reh Directory.

h League: Monday, at 8 p.m.
Meeting: Wednesday, at 8 p.m.
: First Monday of the month at 3 p.m.

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> A Romance of Drussenland

By PERCY BREBNER Copyright, 1907, by R. F. Fenne &

"It didn't keep the prisoner who died yesterday," said his companion. "He

Presently all five mounted and rode slowly up the path, and I crept through the underwood again. Perhaps should have been safer had I stopped self. where I was, but inaction was impossible. Besides, hunger and thirst were wandered far out of my way, for I came suddenly upon a small clearing.

ing half a dozen horsemen. "You've searched," she was saying. to act and to act quickly. "There's not a hole where a man could your fighting?"

"You have seen no man pass this and wine." way today." "No. I was within, and the door led us into the princess' apartments.

wandering in these woods, and he'll I passed into the chamber I knew want food. Maybe he'll ask you for well. it. If you give it this but will be without an owner. Were he your son even you should not escape!"

give him food if"ing oath, turned and left the old wo- treachery. To Sir Walen and others man standing at her but door. As whom she trusted the princess told soon as they were out of sight she the reason and the manner of your trust?" Conveyancer, Notary Public, Insurance shook her fist at them. The action going. It was wise to be secret doubtmade me wonder if I could trust her. less. but it gave great occasion to Within the hut doubtless were food your enemies. The princess threaten "Tell me how deep is the treachery." king."

and drink, and both I sorely needed; ed to treat those who murmured with MILTON, ONT perhaps, too, a corner where I could the greatest severity. No one could rest a little. She stood at the door for a few moments and then came to the side of

the hut to pick up a bundle of sticks. It was risky, but I was almost fainting for want of food. Holding up my hand in warning, I stepped into the clearing. She saw me and let the sticks fall, but she did not utter a sound.

"They are for the king," I whispered. "I am for the princess. Who is your

MILTON, ONT son for?" "The princess." She beckoned me to follow her, and

I entered the but. "You shall eat first and, if you will, tell me the tale afterward." It was frugal fare she set before me, such a pottage that at other times my stomach might have turned against. but now enjoyable as the dainty feast of an epicure, and then I told her a garbled version of my story, true

"You're a brave man," she said, "My son would have acted so, for he is a brave man too. Now let me look at your wounds. Living in the woods, we old women find strange herbs.' She could not have used me more tenderly had I been her son. In the midst of her work she stopped sudden-

enough in particulars, but wanting in

ly. She had quick ears. "They are returning." 'Good mother, give me some weapon and my life shall stand between them and you." There is a better way," she answer-

me which path I should take to reach the open country toward my destination, and she provided me with a short dagger, the only weapon she had. I was in the princess' country, but 1 shunned habitations and avoided a village as the plague. I went carefully

day and night, keeping to the woods as much as possible, choosing to make a roundabout journey rather than go direct with the chance of being seen. It was on the sixth or perhaps the seventh day, for I took little heed of the passing of time, that I neared my goal. To gain the private door by which I escaped and by which I intended to return I had to cross in front of the camp and climb the opposite hill spur. No sentry disturbed me. Only a light here and there was visible. Some-

thing had happened, If a large part of her army had deserted, which would explain why the king's troops had wandered unchallenged over the country, the sooner the princess and I set out to find the exit from Drussenland I found the secret door and opened

With my dagger in my hand I groped my way along the dark passages, not certain of my direction. There was not a sound. The palace seemed deserted, and my heart failed me. At last I came to the corridor in which the princess' rooms were. There was no light in it, not a sound. I stood still and listened. Not a soundyes, a little sound, the slight creak of armor. Friend or foe, he was too near the princess for me to wish to avoid him. So I went forward, taking no further care to step lightly. "Who goes?"

"A friend." "That name may stand for a foe

now," he answered. heard him strike a door with his sword. It was the princess' door, and at his summons two men came out bearing torches. Verrall!" one exclaimed. "You come

too late, I fear." "Too late!" "The princess is gone."

"Gone! Where?" "Toward Yadasara." "To her death!" I cried, and I put out my arm to the wall to support m

CHAPTER XVIII.

"My watch is over," said the knight of fine rain, yet a gleam of sunlight but love has come to me once and for lie concealed. What have I to do with "I waited only for you. You look shone as the princess came from the all time; there seems no sin in telling

He knocked out his torch and remain-"Mark you, dame, there is a man ed in the antercom. The knight and

"Tell me all." I entreated. "You had promised to go in three days, and when it was found that you "Maybe not, but I'd chance that and had departed secretly reaction came in favor of the priests and of Vasca. The horseman muttered a threaten- At the street corners men talked



"QUICK; THEY ARE AT THE DOOR."

stay her. You were in danger, she said, and that was an all sufficient reason for her going. "Did Vasca persuade her to set out for Yadasara?" "At first, no."

"Ah! The time was not ripe." moved toward Yadasara. We tried to prevent her, fearing treachery. Count

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for vengeance-there was no mercy in When she spoke it was another our door." voice than bers, hard as a man's in

"And Vasca?" "He applauded her prompt action. 'Now that we know the danger to him who is risking his life for Drussenland what private rivalry there has been between us is past, is nothing, is forgotten. With your highness I MILTON prompting me. A few berries might E held out his arm for me to cry, "To arms!"' The princess gave "And now you have come. Yet it be found and a stream. I must have lean upon. Doubtless I look him her hand, and the color came does not appear wonderful. It seems ed a sorry figure, earth stain back into her cheek. So the count ed and in rags; but, almost made his peace. All night the town In my deepest anxiety I have felt that A hut built of stout logs was there, brusquely I fear, I pushed his arm rang with preparation. Men. ave. and your life and mine were one. Ah, and before it was an old woman fac- aside. This was no time to give way women, too, shouted jubilantly: To Clinton, in your country women may to fatigue or despair. It was the tim arms! On toward Yadasara! The not speak their hearts so. Forgive me day dawned leaden gray, with a swish if my confession sounds strange to you

> spent, Sir Verrall. I will send for foo. palace. She rode, a warrior in com- it." plete steel, and a shout rang loud and | With her hand in mine I told her One of the soldiers left us: the other high at her coming. I warrant the all, not exaggerating, yet not making sight of her turned many a traitor too light of my perils, for love glowed into a loyal subject." the foulest treachery afoot. Sir Knight. I had endured and grasped my hand

> > that the time was ripe." low the princess. Of those who swore | speak. to protect her I alone am here. It

was Jasar who suggested that I should wait for you." "Who is with you that you can

wine; you need them," said the knight. be who sent Lady Aldrida to the she said to Walen when he had named "So deep that death grips bands with loyalty. In Yadasara there are many for the count. In Yadasara Lady this expedition to save me? Have I is a fault well founded in loyalty. We Aldrida attempted my life. Ten days a greater enemy in Drussenland than must be prepared. Sir Walen, you

and we will go," I cried, draining the he could make terms with the wom our person. See to our command at wine. It put new strength in me. sword is necessary to the princess a man out so vile as this."

gates in half an hour." gerly ride toward it again. It was toward sundown that we

rounded by thick woods, and it was fortunate that our coming happened upon a point where friends were or we might have been intentionally mistaken for the enemy. I thought it well that my presence safe place for you?" known until I had seen the princess. put double courage into the men." So, entering a tent, I sent to ask Jasar | "Into loyal men. Your damp is full

and Walen to come to me. They of men who are not loyal." would know better than I could who was to be trusted and who not I told Walen Vasca was a villain, but he did not believe me. Turning to Jasar, I asked when I

could see the princess alone. "When you will. She will not leave her tent again tonight." "Then I will come now." Walen left us, and his manner trou-

other knight I looked for support, and if he had not actually failed me he had clearly shown that he was not ready to follow me blindfold. We went silently through the camp. We passed Vasca's tent and heard the

priest went in and in a few moments returned. I entered alone. Daria had risen to greet me. As the curtain of the tent fell behind me to the arms ready to be held out to her-whether to be all the woman or

still something of the princess. doubt not there was supplication "You are safe and with me again,"

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made before the last word. "Do you remember why you are

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bere?" I asked. I had almost forgotten." "You are on your way to Yadasara

to rescue me." natural that you should come to me.

brighter in her eyes as I told the "Heaven grant it so! But there is story. She loved me more for what That captive was no captive, but a tightly as I recounted Lady Aldrida's messenger proclaiming to the count attempt upon my life, the fight on the stairs, the fall from the city walls and "We feared treachery, Sir Verrall, the struggle with the dead man in the

but we were powerless except to fol- river. I finished and waited for her to kinsman. Count Vasca, the greatest

of villains?" she said. "I have told you what is said of him in Yadasara, common talk over "A dozen men. Here are food and every flagon of wine. I believe it was

"He cannot be so great a traitor." "Think you be would have devised runs his judgment, but if it is so it ago at least I escaped from the city. Count Vasca? He loves you. As the will at once see that these companies You may judge what truth there was woman be loves, you are far more are drawn together. They will form in the messenger the count brought to than as the princess he pays homage one wing of our advancing army, to. Once he has betrayed you, you which you and Sir Verrall will com-"Let me change these rags for armor are a princess no longer. He believes mand. It will be for you to protect

"Every man who wields a loyal "It is unlike you. Clinton, to make now," I said. "Have your men by the "Let me learn that I have wronged him and on my knees I will ask his Can he know that Sir Verrall has re-So at midnight we rode from the pardon," I returned. "Why, Daria, turned?" gates. Strange that after running look at the place where you are en away from Yadasara I should so ea- camped tonight! Would any leader choose such a position?"

"Indeed, he gave me many reasons found the camp, pitched in a place sur- for doing so." "Speaking lies, Daria." "Hush, Clinton, he is my kinsman."

"He is your worst enemy-a treach- fled?" erous friend. Why should he so urge your coming? Is the thick of battle a carefully." in the camp should not be generally "I command, Clinton. That should that is all. You shall hear them. Go

"I will not believe that."

"But happiness must not make that our safety allowed me to fling a me forgetful. My darling, peril is at challenge to the count to prove his honesty. I cannot: the treachery is I fear nothing-now," she answered. too widespread, and, with insidious And I kissed her for the pause she | words, he has lulled your suspicions even as he has those of some of your most loyal knights. That messenger who came to you came with a lie upon his lips. Sir Walen almost quarreled with me when I accused the count, and you. my dear one, doubt me."

"No, Clinton, do not say that; but, surely, you may misjudge the count. Since you are here the reason for this expedition is gone, but your presence is reason enough why I cannot return. There is no happiness behind us. Only by conquest can I hope to make the Drussenlanders respect you. Courage, my knight. The blood leaps

"We may have to seek it together." "Would that we could start the quest

too warmly through my veins for me

to fear. We shall not fail. In Yada-

sara did you find the key of Drussen-

"We have not failed yet," she answered. "I will send for Sir Walen at

She gave her orders sharply. It was wonderful how easily she became the "If there is danger we will at least be ready for it," she said.

Sir Walen came, and Jasar was also admitted to the conference at my sug-"You know what Sir Verrall fears." think his anxiety for our safety out-

Sir Walen bowed and left the tent. "Jasar, send a messenger to the count and bid him come to us. Stay.

"No, your highness." "Then send to him. Say nothing of Sir Verrall."

"What are you going to do?" I asked when Jasar had left us. "I am taking your advice and preparing for danger. Are you not satis-

"I wish to give him my instructions,

"It would be well to treat the count

She lifted the canvas that covered a small apartment of the tent, and I (TO BE CONTINUED)

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