

A MAKER OF HISTORY

By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM,

Author of "The Master Mummer," "A Prince of Sinners," "Mysterious Mr. Sabin," "Anna the Adventuress," Etc.

Copyright, 1905, 1906, by LITTLE, BROWN, and COMPANY.

[CONTINUED.]

table. His secretary's place by his side was vacant. Opposite sat a tall man with gray hair and dark mustache. He was dressed for the evening, and his breast glittered with stars and orders.

"It is exceedingly kind of you, monsieur," he said, "to grant me this interview at so short notice. I was most anxious to apprise you of news which as yet, I believe, has not found its way into your papers. You have read accounts of a Russian attack upon an English fishing fleet, but you have not yet been informed of the presence—the undoubted presence—of Japanese torpedo boats concealed among them."

M. Grisson raised his eyebrows. "Indeed, no?" he answered. "We have not even heard a rumor of anything of the sort."

"Nevertheless their presence was indubitable," the prince declared. "Under those circumstances, monsieur, you can doubtless understand that our reply to any protests on the part of England will be of an unpacific nature. We should not for a moment allow ourselves to be dictated to by the allies of our enemy."

"Naturally," M. Grisson answered. "On the other hand, you surely do not wish to embroil yourself in a quarrel with England at the present moment?"

"We wish to quarrel with no one," the prince answered haughtily. "At the same time, we are not afraid of England. We recognize the fact that if war should come it is an independent affair and does not come under the obligations of our alliance. We ask, therefore, for your neutrality alone."

M. Grisson bowed. "But, prince," he said gravely, "you speak lightly enough of the possibilities of war, but surely you must know that the English fleet in the channel and at Gibraltar altogether outmatches the Baltic fleet?"

"A Russian," the prince answered grandly, "is not afraid of great odds!"

M. Grisson bowed. "For the sake of humanity," he said, "I trust most sincerely that affairs may be peaceably arranged. If the contrary should turn out to be the case, I can only say that in a quarrel which concerns Russia and England alone France would remain benevolently neutral. As you have remarked, the obligations of our treaty do not apply to such a case."

"The prince played nervously with the star at his chest. Both men were well aware that up to now they had been merely playing with words.

"There is another contingency," the Russian remarked, "which now we are upon the subject it would perhaps be as well to allude to. The relations between Germany and England, as you know, just now are very sorely strained. If Germany should take advantage of the present situation to make a demonstration against England, that, of course, would not from your point of view affect the situation?"

M. Grisson looked like a man who sees before him amazing things.

"My dear prince," he said, "do not let us misunderstand one another. You cannot by any possibility be suggesting that Germany might associate herself with you in your resistance to possible English demands?"

"The Russian leaned back in his chair. "Germany is on the spot," he remarked, "and knows the facts of the case. She has proofs of the presence of Japanese torpedo boats among the English fishing fleet. Her natural love of fair play might possibly lead her to espouse our cause in this particular instance. This, of course, would make for peace. If Germany commands, England will obey. She could not do otherwise."

"You have introduced, my dear prince," M. Grisson said, "an altogether new phase to this question, and one which merits the most grave consideration. Am I to understand that there is any arrangement between Germany and yourselves with respect to this question?"

"Scarcely anything so definite as an arrangement," the prince answered—"merely an understanding."

M. Grisson had the air of a man who has just received grave tidings of his dearest friend.

"Is this, M. le Prince," he said, "entirely in accord with our own treaty obligations?"

"We do not consider it to be in contravention to them," the prince answered.

The gravity of M. Grisson's manner grew even more pronounced.

"My dear prince," he said, "you are doubtless aware that during the last few weeks there have been some very

strange rumors about us to a meeting between your master and the emperor of Germany and an agreement which was forthwith signed between them. I need not remark that all such rumors were entirely discredited here. Such a meeting kept secret from us would of course be very seriously considered here."

The prince smiled. He remained admirably self-possessed, though the very veins in his forehead were swollen with anger.

"A rumor of the sort has reached my ears," he remarked. "Some English boy, I believe, imagined or dreamed that he saw some such meeting. We seriously need, I think, to discuss this seriously."

"Personally I agree with you," M. Grisson said smoothly. "My ministry, however, seems to have been a little impressed by the boy's story. An autograph letter from the czar denying it would perhaps make our negotiations more easy."

"It shall be forthcoming," the prince remarked, rising. "By the bye, I hear reports of great activity from Cherbourg. More maneuvers, eh?"

M. Grisson shrugged his shoulders.

"Our new naval chief," he remarked, "is a marvel of industry. You know the English proverb about the new broom, eh?"

The prince bowed. "During the next few hours," he remarked, "many things may happen. You will be always accessible?"

"I shall not leave my post, prince," M. Grisson answered. "You will find me here at any time."

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

On the following morning the inhabitants of London, Paris, Berlin and St. Petersburg for a sum varying from a half penny to a penny were treated to sensationalism as thrilling as any six shilling shocker hot from the press and assured of its half million circulation. One English newspaper and one French outdid their competitors by publishing side by side with their account of the exploits of the Russian fleet a marvelous but circumstantial story of a meeting and alliance between the rulers of Germany and Russia. The eyes of the whole world were turned toward Kiel, and more wonderful rumors still flashed backward and forward along the wires throughout Europe. A great mobilization can be kept secret up to a certain point, but when men and ships are collected and ready the truth must out.

At an unusually early hour M. Grisson, supported now by two members of his ministry, received a visit from the Russian and German ambassadors, Prince Korndoff and Count von Munchen. The usual compliments were quickly exchanged.

"I have asked my friend, Count von Munchen, to accompany me," Prince Korndoff explained, "because we are here to speak with you on a matter concerning which our interests are identical. You have read the demands which England has dared to lay before my master with reference to the encounter in the North sea."

M. Grisson bowed. "I have studied them with great interest," he admitted.

"I do not need to tell you, then, that they are scouted with indignation by my master and his advisers," the prince answered. "Neither shall we permit for a single moment the detention of our fleet upon its mission."

"That means, then, war with England," M. Grisson remarked quietly. "Unless they instantly withdraw their insolent demands—undoubtedly," the prince answered.

M. Grisson turned to the German. "And you, count," he asked, "how does this concern you?"

"We also," the count answered, "consider the demands of England unwarrantable. We believe that there were undoubtedly Japanese torpedo boats concealed among the English fishing fleet, and we consider that the action of the admiral in command of the Russian fleet was fully justified."

"You are prepared, then, to give Russia your moral support?" the president asked.

"We are prepared to do more," the count answered boldly. "If England persists in her demands we are prepared to demonstrate against her."

M. Grisson assumed a very grave expression.

"I, too," he said, "have lost no time in endeavoring to solve the mystery of this North sea incident. I have been in communication with the English

(Continued on Page Six.)

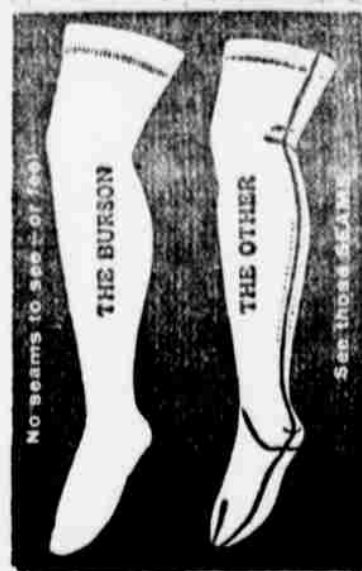
Fall Goods Sale

at F. NEWHOUSE

Hosiery and Underwear

It's just the time for medium weights in Hosiery and Underwear, and it's not too early to select your winter weights while our line is complete.

Children's IXL rib hose, good grade at 10c; heavier at **15c, 18c, 25c.**



Ladies' Burson Hose

The only Hose knit without a seam, at **25c and 35c.**

Underwear

Children's long sleeve gauze Vests, at 15c, 20c and 25c.
Children's long pants, gauze..... 25c.

Ladies' long sleeve gauze Corset Covers at **25c**
" " " " Vests at
" " " " Pants, gauze, at

American Beauty Corsets

What style of Corset do you wear?

We have the low bust, long on hips, at **50c and \$1.00**

High bust, long on hips, at 50c to \$3.00.

Tape Girdles at 50c.

Every pair guaranteed to give satisfaction.



AMERICAN BEAUTY Style 736
Kalamazoo Corset Co., Makers

Dress Goods

While not the largest line, we have selected it with great care and will save you money if you will look our stock over before buying.

Suiting in half wool at 25c and 30c.

All wool Venetians and Serges at 50c a yard.

Chiffon Broadcloth, 44 inches wide, all wool, at 90c.

YARNS

Our line of yarn is complete on all the following:
Imported Saxony-Germantown Zephyrs-Acme Knitting Worsted
Fleisher's Knitting Worsted-Fleisher's Spanish
Fleisher's Shetland Floss

Outings

All grades of Outings from 7c to 15c

Cotton Batts at 10c to 85c.

Crocheted Baby Jackets, Silk Hoods, Handbags, Collars

*This month's Butterick Patterns
are 10¢ and 15¢—none higher*

at F. Newhouse