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### Sunlight Soap

contains no adulteration or excess alkali. It is just pure saponified fats and oils. That is why it cleanses your clothes perfectly in hard or soft water and does not injure them.

LEVER BROTHERS LIMITED, TORONTO



### A SOLDIER OF COMMERCE

BY JOHN ROE GORDON

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to Lieutenant Thokt, who at once started to intercept the boat. The gunboat overtook Hassan on the Caspian. He had spoken a vessel with a black hull, but the persons on board evidently wished to have nothing to do with Hassan, for the black boat went away. Lieutenant Thokt arrived in time to prevent the escape of Hassan. He can tell himself what he did.

"I went on board," said Lieutenant Thokt, "and found Hassan in command and this other prisoner, evidently as much in a hurry to escape as Hassan. He said he was an American going to Astrakhan. The vessel had not at any time been headed for the Volga. Hassan told me his story and the American told me his. They agreed in some respects, but differed in others. I found Kouza Biarlekis on board, a prisoner, and brought her back to Tiflis and arrested Hassan and the American."

"O great ones of earth!" moaned Hassan when called upon to speak for himself. "It is with trembling tongue I attempt to tell even the truth, for what am I? What am I that I should speak to such as these? But it was as I said and as I will say again. I came to the fair with my boat filled with rich stuffs to sell to the bazaar. I did well, excellencies, and made a profit on my goods, but it does not pay to hire sailors for two ways and carry goods only one, so I remained at the wharf waiting for a cargo to take to Astrakhan, where I knew there awaited me a valuable cargo to take to Astrakhan, but I waited too long. O excellencies, and it came time for me to depart without a cargo.

"In preparing to leave Tiflis I discovered some linen which I knew Ignatz Biarlekis would purchase. I could not wait till morning, for then I could not reach Astrakhan early enough to take on my cargo. I went to the bazaar of Biarlekis and told him of my discovery. Biarlekis was just closing his bazaar, and when he heard of the linen he and his daughter accompanied me back to my boat. I took them to my cabin and set wine before them and went to prepare the linen for examination. I was suddenly attacked and knocked down. A fold of cloth was placed in my mouth. I heard the young woman scream, but I could not go to her assistance.

"I heard Biarlekis begging for mercy and some one talking to him. Then some one took command of my boat, and we moved down the river. I was kept in ignorance for hours, your excellencies, but in the morning I was astonished to see two men on board that I had never seen before. One was a tall man, looking like a Russian, and the other was certainly an Osmani. They informed me that unless I and my sailors did as I was bid I would be killed. They did not release me, but we kept on down the river. Just before we reached Salain they left the boat. They told me that Biarlekis had agreed to the sale of his daughter to an American who would board my boat at Salain and that I must take them both to Astrakhan. They told me that I would be watched and unless I obeyed I would be killed. They said I could not go back to Tiflis without being murdered.

"I was afraid, your excellencies, and did what they told me. At Salain, however, it was not my intention to take on the American, but to proceed until I reached a Russian gunboat, when I would turn over the young lady. But the American knew which boat she was on, for he came out in a small boat directly in my path and leaped on board. He threatened me with a pistol, and I was compelled to do his bidding. Seeing another vessel on the Caspian,

I wished to get assistance from them, but they feared us and ran away. The gunboat came, and I told the officer the truth. I swear it, by the prophet's beard. I have told the truth. I know no more.

The magistrate turned coldly to Harvey. "All of what that man says is a lie," said Irena, "except the mere fact that I did get on his boat in the manner he describes at Salain. I had taken passage from Astrakhan for Astrakhan on a boat belonging to the German line. They had also some machinery I was going to exhibit at the fair. Arriving at Salain, the captain of the boat informed me that I would have four hours in which to see the town. I spent three hours and came back to the wharf only to see the steamer disappearing. I was enraged. I wanted particularly to reach the fair early, and there would not be a boat up the Volga for another week after the one I had lost. I was standing on the wharf talking with a peasant when I saw the boat owned by Hassan coming down the Kur. We halted the boat and were informed that she was bound for Astrakhan. There I was, with a boat to stay in that place and a boat passing me that was going straight to where I wanted to go. The peasant got a small boat and rowed me out to Hassan's. I climbed on board and remained there. I did not know until the officer from the gunboat came on board that there was a young lady there.

Colonel Jurnieff nodded, and another man, evidently of the poorest class, spoke to the magistrate. The dignitary started, stared at Harvey and said: "There appears to be a multitude of lies in all this testimony. Let us hear what this witness has to say."

"I saw that American in Tiflis a week ago," he said, pointing at Harvey. "I saw him in the bazaar of Biarlekis, and he spoke to him. I saw much gold change hands, but do not know what it was for. The American took nothing away."

"That is the worst lie of all!" exclaimed Harvey indignantly. "I was never in Tiflis before in my life."

"Take the prisoners back to their cells. The case needs deliberation," said the magistrate.

Harvey was marched to his dungeon. An orderly, who heard all the proceedings, hurried to relate them to Marie. From the moment that Alma Jurnieff heard what had taken place at the trial she was a changed person.

#### CHAPTER VII.

A YOUNG LADY BUYS A LOAD OF HAY. "HAS the magistrate given his decision yet?" asked Alma Jurnieff as she met Orderly Alexander Borge in the corridor of the living rooms a few days after the trial.

"No decision has been made public, Mlle. Jurnieff. There is much secrecy. There is to be a squad of prisoners sent to Siberia in a month. I believe the American is numbered among them."

general of prisons for Stavropol, Tiflis and Astrakhan. It was probably through the influence of the general, your father, that he obtained this important post. I received a letter from your father today. Would you like to read it?"

"I will read it if you wish," answered Alma listlessly.

"It will save me the trouble of repeating his wishes to you. Take the letter to your room and study it. Consider well its contents. You will profit by meeting your father's wishes in this matter. You have been severely punished. I know, by your semi-imprisonment here. Hereafter I am going to permit you to have your own way. I want you to meet the price at the ball. It may be necessary for you to make purchases. You are at liberty to use the carriage any day between 2 and 4."

"Thank you," said Alma. She bowed and went to her room.

"Some plot," she murmured as she shut her door. "What devilry is afoot now? So I am asked to read a letter from my father, the first of his letters that have been even spoken of to me." She sat down and read:

My Dear Brother—You will doubtless be surprised to hear of the appointment of Prince Delnikoff as the inspector general of prisons. It was a happy thought of mine to have him appointed to a position of power and importance—sufficiently so to please him and make his sojourn in your portion of Russia not unenjoyable. It will bring him often to Tiflis and give you an opportunity to bring the prince and my obstinate daughter together. It is probable that an executor will detain the prince. If so, we will be a good opportunity. We must compel the girl to obey some way or other. It is a cherished idea of mine to see the famous Delnikoff and Jurnieff united. The father of Prince Alexis was a good friend of mine, and we spoke frequently in other days of the pleasure it would give us to see our only children united. Therefore do your utmost to bring about this most desirable marriage. I shall not be ungrateful to you until she comes to me as the Princess Delnikoff.

"What a kind and loving father!" exclaimed Alma as she crunched the letter in her hand. "This is a threat—a threat that my uncle preferred to have me read rather than to tell me himself. Let them threaten! But I will attend the ball and will assist in entertaining Prince Delnikoff, the most dissolute prince in St. Petersburg."

"Have you received a letter at last, mademoiselle?" asked Marie as she entered the room.

"At last, Marie, I have been permitted to read a letter. It is not, however, addressed to me. It is one that was sent by my father to my uncle with some very interesting news. Prince Delnikoff is coming to Tiflis."

"Inspector general! He will be a proud one in that uniform!"

"Why so, Marie? What distinguishes uniform does the inspector general of prisons wear?"

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"Ah! That enlightens me, your excellency. I know what she wanted it for now."

"What did my uncle ask you, Marie?" inquired Alma as the carriage was being driven off.

"I had noticed that you were gay and smiling of late. He asked me the cause. I said I believed it was because the prince was coming. I told him you had studied the uniforms of the inspector general of prisons and had seemed pleased."

"I must be cautious."

Arriving at one of the largest bazaars, Alma left Marie in the carriage and proceeded to do her shopping alone. She was attired becomingly, her gown setting off her form to advantage. Among the things she purchased was a long cloak, reaching almost to the ground, having a hood for covering the head in winter.

"Permit me, lady, to carry your purchases to your carriage," said the merchant.

"You may, but not yet. I shall need some more things. I am going to a cafe for lunch and shall wear my new hooded cloak. These Persians and Turks stare at me. When I return, I shall make more purchases."

The Astrakhan, seated upon the prow of his boat, was tall, dark and picturesque. He was smoking a pipe, regardless of the proximity of several tons of hay belonging to himself.

As he looked around he saw a small white finger beckoning him. He muttered to where Alma sat. She got down from her seat and spoke in whispers.

"Are you not from the lower valley of the Volga?"

"I am, sweet lady. I have come from Astrakhan with hay to sell."

"Is it sold?"

"Alas, not yet. The fair is breaking up, and there is less demand for hay."

"Will you sell it at a good price and deliver it where I command?"

"I will carry it to Moscow."

"What is the price you get for your hay at this wharf?"

"This load will bring me 300 rubles."

"If you will take a passenger, keep your tongue still and deliver the hay where I bid you, I will give you 2,000 rubles."

"It is a fortune, sweet lady! Where shall I deliver the hay?"

"At the port of Astrakhan, Persia."

"I agree. But the passenger?"

"Is a man. Remain at this spot until he is ready."

"Under the cover of my hay he will be safe. Sweet lady, you may rely upon me. I am Charles of the town of Ashkar. Ask for me when you want me. I am at your feet."

"Return to the bazaar from which I came," said Alma to the Ivoshabik.

"I am growing reckless," she mused. "Two weeks ago I shivered if I had to look my uncle in the face. I dared not go a step beyond the limits set. But now! The blood of the Jurnieffs is aroused!"

Arriving at the bazaar, she made another purchase, walked to the carriage, answered Marie's question as to what kept her so long and in half an hour was back in her apartments.

As Colonel Jurnieff passed her door he stopped, a look of astonishment on his face.

"What next?" he said. "She is actually singing a love song. Evidently my brother has not managed this affair well. Why, the girl is already happy as well as conquered. Really my brother's influence must get me promoted. I am too great a diplomat to be governor of a prison. I should be in St. Petersburg."

As his footsteps died away the love-song came to an abrupt end.

CHAPTER VIII. THE GOVERNOR'S BALL.

THE ball of the governor of Tiflis was the success he wished it to be. The new palace was ablaze with light. Carriages dashed to the entrance, deposited their occupants and dashed away again. Officers on foot, with their cloaks covering their uniforms, walked in the obscurity of the streets to mingle on equal terms in the brilliant ballroom with princes and pashas.

The gay world of the Caucasus was made gay by the addition of the swarms from the orient. Bands blared their military music. Gowns that came from Paris swept the ballroom floor as the stately dames who wore them walked with Persians and Turks of high degree. Laughter, conversation, introductions and presentations made a perfectly harmonious bedlam.

But there was one at the ball who listened to the words of welcome he received, while his eyes noted the appearance of one he sought.

"Will she never come?" he asked himself. "Or does she hate me so that she will brave her uncle's wrath rather than meet me?"

(To be continued.)

Surprise Soap advertisement featuring an illustration of a woman and text: 'Surprise Soap is stamped on every cake of Surprise Soap. It's there so you can't be deceived. There is only one Surprise. See to it that your soap bears that word—Surprise. A pure hard soap.'

WM. WARREN advertisement for pianos, organs and sewing machines. Text: 'PIANOS, ORGANS AND SEWING MACHINES. We wish to inform our customers and the public that they will now find us at our New Stand, William-st., north of Webster's Repair Shop. The prices of all our lines of instruments and machines will be right and quality guaranteed as usual. A few snaps in second-hand goods. P. O. Box 217. W. M. WARREN.'

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