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# THE

A Story of the Indian Mutiny

— By — LOUIS TRACY

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CHAPTER VII. To Lucknow

The tragedy of Massacre Ghat, in censified by the crowning infamy of the Well, brought a new element into the struggle. Hitherto not one European in a hundred in India regarded the Mutiny as other than a local, though serious, attempt to revive a fallen dynasty. The excesses at Meetheir officers came under a different interpreted the look correctly. category to the slayers of tender wofor each hair on the head of those ed toward the shore." unhappy victims. And they kept the "Here we are," cried Mayne, who Above rates are one-way second plain of the Doab-that great tract be- If it were not for the mist we could class, applying from Durham. Propor- tween the Ganges and the Jumna-is see the Magazine just below, on the tionate rates to certain other dotted with the ruins of gutted towns left." and depopulated villages. But that Assuredly, Frank Malcolm's human Full particulars and tickets from- was not yet. India was fated to be clay was being tested in the furnace JAMES. R. GUN, Town Agent or J. almost lost before it was won again. | that night. He had to decide instantly

roomy budgerow carrying Winifred less the boat would bump against the Mayne and her escort drifted away lowermost steps, and, if Akhab Khan from the walls of the Nana's palace and his companions were, indeed at Bithoor, there was not a breath of traitors, the others on board were wind on the river. The mat sail was completely at their mercy. Mayne useless, but a four-mile-an-hour cur- was unarmed, Chumru's fighting rent carried the unwieldy craft slow- equipment lay wholly in his aspect ANYONE ONE NEEDING ly down stream, and there was not while Malcolm's revolvers were in the the slightest doubt in the minds of holsters, and his sword was tied to either of the Englishmen on board as Nejdi's saddle, its scabbard and belt

Mr. Mayne was acquainted with Huq was robbing him. Cawnpore and Sir Hugh Wheeler was | an old friend of his.

and disembark near the Magazine." "Is it far?" asked Malcolm.

"About eight miles."

"I wonder why the Begum was so insistent that we should go back along the Grand Trunk Road?" Mayne hesitated. He knew that

Winifred was listening. "It is hard to account for the vagaries of a woman's mind, or, shall I say, of the mind of such a woman," he answered lightly. "You will remember that when you came to our assistance outside Meerut she was determined to take us, willy-nilly, to Del-

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* nara's impassioned speech and looked into her blazing eyes, thought that her | ward the ghat. Boys And motives were stronger than mere caprice. He never dreamed of the true reason, but he feared that she knew Cawnpore had fallen and her curiously friendly regard for himself might have inspired her advice. Here, again, Winifred,s presence tied his

laugh, "I, at any rate, must endeavor taken from me when I was knocked off my horse in the village-"

"Were you attacked?" asked Winifred, and the quiet solicitude in her voice was sweetest music in her lov-

Mr. Mayne, with his long experience from the treatment meted out that night to a British Officer by the detachment of sowars, amplified, as it was, by their open reference to the Nana as a Maharajah. But he was not yet disillusioned. And, if his judgment were at fault, he erred in good company, for Sir Henry Lawrence, Chief Commissioner at Lucknow, was even then resisting the appeals, the almost insubordinate urging, of the headstrong Martin Gubbins that the sepoys in the capital of a liking to him.

Oudh should be disarmed. Meanwhile the boat lurched onward. Soon a red glow in the sky proclaimed that they were nearing Cawnpore. Though well aware that huzoor! May I never see the White European houses were on fire, they Pond of the Prophet if that was not were confident that the Magazine well planned." would be held. They helped Akbar Khan, Chumru, and the two troopers startled exclamation. It was so dark, tied the tiller with a rope. Please tell to rig a pair of long sweeps, and pre- and the horses, no less than the sail,

landing-place. took one oar and Chumru helped the ing were unmistakable. fred when the native bent near him it there until we touch the steps."

men intend to jump ashore and leave ripples surrounding a black object. of fortune that she was not with them. you. They have been bitten by the Malcolm heard the quick panting of And not one was destined to live—not

ment. The faithful fellow had nursed touched the exhausted man, whose

im through a fever with the devotion of a brother, and Malcolm had reciprocated this fidelity by refusing to part with him when he, in turn, was stricken down by smallpox. In fact, Frank was the only European in Meerut who would employ the man, whose extraordinary appearance went against him. Cross-eyed, wide-mouthed, and broken-nosed, with a straggling black beard that ill concealed the tokens on his face of the dread disease from which he had suffered, Chumru looked a cut-throat of the vorst type, "a hungry, lean-fac'd vil ain, a mere anatomy." Aware of is own ill repute, he made the most f it. He tied his turban with an agressive twist, and was wont to scowl so vindictively at the mess thamsamah that his master, quite unconsciously, always secured the wing of a chicken or the best cut of the

Yet this gnome-like creature was rue to his salt at a time when he nust have felt that his sahib, together with every other sahib in India, was doomed; his eyes now shot fiery, f oblique, shafts of indignation as he nuttered his thrilling news. Malcolmn did not attempt to ques-

rut, Delhi, and other towns were look- tion him. He glanced at the sowars, ed upon as the work of unbridled and saw that their carbines were mobs. Sepoys who revolted and shot slung across their shoulders. Chumru

"Akhab Khan prevented those Shia men and children. But the planned dogs from shooting you and Mayneand ordered treachery of Cawnpore sahib," went on the low murmur. British-born man in the country not wanted the miss-sahib, and that they been forced into a Titanic contest, but away, but Akhab Khan swore he he was also swayed by a personal and would fight on your honor's side if absorbing lust for vengeance. Offi- they unslung their guns. They do not cers and men, regulars and volunteers know I heard them as I was sitting alike, took the field with the fixed behind the mast and I took care to intent of exacting an expiatory life creep off when their heads were turn-

vow they made. To this day, though little guessed what Chumru's mumbhalf a century has passed, the fertile ling portended. "There is the ghat

On the night of June 4th, when the what line to follow. In a minute or having been thrown aside while Abdul

The broad-beamed budgerow presented a strangely accurate micro-JNO. SCHULTZ or myself at the shop | "Wheeler has no great force at his cosm of India at that moment. The disposal," said he to Malcolm. "It is English people on her deck were George Whitmore evident that the native regiments numerically inferior to the natives, have just broken out here, but, by and deprived by accident of the arms this time, our people in the canton- that might have equalized matters. ment must have heard of events else- Their little army was breathing muwhere, and they have surely seized tiny, but was itself divided, if Chumru the Magazine, which is well fortified were not mistaken, seeing that all and stands on the river. If I can be- were for revolt, but one held out that lieve a word that the Nana said, the the Feringhis' lives should be spared. sepoys will rush off to Delhi to-night, And, even there, the cruel dilemma just as they did at Meerut, Aligarh, that offered itself to the ruler of and Etawah. I am convinced that every European community in the a military salute. Suddenly, his erect our best plan is to hug the right bank | country was not to be avoided, for, if | form became indistinct, and faded out Malcolm tried to obtain his weapons of sight. The boat was travelling down no move, he left it entirely at the quietude of the mist-covered waters troopers' discretion whether or not he was accentuated by the far-off turmoil and Mayne should be shot down with- in the city. out the power to strike a blow in self- The huge sail thrust its yard high

Mayne, who was still weak from the Prompted by Malcolm he went on: wound received an hour earlier, he crossed the deck, halting on the way to rub Nejdi's black muzzle.

Malcolm, who had heard Roshi- With steady thrust of the port sweep had for the taking. Leave the budthey were heading the budgerow to- gerow at the bridge, friend, and join

He went nearer and caught the end | The raucous, half-drunken accents

his order was a quite natural one un- to be made without toil. der the circumstances. Obviously, he meant to help. Stretching their arms so much as utter a yeil, Akhab Khan must be seen." and another were swept headlong into "Are there many houses on the op-

His brief recital of the night's ad- his back on the deck with Frank on "Not many. They are mostly mud ventures was followed by the story top of him. The simplicity of the hovels. What is in your mind?" of the others' journey and detention manoeuvre insured its success. Nei- "We might endeavor to cross the at Bithoor. It may be thought that ther Mayne nor Winifred understood river before we reach the bridge. board to sink or swim as fate might day breaks." direct. He regretted the loss of Akhab Khan, but he recalled the queer best chance. We have plenty of horses read Bahadur Shah's sonorous titles.

"Light of the World, Renowned King of Kings, Lord of all India, Fuzl-Ilahi, Panah-i-din!" That appeal to the faith was too

colm was glad the man had been chivalrous in his fall, for he had taken Chumru, of course, after the first

gasp of surprise, appreciated the sahib's strategy. "Shabash!" he cried, "Wao, wao, tion that still holds out?"

"Oh, what is it?" came Winifred's pared to guide the budgerow to the so obscured her view of the fore part shouted to Chumru from the bank." of the boat, that she could only dimly Winifred was stationed at the rud- make out Malcolm's figure, though

sahibs with the other, and the two "We are disbanding our native peace of the river and the devildom sets of rowers were partly screened forces—that is all," said Frank. of Cawnpore it was given in full meafrom each other by the horses. Mal- "Press the tiller more to the left, sure by her presence there. How

wolf. Don't try to stop them. Name one in whose lungs water had mixed one among hundreds! with air and he hated to think of even But it was a time for action, not for

hands shot out in the hope of succor. After some spluttering a broken voice supplicated:

"Mercy, sahib! I saved you when you were in my power. Show pity now to me." "It is true, then, that you meant to desert, Akhab Khan?" said Frank

sternly. "Yes, sahib. One cannot fight against one's brothers, but I swear by the Prophet-"

"Nay, your oaths are not needed. You, at least, did not wish to commit murder. Cling to that oar. The ghat is close at hand."

"Then, sahib, I can still show my gratitude. If you would save the misssahib, do not land here. The Mazazine has been taken. The cavalry have looted the Treasury. All the sahib-log have fallen.' "Is this a true thing that thou say-

"May I sink back into the pit if it be not the tale we heard at Bithoor!" By this time Mayne was at Frank's

"I fear we have dropped into a hornets' nest," said he. "There is certainly an unusual turmoil in the bazaar, and houses are on fire in all direc-Even while they were listening to

the fitful bellowing of a distant mob

bent on mad revel a crackle of musketry rang out, but died away as quickly. The budgerow grounded lightly when her prow ran against the stonework of the ghat. Again did Malcolm make up his mind on the spur of the moment. "I will spare your life on one condition Akhab Khan," he said. "Go

ashore and learn what has taken place at the Magazine. Return here, alone, within five minutes. Mark you, I say 'alone.' If I see more than one who comes I shall shoot."

"Huzoor, I shall not betray you."

He drew the man through the water until his feet touched the steps. Climbing up unsteadily, Akhab Khan disappeared in the gloom. Then they waited in silence. The heavy breath of the bazaar was pungent in their nostrils, and, for a few seconds they listened to the trooper's retreating footsteps. Frank leaped ashore and pushed the boat off, while Mayne held her by jamming the leeward oar into the will mark away down. mud. It was best to make sure.

They did not speak. Their ears 24 pr. Ladies' Foxed Felts 1 10 60 pair Misses' Kid Bluchwere strained as their tumultuous thoughts. At last, some one came, a man, and his firm tread of boot-shod feet betokened a soldier. It was the rebel who had become their scout. "Sahib," said he, "it is even as told you. Cawnpore is lost to you."

"And you, Akhab Khan, do you go or "Would you have me draw sword

against the men of my own faith?" was the despairing answer. "It would not be for the first time. said Malcolm coldly. "But I could never trust thee again. Yet hast thou chosen wrongly, Akhab Khan. When

thy day of reckoning comes, may it be remembered in thy favor that thou didst turn most unwillingly against thy masters!" Akhab Khan raised his right hand in

his action might be the signal for a stream once more. Around her the murderous attack, while, if he made river lapped lazily, and the solemn

above the fog bank, and watchers on Luckily he had the gift of prompt the river saw it. Some one hailed in decision that is nine-tenths of general- the vernacular, and Chumru replied ship. Saying not a word to alarm that they came from Bithoor with hay. "How goes the good work, brother?"

"Rarely," came the voice. "I have already requited two bunnniahs to The sowars were watching him. whom I owed money. Gold is to be

substantiated Akhab Khan's story. "Pull hard, now," he said encour- The unseen speaker was evidently agingly, "and we will be out of the himself a boatman. He was rejoicing in the upheaval that permitted debts He was facing the three men, and to be paid with a bludgeon and money Mayne caught Frank by the arm.

"We are drifting towards the bridge for a long and strong stroke, they of boats that carries the road to Luckto reach Wheeler. I am supposed to laid on with a will. Instantly, he now across the river," he said, in the be bearing despatches, but they were pressed the oar downwards, thus forc- hurried tone of a man who sees a new ing the blade out of the water, and and paralyzing danger. "There is a threw all his strength into its unex- drawbridge for river traffic, but how pected yielding. Before they could shall we find it, and, in any event, we

the river, while the third man lay on posite bank?" asked Malcolm.

what had happened until Malcolm had riding boldly along the Lucknow of India, should have read more clear- disarmed the trooper, taken his car- Road we shall place many miles bely the sinister lesson to be derived tridge pouch, and thrown him over- tween ourselves and Cawnpore before "That certainly seems to offer our

expression on the man's face when he and we ought to be in Lucknow soon after dawn." "What if matters are as bad there?"

"Impossible! Lawrence has a whole regiment with him, the 32nd, and plenty of guns. Poor Wheeler, at powerful to be withstood. Yet Mal- Cawnpore, commanded a depot, mostly officials on the staff, and invalids. At any rate, Malcolm, we must have some objective. Lucknow spells hope. Neither Meerut nor Allahabad is attainable. And what will become of Winifred if we fail to reach some sta-

The girl herself now came to them. "I refuse to remain alone any longer," she said. "I don't know a quarter of what is going on. I have me what is happening and why a man

She spoke calmly, with the pleasantder. As it chanced the three sowars the sounds of the scuffle and splash- lishwoman. If aught were wanted to ly modulated voice of a well-bred Engenhance the contrast between the colm was saying something to Wini- please. Yes, that is right. Now, keep little did she realize the long drawnout agony that was even then begin-The shimmering surface of the ning for her sisters in that ill-fated "Talk on, sahib, but listen! Your river near the boat was broken up into entrenchment! It was the idle whim

Frank's heart throbbed under this a rebel drowning before his eyes. speech. Malcolm asked her gently to dramatic development. He had no Moved by pity, he swung the big oar go back to the helm and keep it jamreason to doubt his servant's state- on its wooden rest until the blade med hard-a-starboard until they ar-

Continued on page 7

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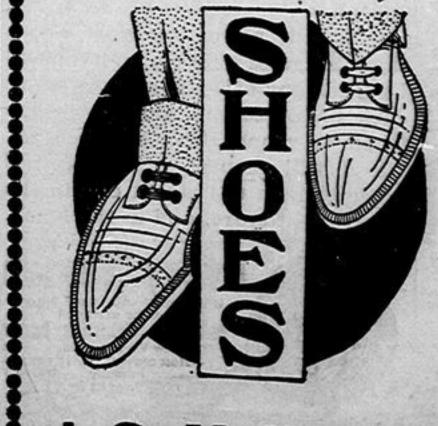
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