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### THE MESSENGER FROM KHARTOOM

BY ST. GEORGE RATHBORNE.

Author of "Dr. Jack," "Dr. Jack's Wife," "Miss Caprice," Etc., Etc.

"A dangerous combination of a man to be at large, capable of doing a tre-mendous amount of mischief in the world, and the sooner he turns up his manity," is the mental comment of Mr.

He meets the baron at the bar of the ing to see more of his pistol practice soon banters him into a little wager. Mr. Grimes has always prided himse'? on his marksmanship, but he has a poor show beside this man of the quick eye and steady hand.

His main object is to discover whether the baron has any weak point about his marksmanship so that he can turn it to good account. Even in this a fair measure of success falls to his share, enough to pay him for his trouble. At fifteen and twenty-fixe paces the Russian duelist is almost a dead shot, but strange to say, the American beats him at twenty paces. It would be hard to understand just why this is so, and to make sure of it Mr. Grimes is not content with the one trial but goes through

The result is the same.

That settles it. If there is to be an exchange of shots between the rivals, it must be at twenty paces. He feels that he is doing only what is right in learning these facts. Doubtless this man without a conscience has in times past spitted more than one boor at the duello, and against whom he had a grudge. He deserves neither sympathy nor pity, and

Perhaps the baron has already sizes up the other and remembers that he saw him with the man he plots to destroy. That does not appear to disturb him very much; indeed, he may even take a savage satisfaction in showing the American how he will make crow's meat of his friend when the time comes.

Mr. Grimes has seen enough. At his first opportunity he must warn Joe, so that the other may not stumble into the git which the baron would dig for him, at least without a knowledge of the consequences.

After leaving the gymnasium where the stalwart British officers spend an hour or so every day, he looks around for the explorer, but can see nothing of him. Molly and her distinguished father are also among the missing. Presently he runs across some one he knows.

"Ah! there, Sandy, my boy, where away?" he calls out, whereat the bustling little correspondent brought in a heap consents to halt briefly. "Off to wire for a passage on the bi-

Alexandria, you know, and then direct to Port Said for the Canal." When is it due?"

"The Alhambra arrives on Saturday, "Secure passage for me, but hold on: perhaps you'd better wait and see. I understand Tunner and his daughter. together with Mynheer Joe, are heading in that direction. If we all go on one steamer, it will make a jolly party."

Sandy strikes an attitude. "Bless you, that's a fact: I'll wait until we have a little consultation, and abide by the result. By the way, the baron goes on her."

"I supposed as much. How did you find that out, Sandy, my boy?" queries

the other. I heard him give orders this morning. Several parties accompany him." "Who took the order?"

"The fellow looking like a Hindoo." Mr. Grimes smiled.

"I wish you had noticed that fellow closely, Sandy," he remarks, quietly. "Well, now, that's just what I did. You see he had a lordly air yesterday, as though he owned the whole of Egypt, while this morning he limped painfully had a bruise on his forehead, and his left arm was tied up in a great ball of though intense pain and devilish fury were fighting for the mastery."

At this Mr. Grimes no longer smiles. He chuckles. "Something has evidently befallen the

rascally Brahmin since night closed in. What did you conclude was the matter?" he asks. "Well, I thought the fellow had evi

dently been barking up the wrong tree, says Sandy, solemnly.
This time Mr. Grimes laughs aloud. "Good guess, my boy. He owes the

goose-egg on his forehead, the halt in his gait and the bandaged arm to some "Ten to one it was 'that Mynheer Joe!" exclaimed the correspondent,

quickly. "Go up, young man. You are an ornament to the guessing class. Sure enough, it was our Joseph who handled the Thug without gloves. The beast was on a mission for his master, and was thrown through the window by the messenger from Khartoom."

Of course Sandy pricks his ears up at this chance for a sensation, and plie the other with questions, which Mr. Grimes answers to the best of his ability. The story is soon told, and fol lowed by what he has, this morning seen the baron do-exercise his skitl with sword and revolver, as though

there is work ahead. "As sure as you live, it's going to be nip and tuck between those two yet I'm ready to bet on Joe; but I admit the case is awfully doubtful, with that human devil against him. Still Joe's star of luck has never yet deserted him He's the only foreigner to come out of Khartoom alive. Let us hope and pray he will finally outwit that baron and carry off the prize."

all his life, and if something wou only come up whereby he could show his friendship, he stands ready to chip in no matter what the cost.

Thus Joe's friends talk over matter and endeavor to discover some way whereby the explorer can be benefited They feel sure the baron has made up his mind to push matters to the wall and that he will not hesitate about the means he employs.

If Joe is challenged, of course, he may have the choice of weapons, time and place. He can, therefore, make the best of the bargain. The one thing they fear is that the baron may arrange it so that the insult comes from him. Well, if so, Joe will probably avenge it on the spot and not dream of sending in a challenge.

Thus they draw consolution from the situation and hope for the best. Where can Joe have taken h mself to? They fail to find anything of him, nor do they seen Tanner and his daughter. This delay is not to Sandy's liking, as he is anxious to send a telegram to the city on the Mediterranean, engaging his passage for India, and frets under the lapse of time.

The morning has gone and the afternoon with it.

It is evening when the two friends run across Tanner in the hotel-Tanner. who greets them in his usual boisterous manner, as he does all his friends. Sandy sees his opportunity and makes

the best possible use of it. He asks the orator his intentions about travel, and hints at how nice it would be if all of them could go on the same steamer to India, which proposition quite takes the other by storm. Making inquiries as to date of sailing

and a few other things, Tanner figures on his own plans, and then announces that Sandy may include himself and daughter in the party. "How about Mynheer Joe?" "You have to see him personally," re-

turns the orator, with a sly twinkle in his eyes, as though he can make a pretty good guess that the party mentioned will not be far away when they leave Alexandria. "Where may he be found?" asks

"Think I know. You see a party of English officers and leading men were bound to fete the brave boy who came from Khartoom with the last news of poor Gordon. They took him over to the barracks, where a spread had been ordered. I was pressed to go, but Moily would be waiting for me at the hotel here, and as I am a dutiful parent and never disappoint her, I gave up the

Sandy has a cloud on his brow.

"More than half an hour, I reckor,"replies Tanner, consulting his time-piece. "They must have reached the wine and cigars.

"Very probably." Mr. Tanner, was the baron present? "Certainly. That man is everywhere!" It is evident that he does not bear malice against the baron, or at least fails to show it.

Sandy and Mr. Grimes exchange glances. "It will be done there?" says the

"No doubt of it, sir," replies the cor respondent.

"What's all this about?" asks Tanner, noticing their peculiar nods and glances.

or stays in Cairo.' And with these words the two friends leave Tanner, heading for the barracks. As they reached the door of this institution, loud voices are heard, excite ment seems to reign, and the colone

can be heard exclaiming:
"Gentlemen, remember you are under
a military roof! Reserve all demonstrations until we separate!"

#### CHAPTER XII.

The words are deeply significant and Sandy clutches his companion's arm; the look exchanged between the two de notes that they understand the true in wardness of this affair; it hardly needs the glance they take into the mess-room

to corroborate their suspicions.

It is a scene they will never forget as long as they live. A dozen or more officers and gentlemen have been at the table; the cloth is removed and cigars with wine served. At one side of the colonel stands Mynheer Joe, the hero of Khartoom; he holds, an empty wine glass in his hand, while upon his face. can be seen a contemptuous look. His eyes are bent across the table.

Nearly opposite to him is the baron. With a seewy handkerchief he wipes the wine from his face; it has also discolored his shirt front where blazes ; wonderful diamond, worth a small for-

Sandy observes his face and discovers hardly a trace of anger there; indeed, from the sardonic smile, one would imagine that this incident is just what the Russian duelist has played for. Returning the soiled kerchief to his pocket, he coolly tosses his card across the table in the direction of Mynhee

"You will speedily hear from me, sir," he says, with cutting emphasis. "The sooner the better, baron! Remember, I leave on Saturday's steamer,"

returns the American, while the officers look astoundeds for, brave men though they are, there is not one among them who would care to be in Joe's shoes.

The Russian bows and Layes the room; he can uo longer remain at the



These men have thought more of dollars than of health. They forget that money is almost worthless without health to enjoy it. If men and women will take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, they needn't worry much about old age. The years will go by, but they won't show it. This medicine makes digestion perfect, and changes a disordered stomach into a healthy one that works as Nature intended. It regulates the liver, enriches the blood and tones the nerves. It prevents consumption by curing the liver, enriches the blood and tones the nerves. It prevents consumption by curing bronchitis, lingering coughs and bleeding lungs. The "Discovery" contains no alcohol: no false or uncertain stimulus: the power it gives is the power of Nature: deep, genuine and lasting. It does not create a craving for stimulants. In serious cases of sickness, Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., will give free advice and counsel to those who write him.

who write him.

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licly insulted him, and as Mynheer Joe is the guest of the occasion, it become his duty to depart from the mess table

Sandy is joined by one of the officers a fine young fellow, who has taken quite a fancy to the war correspondent. The latter declares it will be his pleasant duty to see Lieutenant Hans Fletcher become a general some day. He has the greatest faith in his dashing qualities. "Tell us, how did this ugly affair

come about?" he asks, eagerly, for those at the mess table appear to have forgotten it in listening to Joe's glow ing story of Gordon's death.
"Willingly—what little I know," re
plies the British officer. "I was at the

other end of the table and failed to distinetly catch the full meaning of the baron's insult." "Then he brought it on purposely, a "We suspect as much, though his re-

son is not plain. Perhaps you gentlem "The same old story-rivals in love." Ah! That's the truth of it, ch? "Was the baron's remark about Mis

Tanner?" "I am glad to say it was not. From the little I heard, I belive it conce ned Mynheer Joe's country-some insuling allusion to the flag that covers out cousins across the water."

"Good! And Joe resented it, as an true American would, no matter if his death was a foregone conclusion." say:

"But, you see, it's a serious thing to bring on a row at the colonel's mess

"And a still more serious thing to be publicly insulted there. The colone should have seen to it that only gentle men were invited and not the miserable hound who thinks his title of baron car cover up all his iniquities."

The lieutenant glances rather nervous ly around, hoping no friend of the baros will overhear what is being said by the fiery little correspondent, or there may be a double duel on the tapis.

"Honestly, now lieutenant, if you had been at the mess table of a German regiment, an invited and honored guest and this man should say exactly the ame against your flag, that he did against our stars and stripes, what would have been your action?" pursues Sandy

To be Continued.

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