COPY

THE MAN FROM RODNEY'S

(Continued)

to the intentions of the [illegible] islanders. Von Blitz and [illegible] convinced them that the [illegible] seriously jeopardized. The [illegible] to see the necessity for [illegible] removing the white pretenders from their path.

Deppingham, on account [illegible] time position in the British [illegible] was chosen chief officer of the [illegible] "citadel." A strict [illegible] upon the native servants [illegible] lo's assurances of loyalty. [illegible] were posted in the towers and [illegible] less watch was to be kept day and night. Chase on his first visit to the west tower discovered a [illegible] searchlight of powerful [illegible] Fortunately for the besieged, the electric light plant was located in the chateau grounds and could not be tampered with from the outside.

Britt was put in charge of the night patrol, Saunders the day. Selim under orders had severed the long rope with a single rifle shot. No one could hope to reach the chateau by way of the cliff.

Extra precautions were taken to guard the women from attacks from the inside. The window bars were locked securely, and heavy bolts were placed on the doors leading to the lower regions. It was now only too apparent that Skaggs and Wyckholme had wrought well in anticipation of a rebellion by the native shareholders. Each window had its adjustable grates; every outer door was protected by heavy iron gates.

By nightfall Deppingham's forces were in full possession of every advantage that their position afforded.

Chase came from his room, still stiff and sore, but with fresh, white bandages on his blistered hands. He asked and received permission to light a cigarette and then dropped wearily into a seat near the princess, who sat upon the stone railing. Her trim, graceful figure was outlined against the darkness. A delicate, senuous fragrance exhaled from her person, filling him with an indescribable delight and languor; the spell of her beauty was upon him, and he felt the leap of his blood.

"If I were you," he said at last, reluctant to despoil the picture, "I wouldn't sit up there. It would be a very simple matter for one of our friends to pick you off with a shot from below. Please let me pull up a chair for you."

She smiled languidly, without a trace of uneasiness in her manner.

"Dear officer of the day, do you think they are so foolish as to pick us off in particles? Not at all. They will dispose of us wholesale, not by the piece. By the way, has Neenah been made quite comfortable?"

"I believe so. She and Selim have the room beyond mine, thanks to Lady Deppingham."

"Agnes tells me that she is very interesting—quite like a princess out of a fairy book. You recall the princesses who were always being captured by ogres and evil princes and afterward satisfactorily rescued by those dear knights admirable? Did Selim steal her in the beginning?"

"You forget the pot of sapphires and the big ruby."

"They say that princesses can be bought very cheaply."

"Depends entirely upon the quality of princess you desire. It's very much like buying rare gems or old paintings, I'd say. Speaking of princesses and ogres, has it occurred to you that you would bring a fortune in the market?"

"Mr. Chase!"

"You know, it's barely possible that you may be put in a matrimonial shop window if Von Blitz and his friends should capture you alive. Ever think of that?"

"Good heavens! You—why, what a horrible thing to say!"

"You won't bring as much in the south sea market as you would in Rapp-Thorberg or Paris, but I dare say you could be sold for"—

"Please, Mr. Chase, don't suggest anything so atrocious," she cried, something like terror in her voice.

"Neenah's father sold her for a handful of gems," said he, with distinct meaning in his voice. She was silent, and he went on after a moment. "Is there so much difference, after all, where one is sold, just so long as the price is satisfactory to all concerned?"

"You are very unkind, Mr. Chase," she said with quiet dignity. "I do not deserve your sarcasm."

"I humbly plead for forgiveness," he said, suddenly contrite. "It was beastly."

"American wit, I imagine you call it," she said scornfully. "I don't care to talk with you any longer."

"Won't you forgive me? I'm a poor brute—don't lash me. In two or three weeks I'll step down and out of your life; that will be penalty enough, don't you think?"

"For whom?" she asked in a voice so low that he could scarcely hear the words. Then she laughed ironically. "I do forgive. It is all that a prince or a princess is ever asked to do, I'm beginning to believe. I also forgive you for coming into my life."

"If I had been a trifle more intelligent I should not have come into it at all," he said. She turned upon him quickly, stung by the remark.

"Is that the way you feel about it?" she asked sharply.

"You don't understand. A man of intelligence would never have kicked Prince Karl. As a matter of fact, in trying to kick Prince Karl out of your life I kicked myself into it. A [illegible] simple process, and yet scarcely [illegible] A jackass could have done [illegible]

"[illegible] dare kick at a king," she [illegible] haughtily. "A cat may [illegible] at him. But let us go back to realities. Do you mean to tell me [illegible] those wretches—would dare [illegible] I mean—into the kind [illegible] mention?"

"[illegible] he asked soberly and [illegible]

[illegible] quite close [illegible] It would be a very simple matter for any one of these [illegible] you from the others. [illegible] be kept on this island [illegible] days and the world [illegible] be, the wiser, or [illegible] into Persia or Arabia [illegible] Turkey. I am not surprised [illegible] you shudder. Von Blitz and Rasula [illegible] destroy all of us. We are to disappear from the face of the earth [illegible] our friends come to look for us we will have died from the plague and our bodies will have been burned, as they always are in Japat. There will be no one left to deny the story. After tomorrow no ship is due to put in here for three weeks. They will see to it that none of us get out to that [illegible] nor will the ship's officers know of our peril. The word will go forth that the plague has come to the island. That is the first step, your highness. But there is one obstacle they have overlooked," he concluded. She looked up inquiringly.

"My warships," he said, the whimsical smile broadening.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE PLAGUE IS ANNOUNCED.

THE next morning a steamship flying the English flag came to anchor off Aratat, delivered and received mail bags and after an hour's stay steamed away in the drift of the southeast trade winds—Bombay to Cape Colony. The men at the chateau gazed longingly, helplessly through their glasses at this black hulled visitor from the world they loved. They watched it until nothing was left to be seen except the faint cloud of smoke that went to a pin point in the horizon. There had been absolutely no opportunity to communicate with the officers of the ship. They sailed away hurriedly, as if in alarm. Their haste was significant.

"Perhaps Bowles succeeded in getting a word with the officer who came ashore," said Browne hopefully. "He knows the danger we are in."

"My dear Browne, Bowles hadn't the ghost of a chance to communicate with the ship," said Chase. "He can't bully anyone any longer with his Tommy Atkins cool. They've outgrown it, just as he has. It was splendid while it lasted, but they're no more afraid of it now than they are of my warships. I wish there were some way to get him and his English assistants into the chateau. It's awful to think of what is coming to them sooner or later."

"Is there no way to help them?" groaned Deppingham.

"I'll never forget poor Bowles the first time I saw him in his dinky red jacket and that hooligan cap of his," reflected Chase, as if he had not heard Deppingham's remark. "He put them up to overawe the crowd that was threatened in the native papers. He did his best, poor [illegible]"

"Look!" exclaimed Britt suddenly, pointing toward one of the big gates in the upper end of the park. "I believe they're making an attack!"

The next instant the men in the balcony were leaving it pellmell, picking up the ever ready rifles as they dashed off through the halls and out into the park. They kept themselves as well covered as possible by the boxed trees, as up to this time there had been no shooting.

Chase [illegible] suddenly gave vent to a hoarse cry and boldly dashed out into the open, disregarding all shelter. Two of the native park patrol were hastening toward the gate from another direction. Outside the huge, barred gate a throng of men and women were congregated. Some of the men were vigorously slashing away at the bars with sledges and crowbars; others were crouching with rifles leveled—in the other direction!

"It's Bowles!" shouted Chase eagerly.

The situation at once became clear to those inside the walls. Bowles and his friends, a score all told, had managed to reach the upper gate and were now clamoring for admission, beset on all sides by the enemy's pickets.

"For God's sake, be quick!" shouted Bowles. "There's a thousand of them coming up the mines road!"

The gates were unlocked by the patrol, and the panic stricken throng tumbled through them and scattered like sheep behind the high, sheltering walls. Once more the massive gates were closed and the bolts thrown down just in time to avoid a fusillade of bullets from the outside.

Once inside the chateau the fugitives, shivering with terror, fairly collapsed. There were three Englishmen in the party besides Bowles, and Chase recognized the Persian wives of Jacob von Blitz among the women who had been obliged to cast their lot with the refugees from Aratat. The sister of Neenah and five or six other women who had been sold into the island made up the remainder of the little group of trembling females.

The remainder of the men in the party, fourteen or fifteen in all, were of many castes and nationalities and of various ages. There were brown skinned fellows from Calcutta, a couple of sturdy Greeks, an Egyptian and a Persian, three or four Arabs and a score of many Maoris. As to their waistlines [illegible] Lee, among them were clerks [illegible]

Bowles, his [illegible] perspiring and [illegible] fully to hold [illegible] was the spokesman. As he [illegible] thumped once more [illegible] of the little red jacket [illegible] trembled and his voice shook [illegible] because of the [illegible] which both had [illegible] during night at Aratat.

"For some time we have [illegible] gerilla [illegible] had [illegible] Chase [illegible] the [illegible]

Chase [illegible] tered.

"I don't mean the [illegible] the Persians, [illegible] saying what's more, there wasn't a [illegible] truth in it—I made the budget [illegible] chateau, begging pardon too. Von Blitz came to me often with complaints that you were being made a fool of by a pretty face or two and that you were going over to the enemy body and soul. When I heard that they tried to kill you the night before last I made up my mind that no white man was to be left to tell the tale. Last night we locked all the company's books in the vaults, got together all the bank notes and gold we had on hand and made preparations to take on board the steamer which she called this morning. My plan was to tell them the trouble here and try to save you. We were all expected to die of the plague—that's what we were—and I realized that Tommy Atkins was off the boards forever.

"We hadn't any more than got the cash and valuables ready to smuggle aboard when down came Rasula upon us—10 o'clock last night, your lordship. He had a dozen men with him, and he told every mother's son of us that our presence in the town was not desired until after the ship had sailed away. We were taken up into the hills by a squad of men. There wasn't a man among us that didn't know that we were to be killed as soon as the ship had gone. With our own eyes we saw the mail bags rifled and nearly all of the mail destroyed. The pouches from the chateau were burned. Rasula politely informed us that the plague had broken out among the chateau servants and that no mail could be sent out from that place. He said he intended to warn the ship's officer of the danger in landing, and—well, that explains the short stay of the ship and the absence of nearly all mail from the island. There won't be another boat for three weeks, and they won't land because of the plague. They will get word, however, that every one in the chateau has died of the disease and that scores of natives are dying every day.

"Well, we decided to break away from the guard and try to get to the chateau. It was their intention to take some of us back to the bank this morning to open the vault and the safes. That was to be our last act, I fancy. About 4 this morning a dozen of the women came up to where we were being held. They were flying from the town and ran into the arms of our guard before they knew of their presence. It seems that those devils down their had set out to kill their women because it was known that one of them had warned Mr. Chase of his danger. During the excitement brought about by their arrival in our camp we made a sudden attack upon our guards. They were not expecting it, and we had seized their rifles before they could recover from their surprise. I regret to say that we were obliged to kill a few of them in the row that followed. You let us in just in time. My word, it was a close shave."

"It's an ill wind that blows all evil," said Deppingham. "Mr. Bowles, you are welcome. We are a bit short of

Neenah had wafted kisses to the proud dames above.

ablebodied soldiers. May we count on you and the men who came with you?"

"To the end, my lord," said Bowles, almost bursting his jacket by inflation. The others slapped their legs stanchly.

The arrival of the refugees from Aratat gave the chateau a stanch little garrison of sixty men.

"For the time being we are as safe as [illegible]," said Deppingham [illegible]

[illegible] Chase smiled broadly. "She refers to the newly acquired harem. Lord Deppingham. We're supposed to die with the Asiatic plague, not to—not to"—

"Not to live with it! Ho, ho, I see, by Jove!" roared Deppingham amiably. "Splendid! Harem! I get the point. Ripping!"

"They're not so bad, are they, Bobby?" asked Lady Agnes coolly, going to Browne's side at the railing. It may not have been true that Browne was in love with Lady Deppingham, but it was more than evident that his wife [illegible] that he was.

"Splendid!" was the sudden exclamation of Drusilla's vagrant lord. The others looked up, interested. "Say, everybody, Lady Agnes and I have hit upon a ripping scheme. It's great!"

"To better our position?" asked Deppingham.

"Position? What—oh, I see. Not exactly. What do you say to a charity ball, the proceeds to go to the survivors of the plague we're expected to have?"

The princess gave a quick, involuntary look at Chase's face. Browne's tall fellow countryman was now leaning against the rail beside her chair. She saw a look of surprised amusement flit across his face, succeeded almost instantly by a hard, dark frown of displeasure. He waited a moment and then looked down at her with unmistakable shame and disapproval in his eyes.

"We might just as well be merry while we can," Browne was saying. "Think of what the French did at the time of the commune. They danced and died like ladies and gentlemen. And our own forefathers, Chase, at the time of the American Revolution—remember them too. They gave their balls and parties right under the muzzles of British cannon. And Vicksburg—New Orleans, too—in the civil war! Think of 'em! Why shouldn't we be as game and as gay as they?"

"But they were earnest in their distractions," observed Deppingham, with a glance at his wife's eager face. "This could be nothing more than a travesty, a jest."

"Oh, let us be sports," cried Lady Agnes, falling into an Americanism readily. "It may be a jest, but what odds? Something to kill time with."

"I don't like Mr. Browne," whispered Genevra suddenly. Chase did not reply. She waited a moment and then went on. "He is not like Deppingham. Do you understand?"

Lady Deppingham came over to them at that instant, her eyes sparkling.

"It's to be tonight," she said. "A fashionable charity ball—everything except the newspaper accounts, don't you know. Committees and all that. It's short notice, of course, but life may be short. We'll have Arab acrobatics, Persian dances, a grand march, electric lights and absolutely no money to distribute. That's the way it usually is. Now, Mr. Chase, don't look so sour! Be nice, please!" She put her hand on his arm and smiled up at him so brightly that he could not hold out against her. She caught the touch of disapproval in Genevra's glance, and a sharp, quick flash of rebellion came into her own eyes.

"What is a charity ball?" asked Genevra after a moment.

"A charity ball is a function where one set of women sit in the boxes and say nasty things about the women on the floor, and those on the floor say horrid things about the women in the boxes. It's great fun."

"Charity is simply a hallucination, then?"

"Yes, but don't mention it aloud. Mr. Britt is trying with might and main to prove that Bobby and I have hallucinations without end. If I happen to look depressed at breakfast time he jots it down—spells of depression and melancholia, do you see? He's a dreadful man."

Saunders was approaching from the lower end of the balcony. He appeared flustered. His face was red and perspiring and his manner distrait.

"Well, Saunders?" said Deppingham as the lawyer stopped to clear his throat obsequiously.

"I have found sufficient food of all descriptions, sir, to last for a month at least," said Saunders in a strained, unnatural voice.

"Have a cigarette, Deppy?" interposed Browne, seeing that something was amiss with Saunders. In solemn order the silver box went the rounds.

Saunders spoke up, as if suddenly recollecting something. "I have to report, sir, that the stock of cigarettes is getting very low. They can't last three days at this rate, sir."

[illegible] bread—made of [illegible] vigor, bone and muscle [illegible] it is a perfectly balanced [illegible] expensive food you can put on [illegible]

"BEAVER" FLOUR is a scientific [illegible] Western Spring Wheat and Ontario Fall [illegible] for pastry as for Bread, and best for both [illegible] has it.

DEALERS—Write us for prices on Feed, Coarse Grains and [illegible]

THE T. H. TAYLOR CO. LIMITED, CHATHAM, ONT.

LIVERY AND SALES STABLES

Our Livery and Sales Stables will be found in the Old Murray Feed Building on Henry street where we will be prepared to furnish up-to-date Rigs at shortest no[illegible] We have a number of horses for sale or exchange.

EDWARD DALTON

Henry street, Phone 47.

Union Advocate 2 mos. 10c.

Have Your Neighborhood Rural Telephone System

NO? Then we want [illegible] in our neighborhood and you can do it to yourself [illegible]

THE FARMER'S 'PHONE

This book tells all about how to organize and construct a Rural Telephone system. It gives you the details that you and your neighbors would like to know. It contains the right information on how to get a community wired telephone system going and how to keep it going. It also tells about the No. 317 type Telephone 317, the most perfect telephone instrument ever made. [illegible] constructing. Asking for it [illegible] under [illegible] you would like to [illegible] we will send it to you free [illegible]

THE Northern Electric AND MANUFACTURING CO. LIMITED

Manufacturers and supplier of all apparatus and equipment used in the construction, operation and maintenance of Telephone, Fire Alarm and Electric Railway Plants. Address our Nearest house.

MONTREAL TORONTO WINNIPEG REGINA CALGARY VANCOUVER

When you want to clear your house of flies, see that you get

WILSON'S FLY PADS

Imitations are always unsatisfactory.