

teeth. His head was covered with yellow hair, which fell in great ringlets down almost to his shoulders. He was one of those men who possess no attraction for the beholder, but rather impress him with their hideousness instead. Count Vensieque, (for this was this man's name), was an all-powerful German nobleman, having vast wealth and, consequently, great influence in his native country. Slaves that bend a knee to a tyrant's despotic sway, bow, not in respect, but in fear—not because they are favorably impressed with a sense of the tyrant's greatness, but because it is easier and more pleasant to bow than to starve! This latter was true in Count Vensieque's case, as it is in almost every instance where royalty rules supreme. And the days of royalty were not past in 1907.

An animated conversation is in progress between Count Vensieque and General Natells, from the tone of which it is evident that it is of anything but of a friendly nature. The subject of the conversation is a young Englishman, Walter Buston, by name, and a lieutenant in General Natell's army. While travelling through Germany he was seized by Count Vensieque's orders and for some some trifling offence cast into prison. General Natells at the present time is demanding the release of the young lieutenant, a demand which Vensieque refuses to comply with,