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IVAN By SYLVANNUS COBB, JR.

THE SERF

Continued from last week.

"Can you tell me where she is?" said our hero in a sad, earnest tone.

"Not now—not now," returned the man of medicine. "Wait until you are stronger, and then I will tell you all I know."

The truth was, the physician had determined to keep away from his patient, for he knew well the inquiries to which he would be subjected

"Not too fast—not too fast," interrupted Galba. "If you would save Myrrha, you must first save yourself."

Ruric had sense enough to understand the justice of this, and he offered no argument in opposition, and after looking about him for a while

"Not too fast—not too fast," interrupted Galba. "If you would save Myrrha, you must first save yourself."

CHAPTER XV.—ON A DUBIOUS TRACK.

In four days—and long days they were to him who was most concerned—Ruric was told that he might set out upon his search.

At length the parting came, and both Orfa and Ruric swept; and when they separated each had a word of hope and comfort for the other.

"But, my dear young friend, you must not—"

"Have you no courage left?" asked the physician, taking the count kindly by the hand.

"Not all lost?" uttered the youth, starting with hope. "How—what is the point upon which my soul can cling?"

"You forget, my young friend," returned the physician, with a melancholy smile.

"And Myrrha was defenceless!" groaned the youth, with new tears.

"I do not think so," said the physician with real sincerity. "Let me assure you that the Turk is not the man you take him for."

"Not sure, but I think so. Such beauty as hers would not be assigned to a place anywhere short of the capital."

"Then get her out."

"I think there is a vessel to sail to-morrow morning," returned Lafal. "I am sure there is."

"Yes," returned Hamor, "you are right, and she is bound direct to the Bosphorus, too."

"But Ruric could not trust to the Captain's coming to the inn. He persuaded Lafal to accompany him to the wharf, and having found the vessel, he at once engaged a passage to Constantinople."

It was on the evening of the fourth day that the vessel reached the harbor of Constantinople, and on the next morning Ruric went on shore.

At length the parting came, and both Orfa and Ruric swept; and when they separated each had a word of hope and comfort for the other.

his stout mule and faithful weapons for company.

"It was fully dark when the count reached the first stopping-place at the eastern foot of the mountains, and having secured and fed his mule, he made up his own bed in the little case and lay down to sleep."

"I am sure that she must have been with them, though I did not see her, for I heard one of their women spoken of as of surpassing loveliness."

"All but one!" uttered Ruric, catching at the words, as though he felt sure that Myrrha must have been the exception.

"Yes, all but one," repeated Hamor, while a shade of honest sadness passed over his face.

"It was Myrrha?" uttered Ruric, with clasped hands. "It must have been Myrrha. She had rich golden hair?"

"Not then, but she has been sold since. She was sold five days ago to a merchant who sailed the next morning."

"Ruric's hopes were crushed again. "Sold and gone!"

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he was informed that the place was closed, and would not be open again until next day—and so until the next day he was forced to wait.

"I shall make a wife of the one I buy," returned Ruric.

"Then why not take the Georgian?" earnestly entreated the Jew? "Is she not beautiful?"

"I am sure that she must have been with them, though I did not see her, for I heard one of their women spoken of as of surpassing loveliness."

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"Some; for I think I should like to have bought her." "O, I am sure you would—and then I think she would have taken to you. But she took to Constantinople willingly. She cried, and sobbed, and prayed, and to tell you the truth I was in a hurry to get rid of her, for fear she would kill herself."

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