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HIGHEST AWARD ST. LOUIS, 1904.

THE PUPPET CROWN.

BY HAROLD MACGRATH.
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CHAPTER XIX.

Maurice, who had wisely slept the larger part of the day, and amused himself a solitary billiards until dinner, came out on the terrace to smoke his after dinner cigar. He watched the sun as, like a ball of rusted brass, it slid down behind the hills, leaving the glowing embers of a smoldering day on the hillsides. The vermilion deepened into charred amber, and soon the vest was a blackened grate; another day vanished in ashes. The flimsy golden pallor of twilight now blurred the landscape; the wind increased with a gayer, madder, keener touch; the lake went billowing in shadows of grey and black, and one by one the lamps of the city sprang up, vivid as sparks from an anvil. Now and again the clear music of the hand drifted across from the park. The fountain glimmered in the Plaza, the cafes began to glitter, carriages came hither and thither. The city had taken on its colorful night.

"Well, here's another day gone," he murmured, rubbing his elbow, which was yet stiff. "I am anxious to know what that shimmer is doing. Has he pulled up stakes or has he stayed to get a whack at me? I hope he's gone; he's a bad Indian, and if anything, he'll want my scalp in his belt before he goes. Hang it! it seems that I have tricked my head into every bear trap in the kingdom. I may not get out of the net one. How clever I was, to be sure! It all was Maurice's doing, dramatic. I am a diplomat, but nobody would guess it at first sight. To talk to a man as I talked to him, and to threaten! He said I was young; I was, but I grow older every day. And the wise word now is, don't imitate the bull of the trestle, as he recalled an American cartoon which at that day was having vogue in the American colony in Vienna.

"I like adventure, I know, but I'm going to give the colonel a wide berth. If he sees me first, off the board I go. Where will he go to the duchy? I must not, we both know, be in that territory; it's too small. And yet I am bound to go back; it is not my promise so much as it is my curiosity. By George, I'm rubbing my elbow gently. And to think, Maurice, that you might not have witnessed this sunset but for a bit of my meddling! What a turn that picture of Inez gave me! I knew him in a second—and like the ass I was, I told him so. And to meet him here, aiming at me, and saying, 'no wonder, I don't recognize him.' "I should like to come in on Fitzgibbon's tonight. His father must have had a crazy streak in him somewhere. Four millions to throw away; humph! And who the deuce has the nerve to flatter?" He looked against the parapet. "If I had four millions, and if Prince Frederick had disappeared for good, I'd give him the lot. Why are things so jumbled up? It's a mess, a mess. We are all human beings; why should some be placed higher than others? A prince is no better than I am, and may be not half so good.

"Sometimes I like to get up high somewhere and look down on the world; every one else looks so small that it's comforting. The true philosopher has no desire; he sits down and views the world as it is, and then he part of it. He knows it is so. Yes, I would like four millions and a principality. . . . Heigho! how bracing the air is, and when on the opposite side of the lake, on the road to Italy, come, let's try it. He mounted to the veranda, and for the first time he noticed the suppressed excitement which lit the faces of those around him. They had gathered here and there, talking, gesticulating and flourishing the evening papers. He moved toward the chancelor and the marshal. The editorial had dismissed Beaumont as recalled.

"The archbishop has dismissed Beaumont as recalled. . . . The archbishop will not be able to form another cabinet. . . . Count von Wallenstein. . . . 'Mollendorf' is a good fellow. . . . The king is giving. . . . The archbishop has been given full powers. . . . The army will revolt unless Beaumont is recalled. . . . And the marshal says here. . . . Maurice waited to hear no more, but climbed through the window into the office.

"By George, something has happened since last night. I must have an evening paper. . . . He had a full account of what had taken place during the day. Von Wallenstein had been relieved of the post of foreign affairs, and Beaumont of his exchequer. There remained only the archbishop, the chancelor and the marshal. The editorial was virulent in its attack on the archbishop, blustered and threatened, and predicted that the fall of the dynasty was a matter of a few hours. For it asserted that the prelate could not form another cabinet, and without a cabinet there could be no government. It was not possible for the archbishop to shoulder the burden alone; he must reinstate the ministry or fall.

"And this is the beginning of the end," said Maurice, throwing aside the paper. "What will happen next? The old prelate is not a man to play the gallery. He has found out the double dealing of Beaumont? That takes a burden off my shoulders—unless he goes at once and resigns. Why wasn't the cabinet dismissed ages ago? It is now too late. And where is Prince Frederick to the rescue? There is no such person. And what is only the archbishop knows. That smile of his! How will it end? I'd like to see von Mitter, who seems to be a good fellow. And that, my friendless, paralytic king! I say, but it makes the blood grow warm."

He left the chair and paced the office confines. Only one thing was echoing through his brain, and that was he could do nothing. The sooner he settled down in the attitude of a spectator the better for him. Besides, he was an official in the employ of a foreign country, and it would be the height of indiscretion to meddle, even in a private capacity. It would be to jeopardize his diplomatic career, and that

of clouds which swarmed over the face of that white world of silence resembled so many rocks. Far away, at the furthest shore of the lake, whenever the moon went free from the clouds, Maurice could see the gray line of the road which stretched toward Italy.

"It's a fine night," he mused, glancing heavenward. The horse answered the touch of the spurs, and cantered away, glad enough to exchange the close air of the stables for this fresh gift of the night. Maurice guided the horse to the stables, and then he turned and entered the residence of Beauvais he went, and, gazing up at the lightless windows, a cold of short duration seized his spine. It had been a hair's breadth, but he felt it. "Your room, Colonel, is better than your company; and hereafter I shall endeavor to do both. I shall feel that cursed blade of yours for weeks to come."

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SOCIAL GLEANINGS

Hon. Charles S. Hyman returned to Ottawa after a brief Easter visit home to Idleyville.

Mrs. John Carling has returned home from Montreal.

Miss Mary Puddicombe, who left for school in Toronto, was the guest of Mrs. Becher, Thornwood, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Gates sail today for the Mediterranean.

The ball of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on Tuesday evening, was an unusually brilliant function, and one that worthily marked the first official visit to Toronto of His Excellency the Governor-General and the Countess Grey. There were fully 500 dancers, and the scene in the ballroom was gorgeous beyond description. At one end of the room, the Countess Grey, in a gown of white and gold, presided over the dancing. The Countess Grey, in a gown of white and gold, presided over the dancing. The Countess Grey, in a gown of white and gold, presided over the dancing.

Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Sterling left for Chicago on Wednesday, owing to the critical illness of Mrs. Sterling's brother, Mr. Len Blalock.

Dr. Grenfell will be the guest of Mrs. Becher, Thornwood, during his stay in London next week.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Grant Fisher spent Easter in Detroit.

Mr. Walklate, of Toronto, returned home on Thursday morning after a very pleasant visit in London to the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smith, in St. James street.

Mrs. Adam Beck and Mrs. Crear, of Hamilton, left for Toronto on Tuesday night.

Miss Jessie Hale returned on Wednesday evening from her visit to her cousin, Miss Mary Campbell, Lynnwood, Simcoe.

Senator Fulford, Mr. Fulford and family left London, England, on April 21, intending to make a thousand-mile automobile trip to the west coast of Canada, and return to Toronto on May 11 via the Pacific.