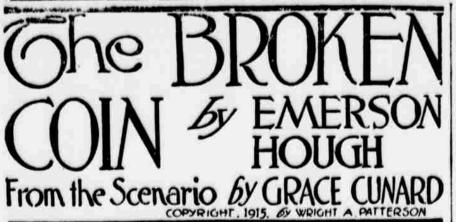
RED CLOUD, NEBRASKA, CHIEF



Nove.tzed From the Motion Picture Drams of the Same Name. Produced by the Universal Film Manufacturing Company.

SYNOPSIS.

Kitty Gray, newspaper woman, finds in a curlo shop half of a broken coin, the mutilated inscription on which arouses her curiosity and leads her, at the order of her managing editor, to go to the prin-cipality of Gretzhoffen to plece out the story suggested by the inscription. She is followed, and on arrival in Gretzhoffen her adventures while chasing the secret of the broken coin begin. of the broken coin begin.

TWENTY-FIRST INSTALLMENT

CHAPTER LXXIII.

The Encounter at Sea. Over the sea, up into the stars, sped the distress call of the ship at sea: "S. O. S. Gretzhoffen! S. O. S. Gretz-

boffen!" Broken, incoherent at times, but imperative, the strident wail of the wireless clamoring out into the empty air, asking for ears far away to listen to what it said. And ears did hear-the ears of friends.

The prime minister of Gretzhoffen, as has been said, had by this time succeeded in making some sort of a clearance of the unwelcome guests of the Gretzhoffen palace. He had got the king to bed, some of his officers to horse, and a few of his servants to work. As for himself, he felt himself unable to establish the broken machinery of the government on any lasting basis. Frederick-Count Frederick-the man with the strong brain and arm-where was he?

Beut upon answering for himself this somewhat imperative question, the prime minister made search here and there for some clue to the misstrail to the dock whence Count Fred. | there?" erick had sailed so many days ago. He learned that at the time the king's yacht had put out there had been seen the line of smoke of a passing steamer, far below, toward the mouth of had set out with the purpose of interhappened none could tell. Somewhere out on the sea the nobleman of Gretzhoffen had disappeared.

Therefore, said the prime minister to himself, it might well be true that Count Frederick, having been gone a certain period of time, might now be ready to return. These long absences | powered. were usual with him, but always he had come back. Hitherto that had the prime minister, to have one of

than half of that where we lie nowwe cannot be more than forty miles from him this minute." "Easily within that, excellency. The

stuff comes awfully strong-they are close, that is sure."

"Send the captain at once," ordered the official.

The captain came and learned this news also. At once the bow of the yacht was headed toward this call, which came down out of the stars imploringly, urging speed. That was what the night called out

with its mysterious voice. The quick wit of Count Frederick had availed in this emergency in which he found himself. He knew that the Adelina would be in commission. He hoped that someone might be found to take command. He knew that any aid which came, must come soon.

The Adelina now swung in full speed, her engines purring softly in a continuous roll as she took up her top gait, and held it steadily. Always the call came, "S. O. S .- Gretzhoffen-S. O. S .-- Gretzhoffen." For, as a matter of fact, although left long since in his own den on the upper deck, the operator of the Princess had dutifully done what he had been bidden to do. They plowed on into the starry night for some time. At length an exclamation came from the captain to the official who stood at his side on the bridge.

"I see her!" said he. "Dead ahead, and coming on at a good clip herself. Screaming bloody murder. Well, well, we will see in a couple of jiffles what it is all about. She's not sinkinging nobleman. His agents ran the she's not on fire-what's wrong

Meantime, on board the Princess such confusion reigned that at the time none saw the swift approach of the Adelina. The owner of the Princess was busy with his late pristhe bay. Apparently the king's yacht oners. Count Frederick was once more assailed when he attempted to leave cepting this steamer. What then had the wireless room-where, as has been said, the operator still held to his task. wholly ignorant, naturally, that his call to Gretzhoffen had been answered thus swiftly. Indeed, Frederick and Kitty both found themselves in desperate plight enough, for one of them

was outnumbered, and the other over-

But now there came the calling of men on deck, and the rush of feet as meant his return by land. Now it they ran here and there. Even Wyndmust mean is return by sea. It ham, engaged in his drunken sport of might be quite as well, reasoned the bectoring the weak girl who cowered elpless and terrifie at length left her and came on deck. By this time Frederick had once more broken free of the men who had attacked him, and had himself reached a place on deck whence he could see the outline of the oncoming boat. The searchlight of the Adelina swept the decks of the Princess. Back of it could be seen little except the loom of her rigging. But now came the flash of a shot and its plunge into the sea dead ahead of the Princess. "Good bless us!" exclaimed Wyndham, almost sobered now at this. 'They are firing on us-firing on the British flag. It's not done, you know!' "But it is done, sir," said the executive officer at his elbow, when a second shot carried away a part of the rail. "mademoiselle-" bowsprit of the Princess. "Round to, She stirred-moved-but did not or she will sink us." withdraw the hand. Still she looked

stant's hesitation."

ham suddenly, impressed by the force of these words.

"1 am Count Frederick of Gretzhoffen, of the king's cabinet, and his general in chief as well," said Count

Frederick. "This is the government boat for which I called. Aboard it yonder is the prime minister of our kingdom. We are a small people, sirrah, but we do not lack spirit. Send for your own ships if you like, and blow down our walls-you are a I know not how long. I never knew stronger people than ours. But we it. Its secret was hidden. It is but will see them fall before we will now that I myself have found it. Ah. humble ourselves to such as you. As had I the key to that as well, I should to what you have done-say one word be the happiest man in all the world." more, and we will sink you and take

our chances with your flag." Count Frederick, having thus spoken, turned away, and paid no more attention to the master of the Prin-CHES.

"Come," said he to Kitty, when at last he had found her.

In a few moments the two were on board the yacht of their own countryor at least that of Count Frederick. With a final shot of defiance to the craft from which they now had escaped, the Adelina again got under way and swept a wide curve around. heading back for the port of Gretzhoffen. The Princeas, soon hull-down in the distance, made her way off as best she liked, to be held thereafter only in a contemptuous memory.

CHAPTER LXXIV.

The King of All Countries.

Count Frederick signified to the prime minister that affairs of state were little to his liking at this time. and that he desired to be alone. On me. But between now and then, long the deck of the Adelina, therefore years of happiness lie-long years of might now be seen but two persons- love-long, happy, useful years."

not they for his! To serve wisely "Who are you?" demanded Wynd- and justly-mademoiselle, it was you who taught me the beauty of that ambition!" Silence fell again. She did not

speak. She dreaded to hear what yet she longed to hear.

"The treasure of the king, buried so long, mademoiselle-yes! But one treasure which also now I have found! Love, mademoiselle-that is what I have found, the greatest treasure of them all. It was buried in my heart,

She still gazed out across whitetipped, rippling waves. Her face softened, but what he saw now on her cheek was a tear, stealing down below her lashes! Grieved, he himself could not speak. At last she turned to

him. "I am so sorry!" said she.

"For what, mademoiselle? You know I love you, that I never will love again. Is not that the truth itself?

Can you doubt it? Doubt me, fail to believe my every word and I will go. You shall not see me again." It was like him thus boldly to challenge fate. But she only shook her

head. "I cannot," said she. "I wish I

could." "But you cannot?"

He had her hands in his now. And now she turned her face toward him. "You shall never deny the truth. my dear," said he. "All my life I shall challenge you to deny me and my love. When you can, when I have been unfaithful to you, life ends for

Count Frederick and Kitty Gray, They | "Happy? Useful? Yes, for you



again we will sink you without an in- | see now that the king is for their use, | said she, "you yourself might be." might be what, my dear?" "You might be king!" "No," said ho. "In the country

where we will live love alone will be the king."

CHAPTER LXXV.

The Last Siege.

"Excellency," interrupted the prime minister, at length approaching the deck where Frederick still sat with the young American-"Excellency, I intrude, but perhaps-"

"What is it?" demanded the nobleman calmly. "Are they calling us from our own port?"

"Precisely that, excellency. We have a wireless call. We were summoned out, and now are summoned back again. They demand that we shall come quickly."

"What is wrong?" demanded Count Frederick, springing to his feet. "Everything, excellency! Word has

come that Grahoffen is marching against us once more-even now our city may be besteged." For a moment Count Frederick

stood silent. "I see," said he. "That faithless tyrant Cortislaw has forgot his treaty and is going to war against us when he thinks us unprepared. His traitor and spy, Sachio, has kept him well advised-1 warrant that. How are they coming this time?"

"In part by land, but also in a strong fleet by sea."

"So they are attacking on what they think the weaker side of our works. Is there no such thing as faith among kings-is there nowhere honesty in all the world-is there no man of faithfulness and power any more?"

"Sire," said the prime minister, uncovering and bowing to him. "there is one such in our own country."

"Michael, our king-that man?" "No, sire, not Michael, our king. It

is none other than yourself I mean. In you only can our kingdom have any hope-that is plainer now than it has ever been in all our history. Times must change or we are undone. We must dethrone our king at last. Take the place, I beseech you, excellency, which belongs to you, the place which you only can hold, for, believe me, it is only in you that Gretzhoffen may have any hope.

"I trust that you will remember that it was myself that first made this plain to your excellency," he added, thoughtfully.

"Time for all that later," said Count Frederick hastily. "First we must get back to port and pull together such forces as we can."

"Excellency, I. myself, attempted something of that before we left." said the prime minister. "I attempted hoping to find his foe off his guard to carry out such orders as I fancied you would have given had you been there. Some of the regiments, no doubt, have assembled. The guns may be ready on our sea-front now." "Very well. Full speed ahead then.

We may not be in time." They were but barely in time. Be fore the Adelina docked in Gretzhoffen port there might have been seen in the bay the smoke of the advancing fleet-the Grahoffen expeditionary force already was crowding in for the anding. At the same time, upon the opposite side of the city, the army of Grahoffen, in full force, was advancing over the route which heretofore had carried the assault. Already this column, composed of cavalry, infantry and the full artillery of Grahoffen, had passed the neutral strip, and was entering the suburbs below the castle | the two fighting men dared not turn wa''s of the Gretzhoffen citadel.

pressed toward the interior of the palace once more. As he had boasted, ne knew this place as well as his own bedchamber. He rushed on through the wide hall, down the stairs to the floor below, and back to the point whence led down the galleries of the cavern's floor under the castle itself. He smiled now grimly as he hastened. As yet he was unhurt, and as yet he was unsuspected. Once more his sanguine soul lusted for success and counted on it.

He met no opposition, heard nowhere in these portions of the palace any footfall or any voice. Thus for a moment or two he strode on-and then paused, frozen in his stride by that which confronted him.

Sachio was sure that he had seen the last of the young American. He reasoned that in all likelihood Count Frederick-of whose absence he knew quite well through his own secret agents-had joined her somewhere. He knew of the wreck of the Prinz Adler. Sachio was clear in his own mind that these two enemies of his were gone, never again to confront him.

And yet now, as though spirits summoned by his own thoughts, they stood before him-both of them-the tall nobleman and the slender, shrinking girl leaning on his arm. Yes, it was they! His enemies had arisen from the very grave to confront him.

He paused irresolute, unnerved, not believing what he saw, and for the time himself made no speech.

"What do you here, Sachio?" broke in the deep voice of his enemy, once his friend-a friend once too oftep betrayed.

"I came by virtue of my sword." said Sachio, boldly now, seeing that he might not evade this issue.

"By virtue of your sword only shall you escape from here, Sachio," said Count Frederick, calmly. "Stand back of me, mademoiselle, and give me reach."

In a flash the swords of the two went out and joined in the encounter. Each was an excellent swordsman, and for a moment neither had advantage. The young girl screamed in terror at the sight, for she knew the redoubtable reputation of Sachio as a swordsman, and long ere this she had selected the one whom she desired to see victor in this or any encounter.

But Count Frederick did not glance her way. His eye was still fixed on that of his opponent. Only, softly, gently, he repeated to her, "Stand back, mademoiselle. Give us room." Sachio was full of tricks. He had no wish to waste time here, and yet knew not how to pass the blade now opposing him. Suddenly he flung up his hand to his chest as though struck. for just an instant. It did not result so. The steady point of Count Frederick lay gleaming before his breast ready to thrust. And for another reason was this subterfuge worse than a useless one for Sachio. As he caught his hand against his bosom there came from its concealment in his pocket something metallic, which fell upon the floor. It rolled but briefly, for it was not round-this piece of metal. It was a half coin.

Upon this Kitty fell with a sudden v. She knew i

earliest interviews with Count Frederick on his return. It was well, surely, to be well established with those who would take control of affairs in the distracted kingdom of Gretzhoffen.

"I shall even take our other yacht, the Adelina," said the prime minister to himself, "and put myself in the way of the royal yacht, should it now be re turning." And even so he did.

The Adelina was a stout little steaming craft, of good lines, and well enough armed.

The prime minister did not hasten in his errand, for indeed he had no definite purpose in view. Only, having put the Adelina into commission, he pushed out quite beyond the bay, until he felt the long roll of the Mediterranean under him. Then, as it chanced, at a point not so far from the late shipwreck of the Prinz Adler, he slackened speed and kept himself barely under way. Having nothing better to do, he waited.

It was night now, and the stars were shining brightly above. The gentle airs of the South European sea were soft and languorous. But, to the prime minister, as he restlessly paced the deck of the Adelina, these things were lost. He was engaged in reflections of none too pleasant a nature. Sighing, he said to himself: "There is no use in this. I might as well put back."

He turned as the boat's wireless operator hastened to him now, a paper in his hand. He had not noticed the crackle of his own wireless masts of late, although from time to time he had sent out signals in the hope of striking somewhere some information regarding the missing craft.

"I beg pardon, sir," said the messenger excitedly, "but we have just got an S. O. S. Someone is calling the Adelina."

"Calling us-where is it-who it?" demanded the prime minister.

"They are calling Gretzhoffen and signing 'Frederick.' It is S. O. S .they are in trouble somewhere. Who is it. excellency?"

The prime minister started 88 though struck by an electric shock. "Frederick! Who but the very man I want-Count Frederick-and calling us! Tell me-what is it that he says?" "Only the same thing, excellency-

'S. O. S.-Gretzhoffen-Adelina-Frederick.' And, yes-he says 'One hundred and seventy-five miles southsouthwest."

One hundred and seventy-five miles

"They are damned pirates!" said Wyndham. "I'll not have it."

"Pirates or not, sir." said the executive officer, "they will sink us if we don't round to."

The next instant he took the matter into his own hands. The engine bells clanged below. The ship slackened speed, stopped, and lay rolling in the sea. By this time the boats of the Adelina were putting out, well packed with marines. They swarmed aboard now without invitation, and appeared eminently ready for any business that might be offered.

"Who are you?" demanded Wyndham. "What do you mean by boarding my boat?"

"What do you mean by sending a wireless, sir?" demanded the officer of reason for remaining." marines. "You called us, and we are here. What is wrong?" work is but beginning-I say, our

work. Mademoiselle-Katharine-you "I will tell you what is wrong," broke in Count Frederick here, pushknow, you surely know!" ing his way forward. "We are two prisoners here-a young lady and mycheek turned away from him, but she self. We have been mishandled, both made no answer. of us, by this ruffian here. He or dered me in irons for no reason in the do I not know? Some power drove us on-some good purpose was under world except to give him better his own way with this young lady. He is your coming here-it was some plan neither officer nor gentleman. Having of fate which brought you. As you no means of reckoning with him, I. its broken tongue. All the time it myself, ordered the wireless sent out to Gretzhoffen. I called you on my own responsibility. We needed help, speak-to tell what was hid-to tell

and we thank God you have come." us, mademoiselle, what was right." The master of the Princess now stood crestfallen, much of his bravado

gone. "I meant nothing," said he. "I will forget it all, captain, if you

let me go-although we ought to blow you out of the water," said Frederick. "and all like you. You are not fit to fly any flag, least of all the good one as we like we may use all these for -that, of course, must mean from the that you disgrace. Clear out with you, the good of this country. Yonder holding back from what she feared.

port whence he sailed. We are more and leave these waters. If you show weak king must go. The people! I

"The Other Half of the Coin," Exclaimed Kitty.

waves lay her own country, so very

She half turned to him at this-

though still her hand lay under his.

been like a dream. I wonder if I am

mademoiselle. As to your return, how

"No reason, mademoiselle?

"I thank heaven that you are both.

"My work is done here. I have no

He could see the color rise in the

"Oh," he went on rapidly, "I know-

"Yes," said she, slowly. "Liberty-

meant, perhaps. Those were the bur-

ied treasures which so long have

-we own the key to all of them now-

been lost to this people."

Our

see, we are going home."

elation in it after all.

awake, if I am alive."

can that be?"

joined Count Frederick.

far away.

sat near the rail, both silent, the girl perhaps, but how for me? You canlooking out over the rippling sea, not come to my country. How can i across which the good boat now was stay here? What place is there for leaping on her homeward way. me?

"Mademoiselle," said he softly, his He took her face now between hi hands and looked her fair in the eyes hand falling on hers as it lay on the -eyes now filled with tears.

"But," said she, "was it fair-was it fair to make me love you-when out across that sea beyond whose could have no hope-to make me love you-and then to send me away?"

"Send you away! That should nev "Mademoiselle." said he once more. er be. If need be, I also would go."

"And leave your duty-your place here? Then I should not love you." "Then you do!"

"Soon," said she at length, sighing. In spite of the tears in her face 'I must be going." Her voice had no Kitty Gray suddenly smiled with a miraculous sweetness. "I am Ameri can," said she. "We have a fable of "Going. mademoiselle, where?" reone George Washington. I am like "Home, across the sea. It has all him-I cannot tell a lie!"

> All her answer now was inarticulate. He caught her in his arms and for the moment neither of them cared what the past had been, what the future might be.

"Fate has spoken!" said she. only it were right that we might be together-I should spend my life in trying to make you happy, too, Sir Frederick. But you cannot go with me-that would be wrong, and how can I remain here? You forget I am an American. I am an alien here, and I am not of your-"

He laid a hand upon her lips, frowning. "You shall not say that word," said he. "You shall not mention rank or class-never in all your life to me. What we have won, we have won tohave said, the coin itself spoke with gether. What we enjoy, we shall enjoy together. What of honor or rank has been crying out, endeavoring to | or reward there is for me, that shall be for you as well. I will listen to nothing-I will not tolerate the thought of your leaving me now-I justice-that was the message that it say, we but begin everything."

"Now, come," said he at length, firmly. "If life ended for us both now, it would not have been lived in vain. "Yes! But we have found them all Fear not as to the future. Let it rest. Come with me."

> She hesitated for yet an instant, "Why, in the last turn of events."

They came exultantly, confident of their victory, and swept on as though eager to begin the sacking of the city. And the sacking of Gretzhoffen surely had begun but for the arrival of one man.

The prime minister was right. The confidence of the people of Gretzhoffen, as much of it as was left for any one man, now rested solely in the nobleman who held so prominent a part in the country's affairs of late--Count Frederick of Gretzhoffen. Swiftly enough passed from lip to lip the news that Count Frederick had come. that he would lead the army, that he would direct the defense of the city. that his mind was organizing the resistance. And as this word passed, cheers followed it. The men flocked readily to the standards, and once more abided the shock of arms. in this strained moment Count

Sachio of Grahoffen made good his promise to his king-he fought in the front rank of his own troops, and not even the jealous eyes of Cortislaw himself could find fault with his courage or his judgment. He himself led the last assault against the walls, which finally broke through the outer

defenses. The forces of Grahoffen advanced so rapidly that it seemed indeed as though Cortislaw would make good his threat to leave standing not one stone upon another in this capital of his enemy.

This was Sachio's opportunity, and he knew it-it was his crucial hour.

One thought even more potent than his ambition for military glory still ruled the soul of this warlike nobleman. Sachio fought that he might gain one thing-the treasurers of the king, buried deep somewhere in this citadel. That treasure was the cause of this war. Without its discovery the war itself was worthless.

He stole away from the head of his troops as finally they broke in among the shrubbery of the palace gardens-as yet not having met the encounter of the ambushed troops of ...tzhoffen, again cunningly and effectively disposed for this purpose Gray had summoned him. The other by the orders of Count Frederick himself.

He made his way up the palace stairs, fought through the guard which through which she but now had fied. defended the entrance, and thus alone

this bit of metal. She knew how Sachio must have prized it, and now how Sachio, in the luck of the game, had lost, and lost by his own hand.

Agile as a cat, the girl stooped, ran in, and emerged with the bit of metal in her hand. And still the eyes of her way. Sachio laughed, and tossed over his shoulder a taunting word.

"It is worthless, mademoiselle," said he-"counterfeit-'tis nothing.'

Count Frederick said nothing, but he heard her words coming to him now from behind his shoulder.

"I have got them!" she exclaimed. both halves of the coin-they are ours-they are ours-I am going now -come quick-as soon as you can."

But the cold eye of Count Frederick never turned from the face of his adversary. He made no answer to these words, although he heard the sound of her footfalls back of him as she fled down the hall toward the interior of the caverns.

"Well, Sachio," said Count Frederick, "your trickery failed. Your attack has failed at every point. Fate fights against you, Sachio. You have lost the toss of the die. You have lost the coin."

The strong wrist of the swarthy nobleman covered his breast with his extended steel. His eyes, bold even in this extremity, met that of his opponent. But Sachio knew the die indeed was cast. He knew now that he had failed.

For one moment he edged on inch by inch, endeavoring to reach a point from which he might spring past Frederick, and so follow the fleeing girl down the passageway. But always the other edged inch by inch in front of him. Always the cold eye looked into his. Always the steady steel menaced him.

"Yes, Sachio," said Frederick, once more, coldly, "I shall kill you. Shall it be now?

But Sachio himself suddenly closed this present encounter, suddenly deferred what he himself knew in swift consternation must be his end. With a quick sweep of his sword defending

the front of his body, he sprang to one side and back. Casting down upon the floor the blade with which he had fought, he fied incontinently. Count Frederick did not pursue him. Two things prevented that. One of these was the errand to which Kitty reason was Kitty Gray herself.

Turning he hastened after her, fast as he might, down the deep passages (TO BE CONTINUED.)