

THE SPUR OF FATE

By Ashley Towne

Copyright, 1901, by Charles D. Eberington.

Some distance from the tent where the previous meeting had taken place they were met by a staff officer attended by half a dozen chafy Cossack troopers. Darrell looked at those savages and thought upon the taking of Gredskov.



"This is your success," she said.

took it, snatching back to the Russian lines. There was a delay of perhaps a quarter of an hour, and then General Getchikoff appeared, attended only by three members of his staff.

CHAPTER XX.

THE REAL BATTLE OF GREDSKOV.



"I did not understand what I wrote," replied Darrell, interrupting.

"If you had not understood what I wrote," replied Darrell, interrupting. "I should not be here. I told you that the American consul in Stavropol was fully informed as to the circumstances of my trial in that city and my presence here and that if you were anxious to avoid an international complication which would make matters exceedingly hot for you it would be well for you to hear what I had to say.

Getchikoff started. "Did you arrange this?" he cried. "I did not," responded Darrell. "I may have wished to do so, but as Prince Kiliar was in a certain sense my companion in arms I refrained. It was the private hatred of no insignificant creature as an ex-turkey in a prison that overthrew all the alreud schemes of Kiliar and doubtless has cost him his life—with the Gredskov treasure, which he values almost

equally. You captured the whole party, I suppose?" "We have them all," answered Getchikoff, "and the treasure." "Since the incident has occurred," said Darrell, "I intend to use it for my own purposes."

"I don't know what use you can make of it," returned Getchikoff. "It is true that these men fell into our hands in the manner you mention, but how that can help you or the force in Gredskov is more than I can see."

"General," interrupted Darrell, "you were prepared yesterday to make terms. You had, as I believe, the direct authorization of the Russian government to show mercy, even to promise a general amnesty under conditions very favorable to the Cossacks. All you required was the surrender of certain persons and, of course, the usual laying down of arms, upon which the Cossack soldiers were to return in safety to their homes."

"I shall do the things you name," answered Getchikoff, "and a dead man buried in the Caucasus mountains will not prevent me."

"You are what we call in America a bluffer," said Darrell. "At this present moment you are shaking in your boots, and the cause is that one word 'forgery.' Oh, I have reasoned this thing all out. Who tore up the document found beside the body of Ladislov in Paris? Ladislov himself; the thing is certain. Why did he attempt to destroy it? My friend Gordon answers the question from Paris. Here is a copy of the telegram."

"That was a warrant for the Princess Vera Stevaloff," continued Darrell. "It was the sort of document that is sometimes furnished in blank to certain officials, including the governor general of provinces. It bore the czar's name and was apparently countersigned by your father. Of course such documents possess no validity as warrants outside of Russian dominions, but creatures like Ladislov, the spy, occasionally have to exhibit them when making kidnapping arrests that are winked at by the police of continental

crues, and in any case the warrants have to be shown when the prisoners reach the Russian frontier.

"My dear general, you were seen to do it," answered Darrell. "You filled that document out in the French cafe the day I refused to lend you my pen. Gordon knows it and has his witnesses." "I am not sure," said Darrell, "but I am sure that you were plotting to have me suppressed on my arrival—and it was the only sincere thing you said to me. He was away from the city during these events, which made matters easier. But let us return to Ladislov. You were the man who could forge your father's hand. If you should do it, Ladislov figured that your father, should it be impossible to keep Vera's arrest from his knowledge, would not dare to punish those concerned in it because you were the chief sinner. It is no small thing, my friend, to tamper with a document bearing the czar's signature. It bars you, for your life's sake, from Stavropol. You have said that only one of us can return. You are not the one!"

"You are not the one!" Getchikoff reached out his hand for a pitcher of water that stood on the table and in clapping it beside off the handle and upset the vessel upon the floor.

"Be calm," said Darrell. "Remember that these facts are known to Gordon in Paris and most of them to our consul in Stavropol. I alone can suppress them. Well, we have now barred you from your native land. How about Paris? Gordon says Ladislov helped you with your matrimonial venture. Of course he did; he had to win you. He had the usual wide knowledge possessed by foreign spies. It was comparatively easy to find a rich woman who would marry so presentable a man as yourself, and he knew that a rich wife was what you wanted—a rich Parisian."

"Now, what became of Ladislov? He was killed. By whom? By the owner of a revolver which I sent from a station in France to Gordon in Paris, a revolver which I abstracted from your traveling bag, Getchikoff. I was playing detective and playing the game hard. Did you miss the weapon?"

"I did," answered Getchikoff, with a sneer, "but I did not suspect you were a thief."

"In the matter of suspicion I seem to have had an advantage," said Darrell. "For I did suspect that you were a murderer."

"I am not!" exclaimed Getchikoff, with sudden earnestness and sincerity. Darrell stepped close up to him and spoke in a low tone. "I am perfectly well aware of it," he said. "You were in that cab with Ladislov down from the box, you jumped out of the door, you slipped and fell. Lying on the sidewalk, you drew a revolver and fired at me. Ladislov sprang up at that moment, and the bullet struck him in the back, but he was too much excited to suspect that he had sustained a serious injury. You both pursued the cab, but became separated. Ladislov fell dying from internal bleeding and in his last conscious moments attempted to destroy that forged warrant."

KIDNEY and BACKACHE CURE. Dr. H. A. Abraham. All Bladder and Urinary Diseases. 171 Duquesne, N. Y.

"Behold him," said Darrell. "You!" exclaimed Getchikoff. "Myself," answered Darrell. Getchikoff put his hand to his forehead. "Then it is true," he said slowly, "as some of our spies have reported, that the Princess Vera had played this masquerade. There is no one else for whom you would thus risk your life. But it can't be done; it positively cannot be done. I dare not take you back to Stavropol as Motman Khan."



"Your answer!" he added impatiently, "refusal makes after ruin of your life and of your love for whom my word I believe you love that woman in Paris!"

"When you wished my name to be Sergius Blowski, Blowski it was," he continued. "It is my turn now to take an alias for myself."

"Rather than carry you back to Stavropol under that name," whispered Getchikoff, leaning across the table, his face livid. "I will give you a chance to break out of Gredskov and escape—you and the princess and a part of the force. I will so weaken our lines in a place which you shall know that you cannot fail to pierce them. Only give me pledges!"

"I will not ride to my death," said Darrell, "upon the back of a spurious military glory nor over the bodies of some hundreds of the troops of both armies. Your infamous plan means murder, and I will not consent. I want to see this foolish fighting end. Your answer?"

"You win," he said, and, crossing unsteadily to the door, he called out the order: "Invite the Cossack general and his staff to advance!"

Perfect Health BY THE USE OF DR. PIERCE'S Favorite Prescription. Mrs. H. A. Abraham of Austin, London, Co., Ark., writes: "After five months of great suffering with female weakness I write this for the benefit of other sufferers from the same affliction. I declared with our family physician, without any good result, so my husband urged me to try Dr. Pierce's medicine—which I did, with wonderful results. I am completely cured. I took four bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, four of his 'Golden Medical Discovery' and two vials of his 'Pleasant Pellets.'"

GOMPERS ON LABOR. He Addresses Mountain Lake Park Chautauqua. Mountain Lake Park, Md., Aug. 16.—Several thousand persons greeted Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, who delivered an address before the Chautauqua assembly on "Labor and Capital—The Workman's Side of the Story."

Mr. Gompers prefaced his remarks by saying that the average mind looks contrary on labor's side of the question. "The Newspapers, without any attempt on my part to charge them with unfairness, usually present the labor question from the standpoint of the employer. They either get their information from employers or their representatives. It is the same old story, the men and women, the representatives of labor who suffer from the same old wrong. There is no short-cut to emancipation."

Mr. Gompers declared that the labor of young and innocent children is the great evil that needs reformation. "Many states particularly in the South, have no law whatever to prevent the practice. Men get rich," he declared, "from the labor of children, whose bones are ground into almighty dollars. It is a sad commentary Men walk the streets in idleness in the textile districts, while the mills are filled with busy children. Instead of labor being crowned with honor and dignity, its rightful heritage, it is a question of how much labor can be squeezed out of a laborer and how little wages he can be forced to accept in return."

Mr. Gompers discussed the question of shorter hours at length, declaring the countries of long hours were decidedly backward, and denied the allegation that the movement to shorten hours would mean the decadence of the United States as a great power. He declared that there was no greater conservator of the peace than the labor organization.

"One hundred and fifty thousand men in the anthracite field have been engaged in a silent struggle for three months and there has been less violence than is committed at a picnic of ordinary people upon ordinary occasions. The men struggling today had been reduced to a state of seclusion, but in the past three months they have been recast and their characters remodeled. Their manhood is aroused and I believe, as God is my judge, the worst the miners have had to confront is past." (Great applause.)

Mr. Gompers declared that the lawyer was incompetent to discuss the industrial question. "The lawyer lives in and studies the past," he declared, "while being faced physically forward he is mental in the dark ages." This observation was brought out by the alleged remark of a Mr. Ross, a legal representative of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, recently, that there can be no arbitration; that the miners must first return to work and then the companies will discuss the matter with them. "We demand the right to be heard by counsel," declared the speaker. "Just imagine the miner being forced back to work with all the grievances he may have had squeezed and starved out of him."

Mr. Gompers declared against proposed government compulsory arbitration. He predicted the success of the anthracite strike.

CHEER THE BOERS. London Crowds Display Great Enthusiasm for Former Foes.

London, Aug. 18.—The enthusiasm displayed by the London crowds when the Boer generals appear is undiminished. Despite the rain hundreds gathered at the hotel this morning where the generals are stopping. When General Delarey appeared at a window the crowd cheered vociferously. Later General Botha went driving and was given a great ovation.

SOLICIT MORGAN'S AID? Rumored Mitchell will ask his Help in Ending Anthracite Strike.

Wilkesbarre, Aug. 18.—According to a rumor here President Mitchell on his return from the West will hasten to New York to see Pierpont Morgan and solicit his aid in ending the anthracite strike.

AMERICANS KILLED. Mr. and Mrs. Fair Met Death in Automobile Accident in Paris.

Evereux, France, Aug. 14.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fair, Americans, brother and sister-in-law of Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr. (Miss Virginia Fair), were returning to Paris from Trouville today when their automobile swerved and crashed into a tree fifteen miles from here. Both were killed. The chauffeur became insane as a consequence of the shock.

MASON & NELSON Buy and Sell Real Estate. Make Loans on Farm Property and Write Insurance. Taxes paid and rents collected for non-residents. Office: Room 1, Courtland building. IOLA, KANSAS.

GEORGE W. COX, M. D. IOLA, KANSAS. PHYSICIAN and SURGEON. SPECIAL ATTENTION ---GIVEN TO--- SURGERY. Examination and Diagnosis of obscure, chronic, and acute diseases. Also Electro-therapeutic treatment with X-RAY machine.

JOHN HARTUNG, MANUFACTURER OF AND DEALER IN... Harness, Saddles, Collars, Whips, Laprobes, etc. Everything Usually Found in a First Class Harness Shop. IOLA, KANSAS.

IOLA PACKING HOUSE AND WHOLESALE MEAT MARKET. I have just completed a first-class Packing and Slaughter House with cold storage and all modern improvements at Iola. Will pay the highest market price for fat stock of all kinds. WM. READICKER IOLA, KANSAS.

BRIGHT'S DISEASE. The largest sum ever paid for a prescription, changed hands in San Francisco, Aug. 20, 1901. The transfer involved in coin and stock \$112,500.00 and was paid by a party of business men for a specific for Bright's Disease and Diabetes, hitherto incurable diseases. They commenced the serious investigation of the specific Nov. 15, 1900. They interviewed scores of the cured and tried it out on its merits by putting over three dozen cases on treatment and watching them. They also got physicians to name chronic, incurable cases and administered it with the physicians for judges. Up to Aug. 25, eighty-seven per cent of the test cases were either well or progressing favorably. There being but thirteen per cent of failures, the parties were satisfied and closed the transaction. The proceedings of the investigating committee and the clinical report of the test cases were published and will be mailed free of application. Address JOHN J. FITZPATRICK COMPANY, 420 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Cal.

CHEAP SETTLERS' RATES TO THE FAR WEST AND NORTHWEST. The Burlington Route renews the low one-way Settlers' rate of \$25.00 from Missouri River to California, Portland and the Puget Sound country every day during September and October, with correspondingly low rates to the Spokane District and the Harlow-Helena District; also proportionate rates from interior Missouri, Kansas and Southwest territory. "The Burlington Northern Pacific Express" is the great through train leaving Kansas City daily, for the Northwest. Through Coaches, Chair Cars (seats free), Standard and Tourist Sleepers to Butte, Helena, Spokane, Tacoma, Seattle, Portland. Connecting train from Denver at night joining this Northwest train at Alliance, Neb.

VISIT THE OLD HOME.—EAST. Home visitors' excursions to points in Ohio and Indiana; dates of sale, September 24, 25th, 10th and 23rd; limit, 30 days. Also excursion rates to Ohio and Indiana during the first week of October at the time of the big Grand Army reunion in Washington, D. C. TO CHICAGO.—The Burlington's famous "El" is the best known and most popular train from Kansas City and St. Joseph to Chicago. TO ST. LOUIS.—Two daily trains carrying all classes of standard Burlington equipment.

HOMESEKERS' EXCURSIONS. On the first and third Tuesdays of August, September and October, to many sections of the West and Northwest. Consult nearest ticket agent or write the undersigned for full information, printed matter and the least cost of your proposed trip. R. H. CROZIER, L. W. WAKELEY, T. P. A., 223 North St., Gen'l Pass. Agent, KANSAS CITY, MO. ST. LOUIS, MO. G. M. LEVEY, General Manager, ST. LOUIS, MO.

DR. J. E. CHASTAIN DENTIST. Has reopened his office, over Mrs. Turner's jewelry store, on West Madison Avenue. GIVE HIM A CALL.