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## The Diamond From the Sky

By ROY L. MCCARDELL

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Nancy, the doctor's colored servant, was already astride in the kitchen when Esther's cries brought her to the scene; on the heels of the housekeeper came Alex, the doctor's colored horse boy. After the frenzy of their fright had subsided, the negro boy had run through the neighborhood arousing it with news of the tragedy.

At first Esther and the neighbors had believed the doctor's death had been from natural causes, the peaceful passing in old age. But the disorder of the room, the fitted cash box on the table, the chisel marked drawer of the old bookcase, and the opened window, against which the drawn shade flapped in the early morning air, nutely told their tale of theft and murder.

The sheriff had been sent for and already an eager neighbor had found a crushed grating in the dooryard and the trampling of the feet of what appeared several struggling men in the flower beds that bordered the walk to the



She Found Him Cold In Death.

doctor's gate. The footprints were of well shod men of small and shapely feet, it was reported. No passing rough marauders, no outlaw negro desperadoes had part in the murder and robbery in the doctor's study, nor had any such struggled in deadly combat in his garden, it was whispered. The matter was mystery as well as murder, and the morbid neighbors gathered in and around the cottage of the dead man and whispered greedily.

Meanwhile the dazed and bleeding Blair Stanley had a strange home coming in the night. His mother, that proud, cold woman, worthy mate of the grim judge who had perished strangely in a wild mountain pass nearly a generation ago, loved her son seemingly only through her cold ambitions.

"You do not know when a day may come that you may be in a position to save the life of the heir of Stanley," she had said often significantly. Blair understood his mother well.

It was known by all the Stanleys that the diamond from the sky had vanished strangely the night Colonel Stanley had expired alone in his library, this preceding by a few days only the tragic death of Judge Stanley in the mountain pass, also, it was thought, alone.

This was eighteen years ago, but the Stanley feud was not dead with its protagonists, those elder men of that elder day. It slumbered in the bosom of the younger generation. It smoldered hidden, yet burning not the less, in the bosom of the judge's taciturn widow, Blair's mother. She had always believed with a bitter suspicion that encompassed all of the long dead Colonel Stanley's friends that Dr. Lee had taken the diamond from the sky in the confusion attending the colonel's sudden demise.

Dr. Lee was a relative of Judge Stanley's widow, for all the better families of Fairfax were of kith and kin. The judge's widow believed the doctor held the great diamond in his secret custody if for nothing else than to keep it from the hands of the judge's family through any legal process they might attempt during the minority of Arthur Stanley 2d.

Hence it was that when the nerve shattered Blair, with ashen face and bloody brow, confessed to his waiting mother that he had seen the diamond in Dr. Lee's aged hands she was not surprised. When he half incoherently admitted to her that the old doctor had died in the struggle for the diamond she expressed no compunction for the doctor's death or revulsion at the deed of her son that caused it.

But when he told her that Arthur Stanley, the one life that stood between them and all their ambitious desires, had been in the grasp of Blair did her mood of austere interest change to cold fury.

"You need not add your reproaches to my own," panted her son. "But it was luck, the devil's luck, that all at Stanley hall possess. I would have

killed him. It was in my mind, in my heart. "But he wrested the pistol from my hand as though from the hand of a child, and he dragged me out of the yard, down the deserted village street to the graveyard to kill me and rob me of the diamond with the ease of a giant."

"Well," said his mother, "we must hope for another, better chance. Meanwhile if you see you had better lie hidden until I can learn what suspicious are aroused. If you are missed I will say you are gone to Richmond. Even if Arthur Stanley hears no more of you he will think still that he has slain you. He will keep silent."

(To be continued.)

## INVISIBLE FOE FORCED SERBS TO RETIRE

Clearance of Northern Serbia the Retreat of a People, Not an Army.

London, Nov. 4.—A story of the Serbian tragedy—how the Serbians fought with an invisible foe and were forced to retire—has been received from Nish by way of Milan, from the pen of Luciano Magrini, an Italian war correspondent. The writer characterized the clearance of northern Serbia "the retreat of a people, not an army."

In his account of the retreat, the correspondent describes the scene on a muddy road leading to the south along which was strung an unending procession of gun carriages, carts loaded with war material, conveyances of all sorts bearing women, children, old men, the sick and the wounded, with intervals of sheep and droves of pigs, and of soldiers walking side by side with peasants. At the sides of the road stood groups of peasants, waiting until they were able to take their places in the procession. "The great stream is flowing southward," says the writer, "whither nobody knows."

The wounded were a pitiable sight. Some swathed in bandages were carried on stretchers, while others, also bandaged, were walking because no stretchers were available for them. Still others were wounded, but who had not even been bandaged, trod the road with the procession.

KING ILL AND WEAK.  
At Toplitza King Peter, ill and weak, was waiting to retire with the remnants of his troops. Arriving at Nish, the correspondent found the city wearing a squalid aspect. Almost all the shops were closed and many of the inhabitants had fled. On the main street were still flying the flags which had been hoisted in honor of the allies, who had been expected, but who had never come. The price demanded for carriages for transporting refugees was enormous, \$200 being asked for the hire of a carriage for two to Pristina.

BULGARIA DECEIVED ALLIES.  
"Nish is isolated" continues the correspondent. "M. Youvanovich, the Serbian Minister of Justice, said to me: 'We lived through the tragic hour when Bulgaria mobilized. In vain we besought the Entente to allow us to act and attack Bulgaria before her mobilization was complete. The Entente was still under the delusion that Bulgaria would march against the Turks. We obeyed, and that was our ruin. The situation now is terrible. If the allied troops do not come in time, you will on your return find Serbia no more. The fate of Belgium will have been ours.'"

"WHERE ARE THE ALLIES?" It was a tragic puzzle for Serbia every day as the question was asked, "Where are the allies?" The Serbian General Staff asked that the French and Italian divisions should be sent to old Serbia, in order at least to make a diversion in favor of the hard-pressed troops of King Peter. This was refused on the ground that it would tend to weaken the general effectiveness of the allies, and also owing to road difficulties in transporting supplies and ammunition.

Up to last night the capital was still at Nish, but the archives have been sent to Mitrovitza. The latter town was suggested as the new capital, but the suggestion was overruled because it was feared it would create an unfavorable moral impression on the inhabitants of old Serbia if they were abandoned by the transfer of the capital to new Serbia.

BRAVE OLD KING  
During these trying hours the aged King Peter has been lying ill at Toplitza a historic town where his ancestor, Kara Georgevitch, first raised the standard of revolt against the Turks. The Commander-in-chief, the Putnik, is suffering from asthma and is confined to his bed, and General Paulovich, Chief of Staff, is also ill. It was with difficulty the King was restrained from going to the front and placing himself at the head of his troops and, if necessary, in Dr. Lee's shoes. He was, however, too weak, and was compelled to abandon his heroic project. The whole army complained of the hesitation and tardiness of the allies.

USELESS SACRIFICE OF MEN  
The commanders declared: "Relieve us of the Bulgarians, we will attend to our communications, and we will attend to the enemy on our front." The extraordinary mobility of the Serbian troops, the General Staff felt, was an enormous advantage in their favor against the cumbersome and slow-moving Austro-German invaders, but the Serbians ultimately found they could do no more. Further sacrifices which would probably entail the entire loss of the

army, were regarded as useless, and arrangements were made for the evacuation of Kragujevatz, and the arsenal is believed to have been blown up before the enemy's arrival.

The correspondent next describes a battle he witnessed in the Morava sector. The inhabitants before the advance of the enemy were already retreating. The roads were impassable with deep mud. Everywhere the mud is to the Serbians what snow is to Russians. Before to-day Serbian mud has helped to delay the enemy and has been a valuable auxiliary. In December last the mud delayed the arrival of the Austrian reinforcements and enabled the more mobile Serbs to crush the invaders.

The Serbs on the Morava front made a magnificent resistance. They are the finest infantry fighters in the world, but they could do nothing against the terrible and continuous bombardment.

SHELLED BY AN UNSEEN FOE.  
Shelled from position after position by an unseen foe, the soldiers wept with rage because they were unable to get to close quarters with the enemy and bayonet him as they did with the Austrians whom they chased from Serbia last year. For four days they held on against the terrible rain of shells. The enemy never once employed his infantry. It was artillery that ultimately broke the Serbian resistance. They were compelled to abandon position after position without once seeing a spiked helmet. An officer with tears in his eyes said: "What is the use of having my brave lads slaughtered in this way by shrapnel from an invisible enemy?"

SUCCESSFUL RETREAT  
At last the end came. Bravery and valor could do no more. In three days one Serbian division was decimated by shell fire without having fired a single rifle shot, so the Serbians had to give ground. The retreat was admirably carried out.

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