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UNDER TWO FLAGS By "OUIDA"

"Thank you, my little comrade," he said simply, with the graver thought still on him that her relation and her entreaty had evoked. "You have given me a lesson that I shall not be quick to forget."

Cigarette colored hotly at the grave, graceful, distant salute, so cold and so courteous, which was offered her in lieu of the rude and boisterous famil-Niarities to which she was accustomed and drew her hand away with what was to the shame of her soldierly hardihood and her barrack tutelage very nearly akin to an impulse of shyness.

"Stuff! Don't humbug me! I am not a court lady!" she cried hastily, almost petulantly, to cover the unwonted and unwelcome weakness, while, to make good the declaration and revindicate her military renown, she balanced herself lightly on the stone ledge and hair. sprang with a young wildcat's easy, vaulting leap over his head and over the heads of the people beneath on to the ledge of the house opposite, a low built wineshop, whose upper story nearly touched the leaning walls of the old Moorish buildings in which she had been perched. The crowd in the street of what this womanhood that he had below looked up amazed and aghast at said she herself had lost might be in that bound from casement to casement its highest and purest shape. as she flew over their heads like a blue and scarlet winged bird of Oran, but she mused, while her teeth clinched on they laughed as they saw who it was.

"It is Cigarette," growled a Turco DURHAM. Indigene. "Ah, ha, the devil for a certainty must have been her father!"

Cecil looked after her with a certain touch of pity for her in him.

ly any, indeed-save that he saw she rica. was pretty, with a mischievous face that all the sun tan of Africa and all knew before he came here. I do not the wild life of the Caserne could not wonder that he never cared to watch harden or debase. But he was sorry a even my dance," was the latent, unacchild so bright and so brave should be knowledged thought that was so cruel turned into three parts a trooper, as she to her; the consciousness - which was, should have been tossed up on the forced itself in on her while her eyes scum and filth of the lowest barrack jealously followed the perfect grace of life and should be doomed in a few the one in whom instinct had found years' time to become the yellow, bat- her rival-that, while she had been so tered, foul mouthed, vulture eyed camp proud of her recklessness and her devfollower that premature old age would lity and her trooper's slang and her surely render the durling of the tricol- deadly skill as a shot, she had only

or, the pythoness of the As du Pique. little teeth.

night, brilliant with a unifica stars and drunken mirth. balmy with a million flowers, before the bronze trellised gate of the villa on the Sahel, where Chatcauroy, when he was not on active service, indemnified himself with the magnificence that his private fortune enabled him to enjoy. for the unsparing exertions and the rugged privations that he always shared willingly with the lowest of his sol-, diers. Tonight the windows of the pretty, low, snow white, far stretching building were lighted and open, and Also a Number of Horses for Sale through the wilderness of cactus, myrtle, orange, citron, fuchsia and a thousand flowers that almost buried it under their weight of leaf and blossom a myriad of lamps were gleaming like so many glowworms beneath the foliage, while from a cedar grove the metodies and overtures of the best military bands in Algiers came mellowed by the distance and the fall of the bubbling fountains. Cigarette looked and listened, and her gay, brown face grew duskily warm with wrath.

"Ah, bah!" she muttered, as she pressed her pretty lips to the latticework. "The men die like murrained sheep in the hospital, and get sour bread tossed to them as if they were pigs, and are thrashed if they pawn their muskets for a stoup of drink when their throats are as dry as the desert-and you live in clover. The colonel gives his fetes with stars and ribbons on his breast, while those who won the battle lie rotting in the sand?"

Cigarette was a resolute little democrat; she had loaded the carbines behind the barricade in an emeute in Paris before she was 10 years old, and was not seldom in the perplexity of conflicting creeds when her loyalty to the tricolor and the guidons smote with

populace and their liberty.

ing herself through the prickly cactus tened her hatred. hedge, launched herself with inimitable dexterity on to the other side of corporal's little sculptures again, mathe cacti. She crossed the breadth of dame," he was murmuring now. "To the grounds under the heavy shade of hear was to obey with me. He waits arbutus trees with a hare's fleetness, your commands yonder." and stood a second looking at the open before them, brightly lighted by the the passion in her burning more hotly summer moon and by the lamps that against that "silver pheasant," whose sparkled among the shrubs. Then delicate train was sweeping the white

with a deep drawn breath. The single crossed the lawn and summoned the ejaculation was at once a menace, a chasseur. tenderness, a whirlwind of rage, a vol- | Cecil obeyed, passed up the terrace ume of disdain, a world of pity. It stairs and stood before his colonel, givwas intensely French, and the whole ing the salute. The shade of some aca-

lightly, as a young setter.

nature of Cigarette was in it. Yet all she saw was a small and bril- party he fronted were all in the glow liant group sauntering to and fro be- of a full Algerian moon and of the fore the open windows after dinner, thousand lamps among the belt of listening to the bands and laughing low. Howers and trees. Chateauroy spoke and softly, and at some distance from with a carelessness as of a man to a them, beneath the shade of a cedar, the dog, turning to his corporal:

ngure of a corporal of chasseurs, calm. erect, motionless, as though he were the figure of a soldier cast in bronze.

"A true soldier!" she muttered where she lay among the rhododendrons, while her eyes grew very soft as she gave the highest word of praise that her whole range of language held. "A true soldier! How he keeps his promise! But it must be bitter."

She looked awhile very wistfully at the chasseur where he stood under the Lebanon boughs; then her glance swept bright as a hawk's over the terrace and lighted with a prescient hatred on the central form of all, a woman's. There were two other great ladies there, but she passed them and darted with unerring instinct on that proud, fair, patrician head with its haughty, staglike carriage and the crown of its golden

Cigarette had seen grandes dames by the thousand, but now for the first time the sight of one of those aristocrats smote her with a keen, hot sting of heartburning jealousy, with a sudden perception, quick as thought, bitter as gall, wounding and swift and poignant,

"Unsexed-he said I was unsexed," the ruby fullness of her lips, and her heart swelled half with impotent rage. half with unconfessed pain. For the first time looking on this imperial foreign beauty, sweeping so slowly and so idly along there in the Algerian star-"What a gallant boy is spoiled in that light, she understood all that she had little amazon!" he thought. The quick missed, all that he had meant when he flush of her face, the quick withdrawal had used that single word for which of her hand, he had not noticed. She she had vowed on him her vengeance had not much interest for him-scarce- and the vengeance of the army of Af-

"If those are the women that he been something very worthless, some-"Hald" said Cigarette between her thing very lightly held by those who liked her for a ribald jest, a dance and She stood in the glittering Algerine a spahis' supper of headlong riot and fighting and obedience."

> The mood did not last. She was too brave, too fiery, too dauntless, too untamed. "Bah! She would faint, I dare say, at the mere sight of these pistols," she thought, with her old disdain, "and would stand fire no more than a ga-



He bent over the hand she held out. zelle! They are only made for summer day weather, those dainty, gorgeous, silver pheasants."

Like many another, Cigarette underrated what she had no knowledge of and depreciated an antagonist the measure of whose fence she had no power to gauge.

Crouched there among the rhododendrons, she lay as still as a mouse, moving nearer and nearer until her ear, with some hypophosphites a violent clash on her love for the quick and unerring as an Indian's, could detect the sense of the words spo-She looked a moment longer through ken. Chateauroy himself was bending the gilded scrollwork, then thrust her his fine, dark head toward the patrician pistols well within her sash and, push- on whom her instinct of sex had fas-

"You expressed your wish to see my

"It was you, was it, brought him here?" windows and the terraces that lay muttered the Friend of the Flag, with down she dropped, as quickly, as marbles of Chateauroy's terraces and whose reply she lost, though she could "Ah!" she said, quickly and sharply, guess what it had been, when a lackey

cias still fell across him, while the

Trictor, the princess honors you with the desire to see your toys again. Spread them out."

The savage authority of his general speech was softened for sake of his guests' presence; but there was a covert tone in the words that made Cigarette murmur to herself:

"If he forgets his promise, I will forgive him!"

Cecil had not forgotten it; neither had he forgotten the lesson that this fair aristocrat had read him in the morning. He saluted his chief again, set the chess box down upon the ledge of the marble balustrade and stood silent, without once glancing at the fair and haughty face that was more brilliant still in the African starlight ert. than it had been in the noon sun of the chasseurs' chambree. Courtesy was forbidden him as insult from a corporal to a nobly born beauty. The carvings were passed from hand to hand as the marquis' six or eight guests, listlessly willing to be amused in the warmth of the evening after their dinner, occupied themselves with the ivory chess armies, cut with a skill and a finish worthy a Roman studio. Praise enough was awarded to the art, but only one glanced at the artist with a touch of wondering pity, softening her pride-she who had rejected the gift of those mimic squadrons.

"You were surely a sculptor once?" she asked him, with that graceful, distant kindness which she might have shown some Arab outcast. "Never, madame."

"Indeed! Then who taught you such exquisite art?"

"It cannot claim to be called an art, madame."

She looked at him with an increased interest. The accent of his voice told her that this man, whatever he might be now, had once been a gentleman. "Oh, yes; it is perfect of its kind.

Who was your master in it?" "A common teacher, madame-neces-

There was a very sweet gleam of compassion in the luster of her dark, dreaming eyes.

"Does necessity often teach so well?" "In the ranks of our army, madame, I think it does; often, indeed, much better."

men have any right to waste their time on such trash," Chateauroy said carelessly, "but the truth is they love the canteen so well that they will do anything to add enough to their pay to buy brandy."

She whom he had called the princess looked with a doubting surprise at the sculptor of the white Arab king she held.

dy," she thought.

hour in the barracks to be able to produce such beautiful trifles as these," she said aloud. "Surely you encourage to deal him. His face flushed a little. such pursuits, colonel?"

"Not I," said Chateauroy, with a dash reverence and moved away. of his camp tone that he could not withhold. "There are but two arts or if you will so far honor me." virtues for a trooper to my taste-

ice, M. de Chateauroy," said the lady, with a smile that, slight as it was, made the marquis' eyes flash fire.

swered her. "Men are made to keep doubtfully the white sheik of the chess their grades there, and privates who Arabs. "I will see that Bel-a-fairethink themselves fine gentlemen re- peur, as they call him, does not suffer ceive the lash they merit."

come put a penny in the churn," is an old time dairy proverb. It often seems to work though no one has ever told why.

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miladi, while she laid aside the white king once more.

"Nay," interposed Chateauroy, recovering his momentary self abandonme honor enough to keep them."

he refused any."

ment; "since you like the bagatelles do "Oh, no; I offered your soldier his own price for them this morning, and

Chateauroy swung round. "Ah! You dared refuse your bits of ivory when you were honored by an

offer for them?" Cecil stood silent. His eye met his chief's steadily. Chateauroy had seen that look when his chasseur had bearded him in the solitude of his tent and demanded back the Pearl of the Des-

The princess glanced at both. Then she stooped her elegant head slightly to the marquis.

"Do not blame your corporal unjustly through me, I pray you. He refused any price, but he offered them to me very gracefully as a gift, though, of course, it was not possible that I should accept them so."

"The man is the most insolent fellow in the service," muttered her host as he motioned Cecil back off the terrace. "Get you gone, sir, and leave your toys here or I will have them broken up by a hammer."

The words were low, that they should not offend the ears of the great ladies who were his listeners, but they were coarsely savage in their whispered command, and the princess heard them.

"He has brought his chasseur here only to humiliate him," thought miladi with the same thought that flashed through the mind of the little Friend of the Flag where she hid among her rhododendrons. Now, the dainty aristocrat was very proud, but she was not so proud but that justice was stronger than pride.

"Wait," she said, moving a little toward them, while she let her eyes rest on the carver of the sculptures with a grave compassion, though she addressed his chief. "You wholly mistake me. I laid no blame whatever on your corporal. Let him take the chessmen back with him. I would on no account rob him of them. I can well understand that he does not care to part with such "Victor knows that neither he nor his | masterpieces of his art, and that he would not appraise them by their worth in gold only shows that he is a true artist, as doubtless also he is a true soldier."

The words were spoken with a gracious courtesy, the clear, cold tone of her habitual manner just marking in them still the difference of caste between her and the man for whom she interceded, as she would equally have "That man does not carve for bran- interceded for a dog who should have been threatened with the lash because "It must be a solace to many a weary he had displeased her. That very tone struck a sharper blow to Cecil than the insolence of his commander had power He lifted his cap to her with a grave

"I thank you, madame. Keep them,

The words reached only her ear. In another instant he had passed away "You should be in the Russian serv- down the terrace steps, obedient to his chief's dismissal.

"Ah, have no kind scruples in keeping them, madame," Chateauroy laugh-"Almost I wish I had been," he an- ed to her as she still held in her hand by losing these trumperies, which, I "How he hates his corporal!" thought believe, old Zist-et-Zest, a veteran of ours and a wonderful carver, had really far more to do with producing than he. You must not let your gracious pity be moved by such fellows as these troopers of mine. They are the most ingenious rascals in the world and know as well how to produce a dramatic effect in your presence as they do "When the butter won't how to drink and to swear when they are out of it."

"Very possibly," she said, with an indolent indifference. "But that man was no actor, and I never saw a gentleman if he has not been one."

"Like enough," answered the marquis. "I believe many 'gentlemen' come in our ranks who have fled their native countries and broken all laws from the Decalogue to the Code Napoleon: So long as they fight well we alarm. don't ask their past criminalities."

"Of what country is your corporal?" "I have not an idea. I imagine his past must have been something very black indeed, for the slightest trace of it has never that I know of been allowed to let slip from him. He encourages milk because it works and the men in every insubordination, buys their favor with every sort of stage trick, thinks himself the finest gentleman in the whole brigades of Africa and ought to have been shot long ago if he had had his real deserts."

She let her glance dwell on him with a contemplation that was half contemptuous amusement, half unexpressed dissent

"I wonder he has not been since you have the ruling of his fate," she said. with a slight smile lingering about the proud, rich softness of her lips.

"So do I." There was a gaunt, grim, stern significance in the three monosyllables that escaped him unconsciously. It made her turn and look at him more

"How has he offended you?" she

Chateauroy laughed off the question. "In a thousand ways, madame; chiefly because I received my regimental training under one who followed the traditions of the armies of Egypt and the Rhine and have, I confess, little tolerance in consequence of a rebel who plays the martyr and a soldier who is too effeminate an idler to do anything except attitudinize in interesting situations to awaken sympathy."

"I am not much interested in military discussions," she said coldly, "but SCOTT & BOWNE, I imagine, if you will pardon me for saying so, that you do your corporal some little injustice here. I shall not keep the chessmen without making him fitting repayment for them. Since

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he declines money you will tell me what form that had better take to be of real and welcome service to a Chas-

seur d'Afrique." Chateauroy, more incensed that he chose or dared to show, bowed courte-

ously, but with a grim, ironic smile. "If you really insist, give him a napoleon or two whenever you see him. He will be very happy to take it and spend it for drink, though he played the aristocrat today. But you are too good to him. He is one of the very worst of my insubordinates, and you are cruel to me in refusing to deign to accept my trooper's worthless bag-

atelles at my hands." She bent her superb head silently, whether in acquiescence or rejection he could not well resolve with himself, and turned to the staff officers, among them the heir of a princely semiroyal French house.

Couched down among her rose hued covert, Cigarette had watched and heard, her teeth set tightly, her breath coming and going swiftly, her hand clinched close on the butts of her pistols. She had never looked at a beautiful, high bred woman before, holding them in gay, satirical disdain. But now she studied one through all the fine, quickened, unerring instincts of jealousy, and there is no instinct in the world that gives such thorough appreciation of the very rival it reviles. She saw the courtly negligence, the regal grace, the fair, brilliant loveliness, the delicious, serene languor of a pure aristocrat for the very first time to note them, and they made her beart sick with a new and deadly sense. She dropped her head suddenly, like a wounded bird, and the racy, vindictive camp oaths died off her lips. She thought of herself as she had danced that mad baechie bamboula amid the crowd of shouting, stamping, drunken, half infuriated soldiery, and for the moment she hated herself more even

than she hated that patrician yonder. "I know what he meant now!" she pondered, and her spirited, sparkling, brunette face was dark and weary. She looked once, twice, thrice, more inquiringly, envyingly, thirstingly; then she turned and wound herself back under the cover of the shrubs. not joyously and mischievously, as she had come, but almost as slowly, almost as sadly, as a hare that the greyhounds have coursed drags itself through the

grasses and ferns. Once through the cactus hedge her old spirit returned. She shook herself angrily with petulant self scorn; she swore a little, and felt that the fierce. familiar words did her good, like brandy poured down her throat; she tossed her head like a colt that rebels against the gall of the curb; then fleet as a fawn she dashed down the moonlit road at topmost speed. "Ah, but

she can't do what I do!" she thought. And she ran the faster and sang a drinking song of the spahis all the louder, because still at her heart a dull

CHAPTER VII.

SUDDENLY, as she went, Cigarette heard a shout on the still night air-very still now that the lights and the melodies and the laughter of Chateauroy's villa lay far behind, and the town of Algiers was yet distant, with its lamps glitter-

ing down by the sea. The shout was: "Help, soldiers! For France!" And Cigarette knew the voice, ringing melodiously and calmly still, though it gave the sound of

"Cigarette is coming!" she cried in answer. She had cried it many a time over the heat of battlefields and when the wounded men in the dead of the sickly night writhed under the knife of the camp thieves. If she had gone like the wind before, she went like the lightning now. A few yards onward she saw a confused knot of horses and of riders struggling one with another in a cloud of white dust, silvery and

hazy in the radiance of the moon. The center figure was Cecil's; the four others were Arabs, armed to the teeth and mad with drink. They had knocked aside and trampled over a wornout old colonel of age too feeble



A confused knot of horses and of r for him to totter in time from path. Cecil had reined up and to them to pause. They, infig

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