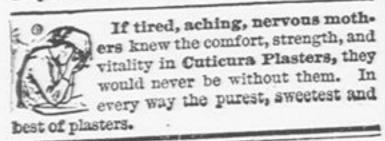
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Canadian LINDSAY, FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1994.

## A MEXICAN BELLE.

An Intensely Interesting Tale of Life in Austria and Mexico.

(Continued from last week.) When Madame de Schwerendorf had disposed herself and her charges on convenient seats, there was a sort of rush have done. She was surprised and shocktowards them,-friends coming up to ed at herself, but it was no use. They shake hands, gentlemen wanting to be were nothing to each other now : he was introduced, other gentlemen wanting to ask for dances, the two girls were plunged she could thus quietly dance round the voice. into a whirl of talk, of questions and room with the man whom she had once answers, of names getting put down on expected to go through life with, who had cards. Atnold stood a little on one side professed to be her lover; nay, whom she with folded arms, watching it all silently. woman's husband. She felt perfectly of being watched by something familiar Other people besides Arnold had specu- indifferent, although it was wrong and

lated upon whether the beautiful Mexicen departure of Prince D--. He had and her heavy satin train skillfully among on her face. Arnold was not subject to been very assiduous in his intention, and the knot of dancers. A little later in the nervous fancies, and was in general not though he was ugly and had a squeaky evening, the ice being broken, Otto danced very tolerant of them in others, but the voice, most women would have been ready to overlook those trifling disadvantages in favor of his title and of the accumulated income which made him one every word without cause for displeasure. of the most coveted partis in the coun-

He was half mad already, and if he had his mortification—and buried still deeper ing in the same stream, the count talking danced with her to night, his coronet by her in the deep grave of oblivion and very earnestly. Hermine did not smile and riches would have been laid at her indifference. Otto suffered acutely, of nor answer; she looked on in front of "Doesn't that great hussar fellow with Colly just at this moment he suffered less which Arnold had taken. She was look-

"So the amethysts did not suit after through such torments of suffering, of to-night, but she had not had what she I know him better than that."

all?" young Baroness Bodenbach remark- having reached the climax of his situation, wanted. ed, the first time she found he self near and put the insurmountable barrier but there was a point of interrogation at blunt him for the moment, enough to her exactly, for she was nearly the same "No, thank you, they did not do," social comedy with tolerable success. the end of it.

chain scratched my neck; and besides, tearing out his hair and wringing his all human manner of foresight he must I found I looked better without them,"

to get used to our fetters," said Halka, second quadrille was now drawing near, the Reata (for he did not see why Arnold beside her. 'Perhaps you have not been for of course he had not danced as yet. because he had danced the quadrille with accustomed to wearing ornamen's often?" He had stood in the doorway most of the her), perceived the expression on the

waitz striking up, she moved off on her People had not been slow in noticing this; critical moment. There was another partner's arm, whirled into the midst of and now, as he took his place in the room off the ball-room, less large, less the dancers—light, supple, her feet mov- quadrille with Reata on his arm, com- lofty, with seats for non-dancers, and into ing instinctively to the music, enjoying ments became more general. But this room some of the dancers were straythe movement and the excitement and although people made remarks to each ing in couples and trios, to enjoy the the brilliancy about her, valsing as well other, nobody ventured to say a chaffing greater coolness, Arnold and Reata among ed. Doctor the brilliancy about her, vaising as well other, hobody ventured to say a channel the others. Langenfeld, looking about Pierce's as the most routine valsers in the room, word to Arnold. He stood there, grave and with twenty times their grace of and rather rigid, evidently very much wildly, caught sight of them just as they

his finely-marked brows drawn together which he wore on this occasion, seeming an obssacle, something which turned in similarly to one of Arnold's portentous | to add to the severity of his appearance. | matters differently. frowns, his face paler than was it wont. Even Langenfeld, much as he would have When he had watched her for a minute liked, did not dare to remind him of his Arnold was surprised by feeling the hand he turned away impatiently. He saw broken resolution Langenfeld was their which lay on his arm make a sudden con-Halka just released, from the arm of her vis-a-vis, dancing with Fraulein Melaine, partner, sinking down to her seat, with whose acorn-crowned head and brilliant start apparently; for on looking at Reata her pearl-grey satin falling in folds around | verdure of dress would have been enough | he perceived that the colour had left her her and the pearls on her necks shining to frighten away a less bold man than cheeks, and that she was staring at somewhite and soft; and with a sudden Langenfeld, who, with lugubrious grim- body or something with eyes very widemovement, as if to shut out that other ness, had selected the very plainest girl open. Following their direction, Arnold vision, he went up and asked his wife to in the room for his partner.

is unusual for newly-married couples to get flurried immediately. reason she did not wish to put herself on anything. He is only doing what he much white shirt seen, not so over-white, reason she did not wish to put horsen on anything. Let us only doing all that we either; also a general impression of snob- Keep this in mind and you solve the bighness and had style bride. If Otto had danced with her, she would only have had the pleasure of a Olivia." remain under the delusion that he had wered the other, who was no less than asked Arnold, looking in surprise from really wished for that waltz—and the the baron's best friend with the hooked Reata to the man advancing towards thing thus withheld would gain greater nose and the one arm. "Bu: whatever them. worth in his eyes. Quickly she weighed you may owe to the memory of your "Oh, don't -for heaven's sake don't!" the pros and cons, and then leaning a cousin Olivia, it surely does not require she answered, in frightened tones. I little more back, and fanning herself, she him to sit beside that girl during the must speak to him." answered, "No, thank you, Otto; we are whole of that waltz, and to be following "Do you know him?" Arnold asked, not going to play the sentimental before her with his eyes whenever the was severely. did it behind people!) "I have no right | "Yes, to be sure, to be sure; perhaps Mexico; I must speak to him at once;" to claim you to-night; you had far better you are right. Following her about and there was no time for more parley,

go and make yourself generally useful; when she is dancing, you say? that will twill probably be expected." This was never do. I have never known Arnold : to bring the senses of his social import- to do that sort of thing before." love before?" asked his hooked-nosed ance well before his mind; and it had its right effect, for Otto was easily flattered, and, besides, deeply grateful at being let friend, dryly: off from any sentimental display. Halka do not think he is in love now?" yet pushed her tactics further, apparently encroaching upon dangerous ground, but placing herself in reality on the safe was only calling your attention to facts.' know," said the Baron, more hopefully.

"Have you not danced yet with Frau-1 in Lackenegg? It seems the correct a ling to do to-night; and as she has come with our party, it would not do if any of us were to appear inattentive to her."

No, I have not danced at all yet," replied Otto, surprised. He had been out whether Halka did or did not suspect | where his son was taking place in the a ything in the passages which had passed quadrille, as if meditating a sudden rush himself and Reata. And now as she looked up, putting her question serenely, he came to the conclusion that she certainly could not have guessed anything. Clever men are so easily hood-

winked by moderately clever women! "I think you ought to dance with her as well as with Hermine Schwerendorf and your other acquaintances. You cannot have any objection, surely, for Fraushe really is very handsome; don't you with a little more flurry than the first

"Yes," Otto answered, mechanically, feeling that the world was all turning up-

Acting on Halka's advice, the very next | ing entangled, and losing her place, and time that he saw Reata free, he hastened | finding herself in somebody else's, went, up to her and offered himself. He was it was a far worse specimen of dancing. all in a whirl; his head and his ideas Arnold never was very talkative, and he were topsy turvy. Being expressly sent did not speak very much now: he did by his wife to dance with the girl whose not make amusing remarks, as the Prince beauty was maddening him; ordered would have done; or ridiculous ones, as into the very jaws of temptation, it seem- Langenfeld had done. What he did say ed to him; and Halka looked on unmov- was commonplace enough, but the sound ed, carrying on a quiet conversation with of his voice alone sufficed to jumble up her neighbour. The very sight of her all the figures in her mind, and make her calmness acted as a safeguard. If he had | forget everything but the present moment | seen her watching him with flurried of unalloyed felicity. But when does auxiety, it might have pushed him to felicity remain unalloyed for long? There was not a word said during that three whole figures. In the middle of some piece of folly.

turn between Otto and Reata, and it was | the fourth a sudden shade of unrest only when she was half-way round the seemed to alight on her face : her eyes room that she fully realised that it was wandered about the room in search of Otto she was dancing with—it was Otto's something. Arnold, having just rescued Reats. arm that was round her waist, Otto's hand | her from a new piece of confusion, noticed that was clasping hers at that moment. | this shade of disturbance. She ought to have sunk into the earth, she told herself, remembering what he Would you not like to sit down?" The rooms had grown considerably often he had held her hand when that fuller within the last half hour; there had once been to her; remembering how hand was to have been his, and how his was a fresh accession of people-men who arm had been put round her waist, one had been dining late, or had been gamshort year ago, with the right of an bling in the card-rooms, and now came affianced bridegroom. But somehow she lounging in, and stood in groups or knots, dulous stupefaction on his face, and could not feel ashamed, as she ought to

I had an odd sensation for a moment, as if a serpent were looking at me." "A serpent?" repeated Arnold, with at least three points of exclamation in his to him. It was dreadful to think that "Yes; don't you know the feeling?"

"No, thank you, I am quite well ; only

"Have you ever known him to be in

"Oh dear, no; never. But you surely

"I never said anything of the sort; I

"But he couldn't marry her, you

"Yes, I know all about it, but I advise

"What do you mean? Had not I better

"You had better leave him in peace,

replied the other, with a quiet chuckle,

"unless you want to make matters worse."

The general was himself an old bachelor,

but his personal observations had taught

him that young men of Arnold's temper-

ament were better left ih peace under the

said again, but a little less hopefully, and

"Arnold is so sensible," the old Baron

Reata's second quadrille was by no

fact, as far as making mistakes, and gett-

Reata's felicity remained unalloyed during

"Are you not too tired to go on dancing

go and stop him at once?" asked the

about my uncle Max's will."

you to be careful."

"No, I can't say I do." "Oh, I forgot, you have never been herself once loved, and now-another Mexico; but don't you know the feeling

unnatural, she told herself, to be so. In and giddy; don't you know?" She was looking up at him with anxious wise, Otto danced so well, and steered her inquiry, with that shade of unrest still fact it was rather pleasant than otherto her, such common-place remarks as must have convinced him, for he expressmay pass between the most indifferent ed no further disbelief in the serpent, or acquaintances. Halka might have heard whatever the undefined monster might

The quadrille over, Arnold did not them, it was over now; it seemed turied, seem in a Lurry to leave his partner yet; never to be disinterred; buried deep he did not take her back to her place, down by him, and guarded by many but began promenading the room, as one man to another. "Got away her things—by necessity, by vanty, by many of the other couples were doing. precious youth in the very nick of time. expediency, by the very consciousness of Hermine, on the Count's arm, was followcourse; for how could it be otherwise? her, following with her eyes the direction the eyebrows look as if he were going than he has suffered, and than he will ing very tired, harassed, out of her usual suffer later. Every great misery has its placidity; her blue flounces had lost their "Who, Bodenbach? Not a bit of it. reaction, at least for a time; it is impos- freshness, and her blue eyes were a little That sort of thing is not much in his line. sible to go on suffering very acutely for- dim. She had had a good deal of admirever. The very fact of having gone ation and a great deal of attention

Stayn was saying, not looking down at Of course Langenfeld did not remain | whole evening : he was very much in | earnest, but not diffident-according to hands. Even long before the first be successful. Langenfeld, who had quadrille raised him to a state of brief rapidly got rid of his green-robed, wide-"Oh, really!" with an engaging smile. | felicity, he had smoothed back his ill-used | mouthed, small-eyed partner, and was Fraulein Reata seems to find it difficult hair, and returned to the ball-room. The 'No, I am not accustomed to wearing time watching the dancers; and during Count's face, and understanding them at all," said Reata, readily, too one waltz, which Reata had been too something serious was going on, joyous to feel provoked; and then a tired to dance, he had sat by her side. past quickly, so as not to disturb such a otto, standing with his back against very plainly that he was accountable to hastened forward; but before he could one of the lofty pillars, looked after her, no one for his actions—his very uniform, reach them, there arose an interruption,

Halka did not jump at the proposal, as enough to call the notice of the old baron and coming towards them, with an odious might have been expected, seeing that to the marked attention his eldest son smile, Arnold thought, on his face. The Otto was the only person in the room | was paying to the Mexican girl, but for | man was youngish, very fresh coloured, whom she really cared to dance with. It once in his life the old baron refused to and with a thick head of black hair: he "Arnold is so sensible; no danger of pression was conveyed of there been too

"Yes, yes, that is all very fine "ans- feilow? Am I to knock him down?"

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for the stranger had reached them, and was going through a flourishing bow to

"What an unexpected pleasure," he in trembling haste, talking in a language NERVE NERVE BEANS are a new discovery that cure the worst cases of was beginning, when she interrupted him that was strange to Arnold's ears, but which he knew to be Spanish. The man with the abundance of white shirt looks receipt of price by addressing THE JAMES MEDICINE
OO., Toronto, Ont. Write for pamphlet. Sold in up suddenly with an expression of increthe same language. To this she answers again, a somewhat longer phrase, and it seems to Arnold, who is standing by the while like a poker, that her tone is almost an imploring one. Can she be asking any favour of this unwashed-looking snob? Can she be in his power? Horrible

The expression of stupefied incredulity on the stranger's face gives way to one of confidential mystery, and the odious smile begins to reappear on his lips. Reata takes her hand from Arnold's arm, and stands for a minute between the two men, irresolute as to what she shall do. She has not got her roses in her hand nowthey are too heavy to hold always, and she has left them over there in the ballroom. There is no speck of colour about her, not even in her cheeks, for she is still very pale. Not as brilliantly, radiantly beautiful, as when she made her entrance to-night, but very lovely yet, standing there slight and stately though trembling, her eyes looking large and black under their lashes. One heavy twist of her hair has got unfastened in dancing, and hangs down her back like

Arnold meanwhile is measuring the stranger off into inches. "You will excuse me," she says quickly, without looking at Arnold, "I have something to say to this gentlemen-to Mr. Fadenhect;" and then, to Arnold's R. Marriage Licenses for the County of infinite, inexpressible disgust, she lays Victoria. Avg. 25, 1890.-16-lyr. her hand on the other man's arm, and

GEORGE DOUGLASS. moves off with him. "Yes, something to say-just so," Mr. Fadenhecht mutters, as he favours Arnold with a friendly nod, Arnold returning the nod with a stiff and shadowy inclination, and then turning stalks out of the room, and away from the ball, and does not appear again that night. As was striding quickly down the steps, somebody else brushed past him, and by the gaslight he recognised Count Stayn, looking graver than Arnold had seen him yet, although he was always a grave man. (To be continued)

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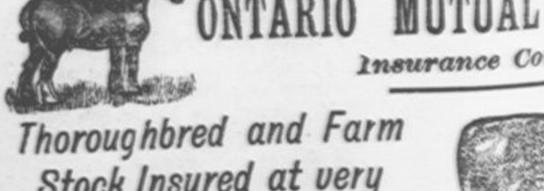
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