## CHAPTER X.

The Folly of a Soldier. was not until he had run somce slong the lane that Ellerey companion was not beside There were no sounds of hurfeet in pursuit. He could not out-distanced his enemies so letely in so short a time, either had come no farther than the in the wall, or had turned in the opposite direction, perhaps fol-

With his sword still in his 'nand, held ready for deadly work at a moment's notice, he retraced his steps, his senses sharp set to detect the or movement near understand?" him. Heavy clouds had enguifed the moon now, the darkness was extreme, and the silence of the night unbroken. He went forward careful-Ellerey found the door with difficulty, indeed by chance, for it was cunningly hidden. Whatever danger, he must enter the garden again in search for his comrade. The door was shut, and as he feit along it from top to bottom, touching no laten nor handle, nor keyhole even, he realized that entrance that The door only opened from within. He had stepped back to consider how, and at what point, he could best scale the when a slight movement close beside him caused him to stand on the defensive in a moment.

"Is that you, Ellerey?" "You got out then? Thanks heav-"Yes; I didn't speak because thought you were one of them, and just now I'm no match for a babe in

He was leaning against the wall : few feet from the gate. Ellerey had supposed him farther off by faintness of his voice, "Are you hurt?"

"Nothing serious, I think, but I've had a good deal of blood let out of me. I should 'nave occupied that grave in the garden for a certainty had it not been for the baron's ond, who stood over me when I know. fell, and, when the blackguards retreated from the door, put me out-This wasn't the baron's doing." "Perhaps not." Ellerey answered

"Can you manage to walk?" "Yes, if you'll let me hang on to you, and we don't have to go far. When I was put outside something was said about going to the left." "We'll go to the left, then; but haven't an idea where we are.

The wounded man was weaker than he imagined. Before they had gone fifty yards he began to reel, and even as he suggested that Ellerey should go on and get help, he arms and carried him. His one idea Run. I shall know if your errand is was to get as far away from the quickly done, and wee-betide you if scene of the night's adventure as you lolter." carried him, resting at intervals, all might chance to be watching him.

in my face?"

"Aye, I quarrel not with your face. The bey who turned quickly into but there is that on your tangue the street, and then came along m

face for a moment. the wondered, and a smile wrinkled and bawl for information like that taste his Burgundy, ontil you found him?" asked the sol- "Out! So early!" corners of his mouth

His companion in safe keeping.

Herey beagn actively to consider his "I spoke no louder than I always." He knew Dr. Goldberg do," answered the boy. reputation, but he had no desire difficult, and might well be left to ing. Come within the doorway, my the wounded man.

mother," he said, "and there is tion in a lower tone. thing to help my poor thanks.

rould have purchased a far begin at cock crow." or service. The pencil and pawere brought, and Ellerey wrote "I want his servant, Siefan." ly for a few moments; then tore

"If the lad would earn something, send him after me quickly," he said, and then he went up the garden path and took the road to the city. In a few moments the boy over-

know the palace, my "Do you lad?"

"To the right of it there is a large square. "I know it," answered "the foreigners who hate

there. of yours, or you'll be using it squealing for mercy under the waip. Ask there for Dr. Goldberg's house, and give him this paper. Do you

The lad nodded. "Run quickly then, and afterward come to me in the Grande Place. You know the statue of King Ferdinand there? I shall be beside it. of foes, and the silence be a trap to Away with you. The quicker you do

The lad needed no second bidding.

He started off at a brisk trot, and Ellerey pursued his way to the city. The gates were open, and there were few abroad in the streets as yet; but the thought of the many hands which had sought to despatch him in the garden last night made Ellerey proceed with greater caution than he had even exercised. Only a few in the dim light could have seen his face sufficiently to recognize him, but he drew the cloak up to his chin and concealed his face as much as possible. He avoided the larger thoroughfares, being undestrous of meeting any acquaintances; and in the smaller streets which he traversed he might at any moment come face face with one of that crowd he had so recently escaped from. He went warily, therefore, looking for the slightest glance of recognition in the face of every man he met.

In the neighborhood of the Grande Place he lingered in a side street until he saw the lad approaching the statue , which he went to meet him. "You delivered the letter?"

I was asked who gave it to me, and I said a man I did not "That was true enough," Ellerey

returned. "Here's for your trouble. Would you earn more?" The boy's eyes glistened fingers closed on the silver. It was easy to buy faithful service in Sturatzberg so long as no one was near to offer a higher price for unfaithfulness. Ellerey judged that such a messenger as this lad would pass un-

challenged and unnoticed. "Take this to the western gate and ask for the lodgings of a captain called Ellerey. He has a servant named Stefan-give him the paper. "He shall have it."

There is double payment. And having watched

there had been no itme to selze to expect; but with his wits clear, husband of me some day, she said, them as he rushed from the garden, Sitting up, he glanced round the and those that heard her told me the and he carried a grievously hurt room for signs of 'his master's return.

man in his arms. The first peasant, and, seeing none, grunted again in trudging to his early toll, who caught sight of them would run and tell the beside him, and he drank the flat reher word. When a woman's set upon news as he went. Such publicity mains from last night's measure with a matter, where's the hole a man was to be avoided at all costs, or a wry face. Then he pushed open may find safety in? Tell me that, there would be small chance of his the door of his master's room and Monsieur Francois."

Already a long, thin streak of gray muster had not entered without be- companion was. showed low down in the east, and ing heard. "Here's another street

up some sleepy pensan' and have to ablutions were taken at irregular in- much about?' And I answers cuncombat his inquisitiveness, as well as tervals, semetimes at long intervals, ningly, knowing the value of caution his annoyance, at heing so unceremos and this was not the time for them in such times as these. At last I adproved the such two cross-roads met the expled a to take some of the tangle out of it, a fat woman,—that's what he called the small habitation, from which a thin shook his great frame to force his ed her. Monsieur Francois—There's wreath of smoke was rising into the clothes into comfortable position, a fat woman you're afraid of because 8y. Captain Ward had certainly morning air, and decided to try his lightened his loosened belt, and took she's going to marry you.' I sweated been injured, but that was the refortune here. He had set his bury off his boots. For a few moments from every hole in my skin, thinking suit of an accident; they had Dr. den down by the gate when an old be set on the settle, his legs stretch- the time had come. Then says he: woman came from the house with a cd out wide apart, then he drew on You needn't be afraid any more, that the younger wiseacres smiled, pail going to a well in the garden for his houte again, and stamping himwater. She was married yesterday to a timber-cutter from Breslen way, and had been punished for some in-"Good mother," Ellercy called out, whatever the slay might bring forth he'll tame her fast enough like you discretion. Some townsman,

back to circulate his blood, and then in fondling a woman answered the voman wall as though he were a fixture gate?

which does not greatly please me slowly looking to this side and that.

"The accent of a foreigner" ask hardly appeared the kind of visitor ed Ellerey. "Shall I all you a see heresary to move the soldier. Stecret? The time is coming when you fan looked at him because there was shall have little enough of such an no one obe in the street look at; breadth of the land."

but he wax little interested. As the last came nearer, however, the solution such a prophecy you are after became aware that the sleepy but he was little interested. As the the garden path, and with the help opposite was drawn asine to a mo-of the woman and her grandson, who hend, and a face looked out. The stared in wonder at their coming, speedily to satisfy, for the blind stared in wonder at their coming. soon had him comfortably placed on quickly fell back into its place again, "Send Dr. Goldberg to me," said had seen those peering eyes, and Without actually looking up, Stefan his companion. The lives close to the curiously enough they had him interest. The mention of the name caused Ellerey began actively to consider his. "Can you tell me where a Captair

true comrade, and Ellery had given title thought to his identity, now Were you told to go into a street turn, and while you wait you shall

"inen it's a hale pair of lungs visit him just now. To invent a you've got concealed in that body of cois. I know." satisfy the dector would be yours. I'm nigh deaf with your shout-He took up his lad, and whisper. Perhaps I'll cauch tion's cloak-he could hardly the meaning of your question when into the city as he was-and then it does not drum through me like the

give me a piece of paper this selfsame house, but's he not en my tongue."
me a pescil?" abroad yet." said Stefan. "We do hie took two golden coins clinking in her sometimes sleep, and our day doesn't from the shelf, and led the way

"Aye, he never sleeps at all." "I live too nigh the city for fairy-tales," said the boy. "Will you bring me to this same Stefan? I

of a delicate constitution, this fan—I know, for I am he." moment.

"Is that truth?" "I like your caution," Stefan turned. "You'll succeed, whether deal with men or women, though women will bring out all your met-tle, I warrant. Yes, truth, I am

"I was to give this paper to you." The soldier opened it and read it, not without some difficulty, it seemed. "Who gave you this?"
"A man, I know no more of him."

ome? "On the road toward Breslen." "Good. Which way lies your ly, and look you my lay, should anyask what errand you have been on this morning, be a fool and forget. If your memory's too good, it's like enough some friend of mine will be spoiling those fine lungs of yours. Hast ever heard a man try to shout with a sword thrust through him?"

"No. sir." "I have," Stefan answered. "It's a fearsome sound, like a whisper bubbling up through water. I'd be sorry to hear it from you. Off with

Stefan watched the boy out of the "Here's news that's an excuse for

ing. somewhat." ment," said a voice at the door.

but did not pause in his drinking until three parts of the liquid was gone. across his beard and mustache and sighed with satisfaction.

for good tidings, Monsieur Francois.' after him. The Frenchman, with a quick glance found the room, stepped in, a down the street with a self-satisfied smile upon his lips. He had told his smile, a strapped-up bundle under master more than once that this ser- his arm and was soon lost to view in of Captain Ellerey's drunkard adn a fool, and that little nithing was ever trusted to him. "And what are the good tidings?

you don't understand my Monsieur Francols. I hate women." "Hate them! Ma fol. Then is your disease very lamentable."

he asked.

"Well, there It is-I hate tnem," said Stefan, "but there was one woman who would not hate me, do what possible, but his progress was slow, the lad disappear, Ellerey went I would. She was a bonny wench, so His comrade revived presently, but, quickly down a side street, and by far as I am a judge, of bigger girth His comrade revived presently, but, and such that the standard presently but, but and task was beyond him. So Ellerey track, sought to escape any spy who are of muscle to appeal to a soldier like me. At the street corner carried him, resting at intervals, all might chance to be watching him.

At dawn Stefan stretched out 'nis she'd wait awhile to see me pass, she'd wait awhile to see me pass, she'd wait awhile to see me pass, and cutting carriage roads through the nearer stretches of the forest which touched the city on this side was due to Ferdinand I, whose statue 'Does not the baron kind on the previous them provided the provided t

"This morning there comes a lad

"Ah. from Monsieur De Freilette?"

Burgundy, to keep the morning air had failed to arouse the King's susout of your return journey."

spoke of it just now. Monsieur De how innocent her audience with Cap-Froilette is over-cautious, Stefan; that tain Ellerey had been, but the fact

the soldier replied, "and so they over- er means were taken to obtain postrust me, and my ears are ever on made his peace, and messengers galmay use to my advantage. But I the palace. tain is out, you must await his re- one for Frina Mayrodin. From the

"Oh, he's in love, I think, for he walks under the stars often, and on his return sighs like a gataering storm, I hear things, Monsieur Fran-The wily Frenchman nodded aym-

for what you know."
"That's been in my mind, these If the room, beckoning the woman cry of a drunken crowd of rioters." many days," Stefan answered. "It's him in a spirit of raillery, follow him, Somewhat abashed, the boy did as the first word that sticks in my ing her woman's wit and I will send the doctor at once, he was told and repeated his ques- throat. I've never let out secrets before, maybe because no man has told "By a strange chance he lives in me any. Come, the wine may loos-

He took two tankards and a key а разваде. For a few moments; then tore in the servant, Stefan."

"By another strange chance he lives here, too. What do you want with him?"

"Its other he kept in his hand."

"Is he abroad pet?"

"another strange chance he simplicity. It would be strange if Stefan could not tell him some news which would be useful to Monsieur De Froilette. "I don't want him," said the lad. eagerly, laughing at his companion's

Scurve y treatment, Monsieu ing and hever ask a soldier comvade to pass an opinion. So we help our-selves."

have a message for him."

"Don't bawi it, lad, whisper. He's in a copious draught while Francois of a delicate constitution, this Ste-sipped with the air of a connoisseur.

"Fit for a king's palate," he mur-

"Say rather for the gods. Nectar, monsieur, nectar! My secrets bubble to my tongue as the wine bubbles to "Turn them into good money, Ste-

fan. After all, what is this English captain to you?"

The soldier set down his tankard and lowered his voice into a confidentalal whisper.

There are some who take me for a fool," he said, coming nearer to his companion. "The captain did not "Good. Which way lies your return last night, and there have been watchers in the street."

"Watchers? Go on, Stefan what else?" said the Frenchman eagerly.
"Aye, I saw one draw back a blind n the house opposite not an hour What do you make of that, Monsieur Francois?" The answer was a smothered gur-

gle, for a cloth had been suddenly tied across the Frenchman's mouth. the muscles Stefan had shown him other. the muscles Stefan had shown him other. It hardly amounted to a little while ago; and before he had restraint, but the countess was fully realized what had happened, he more reserved and the Prinwas bound, gagged, and lying on his cess back on the floor.

leave here. Never look so solemn, personally, but toward the the wine which remained in his own "Never too early to drink thanks he left the cellar, locking the door

> A few minutes later he walked was a the lower purlieus of the city.

That night seven horsemen left was to be got out of him, because Sturatzberg, riding singly, and not all by the same gate. But, by which ever gate they left, they halted when they had ridden out of sight, and "You'll be laughing at me, because turned aside to reach the Breslen disease, road. The last to go was Stefan. He news-important news, It could not went by the southern gate, and once wait." free of the city, urged his horse forward toward the forest which lies Does the news mean action? Such between Breslen and Sturatzberg.

## CHAPTER XI.

In the Bois.

The Bols lay without the northern useful action of which he er been guilty, it was said.

in the Bols had inquired of one another whether the story concerning Baron Petrescu were true. One had heard this, another that. whispered that the baron had been killed in a duel by a member of the British embassy, being at the Toison d'Or, in the Ber-genstrasse, to keep his appointment. "Empty!" he said, satisfied that his shoulders, thinking what a fool his adversary's partisans. Blierey pressed forward as quickly as quarrel, maybe, and more torn looking up and down the street to inquired the name of the woman and possible to find an asylum. He pass-clothes to sell to the ragman."

Then Stefan made his morning tolding he came to, having no desire to knock let. It was a simple process. His that Captain Ellerey we hear so duelling, although it was seldom en-Goldberg's word for it. It was then "I would claim your nespitality"

The stree was still silent and demight a hungry sparrow in winter haps, with the luck on his side, had then set down the pull and came to and looked right and left. The cois, believe me, though I doubt the fence. No wonder the baron wished the gate.

then set down the pull and came to and looked right and left. The the gate.

"What is it" Defend us there's the city to stir itself. If Stefan felt blood on him, the exclaimed, pair, ing at the prostrate man.

"An attack in the night by some to mark it. He was stolid and imperturing who would have martiered in spood mother. My contride its good mother would have martiered deal on a shutter. He stoled would have martiered deal on a shutter. He for the Frenchman's inspection.

"Very beautiful," said Francois.

I believe me, taough I doubt the to keep the matter quiet.

Lord Cloverton knew the true stolute in he muscles in her arm wouldn't blush to be seen by the side of mine, and a woodcutter would have to cut deep into the forest before muscles stood out like these." And with a stood out like these. "And with a stood out like these." And with a stood Ugh! What tremely difficult one. The Queen had leaned with his shoulders ugainst the brings you so early to the western outwitted him, but the fact reamined that Captain Ellerey was not to be found at his lodging this morning. He had ascertained this fact. There was no doubt that Ellerey had some "I only carry messages for my understanding with her Majesty, and might have already left the city on his mission. The token might have "I'll deliver it. Tell me quickly, his mission. The token might have and you shall taste a drop of real been changed at the last moment. He picion through the Queen, but the in-"I was to tell it to the Captain, terests at stake demanded instant action, and another method must be "For such a prophecy you are dier became aware that the sleepy not to be trusted, then?"

gate. "You may come in the blind in a window of the house in these times," said Francois, "you how innocent her audience with Cap-"What!" thundered Stefan, "am I used. So Lord Cleverton went to the "It is a weakness of all masters," ing spirit in a rebellion. The soonthemselves. Give me a little session of his person the better. In confidence, and I am content, but dis- this manner the ambassador quickly the stretch to catch news which I loped hastily through the city from

The night had been a sleepless moment she had seen those figures descending the stairs, her thoughts had been fixed in one channel. She knew the baron's reputation as a swordsman, and her heart went the man who had met his insult with so swift a demand for retribution. The cause to which she was attached for which she was preapred to squander her wealth, to give her life even "Perhaps I might find a market were that necessary, had compelled her companionship with this adventurous Englishman. She had met "It's him in a spirit of raillery, measuragainst his brusqueness, and his resourcefulness and calm determination had won her admiration. The of a member of the Australan embascause was altogether forgotten sy who had often quite unconscious-sometimes in the mere pleasure she ly given her valuable information, had in being with him. He was not but she could add nothing to her The Frenchman followed as other men, quick with a compliughing at his companion's ment, ever ready to please. Not a

It would be strange if word of love had he spoken to her, and had been wounded, but she did not tell him some news to the strange word of love had he spoken to her, and had been wounded, but she did not her had been wounded, but she did not had been wounded.

had watched the man's career, believing that one day he might prove
useful to her cause; but as a woman she had also remembered the
circumstances of their meeting, and
had treasured them in her heart.
Only with this discovery had Frina
Mavrodin become fully conscious of
all Captain Ellersy's companionship
meant to her. The flood-gates were
suddenly opened, and the rushing
torrent of her emotions threatened
to sweep away all thought of the
cause she had worked for, and loved
and believed in. Almost had she
told him her secret to-night by her
cause questions, and the blood
dind us to the fact that they are
deager questions, aboats as she re-

and believed in. Almost had she told him her secret to-night by her eager questions, and the blood mounted to her cheeks as she remembered. How would he have answered her had he not been summoned to audience with the Queen? Leaning at the open window, looking at the heavy clouds which presently obscured the moon, she passed a night of restless anxiety. Somewhere, perhaps very near her, the man she loved had faced death to-night, calmily, fearlessly; even now he might be lived the lightless eyes toward the lying with sightless eyes toward the lightless eyes to the fact that they are dangerous. What is be to me

coming day, the new day which was so long in coming.

It came at last, and with her eyes bathed to remove all traces of the night's vigil, she went as usual to breakfast with the Princess, who was always an early riser. Since the night they had spaken of Cantain monstare. night they had spoken of Captain It was in vain that he tried to free Ellerey there had arisen a subtle dif-himself. He was no match against ference in their relations toward each

Was talked little of her and plans. She made more show of You'll have ample time to find taking her companion into her constreet, then he went in, and striking a match, burnt the paper, scattering the charred fragments on the
hearth.

out how much of a fool I am, Monfidence, but told her less. Ror this
difference, perhaps, Frina wsa chiefunless a miracle should happen you'll
be sharp set for a meal before you
had grown lukewarm, not to her cause wine," he said, pouring out a liberal man; you won't die. I'll send and which took so few and such trifling draught into the tankard. "A man release you as soon as it is safe to steps toward its end. She gets rusty as an old lock with wait- do so; and if it will save your char- did not wonder at it. No day pass- And the value of the news will de-This will grease the action acter I'll let your master in the Alted in which she herself had not a pend on the state of the timber him have failed, but al efforts to find strasse know that you did your best period of despair, a passionate longtrade," he added to himself as he then at a sign from Lord Cloverton "It's early hours for such refresh- to carry out his instructions and ing to drive things to a speedy conmake a fool of me. Should you be clusion, though the end brought fall-Stefan winked one eye over the able to drak yourself about presently ure. To her, her cause was parader what it is, rim of the tankard at the intruder, you have my full permission to hold mount, and she would not allow heryour mouth under any tap there in self to think of Desmond Ellerey Countess Mavrouin, he entered your mouth under any tap there in self to think of Desmond Ellerey Countess Mavrouin, he entered you example you example the cellar, and we'll never ask for apart from it; yet when Frina had in the conversation with the heartiness ger."

Termaps you example to think of Desmond Ellerey Countess Mavrouin, he entered you example to the conversation with the heartiness ger."

The cellar, and we'll never ask for apart from it; yet when Frina had in the conversation with the heartiness ger."

The cellar is the cellar in the conversation with the heartiness ger." Then he drew the back of his hand payment of the score." And drinking a manner claimed him, she remembered that morning on the downs, tankard and also in the Frenchman's every hue of land and sky, every withdrew, it was so evident that the evil days for Sturatzberg. Good-day he left the cellar, locking the door sound that had sung in her ears, ambassador intended to remain. Fri-Countess; if I can save the situation. centre of all was this man, who seem- Lord Cloverton could doubtless tell ed then to be her possession. He her the truth and although she did had come to her country, not at her not for one moment expect him to carriage had driven away, and then bidding, perhaps, but at her sugges- do so, she thought she could probtion surely, and she had a right to ably draw it from him with the help is allegiance. It was a woman's ar- of the knowledge she already pos-

gument, and a weak one, yet her sessed. heart seemed to excuse her. Dumitru was ushered in. "Pardon, Princess, but I have

"You are welcome, good Dumitru. is the only news I long for now." "Yes." was the answer. "This English captain 4s about to move. Whether he has the token or not I do not know, but Baron Petrescu believes he has. Last night he picked a quargate. The work of planting gardens rel with ihm, and they fought,

"Fool that he is!" exclaimed the able of being business-like?" now he has killed or a useless quarrel."

was the baron who fell." Frina Mavrodin had also from the table, her hands clasped the first sounds of the crackling." firmly together in her excitement,

and a little sigh of relief echoed Du- ning often," she answered, mitru's words. "A new experience for Baron Pet- uation."

rescu," she said calmly. "Ah, Countess, this Englishman is minent as it is now, Countess." the man went on rapidly. the light was dancing and treacherbaron's art, and besides something while carrying out the policy of my which the baron knew not. The bar- own?" on would have killed had not those who were watching saved him."

interfered ?" said Princess. "Yes, to save the baron." "They did not stop at that?" said

happened." answered Dumitru. "They rushed er way?" upon him and he fought them all. A sword thrust here, a blow with his fist there, a savage breaking through them, and he escaped-unhurt."

'Splendid, Frina is not the baron our friend?" Yet there was a glow in Martiza's eyes, too. "And is not Captain Ellerey the of constraint about. What caused her on the threshold. man you have work for, You should it, Lord Cloverton?" rejoice." The Princess looked at her for a

moment, and then she smiled. it was splendid, as you Yes. What more, Dumitru?' The friend of the Englishman was have heard many stories since I enkilled, I think. He was of the em- tered the Bois.' bassy. There will be much questioning over the affair."

"The baron's folly is likely to ruin dor, fixing his eyes upon her. us." said the Princess, "There is still Captain Ellerey,"

the slightest flicker in his eyes attracting her attention. I am not sure the other man is true, Countess."
ad." he said. "Might I suggest "I have thought more "Might I suggest dead," he said. that the countess should usual, and hear what is said in the Bois? Then to-night we can plan and arrange. The time has surely city, and has no wife as far as I

'Will you, Frina?" "I will and you may rest assured seem. The baron has found his that I will have the whole story by match." When she had left the room Prin- asked innocently. cess Maritza turned hastily.

"Much more, Princess; but it is

"What more, Dumitru?"

only for your ears." Frina Mavrodin had sped-along the prevent her sudden return or the in-trusion of others. For a while she had thought but a half-barbaric sat-isfaction that Baron Petrescu had "Belleve me, Countess, I was never baby a nickle to pay the conductor. isfaction that Baron Petrescu had justly suffered for his unprovoked in-suit; but this was succeeded by fears besides those who had attempted asdangerous enemies, perhaps. She de-termined to know nothing, to school

She lunched with a friend, the wife

monsieur.

hardly amounted to nel I shall learn where Captain Ellerey is."

"A spy, monsieur?"
"He would be hurt to hear himself called so. He is a servant of mine, lord. By the King's orders Captain uable fellow. He have to hear himself "Every gate is closely watched, my lord. By the King's orders Captain uable fellow. uable fellow. He has known Captain to leave the city.

my lord, the moment he returns." The hand that "Athousand thonks, monsieur; you hardly escape." will place me under an obligation. turned away. "Something has fright- he withdrew. ened Monsieur De Froilette; I won-

Joining the little crowd round the power to act."

"My horses are getting rather res-They were still at breakfast when tive, they have been standing so long. Will you drive with me, Lord Cloverton?

He thanked her and got in beside her. "One seldom sees you in the Bois," she said.

"No. I wil be honest, I sometimes sleep in the afternoon, Countess." "And to-day?" she queried, with a Frina laugh. "To-day business brought me. I the

hoped to see you." you flatter me. "Surely "I am all was not so, Princess; it hither and thither, giving the wood

no time to catch; but now I fear the flame is held steadily. I seem to hear "I seem to have heard the beginswift hand has always saved the sit-

"The danger has never been so im-"Are you not still in Sturatzberg I had it from one who watched the to cope with the danger?" she asked, fight. There was little moon, and turning to him with a radiant smile. "I stand alone, Countess; what can her, baron used all the art one man do? I wonder whether you which before has brought death can credit me with disinterestedness.

> "Is not that the position of every ambassador?" "Nominally, perhaps. I was askdcf.nite in my case," he returned, the Princess,
> "Do I ask too much? In a measure, For whom

the countess eagerly. "Tell me what you and I are trawn together in this crisis. We should be allies." "Are my poor wits of service eith- no such person visited -here at any "A woman is always a valuable ally, and the Countess Mavrodin knows

her power. No. I am beyond turning pretty speeches to-day," "Splendid, Frina. Is not the baron quickly; "the times are too serious before the other servants. for them. You know, Countess. what occurred last night?" "I left the palace somewhat early." she said, "but there was an air

> 'I was referring to Baron Petrescu's affair. No one has talked of anything else to-day." "And you can tell me the truth

"I was expecting to hear the real truth from you," said the ambassa-Am I the "From me! some bourgeois in the city to inflame the baron's susceptibilities into indis-Dumitru looked at the Princess, cretion? It is some such tale I have

heard.

"But which you know to be un-BaBron Petrescu than that, I admit. "Naturally, seeing that Captain Ellerey is not a bourgeois know. My young countryman is no boaster beyond his worth, it would

"I congratulate you upon your champion," returned the ambassa alone "You look surprised, Countess: dor. but in the inner circle of such Court as we have here in Sturatzberg corridor so swiftly that she did not such secrets will find a tongue."

Philadelphia Record.

"You have changed your serious Philadelphia Record."

> ratzberg. I would do my country-man, and you, a service if I could." "How am I concerned? I may thank you for your courtesy if you faretaker will tell me that."
>
> "Is it not true that you were the cause of this governors?"

"Is it not true that you trause of this quarrei?"
"It is absolutely false."
"Stay, Countess, it may be that you are unaware of the fact, but I have that reason for knowing that

"In that, countess, I cannot help you. I had hoped you would know. Have I your permission to stop the carriage?" She inclined her head. They had returned close to the spot from which they had started. There were fewer carriages in the Bois, and hard-

"No my lord. Mine was trusted in-ly any pedestrians now. Lord Clo-rmation. Through the same chan-verton had, however, seen a man standing close to the roadway, and he beckoned him to the carriage.

Ellerey's movements for months "I fear we are too late to render past, and even now, I warrant, is at any service," said the ambassador, his heels. You shall hear from me, turning to the Countess. "It is a pity. The hand that holds the torch can

"It is not thought that the Captain has already left, but all efforts to find "I believe we are allies at heart,

Countess; it is a pity we have no

world; and one by one the others stepped from the carriage. "I foresee Countess; if I can save the situation, every perfume the air held, and the an Mavrodin desired nothing better, it must be by the sacrifice of my countryman, I fear. It is a pity. He- stood bareheaded until the

went quickly toward the embassy. If

Frina Mavrodin knew where Captain Ellerey was, as Lord Cloverton was convinced she did, she would warn him. Whatever interests Ellerey had heart, he would no t chance disaster by attempting to leave the city until the watch upon the gates was relaxed to some extent. There must, therefore, be delay in whatever plot was in hand, and a few days now

were of priceless value. Politics little Mavrodin's thoughts she drove homeward through she city had that Dresmond Ellerey had drawn Since sword in her cause, and yet might he when have you considered me cap- not have done so after all? What she had seen might only have been the seriousness, Countess end of a quarrel. Baron Petrescu "Does not the baron know that I Politics in Sturatzberg are as dried may hove spoken some light word the truth, Ellerey's last thought had been of her. She was quite content that her fair fame should rest in his keeping. Now he was in danger. Wnatever Lord Cloverton's aims "but a might be, one thing was certain-the lerey's departure. Without warning he would almost certainly be taken. How

There was confusion at her door when the carriage stopped. Servants were in the hall expectantly awaiting

What is it?" she asked. "In your absence, countess, we were when he willed, but this English whether you can believe that I have powerless," answered her major-domo, captain cared not. He knew all the the welfare of this country at heart pale even now with indignation. "What order?" "The order to search the house."

The countess started, but was selfing you to believe something more her servants knew of the identity of For whom were they looking?" lerey," was the answer. "I said that

> time, but they would not believe me, "And found---" "No one, Countess." The man was wise; he said no more will complain to his Majesty,'

Fring answered, and then she went quickly to the apartments occupied by the Princess Maritza, Hannah met "Has she not returned, my lady?" "Where is she. How did she have

warning?" asked Frina. "She had gone long before. went without a word to me, When she exclaimed. "I am glad, I they came asking for some Englishman, I had just wit enough to answer that I was your ladyship's servant, and knew no Englishman; but it was hard work not to ask them what had become of my Princess."

"And Dumitru' "Gone, gone. I always took him for cut-throat with that naked knife hidden in his shirt. I believe he has made away with her. "Peace, woman. Say nothing, A ord may ruin her. You can go.

"But, my lady-"You can go, I say." There was a tone in the command that brook no disobedience. woman left the room hastily, leaving the counters alone. Alone. A wild rush of thoughts ov-

em. The baron has found his erwhelmed her. The hope and joy atch."
"Is that the truth of it?" she that had budded in her heart were suddenly blighted. The world seemed to allp away from her, leaving her alone indeed.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

"Believe me, Countess, I was never more serious. Something of the baron's political leanings are known to his Majesty, and the affair has assumed a political significance in his eyes. The law has isin dormant, it is true, but duelling is an offenes against the crown, and the King has seen fit to set the law in motion. Captain Elierey is sought for in Sturatsberg. I would do my countryman, and you, a service if I could."

"How am I concerned? I may to have the dingding artist reached for the baby handed him the money and looked into his face with an expectant smile. The conductor absently rung up and passed on to the next passenger. "Saddy" said the baby inquired to see the law in motion. Captain Elierey is sought for in Sturatsberg. I would do my countryman, and you, a service if I could."