



The Princess Elopes

By HAROLD McGRATH

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SYNOPSIS.

Arthur Warrington, American consul to Barscheit, tells how reigning Grand Duke attempts to force his niece, Princess Hildegarde, to marry Prince Doppelkinn, an old widower. Warrington does not know the princess even by sight. While horseback riding in the country...

CHAPTER IV.—Continued.

"You poor old Dutchman, you! You can buy a genealogy with your income. And a woman nowadays marries the man, the man, it's only horses, dogs and cattle that we buy for their pedigrees. Come, you ought to have a strawberry mark on your arm," I suggested lightly; for there were times when Max brooded over the mystery which enveloped his birth.

In reply he rolled up his sleeve and bared a mighty arm. Where the vaccination scar usually is I saw a red patch, like a burn. I leaned over and examined it. It was a four-pointed scar, with a perfect circle around it. Somehow, it seemed to me that this was not the first time I had seen this peculiar mark. I did not recollect ever seeing it on Max's arm. Where had I seen it, then?

"It's a curious scar. Hang me, but I've seen the device somewhere before!"

"You have?"—eagerly. "Where, where?"

"I don't know; possibly I saw it on your arm in the old days."

He sank back in his chair. Silence, during which the smoke thickened and the pup whined softly in his sleep. Out upon the night the cathedral bell boomed the third hour of morning.

"If you don't mind, Artie," said Max, yawning, "I'll turn in. I've been traveling for the past fortnight."

"Take a ride on Dandy in the morning. He'll hold your weight nicely. I can't go with you, as I've a lame ankle."

"I'll be in the saddle at dawn. All I need is a couple of hours between sheets."

CHAPTER V.

That same evening the grand duke's valet knocked on the door leading into the princess's apartments, and when the door opened he gravely announced that his serene highness desired to speak to the Princess Hildegarde. It was a command. For some reason, known best to herself, the princess chose to obey it.

"Say that I shall be there presently," she said, dismissing the valet. As she entered her uncle's study—so called because of its dust-laden bookshelves, though the duke sometimes disturbed their contents to steady the leg of an unbalanced chair or table—he laid down his pipe and dismissed his small company of card players.

"I did not expect to see you so soon," he began. "A woman's curiosity sometimes has its value. It takes little to arouse it, but a great deal to allay it."

"You have not summoned me to make smart speeches, simply because I have been educated up to them?"—traculently.

"No. I have not summoned you to talk smart, a word much in evidence in Barscheit since your return from England. For once I am going to use a woman's prerogative. I have changed my mind."

The Princess Hildegarde trembled with delight. She could put but one meaning to his words.

"The marriage will not take place next month."

"Uncle!"—rapturously. "Wait a moment,"—grimly. "It shall take place next week."

"I warn you not to force me to the altar," cried the girl, trembling this time with a cold fury.

scandal of such magnitude. You are untamable, but you are proud." When these two talked without apparent heat it was with unalterable fixedness of purpose. They were of a common race. The duke was determined that she should wed Doppelkinn; she was equally determined that she should not. The gentleman with the algebraic bump may figure this out to suit himself. "Have you no pity?" "My reason overshadows it. You do not suppose that I take any especial pleasure in forcing you? But you leave me no other method."

"You loved my aunt once,"—a broken note in her voice. "I love, her still,"—not unkindly; "but I must have peace in the house. Observe what you have so far accomplished in the matter of creating turmoil." The duke took up a paper.

"My sins?"—contemptuously. "Let us call them your transgressions. Listen. You have ridden a horse as a man rides it; you have ridden bicycles in public streets; you have stolen away to a masked ball; you ran away from school in Paris and visited heaven knows whom; you have bribed sentries to let you in when you were out late; you have thrust aside the laws as if they meant nothing; you have trifled with the state papers and caused the body politic to break up a meeting as a consequence of the laughter."

The girl, as she recollected this day to which he referred, laughed long and joyously. He waited patiently till she had done, and I am not sure that his mouth did not twist under his beard. "Foreign education is the cause of all this," he said finally. "Those cursed French and English schools have

ruined you. And I was fool enough to send you to them. This is the end."

"Or the beginning,"—rebelliously. "Doppelkinn is mild and kind."

"Mild and kind! One would think that you were marrying me to a horse! Well, I shall not enter the cathedral."

"How will you avoid it?"—calmly. "I shall find a way; wait and see." She was determined.

"I shall wait." Then, with a sudden softening, for he loved the girl after his fashion: "I am growing old, my child. If I should die, what would become of you? I have no son; your Uncle Franz, who is but a year or two younger than I am, would reign, and he would not tolerate your madcap ways. You must marry at once. I love you in spite of your willfulness. But you have shown yourself incapable of loving. Doppelkinn is wealthy. You shall marry him."

"I will run away, uncle,"—decidedly. "I have notified the frontiers,"—tranquilly. "From now on you will be watched. It is the inevitable, my child, and even I have to bow to that."

She touched the paper in her bosom, but paused. "Moreover, I have decided," went on the duke, "to send the Honorable Betty Moore back to England."

"Betty?" "Yes. She is a charming young person, but she is altogether too sympathetic. She abets you in all you do. Her English independence does not conform with my ideas. After the wedding I shall notify her father."

"Everything, everything! My friends, my liberty, the right God gives to every woman—to love whom she will! And you, my uncle, rob me of these things! What if I should tell you that marriage with me is now impossible?"—her lips growing thin.

"I should not be very much surprised."

"Please look at this, then, and you will understand why I can not marry Doppelkinn." She thrust the bogus certificate into his hands.

The duke read it carefully, not a muscle in his face disturbed. Finally he looked up with a terrifying smile.

"Poor, foolish child! What a terrible thing this might have turned out to be!" "What do you mean?" "Mean? Do you suppose anything like this could take place without my hearing of it? And such a dishonest, unscrupulous rascal! Some day I shall thank the American consul personally for his part in the affair. I was waiting to see when you would produce this. You virtually placed your honor and reputation, which I know to be above reproach, into the keeping of a man who would sell his soul for a thousand crowns."

The girl felt her knees give way, and she sat down. Tears slowly welled up in her eyes and overflowed, blurring everything.

The duke got up and went over to his desk, rummaging among the papers. He returned to the girl with a letter.

"Read that, and learn the treachery of the man you trusted."

The letter was written by Steinbock. In it he disclosed all. It was a venomous, insulting letter. The girl crushed it in her hand.

"Is he dead?" she asked, all the bitterness in her heart surging to her lips.

"To Barscheit,"—briefly. "Now, what shall I do with this?"—tapping the bogus certificate.

"Give it to me," said the girl wearily. She ripped it into halves, into quarters, into infinitesimal squares, and tossed them into the waste-basket.

"I am the unhappiest girl in the world."

"I am sorry," replied the grand duke. "It isn't as if I had forced Doppelkinn on you without first letting you have your choice. You have rejected the



"Is He Dead?" She Asked.

princes of a dozen wealthy countries. We are not as the common people; we can not marry where we will. I shall announce that the marriage will take place next week."

"Do not send my friend away," she pleaded, apparently tamed. "I will promise to give the matter thought. Good night."

She turned away without a word and left him. When he roared at her she knew by experience that he was harmless; but this quiet determination meant the exclusion of any further argument. There was no escape unless she ran away. She wept on her pillow that night, not so much at the thought of wedding Doppelkinn as at the fact that Prince Charming had evidently missed the last train and was never coming to wake her up, or, if he did come, it would be when it was too late. How many times had she conjured him up, as she rode in the fresh fairness of the mornings! How manly he was and how his voice thrilled her! Her horse was suddenly to run away, he was to rescue her, and then demand her hand in marriage as a fitting reward. Sometimes he had black hair and eyes, but more often he was big and tall, with yellow hair and the blue eyes in all the world.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Animals Fight in Shack.

From Bristol's woods, in Southern Prospect, a village near Waterbury, Conn., a wildcat pursued a big deer until from exhaustion it fell through the roof of the side hill hen shack of Edson Black. Guinea fowls set up a great commotion, and with the deer's desperate struggles for liberty, cooped up in a shack 15x12, with nearly 80 fowls, there was such a racket that a trusty watchdog awoke Black. He went to the henhouse to find 32 fowls trampled to death, every pane of glass and all the roosts broken and the deer dying of a broken neck. Its flanks were lacerated from the claws of the wildcat, tracks of which were in the coop, where it remained until frightened away by the approach of Black.

SCIENCE AND INVENTION.

IS THERE A CENTRAL SUN?

An Interesting Query Advanced By English Astronomer.

Under this title the probability of the existence of a vast central body of which our own sun, with the train of attendant planets, is but a satellite, is discussed in Knowledge and Scientific News by F. W. Henkel, a fellow of the Royal Astronomical society. After describing the difficulty in detecting the apparent motion of the fixed stars, due to the drift of our solar system through space, and the reasons for our present certainty that such motion exists, Mr. Henkel goes on to say: "Many of the stars have been found to possess proper motions displacing them gradually in their relative positions, but the most remarkable thing of all is to find that in many cases neighboring stars have proper motions nearly the same in direction and amount. This, of course, is partly due to the sun's motion in space causing this apparent agreement, but allowing for this, there is no doubt that very many are physically connected, though they must be enormously distant from one another."



The Pleiades.

ceive any deviation from a straight line, or, indeed, anything beyond the mere fact of this motion, yet there is little doubt but that the patch must really be a curved one, and it has been supposed that our sun with other stars is revolving round some great central body.

"From the community of motion of many of the Pleiades it was supposed by Madler that Alcyone, the brightest star in that cluster, is the central sun round which the others, including our own sun, also revolve. Although, as Sir J. Herschel says, it is scarcely probable that any general circulation can take place in this position, lying so far out of the plane of the 'Galactic Circle' (Milky Way), and our knowledge is by no means sufficient to decide such a point, yet there is no reason for doubting that this star may be at the center of the motion of many of the neighboring stars, and thus a central sun, though possibly not our central sun."

The author notes that neither proper motion nor parallax has been as yet detected in the case of the star Canopus, whose brightness is next to that of Sirius. Thus, if we suppose the intrinsic brightness of its surface comparable with that of our sun, its real size must be many thousand times greater. This star, invisible in our latitudes, may, Mr. Eddington thinks, be the center of a system whose members are at least as large as our own sun, if not larger, so that here we seem to have indications of the existence of bodies of a mighty scale of magnitude. He goes on to say:

"There is a general unanimity of opinion of several hundred stars in the Pleiades group. . . . The group is surrounded by large numbers of widely extended nebulae, most of which were first discovered by the camera before they were perceived by the eye. Most of the members of this family have similar spectra, so that there seems no reason to doubt the very close connection of these bodies with one another, while the central position and predominance of Alcyone render it highly probable that this star is the central sun of this system."

"This, of course, in no way shows that our own sun also revolves round the same center."

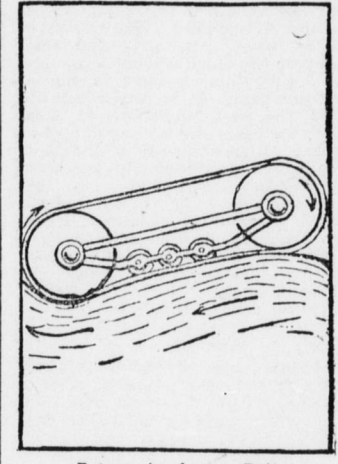
"In a recent paper on the 'Systematic Motion of the Star,' by Mr. Eddington (the new chief assistant at Greenwich), . . . the author arrives at the following results: The proper motions strongly support Kapteyn's hypothesis that the whole of the stars may be roughly separated into two 'drift' or groups. One drift is moving relatively to the sun, with a speed about three times that of the other. So far as has been examined, the numbers and magnitudes of the stars belonging to each of the two drifts are about the same, and they seem distributed in fairly equal proportions throughout the sky."

To Double Life of Umbrellas. The usual way on coming in out of the rain is to place the umbrella in the rack or corner with the handle upward. This allows the water to run down and remain a long time in the point that holds ribs together, which the joints and rot the fabric. If the handle is placed downward instead upward the water will run away from this point first and the whole top will dry quickly.

WATER NAVIGATION.

Unique Method of Propelling Craft on Water.

It is very evident that inventors are struggling with the problem of navigation on water, the present methods of propulsion being still possible of improvement. From France comes a new idea in this line that is certainly peculiar and entirely different from any so far devised. Only the principle of the contrivance is shown in the illustration.



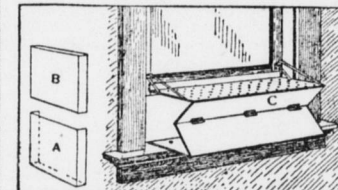
Driven by Large Belt.

Illustration. The inventor employs a huge belt, which connects with pulleys at each end of the driving mechanism. Smaller guide pulleys are placed between the larger ones. Suitable power is provided to drive the pulleys, which in turn transmit the power to the belt. The latter is moved over the water with velocity and force to cause the water to react as a solid sufficiently to support the craft. Paddles are attached to the driving pulleys, adding to the power of propulsion. This unique method of navigation has not as yet had a practical demonstration, but theoretically it should prove a success at least on small boats.

COLLAPSIBLE WINDOW VENTILATOR.

Fresh Air Device for Homes and Office Buildings.

A new fresh-air device for homes and offices is the collapsible ventilator. It is fastened by hooks to the inside of the window at the bottom of the sash. As the window is raised the ventilator, C, opens like an accordion to the limit of eight inches. When the window is closed it lies flat. The top has numerous small holes with fine wire mesh to keep out the dust, and pieces, A B, at each end, also exclude dust. When not in use, explains Popular Mechanics, or to raise the window to full height, the ventilator can be unhooked and laid on a shelf or in a drawer. It is designed to furnish abundance of air without any breeze.



Air Without Dust or Draft.

FOUND IN ZULULAND.

Remains of a New Extinct Elephant Discovered in Africa.

In the final report of a recent geological survey of Natal and Zululand, Dr. W. B. Scott, the well known paleontologist of Princeton, New Jersey, gives a description of the two last molars of an extinct elephant obtained from a deposit of late Tertiary age in Zululand. For the elephant the author proposes the name of elephas zulu. Its teeth have their constituent plates more numerous and thinner than are those of the existing African species, and they are described by Dr. Scott as being to a great extent intermediate in this respect between the latter and those of the extinct European and Asiatic elephas antiquus. To Mr. R. Lydekker, who writes on the subject in Knowledge and Scientific News, they seem to be much nearer the molars of the species last named. It is suggested that E. zulu may have been the ancestor of the living E. africanus, in which case it would almost be imperative to regard the molars of the latter as being of a degenerate type. This question requires very careful consideration; but, apart from this, the discovery is one of great interest.

Vegetable Horsehair.

Not long ago the farmers and cultivators in Algeria often went to considerable expense to destroy the dwarf palms which abound in that part of Africa. Now, thanks to the constant progress of practical science, these same once despised plants have become a source of wealth, and are consequently cultivated in their turn. Their leaves furnish fibers from which, by very simple processes, is produced a substitute for horsehair in the manufacture of mattresses and of the filling for cushions, chairs and so forth. Other plants likewise furnish fibers which are utilized for a similar purpose, but the African dwarf palm at present holds the lead in this industry.

Slight Fall That Killed.

A New York steeplejack, after years of perilous adventures on the tallest spires and stacks in the city, fell four feet and died from the injury.

The new cruiser "Salem," 423 feet long, will be the fastest boat in our navy.

ADVICE TO VICTIMS

TELLS READERS HOW TO CURE RHEUMATISM AT HOME.

Directions to Mix a Simple Preparation and the Dose to Take—Overcomes Kidney and Bladder Trouble Promptly.

There is so much Rheumatism everywhere that the following advice by an eminent authority, who writes for readers of a large Eastern daily paper, will be highly appreciated by those who suffer:

Get from any good pharmacy one-half ounce Fluid Extract Dandelion, one ounce Compound Kargon, three ounces of Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla. Shake these well in a bottle and take in teaspoonful doses after each meal and at bedtime; also drink plenty of good water.

It is claimed that there are few victims of this dread and torturous disease who will fail to find ready relief in this simple home-made mixture, and in most cases a permanent cure is the result.

This simple recipe is said to strengthen and cleanse the eliminative tissues of the Kidneys so that they can filter and strain from the blood and system the poisons, acids and waste matter, which cause not only Rheumatism, but numerous other diseases. Every man or woman here who feels that their kidneys are not healthy and active, or who suffers from any urinary trouble whatever, should not hesitate to make up this mixture, as it is certain to do much good, and may save you from much misery and suffering after while.

Everything Bad.

A prominent planter recently had occasion to visit some of his holdings in southern Arkansas. The land was situated several miles from a railroad, and it was necessary to finish the journey in a buggy. So he took a friend with him and started out.

After traversing several miles of sparsely settled country, they came upon a farmer plowing corn on the side of a hill. The planter, wishing to appear civil to his neighbors, stopped his horse and yelled at the man, who came to the fence, mopping his face with a red bandana.

"Good morning." "Mornin', mister!" "You live here, I suppose?" "Yep." "How's crops?" "Fair to middlin'." "That's a bad hill you're plowing." "I know it. Bad boss, pullin' th' plow, bad plow, bad everything." "Why, you talk like you were the poorest man in Arkansas," laughed the planter. "I ain't, though," was the response, as the young fellow smiled good-naturedly. "Another feller owns half o' this crop."

Protecting His Magazines.

"While waiting at the doctor's the other day, I picked up a magazine from his table to pass the time," said the man who observes things. "All through the book, on nearly every other page 'was stamped his name, and it so irritated me that I spoke to him about it." "If I didn't fill that magazine up with my name," he said, "it wouldn't last ten minutes in this place. Somebody would be sure to carry it away. Even as it is, I lose one every little while."

Omissions of History.

Henry VIII. had taken another wife. "How many does that make?" he asked his private secretary. "Six, your majesty," answered that functionary. "Are you sure?" "I have kept the count correctly, your majesty." "Well, I'll stop at that," he said. "It was with some reluctance, however, that he kept his promise by dying before he had a chance to marry No. 7.—Chicago Daily News.

TAKE THEM OUT Or Feed Them Food They Can Study On.

When a student begins to break down from lack of the right kind of food, there are only two things to do; either take him out of school or feed him properly on food that will rebuild the brain and nerve cells. That food is Grape-Nuts.

A boy writes from Jamestown, N. Y., saying: "A short time ago I got into a bad condition from overstudy, but Mother having heard about Grape-Nuts food began to feed me on it. It satisfied my hunger better than any other food, and the results were marvelous. I got fleshy like a good fellow. My usual morning headaches disappeared, and I found I could study for a long period without feeling the effects of it."

"My face was pale and thin, but is now round and has considerable color. After I had been using Grape-Nuts for about two months I felt like a new boy altogether. I have gained greatly in strength as well as flesh, and it is a pleasure to study now that I am not bothered with my head. I passed all of my examinations with a reasonably good percentage, extra good in some of them, and it is Grape-Nuts that has saved me from a year's delay in entering college."

"Father and mother have both been improved by the use of Grape-Nuts. Mother was troubled with sleepless nights and got very thin, and looked care worn. She has gained her normal strength and looks, and sleeps well nights." "There's a Reason." Read "The Road to Wellville" in pkg.