**VALDIMIR THE MONK

**Power fast," returned the gun-maker.

**Power fast," returned the gun-maker.

**Be are be only kings new darger to him, for each effect will find their peak to arrange in white for some looks during the darger of the fast o

ring was sharp and clear, and the weapon remained unharmed.

"By Sa Michael, Paul, Moscow does not contain another blade like that. Damascus ready?"

"Then take your ground. Are you ready?"

"I am !"

to not. The steel of these two makes came for the seat of physical power, were Ruric's alone to possess. Yet Conrad Damonoff on—a ponderous, two-handed affair, belonging to a Bengal chieftain. The metal aports of the court-club he had few superiors, and not many equals. But Ruric Nevel had superiors, the electricity of the most subtle spring.

Who is that monk?" asked the lieuten harm to you; and, furthermore, that you were no match for me at this kind of work."

"Who is that monk?" asked the lieuten harm to you; and, furthermore, that you are no match for me at this kind of work."

"Ut, roo dare not cross."

"Who is that monk?" asked the lieuten harm to you; and, furthermore, that you are no match for me at this kind of work."

"Out, fool!" yelled Damonoff, now fairly min," returned Ruric, "I have only seen him for the alone to possess. Yet Conrad Damonoff were no match for me at this kind of work."

"Ut, roo dare not cross." with the elasticity of the most subtle spring.
My old master at Toledo gave me these as a memento. Were I to mention the sum of look passed from the Count's face. As his

"And yet he gave it away !" ould wish for when making such."

After this Ruric put up the small sword. After this Ruric put up the small sword, and then he gave Paul a few directions about to regain his composure.

**Now," he gasped, "play your best, for the standard point in the same allowing his point in the same all the work, promising to be back before "You are not a novice," returned Ruric night. The faithful boy shook his head calmly, at the same time allowing his point

some back." He said this, and then killed

It was all she sould say.

Ruric gazed a moment into her face—then kissed her again—and again he said : "God bless you, my mother ! I shall

He dared not stop to speak more. Gently seating his fond mother upon a chair he turned and hurried from the pace. In the hall he threw on his pelisse and bonnet, and then he opened the door and passed out. "Have you a good weapon?" asked Orsa,

as the horse started on. "I have a fair one. I think it will not leceive me," returned Ruric. "lasked," resumed Orsa, "because Da-

monoff prides himself upon the weapon he wears. It is a German blade, and he thinks he can cut in twain the blade of any other weapon in Moscow with it." "I have a good weapon," Ruric said

tests than most swords will bear." And after some further remarks he related the metric of the metri peculiar circumstances attending the mak- should be satisfied." dig of the sword, and his possession of it.

At length they struck upon the river, and in half an hour more they reached the ap-

pointed spot.
The day was beautiful. The sun shone brightly upon the glistening snow, and the air was still and calm. The sharp frost of the atmosphere served only to brace the system up, and Ruric threw open his pelisse hat he might breats more freely. He had been upon the ground but a few minutes when the other party came in sight around

As soon as the Count and his second arrivad, and the horses had been secured, the lieutmant proposed that they should repair to the building which was close at hand. This was a large open boat-house, which unused and deserted in the winter, and y is proposed to go in there because the of the strong sunlight from te can-" snow was calculated to blind and blur

what means that?" uttered Orsa, as e e past r ing the bend of the

n.y a - urgeon," replied Damonoff. unt not cut a man's flesh without m a fair chance to survive it." en you may find him serviceable

uric recognized its inmate as an surgeon whom he had seen before, e knew not his name. w tor the old boat house," cried Ur

this business done, for I would be back to mer. I dine with Olga to-day, and a fair

manien awaits my coming." Notice him not," whispered Orsa, who wa ked close by Ruric's side. "That is one of his chief points when engaged in an affair this kind. He hopes to get you angry, a, unhi g: your nerves."

That latent force of fiuld, which permeates all natter, and which bears the conventional name of Electricity, is widely appreciated and recognised as a means of cure in various diseases. Its first in the form of Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oli are hown by the relief of pain, both neuralgiar and mematic, as well as the throat and integration will as the throat and image, and in various other healing ways.

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udio suthwest corner Yonge and Adelaid creets. Funny out true—Nothing like Dyer's Jelly of Occumber, and Roses to cure chapped hands and soften the skin; try, it; druggists keep it. W. a large at G. Markette.

blade upon the anvil with great force. The it."

ring was sharp and clear, and the weapon "I am well satisfied as it is," replied

but, he added, round you not temper there was a peculiar contrast in the bearing a blade like that?"

The tree was a peculiar contrast in the bearing of the two men. That breast swelling out insensible form to the sledge, he took Alarmore, "And twice have I had you before me insensible form to the sledge, he took Alarmore, "Rurie continued, without no insensible form to the sledge, he took Alarmore, "Cannot you to the seat of physical power, were Rurie's would have shown you that I sought not would have shown you that I sought not to you; and, furthermore, that you have alone to possess. Yet Conrad Damonoff the seat of physical power, were Rurie's alone to possess. Yet Conrad Damonoff the seat of physical power, were Rurie's harm to you; and, furthermore, that you have shown you that I sought not the sledge, he took Alarmore insensible form to the sledge, he took Alarmore insensibl

My old master at Toledo gave me these as a newer shown the first time, that contemptuous swords again, say so; but do not crawl on the sum of numeror. Were I to mention the sum of numeror he was once offered for the largest one you would hardly credit it."

Now, for the first time, that contemptuous swords again, say so; but do not crawl on like a coward!"

Yes—several times about our barracks. They will not take my laboration the sum of like a coward!"

Yes—several times about our barracks. They will not take my laboration the sum of like a coward!"

Yes—several times about our barracks. They will not take my laboration the sum of the seems of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been sick and dying. He seems for an instant beneath the unmerciful insult to be a good-hearted man, and, I should of the senseless tongue that assailed him—that he fell in his country's cause. Tell our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor fellows have been there when some of our poor form me!" or of the seems the contract of the seems of the contract o ne you would hardly credit it."

noticed the calm, dignified, quiet ease of for an instant beneath the unmerciful insult to be a good-hearted man, and, I should to be a good-hearted man, and, I should of the senseless tongue that assailed him—that he fell in his country's cause. Tell indee, quite intelligent." mystic fire of those expressive eyes, he knew that the had no common amateur to deal "before these men here assembled and be"

"I agree with you there," our here said. him my boy was not to blame—" mystic fire of those expressive eyes, he knew and he stood product effect white as a sum equal to about seven hun- that he had no common amateur to deal "before these men here assembled and be-

and a quick cry escaped his lips. His antagonist's point had touched his bosomit had pressed against his heart, and had not been driven home. Well he knew that his while its worth to him was only commen antagonist's point had touched his bosom—surate with the good it did him. If he told it had pressed against his heart, and had not that his the truth he leved me, and these he gave been driven home. Well he knew that his facts of which Ruric had spoken. In his me as a parting gift, as the best patterns I life was his no longer, for the gun maker had

Ricenen. He went to ner with a smile upon his force he had been impelled by his own as tached. He put his arms about her and his opponent's power. Rurie quickly found his opponent and he carried his own point accordingly through. He lost all run of his opp he brought his point to he antagonist's heart. But his meaning had been read from the first by Ruric. The youth caught

the motion of the eye, and he saw that his heart was the place looked to. His own novement was almost instinctive. He received his antagonist's sword midway upon his own blade—then moved his arm quickly forward and caught the point under his cross-guard—then, with all his power, he from head to foot with excitement, his hugwreng icd h s arm upward and backward, and the Count's sword went flying across the building. It struck the opposite wall with a dull clang, and the next instant it

was half buried in the snow. "Fear not, sir," said Ruric, as the Count started back with both hands raised, "I never strike an unarmed man." Damonoff's arms fell to his side, and

deep blush of shame mantled his face.

"No, no," the discomfited man exclaimed. starting up with rage and mortification. "That was but a slip. 'Twas a false stepa cowardly feint. I am not overcome." "But, man of mortality, even now your life is Nevel's. He may run you through now if he chooses."

ow if he encouses. apringing to where his sword had fallen, and

snatching it up.
"Sir Count," here spoke Ruric, calmly, but with marked contempt, "you should not blame me for what I have done, for thrice have you tried to break my sword. "Then try it again !" Damonoff returned. Take my sword again if you can."

Perhaps not," our hero retorted. "But be sure your sword shall be used no more after this day." "Ha! Brag not, but strike. If you

The conclusion of the sentence drowned by the clash of steel. At the second stroke the Count made anther furious thrust at his antagonist's heart. Ruric sprang quickly aside, and with the whole power of his good right arm he struck

Damonoff's blade close to the haft and broke it in twain.
"My other sword! my other sword!" the Count shouted, now blinded by absointe madn ss. "Oh, give me my other—" "Hold ' cried both the surgeon and Stephen Urzen in concert. "You are mad,

"Mad !-Oh, I shall be mad! Where is my sword!" the reckless man yelled, casting the bladeless pommel down.

weapon deceived me. Where is the other?" Deceived thee, Conrad?" repeated the probs which appeared applicable, he ex-

surgeon, sarcastically. "By the holy Host! amined the wound. Ruric watched him had thy head but received a hundredth eagerly, and with a painful expression. "Ayer's Cherry Pectoral has given me great relief in bronchitis. Within a month I have sent some of this preparation to a friend suffering from bronchitis and asthma. It has done him so much good that he writes for more."—Charles F. Dumterville, Plymouth, England.

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Thus far Kuric had remained silent, but he felt it his duty to speak now.

"Sir Count," he said, in a tone so stern and authoritative, and with a look so comnanding, that the other was held in abey.

"I believe you, my son," the monk said, and tearful me now?"

and authoritative, and with a look so com-nanding, that the other was held in abey. ance by it, "I must speak on word. You have provoked a quarrel with me—and you have challenged me. I have no fear of death never saw a better."

Thus spoke the gun-maker to his boy as he balanced the beautiful weapon in his hand.

"I think you are right, my master," the boy returned, who had beheld the trial of the biade with unbounded admiration.

"But," he added, "could you not temper"

"But," have challenged me. I have no fear of death have for my life, but I would us a fellow when duty cal a for my life, but I would lay a fellow when duty cal a for my life, but I would lay a fellow when duty cal a for my wilfe, but I would lay a fellow when duty cal a for my life, but I would lay a fellow when no blame can be strached the surgeon. "The young man has acted the surgeon. "The young man has acted the surgeon. "The young man has acted when if they most nobly, and no blame can be strached by these sought him."

"We seek Ruric Nevel, the gun most nobly, and no blame can be strached by the surgeon. "The young man has acted when if they sought him."

"We seek Ruric Nevel, the gun most nobly, and no blame can be strached by these sought him."

"We seek Ruric Nevel, the surgeon. "The young man has acted when if they sought him."

"We seek Ruric Nevel, the surgeon." "And twice have I have most nobly, and no blame on be strached by the surgeon. "The young man has acted when if

fore God, I swear that thus far I have spared with.

At length Conrad Damonoff started back, you; but my own life may be the forfeit if

rage seemed to give him a maniac's power—
fort.

Ruric was all ready but putting on his And again the weapons were crossed.

Ruric was all ready but putting on his And again the weapons were crossed. And again the weapons were crossed. and that he was earnest only for life or bonnett and pelisse. His mother was in the kitchen. He went to her with a smile upon his face. He put his arms about her and the weapons were crossed. and that he was earnest only for life or panion's face, "you handle the sword like at the struck quickly and furiously, and furiously and fu

> At the twelfth stroke the Count made a play, and quickly saw that he must put a feint to the le't—then at the throat, and stop to the conflict, or run the risk of then, with a quick, lightning-like motion, leaving a childless moth r in his home to see that day's sun sink.
> "Will you give o'er?" he asked, as h struck the Count's point down. "Never ! Submit to such as you? Bah !

have worked hard to gain the ssience."

The lieutenant readily admitted the truth

"Ruric! My boy! Safe!"

" Mother," he said, "the Count is not

"Nor wounded?" she uttered, quickly

flict. When he had concluded, his mother

pondered a few moments, and then she said:

"Surely, my son, I will try and suffer

"More surely he would, mother. Aye-

he would not have hesitated to stab me in

mured her thanks to God,

and eagerly.

A few moments more the conflict lasted One more opportunity he h d at Damonoff's hear .- and he spared him. All present saw it save the madman. "Fool !" uttered the monk, who tremble

belly shaking like a bage of jel.y, "will you throw away your own life, Ruric Nevel Shall I tell your mother you left her of your own will ?"

This mention of his mother called the last lingering doubt from Rurie's mind. Again he struck the opposing point down, and the he pressed his own point upon the Count's bosom. He avoi ed the heart-he tried to avoid the vitals-but he threw his arm for back, and rested his recking point up n the trodden snow. The Count came furiously on again, but he struck wildly, and at random, Ruric merely warding off his blows. until finally his arm sank. On the next moment his sword fell from his nerveless grasp, and he sank fainting back into the

arms of his attendants.

CHAPTER VI. "Is he dead?" asked Ruric, starting

quickly forward. "Hold, my son," uttered the monk, laying his hand upon the young man's arm. Surely you have nothing to fear. It was none of your work—no more than if you had form stood before her. an your sword to the heart of wid beast

tnat had attacked you."
"But I did not touch his heart," quickly returned the youth. "I was careful of that. would have struck him upon the head with the flat of my sword, but I feared I

night break his skull." "He is not dead yet," answered the surgeon, as Rurio pressed forward and asked a second time. "He has only fainted from knew well what it meant. the shock of the blow, coupl d with his own fears and passions."

"But will he die?" Ruric asked kneeling down by the fallen man's side. "I can not yet tell," the doctor said, at the same time wiping the blood away, which was flowing freely.

"But why not probe the wound now?" suggested the monk. "Now is the best time, for the place is not yet inflamed; and while he is thus insensible he will be free

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"Fear not, my mother," the youth confidently returned. "The Emperor will not blame me when he knows all the particu-"True, father-you speak truly," added

"Why-yes. I suppose it must be on ac count of the duel which was fought this morning.

"And who wants me?" "Who should want you but the Em-

-that he fell in his country's cause. Tell "dush, mother," interposed Ruric. "Fear

"I think he is a good man; but there is a "dush, nevertheless a mystery about him which I not yet." "Come," said the leader. "It is growing me, and yet I cannot tell where, nor when, late, and Peter will not brook delay."

I have seen him."

"But they will not harm him!" the mother frantically cried, ciinging now to ly; "that is precisely the case with me. I her son.

am very sure that I have seen that man gained it, and—spared it.

"You fence well," he gasped, struggling to regain his composure.

"However, he started forward once im. However, he started forward once to regain his composure.

"The two men watched the movements of image in the property of t The two men watched the movements of low."
the monk while they thus spoke, and they 'Now rest you easy, my dear mother";

noticed that he entered his sledge and and with these words Ruric gently set her noticed that he entered his siedge and drove off towards Borodino.

But Ruric spoke not. He saw that the drove off towards Borodino.

But Ruric spoke not. He saw that the drove off towards Borodino.

But Ruric spoke not. He saw that the fer chair, and then hastened out after they he put on his bonnet and pelise, and then followed his bonnet and pelise, and then his bonnet and pelise and his bonnet and pelise and then his bonnet and pelise and then his bonnet and pelise and then his bonnet and pelise and his bonnet and pelise sack into her chart, and steen followed his bonnet and pelise, and then followed his conductors out to the street, were stood a double sledge, with two horses attached.

"You eem to look upon the killing of a "You eem to look upon the killing of a "Passian nobleman as a very small affair,"

said one of the officers, after they had starts forced to regard community only in wild madaric quickly found reful than at first, less. Twice Ruric came nigh being ruu
reful than at first, less. Twice Ruric came nigh being ruu
"I do understand the weapon passing ed on their way.
"I' community the dead, then?" Ruric quickly asked.
"Is he dead, then?" Ruric quickly asked.

> "Ah-'tis not all science," the officer dded. "That wondrous strength of yours "And yet," said Ruric, "I have seen weaker men than myself who would over-

come me easily-or, at least, who might shall see about that when we come to the palace. Perhaps you may go clear; but, But they were not in this city," sug. upon my soul, I would not willingly occupy ested Orsa, with a peculiar shake of the

your place." Ruric cared not to arge the point, with mentioning my own powers; but yet I may those who knew nothing about the circumtary that there is no man in Moscow who is stances, so he remained silent during the stances, so he remained silent during the my superior in the use of any sort of offenwhen they reached the imperial palace, and Ruric was conducted at once into the Em-

f this, and then the conversation turned of this, and then the conversation turned peror's presence.

upon the subject of the Count, and the

The Emperor Peter was in one of the adding the salpers with respect to the smaller audience chambers, sitting at a smaller audience chambers, event which had just transpired. This conersation lasted until they reached the door heavily wrought with gold, and upon either hand stood some of his private attendants. f Ruric's residence, and having thanked his riend for his kindness, and expressed the He was a young man, not yet so old as ope that at some time he might have oportunity to return soms adequate favor, ready wore a mature look. His frame was solid, but not large-being rather slight the gunmaker entered the house.

The widow sat in her great chair by the than otherwise in physical bulk. His dress betrayed negligence and carelessness, and ire. She was pale and anxious. Her brow was in marked contrast with the rich garbs was supported by her hands, and at very sound from without she would start up with of his attendants. Such was Peter of Rus is -yet a youth-small in frame, a d careless a trightened expression and listen. At length the sound of bells struck upon her ear—they came nearer and nearer—and they stormed at her deared. they stopped at her door. She would have they stopped at her door. She would have arisen, but she could not. With her hands clasped she bent eagerly forward, and lisand in that bosom beat a heart thir ing clasped she bent eagerly forward, and lis-

more for the good of Russia than for self or tened with a frantic interest. Soon the door opened. Surely no one but he would Ruric saw Stephen Urzen and the surenter without k ocking. She started to geon there; and he also saw the Duke of Tula there. He met the Duke's eye, and a her feet-the inner door opened-a male peculiar sensation of fear ran through his mind as he saw the stern, threatening ex-She tot ered forward and some upon the pression that rested upon Olga's face. bosom of her noble son, and while she

"Sire," spoke the leader of those who had conducted the prisoner thither, "Ruric wound her arms tightly about him she mur-Nevel stands before you." By and by the widow became more calm, but still there was an earnest, eager look of

"Ah," uttered Peter, casting his cagle eye over the forms before him. "Nevel-ad-With a bold, yet modest step, Rurie ad-

vanced to the table, and with a bow he awaited the Emperor's pleasure. There was a shudder perceptible in the frames of those who wished the prisoner well, for help it." And thereupon he related all the circumstances connected with the con-

In order to understand the circumstances

nothing from this, even should the wicked under which Ruric was brought before the man die. In all you acted but upon the defensive. From the first he has only been few hours. The aut crat had occasion to May, I say! Shall I give up because my sword is broke? By the gods, the weapon deceived me. Where is the other?' Having selected a upon the suggestion. Having selected a upon the suggestion. Having selected a upon the suggestion. questioned, when he did come, concerning his tard ness. His answer was, that he had

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"TRUTH"

"You seem to take it as a matter of AN IMMENSE LIST OF REWARDS course that I should return alive and well,"

course that I should return alive and wen, said the gun-maker with a smile.

"Why—of course," returned the boy, composedly. "Why would a sore of such men as he be to you?

Conrad Damonofi holds aword before Ruric Nevel? No, I only smiled when I heard his challenge. I should have as soon thought of being anxious about your return from a marten hunt."

Ruric smiled as his boy's peculiar eagor.

Ruric smiled as his boy's peculiar eagor.

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"Is he dead, then?" Ruric quickly asked.

"The doctors think his case a critical one.
But that is not the thing; you would have killed him if you could."

"No, no. By heaven, 'tia not so.! All who were present will swear that I tried to spare him."

"Very well," returned the officer. "We shall see about that when we come to the shall see about that we want when we come to the shall see about that is not so if you would have seven each Five Dollars Cash.

**Struct seven each Five Dollars Cash.

**Struct seven each Five Dollars Cash.

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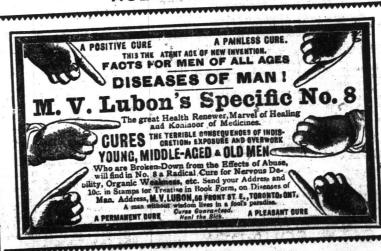
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