



CHAPTER

XXXIII.

—(Cont'd.)

"Respecting the tests to which candidates were put, she spoke with more freedom. Those who, having reached the second grade, aspired to the first, were submitted to three very severe ones, to make trial of their courage, purity, and humility. Failure in any of these trials resulted in instant death, and the final test, the trial by fire which took place in a subterranean chamber of the great temple, resulted in a candidate whose courage failed him being precipitated into that lake of fire which I have already described—a dreadful form of death, which by accident I had witnessed."

"I have the reputation of being a cold, hard man. So had Antony before he met Cleopatra. But seven years ago, under the Indian moon, I learned tolerance for the human weakness which forgets the world for the smiles of a woman."

"It had to end. Sooner or later, discovery was inevitable. One night, I told Naida that I must go. Over the scene that followed I will pass in silence. It needed all the strength of a fairly straight, hard life to help me keep to my decision."

"She understood at last, and consented to release me. But there were obstacles—big ones. The snow on the lower mountain slopes had begun to melt, and the water-rate in the valley by which I had entered was now impassable. As a result, I must use another gate, which opened into a mountain path, but which was always guarded. At first, on hearing this, I gave myself up for lost, but Naida had a plan."

"Removing a bandage which she always wore, she showed me the secret mark of Fire-Tongue, branded upon her creamy skin."

"I will put this mark upon your arm," she said. "In no other way can you escape. I will teach you some of the passwords by which the Brethren know one another, and if you are ever questioned you will say that you were admitted to the order by the Master of the Bondy Lodge, news of whose death has just reached us."

"But," said I, "how can I hope to pass for an Oriental?"

"It does not matter," Naida replied. "There are some who are not Orientals among us."

"She exacted an oath from me that I would never divulge anything which I had seen or heard in the City of Fire. She urged that I must leave India as quickly as possible. I had already learned that this remote society was closely in touch with the affairs of the outside world. And, besides, I knew I was leaving my dearest friend there in the Indian hills. I recognized that this dreadful parting must be final."

"Therefore I scarcely heeded her when she assured me that she'd never bring me in danger because of what had happened, a message in the Times of India would reach her. I never intended to insert such a message, gentlemen. I knew that it would need all my strength to close this door which I had opened."

CHAPTER XXXIV.

XAVI BRUN'S STORY (continued).

"The incidents of the next seven years do not concern you, gentlemen. I find one aim in life—to forget. From the time that I left India until the moment when fate literally threw me in the way of the late Sir Charles Abingdon, I had heard nothing of the cult of Fire-Tongue."

"Then, touching with the late Sir Charles, after my accident in the Haymarket, he put to me a question which I never made him hold my breath."

"Do you know anything of the significance of the term Fire-Tongue?"

"I am not accustomed to any display of feeling in public," I replied in what I think was an ordinary tone.

"What connection Sir Charles?"

"Well," said he, watching oddly, "I know you have traveled in India, and I wondered if you had ever come in contact with the legend which prevails there, that a second Zoroaster has arisen, to preach the doctrine of eternal fire."

"I have heard it," I replied, guardedly.

"I thought it possible," continued Sir Charles, "and I am tempted to tell you of a curious experience which once fell me during the time that I was a guest of my late friend, Colonel Bannister, in Delhi. My reputation as an oculist was not at that time so fully established as it later became, but I already had some reputation in this branch of surgery; and one evening a very dignified Hindu gentleman sought an interview with me, saying that a distinguished native noble, who was a guest of his, had met with a serious accident, and offering me a fee equivalent to nearly five hundred pounds to perform an operation which he believed to be necessary."

"I assured him that, my services were at his disposal, and blankly declined to accept so large a fee. He thereupon explained that the circumstances were peculiar. His friend belonged to a religious cult of extremely high order. He would lose caste if it became known that he had been attended by a Christian surgeon; therefore my visit must be a secret one."

"Accordingly I was driven in a car which was waiting to some house upon the outskirts of the city and conducted to a room where the patient had been carried. I saw him to be a singularly handsome young man, apparently about twenty-three years of age. But there was something effeminate about him which repelled me; I cannot say in what way; nor did I approve of the presence of many bowls of opium in the room."

"Murphy—Did you hear that, poor Tim Casey's dead?" O'Flaherty—
"Yes, I don't say so?" Murphy—"Yes, an' he's ad to the Derry Poorhouse." O'Flaherty—"Ow' much did he have?" Murphy—"A wife an' ten children."

Constantinople Ready to Evict 3,000 Russians

Refugees Must Quite Turkish Capital by Feb. 1. League of Nations Has Task of Finding Homes for Them

Geneva:—The League of Nations, which has already sent to Latin-American countries many families of Russian refugees, finds itself confronted with the task of evacuating from Constantinople the last 3,000 refugees resident there.

Under a Turkish edict, all the refugees must leave Constantinople by February 1. Up to 1921 no fewer than 90,000 Russians had taken refuge in the Turkish metropolis of the great temple, which was brushed in rather an odd manner across its ivory head.

Nationality enough, this circumstance excited my curiosity, and distracting the woman's attention for a moment, I asked her to bring me something from a table at the opposite side of the room.—I lightly raised this wavy lock of the young man's jet-black hair, which was brushed in rather an odd manner across his ivory head.

"Do you know what I concealed, Mr. Brinn?"

"I assured him that I did not. "A mark, apparently natural, resembling a torch surmounted by a tongue of fire!"

As the evacuation progressed, however, the task of finding employment in other countries for the refugees became more difficult.

A climax was reached in 1922. At the same time that Turkey declared Russian nationality a reality in the country before August 1, 1927, France decided that it could accept no foreign workers because of the economic condition which followed the stabilization of the franc.

All Must Quit Turkey.

Only in exceptional cases could the refugees obtain Turkish nationality. A temporary suspension was granted in the decree that the rest must leave, but now all have to go.

Among the 3,000 Greeks left in Constantinople are many jazz artists, dancers, agriculturists, carpenters, tailors, domestics and commercial folk. It costs to transport and settle them in South America about \$100 apiece. The labor office estimates that for the final liquidation of Russian refugees in Turkey some \$250,000 will be required, including some \$50,000 for the removal of 300 invalids.

Some of the 3,000 probably will be sent to the Argentine, Bolivia and



Lock of Borgia's Hair Put Under Glass at Milan

Strand Sent to Poet Bembo by Beautiful Lucrezia in 1505 Nearly Won Away by Hands of Curious

TRESS INSPIRED BYRON

Wrote Poem About It; Originally Bought by Ambassador Library Founder

Rome.—The lock of Lucrezia Borgia's hair, jealously kept at the Ambrosian Library of Milan, together with a number of her love letters, as well as the letter which accompanied the lock, has been put where it cannot be touched by the curious.

For creamed mushrooms remove the stems and peel one pound of mushrooms. Melt five tablespoons of butter, add the mushrooms broken in pieces and cook for three minutes. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, dredge with one and a half tablespoons of flour and pour over them half a cup of thin cream. Cook for five minutes stirring constantly.

A more unusual mushroom dish is made by sprinkling half a pound of mushrooms, prepared as usual, with salt and pepper, dredging them with flour and cooking three minutes in a hot saucier with two tablespoons of butter. Add one cup of boiling water in which a bouillon cube has been dissolved and cook slowly five minutes. Sprinkle with three tablespoons of grated cheese. As soon as the cheese is melted arrange the mushrooms on pieces of toast and pour over them the sauce. Garnish with parsley and serve at once.

Discovery Meant Death.

It was when Bembo left and was visiting the Strozzi family at Villa Ostafello that the love missives were exchanged by means of traitor messengers who knew that the discovery meant death, as Aphrae d'Este in

Soup offers an excellent way to utilize the stems which may not be required in other recipes. Scrape the stems and cut in thin slices. Add them to four tablespoons of melted butter, dredge with two tablespoons of flour and add one slice of onion cut fine. When the mushrooms are tender force them through a fine sieve and add milk or cream to make a thin cream soup. Season with salt and pepper and serve with croutons.

Breslau's Expansion to Add 40,000 to City's Population

Breslau—Breslau will gain 40,000 inhabitants and thus increase its population to more than 600,000 by the coming into existence, probably on April 1, of Greater Breslau.

The annexation to the city of various outlying districts will make necessary a material increase of the streetcar system for which plans already are being made. Statisticians estimate that the greater city will have 1,000,000 inhabitants in 1950.

A certain grumpy Bergman made his home life almost unbearable. His mentions that it is not good to be alone, however, rarely complained and sign her own name. Seldom did anything that might bring only the double letter F. F. will have on one of his tantrums. Emerging evidence that the letter was indeed when Cardinal Borromeo bought it.

Besides the original with the halo, there are others dating to the same period, together with Bembo's poetic masterpieces. In one of these, Bembo says:

"When Lucrezia wished to send to her lover a remembrance she cut this lock from her head and placed it in the piece of parchment, together with the letter, when it still remained when Cardinal Borromeo bought it.

Besides the original with the halo, there are others dating to the same period, together with Bembo's poetic masterpieces. In one of these, Bembo says:

"When Lucrezia was staying with her husband during the journey northward from Rome she stopped five times for the purpose of washing her golden locks, according to the Venetian fashion with a bath wash compounded according to a receipt of Catherine of Aragon."

Dearest, do you think I shall prove a satisfactory mate?" She said.

"Oh, you'll do for a mate all right. Now, look me over and tell me what you think of your captain."

Lucrezia was surprised by his inquiry.

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