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THE STRANGER AND THE PRINCESS

BY SEWARD W. HOPKINS

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ford even while her gowns were being draw her hand. made. Wallace did not improve as rapidly as had been expected. He fret-ted a good deal at being a burden upon his host. But Voluer silenced that. Prince Charles came often and one day brought his wife, who graciously thanked Wallace and begged that as soon as he was able he would become their guest at the castle. But, alas, it would be some time be

fore he could do that. Then one day Adria, blushing and stammering, seeming to have almost lost control of her tongue, entered his room, leading a girl about her own age, clad in plain but most becoming garments and wearing a small Parisian cap which might easily be a nurse's cap.

"M. Wallace," said Adria, "I am sorry to tell you that I must leave you for a time. Tomorrow is my wedding day. The prince and princesses have graciously requested that the ceremony be performed at the castle."

Wallace smiled and held out his hand. "I am glad," he said. "I, of course, shall lose a tender and faithful nurse, but I must not be selfish. Duvally de-

serves his bride." "And you will not feel the loss," said Adria, with an effort to be serene. "This is my cousin Elsa, an experienced nurse from Trolle. In my absence she will do what I have done or more."

Wallace looked up into the demure face of the nurse from Trolle and thought it a sweet and sympathetic "I have heard your story, M. Wal-

lace," she said in a low, sweet voice. "The people at the castle have reason to be very grateful to you. They have

visited you, of course. "I did nothing that any one else

might not have done," said Wallace. "Yes, they have been here to see me and are very kind-that is, the prince and his American princess have been. The one I wished most to see has not been."

"Some one you knew?" asked the new nurse sympathetically.
"No, on, no," blundered Wallace, "but one I have wished to see-the

Princess Marie." "AL: She is an ungrateful girl, thinking only of her own pleasures," said

"No, I cannot believe that," said Wallace. "I saw here picture once. She was beautiful." "And you wanted to hear words of

gratitude from her own lips?" asked "No, not that. I don't like to hear words of gratitude. I just wanted to see her and talk with her as with any ordinary person.

Elsa smiled. "You may yet have that pleasure,"



"Yes," said the farmer's wife, "this is Princess Marie."

talk like ordinary persons, but not nurses. I have already permitted you to talk too much. Now bid Adria adleu, wish her good luck and happiness and then resign yourself to the commands of one who is severe and unwavering." So with kind words Adria went, and

Elsa took up the work. The good farmer Volner and his wife seemed to stand much in awe of their pretty niece, for she had her own way

From the capacious kitchen came wonderful dainties and appetizing dishes made by the new nurse. The water from the spring soon tasted sweeter if handed by her in the thin little drinking glass. Her step was light as air, her voice soft and sweet,

her touch gentle and soothing. "What a nurse!" thought Wallace a hundred times a day. "I thought Adria was perfect, but this one is beyond

even worldly perfection." But sometimes a peculiar feeling came over him that he had seen that face before. It appealed to him somehow in a way that a face totally un known could not. The nurse always wore her cap, which held captive and out of sight her wealth of beautiful

And Wallace grew stronger gradually and thought more and more of his nurse. One day she brought him a tender fowl she had broiled with her own hands. She poured his wine for him and set it down on the table Volner

As Wallace reached out to take the wine his hand touched hers. For a momest he pressed the dainty fingers a

adria found time to care for Buck- | Elsa blushed, but she did not with-

"Ah," said Wallace, with some bitterness, "It is hard to be without power or money! Elsa, you have been too kind. You have given me a wound from which no nursing will enable me to recover. Yet I am poor and would not ask you to share my miserable condition. In happier days may I hope that some of the love I feel for you will be reciprocated?"

A vivid blush overspread her face. She was about to reply when the wife of Volner entered. Elsa, in her confusion, turned away and put her hands to her cap, as if to arrange it. But she touched it with too heavy a hand. It fell to the floor, and a mass of beautiful brown hair fell in lovely profusion to her waist. It made a great change in her appearance. Wallace, unmindful of the presence of Volner's wife, stared, thought and started in embarrassed astonishment to a sitting pos-

"Ah, ah! Am I dreaming?" he gasped. "You bring to my mind the face, the picture, of Princess Marie." "Yes," said the farmer's wife, with

some energy; "it is time this farce was played out. I know everybody means well, but there are limits. This is Princess Marie."

"Oh, forgive me!" cried poor Wallace. "I would not have spoken had I known. Why did you come? I cannot unsay the words which must have seemed an insult to you. But forget them and forgive me. I did not know." "Of course you did not know," replied the exposed princess, with a roguish laugh. "That would have spoiled it all. And you thought I was ungrateful all along."

"No; I did not say it," remonstrated Wallace. "Forgive me and go back to the castle. Let me remember you as my pretty nurse."

"And not the Princess Marie?" "Ah, no! There is too wide a gulf. between us. As my nurse you were

more my equal." Tears gathered in Marie's eyes. Royalty sat lightly on her young shoul-

ders, yet she understood its rights and privileges. "For one brief moment I rejoice in my position and the etiquette of courts," she said. She took his hand with an expression that made the blood

in hers and looked down into his eyes leap through his voins as it had not done since he fell. "As you say, I am a princess. While you believed me a simple nurse, you spoke words of hon-

est love. You have withdrawn them since you discovered my identity. But it was not because you had ceased to love me, was it? It was because, as the princess, you thought I would not accept the love that a nurse might ac-

"Yes, yes," said the half maddened Wallace. "I could never cease loving you, though a thousand miles kept us

apart." "Then do not take back the words," she said. "I have been courted by princes and men of power, soldiers and diplomats. Not for myself, but because I was Princess Marie of Deneslia. It is sweet-oh, how sweet-to be loved for love alone. And do you think I have learned nothing each day we have been together? I have learned the same lesson of love. Now you are my patient and my prisoner. I shall write to Charles tonight."

. The letter which Marie wrote to the castle did not surprise her brother in the least. He had feared some such result of the madcap scheme of his sister by which she wished to show her gratitude toward the brave American.

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had cabled long inquiries to his representative in America. In reply he received a short cable message and a letter following. So it happened that Prince Charles, two days after he got the note from Marie, walked into Volner's house carrying a large official looking epistle.

"I have come to offer my congratulations," he said, "not to one, but both. This affair promised something like this, and I took the liberty to inquire as to the standing of M. Wallace. In reply I get word that he is in every sense a gentleman. Not only that, but he has been searched for all over the earth-except in Deneslia. It seems his uncle has died, leaving him heir to a vast American fortune. Marie, your prank has been providential in its for tunate ending. God bless both of you wherever you may have your home. If in Deneslia, a palace and park shall be yours. And I make it my only condition to your wedding that at least five months in the year you live at Trolle.'

He shook Buckford's hand, kissed Marie and strode out. "Marie—princess—my love, my love," began Wallace, "How can I"—

"Tut! You are no longer poor. It is I who must beg. You are now the great M. Wallace. Shall I take back my words?"

No answer was needed. He held out both his hands, and she took them. "Did you ever!" said Volner's wife to Volner a few hours later. "That Amer-

ican is getting well very fast now." "So would I," grunted Volner, "if I had a sweet wife and fortune waiting for me. Let them alone. They can take care of themselves. It makes me young again."

A few months later the castle at Trolle was ablaze with lights. A grand wedding took place. Officers of the army, members of the diplomatic corps, visiting naval commanders, all were present. And the bride was the beautiful Princess Marie and the groom the handsome American. He wore no uniform and seemed soberly dressed beside the brilliant officers. But on his breast he wore a brilliant cross, the highest decoration in Deneslia, and every man within the palace gates envied him his fortune and his bride.

Members of Congress and Mourning. "Fifty years ago members of congress and of the senate would have been compelled by public opinion to wear crape on their arms for thirty days after the death of a president," remarked an ex-member who had serv-

THE END.

ed before the civil war. "Up to about 1850 whenever a member of congress died the resolution of sympathy with his family invariably carried with it a provision that members should wear mourning. Deaths of members were of course less frequent, for the congressional body was numerically smaller. Indeed, the increase of the membership, which led naturally to a higher death rate, was the

rect cause of abolishing the custom. "A number of members of congress now die every year, and it was not thought advisable to keep members of the house and senate in practically perpetual mourning."

******** TELEGRAPH

The smallpox epidemic in old London shows no signs of abatement.

Alex. McMahon has been appointed

Police Magistrate in Winnipeg. The Cunard Line is building a new

ship to compete for the Boston Atlan-

The Queen-Regent of Spain has commissioned Senor Sagasta to form

Seven dangerous Anarchists were arrested at Naples on a steamer bound for New York.

A section of the naval arsenal a Valparaiso has been destroyed by fire. The loss is placed at \$1,000,000

nominated for the Legislature by the Independents of Haldimand. William J. Peaker, of Brampton who was hurt by an explosion of gun-

Samuel Beck, of South Cayuga, was

powder several days ago, is dead. A quarantine has been established at Manila against vessels from Hong Kong, owing to the cholera at the lat-

A company with a capital of \$10,000,000 is being formed at New York to promote the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy.

A lumberman named Sam. Cooper said to be insane, received fatal in-juries while attempting to force his way into Thomas Hooper's house at

Frank P. Sargent, chief of the Bro-therhood of Locomotive Firemen, has been offered the position of United States Commissioner of Immigration in succession to Mr. Powderly.

The forward look stimulates the forward step. To keep our eyes fixed ahead is usually to go ahead, too.

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