

"What had become of your other pair of rogues?" the Duke asked.

"Dead. I fell over them at the foot of the stairs, buried under a huge chest."

Flung upon them, doubtless, as they were ascending," said Lotzen.

Bigier nodded. "That was the erash I heard." He took another cigaret, and lighted it care-fully. "And that, madame, is the story," he ended, looking at

Mrs. Spencer. She flashed him a bright smile. "The nicest thing about it, my dear count," she said, "is that you are here to tell it."

"Even if he doesn't in the least deserve to be here," the duke interjected. "Such a-my dear Edmund, don't do it again. You're too young and innocent to die. Leave the strategy to me and my lady, yonder; we will give you enough of fighting in due time-and soon.'

The count laughed in good natured imperturbability.

"I'm done," he said frankly. "I'm ready to take orders from you or my lady-particularly from my lady."

The duke gave him a quick, sharp glance.

"The orders will come through me," he said, rather curtly. Madeline Spencer held out her

hand to the count.

"When his highness grows jealous," she said, languidly arising and shaking down her skirts, "it's time, you know, for you to go-come back when he is not here;" and with a provoking smile at the duke, she flung the count a kiss for your wounded ear, my lord."

CHAPTER XIII.

In the Japonica Walk. The regent signed the last document, and, pushing it across the table, luid aside the pen.

"How much better it would be if that were 'Armand, Rex,' she said.

The prime minister was put-

mitted, Henry the Fifth would be a title far more pleasing to the nation than Armand the First. He bears the Great Henry's features, let him bear his name, as well.'

She sprang up. "He shall, he shall!" she exclaimed; "he will do it for me, I know." The old count's face softened

in one of its rare smiles.

"He would be a poor sort of man, indeed, my lady, who would deny anything to you," he said, and in his stately, old-fashioned way he bent and kissed her hand. As he arose, the princess suddenly slipped an arm around his neck, and for the briefest moment her soft lips rested on his forehead.

The prime minister kept his face lowered; when he raised it, the tears still trembled in his eyes.

"Don't tell the archduke," she laughed gayly, seeing how he was moved.

"No," said he, laughing with her now, "I'll not tell him-and lose all chance for another."

"I'll give you another now," she cried, and, springing on the chair beside him, she kissed him on the cheek. "Now go-you've had more than your share—but you shall have a third the day Armand is king."

He took her hand, and gallantly helped her down.

"You give me another object in life," he said,-"I shall claim it if the king permit."

'You may claim it, before him and all the court," she answered.

After Count Epping had gone, the princess turned to the table, and sitting on the corner, one foot on a chair, the other dangling, took up some papers he had left with her for examination. In the midst of it the Duke of Lotzen was announced.

"I am engaged," she said curtly; "I cannot see him . . . or stay, admit him."

After her question and his answer in the garden near the sundial, two days before, she had decided she would receive him only upon occasion of ceremony, when, to exclude him, would have required a special order; but this unexpected and, for him, amazingly early visit, piqued her curiosity too sharply to resist. But there was no cordiality in her look nor attitude, as he bowed before her in the interse- the victory-and, with him, vicly respectful manner he could assume so well. She made no change in her position, nor offered him her hand, nor smiled; her eyes showed only polite indifference as, for a space, she let him wait for leave to speak. When she gave it, her voice was as different as her eyes. 'Well, your royal highness," she said, "how can we serve you?"

quest through the regular channel, as any other officer, and I will grant it;" and with a perfunctory nod, she resumed her reading.

"I am permitted to withdraw?" he asked. "You are always permitted to

withdraw," she answered, without looking up. "I like your spirit, Dehra," he

laughed; "you and I would make "Where shall I kiss you first, an unconquerable pair; it is a little one?" he asked-"on the pity you won't be my queen."

She pointed toward the door. "Go, sir," she ordered, her voice repressed to unusual softness; "go! nor present yourself again until you have received permission."

And with a smile and a bow, he went; backing slowly from the room, in an aggravation of respect.

He had not come to the palace for leave to go to France, or any where else; where he wanted to go, and when, he went. But his plans required that he be absolutely free and untrammeled, and so he had done this to insure himself against being ordered suddenly to some military duty that might hamper his movements even slightly. And his visit had been doubly successful-he had the permission, and in such a form that he was given the utmost liberty, and he had also learned the regent's real attitude toward him, and that even with her it would be a fight without quarter. What the American would make it, the dead bodies in the De Saure house had indicated as plainly as spoken wordsand, indeed, as such he knew they had been deliberately intended.

As he passed one of the windows in the corridor, he caught, far off amid the trees, the sheen of a white gown; he paused, and presently he recognized Mile. d'Essolde. With a smile of sudden purpose, he went quickly down a private stairway that opened on the Park below the marble terrace, and, eyes on the white gown, that showed at intervals through the bushes, he sauntered toward it.

There was, to be sure, a woman with rayen hair and deadwhite cheek at the Ferida, but there was also a woman yonder, and handier, with golden hair and shell-pink cheek; and variety was much to his taste at

path; no one was in sight, and the hedge was high-he would make the play a little faster. Hitherto, he had been content to hold her with a sure grip, and let her fling about in futile strivings; now he laughed, and drew her slowly toward him, his eyes fixed significantly upon her flushed face and its moist red lips, parted with the breath-throbs.

mouth, or a cheek, or the gleaming hair ?''-He held her back an instant in survey.

. . . "Coy?-too coy to answer-come, then, let it be the. ips now, and the others later, by the lake."

She had ceased to struggle, and her blue eyes were watching the Duke in fascinated steadiness. To him, it signified victory and a willing maid-he took a last glance at the path--then with a cry and a curse he dropped her wrist and sprang back, wringing his hands, the blood gushing from a ragged wound across its back, where Elise d'Essolde's teeth had sunk into the flesh.

And she, with high-held skirts, vas flying toward the Palace.

He sprang in pursuit-and topped; she would pass the hedge before he could overtake her; and the open park was no place for love making of the violent sort-nor with a wound that spurted red. The business would have to bide, for the present. . . . Over toward the terrace he saw the flutter of a white gown.

"Damn the little cat!" he muttered; "she shall pay me well for this.

Elsie d'Essolde, spent with running, her brain in a whirl, her hair dishevelled, weak-kneed and trembling now with the reaction, reached the marble steps near the pergola and sank on the lowest, just as .Colonel Moore came springing down them, his eyes toward the japonica walk, search-ing for the girl in a white gown whom he was to have met there half an hour ago.

eeing, had she not spoken. "Ralph!" she said "Ralph!"

"Elsie!" he exclaimed, "I'm sorry to be so late-I was-heaven, child, what has happened?" The sight of him, and the

ASKS ACTION BY ENGLAND ON BALDWIN

Chancellor's Statements "Uncouth and Untrue," Asserts Senator McKellar --- Wants Explanation From Smoot.

BY JAMES R. NOURSE. Universal Service Correspondent. Washington, Jan. 29 .- In a speech vigorously denouncing Stanley Baldwin, chancellor of the British exchequer, for his published comments on America's attitude on the debt settlement, Senator McKellar, of Tennessee, in the Senate Monday demanded official action by this government to rebuke the British representative for his utterances.

Senator McKellar declared that President Harding should demand of the British government a complete disavowal of Baldwin's "sneering allusions to congress and the American people."

The senator also demanded that the American debt commission should make a public explanation of its action in submitting to the British commission a proposed settlement plan contrary to that which congress expressly provided in the act creating the commission. The plan submitted by the American commission called for an interest rate as low as two per cent. and congress did not learn of it until Baldwin arrived in England.

Wants Diplomats' Names.

A further demand made by the senator was for the disclosure of the names of the two diplomats who are reported to have promised that the American government would fund the British debt at either two or three per cent.

Senator McKellar denounced in unmeasured terms the proposal made by Baldwin and his associates to have the debt paid in pounds instead of dollars. This proposal he characterized as "nothing short of a skin game.'

After quoting Baldwin's statement slurring congress because a majority of its members come from "pasteral and agricultural communities" Senator McKellar said: "Evidently, according to Mr. Baldwin, he had no trouble with the debt funding commission nor with the administration. It would have been all plain sailing if it had not been for what he evidently looked upon as the ignorant congress with which he had indirectly to deal.

"Coarse and Uncouth." "I need not speak of the coarseness and uncouthness of these charg-



he prefers pigs to children," indignantly said Mrs. Johnson the other evening. "Well, if it's all the same to him,"

replied Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge, "I don't know but what I'd just about as soon have the children. now that I've got 'em, as the pigsunless, of course, they was powerful fine pigs."-Kansas City Star.



And he would have passed, un-

He swung around.

ting up his papers. "And better, still, if it were

'Dehra, Regina,' " he returned, closing the portfolio and locking it.

She Plade a gesture of dissent. "There would be no need for the brok, then," he continued; "and no danger of Lotzen becoming king. It is God's blessing on Valeria that you were you, and could assume the governmentotherwise, we would have had civil war. Your highness has no conception of the sentiment in the army; it is two to one-for the archduke; but Lotzen's third is unfluly powerful because of a coterie of high officers, who are jealous of the 'American,' as he is styled, and their readiness to precipitate a contest; and Armand's contingent is unduly weak, because they do not feel assured that he would countenauce war. In a word, the rogues and rascals are for Lotzen-they recognize a kindred leader and the opportunity for high reward. But they would accept you for queen with enthusiasm-even rogues and rascals love a pretty woman who can rule them with a heavy hand."

Dehra looked at her hand. slender, soft, small, and smiled.

Count Epping nodded. "Very pretty," he said, "very pretty, but it's a Dalberg hand, you know-and they know, too.'

* "And as they shall experi-ence," she remarked, eyelids narrowed just a trifle, "if they show a disposition to forget it.'. And in the experience they may learn that the governor of Dornlitz also has a Dalberg hand."

"There will be no civil war now," said the count; "your regency has quite obviated any such catastrophe; and if the book be found, its decision will be accepted without protest by the army, as well as by the people at large. What I fear is the contest in the house of noblesthe margin there will be very narrow, I apprehend; and that involves high feeling and fierce antagonism and smoldering family hate fanned into fire; and then, if Lotzen lose, the new king may have a chance to show his hand."

"Armand the first will show it, never fear," she said, with the pride a woman always has for him she loves.

"I have no fear," he said; "if I had, I would not help to make him king-yet, if I may be per-

Not a shade of her bearing had. missed the duke, and through his anger rose, yet his face bore only a placid smile of amused unconcern.

"I desire the regent's permission," he said, "to absent myself from the country for an indefinite period."

"It is granted-a year, if you wish."

The duke laughed softly, almost mockingly indeed.

"I fear I may not stay quite so long," he answered, "much as it would please me to oblige you. My presence will be necessary in a certain ceremony in the cathedral, that is fixed for a few weeks short of a year.'

The regent's eyes narrowed. "In the crypt, you mean ?-your absence will, at least, postpone the ceremony-had you remained, I imagine it would have occurred much earlier."

Even Lotzen's calmness was disturbed by such a threat from a woman-and, momentarily, his color heightened and his eyes snapped in irritated surprise. Then he bowed.

"I am glad to have been shown the claws so early," he replied with sneering sarcasm; "I shall endeavor to keep beyond their reach. But I shall do my best to furnish the crypt another tenant, though I will not promise to put my count in mourning for him." The princess shrugged her

shapely shoulders. "It is quite unnecessary to tell

us what your barbaric nature told us us long ago," she replied. "When do you wish to depart?"

"Within the week." "And for where?".

"For France-Paris in partieular."

"Very well-prefer your re-

times-and the picture on the stair still lingered with him, fresh and alluring. True, she had not received his advances with that flattered acquiescence he was rather used to, but he had no particular objection to temporary opposition; it gave zest to tory had been rarely lost.

He encountered her in a narrow path, walled in by thick hedges of scarlet japonica, turning the corner suddenly and greeting her with a smile of well assumed surprise; stopping quite a little way off and bowing, his cap across his heart.

And she stopped, also; touched by fear and repugnance as though a snake lay in her path.

"A happy meeting, mademoiselle," he said.

"For whom, sir?" she asked,

turning half away. "For me," he laughed, going toward her; "and for you, too, I hope."

She put her back-to the hedge and made no answer.

"I owe you a very abject apology, for the other day," he said, standing close beside her, and leaning on his sword, "I fear I was' brutally rude.'

"There isn't the least doubt of it," she replied, and made to pass

He stepped before her.

"And are so still." she added. "Come, Elsie," he smiled, still blocking the way, "come; forgive-me.

"Very well, I forgive you," she said, indifferently, and tried again to pass.

"Nonesense, my dear," catching her wrist, "put a bit of warmth into it-and then prove it by a little stroll with me toward the lake."

She recoiled at his touch, much as though the snake had stung her, and tried to wrench free, tearing her thin gown and scarring her flesh on the sharp thorns of the japonica, but making no outery.

And this encouraged Lotzen; she was playing it very prettily indeed-to yield presently, the weary captive of superior strength. That a woman might be honest in her resistance he was always slow to credit; but that one should actually be honest, and yet struggle silently rather than permit others to see her with him, was quite beyond his understanding.

He glanced up and down the

sound of his voice, had calmed her instantly and put her pulse to normal beating; and now that she was with him, safe and unscathed, the coquette in her could not resist the temptation to torment him.

"Another kept the rendezvous," she answered, with affected naivete.

He pointed to the torn gown. "And that?" he asked. "I did it."

"And the hair?"

"The penalty of an ill-aranged coiffure.

"And the red mark on your face-blood, it looks like." "Blood !" she cried; "blood ?

where-where ?" "On your lips-around the mouth-"

The coquette vanished-the horror of it all flashed back upon her :-- Lotzen's sybaritic leerhis easy confidence of assured success-the touch of his loathsome hand to her face-the sickening sensation as her teeth cut through his flesh and scraped the bones beneath-with a cry of disguest she sprang up, swayed unsteadily, and would have fallen had not Moore caught her.

"Water!" she implored, "water!" rubbing her lips frantically with her handkerchief-"water, oh, water!"

Amazed-mystified- alarmed, he stood an instant irresolutethen swinging her up, he bore her to where, near the sun-dial, a fountain played and splashed among the giant ferns. As they reached there, the nervous tumult subsided as quickly as it came, she could not wash away the red of her own embarrassment-she ventured to look at him.

He met her with a smile, that showed only sharp concern and

(To be Continued Next Week.)

Stefansson, Artic explorer, has enanounced the abandonment of his career as an explorer and will devote his efforts to advocating that the north poerrorts to arvocating that the north po-lar ocean be crossed by a network of commercial aviation routes. He be-lieves there are almost inexhaustible resources in the Arctic regions.

A New York audience laughed at the ines Molly Fisher spoke, and listened ines Molly Fisher spoke, and istened closely when she sang, but no one knew she had come back to the stage totally blind. Many years a vaudeville star, she recently was found penniless, blind and alone in a tenament. Friends arranged the act to conceal her blindness and obtained the engagement for her.

es against the American congress and against the American people by a man in high position in Great Britain. I need only say that if he exhibited the same elements of sordid parsimony and uttered the same crude attacks upon the American people and the American congress while he was here, then the American debt funding commission should not have treated with him at all."

Asserting that the American commission violated the instructions given it by congress, Senator McKellar continued: "These statements which are little short of infamous having been made, the president owes it to the country to demand an apology for Mr. Baldwin's uncouth and untrue language.

"Our commission, it appears, made a proposition contrary to what it was instructed to offer by congress. There is one member of that commission (Mr. Smoot) in this body and one member in the other House (Mr. Burton). They owe it to the people of the country to make a public explanation of their conduct in offering such terms of settlement as referred to by Mr. Baldwin.

Demands British Disavowal.

"I do not know what position the administration is going to take on this subject. But I know what it ought to do. It should make immediate demand upon the British government to disavow the statements of its chancellor casting aspersions upon the American Senate and House and upon the American people and lastly upon the American debt commission. The British government should disavow these statements completely.

"Where is the great ambassador Harvey? Why does he not raise his voice in behalf of the government and the American people? Has he lost his voice permanently? He never seems to be on hand when something real is going on."

STATEMENT EXCITES FRENCH. By John T. Burke, Universal Service Correspondent.

Special Cable Dispatch.

London, Jan. 29 .- The French embassy here was staggered by the British semi-official statement issued Monday afternoon apparently from the prime minister's office.

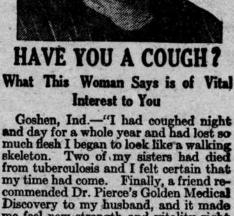
After referring to Britain's debt to America, the statement suggested, that public opinion, when considering the demand upon America for a reduction in the interest should bear in mind the fact that no repayments of dehts owed to Britain by her European allies could be expected, and that there could be no hope for any further substantial reparations from Germany.

EXCITEMENT CAUSES DEATH.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., Jan, 29 (A. P.)-Glenn Kersh, aged 16, son of M. G. Kersh, city clerk of Tuscaloosa, died Sunday from public effects of excitement following an initiation at the Sigma Nu fraternity house upon the campus of the University of Alabama here, according to a verdict of a coroner's jury.

French racing and other sporting news has been added to the German boycott index against France,

The longest wave measured by officers of the United States hydrographic serice was half a mile, and it did not spend itself for 23 seconds.



me feel new strength and vitality right from the start and in a year's time I was just as strong and hardy as ever. I have never suffered with a deep, hack-ing cough since (that was about 20 years ago) and have always felt very grateful to Dr. Pierce."-Mrs. Eliza Teeter, 413 Middlebury St.

Whenever you feel the need of good confidential medical advice, address Dr. Pierce, president Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo N. Y., and answer will be returned with-out charge of any kind.

The Early Bird.

Salesman-Can I see that motorist that was brought here an hour ago? Nurse-He hasn't come to his senses

"Oh, that's all right. I want to sell nim another car."-Judge.

SHE DYED A SWEATER. SKIRT AND CHILD'S COAT WITH "DIAMOND DYES"

Each package of "Diamond Dyes" con-tains directions so simple any woman can dye or tint her worn, shabby dresses, skirts, waists, coats, stockings, sweaters, coverings, draperies, hangings, everything, even if she has never dyed before. Buy "Diamond Dyes"—no other kind—then perfect home dyeing is sure because Dia-mond Dyes are guaranteed not to spot, fade, streak, or run. Tell your druggist whether the material yes what to dye is wool or silk, or whether it is linen, cotton or mixed goods.—Advertisement. Each package of "Diamond Dyes" con-

Cause for Tears.

"You've been crying, darling. What is it?" "Oh, muvver, the sled stopped and I didn't."



tenderest sympathy.

and she slipped swiftly out of his arms, and knelt beside the fountain, the spray powdering her hair with rainbow dust. And when she had bathed her face free of the blood stain-though

