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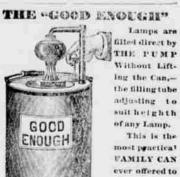
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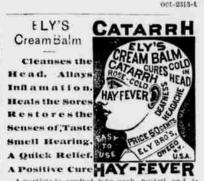
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was content to be a coemist in nigh repute among the learned. The University of Pesth, the Academy of Sciences at Presburg, the Royal School of Mines at Chemnitz and the Normal School at Temesoar had all counted him among their most assiduous pupils. His studi-ous life had improved and intensified JULES VERNE. his natural gifts. In short, he was a man in the fullest acceptation of the AUTHOR OF "JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH," "TRIP TO THE MOON, "ABOUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY term. And he was held to be so by all who know him, and more especially by his professors in the different schools MICHAEL STROGOFF. "TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA," ETC., ETC. and universities, who continued their

[TRANSLATION COPYRIGHTED, 1865.]

CHAPTER IIL

COUNT SANDORP.

The Magyars settled in Hungary to-

ands the end of the ninth century of

the Christian era. They form a third of

the population-more than five millions

in number. Whence they came Spain,

Egypt or Central Asia, whether they are descended from the Huns of Attila or

the Finns of the North-is a disputed

question, and is of little consequence! One thing is very obvious, that they are

neither Sclaves nor Germans, and have

They still speak their own language-

itself to all the charm of poetical ca-dence, less rich than the German, but

more concise, more energetic; a language which between the fourteenth and six-

The Hungarians had to yield to su-

cople were still to be met with among

ill ranks of society who refused to

knowledge either the Pragmatic sancti-

At the time this story opens there

a Magyar of high birth whose whole

life might be summed up in these to

sentiments—the hatred of everythin German, and the lope of giving be

country her ancient independence. though still young he had known K

suth, and although his birth and edu

cation kept him apart from him on the

portant political questions, he could not

ail to admire the patriot's nobility of

Count Mathias Sandorf lived in one

of the counties of Transylvania in the district of Fagaras. His old eastle was

parators could defend to the last.

countryfolk, took pains to show that for

ght and of great muscular strength,

broad, powerful shoulders.

A well shaped, noble looking head rose

Of rather derk complexion and square in feature, his face was of the pure

firm, calm look of his eyes, the

smile on his lips, that unmistak

sign of good nature, a certain play-

a of gesture and speech-all went

s betrayed about him.

or the treaty of Carlowitz.

language soft and musical, lending

no desire to become so.

national tongue.

nterest in him as his friends. Formerly the castle of Artenak, then, had been all gayety, life and movement. On this rugged ridge of the Carnathians the Transylvanian hunters had held their meetings. Expeditions, many and dangerous, were organized, in which Count Sandorf sought employment for those instincts of battle which he could not gratify on the field of politics. He kept himself out of the political stream. watching cosely the course of events. He seemed only to care about a life spent between his studies and the in-dulgences that his fortune allowed him.

In those days the Countess Rena Sandorf was still alive. She was the soul of these parties at Artenak. Fifteen months before this history begins death had struck her in the pride of her youth and beauty, and all that was left of her was a little girl, who was now two years old. Count Sandorf felt the blow cruelly. He was inconsolable. The castle be carse silent and deserted. From that day, under the shadow of profound grief, its master lived as in a cloister. His whole life was centred in his child, and she was confided to the charge

in the laws and edicts, and became the Rosena Lendeck, the wife of the Count's It was on the 21st of January, 1699, steward. This excellent woman, was still young, was entirely devoted to that the treaty of Carlowitz gave Hungary and Transylvania to Austria. Twenably acted towards her as a second ty years afterwards the Pragmatic same n solemaly declared that the States of During the first months of his widow Austria-Hungary were thenceforth indihood, Sandorf never left his castle of Artenak. He thought over and lived visible. In default of a son the daughter was to succeed to the crown according among the remembrances of the past. Then the idea of his country reduced to to the rule of primogeniture. And was in accordance with this new statute that in 1749 Maria Theresa ascended the an interior position in Europe seized upon him. For the Franco Italian war throne of her father. Charles VI., the last of the male line of the House of

of 1859 struck a terrible blow at the power of Austria. Seven years afterwards, in 1866, the blow was followed by perior force; but 150 years afterwards one still more terrible, that of Sadowa It was no longer Austria bereft of her Italian possessions; it was Austria con-quered on both sides and subordinated to Germany; and to Austria Hungary felt she was bound. The Hungarians there is no reasoning about such a sentiment, for it is in their blood-were ha miliated in their pride. For them the victories of Custozza and Lissa were no compensation for the defeat of Sadowa

Count Sandorf, during the year which followed, had carefully studied the political outlook, and recognized that separatist movement might be successful. The moment for action had then Ou the 3d of May of this year, 1867, he had embraced his little daughter, whom he had left to the tender cares of Rosena Lendeck, and leaving his eastle of Artenak had set out for Pesth, of feudal origin. Eat on one of the northern spurs of the Eastern Carpawhere he had put himself in communi eation with his friends and partisans thisms, which form the frontier between Transylvania and Wallachia, the castle and made certain preliminary arrange ments. Then a few hours later he had

rose amid the rugged scenery in all its savage pride—a stronghold that congone to Trieste to wait for events. There he became the chief centre of the conspiracy; thence radiated all its The neighboring mines, rich in iron and copper ere, and carefully worked, threads collected in Sandorf's hands. In this town the chiefs of the conspiracy yielded a considerable income to the owner of the Castle of Artenak. The could act with more safety and more freedom in bringing the patriotic work

estate comprised a part of the district of Fognous, and the population exceeded At Trieste lived two of Sandorf's most intimate friends. Animated by the same spirit they were resolved to follow devotion and an unbounded gratitude for the constant good he had done in the the enterprise to its conclusion. Count Ladislas Zathmar and Professor Stephen entry. This castle was the object of Bathory were Magyars of good birth, crticular attention on the part of the Both were a dozen years older than Sandorf, but were almost without for-tune. One drew his slender revenues ancery of Hungary at Vienna, for the eas of the master of Artenak were from a small estate in the County of Lipto, belonging to a circle beyond the Danube: the other was Professor of as felt about them, although no anxiety Physical Science at Trieste, and his only Sandorf was then in his thirty-sixth income came from the fees from his ar. He was rather above the middle

Ladislas Zathmar lived in the house discovered on the Acquedotto by Sarcany and Zirone an unpretending place which he had put at the disposition of gyar type. The quickness of his rements, the decision of his speech, Mathias Sandorf during the time he was away from Artenak—that is to say, till the end of the projected movement, whenever it might be. A Hungarian, Borole aged about fifty-five, represented the whole staff of the house. Borik was as much devoted to his master as Lendeck how in open, generous disposition. this been said that there are many rewas to his Stephen Bathory occupied a no les

unpretending dwelling on the Corse Stadion, not far from Count Zathmar. Magyar characters. Sandorf was a livng proof of the truth of this observa-Here his whole life was wrapped up One of his most striking peculiarities his wife and his son Peter, then eight worth nothing. Although Count San- years old. Stephen Bathory belonged distantly of was earoless enough or what conbut authentically, to the line of those ened only himself, and would pass in the sixteenth m slone, he had never forgiven and century occupied the throne of Tranever would forgive an offence of which solvania. The family had been divided is friends were the victims. He had in | and lost in its numberless ramifications he highest degree the spirit of justice since then, and people may perhap and hatred of perfidy, and hence pos-cessed a sort of impersonal implacabilthink it as onishing that one of its last descendants should exist as a simple

ity, being by no means one of those who 'professor of the Academy at Presburg, leave all punishment in this world to Whatever he might be. Stephen Bathery was a scientist of the first rack-one of Mathias Sandorf had been highly edu. those who live in retirement, but whose Instead of conflicing himself to work renders then famous. "Inclusion is of leisure his fortune opened labor illustrat," the motto of the silklabor illustrat," the motto of the silk-worm, might have been his. One day his political ideas, which he took no swed his tastes and been led to the lens doctor had the necessities of life live at Trieste as professor mattached.

In the lock after the sick. He live at Trieste as professor mattached. The live at Trieste is professor mattached. The live at Trieste is live at Trieste is live at the live at Trieste is live at the live at Trieste is live at Trieste i tudy of medicine and the physical sci. pains to conecal, rendered it necessary

of Count Sandorf—although the latter ostensibly occupied an apartment on the Palazzo Modello on the Piazza Grande. The police had no suspicion that the house on the Acquedotto was the centre of a conspiracy which counted numbers of partisans in all the principal towns of the kingdom.
Zathmar and Bathory were Sandorf's most devoted auxiliaries. Like him, they had seen that circumstances were

three friends had met since the arrival

favorable to a movement which might restore Hungary to the place she desired in Europe. They risked their lives, they knew, but that they cared little about The house in the Acquedatto may true become the rendezvous of the chiefs of the conspiracy. Numbers of partisans, summoned from different points of the kingdom, came there to take their measures and receive their orders. A service of carrier pigeons was organized, and established rapid and sale communication between Trieste and the chief towns of Hungary and Transylvania when it was necessary to send what could not well be confided to the post or telegraph. In short, every precaution had been taken, and the con-spirators had not as yet raised the least breath of suspicion. Besides, as we know, the correspondence was carried on in cipher, and on such a plan that unless the secret was known absolute

security was obtained.

Three days after the arrival of the carrier pigeon whose message had been intercepted by Sarcany, on the 21st of May, about eight o'clock in the evening. Zathmar and Bathory were in the study, waiting the return of Mathias Sandorf. His private affairs had recently com pelled the Count to return into Transylvania and to Artenak; but he had taken the opportunity of consulting with his friends at Klasenbury, the capital of the province, and he was to get back this very day, after sending them the despatch of which Sarcany had taken the duplicate.

During the time Sandorf was away other correspondence had been exchanged between Trieste and Buda, and many letters in cipher had arrived by pigeon-post. And Zathmar was even now busy in working out the real mean-

now busy in working out the real meaning of one of these cryptographic epistles by means of a "grating."

The despatches were devised on a very simple plan—that of the transposition of the letters. In this system every letter retained its alphabetical value, that is to say, by meant he want value—that is to say, b meant b, o meant o, etc. But the letters are successively transposed in accordance with the openings of a grating, which, laid on the message, only allowed such letters to appear as were to be read, and hid all

the others. These gratings are an old invention but having been greatly improved by Colonel Fleissner they seem now to offer the best and surest means of ob-taining an indecipherable cryptogram. In all the other systems of inversion, be they systems with an invariable base or a simple key in which each letter is always represented by the same letter or sign; be they systems with a variable base or a double key in which the alpha bet varies with each letter, the security is incomplete. Experienced decipher-ers are capable of performing perfect prodigies in such investigations, either with the aid of the calculation of probaor by merely until they succeed. All that has to be lone is to find out the letters in the or der of their repetition in the cryptogram $-\epsilon$ being that most frequently employed in English, German and French, σ in Spanish, a in Russian and e and i in Italian—and the meaning of the text is soon made clear. And there are very

few cryptograms based on these methods which defy investigat on. It would appear, therefore, that the best guarantee for indecipherability is afforded by these gratio s, or by ciphered dictionaries—codes, that is to say, or vocabularies in which certain words epresent fully formed sentences indi cated by the page number. But both these systems have one grave drawback; they require absolute secrecy on the part of those that use them, and the greatest care that the books or apparatus should never get into undesirable hands Without the grating, or the code, the message will remain unread; but once these are obtained the mystery vanishes It was then by means of a gratingthat is to say a piece of card out out i certain places—that the correspondence between Sandori and his accomplice was carried on, but as an extra precaution, in case the gratings should be lost or stolen, every dospatch after being deciphered was destroyed. There thus emained no trace of this conspiracy in which the greatest noblemen and magnates of Huntary were risking their lives in conjunction with the representa-tive of the middle class and the bulk of

Zathmar had just burned his last depatch when there came a quiet knock t the study door.

It was Borik introducing Count Mathias Sandorf, who had walked up from he nearest railway station. Zathmar immediately rose to greet

"Your journey, Mathias?" asked he with the eagerness of a man who wished at the outset to find that all was well. "It was a success, Zathmar," answered Sandorf. "I have no doubt of my Transylvanian friends, and we are ertain of their assistance.' You let them have the despatch

thich came from Pesth three days ago?" asked Bathory.
"Yes," said Sandorf, "Yes, they ave all been cautioned, and they are all ready. They will rise at the first signal. In two hours we shall be masters of Buda and Pesth, in half a day we shall get the chief comitats on both sides of the Theiss, and before the day is out we shall have Transylvania and the rest. And then eight millions of Hungarians will have regained their in-

"And the Diet?" asked Bathory. "Our supporters from the majority, nswered Sandorf. "They will form the new Government, to take the direction of affairs. All will go regularly and easily, for the comitats, as far as their administration goes, depend very little on the crown, and their chiefs la the police with them."

"But the Council of the Lieutenancy of the Kingdom that the palatine presides over at Buda?" continued Zath-"The palatine and the conneil at Buda will immediately be so placed as to be unable to do anything."

"And unable to correspond with the Hungarian chancery at Vienna? "Yes, all our measures are taken for our movements to be simultaneous, and thus ensure success.

"Success!" said Bathery.
"Yes, success!" answered Count Sandorf. "In the army all of our blood, of Hungarian blood, are for us! Where is the descendant of the ancient Magyars whose heart will not beat at the sight of the banner of Rudolph and Corvinus?" And Sandorf uttered the words in a tone of the purest patriotism. "But," continued he, "neglect noth-

ing that will prevent suspecton! Be prudent, we cannot be too strong! You

is spoken of but the works at Pola, for which the greater part of the workmen have been engaged."

In fact for fifteen years the Austrian Government, with a view of the possible loss of Venetia—a loss now realized had been thinking of founding at Pola, at the southern extremity of the Istrian peninsula, an immense arsenal and dock yard, so as to command all that end of the Adriatic. In spite of the protests of Trieste, whose maritime importance would thereby be lessened, the works were being pushed on with feverish ardor. Sandorf and his friends had thus some justification for their opinion that Trieste would join them in the event of a separatist movement being

Up to the present the secret of the conspiracy in favor of Hungarian autouomy had been well kept. Nothing had occurred to cause the police to suspect that the chief conspirators were then assembled at the unpretending house in the Acquedotto.

Everything seemed to have been done to make the enterprise a success; and all that remained was to wait for the moment of action. The cipher corres-pondence between Trieste and the principal cities of Hungary and Transylvania had almost ceased There were now few messages for the pigeons to carry. because the last message had been taken. As money is the soul of war, so it is of conspiracies. It is important that conspirators have ample funds when the signal of uprising is given. And on this occasion the supply would not fail

We are aware that, although Zathmar and Bathory could sacrifice their lives for their country, they could not sacrifice their fortunes, inasmuch as their pecuniary resources were but meagre. But Count Sandorf was immensely rich and, in addition to his life, he had brought his whole fortune to the help of the cause. For many months, through the agency of his steward. Lendeck, he had mortgaged his estates, and thereby raised a considerable sum—more than 2.000,000 of florins.

But it was necessary that this mone should always be at call, and that b could draw it at any moment. And so he had deposited it in his own name in one of the banks of Trieste, whose character was above suspicion. This bank was Torontnal's, of which Sarcany and Zirone had been talking in the cemetery

This circumstance was fraught with

the gravest consequences, as will be seen in the course of this history.

Something was said about this money a Sandorf's last interview with Zothmar and Bathory. He told them that it was his intention to call on Toronthal and give him notice that the cash might be wanted immediately. Events had so progressed that Sandorf would soon be able to give the expected signal from Trieste—more especially as this very evening he discovered that

Zathmar's house was the object of very disquieting surveillance. About eight o'clock, as Sandorf and Bathory went out, one to go home to the Corsa Stadion and the other to his hotel, they noticed two men watching them in the shadows and following them

sach a cos ance and in such a way as a avoid detection.
Sandorf and his companion, in order see what the might mean, boldly arched straight on to these suspiciou caracters, but before they could reach em they had taken flight and disapared round the corner of Saint Anton o's Church, at the end of the canal.

CHAPTER IV.

TORONTHAL'S BANK. At Trieste "society" is nearly non-existent. Between different races as etween castes, it is seldom found. The Austrian officials assume the highest position, and take precedence according to their respective ranks. Generally these men are distinguished, well educated and well meaning; but their pay is seesmall for their position that they are unable to enter in o competition with the trading and banking classes. These latter, as itertainments are rare among the rich, and the parties given by the officials are early all unambitions, have taken to display most of their wealth in outside

show-in the streets by their sumptuous

carriages, and at the theatre by the ex

ravagance of their dress and jewelry

Among these opulent families that of Silas Toronthal held a distinguished The head of the house, whose credit extended far beyond the limits of Austro-Hungary, was then in his thirty-seventh year. With Mme. Toronthal, ho was several years his junior, he scupied a mansion in the Acquedotto, e was supposed to be very rich—and should have been. Bold and fortune speculations on the Stock Exige, a large business with the Ausian Lloyds and other extensive comtes and the issuing of several impor-

ant loans had, or ought to have, brought age sums of money into his coffers. Hence his household was conducted on scale of considerable splendor. Nevertheless, as Sarcany had said to Zirone, there was a possibility that the flairs of Silas Toronthal were slightly enbarrassed—at least for a time, seven years before, when the funds vere shaken by the Franco-Italian war, chad received a severe blow, and more recently the disastrous campaign which ended at Sadowa had sent down the

rices on every Exchange in Europe, more especially on those of Austria-Hungary, and chiefly those of Vienna, Pesth and Trieste. The necessity of providing the large amounts then drawn the current accounts not improbably caused him serious incon-But when the crisis had passed he doubtless recovered himself, and if what Sarcany had said was corect it must have been his recent speculations only which had led him into

During the last few months a great change had come over Toronthal. whose look had altered without his knowledge. He was not, as formerly, master of himself. People had noticed that he no longer looked them in the ace, as had been his custom, but rather eyed them askance. This had not es-caped the notice of Mme. Toronthal, a onfirmed invalid, without energy, and ubmissiveness itself, who knew very ittle about his business matters.

And if some disaster did menace Toronthal, it must be admitted that he ould get very little sympathy. had many customers, but few friends, The high opinion he held about his posiion, his native vanity, the airs gave himself on all occasions, had not done him any good. And above all the people of Trieste looked upon him as a foreigner because he was born at Ragusa, and hence was a Dalmatian. No family ies attached him to the town to which e had come fifteen years before to lay he foundation of his fortune.

Such, then, was the position of Tor-nthal's bank. Although Sarcany had s suspicions, nothing had occurred to give rise to a rumor that it was in difficulties. Its credit remained unshaken. And Count Sandorf, after realizing his investments, had denosited with it a

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should always be available at twenty-

It may seem surprising that a connection of any sort should have been formed between a bank of such high reputation and such a very dubious character as Sarcany. It had existed, nevertheless, for two or three years, Toronthal had had a good deal of business with the Regency of Tripoli, and Sarcany had been employed as a kind of broker and general confidential agent, entrusted with the disposal of certain wine and other gifts under circumstances in which it was not always desirable that the Trieste banker should appear in person. Having been engaged in these and other rather suspicious schemes, Sarcany got his foot, or rather his hand, into the bank; and continued to carry on a sort of system of extortion on Toronthal, who was not, however, quite at his mercy; inasmuch as no material proof existed of their mutual dealings. But a banker's pesition is one of extreme delicacy. A word may ruin him. And Sarcany knew how to

take advantage of this.

But Toronthal knew what he was about. He had parted with certain sums, which had been dissipated in the gambling houses with the recklessness of an adventurer who takes no thought of the future, and then Sarcany becoming too unfortunate, the banker sud-denly drewhis purse-strings and refused further credit. Sarcany threatened; Toronthal remained firm. And he was safe in doing so, after all, for Sarcany had no proofs, and no one would believe

This was the reason that Sarcany and his comrade, Zirone, found themselves at the end of their resources, and without even the wherewithal to leave the town and seek their fortune elsewhere. And we know how Toronthal came to their help with sufficient funds to enable them to return to Sicily, where Zirone belonged to one of the secret societies. The banker thus hoped to get rid of the Tripolitan, and hoped never to see or hear of him again. He was dooned to disappointment in this, as in most other

It was on the evening of the 18th of May that the 200 florins had reached the adventurers at their botel.

Six days afterwards, on the 24th of the same month, Sarcany presented himself at the bank and demanded to see Silus Toronthal, and so much did he insist that he was at length received. The banker was in his private office, and Sarcany carefully closed the door

as soon as he had been introduced. "You again!" exclaimed Toronthal.
"What are you doing here? I sent you. and for the last time, quite enough to help you to leave Trieste! You will get nothing more from me, whatever you may say or do! Why have you not gone? I'll take steps to put a stopper on you for the future! What do you

want ?" Sarcany received the broadside very coolly. He was quite prepared for it. His attitude was what it had always been of late in his visits to the banker—

insolent and provoking.

Not only was he master of himself, but he was quite serious. He had stepped up to a chair, without being invited to sit down, and waited until the banker's bad temper had evaporated before he

tinued Toronthal, who, after hurriedly striding to and fro, had sat down. "I'm waiting till you are calm, plied Sarcany, very quietly; "and I'll vait as long as is necessary."
"What does it matter whether I am

calm? For the last time, what do you

Well, why don't you speak?" con

"Silas Toronthal," answered Sarcany, "I have a little business to propose to you,"
"I do not want to talk business to you!" exclaimed the banker. "There is nothing in common between you and

me, and I only expect to hear that you

"I expect to leave Trieste," answered Sarcany, "but I do not like to go until I have repaid you what I owe!" "You repay me?—you?" "Yes, repay you interest, capital, without saying anything of the-"

are off from Trieste to-day forever.

Toronthal shrugged his shoulders at this unexpected proposition. "The sums I have advanced," he said, "are charged to profit and loss and are written off! I consider we are clear. I want nothing from you, and I am above

"And if it pleases me to remain your "And if it pleases me to remain your

creditor?" Then Toronthal and Sarcany looked at each other, and then Sarcany with a shrug of his shoulders continued: These are only phrases, and there is nothing in phrases. I repeat, I come to bring you some very important busi-

"And suspicious business, too, I dare

Well, it is not the first time that you Words, nothing but words," said the 'Listen," said Sarcany. "I will be

"And you had better." "If what I am going to tell you does not suit you, say so, and I'll go."

From here or from Trieste? From here and from Trieste.

'To-morrow ?' This evening! "Speak, then!" "Well, then, this is it," said Sarcany. But," added he, looking around,

'you are sure no one can hear us?"

"You would like our interview to be secret, then?" asked the banker ironi-Yes, Silas Toronthal, for you and I

hold in our hands the lives of important "You do, perhaps. I do not!" "Well, then see I am on the frack of a conspiracy. What its object is I do not yet know. But after what has hap-pened on the plains of Lombardy, after the business at Sadowa, all that is not Austrian is against Austria. have some reason to think that a move-

ment is on foot in favor of Hungary by which we can profit." Toronthal, as his only reply, con-tented himself with saying:

"I have nothing to get out of your Perhaps not."

But how?"
By denouncing it!" Explain!

And Sareany told him of all that had happened in the old cemetery, of the carrier pigeon, of the intercepted message - of which he had taken a fac-simile - and of how he had found out the bird's destination. He added that for five days he and Zirone had been watching the house; how the same people met there every night, not withe precautions ; of other pigeons that had ne away, and others that had come; of how the house was guarded by an old servant, who carefully inspected all who approached; of how Sarcany and his companion had been obliged to not with circumspection to exade the attention of this old man, and of how, during the last few days, he had raised suspicions.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]