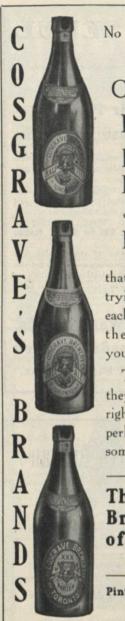
24



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THE CONSUL'S NIECE

(Continued from Page 18)

fancy."

Millie made no answer. Her heart was beating too hurriedly, and she failed to see the point of the remark.

Palliser lead her along a broad path to where at the end of the walk stood a great elm. From its shadow came a gay

voice:

"Is that you, Millie? Here we are, Mr. Carter and I. Let's change partners. Come, Captain Palliser. I'm dying for a turn."

Millie did not care what they did. She only knew that they had gone and that she was alone with Jack Carter.

With a gentleness that was almost solemnity he took her in his arms.

"It's for good-by, Millie," he whispered, his cheek against hers.

"You're going?" and she put back her head to look up into his face. "Oh, but Jack, the cruisers! Don't you know that there are two outside?"

Jack, the cruisers! Don't you know that there are two outside?"

"Yes, sweetheart, we know," he soothed her. "But if I were sure when we were sailing I could not tell you. I only know it's good-by."

The great forces of Love and Death proceeds as were soon to be s

The great forces of Love and Death brooded around them, during those mo-ments when they clung together in the warm darkness

How few those moments seemed before footsteps came along the gravel, and Ade-

"Jack, are you there? You're wanted.
Mr. Horsham says time's up and I promeised to fetch you. Come along. Captain Palliser, you'll take care of Millie, won't you?"

"Good God, what did he ask better?" the man said to himself in bitterness of heart as he stood beside the girl, feeling her silent suffering in every nerve.

Millie stood motionless until the light of the doorway had caught Jack's figure and it was lost in the crowd.

Then as she moved Palliser took her to

Then as she moved, Palliser took her to a seat where they stayed for a while without an interchanged word.

Millie was the first to speak.

"I can go in now," she said.

"There's no hurry. Better wait a bit longer"

"But my partners?"
"They must bear their loss."
"And yours?"
"And yours?"
"I kept mys "I haven't any. I kept myself free for eventualities."

"For me, you mean," she said gratefully.
"Yes, for you," was the quiet answer that made her wish she had held her

"Yes, for you, was the quiet answer that made her wish she had held her tongue.

"Look here," Palliser began, "if — if there's any excitement to-morrow morning, please don't go out alone—to the Point or anywhere like that, I mean. You can't really see anything. It all must happen outside the three mile limit, you know, and you'd only distress yourself. I'd come for you if I weren't on duty."

Something in the reserve of the last words struck Millie's notice.

"Down at the forts?" she asked quickly.

"No," he hesitated, and then said: "A military launch starts at daybreak, just to see what's going on, I fancy," then with a change of subject, "Look how black the night is now. There's not a star to be seen. If the Captain of the Onondaga is wise he will take his chance of slipping out to-night and getting away. And by Jove, I believe he's going to do it, or else why should those men have left before twelve? That's it, you may be sure. twelve? That's it, you may be sure. They've only been sent here for an hour as a blind."

"Oh, do you really, really think so?" Millie cried with a new echo of hope in her

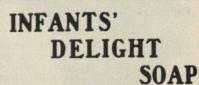
'I'm sure of it," he asserted, thankful for

They helped her to go in and play her part through the rest of the evening, while she kept at bay thoughts of to-morrow's

That night Millie made no pretence of going to bed

(To be Continued)





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