THE UNKNOWN MR. KENT

GEORGE H. DORAN CO., 1916 COPYRIGT.

She had not considered it in that light before. There was a change, and it had come so gradually, so imperceptibly, that she had been the last one to recognize it. Somehow, this knowledge that there were those in Marken who cared for her for her own sake, gave her a greater sense of security and bravery than she had ever known.

"Come," he said, gently, "what harm do you think a man like Prowarsk capable of, now? Why, if I wanted to take the trouble, I could start whispers throughout the kingdom tonight that the real reason for his plotting is that he intends to seize the throne, and exile your brother and yourself, and the people-yes-the very ones that he is now stirring to make foolish demands, would tear him to pieces and feed them to the dogs!"

"But why not do it?" she demanded, with all the eagerness of a conspira-

"Because," he said, slowly, "I don't want it done that way. I want to punish him in my own way. Also, because I enjoy watching him, just to learn how far he is capable. Why, if he can succeed, we ought to walk out! It would show that we are a lot of incompetents! If any other women talk to you of him, just tell them how grateful you are and forget it. Provarsk must have no inkling that I suspect him. I want that much understood. When the time is ripe-we shall see!"

After she had gone, the American sat for a long time alone, and staring absently through the open window as if very happy by the knowledge that at last the princess was a real ally. Then, smiling grimly, he sent for Von Glutz, who happened to be accessible, and told his secretary that they were not to be disturbed.

CHAPTER XIII

A strange lassitude seemed to have overtaken Kent. In direct contrast to his old habitual energy, he now loltered habitually, taking long walks alone, like a man who, finding his task done, has no further ambition and devotes himself to useless meditation. For weeks he appeared apathetic; so much so that the king, industrious, and the others of that little cohort whose activities he had directed and stimulated were gravely concerned. They suggested that he needed rest; that he must be alling that it were better if he sought change. And to all these suggestions be smiled gravely and shook his head.

"It's like this," explained Ivan to is something on his mind, some trouble, some worry, that none shall ever know. I can not understand it-I who for years have been his shadow, his right hand, his friend of thought and strvice. He has not confided in me. which in itself is strange! Were he a youth, I should say he was involved in a hopeless love affair; but, being what he is, a rock, a being as independent as the poles of the globe, I can not conceive what it is that has overtaken him!"

"And all the time," angrily asserted the minister of finance," "that Provarsk plots!"

It was true. And Kent, as well as his adherents, knew ti; for Kent's sources of information brought him the constant and unanimous reports that the chancellor was adroitly using his time. The managers of the mines stated that the men were becoming daily more intractible and sullen, that nightly meetings were being held from which no information ever leaked, and that there was a growing unrest. There was no room to doubt that Provarsk was belind it all, and that Provarsk was carefully laying a powder train to cause an explosion; yet Kent, the master spirit of change, read the reports, or listened to them, and was lethargic.

Baron Von Glutz, the new enthusiast for road improvement, slipped hastily away to the outer world to inspect some new road-making machinery. Kent smiled at his euthusiasm. Paulo went to the other side of the toy kingdom to inspect work connected with his department. Again Rent smiled, and seemed happy to be left alone and unmolested.

And then, when least expected, Provarsk acted with his customary boldness. Kent, waiking alone in the garden late one night, and abserbed in thought, was abruptly star a by a soft crashing sound in the laure's on either side and suddenly realized that he was in the midst of a huge thicket where, if it came to a struggle, he would have but small change. He whirled with the intention of running to a better field; but his foot caught on a rope that had been tled across the path, and he fell headlong. A man crashed through the bushes on one side and threw bimself on Kentbefort the latter could regain his feet, He gai hored his big powerful body

that had in youth been inured by hard work and hard battles with lumbermen, and threw himself quickly to one side, broke the hold on his arms with a sharp wrench, and rolled on top of his assailant. His hope had been to get to his feet; but the man beneath, disappointed in one way, took advantage of another and shifted his hold to Kent's neck. Instantly another adversary caught the American's heels and jerked his legs from under him so that he sprawled at length on the man in the path. Kent lifted his arm to strike and another man seized it strongly and clung to it. Kent's left fist struck this new assailant and elicited a grunt. Then, whilst he was trying to land a second blow, another man was added to the corps of assailants.

Kent fought so well that it took the best efforts of the four men to subdue him, after which he was immediately handcuffed, and lifted to his feet.

"What's the meaning of all this?" he demanded, between pants.

"It means that you are under arrest," growled a hoarse voice. "Bring him along, men!"

"But where are you taking me?" Kent insisted.

"You'll find that out soon enough," was the reply.

Kent walked doggedly along in silence and without further protest, and was led directly to the private entrance to the palace, thence upward to his offices, where, despite the warmth of the night, the shades were drawn and the room in a blaze of light. As soon as his eyes were accustomed to the change he beheld, through the open door of his private office, Provarsk lazily seated in his private chair, and saw that the drawers of the desk had been wrenched open and that numerous papers were scattered on the floor.

"Ah! Got him, did you?" the chancellor remarked to the soldiers conducting Kent, "You did well, Couldn't have done much better in fact; but I was rather in hopes he would fight sufficiently hard to make extreme measures necessary."

He smiled pleasantly and came into the other room. Kent looked at the men around him and sneered when he discovered they were some of Prowarsk's original mercenaries, now become double traitors.

"However, it is just as well that you didn't have to-knock his brains out," the baron continued. "I find that the papers which are accessible arc-rot exactly those I wanted, I erhans Mr. Kent will oblige us wit, the combination of his private vault?" "Bless my soul! What an over-

sight!" Kent exclaimed. "You ve not got ine combination? Thoughtless of you. But, by the way, it would do you no good this evening, anyhow, Baron It has the best time lock I could buy."

The baron walked over to the vault and inspected it, and it was evident that he was not familiar with such a modern device.

"Suppose you broke that clock off?" be inquired of Kent.

"Then even I could not open it." the American replied. "You may be certain that the vault will not open until after 10 o'clock tomorrow."

"In that case all you can do is to give me the combination," said Provarsk, eyeing Kent insolently.

"For two centimes I wouldn't. Kent replied.

"And for two centimes, if you didn't, I'd throw you into a wet dungeon without food until you did," Provarsk promptly retorted.

"Um-m-m-h! By Jove! I believe you would," said Kent, admiringly, "and that being the case, I suppose I may as well give it to you."

"Exactly!" replied the chancellor. "Lixtle courtes'es will be duly appre-

clated." "I've noticed that you were appreclative," Kent said, meaningly: "but masmuch as I'm here and you are there. I don't see what else I can do but chilge. If you and my good faithful friends here are not afraid of ane. perhaps you would kindly request them to remove this jewelry; otherwise I can't write."

Proversk smiled at what he thought cor, asm and asl. I the leading soldier if Kent had any weapons. On being assured that the American was unarmed the chancellor ordered the handcuffs removed.

"And let me caution you. Mr. Kent," he threatened, "that any attempt to escape or call for assistance may necessitate action on my part that I slouid regret to take. Furthermore it would be useless on your part, because there is no one in the palace who would attempt to assist you save the king and his royal sister, both of whom are now slambering sweetlywith a guard outside their doors." Kent looked about him as if seek-

ing some one. Provarsk divined his

look and added: "And that bear man of yours has also been taken in, and I believe is now nicely secured in one of the old dungeons. I hope one was selected where there are plenty of rats."

Kent looked at the leader of the mercenaries who stood stockily by him, and whose protruding eyes batted themselves at intervals and were devoid of expression.

"He's got to be taken out of that dungeon," Kent said, emphatically.

"To quote one of your own phrases, 'Nothing doing!'" retorted the conspirator.

"All right! Nothing doing in the combination line, either," stubbornly returned the American

Provarsk grinned at him with the kindliness of a hungry wolf; but influenced by his prisoners' fearless stare, paused to consider.

"I'll tell you what I'll do," said Kent, "I'll compromise. You have your friends put Ivan in a comfortable cell, and I'll not only give you the combination, but my parole. I'll agree that you can take me to my own room, and that I'll not leave there without first notifying you that I intend to do so. How's that?"

"This is to be a gentleman's agreement, is it, Kent?" Provarsk asked. "If is."

"All right," the conspirator replied, "I'll accept it. Whatever else you are, I'll admit your word is absolutely good. Give me the combination."

Kent walked across to his desk, sat down, and with a steady hand wrote it on a piece of paper, blotted it, and passed it to Provarsk. The latter smiled lazily, and turned to the leading soldier

"You have heard the agreement," he said. "See to it that we keep our part. Have that Ivan put in the most comfortable place of confinement we have. Take Mr. Kent to his room, and see that he is not disturbed. Of ccurse he has no objections to a guard outside his door?"

"Not in the least," Kent assured him. "I like it. Keeps me from obing lonesome. Sort of soothing in the dark. Now, before I retire, would you mind telling me what you are up to this time, and what it's all about?"

"Not in the least," said Provarsk with the same air of courtesy that was, in itself, akin to insult. "What I am up to is, first of all, to get rid of you. I'm going to put you out of the kingdom, and also I've taken steps to cut your claws. I secured the address of your employer, John Rhodes, at 65 Regent street, London, West, yesterday, and wrote him enclosing correspondence showing that you had not only made overtures to sell his concession to me, but had actually transferred it to me for a cash consideration, which I presumed was with his sanction. I explained that my object in writing was to have him remove you to other scenes of commercial activity, because you were personally obnoxious to His Majesty, the king, and also to me, the chancellor. Needless to say the correspondence I sent him proving the sale of the mining concession, was signed by yourself. Unmistakably so."

Kent's eyes opened with genuine astonishment. This was a more adroit invention than he had credited Provarsk with being able to devise. He had written to Rhodes and-!

"You forged my name to those letters, eh?" he asked hotly. "Well, before I'm through with you I'll-"

"Do nothing! You can't; you are helpless. I've got you, this time, my smart Yankee friend, and got you in such a way that you can't escape. When I kick you out of Marken, you can take your choice; be tried by John Rhodes as a defaulter and convicted on my evidence that the letters are genuine, or put as much distance as you can between yourself and your employer. That is immaterial to me, either way."

"But-but the king! He will not submit to it!" declared Kent, on the defensive.

"The king! Poof! The king will de as I say, after this; otherwise, I'll send him trailing along after you in short order."

Kent's face was impassive.

"Take him to his room and let him think it over," ordered Provarsk, with a grin. "Goodnight, Mr. Richard Kent! I hope you have a very comfortable rest. I may call on you in the morning to assure myself of your comfort."

Kent, for once astonished at the man's ingenuity, turned and led the way out with never a word. Provarsk had proved a better enemy than he had believed him to be. He could but think of the letter and enclosures to John Rhodes and remembered that the financier's reputation was that of being an inflexibly hard and unrelenting man whenever one of his underlings had proved delinquent. He tried, to recall whether John Rhodes had always been just in such cases. Perhaps poor Barry, who had been sent to an American prison for something similar, had been a victim of some other Provarsk. And Simmons, the Englishman, when led from the dock to serve his sentence of three years hard labor, had protested his innocence to the very last. And both Simmons and Barry had been master

agents, entrusted with great transactions, enjoying intimate acquaintance with John Rhodes! He looked very grave and preoccupied as they escorted him through the long, resounding corridors of the palace, dimly lighted, and suggestive of the long corridors of a prison where a man who was innocent of the crime for which he had been convicted, might helplessly eat his heart away. The very sound of their footsteps suggested the tread of warders and guards. A problem presented itself to him in which he attempted to stand aloof like an outside spectator, and speculate what John Rhodes, the richest and most feared man in the world, would do upon the receipt of such letters. Would he be tolerant and kind, or severe and unrelenting, with such evidence against Richard Kent, the trusted agent, who had at last yielded to a very great temptation and gone wrong? His guard halted and opened a door,

Kent walked through and closed it behind him. He was alone in his accustomed room with his problem. And then it occurred to him that there is such an influence as justice, and that justice will not be denied. There was a king. The king, though it cost him his throne-though it cost him everything he prized in the world-would under such circumstances find and confront Rhodes, and declare it all a lie. And Rhodes under those circumstances would be compelled to believe. Kent's long and varied training in reading men told him that the king would prove a loyal, fighting, steadfast friend, and that in such an outrageous, diabolical plan as Provarsk's this would prove to be the weak point in the chancellor's armor.

Kent disrobed, bathed the dust of that stiff physical contest on the garden path from his face, and climbed into bed. Tomorrow was merely tomorrow, to be met as his judgment dictated. Within 10 minutes he was sleeping as soundly as if nothing mattered and he were but a tired boy.

CHAPTER XIV.

Kent, breakfasting in his room, heard not only the singing of birds in the garden, but a persistent and ircreasing monotone of sound that pervaded everywhere, caused by the shuffling of many feet along the streets outside the palace walls, the indistinct hum of many voices, the grating of cart wheels over the roads, and an occasional shrill call rising above others. The atmosphere itself seemed charged and ready for a single spark to cause the explosion of revolt. At this hour of the morning, ordinarily, Marken would have been absorbed in industry, an industry that he had combelled and that had become habitual. This he thought, bitterly, was the result of too much prosperity. This was the price for arousing a siothful, shortsighted people and teaching them roads to wealth and ambition. The poorest churl in the fields had learned the value of hi own earning power and profited, while others, who had been worse than hopeless, had seen the way to independence. Kent wondered if, after all, he had not taught them greed instead of industry, independence, and patriotism. He heard someone coming rapidly along the corridor, the guard's heels coming to a salute, and the door opened and the king entered, his whole personality

radiating indignation. "This is an outrage!" he declared. "I found a guard in front of my door this morning who told me of your arrest and confinement to your room. He made no objection to my coming here and so I came at once. We will gc immediately and have Provarsia seized. Come!"

Kent slowly shook his head. "I can not," he said. "I am under

parole of honor to remain here." The king stood aghast. "You gave your word to that

treacherous-" "Yes, and shall keep it."

"Then I will at once go alone and act. I'll-" "No, no; let us consider." Kent checked him.

"But-but it may mean revolt! How do we know that he has not bribed or overcome enough of the guards that-"

"No fear," said Kent easily. "Some of them, perhaps; but I have cortain reasons to believe that on Baron Von Glutz's return there will be-um-m. mh-s change in the situation."

(Continued next week.) Not Quite in Naturalibus.

"We had raisin pie for dinner yester-day and pa got awful mad."
"What's the matter? Doesn't he like but he told ma he had bought those raisins for another purpose.

Unfeeling Court. From the Birmingham Age-Herald. "Your honor,' said the prisoner with tears in his eyes, "do you realize what it means to send me up for 10 years?" "Yes," replied the judge. "It means that you are going to do more work for the state than you ever did for your wife and seven children. Next case."

Realistic.

From the Daily Oklaheman.

He—I and a realistic dream last night.
She—Indeed! What was it?

"Oh, I dreamed I proposed to you and you turned me ever to your father."

"Yes, yes; and what did father say?"

"Oh, I don't know. I only know I welse up and found myself on the floor." Realistic.

AIMS TO REACH 100

A Pittsburgher, Who Caused a Sensation, Tells of Results.

ANCIENT TONIC HIS SECRET

Hundreds of Thousands of Families Found Health and Happiness by Following His Instructions.

Six years ago H. H. Von Schlick son he pointed to his tonic. After could be seen any day visiting promi- using this tonic for 15 years I am nent Pittsburgh business men in their ready to guarantee to the world that downtown effices. He carried a satch- it is the best prescription for health el, and his arrival was always greet- existing. ed by a smile indicating welcome. These men were his customers. They drank at his "fountain of youth." They use it, my friends and neighbors have accredit him with a new lease of life been keeping health by reason of it and the healthy condition of their fam- and hundreds of thousands of people

Von Schlick has bright eyes and his known, consider I have done them an cheeks indicate that pure red blood everlasting favor by convincing them flows through his veins. He says he of its merits. . was younger at fifty than he was at thirty-five. He has never had a sick epidemic Bulgarian Blood Tea was spell or any of the symptoms of the used by countless thousands of sufailments which afflicted him before he ferers with marvelous success and milbegan using a tea, the ingredients of lions of people took it steaming hot which were conveyed to him by an old to prevent and ward off the disease. Bulgarian 20 years ago. Von Schlick makes this statement:

"I was recovering from the grippe, was run down, and a dizzy feeling in the head, and felt like the victim of the hook-worm. This old Bulgarian disorders of the digestive organs. It knew of my sickness and while in the office suggested, 'I give you something to make you feel better.' He It will make your brain respond returned next day with a package and told me to use one teaspoonful in business. It will give you a healthy, a cup of hot water, and to repeat the dose once each night for a little while. He promised I would never be troubled from sickness again. I followed the prescription, skeptical, of course, and one day later I was seek- in the Union fighting off disease and ing that old man to secure from him the ingredients of that tonic.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS YOUNG. "He explained to me that in Bulgaria the older families regarded this mend it. Men regain strength and tonic as the great disease preventative and health restorer; that it was handed down from generation to generation. At the first symptom of any sickness the mother or women of the family made the tea for all members. It is a well-known fact that Bulgarians are the oldest and healthlest people in the world.

"In Bulgaria and the Balkan coun tries of Eastern Europe, in spite of Blood Tea in stock, but, owing to the poor sanitary conditions, among enormous demand immediate applica-1,000,000 inhabitants there are 1,600 tion to your druggist is urgent on acover 100 years old. In France there count of the limited source of supply. is only one person in 1,000,000 over Distributors of Bulgarian Blood Tea 100 years old, and in Germany only are authorized to return the full purone person 1,150,000. It is a rare chase price if it does not materially news item in the United States when improve your health in three weeks' a man dies after reaching the century time. This evidence of faith in the

of life and that they all had a healthy burgh, who authorize this-public anand happy old age. Asked for a rea- nouncement.-Adv.

Pitfalls of Slang.

and the rest are a delusion and a

between the peoples; it is the very

specious resemblance which makes the

gap. Kipling well described the Amer-

ican in London who "heard men talk-

ing a tongue superficially like his own,

which on inquiry turned out to be

something quite different." An Amer-

ican says: "I've got you," meaning
"I understand." The Englishman

thinks he has been discovered in some

heinous deception. The language re-

a bond.-London Express.

semblance is in fact a bar rather than

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Dyes" contains directions so simple that any woman

mixed goods.

Dyes Color Card"-16 rich colors. Adv

To Be Relied On.

"Hiram," said Mrs. Corntossel, "do

you think that political speaker will

make an effort to reduce the high cost

"You mean the one who stopped here

"You can depend on him to give the

subject earnest consideration. A man

with an appetite like his can't help

takin' a personal interest."

of living?"

"Yes."

for dinner?"

Dye right! Don't risk

your material in a poor dye.

Each package of "Diamond

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"After 15 years of experience I am positive that it will prevent sickness. It will restore your health by eliminating the poisons. It will regulate will increase poor circulation. It will restore vitality, energy or strength. splendidly to the strain of modern youthful complexion. It will prolong your life and, with proper diet, you should live to a ripe old age."

Bulgarian Blood Tea today is used by millions of people in every state old age weaknesses. They include happy girls budding into womanhood or women crossing precarious thresholds of life. All praise and recomvitality, the blood becomes rich and pure and the fire and vim of robust health returns to those who were in despair.

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Willing to Oblige.

ttes if you'd

American Legion Weekly.

Those well-intentioned leagues and "So you were in the service?" ejacclubs which are always talking about ulated the prospective father-in-law the unity of the English-speaking of the bashful aspirant to his daughraces; the bond of a common language | ter's hand. "Carry any scars?" "No, sir," replied the would-be bridesnare. There is no common language groom, but I've got a pack of cigar-

"Pape's Diapepsin" for Indigestion

"Pape's Diapepsin" is the quickest, surest relief for Indigestion, Gases, Flatulence, Heartburn, Sourness, Fermentation or Stomach Distress caused by acidity. A few tablets give almost immediate stomach relief and shortly the stomach is corrected so you can eat favorite foods without fear. Large case costs only 60 cents at drug store. Absolutely harmless and pleasant. Millions helped annually. Best stomach corrective known—Adv.

Helpful Hint.

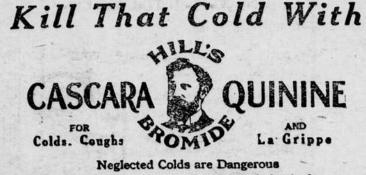
"I'm in powerful bad shape, Lum!" sald a citizen of Straddle Ridge, in reply to the inquiry of an acquaintance. 'I hain't been any account-to say account-for six weeks now. I kain't sleep nights to do no good, and I don't relish what I eat. I've got a grouping pain in my abandon the most of the time, and I'm plumb down in the back and low in my mind. I swear, I don't know what I ort to do."

"Get a new omenick," was the reply. 'That'll furnish a new set of symptoms, that likely you'll know what to do for."-Kansas City Star.

Dont Forget Cuticura Talcum When adding to your toilet requisites. An exquisitely scented face, skin, haby and dusting powder and perfume, rendering other perfumes superfluous, You may rely on it because one of the Cuticura Trio (Soap, Ointment and

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