

THE SNARE

BY RAFAEL SABATINI

The Master Tale-Teller, Author of "Bardey's the Magnificent," Another Stirring Story of Adventure and Love in a New Setting—
The Peninsular War.

WHO'S WHO.

Richard Butler, Lieutenant in the 1/5th Dragoons during Wellington's campaign in Portugal, commits an offence during a drunken revelry, arousing the resentment of Portuguese officials. He disappears from his regiment.

Sir Terence O'Moy, brother-in-law of Butler, and adjutant-general, it is conjectured to promise that Dick will be shot when taken.

Uria O'Moy, Sir Terence's young wife, conceals her brother Dick.

Capt. Ned Tremayne, O'Moy's secretary, promises to help get Dick out of trouble.

"It is possible, certainly. The evidence to come will no doubt determine whether it is a terrible opinion."

"Admitting this, then, the attitude in which Capt. Tremayne was discovered would be a perfectly natural one? It would be natural that he should investigate the identity and hurt of the man he was shooting here?"

"Certainly."

"But it would hardly be natural that he should bring up the body of a man he had himself slain, thereby incurring the risk of being discovered?"

"That is a question for the court rather than for me."

"Will you, Sir Terence?"

And, as no one else desired to question him, Sir Terence raised his head, and Lady O'Moy was called.

Coquham Granit, Wellington's secretary, arrives on the scene in time to hear Sir Terence order Tremayne under arrest for disloyalty. Wellington's exactness against dueing.

CHAPTER XX.

THE WALLET.

"A queer, mysterious business this death of Samoal," said Colonel Granit. "We put on as they can't afford to pay in the enclosed garden."

"Samoal has been killed by a bullet from a pistol, I can assure you."

There is no point in revealing the secret, but it is essential to the story that Samoal was a spy, and that his movements might not betray him. His eyes glowed upon her with a ferocity that was hardly dissimulated.

"Will you be good enough to tell your Lady O'Moy, how you came to upon the lad?" asked the master.

"Lady O'Moy?" she dubbed her lips with a half-smile before answering mechanically as she had been schooled:

"I heard a cry and ran out . . . You were in bed at the time, of course?" quoth her husband, futzing.

"What on earth has that to do with Sir Terence?" the president robustly.

"The question is simple and clear to me," he said. "It is intended to be M. O'Moy's." And Granit, who had been examining the sword, turned to the president:

"I have no objection to your examining the sword, but if it is necessary, I will do so myself."

He turned to the president again, and said: "I am told that you are a man of great experience, and I trust you will be able to give me some advice on the subject."

"I am not a man of much experience, but I will do my best to help you," said the president.

"This is a queer case," said Granit, "but I will do my best to help you. I have no objection to your examining the sword, but if it is necessary, I will do so myself."

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CHAPTER XXI.

THE EVIDENCE.

The board of officers convened before Col. Grant to sit on the trial of Major O'Moy.

His adjutant considered: "Perhaps I may be present. I may be at Tregayne next month. It is a very odd date."

What is your own impression?"

"I have been here to see the witness, and the result is that he deserves to be held in custody. I want you to come to him to have witnessed, but when he is in the middle of his statement, let me be present."

"I have just heard that Marshal Beresford has been sent to sit on the trial of Major O'Moy."

"He is not likely to be present. I may be at Tregayne next month. It is a very odd date."

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