But the one hand of old Mustapha was upon the eunuch's throat, and his one eye flashed like a discharging cul-

verin as he cried: "Had I another hand

to do it with I would cut yours, you

white faced imbecile! Don't you know

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By JAMES M. LUDLOW

This section of the park presented

fascinating appearance on the day of

the fox hunt. Scores of lads from the

soldiers gathered here and there in

Prince Mahomet rode a horse, smal

"So it will be if he ever comes to the

throne," said Selim to a comrade. "Ma-

homet II. would follow no one. There

would be no use of viziers and gener-

als, and he would even attempt to

drive the janizaries like his sheep. It

The woinaks brought in several crates

with latticed sides containing the

foxes, which one by one were to be let

loose for the chase, the boys to act the

part of hounds and drive the game

from the thickets, in which they would

naturally take refuge, out into the open

space and within arrow range of the

prince. Mahomet by constant practice

had acquired great dexterity in man-

aging his steed and almost unerring

aim in using the bow from the horse's

directions, some disappearing in the

copse, others stationing themselves at

the openings or runways where they

thought the animal would appear. The

bugle of the white eunuch, who was

constantly near the prince, kept all in-

at the same time using his whole

in the old mountain pass. In the ex-

that he was merely to enable another

Prince Mahomet rode to the spot to-

a sudden outburst of anger at this in-

terference with his shot drove the ar-

row at the two as they were struggling

on the ground. The whirring barb cut

the arm of Michael before it entered

the heart of the prey. The sharp cry

of pain uttered by the lad recalled Ma-

homet from his insane rage. The rush-

ing attendants showed pity for Mi-

:hael, but no one ventured a remon-

A moment's examination showed

that the lad's wound was not serious,

as the pallor of his fright died away

professional gladiators. The prince

pressed upon his antagonist with in-

cessant thrusts, which, by skillful re-

Michael avoided until, with a ringing

ground beneath the greater strength of

The spectators at this point interfer-

ed. As they rose the eunuch grasped

the little victor and, shaking him,

cried, "I will cut the throat of the in-

6del cub."

treating and parries with his bare arm,

cowardice and cruelty.

him low.

is well that Aladdin is the elder."

it broke beneath them, scrambled back to the shore. One or two fainted in | that the art of landscape gardening the shock of the cold plunge and were | could devise, but the greater part of drawn in by the woinaks, but three the reserve was left in its natural pressed on, breaking the ice before state. Here and there were open fields them with their arms or with the incumbered with stinted underbrush whole weight of their bodies as they and either broken with outcropping climbed upon its brittle edge. Soon rocks or smooth with strips of meadow "The River King", the best they were beyond their depth; one land now white and glistening under dared to go no farther and, blue and | the snow. bleeding, gave up the chase. The prize lay between Michael and his companion. This boy was larger and older than he and, finding that the ice would | janizary school were there, and old sustain his weight, stretched himself upon it and crawled forward until he groups. grasped the flag. But the momentary pause as he detached it from the but compactly built, jet black, wooden block and put it between his strongest contrast with the white tuteeth was sufficient to allow the crac- nic and gayly embroidered jacket of kling bridge to break beneath him, and | the little prince. With merry shout he sunk out of sight. At the same in- the young tyrant chased the boys, who stant Michael disappeared. Though carrying wands decorated with ribseveral yards from his companion, he bons, ran ahead of him to clear the plunged beneath the ice and reappeared carrying the flag in his teeth and holding his comrade's head above the water until the woinaks could reach and rescue them both.

"Bravo!" shouted the attendants. The boys were hurried into the barracks and given a hot drink made from a decoction of strong mints, while the woinaks smeared their bodies with the same and rubbed them until the shock of their exposure was counteracted by the generous return of the natural heat.

"I thought," said old Mustapha, "that we would have drowned some today. It is a cruel custom, but it is worth months of other practices to find out a lad's clear grit and power of endurance. But hist!" and he pointed to the entrance of the square from the seraglio court adjoining and assumed an attitude of the gravest dignity. In a moment more the two officers knelt and, resting their foreheads on the ground, remained in that position until a lad of some twelve years approached them and touched the head of each with his foot, bidding them rise.

"I have come, good Selim, to see what new hounds you have for me," said the young Prince Mahomet.

"Ah! The prophet, your namesake, has sent you a fine one, as lithe as a greyhound and as strong as a mastiff,



Bidding them rise.

and, if I mistake not, already trained for the game, for he came from the Balkans, where foxes run wild when and where they will." "That is capital. I shall like him!" cried the prince, with delight. "I must

see him." "Not today, your highness, for the boys are under the leech's charge. They have been put to the water test and are

all packed snugly in their beds." "The water test, Selim, and you called me not?" said the boy, looking furious in his rage. "You knew I wanted to see it, and you told me not for spite. You will pay for this one day, you fat villain! And I want the hunt now. 1 came for it, did I not, Yusef?" addressing a eunuch, an old man with ashen face and decrepit body, but gorgeously arrayed, who accompanied the prince

as his constant attendant. "We must wait, I suppose," said the man, with a supercilious tone and toss

"Tomorrow we will have the hunt in better style than we could arrange it now were the boys able," said Selim. endeavoring to appease the young ty-

The prince and his escort moved away without deigning a reply. "It is best not to insist," said the eunuch. "A wise maxim I will give thee. my prince: Beware of demanding the impossible; check back even the desire of it. The rule of the janizary school is that the boys have rest after Ladies College Gold Medalist of Ontario the water test, and the padishah would not allow even his own son to break it. Voice and Piano pupils accepted. I would train thee to self command, blow upon Mahomet's wrist, he sent tudio at residence Colborne St. North for the time may come when thou shalt the weapon from his hand and closed command the empire. Your brother with him, the prince falling to the Aladdin is mortal. Wait until thou canst get the bit between thy teeth be-

fore attempting to run thine own gait." CHAPTER VIII. EYOND the walls of the seraglio lay the royal hunting grounds. Some parts of this park were. When buying mention The Free Press.

that the boy belongs to the janizaries, and woe to him who is not a janizary that lays a hand on him!" "It is better for us to retire," said the eunuch to Mahomet. "I shall sound the signal for the close of the games." Mahomet stood stubbornly for while, then, turning to Michael, said in a tone which was strangely without a shade of anger or petulance in it: "Say, young giaour, you and I must

have this out some day." Michael could not help a half smiling recognition of the boyish challenge, and replied: "I have seen more foxes than you

have and know some tricks I didn't show you today." As they moved out of the park Yusef delivered a brief lecture to his princely

pupil. "Hark thee, my master. I warn thee that thou have an eye always open and a hand always closed to the janizaries. They have grown from being the heel to think that they are the head of the state. They dictate to thy father, the padishah, and snub the very vizier. I would have killed both those old imbeciles but that it would not have been politic. I am glad, too, that thou didst not let thy dagger find the heart of the Balkan boy. That would not have been politic, for, Allah grant, thou mayest one day be padishah. of mystery, terror, rage and depression, Then this day would be remembered | had wrought more changes in him than

"But, Yusef, I did not spare the boy. pline would have done.



Sent the weapon from his hand. to be padishah I will make him m vizier for his cleverness. It would be a pity that so brave a man were elsewhere than at my right hand. Though he angered me awfully at the moment I shall like that fellow."

formed of his position, so that reynard might be driven toward him. In a few The physical training of the young moments the arrow of Mahomet laid janizaries consisted in such daily exercises as would develop strength and A second fox was liberated, like tirelessness of muscle, steadiness of many of the sultan's nobler creatures, nerve, keenness and accuracy of eye only to fly to his speedy execution. as well as grace of mien. They were The third animal was an old one, who also taught by expert workmen all the persisted in taking the direction oppoarts of daily need-to make as well as site to that in which the chasers would to use the bow; to trim and balance drive him. Again and again as the the arrow; to forge, temper and sharpboys closed about him he dashed en the sword; to shoe the horse; to through the thickest of their legs, leavmake and mend their clothing and the ing them tumbled together in a heap. entire trappings of their steeds; to At one time he sprang through the build and manage the keelless boats opening at which Michael, studying the which darted like fishes through the tricks of the quick witted brute, had stationed himself. Sudden as were his surface of the river; to bind rafts into pontoons for the crossing of streams; movements, the young mountaineer's were not less so, for, like a veritable to reap and grind the grain and cook hound, he threw himself bodily upon their food. Any special talent adaptability was noted by the the prey. Passing his right hand beneath the entire length of the animal's structors and the janizaries encouraged to attain to rare expertness in single body from the rear, he grasped his

front leg and bent it back beneath him, The training in arms was especially severe and under masters in fencing, weight to keep the animal's head close to the ground, so as to escape his archery, riding, swimming, marching, deploying-the ablest tacticians, whose fangs. He had taken more than one wounds or age permitted their absence beast in a similar way from the holes from active campaigns, being found always at the head of the various decitement of the sport he now forgot partments. The janizary, while a mere lad in years, was often more than a to get the game without effort or danmatch in single combat for the most stalwart men in other corps. ward which the fox had turned and in

But, notwithstanding that individual prowess and ambition were stimulated to the highest degree, they were disciplined to abject obedience within the corps. Each one was as a part of some intricate mechanism, all moved by one spring, which was the will of the chief aga, or commander. At a moment's notice they must start in companies or alone; on military expeditions or secret service as spies and scouts. It might be to the recesses of Asia or the upper strance against this act of imperial Danube, to assail forts or to conduct intrigues, having always but one incentive, that of the common service and

being only a cut through the flesh. But the common glory. Michael learned his first lesson in from his face it was followed by a deep flush of anger. Tears of vexawas hardly swifter than his leap, for little fellow had shown, even against hands had won it for his fathers. with a bound his arms were around the | the prince, it was foreseen that such prince's body, while his weight dragged | an impetuous nature needed the curb. him from the saddle to the ground. Ma- For three days he was confined to a homet, rising, drew a jeweled dagger room in solitude and silence. No one spoke or listened to him. His only at- tain home of being a soldier and comtendant was an old man, both deaf and ing back covered with badges of honand made several hasty passes at his assailant, who, however, dextrously dumb, who evidently knew nothing and cared nothing for Michael's offense or avoided them. The posing of the lads would have done justice to the fame of

its punishment. During this time the lad's suspense was terrible. Was he to be killed for all this was the total surrender of himhaving assaulted the prince? Would | self to the service of the brotherhood, they take him to the torture? Per- in pledging and keeping obedience to its haps this old man had been guilty of rules, as a part of the body, like the some such offense, and they had cut hand, must never be severed from the

his tongue and bored out his ears. After awhile rage took the place of or at least began to alternate with fear. He regretted that he had not killed the immedent nripe

strike him to the heart and before they not been ordered to seize but only to Subscribe now for the Free Press. | The Free Press Do Job Printing.

down to hell with him!" And the little frame would swell and the eyes gleam with demoniacal light through the dusky chamber.

After a time Michael's fury died away. Another feeling took its placethe crushing sense of his impotence. His will seemed to be broken by the violence of its own spasm. He was stunned by his realization of weakness. He fell with his face to the cold stones of the floor, moaning at first, but soon passing into a waking stupor in which only consciousness remained.

The old mute brought in the meal on the third day, placed it beside him and retired. An hour later he returned and found the bread untasted; the child in the same attitude, but not asleep. He touched him with his foot, but evoked no sign that his presence was recognized. He gazed for a few moments, then shook his head like an artisan who, upon inspecting some piece of work he has been making, is

not satisfied with it. He summoned Selim. The old soldier, finding that his entrance did not arouse the lad, crossed his legs upon the floor beside him and waited. The boy raised his head. His face was pale, the eyes sunken, their natural brilliance deepened, but as that of the flashing waters is deepened when it is frozen into the glistening icicle. Those three days of silence, with their successive dramas many years of merely external disci-

The close searching glance of Selim | 35c. and 50c. detected all this and also that the child was in a critical condition. The will was broken, but it was not certain that this had not been accomplished by the breaking of the entire spirit.

"Michael," he cried, "follow me!" The lad rose mechanically, showing no interest or attention beyond that required for bodily obedience.

"Do you know that we have power to more severely punish you?" .The words made no impression upon the child.

"The bastinado? The cage?" The boy raised his face, but upon it was no evidence of fear; perhaps of scorn. He had suffered so much that threats had no power over him.

Selim was alarmed at these symptoms. His experience with such cases taught him that this lethargic spell must be broken at whatever cost.

A peculiar instrument of torture was a frame set with needles pointing inward. Into this sometimes a cuiprit was placed and the frame screwed soclose about the person that he could not move from a fixed position without forcing the needles into his flesh. This frame was put about the boy. He stared stupidly at the approaching points, but did not shrink. Selim pressed one of the needles quickly. Instantly the boy uttered a cry of pain. His face blanched with fright. The tears sprang to his eyes, and through them came an agonizing look of entreaty.

Selim's whole manner changed as suddenly. "Bravo, my little hero!" he cried, catching him to his arms. "You are of the metal of the invincibles, and henceforth only valiant deeds, bright honors and endless pleasures are to be yours. You shall lodge with me to-

Selim's apartment was off from the common barracks of the janizaries. It was luxuriantly furnished in its way. Elegant rugs lay upon the marble floor. A divan with silken covering filled one end of the room. The walls were hung with a variety of richly wrought weapons and armor-short swords, long crescent shaped scimiters, spears of polished wood headed with glistening steel, helmets, breastplates, greaves. Badges and honorary decorations shone among costly robes which had accumulated since the days when he had been a page to the Sultan Amurath I. Selim placed his little guest by his

side upon the divan. Mustapha also appeared and, removing his shoes, made a profound and dignified salaam -quite in contrast with his usual rough and badgering manner when with Selim-then placed himself beside his comrade upon the cushions.

After the repast the two old men vied with each other in telling thrilling stories of adventure in battle and on secret service. The burden of every story was the praise of the janizary organization, which alone enabled them to attain such glories. The close brothefnood, which gave to each the heip or all the 10,000, was commended by incidents illustrating it. They told of their aga, or chief, who was more powerful than the grand vizier, for sultans made these latter by a word and unmade them with equal caprice, often with the stroke of the sword, but to touch a hair of the aga would be for subordination upon the return from the the sultan to lose the favor of the enhunt. While the janizary officers were | tire band, whom he regarded as the not displeased with the prowess the main support of his throne, as their

As Michael listened his cheeks flushed and chilled by turns with the exciteor to claim Morsinia as his bride seemed to be dissolving into the reality. Nor was his ardor damped when he learned from Selim that the first step toward rest, but keep the contact perfect in every muscle and nerve in order to have the strength which only the health of the whole body can give to it. Selim explained to him how wrong it had "There stands his horse," he would been for him to seize the fox, no matsay to himself, marking a line on the ter how excited he was or how much wall. "Now I leap, seize his dagger, daring it showed to do so, since he had (To be continued.)

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