

By JAMES M. LUDLOW

nisted with all that could please a woman's eye, though she were the reigning beauty of a court instead of one brought up as a peasant in a distant province and largely ignorant of the arts of the toilet.

"Will my lady rest?" said the attendant in softest Greek.

Morsinia was familiar with this language, which was used more or less everywhere in Servia and Albania, but she had never heard it spoken with such sweetness.

She began to fear that she had been mistaken for some great lady whose wardrobe was expected to be brought in massive chests and whose personal ornaments would rival the toilet treasures of the queen of Sheba. There entered opportunely several tire women laden with silks and linens, laces and in every variety of color and shape.

The guest was about to question her attendants when one gave her a note, hastily written by Constantine and simply saying:

"Be surprised at nothing." Phranza had expressed to Constantine the deep interest of the emperor in the career of Scanderbeg and his plans for Morsinia. "Scanderbeg," said he, "is the one

hero of our degenerate age, the only arm not beaten nerveless by the blows of the Turk. I have asked nothing concerning yourself, my young man, nor need I know more than that such a chieftain is interested in you and your charge. Your great captain informs me (reading from a letter) that any service we may render you here will be counted as service to Albania, and that any favor we may bestow upon the lady will be as if shown to his own child. Is she of any kin to him?"

youth, "except to tell that her blood is | the young and beautiful, for no purnoble and that General Castriot has made her safety his care. An Albaman needs but to know that this is the will of our loving and wise chieftain to | spect for the piety of the emperor, the defend Morsinia with his life."

"It is enough!" exclaimed Phranza. "If our distance from Albania and our own pressing difficulties and dangers do not allow us to send aid to your hero, we can show him our respect and gratitude by treating her, whom he would have as his child, as if she were our own. And now for yourself-well, you shall have what, if I mistake you not, your discreet mind and lusty muscles most crave—an opportunity 'to him she learned from Phranza much of win your spurs,' as the western knights | the history of recent movements both would say. Events are thickening into | without and within the empire. So exa crash, the outcome of which no one | pert had she become in these matters can foresee, except that the Moslem or | that the chamberlain playfully called the Christian shall hold all from the her his prime minister.



An attendant gave her a note.

Euxine to the Adriatic. This double empire cannot long exist. Scanderbeg's arms alone are keeping the sultan from trying again the strength of our walls. A disaster there, an assault here! You serve the one cause whether here or there."

"I give my fealty to the emperor as I would to my general," replied the young man warmly.

Constantine found himself arrayed before night in the costume of a subaltern officer of the imperial guard and assigned to quarters at the barracks in the section of the city near to the house of the chamberlain. With the foils, in the saddle, in mastery of tactics, in engineering ability displayed at the walls -which were being constantly strengthened-he soon took rank with the most promising. By courtesy of the chamberlain he was allowed the freest communication with Morsinia and was

often the guest of her host, especially upon excursions of pleasure up the Golden Horn to the "Sweet Waters," along the western shore of the Bosporus, to the Princess island and such other spots on the sea of Marmora as were uninfested by piratical Turks.

Morsinia became the favorite not only of the wife of Phranza, but of the ladies of the court, and the object of especial attention on the part of the nobles and officers of the emperor's suit and of the emperor himself.

An event contributed to the rumors which associated the name of the fair Albanian with the special favors of the emperor. An embassage from the doge of Venice had brightened the hark-

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with their galleys. A gondola sheathed in silver floated upon the waters of the Golden Horn like a white swan and was moored at the foot of the palace garden-the gift of the doge. Another, its counterpart, was in the harbor of Venice—the possession of the daughter of the doge, but waiting to join its companion if the imperial heart could be persuaded to accept with it the person of its princely owner. Better than the ideal marriage of Venice with the sea-the ceremony of which was annually observed—would be the marriage of the two seas, the Adriatic and the Ægean, and the reunion of their families of confluent waters under the double banner of St. Mark and Byzantium. But the Grand Duke Lucas Notaris, who was also grand admiral of the empire, declared openly that he would sooner hold alliance with the Turk than shawls, every portion of female attire | with a power representing that schismatic Latin church. The hereditary nobles protested against such a menace to social order as, in their estimate, a recognition of a republic like Venice would be. But it was believed that more potent in its influence over the emperor than these outcries was the whisper of Phranza that the silver gondola of Venice was fairer than its possessor and that queenly beauty

No habitue of the court knew less of this gossip than Morsinia herself, nor did she suspect any unusual attention paid her by the emperor to be other than an expression of regard for Castriot, whose ward she was known to be; or if when they were alone his manner betrayed a fondness she attributed it to his natural kindliness of disposition or to that desire for recreation which persons in middle life, bur-"I may not speak of that," replied the | dened with cares, find in the society of pose of modesty could hide from Morsinia the knowledge which her mirror revealed. She had, too, the highest redeepest sympathy with him in his distress for the evils which were swarming about his realm and a true admiration for the courage of heart with which he bore up against them. It was therefore with a commingling of religious, patriotic and personal interest that she gave herself up to his entertainment whenever he sought her society. That she might understand him the better and be able to converse with

awaited elsewhere the imperial em-

CHAPTER XXII.

NE evening the lower Bosporus and the Golden Horn were alive with barges and skiffs, which cut the glowing water with their spray plumed prows and flashing blades. The emperor, attended by one of his favorite pages, appeared upon the rocky slope which is now known as Seraglio point. A number of boats containing the ladies and gentlemen of the court drew near to the shore. It was the custom of his majesty to accept the brief hospitality of one and another of these parties and for the others to keep company with him, so that the evening sail was not unlike a saloon reception upon the water. The dais of Phranza's boat was on the evening to which we refer occupied by Morsinia alone, and as the rowers raised the oars in salute of his majesty he waved his hand playfully to the others, saying:

"The chamberlain is so occupied today that he has no time to attend to his own household. I will take his place, with the permission of the dove of Albania."

"Your majesty needs rest," said Morsinia, making place for him at her side on the dais, which filled the stern of the barge, and over which hung a silken awning. "Your face, sire, betokens too much thought today."

Throwing himself down, he replied lazily: "I would that our boat were seized by some sea sprite and borne swift as the lightnings to where the sun yonder is making his rest, beyond the Hellespont, beyond the pillars of Hercules, beyond the world! But you shall be my sprite for the bour. Your conversation, so different from that of the court, your charming Arnaout accent, and thoughts as natural as your mountain flowers, always lead me

away from myself." "I thank heaven, sire, if Jesu gives to me that holy ministry," replied she, blushing deeply and diverting the conversation. "But why are you so sad when everything is so beautiful about us? Is it right to carry always the

burden of empire upon your heart?" "Alas," replied he. "I must carry the | Constantine emerged. A thin str purcen watie I can, for the time may of blood floated from him. He was not be far distant when I shall have no empire to burden me! Events are untoward. While Sultan Amurath lives, our treaty will prevent any attack up- but not dangerous fiesh cut across the on the city, but if another should direct | shoulder. It was several moments bethe Moslem affairs our walls yonder would soon shake with the assault of the enemy of Christendom. Nothing

"And you have the union with | Ucban had cast, the latter spoke to him Rome?" suggested Morsinia.

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"A union of shadows to withstand an avalanche," replied the emperor. "The pope is impotent. He can only promise a score of galleys and his good offices with the powers. At the same time our monks have almost raised an insurrection against the throne for listening to the proposition of alliance to which my lamented brother subscribed during the last days of his reign."

"But God," replied Morsinia, "is wiser than we and will not allow the throne of the righteous to be shaken."

"But," said Palaelogus, "God rejects his people for their sins. The empire's misfortunes have not been greater than its crimes. As the rising mists return in rain, so the sins of Constantinople, rising for centuries, will return with storms of righteous retribution. And fear it will be in our day, for the clouds hang low and mutter ominously, and there is no bright spot within the horizon."

"Say not so, my emperor!" cried Morsinia earnestly. "A breath of wind is now scattering yonder cloud over Olympus, and the lightest moving of God's will can do more. Do you not remember the words of a holy father which I have often heard one of our Latin priests repeat to those fearful



He leaped upon Constantine's boat. because of their past lives: 'Beware lest thou carry compunctions for the past after thou hast repented and prayed. That is to doubt God's grace.' But I am a child, sire, and should not speak thus to the emperor."

"A child?" said his majesty, gazing upon her superb form and strong womanly features. "Well, a child can see as far into the sky as the most learned and venerable, and your faith, my child, rests me more than all the earth-drawn assurances of my counselors. Where have you learned so to trust? I would willingly spend my days in the convent of Athos or Monastir to learn it. But I fear me the holy monks have it not of so strong and serene a sort as yours."

"I have learned it, sire, as my heart has read it from my own life. My to quickly decide that point. years are scarcely more numerous than my rescues have been, when to human sight there was no escape from death or what I dreaded worse than death. I have learned to hold a hand that I see not, and it has never failed. No will it fail the anointed of the Lord, for such thou art. But see, yonder comes my brother Constantine! I know him from his rowing. They who learn the oars on mountain lakes never get

The emperor, turning in the direction indicated, frowned and said angrily: "Your brother has forgotten the reg-

ulations and is in danger of discipline for rowing within the lines allowed only to the court." The boat came nearer not steadily,

but turning to right and left, stopping and starting as if directed by something at a distance which the rower was watching. The emperor's attention was turned

almost at the same instant to a light boat shooting toward them from an opposite direction. The occupant of this was a monk. His black locks, mingled with his black beard, gave a wildness to his appearance, which was increased by the excited and rapid manner of his propelling the craft.

"Something unusual has occurred or they would wait the finding of another messenger than he," said the emperor. The monk's boat glided swiftly. When within a few yards of the barge in which the emperor was the man stood up, his eyes flashing and his whole attitude that of some vengeful fiend. "Hold!" shouted the rowers of

the royal barge, endeavoring to turn crait so as to avoid a collision. "The man is crazed!" said Morsinia. But at the instant when the two boats would have come together another, that of Constantine, shot between them and received the blow. Its thin sides were broken by the shock.

The monk, who had come to the very prow and drawn a knife from his bosom, cried out, "To the devil with the prince of the heretics!"

He leaned upon Constantine's boat order to reach that containing the emperor, but was caught in the strong arms of Constantine, who fell with him into the water. The monk gripped with his antagonist so that they sank together. In a few seconds, however, drawn upon the barge. Morsinia's hand tore off the loose gold laced jacket and found the wound to be a deep fore the monk appeared. He gasped

and sank again forever. but the union of the Christian powers | fore while aiding in the erection of a | ed. patform for some small culverin that of the marvelons mosaic ornaments.

(To be continued.)

## THE KING OF DIAMONDS

(Contiued from page 3,)

right. That would surprise anybody the hurry. I have a lot to do before who tried to pick it up and run away with it."

glad to say it is not going very far- in proper form. only to a laboratory for analysis." He saw his belongings wheeled to explain to the bank manager that away on a barrow before he paid the I am the hero of the police court afcabman liberally. He only gave the fair?" he said. porter sixpence. The man believed that Philip was a clerk in charge of the money, and will be paying you t the minerals; he was grateful for even so small a sum.

On leaving thes station, with the receipt for his luggage in his pocket, Philip saw the four-wheeler turning check. into the Strand, on its way back to Fenchurch Street. He smiled. The tie between East and West was sever-

ed. No matter what else might happen to it, his meteor had left Johnson's Mews forever. It was necessary to change his skin | per.

once before the metamarphosis he contemplated was complete. He was acquainted with a large outfitting emporium in Ludgate Hill which actly suited his requirements, so he the youth of the "payee." rode thither on a bus.

letter stamped. He did not know his credit." what stamping meant in a legal sense, but he guessed that it applied the affixing of a seal of some sort. ager, pleasantly, "I hope you will take There was no need to hurry over it, care of your money." he thought.

At eleven o'clock Isaacstein would Philip, who was slightly non-plased either keep his word about the five by the prefix to his name, heard by thousand pounds or endeavor to wrig- him for the first time. gle out of the compact. In either event, Philip had already determin- be quite safe." ed to consult Mr. Abingdon.

He had in his pocket about thirtyeight pounds. Half an hour later ne was wearing a new tweed suit, new hat and new boots; he had acquired stock of linen and underclothing, an umbrella and an overcoat. Some of these articles, together with his discarded clothes, were packed in two leather porrtmanteaux, on which his initials would be painted by noon, when he would call for them.

He paid twenty-six pounds for the lot, and the man who waited on him more. Philip knew exactly what he no later than the previous day. wanted. He adhered to his program He possessed sufficient genuine lug- heart was beating a little now, "supgage and clothing to be presentable pose I wish to give a reference to anyanywhere. He had enough money to body, will you two gentlemen answer maintain himself for weeks if neces- for me?" sary. For the rest, another couple of hours would place it beyond doubt or not your check will be honored to whether he was a millionaire or not; a stated amount. In other respects for, if Isaacstein failed him, London was big enough and wealthy enough

He entered the Hatton Garden office as the clocks struck the hour. Some boys of his age might have

experienced a malicious delight when the youthful Israelite on guard bounced up with a smirk and a ready: "Yessir. Vat iss it, sir?"

Not so Philip. He simply asked for Mr .Isaacstein, but he certainly could not help smiling at the expression of the stroke they have who learn it at utter amazement when his identity ip privately resolved to make this hudawned on his hearer.

The "Yessir, vil you blease valk in the street again. in" was very faint, though; the office boy ushered him upstairs as one in a dream, for he had been warned to expect Philip, a Philip in rags, not a smart, young gentleman like a bank What are the? Plate, jewels, paper-"

Isaacstein on this occasion looked and acted the sound man of business he really was.

He awaited Philip in his private office. He seemed to be pleased by the change affected in the boys' outward appearance. There was less of burlesque, less outrage of his feelings, in discussing big sums of money with a person properly attired than with person who wore the garments of a tramp.

"Good-morning," he said, pleasant-"You are punctual, I am glad to Have you been to Somerset

"No," said Philip. "Why not ?If you are going to control a big capital, you must learn business habits or you will lose it, no matter how large it may be." "Would Somerset House compel you

to pay me, Mr. Isaacstein?" "Not exactly, but the stamping of important documents is a means toward that end, I assure you."

"I will see to it, but I wanted primarily to be certain of one of two things: First, will you pay the the five thousand pounds as promised? Second, will you give me a fresh purchase note for my diamonds which will not indicate so definitely that I am the boy concerning whom there top at times. When do we meet again, has been so much needless publicity Mr. Isaacstein?" during the last few days?"

It was of no avail for Isaacstein to that stone in your pocket?" bandy words with Philip. A boy of fifteen who casually introduced such notice from the people as I came here. a word as "primarily" into a sentence, Nobody can smell it. It won't ex- you a week in advance? I can give and gave a shrewd thrust about "need- plode or burn a hole in my clothes. you notes, but it will oblige me if less publicity" to the person respon- It is quite safe, I asure you. sible for it, was not to be browbeaten even in business affairs.

The Jew whipped out a check book. | dred carats!" Constantine stated that the day be thousand pounds to 'Philip'?" he ask- a lot of things to attend to. Shall we whipped out his check book, filled in "Am I to make out a check for five

"No; to Philip Anson, please." "Thank, you; and now, shall I put word. Let me put it in my safe." any address on the contract note which I wil hand you?"

"The Pall Man Hotel." Isaacstein with difficulty chocked back a comment. The Pall Mall Hotel was the most expensive establishment in London. He tossed the check

"There you are," he said. "Come "By gum," he grinned. "You're with me to my bank. You will excuse I leave for Amsterdam to-night."

Philip saw that the acknowledge-"Rather," agreed Philip. "I am ment of his diamonds appeared to be

"There is no need at this momen

"None whatever. I am lending you good deol more very soon. That will be sufficient. He may draw his own conclusions, of course.

Philip was now looking at "Why do you put 'account payee

between these two strokes?" he said. The Jew explained, and even found time to show him how to cross and indorse such important slips of pa-

Then they walked to the bank, a few doors away. The elderly manager was obviously surprised by the size of the check and

"Oh, this is nothing-a mere flea Passing Somerset House, he recall- bite," said Isaacstein. In a few days ed the Jew's remark about getting his he will have ten times the amount to

> "Yes." "Well, Mr. Anson," said the man-

> "I want you to do that," smiled

"Oh, if you leave it with me it will

"I cannot leave all, but certainly will not spend five thousand pounds in a week. I mean to buy some property, though, and-can I have a hundred now?"

"By all means."

Philip wrote his first check and received twenty crisp five-pound notes. Isaacstein stood by, smiling grimly. He had not yet got over the farcial side of this extraordinary occurrence, and he was wondering what the bank manager would have said could he but tried in vain to tempt him to buy see Philip as he, Isaacstein, saw him "By the way," said Philip, whose

"The bank will always say whether

Mr. Isaacstein, who brought you here will serve your purpose admirablynone better in the city of London,' replied the banker.

Isaacstein placed both feet together and his head sank between his shoulders. He again reminded Philip of a top. The boy fancied that in a second or two he would begin to spin | ip's steady gaze. and purr. The bank manager's statement flattered the little man. It was the sort of thing he understood. Philman top wobble when alone with him

"One more question, and I have ended," he said. "Where is the best place to store some valuables?" "It all depends on their nature.

The Jews' ears were alert now, and the boy smiled faintly.

quantity of rich ore which I wish to Vere. lodge in some place where it will be secure and yet easy of access." "I would recommend you to rent a strong-room in the safe-deposit across

the street. There you have absolute security and quick access during business hours." Philip expressed his thanks and quitted the bank with his agent.

In the middle of Hilborn, in the midst of the jostling, hurrying occupants of one of the busiest thorough- day!" fares in London, he pulled the big diamond out of his pocket and suddenly held it under the Jew's nose. "I told you I had them as big as

think of this one?" Isaacstein glanced at it for one fas-

cinated second. Then he looked around with the stealthy air of a man who fears lest he may be detected in the commission of a terrible crime. "Are you mad?" he whispered.

"No, not mad," answered Philip, cooly, as he pocketed the gem. "I only wanted you to wobble." "You wanted me to wobble!"

"Yes. You look so much like a big please, and will you kindly have my "You are not going by yourself with managed to say:

"But let me take it to Amsterdam. ready money in my possession." Boy! boy! It must weigh four hun-

"Enough of business to-day. I have "No. Wednesday at eleven. One get to cross it "ac. payee."

"Good-bye."

at Isaacstein as he whirled away. The Jew swayed gently through the then asked to be shown to his room. crowd until he reached the office when he dropped limply into his chair. Then himself—a smart page, who listened to the foregoing with

"Samuel," he murmured, "take asked timidly whether the guest charge, please. I'm going home. I would go by the stairs or use the want to rest before I start for Har- vator.

wich. And Samuel!" "Yes ,sir."

"While I am away you might order another scales. In future we will sell diamonds by the pound like potatoes.

CHAPTER XI.

In Clover.

After picking up his belongings at the outfitter's, two smart Gladstone bags with "P.A." nicely painted on no such luxury. His portmantean them, Philip stopped his cab at Som- followed quickly, and a valet entered erset House. He experienced no dif- Philip's quick ear caught the accent ficulty in reaching the proper depart- of a Frenchman, and the boy spoke ment for stamping documents, and to the man in the language of his thus giving them legal significance.

An official glanced at Isaacstein's barbarisms of John Bull. contract note, and then looked at Philip, evidently regarding him as a relation, which, by the way, ever since tive or youthful secretary of the Philip Anson, Esq., Pall Mall Hotel, traordinarily fine, when there was whose name figured on the paper.

"I suppose you only want this to entered. be indicated?" he said.

the remotest idea what he meant. "Sixpence," was the curt rejoinder.

Philip thought he would be called F. on to pay many pounds-some amount in the nature of a percentage of the very comfortable," he said, for lack sum named in the agreement. He of aught better. A commissionairproduced the coin demanded, and was already on his way to the bank nade no comment. With stamp without, he knew that Isaacstein yould go straight in this preliminary undertaking. A single glimpse of the nonster diamond in his pocket had nade that quite certain.

For the rest, he was rapidly making out a plan which should secure his interests effectually. He hoped, before the day was out, to have set on foot arrangements which would free im from all anxiety.

From Somerset House he drove to the Pall Mall Hotel. A gigantic hall porter, looking ike a youthfu majorgeneral in undress uniform, received aim with much ceremony and ushered him to the office, where an urbane elerk instantly classed him as the want courier of an American family. "I want a siiting room and bedroom

ensuite," said Philip. "One bedroom?" was the surprised

"How many of you are there, then?" "I beg your pardon?" "Are you alone?"

The clerk fumbled with the register. Precocious juveniles were not unknown to him, but a boy of Philip's ype had not hitherto arisen over his horizon.

"A sitting room and a bedroom en lice suite?" he repeated. "Exactly."

The clerk was disconcerted by Phil-

"On-what floor?" he asked

"Really," said Philip, "I don't commodation you have. Then I will lecide at once."

The official, who was one of the nost skilled hotel clerks in Lonodon. found it ridiculous to be put out of countenance by a mere boy, who could not be a day older than seventeen, and might be a good deal less. He cast a critical eye on Philip's clothing, and saw that, while it was "Oh," he explained, "I have a large good, it had not the gloss of Vere de

He would paralyze him at one fell blow, little dreaming that the other read his glance and knew the exact nental process of his reasoning. "There is a vacant suite on the first

loor, but it contains a dressing room und bath room," he said, smiling the smile of a very knowing person. "That sounds all right. I will take

"Ah yes. It costs five pounds a

Each of the six words in that portentous sentence contained a note of admiration that swelled out into a magnificent crescendo. It was a verhen's eggs," he cried. "What do you bal avalanche, beneath which this queer youth should be crushed into the very dust.

"Five pounds a day!" observed Philip, calmly. "I suppose there would be a reduction if taken by the month?" "Well-er-during the season it is

not-er-usual to-" "Oh, very well. I can easily arrange for a permanency later if I think fit. What number is the suite,

luggage sent there at once?" The clerk was demoralized. "Do you quite understand the Music Hath Charms "Why not! It attracted no special terms-thirty-five pounds a week?" "Yes," said Philip. "Shall I pay

> you take a check, as I may want the Receiving a faint indication that, under the circumstances, a check would be esteemed a favor, Philip a check to the hotel, and did not for- do for you.

The clerk watched him with an amazement too acute for words. He Philip hailed a hansome and drove produced the register and Philip sign-

off to Ludgate Hill, smiling graciously ed his name. He was then given a name to be whirled away. ceipt for the payment on account

A boy smaller, but not younger the ment in London. He tossed the check he dropped for his confidential clerk. to the foregoing with deep interest, and another document across the table he shouted for his confidential clerk. to the foregoing with deep interest.

"I will walk," said Philip, who lik. ed to ascertain his bearings.

The palatial nature of the apan ments took him by surprise when b reached them. Although far from by ing the most expensive suite in the hotel, the surroundings were of a ta. ture vastly removed from anything hitherto known to him.

Even the charming house he inhair ited as a child in Dieppe contained country, pure and undefiled by v

They were chatting about the wes knock at the door and the manager

Even the sauve and diplomatic Mon "Yes," agreed Philip, who had not sieur Foret could not conceal the astonishment that leaped to his eyes when he saw the occupant of Suite

"I think you will find these rooms to ask if the check was all right. "Are you the manager?" asked Philip, who was washing his hands

"I am glad you called. One of your clerks seemed to be taken aback because a youngster like me engaged an expensive suite. I suppose ti proceeding is unusual, but there is no reason why it should create exchement. It need not be commented on for instance?" "No, no. Of course not."

"Thank you very much. I have a special reason for wishing to live at this hotel. Indeed, I have given this

address for certain important documents. Will you kindly arrange that I may be treated like any ordinary person ?" "I hope the clerk wa snot rude to von ?" "Not in the least. I am only any ious to prevent special notice being

taken of me. You see, if others get to know I am living here alone, I will be pointed out as a curiosity, and that will not be pleasant." The request was eminently reason able. The manager assured him that strict orders would be given on the point instantly, though he was quite

remarkable youth, perhaps by the pe-"You can leave us," said Philip to

certain, in his own mind, that in-

quiry would soon be made for this

the valet in French. (To be continued.)

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