







TORONTO, ONT.

The Count's Comedy

(Continued from page 15)

He showed it to Valeska and translated as follows:

"Terrible mistake made. You are in great danger. Meet me Tuesday at midnight in the doorway of No.

Roughly scrawled on brown paper, and put into a plain but dirty envelope, the note was convincing. Tim, at any rate, would not be able to deny it for sometime. It was not a message that the Count D'Arrah it for sometime. It was not a message that the Count D'Ampleri would ignore.

The Count D'Ampleri did not ignore it. Smart and aristocratic in appearance, though foreign looking with his Parisian silk hat, his queer trousers, and his waxed and pointed mustache, he was prompt at the ren-dezvous. Valeska and John Wallingdezvous. Valeska and John Walling-ford Shaw, drifting slowly down the block, noticed him there waiting in the dusky doorway, looking im-patiently up and down, smoking a cigarette. The Count seemed to be a bit uneasy. He lighted one cigarette after another.

after another.

The two spectators passed again, talking absorbedly one to the other, but watching guardedly as they passed. At the 37th street corner they noticed a man standing, his back against a lamp post. A child would have known him to be a policeman in plain clothes. His burly figure, his bull neck, the very cut of his mustache, proved it indubitably. He gave them a wink as they passed him. They crossed to the other side of the avenue crossed to the other side of the avenue and walked slowly. As they reached the far end of the block they suddenly stopped. Valeska began to giggle, pointed, and excitedly watched the scene across the street. Shaw seized her arm and hustreet. the crossing and to the front of the doorway. The little drama was almost over. As they stopped, staring, a fantastic figure retreated, entered the door, and banged it behind him.

They were laughing at the Count's

discomfiture as McGraw came up. He

discomhture as McGraw came up. He took his cue like an actor, and walking up to the Count grabbed him fiercely by the arm.

"Now then," he said harshly, "what you a-doin' here? What's that you got there?" He pointed to a black hear the Italian still held in his band.

got there?" He pointed to a black bag the Italian still held in his hand. "Who are you, anyway?" said the Count angrily. "Vat beesnees of yours? Tell me that!"

"I'll show you!" and McGraw threw back his coat and displayed his badge. "See here now! What have you got in that bag at this time of night, hangin' round in this doorway?"

way?"
"My God! I don't know myself!"

the Count exclaimed.
"I'll see, then," said McGraw, and snatching it from him he opened the

snatching it from him he opened the bag and drew out a diamond tiara.

"You don't know!" he thundered.

"We'll see about that at the station house! Come along with me!"

The Count, seeing the jewels, seem-

The Count, seeing the Jewels, seemed almost ready to faint with surprise and horror. "But I am very innocent!" he wailed. "I am ze Count D'Ampleri. I live at ze St. Regis! You shall see! Before heaven! I never knew that things was there! It was give me just now, by—by—"
He paused, discomfited.
"Well, by who?" was McGraw's

inquiry. "You will not believe - nobody won't believe-it ees too much. mad woman she give me zis bag just now zis minute!"

"What kind of a woman? Out with it!"

"Oh! what shall I say? You will

not believe. A woman like a man, with white pantaloon, with a topper hat, a yellow jacquette with stripes like zis." He made a pitiful gesture

down the front of his coat.
"Aw, g'wan!" said McGraw. "Do "Aw, g'wan!" said McGraw. "Do you expect me to believe a pipe dream like that? That's the worst I ever heard, and I've heard some thin ones."
"But I tell ze truth, I swear it! She have a green ombrelle."

'Any more? Go as far as you like."

McGraw's tone was affable.

"She wear big boots of la gomme—what you call it—rubbaire."

McGraw towered above him now, and calmly folded his arms. "No blue whiskers, or purple hatpins stuck in her face, was they? She wasn't chewin' shavin's or have red paint on her hands, I suppose? Lord, man! would make that old lady seem like a fashion plate. When I dope 'em out they generally wears armour plate and tin gloves at least. But I guess that'll be about all for you. I'm going to run you in."
The Count, in despair, appealed to

The Count, in despair, appealed to Valeska. "But ze lady and ze gentleman, she see ze old woman! Ask them! I am spik ze truth to you!" Valeska, smothering her laughter, did her best to speak calmly. "We saw nothing at all, officer. The man must be intoxicated."

"Or crazy," Shaw put in wickedly. "You see nozzing?" the Count ejaculated in amazement. Then he dropped in a dejected huddle, nod-

dropped in a dejected huddle, nod-ding his head sillily. ding his head siliny.
McGraw motioned to Valeska, and

McGraw motioned to Valeska, and nodded toward 37th street.

"Well, I'll have to go," she said, smiling. "You'd better be careful, officer; he may be dangerous." And so saying she walked away with Shaw who was too nearly hysterical with the speak for awhile. When he mirth to speak for awhile. When he

did, it was to say:
"Will you kindly inform Astro
when you see him that I take back what I said about horoscopes and occultism? I am quite sure he will occultism? I am quite sure he will understand."

She repeated the message next day, when she and Astro found themselves "If they were all like John Wallington Shaw," he said, "you and I wouldn't make much of a living, little girl." Then he added irrelevantly, "I understand that the Count D'Ampleri is to said on the Count D'Ampleri." is to sail on the *Germanic* next week." "Oh. Then McGraw let him off?"

"All McGraw wanted was to get his thousand out of Mrs. Landor, and the less talk about it the better. He telephoned me this morning to say that she gave him a very lively halfhour, but paid. By the way, I wonder if Shaw told his sister Ethel how the matter was solved?"

"He said he intended to, before he

went to bed.'

"Then we may consider the episode closed." Astro took down a volume of Immanuel Kant. Before he began his reading he remarked casually, "It was a narrow escape for all three. I don't know exactly which one to congratu-late the most."

"I'd congratulate the old lady with the white duck trousers and the blazer," said Valeska. "I think she had the merriest time of all."

"Thank you kindly," said Astro, with a rare smile. "I'll accept with placetre."

with a rare smile. pleasure!"

END OF THE SERIES.

A Lottery for Dolly

Margie was industriously sewing for her doll, when she suddenly stopped work and turned to her mother:

"Oo, mama, what do you think?"

she exclaimed.
"What is the trouble, dearie?" asked

"I started to make my doll a bonnet," explained Margie, "and I do believe it's going to come out an apron!"

—Woman's Home Companion.

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