## III — The Duchess of Chiselhursi's Ball

[Copyright, 1900, by Robert Barr.] "You must take this little gift as a convenir of your visit with me. I was really-very unhappy when you came. and now-well, you smoothed away some misunderstandings. I'm very grateful. And it isn't natural for a wo-man to refuse diamonds, Jennie."

"I know it isn't, and I won't quite refuse them. I'll postpone. It is possible that something I shall do before long may seriously offend you. If it does, then goodby to the necklace! If it doesn't, when I have told you all about my misdeed-I shall confess courageously-you will give me the dia-

"Dear me, Jennie, what terrible crime are you about to commit? Why not tell me now? You have no idea low you have aroused my curiosity." "I dare not tell you, princess, not intil my project proves a success or a ailure. We women -- some have our vay made for us; others have our own ray to make. I am among the others, nd I hope you will remember that, if on are ever angry with me. "

"Is it a new kind of speculation, a crtune made in a day, gambling ?" "Something of that sort. I am going stake a good deal on the turn of a ard: so please pray that Inck will not against me. "

"If pluck will make you win, I am re that you will carry it through, but at first you don't succeed, try, try gain, and if you haven't the money ll supply the capital. I know I should te to gamble. Anyhow, you have my st wishes for your success." "Thank you, princess. I can hardly

il after that." The time had come when the two ends must part. The carriage was iting to take Miss Baxter to the sta-



ie set about the construction of a ball dress.

editor of The Daily Bugle.

vincingly that all the guests who

ow much ?" hatever is necessary."

rry out my plans from that city." | ordeal was well done with.

What is it?" ve to trust entirely to me."

vhat you propose to do."

accurate description of the ball ction that always served him in

rence nor advice."

not yet completed." editor drummed with his fingers table for a few moments thought

y well, then; it shall be as you should have been very glad to e responsibility of failure with t if you prefer to take the whole irself there is acthing more to The thousand pounds shall be

o your credit at once. What

the night of the ball I should u to have three or four expert nd writers here. I don't know ny will be necessary. You unmore about that than I de is my intention to dictate the ight along as fast as I can talk

until it is finished, and I don't wished by a voice at her side. [X] to be stopped or interrupted; so I want [ "Ah, princess, I have been searching the best stenographers you have. They everywhere for you, catching glimpses are to relieve one another just as if of you now and then, only to lose you, they were taking down a parliamentary as, alas, has been my fate on a more speech. The men had better be in serious occasion! May I flatter myself readiness at midnight. I shall be here with the belief that you also rememas soon after that as possible. If you ber?" will kindly run over their typewritten There was no recognition in the large when I have finished dictating."

"Perhaps."

duty for a laugh.

we cannot command success we will at least endeavor to deserve it."

Jennie, with the £1,000 at her disposal, went to Paris, took rooms at the most aristocratic hotel, engaged a maid and set about the construction of a ball | chief lighting up her eyes. making resources of Paris, and the faithfully as I have been true to my craftsmen to whom she gave her orders | remembrance of you, princess, I would were not the less anxious to please her have been an embassador long ere this, when they knew that the question of covered with decorations. Have you, cost was not to be considered. From Paris she telegraphed in the name of in Washington five years ago, that the Princess von Steinheimer to Claridge's hotel for an apartment on the night of the ball and asked that a suitable equipage be provided to convey her to and from that festival.

Arriving at Claridge's, she was aware that her first danger was that some one who knew the Princess von Steinheimer would call upon her, but on the valid plea of fatigue from her journey she proclaimed that under no circumstances could she see any visitor. and thus shipwreck was avoided at the outset. It was unlikely that the Princess von Steinheimer was personally known to many who would attend the ball-in fact, the princess had given to Jennie as her main reason for refusing the invitation the excuse that she knew no one in London. She had been invited merely because of the social position of the prince in Vienna and was unknown by sight even to her hostess, the Duchess of Chiselhurst It is said that a woman, magnificent-

ly robed is superior to all earthly trib. ulations Such was the case with Jennie as she left her carriage, walked along the strip of carpet which lay across the pavement under a canopy and entered the great hall of the Duke of Chiselburst's town house, one of the huge palaces of western London. Nothing so resplendent had she ever witnessed or even imagined as the scene which met her eye when she found herself about to ascend the broad stairway. at the top of which the hostess stood to receive her distinguished guests. Early as she was, the stairway and the rooms beyond seemed already thronged. Splendid menials in gorgeous livery, crimsor the predominant color stood on eac' step at either side of the stair. Uniforms of every pattern from the gorgeous oriental raiment of Indian princes and eastern potentates to the more and the girl bade goodby to her sober but scarcely less rich apparel of ss with a horrible feeling that she | the diplomatic corps, ministers of the acting disloyally by one who had empire and officers, naval and miliended her. In her hand bag was | tary, gave the final note of magnificent evitation to the ball, and also the and picturesque decoration. Like tropshe had written in the princess' | ical flowers in this garden of color were accepting it. which latter she | the ladies, who, with easy grace, moved in Meran. In due course she to and fro, bestowing a smile here and ed London and presented herself a whisper there, and yet, despite her agitation, a hurried, furtive glance, ell. Miss Baxter." he said, "you around brought to Jennie the convicbeen extraordinarily successful in | tion that she was perhans the hert g the diamond mystery, and I con- gowned woman among that assemblage ate you. My letter reached you, I of well dressed people, which recognise Have you given any thought | tion somewhat calmed her palpitating problem that now confronts us? heart. The whole environment seemed ou get us a full report of the unreal to her, and she walked forward ss of Chiselhurst's ball, written as if in a dream. She heard some one cry, "The Princess von Steinheimer!" t will know that the writer was and at first had difficulty in realizing that the title, for the moment, peris all a question of money. Mr | tained to herself. The next instant her hand was in that of the Duchess of ost things are. Well, we are pre- Chischurst, and Jennie heard the lady to spend money to get just what murmur that it was good of her to come so far to grace the occasion. The girl made some sort of reply which she found herself unable afterward to renat's vague. Put it into figures." | call. but the rapid incoming of other ve hundred pounds. £700, £1,000 | guests led her to hope that if she had | heaven and earth for an invitation." used any unsuitable phrase it was eiwill not cost you £1,000, and it | ther unheard or forgotten in the tension | ome to more than £500. Place of the time. She stood aside and formed to my credit, and I shall return one of the brilliant group at the head

have not only thought it out, but as she soon found that she was practi- ing me to Constantinople. But let me f the arrangements are already cally unnoticed her natural calmness find you a seat out of this crowd where I cannot say more about it. You | began to return to her. She remember. | we may talk of old times." ed why she was there, and her discerntainly. I propose to obtain for sion on the girl's mind. She moved stranger to London society." away from the group, determined to "That is a capital idea!" cried the saunter through the numerous rooms young man enthusiastically. "Yes, I editor gave utterance to a sort of thrown open for the occasion, and thus, think I know most of the people here, as it were, get her bearings. In a short at least by name. Ah, here comes the time all fear of discovery left her, and royal party! We shall just be in time to other words, you want neither | she began to feel very much at home in | have a good look at them." the lofty, crowded salons, pausing even ectly. Mr. Hardwick. You to enjoy a selection which a military rom experience that little good | pand, partly concealed in the foliage, of talking too much of a secret was rendering in a masterly manner, led The Rideau Lakes Navigation Co. will by the most famous impresario of the issue single fare tickets from all points day. The remote prehability of meeting lalong the route to Ottawa charing exhiany one here who knew the princess re- bition week, commencing Sept. 17th. assured her, and thera speedily came Good to return on all regular boats up t over her a sense of delight in all the to and on Monday. Sept. 22nd. This kaleidoscopic dazzle of this great en-tertainment. She saw that each one of Canada's best fairs. Return ticthere had interest in some one eise, and, kets from Kingston only \$3. Meals and to her great relief, found herself left en berths extra. J. Swift & Co., agents. tirely alone, with reasonable assurance that this remoteness would continue to befriend her until the final gantlet of leave taking had, to be run-a trial still to be encountered, the thought of in continuous walking and skatings

manuscript before it goes to the com- frightened eyes that were turned upon positors. I will glance at the proofs him. They saw a young man bowing low over the unresisting hand he had. "Then you hope to attend the ball taken. His face was clear cut and unmistakably English. Jennie saw his closely cropped auburn head, and, as "You have just returned from the it raised until it overtopped her own, Tyrol, and I fear you don't quite ap- the girl, terrified as she was, could not preciate the difficulties that are in the but admire the sweeping blond musway. This is no ordinary society func- tache that overshadowed a smile, half tion, and if you think even £1,000 will | wistful, half humorous, that lighted up gain admittance to an uninvited guest his handsome face. The ribbon of some you will find yourself mistaken." order was worn athwart his breast;

"I am disconsolute to see that I am

Her fan concealed the lower part of

she murmured, a sparkle of latent mis-

then, lost all recollection of that winter



There was no recognition in the large frightened eyes. whiriwind of gayety which ended by wafting you away to a foreign country, so that the eventful season clings to my memory as if it were a disastrous western cyclone? Is it possible that I must reintroduce myself as Donal Stirling?" "Not Lord Donal Stirling?" asked

Jennie, dimly remembering that she had heard this name in connection with something diplomatic, and her guess that he was in that service was strengthened by his previous remark about being an embassador.

"Yes, Lord Donal, if you will cruelly insist on calling me so, but this cannot take from me the consolation that once. in the conservatory of the White House. under the very shadow of the president.

you condescended to call me Don." "You cannot expect one to remember what happened in Washington five years ago. You know the administration changes every four years, and memories seldom carry back even so far as that."

"I had hoped that my most outspoken adoration would have left reminiscence that might outlast administration. I have not found forgetting so easy."

"Are you quite sure of that, Lord Donal?" asked the girl archly, closing her fan and giving him for the first time a full view of her face.

The young man seemed for a moment perplexed, but she went on, giving him little time for reflection, "Have your diplomatic duties taken you away from Washington?"

"Yes, to the other end of the earth. I am now in St. Petersburg, with ultimate hopes of Vienna, princess. I happened to be in London this week, and, hearing you were to be here; I moved

"Which you obtained only to find yourself forgotten. How hollow this world is, isn't it?"

"Alas, yes! A man in my profession s left. I must go at once to Paris of the stairs, thankful that this first sees a good deal of the seamy side of life, and I fully believe that my rapidly en you have thought out a Her rapidly beating heart had now lessening dependence on human veracity h opportunity to lessen its pulsations, and | will be shattered by my superiors send-

"I don't care so much about the past ere is a good deal of money at | ing eye enabled her to stamp on a reten- | as I do about the present. Let us go up Miss Baxter, and our reputation | tive memory the various particulars of | into that gallery, where you will point | wspaper as well. I think I should so unaccustomed a spectacle, whose very out to me the celebrities. I suppose you unfamiliarity made the greater impres- know them all, while F am an entire

(To Be Continued.)

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The Probabilities

Are that your temper will improve. which she resclutely put away from her, moved. Putnam's Painless Carh Extrusting to the luck that had hitherto tractor never fails, gives no pain de Jennie was in this complaisant frame Give Putnam's Corn Extractor a trial and be happy. STARR AND



KINGSTON'S LEADING DRY GOODS STORE.

## SATURDAY, SEPT. 15th.

are some of the Many Bargains that will ou will find yourself mistaken." order was worn athwart his breast; otherwise he wore court dress, which otherwise he wore court dress, which start the Ball Rolling our way for Fall Trade. Ready ter. I wish I felt as confident. How. other cherished delusion fades away for Monday Monday Monday Monday Selling or you can buy them the girl's face, and she looked at him over its fleecy semicircle.

To-night. Quantities large enough to ensure brisk dress that would be a dream of beauty Luckily, she knew exactly the gown he said, "had I served my country as buying all Week."

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and Bag Tops, Toilet Necessaries, Toilet

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