of the duchess." "Have you the invitation of the

duchess with you?" "Yes; I am going to take some notes on the back of it. Would you like to see it?" She handed him the letter and longer with us." then leaned back in her chair, regarding him closely. The puzzled expression on the invitation and saw that it was exactly what it purported to be. He gave the letter back to her, saying:

"So you are here to see the fashions. It is a subject I know little about; but, judging by effect. I should say that the Princess von Steinheimer has nothing touch on a topic so personal, your costume is what they call a creation, is it not, princess?"

"It isn't bad," said the girl, looking up at him with merriment dancing in her eyes. The diplomat had his elbow resting on the balustrade, his head leaning on his hand, and, quite obliv- have such long intervals between." gets many hints from others, and the concerned. 'Take no thought of tomorrow, wherewithal ye shall be clothed,' may have been a good motto for the court of Solomon, but it has little relation with that of Victoria.'

"Solomon, if the saying is his, was hedging. He had many wives, you "Well, as I was about to say, you

must now turn your attention to the other guests and tell me who's who. I have already confessed my ignorance, and you promised to enlighten me."

The young man, with visible reluctance, directed his thoughts from the one to the many and named this person and that, while Jennie, with the pencil attached to her card, made cabalistic notes in shorthand, economizing thus both space and time. When at last she had all the information she desired, she leaned back in her chair with a little sigh of supreme content. Whatever might now betide, her mission was fulfilled if she could once get quietly away. The complete details of the most important society event of the season were at her fingers' ends. She closed her eyes for a moment to enjoy the satisfaction which success leaves in its train and when she opened them again found Lord Donal in his old posture, absorbed in the contemplation of her undeniable beauty.

"I see you are determined I shall have no difficulty in remembering you next time we meet," she said, with a smile, at the same time flushing slightly under his ardent gaze.

"I was just thinking," he replied, shifting his position a little, "that the five years which have dealt so hardly with me have left you five years youn-

ger. "Age has many privileges, Lord Donal." she continued, laughing outright, "but I don't think you can yet lay claim to any of them. The pose of the prematurely old is not in the least borne out by your appearance, however hardly the girl you met in Washington dealt with you.

"Ah. princess, it is very easy for you to treat these serious matters lightly! He laughs at scars who never felt a wound. Time, being, above all things. treacherous, often leaves the face untouched the more effectually to scar the heart. The hurt concealed is ever the most dangerous."

"I fancy it has been concealed so effectually that it is not as deep as you imagined.

"Princess, I will confess to you that the wound at Washington was as nothing to the one received in London." "Yes; you told me you had been

here for a week.

"The week has nothing to do with it. I have been here for a night-for two hours or three. I have lost count of time since I met you.

What reply the girl might have made to this speech, delivered with all the fervency of a man in thorough earnest, will never be known, for at that moment their tete-a-tete was interrupted by a messenger, who said:

"His excellency the Austrian embassador begs to be permitted to pay his regards to the Princess von Steinheimer.

Lord Donal Stirling never took his eyes from the face of his companion, and he saw a quick pallor overspread it. He leaned forward and whispered:

"I know the embassador. If you do not wish to meet him, I will intercept

Jennie rose slowly to her feet, and, looking with a calmness she was far from feeling at the young man, said "Why should I not wish to meet the

embase dor of my adopted country?" "I know of no reason; quite the contrary, for he must be an old friend of yours, having been your guest at the

Schloss Steinheimer a year ago." He stepped back as he said this, and Jennie had difficulty in suppressing the gasp of dismay with which she received his disquieting information; but she stood her ground without wincing. She was face to face with the crisis she had foreseen-the coming of one who knew the princess. Next instant the aged statesman was bending over her outstretched hand, which in courtly fashion the old man raised to his lips.

"I am delighted to have the privilege of welcoming you to this gloomy old city, Princess von Steinheimer, which you illumine with your presence. Do you stay long in London?"

"The period of illumination is short, your excellency. I leave for Paris tomorrow."

"So soon, without even visiting the embassy? I am distressed to hear of so speedy a desertion, and yet, knowing the charms of the Schloss Steinheimer, I can hardly wonder at your wish to return there. The prince, I suppose, is as devoted as ever to the chase. I must censure his highness next time we meet for not coming with you to London. Then I am sure you would have staid

"The prince is a model husband, your excellency," said Jennie, with a sly his face deepened as he glanced over glance at Lord Donal, whose expression of uncertainty increased as this colloquy went on, "and he would have come to London without a murmur had his wife been selfish enough to tear him away from his beloved Meran."

"A model husband!" said the ancient count, with an unctuous chuckle. "So to learn from any one present. If I may few of us excel in that respect, but there is this to be said in our exculpation-so few have been matrimonially so fortunate as Prince von Steinheimer. I have never ceased to long for a repedown at her gown and then glancing tition of the charming visit I paid to your delightful home.

"If your excellency but knew how

ious to everything else, was gazing at "It is most kind of you, princess, to This publication gives valuable informaher with such absorbed intentness that | cheer an old man's heart by such gra- tion in regard to the agricultural, hortieyes. The intense admiration in his affairs of state chain us to our pillar, look was undisguised. "Still." she rat- and indeed diplomacy seems to become tled on somewhat breathlessly, "one more difficult as the years go on, because we have to contend with the gencreation of today is merely the old ins of rising young men like Lord clothes of tomorrow. Invention has no | Donal Stirling here, who are more than vacation, so far as ladies' apparel is a match for old dogs that find it impossible to learn new tricks.'

"Indeed, your excellency," said his lordship, speaking for the first time since the embassador began, "the very



Next instant the aged statesman was bending over her outstretched hand. reverse of that is the case. We sit humbly at your feet, ambitious to emulate, but without hope of excelling.'

The old man chuckled again, and, turning to the girl, began to make his adieux. "Then my former rooms are waiting

for me at the castle?" he concluded. "Yes, your excellency, with the addition of two red rocking chairs imported from America, which you will find most comfortable resting places when you are free from the cares o' state."

"Ah! The rocking chairs! I remember now that you were expecting them when I was there. So they have arrived safely, I hope, but I think you had ordered an incredible number to be certain of having at least one or two serviceable. "No, only a dozen, and they all came

through without damage. "You young people, you young people!" murmured the embassador, bend-

ing again over the hand presented him. "What unbeard of things you do!" (To be continued next Thursday.)

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To suffer with skin disease than it is for a man, for a smooth skin and a clear complexion are essential elements of female beauty. So-called skin diseases are in general blood diseases, because they are commonly the result of an impure condition of the blood. What light is to the landscape the blood is to the cheek. Light is the great landscape painter, and the hues of his palette transform a dull world into a fairyland. So pure blood touches the lips with cherry and the cheek with rose, gives the ears a tint like the sea shell's, brightens the eyes and whitens the hands, until it transforms homeliness into actual beauty. Often a fair face will be marred by erruptions, pimples or some disfiguring rash, resulting from a scrofulous taint of the blood. When the taint of scrofula is in the blood it will be sure to show itself soon or late; and its manifestations may be as repulsive as they are painful. Many people have been cured of scrofula in its most malignant forms by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. This remedy is remarkable for its power to purify the blood. It absolutely eliminates the corrupting elements. It makes the blood clean and rich. It increases the action of the blood-making glands, and so increases the quantity of pure blood supplied to the body. It is a true beautifier, giving a hue to the complexion and a sparkle to the eye, which

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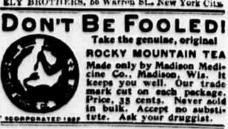


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