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McGRATH

Near the Garafraxa St. Bridge

A Story of the Indian Mutiny

— By —

LOUIS TRACY

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On a day in January, 1857, a sepoy was sitting by a well in the cantonment of Dum-Dum, near Calcutta. Though he wore the uniform of John Company, and his rank was the lowest in the native army, he carried on his forehead the caste-marks of the Brahmin. In a word, he was more than noble, being of sacred birth, and the Hindu officers of his regiment, if they were not heaven-born Brahmins,

order on parade or in the field. To him approached a Lascar. "Brother," said the newcomer "lend me your brass pot, so that I may

would grovel before him in secret,

though he must obey their slightest

and-easy in their manners. Yet how new owner was a stranger, as yet. came it that even a low-caste mon- "Ready for the fray, I see," murgrel of a Lascar should offer such an mured Malcolm with a smile. He overt insult to a Brahmin!

of centuries into the words.

your rifle without biting the forbidden Then he was told to let go, and Miss New Grocery Store your rifle without biting the forbidden Then he was told to let go, and Miss thing? Learn more about your own Winnifred Mayne, niece of a Commisproudly to others."

lit such a flame in India that rivers ship as the enraged Arab plunged and of blood must be shed ere it was curvetted through the main gate. under the shock of the retort. It was less. bent on the destruction of Brahmini- brusque! I wonder why!" cal supremacy. He and his caste-fel- The Grand Trunk Road ran to left iows would lose all that made life and right. To the left it led to the Mrs. A. SULLIVAN worth living. But they would exact bazaar, the cantonment, and the civil a bitter price for their fall from high lines; to the right, after passing a few

Upper Town - Durham "Kill!" he murmured in his irenzy, teled the open country on a long as he rushed away to tell his com- stretch of over a thousand miles to rades the lie that made the Indian Calcutta and the south. In 1857 no Mutiny possible. "Slay and spare thoroughfare in the world equalled not! Let us avenge our wrongs so the Grand Trunk Road. Beginning at fully that no accursed Feringhi shall Peshawur, in the extreme north of dare again to come hither across the India, it traversed the Punjab for six

through India with the inconceivable Bombay branches, each nearly a thouspeed with which such ill tidings al- straight, well made and tree-lined ways travels in that country. Ever throughout it supplied the two great New Pumps, Pump Re- north went the news that the British arteries of Indian life. Malcolm had Raj was doomed. Hindu fakirs, selected it as a training-ground that pairs, Cement Curbing or aglow with religious zeal, Mussalman evening because he meant to weary zealots, as eager for dominance in and subdue his too highly spirited this world as for a houri-tenanted charger. Whether the pace was fast Paradise in the next, carried the fiery or slow Nejdi would be compelled to torch of rebellion far and wide. meet many varieties of traffic, from And so the flame spread, and was artillery elephants and snarling cam-George Whitmore And so the flame spread, and was artiflery elephants and snaring camof few Englishmen could see it, while of the ryot. Possibly, he would not native intelligence was aghast at the shy at such monstrosities after twenty

a slim, straight-backed girl stood in hard road chimed in with the turbu- sheep now that he had found a masthe veranda of a bungalow at Meerut. lent mood of his rider. Frank Malter, the young officer took the direc-Her slended figure, garbed in white colm was a soldier by choice and in- tion pointed out by the lady. Roundmuslin, was framed in a creeper stinct. When he joined the Indian ing an angle of the wall, he came to a covered arch. The fierce ardor of an army, and became a subaltern in a causeway spanned by a small bridge, Indian spring had already kissed into native cavalry regiment, he deter which was guarded by the machicolife a profusion of red flowers amid mined to devote himself to his profes- lated towers of a strong gate. A ponthe mass of greenery, and, if Wini- sion. He gave his whole thought to derous door, studded with great bosses fred Mayne had sought an effective it and to nothing else. His interests of iron fashioned to represent elesetting for her own fair picture, she lay in his work. He regarded everycould not have found one better fit- thing from the point of view of its luctantly it seemed-and he was adted to its purpose.

under a broad-brimmed straw hat was ding Napoleon.

is the second pair. I shall never again one to woo and wed a maid of high brought him once to Delhi-it was a talking to."

envy Behari Lal," said her companion, the mere varnish of life, and the hot while the hangers-on at the Court glancing up at her from the carriage breath of reality can soon scorch mixed freely with the Europeans. His way that ran by the side of the few them out of existence. Events were quick intelligence caught at the belief steps leading down from the veranda, then shaping themselves in India that these men resented his presence

you deny to me."

could speak Hindustani. Now, what rand. The man turned and cursed noyance of her household was thus would you say to Behari Lal in such him as he passed, and bowed with bit- easily accounted for, but he marveled

I buy them of sufficient size. Of inghi left in all the land. Malcolm, course you have small hands-"

explain. And now, as you have been cern him. His only trouble was that civilly enough. Servants came with rude to me, I shall not take you to Winifred Mayne stood on a pinnacle see Mrs. Meredith." "But that is a kindness."

"For your sake, Miss Mayne, I the high-mettled Nejdi thought of eas-matter with the thermometer at would face Medusa, let alone the ex- ing the pace somewhat he was urged seventy degrees in the shade, and, decellent wife of our Commissary-Gen- onward with the slight but utterly uneral, but fate, in the shape of an un- precedented prick of a spur. commonly headstrong Arab, forbids. That was a degradation not to be handed to him. I have just secured a new charger, borne. The Calcutta Brahmin did not and he and I have to decide this resent the Lascar's taunt more keenly. evening whether I go where he wants With a swerve that almost unseated

the Grand Trunk Road."

due risk," said the girl, with a sudden of mangoes-when Malcolm had to note of anxiety in her voice that was lie flat on Nejdi's neck to avoid being sweetest music to Frank Malcolm's swept off by the low branches-and ears. For an instant he had a mad horse and man dived headlong into impulse to ask if she cared, but he deep water. crushed it ruthlessly, and his bantering reply gave no hint of the tumult ing, frightened the horse. Malcolm, in his breast. Yet he feared to meet in that instant of prior warning which her eyes, and was glad of a saluting the possessor of steady nerves learns sepoy who swaggered jauntily past tod use so well, disengaged his feet the open gate.

dust, if that is what you mean," he face, he saw that the Arab and himsaid. "But there is a fair chance that self were floundering in a moat. Not instead of carrying me back to Mee- the pleasantest of bathing-places anyrut my friend Nejdi will take me to where, in India such a sheet of al-Aligarh. You see he is an Arab of most stagnant water has excessive mett'e. If I am too rough with him, peculiarities. Among other items, it it will break his spirit; if too gentle, breeds fever and harbors snakes, so he will break my neck. He needs the Malcolm floundered rather than main de fer sous le gant de velours. swam to the bank, where he had the Please forgive me! I really didn't negative satisfaction of catching intend to mention gloves again."

"Oh, go away, you and your Arab. steed scrambled out after him. You are both horrid. You dine here to-morrow night, my uncle said?"

there, you know, against my will."

Lifting his hat, he walked towards a huge pipal tree in the compound. Beneath its far-flung branches a syce was sitting in front of a finely-pro- to scale the fort on horseback? And portioned and unusually big Arab why not have chosen a spot where horse. Both animal and man seemed to be dozing but they woke into activity when the sahib approached. The Arab pricked his ears, swished drink, for I have walked far in the his long and arched tail viciously, and showed the whites of his eyes. A The sepoy started as though a snake Bedouin of the desert, a true scion of had stung him. Lascars, the sailor the incomparable breed of Nejd, he men of India, were notoriously free was suspicious of civilization, and his

wasted no time over preliminaries. "Do you know, swine-begotten, that Bidding the syce place his thumbs in your hog's lips would contaminate my the steel rings of the bridle, the young lotah?" asked he, putting the scorn Englishman gathered the reins and a wisp of gray mane in his left hand. "Contaminate!" grinned the Lascar, Seizing a favorable moment, when the neither frightened nor angered. "By struggling animal flinched from the holy Ganga, it is your lips that are touch of a low-lying branch on the off contaminated, not mine. Are not the side, he vaulted into the saddle. Government greasing your cartridges Chunga the syce, held on until his with cow's fat? And can you load master's feet had found the stirrups. caste, brother, before you talk so sioner of Oudh, quite the most eligible young lady the Meerut district Not a great matter, this squabble could produce that year, witnessed a between a sepoy and a Lascar, yet it display of cool, resourceful horsemanquenched. The Brahmin's mind reeled It left her rather flushed and breath-

true, then, what the agents of the "I like Mr. Malcolm," she confided dethroned King of Oudh were saying to herself with a little laugh, "but in the bazaar. The Government were his manner with women is distinctly

houses tenanted by Europeans, it enhundred miles as far as Aligarh. The lie and the message flew Here it broke into the Calcutta and miles of lathering ride.

* The mad pace set by the Arab when Leading the Arab, who, with the One evening in the month of April, he heard the clatter of his feet on the fatalism of his race, was quiet as a influence on his military education, so mitted to a spacious inner court-But she was young enough and it may be conceded instantly that the yard. pretty enough to pay little heed to arrival in Meerut of an Oudh Commispose or background. In fact, so much sioner's pretty niece should not have of her smooth brow as could be seen affected the peace of mind of this bud- large. He was well acquainted with

wrinkled in a decided frown. Happily, But a nice young woman can find notion that such a fortress existed her bright brown eyes had a glint of joints in the armor of the sternest- within an hour's fast ride of the stanumor in them, for Winifred's wrath souled young man. Her attack is all tion. The King of Delhi had a large was an evanescent thing, a pallid the more deadly if it be unpremedi- hunting-lodge somewhere in the sprite, rarely seen, and ever ready to tated, and Frank Malcolm had already cality, but he had never seen the reached the self-depreciatory stage place. If this were it, why should it "There!" she said, tugging at a re- wherein a comparatively impecunious be crammed with soldiers? Above all, fractory glove. "Did you hear it? It subaltern asks himself the sad ques- why should they eye him with such actually shrieked as it split. And this tion whether it be possible for such a ill-concealed displeasure? Duty had believe a word Behari Lal says. degree, or her Anglo-Indian equiva- barely forty miles from Meerut-and Wait till I see him. I'll give him such lent, an heiress of much prospecetive the relations between the feeble old

"Then I have it in my heart to But money and rank are artificial, authorities were then most friendly, "Indeed! May I ask why?" she de- wer destined to sweep aside conven- because he was brought among them tion for many a day. Had the young by the command of the lady. He knew "Because you yield him a privilege Englishman known it, five miles from now that he must have seen and Meerut his Arab's hoofs threw pebbles spoken to one of the royal princesses "I was not aware you meant to over a swarthy moullah, lank and None other would dare to show her call to-day. As it is, I am paying a travel-stained, who was hastening to- self unveiled to a stranger and a strictly ceremonial visit. I wish I wards the Punjab on a dreadful er white man at that. The manifest anter venom that when the time of reck- at the strength of her body-guard. "I hardly know. When I buy gloves, oning came there would not bt a Ferhowever, would have laughed had he evidently vested with authority, bus-"Thank you. Please don't trouble to heard. Affairs of state did not con- tled forward and addressed him, far removed from the beaten path of garments sufficiently to make him a cavalry subaltern. So, being in a presentable, while other men groomed "Then you shall come, and be miser- rare fret and fume, he let the gray his horse. He was wet through, of

proad ditch, and crashed into a field nite issue will be settled forthwith on of millet. Another ditch, another field, breast high with tall castor-oil "I hope you are not running any un- plants, a frantic race through a grove

The splash, for more than the duckfrom the stirrups. He was thrown "I don't expect to be deposited in the clear, and, when he came to the sur-Nejdi's bridle when that disconcerted

The two were coated with green slime. Being obviously unhurt, they "Yes, if I don't send you a tele- probably had a forlornly comic asgram from Aligarh. I may be brought pect. At any rate, a woman's musical laugh came from the lofty wall which bounded the moat on the further side and a woman's clear voice said:

"A bold leap, sahib! Did you mean the water was cleaner?"

Before he could see the speaker, so smothered was he in dripping moss and weeds, Malcolm knew that some lady of rank had watched his adventure. She used the pure Persian of the court, and her diction was refined. Luckily, he had studied Persian as stani, and he understood the words. squeezed the water and slime off his and vicinity.

To his exceeding wonder, his eyes remarkable appearance. She was unveiled, an amazing fact in itself, and her creamy skin, arched eyebrows, regular features, and raven-black hair proclaimed her aristocratic lineage. She was leaning forward in an embrasure of the battlemented wall. Behind her, two attendants, ovalfaced, brown-skinned women of the people, peered shyly at the Englishman. When he glanced their way they hurriedly adjusted their silk \$2.00, for..... saris, or shawls, so as to hide their faces. Their mistress used no such bashful subterfuge. She leaned some- Slippers, reg. \$1.25, for what farther through the narrow embrasure, revealing by the action her arms.

"Perhaps you do not speak my language," she said in Urdu the tongue most frequently heard in Upper In-"If you will go round to the graceful hand to the left-"my serwill render you some assis-

By that time, Malcolm had regained his wits. A verse of a poem by Hafiz occurred to him.

"Princess," he said, "the radiance of your presence is as the full moon suddenly illumining the path of a weary traveler, who finds himself on the edge of a morass."

A flash of surprise and pleasure lit up the fine eyes of the haughty beauty perched up there on the pal-

"'Tis well said," she vowed, smiling with all the rare effect of full red lips and white even teeth. "Nevertheless, this is no time for compliments. You need our help, and it shall be given willingly. Make for the gate. I pray you."

She turned, and gave an order to one of the attendants. With another encouraging smile to Malcolm, she disappeared.

phants' heads, swung open-half re

The number of armed retainers gathered there was unexpectedly the Meerut district, yet he had no wealth and present social importance. King, Bahadur Shah, and the British

He was given little time for observation. A distinguished-looking man, water and towels, and cleaned his Arab gallop himself white, and, when course, but that was not a serious spite the ordinance of the Prophet, a glass of excellent red wine was

But he saw no more of the Princess. He thought she would hardly to go, or he goes where I want to go.

Malcolm, the Arab dashed in front of deputy gave no sign of admitting him to the interior of the palace. Which Continued on page 7.

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he said that th A little rest, he I have a little the doctor say up with me it good, as she is three more chi boy of ten, see it is advisable These three are residents and being car

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