The Broken Coin

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"Now, come," said he at length, firmly. "If life ended for us both now, it would not have been dear by half. Fear not as to the future. Let it rest. Come with me."

She hesitated for yet an instant, holding back from what she knew

"Why, in the last turn of events," said she, "you your self might be."

"I might be what, my dear?"

"You might be king!"

"No," said he. "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 and his with the young American—Excellency, I intrude, but perhaps—

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

"Precisely that, excellency. We have a wireless call. We have sounded out, and now are recommoned 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 Grabloffen is marching against us once more—even now our city may be besieged."

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, I warrant me. 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 source. Is there no such thing as faithfulness among kings—is there anybody honest in all the world—is there no sort of faithfulness and power any more?"

"Sire," said the prime minister, recovering 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 now place hope—that is prayer now more than ever been in all our history. Times must change or we are undone. He must dethrone our king at last. Take the place I beseech you, to which which belongs to you. The place which you only can hold, for indeed it is only in you that Greenfalden may have any hope."

"I trust that you will remember that it was myself that first urged this plan to your excellency," he added humbly.

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

"Provided," he added, remembered something of that kind, "we can," said the prime minister. "I intended to carry out such orders and I believe you would have seen had you been there. Some of the regiments, no doubt, have assembled. The guns may be ready in our castle as well."

"Very well. We must attend them. We may not be in time."

They were but barely in time. Before the Adelina slipped in under a few port there might have been seen in the bay the remnant of the attacking fleet—the Grandlen navy—its force already was landing at the same time and the opposite side of the city. Here stood Grabloffen, in full force, and approaching over the roads which he had carried the assault. Already the guns, composed of cavalry, infantry and the full artillery of the city, had passed the neutralizing gun and entering the outside fellow the castle walls of the fortification.

They came triumphantly, full of their victory, and swept on as if eager to begin the sacking of the city. And the sacking of Greenfalden might had begun but for the arrival of one man.

The prime minister was right. The confusion of the people of Greenfalden, as much of it as was left in the one man, now found, when in the tolerance was held as prisoner in a fort in the country a affiliate in 1—Count Frederick of Greenfalden. Suddenly one man passed from the lips to the news that Count Frederick had escaped, that he would lead the army, that he would direct the defense of the city, that his mind was regarding 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 Grabloffen 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 Grabloffen 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 thought that he might gain one thing—the treasures 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 Grabloffen, again cunningly and effectively disposed for this purpose by the orders of Count Frederick himself.

He made his way up the palace stairs, fought through the guard which defended the entrance, and thus alone pressed toward the interior of the palace once more. As he had boasted, he knew this place as well as his own bedchamber. He rushed on through

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

[illegible] Sachio, who so below the Cortislaw [illegible] the passageway, but always [illegible] what edged in by such in front of him. Always the soldiers looked into him. Always the steady steel [illegible]

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

[illegible] himself suddenly closed that present encounter, subject to the [illegible] which he felt and knew in swift a quick sweep of his sword [illegible] the man in the body. He [illegible] to [illegible] and back. Cheering down upon the floor the blade with which he had fought, he fell [illegible]. Count Frederick did not return him [illegible] you things prevented that. One of them was the crucial to which [illegible] and summoned him. The other person was Kitty Gray herself.

[illegible]

"Well, Sachio," said Count Frederick, "your robbery 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

MANY LIVES LOST IN CHRISTMAS FIRES

AS A RESULT OF CARELESSNESS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

PROPERTY LOSS ENORMOUS

To Secure Co-operation in Fire Prevention Some Valuable Suggestions Are Offered.

(Safety Department.)

The records of our department show every year some of life and property to some extent due to carelessness during the "Christmas" days. In the effort to prevent such losses of life and property individual consideration is needed, in which charges with local responsibility.

To secure such a individual consideration the following suggestions are offered to the men who is not actually interested in fire prevention, but who is sufficiently enough to be pleased that he can help materially in The Fight Against Fire.

In schools, halls, churches, in wherever children or grown ups gather unusual precautions should be taken. Exits should be lighted with red bulbs and kept free and clear. Candles on sheet are should be placed under every Christmas tree to catch candle droppings. Sand, water, or dry chemicals should be kept in the immediate vicinity for danger. Every Santa Claus costume should be dipped in a solution of four ounces of phosphate of ammonia to a quart of water.

In private homes coffee burning should not be used. The dry chimney may be had enough. Where coal stoves are used, sand, water and [illegible] in the kitchen. If a person is [illegible] clothes fire the very best thing to do is to throw that person down, thus changing the direction of the flames and saving eyes, ears, face and lungs. Then roll the flames with a [illegible] blanket, rugs and so on, [illegible] only. If your gas stove [illegible] burn [illegible] and [illegible] which [illegible] [illegible]

In schools and all parts of [illegible] [illegible] be carefully [illegible] and [illegible] be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]