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FROM PUTNAM'S MAGAZINE. THE ZAY-NIS OF YAX-KY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE CHINESE BY TAY-KIN. (Conclusion)

Whang continued :

"Ziy hi determined that he would take subtle revenge upon Klumski. He teasoned thus :

"Klumski has put a mortal slight upon me, by bumping me in the solemn service of Hele an to; apologising with an insult; and then refusing to abide by the duello. I may have been hasty, but he has been impertinent b wond account. If I suffer this offense to pass unheeded, all Yau-Ky will doubt my honor, and every fool will feel at liberty to criticise my nose. I must assert my honor. How shall it be done ?"

" Here he paused. Here it was clear that but one way remained. Zay-ni must undertake to obtain, by personal chastisement, the reparation to his nose which Klumski declined to give with the instruments of the duello. Now, like other Souls of Honor, although the nose of Zuy ni had a self asserting and audacious air, a kind of just-come andpull-me-if-you dare look, derived undoubtedly from the please-tread-on-mycoat-tail trait of their common emerald ancestor, yet he was not a brave man, but was extremely accomplished in the use of the instruments of the duello. He liked an encounter in which he enjoyed all the advantage. Therefore, as the project of personally attacking Klumski was not promising for his own ease and security, he resolved upon a more exquisite revenge. "Ziy ni was rich. He had no pro-

fession, and nothing to do but devote life to cherishing his nose.

".Klumski laughs at the duello,' said Ziy-ni, with a sneering smile. Now, same authority, how are not the sweet therefore force him to propose the ducllo the mandarin Dul-Dul, in the shade of fluttered-and tell!

agreed, that of all loves of men hitherto encountered, he was the most lovely. "So handsome!' they said, be- in the evening.

cause his cheeks were red, and his hair was b'ack. · Sa wel

Aunts, like Zay-ni's, are distributed they said, because

who says, that the Genius of Evil is surest | so cunningly, that he seemed not only | you ask. Did not the Eternal Order of | any thing more. It originated with our to discover and harm whatever falls into the handsomest, most musical-voiced, his path out of the Kingdom of Light. and most winning, but the most gen-Others pass by without knowing it, but the spoke so tenderly of the instinct of repulsion reveals it to Klumski, himself, not too broadly flat-the instinct of repulsion reveals it to Klumski, himself, not too broadly flat-

tering, for Zav-ni understood that Fior Whang smoked placidly, and I aban | might have noticed that her brother was doned myself to the consideration of the not lavish of commendation nor of attenstrange chances of travel. How little | tion to the Soul of Honor. Zay ni was had I dreamed. O male readers with a wise man, even as snakes are wise. long cues! and O female readers with | The boys and girls read of the serpent small feet ! that my utmost wanderings | charming the bird, and look under the would ever have brought me into a bushes and upon the boughs of trees to country of habits so inexplicable as these. find them. But the serpents and birds trine, against that of the Eternal Order that so in this case? But if it be the To climb to the top of the Great Wall, are not out of doors. Confucius says, is a stretch of travel forbidden to all but that in their youth they sit in parlors, the happy few. The philosopher and and talk sentiment.

madarin Tom-mo, sus there at ease, and "They sat together, talking, all the surveys the world, seeing things clearly pleasant evening. Zay-m spoke gently in the rare air of that hight. But to of good things, and warmly of righteous descend to the outer side, and wander ones, and professed principles of which beyond its shadow, that is a temerity the Eternal Order of Things might have hardly to be justified by sane men. ex been proud. Fior listened, and woncept, like my unworthy self, Tay Kin, dered she had never so much liked the they are mere philosophers, bent upon | fascinating Soul of Honor. Nobler doing good, and travel to accumulate thoughts, more generous judgments, she warnings, and relate wonders. It is no had not heard from Klumski himself. story of gnomes that I am telling, but of What a pity that he was so prejudiced lands, whose people complacently sup | against this gallant youth ! At intervals, pose themselves to be the head of civ. Zay ni beckoned to his aunt to come ilization, because they eat meat for over and help him. She came and her dinner every day ! Rend and reflect ! voice pierced Fior's ear, and her venom and thank the Eternal Order of Things stung Fior's heart ; and when she went that you are behind the Great Wall of away again, the music of the other voice Ohinax whose name be praised, and was sweeter for the contrast, like the whose top be covered with broken bot | bells of the tower of Pekin in the pauses thes forever, to keep out the Yan-Kyse. of the roaring Monsoon.

"Ah ! Tay Kin, my illustrious phi-"Zay-ni soon reselved what his relosopher and master, even in Yan-Ky, women are women,-and, sadder truth, venge would be. He was young, handsome, graceful. Was he not the Soul of men are men ! The heart of Fior clung Honor ? Therefore, upon all occasions, to the Soul of Honor. In vain the whether in public or in private, he thoughtful Klumski grew grave and sought to win the favor of Fior. He sorrowful, and warned his gentle sister. smiled upon Klumski, as upon a man She wept at his words, and threw her whom he had forgiven. But Klumski arms around his neck, but only to whisnever asked him to return with him to per in his ear that she loved Zay-ni. his mutton; nor, in the affectionate tu-Then there was a look sadder than toying phrase of Yan-Ky, to take potsorrow in his eyes, and he told her how luck with him. Klumski treated Zay-ni much more she was to be pitied than blamed ; and described to her, in terrible

as men treat small dogs. "One day Fior was surprised by Astnil, the character and life of the Soul of Honor. She listened with the format incredulity of love. Her passion was visit from the numt of the Soul of Honor. A man, says Confucius, is not responsilike the south wind, melting every cries aloud, that Zay-ni is innocent of ble for his aunts. They are pre-existent facts, quite beyond his discretion. But thing upon which it blew. Ah! Tay. if he be ingenious, he can make them Kin, my master, in Yan Ky, as in Chi- than a theif,-worse than a murderer. serviceable to his purposes. Under the na, love is the eternal tyrant, who knows shadow of an aunt's propriety, says the | no reason and no law.

"Zay-ni pursued the preparation of no man can live in Yan-Ky without the improprieties of affection indulged, even his sweet revenge. The snake had resort to the duello? good opinion of the Yan Kyse. I will as in my youth I kissed the daughter of charmed the dove, which fluttered-and

"In the gay circles of Yan Ky, the came to bid Fior to tea. A few friends, the duello. He could use the pistol or than a burglar, and the law does not elegant Zay-ni was more polished than a first the manner of Yan-Ky, were to the sword* with equal case and certain-ever. The beautiful bells of Yan Ky instead of storing to drink her tea, by. Wo to him upon whom fell the limity of adding to bid. instead of staying at home and drinking wrath of Zay ni! His nose reigned crowning the ruin of my sister with the their own :- tea, and a few gentlemen Yan-Ky.

"From exireme youth, Fior had been disciplined to these social sacrifices. -and fell! "That fall broke heart o

Whang little heeded my interruption.

" flow can law protect honor ?" said

"O Tay-Kin !" cried Whang, with

telling hes. But if you ask the question the giving an equal chance to both. It of Yan-Ky in the mart, it smiles patron- | equalizes might, for the weak man izingly, winking its left eye, and says, stands fairly with the strong." Good sir, you must take facts. You

and elected director in the society for Things. in swamps beyond geography.' Every day and every hour, all Yan-Ky repents and practices this gospel.

asked him what he intended to do.

... What do you advise ?" asked he. "'There is but one course,' said they. "'Indeed' said he.

"'Yes,' said they. We are very the practice; but realy in this case, " 'But observe a moment.' said Klum-

greatness of the offence, is the virtue of forgiveness, says Confucius.'

shoulders, and spoke of white feathers, contemptously, "• Confucius is right,' resumed Klum

ski;' .but nevertheless I do not forgive Zay-ni, snd I shall not play that I do. have satisfaction.

"All Yan Ky patted its nose with you would not resort to the duello ?"

pride and pleasure. If you please he continued there is no question of honor here. The fact the lowest idea of honor. He is meaner If Grabski, the house breaker, had browatch, would you have felt obliged to

"'No,' cried Yan Ky, 'because the law protects us.'

than a burglar, and the law does not whom there is no truth.'

was a man of assured character, of the Things take men as they are, when it remotest aucestors, in what they called clearest integrity, worthy, generous, good; the whole city knew Bullski and honored him. Now to the same Pow-

"But, in the name of Confucius, why don't quite understand the world. There | should both have an equal chance ?' cried is a public opinion, which a man cannot Klumski. . To give both an equal high debates, hot words, choking rage withstand. On the whole, do you not chance, is to imply that there is an see our whole life proclaiming this doc- equality of guilt or responsibility. Is of Things-happy is he who lis with- decision of chance, then the verdict of out exposure, for he shall accumulate | chance must be considered final. If any stock, and live in fine houses, and have one of you declare that I am not a Yanthe front stat in the temple of Confucius, | Kian, but a liar, and I call him to the and be esteemed of the less successful, duello, what do I mean to do? I mean to summon the duello to decide whether sending missionaries to disseminate the I am a liar. But if my pistol chances opposition doctrine of the Order of only to flash, and you hit me, it follows inevitably that I am a liar.'

"Not at all,' said Yan Yy ; ' the fact of your going out to stand before a pis-"Klumski's friends came to him, and tol, shows that you have the heroism which makes it impossible that you should be a liar, and that fact is demonstrated, whether you are hit or not.'

"'Not at all,' returned Klumski ; 'ii merely proves that I have the hardihood sorry, aad are very much opposed to to stand before the pistol; and history shows that a coward will do that as well you cannot avoid the duelto." And as a hero. Besides, if a Yan-Kian gives enemy questioning his veracity availed Yan-Ky looked heroic and wise. and me the lie, and I go out to fight, what is more with the friends of Bullski than jingled its keys in its breeches* pocket. the logic of the thing ? It is this : I go the long-proved character of years. It ski ; · Zay ni has mortally injured me. remark, and he goes to defend his honor Now, according to Confucius, I ought to involved in the same remark. I expose your young men to attain, when a single forgive him. Just in the degree of the my life to show that I am not a liar; he he says. There can be no result. For, "Yan-Ky took snuff, shrugged its whatever the issue, each has equally shown, by the same display of courage, that he is right.'

"But let us understand you,' said the people of Yan Ky solemnly. . Do you

Klamski, flisten to my words If a man ken into your house, and stolen your while the hot blood is roused, and when speaking after the manner of men, and not of Confucius, that hot blood justifiers tisement, disproving his words and ex-

"Yes, but if he be stronger, and chastise you ?'

unquestioned and serene in admiring broken heart of my wife, and the desti- ki, if I am a weaker man, and valiantly tution of my children ? If the burglar attack him, the whole world will hold respectable Yan Kyse, but you would "But the dove fluttered-and fluttered ought to be destroyed, without the me justified. For you will remember find it unpleasant to be shunned and chance of choking the man who exe- that even your Gode of Honor does not dropped from intercourse.' require that the offended person shall greater than the burglar share the same always be successful. If I fall dead be- pleasant,' returned Klumski, yet I whisper,-the loud abuse,-they were purse, and not his honor? Oh, that 1 of Honor, will perfect themselves in the and feeling. We do not say that it is sense of right would be with me." use of the duello-weapons, and so enjoy essentially right, nor just, and certainly an immunity of social crime-crime be- we allow that it is against the law of yond the law? It is not the want of Coulucius, but the whole thing is here : religion, nor of decency, in your rule, Society requires that no man shall sub- Klumski, . I have already said that the that I complain of; it is its want of com- mit to an imputation upon his verecity, hot blood of an insulted man may dr ve mon sense. It is the frightful abuse of and has decreed by innine norial custom, him to personal chastisement of the this thing that you call honor in Yan- that he shall wipe off the aspersion by offender. to keep it unpulled. The law cannot Ky, which appals me. Yan Ky says, the duello. If he fails to do so, the man touch it. How can the law tell whether that a man will think twice before he enjoys no social consideration afterwards. to broils. and street-shootings, and all We all regret it, we are all very much kinds of inconveniences. If a man entrapped? But all Yan-Ky felt that a to answer for it at the mouth of the opposed to shedding blood, and we take knew that when he gave the lie he was care in our laws to denounce and punish liable to personal assault, he would carry the custom which we all cherish with weapons to defend himself, and suciety smiled to think that, by dealing the as anybody, and therefore makes sure the utmost force of our private opinion would fall back into anarchy. "May the Eternal Order of Things deadliest blow, he had forced his foe to of his skillful use of the weapons, before and conduct. I repeat that it is not a get me safely back again over the Great propose the duello. . The law gives he does the deed, and then laughs at matter to be deliberately reasoned about. and me to shoot each other in hot blood It must be felt, and, Klumski, you must than in cold blood ?' demanded Klumski. obey or suffer. It is, perhaps, a cruel | It is much more natural and reasonable. necessity, but it is no harder upon you than upon the rest of us.' Klumski laughed gently and said : "'You allow that the custom is unreasonable, beyond logic or argument, and against the law of Confucius, the law of nature, and the well being of society. You grant that its whole force lies in the consent of society, and yet it what Zay-ni has done, is a wild beast in is you, respectable Yan Kians, whose society. Do you add his nose sacred ? sympathy imparts that force to it, and if you simply said, it shall not be so any a gentleman? He has proved that he longer, it would immediately cease to be. You, and you alone, are responsible for al law he is a criminal. For such all the woe it occasions; for it is your offenders you provide no punishment. opinion which makes the opinion of that Therefore I have provided it. Don't society of which you so vaguely speak. talk to me of honor,' he continued furi- The custom does not exist by the supously. Whoever will suffer such an port of blacklegs and bullies, but by your can prove that both men are of equal offender to have the chance of killing sympathy. You assume a state of nerve, and equal skill, and equal prac-him, has not the faintest conception of things, and by that assumption creating tice in the use of the duello instruments, it, proceed to argue from it.' the Yan-Kyse. 'Ten years ago the To draw up two men in battle array is chief of the city of Yan-Ky sent Bullski | no more to give them an equal chance to the great Pow-wow of the land. He than to let them settle it, naturally, with *In the vernacular Yan-Ky, tweaking.

wow came Bearski from the other great city of Yan Ky, a man equally loved and honored by the Bearskinns, his friends. The old grudge between the cities was never more venomously asserted than at that time. There were and wrath, all watched by the Ballskians at home with eager interest. . Those Bearskians are always pulling our noses. said the Bullskians, and we are always tamely submitting and emboldening them. 'Those Bullskians are dough, said the Bearskians contemptuously. Suddenly Bearski insulted Bullski-in open Pow-wow insulted him, saying that Bullski was not a veracious person. It was a premeditated insult.* But Bullski, . who knew that Bearski would easily destroy him in the duello, and who, because he was a man of long-settled integrity, detested the duello, returned to his native city without fighting."

NUMBER 2.

""Well?' said Klumski.

"'Well,' said the most respectable Yan-K'an, he was instantly dropped. tost all influence, all social respect, and was never heard of more."

"Then the wrathful word of an to defend my honor, assaulted by his is a pleasant premium you place upon that character to which you exhort all word, uttered angrily, or maliciously, is exposes his to show that he means what sufficient to destroy it,' replied Klumski contemptuously.

"I don't know about that, returned the spokesman of Yan-Ky, but such is the fact, and no man can resist this demand.'

" 'As for that,' returned Klumski, 'I mean that if your nose were pulled in am astonished that Bullski's instinctive He has mortally injured me, and I must thrill of horror shuddered along the rage did not drive him upon Bearski to veins of the valiant people of Yan Ky) punish his insult personally and directly, For myself, whatever L had done, if L "'Ye men of Yan-Ky,' thundered found that my character availed nothing with my friends, and was not powerful insults my sacred member by pulling* it enough to crush such an imputation he means to express that I am a con- utterly, I certainly should not have temptible man and a coward. What is valued their opinion enough to purchase the honorable, manly, and instinctive it by a craven compliance with a loolish way ? It is to take him then and there, custom. For clearly, the good opinion of those who will not esteem a man of long-tried probity if he refuses to exposehimself to be shot by any man who the act; and by severe personal chas- questions it, when they confess that their requirement is senseless and not founded posing him before the world as one in in religion, decency, or law-such a good opinion is not so valuable as the approval of Confucius and a man's esteem for himself."

" Ynn-Ky smiled.

"Your words are brave,' said the

he seemed to have been dropped into them like the French Count d'Artois into his trousers.

".So gentlemanly !' they said, because he said nothing in a low tone, wit out laughing, and with a semi-glance of well bred contempt at all men who had emotions.

"Such a small foot !' they said, because a small foot is more readily comprehended than a large head.

".Such eyes !" they said, because the eyes had said to each one of those belles. I love you her .

".So fascinating !' said they all, because he treated each as if she were the tested men and women as if they had he as contemptuously as comported sole charmer.

nose !' chimed in the tenor chorus of the beaux of Zin Ky, whose noses were generally small.

"Among those belles Klumski had a stoking of the heart. sister, young and tender as the summer dawn when it smiles over the mountains of Bif Tek, which guard the Yan Ky. All the poets - ing her praises. It was said. O Tay-Kin, that the sound of those praises had been heard in the streets of Pekin, and that aged mandarins had sighed as they listened, remembering the days when they were poets, and sang of her beauty. She had the auburn hair which the sun smiles upon, and makes golden. She had the eyes, soft, humid, lustreus, which the Hindu neets call lotus eyes. The tint of her , theeks was the soft creamy hue of seashells. Like a sapling upon the mountoin, her figure was lithe, and round, and handsome, and graceful. Was he not the holy days, in the holy places, and alluring. It was a flowery face, a flow- the Soul of Honor? So he sat by her are not to be mingled with life, except ery form, a flowery grace, and there was no one who did not love her and agree fresh, and fair, that his mere aspect was long to the abstract : the concrete is that Fior was the flower of Yan-Ky."

we both sat for some time, silently amoking.

"Confucius says," he resumed at length, "that the Eternal Order of would not seem noble to a mind so pre- ganizers. But when he says, Happy is Things suffers strange events to occur. pared? And when a shrewd sense, he who tells the truth in business, and But he adds, that the Order of Things called in Yan-Ky, knowledge of men he who believes that honesty is better will certainly justify itself; if not here, and women, directed the whisperings of than policy. all Yan-Ky smiles, and then elsewhere. Yet what an Order of that voice, could not the blindest hawker disbelieves, and declares that Confucius Things does not that seem to be, which of rat's tails and bird's nests, perceive was a wag, and an unpractical and implanned the pure Fior among the people that half the fight was won ? The practicable person. Yan-Ky says that who hold the nose in a morbid sanctity 1 aunt had poisoned every character of men must be taken as they are. But if Which of our poets is it, O Tay-Kin, which she spoke; but Zay-ni praised "Names of the weapons of the duello.

his clothes fitted him like a glove, and this world to make a few gentlemen in ski. A sternness, such as had never the evening recognize, by contrast, the been seen in his eyes, now took the loveliness of youth and the eternal place of the sadness which had recently youth of aminbility. When Fior ar- filled them. All Yan Ky foresaw that rived, the aunt commenced by stabbing some terrible event was near. It was all her friends with sharp little inuen so cruel an outrage! they said: and does. Facts, of which no one should since the laws of Yan Ky cannot touch have betrayed the knowledge, she de- the case----" "How ?" cried I. "Am I in a land

Whang continued :

tailed with care. The small gossip of malicious observation and criticism .where the law does not touch a case so the meanness of aspersion,-the wily fearful? Will the law protect a man's all employed by the nunt. It was to might once more behold the Great Wall the genule Fior as if she were steeped of China !"

in the funces of a hot kitchen. The i was gross with gossip. The aunt been bats and lizards; and her feline with propriety. "Honor is the nose. "And such a sacred respect for his eyes gittered close to the delicate Fior, It is the private privilege of every man

who shrank and shuddered " "Are there such lands-such pecple ?" Lasked of Whang, with a sad the bird fell willingly, or was nefariously insults his fellow, if he knows that he is

"You are in and among them," he repl.ed sententiously, whiffing volumes | weep over his sister's fall ? But Zay ni | the influence of that fear quite as well of smoke.

Chinese Wall," I mentally ejaculated, him no aid,' said he; and if he does your outraged nose, as his well-pracwhile Whang resumed : nothing, he will be accounted a cow-ard.""

" Zay ni knew his aunt, and he knew Fior. Therefore, when he entered the bower, he saw in a moment the state of Confucius about doing good to those who with energy things. He knew that Fior was shocked | despitefully use you, and about forgiving and sad. Her mind was full of hateful your enemies ?" images, and unwelcome fancies, conjured by his aunt. She was like a undisguised want of respect ; " have you flower choked in fetid air, and longing vet to learn, that the doctrines of Confufor the synlight. He was young, and cius are for the priests to expound upon side, and he looked so gallant, and so far as they are pleasant? They bea consolation to the gentle girl. When quite another thing. When Confucius

Whang's voice sank into silence, and he began to speak, his voice was so low says. Let the servant obey the brother and sweet, that the sharp tones of the of the sun and moon, who is set over shrill aunt were lost like noise in music. him, all Yan Ky cries decorously. Amen, What could such a voice whisper that and quotes Confucius against the disor-

cutes the will of Yan-Ky, ought not a ignominious fate ?' " Perhaps. But that would be mut-

der.' pleaded Yan Ky. " It would be no more murder when it proceeded from the hand of one man, attack.'

whom he had mortally injured, than when it comes from the hand of a mortally injured society. Besides, if you permit this, do you not see that the abandoned Zay-nis, surnamed the Souls

tragedy impended. Klumski did not pistol. Exactly; but the bully knows ticed pistol sends death into your bosom. Yan Ky has a bully's and a coward's "But, Whang," I asked, "what says theory of this matter !' cried Klumski

". But what are we to do when our wives and daughters are insulted ?' demanded Yan-Ky, in a panic. "'I am going to show you what to do,' responded Klumski, so gravely that Yan-Ky shuddered. A man who does Do you call him in the old vernacular, is a villain, and by the instinctive morthe dear and sacred word."

"All Yan-Ky listened in amazement. ". For what is the significance of the duello? It is the leaving the decision of the right to chance. It never was

"'Undoubtedly it would be far from fore the fire of my adversary who has know that the noble and thoughtful insulted me, I am yet held to be a man every where would be on my side. of honor; and equally so, if I am over. Those whose opinion is truly commend. thrown by the man whom I personally ation would not desert me. Of course I should value yours less, because I

"My dear Klumski,' now said the should know all the time that it was most respectable of the Yan Kians, ' you | mere obedience to a dull superstition of wander from the point. This matter of which you were afraid, and which you honor is not to be reduced to strict verbal dol not dure to investigate. But you discussion. It is an affair of instinct know, just as well as I, that the deep ". What !' cried Yan Ky, 'if you took no notice of an insult?

"'I'hat is a very different thing.' said

". Yes,' said Yan-Ky," but that leads

"But how is it more anarchial for you And of this you may be well assured, if a man knew that another would call him to account at the moment of the insult. he would be much more wary of his words than when he knew that there was infinite chance of arrangement and negotiation, and, at worst, the chance of the duello against his adversary."

"'Every man,' said Yau Ky impatiently, 'must have an equal chance.'

" 'Fools !' cried Klumski, 'why should there be an equal chance? Why, because a man insults me, should be therefore have the chance of killing me? Besides, if you say that the man offended may be weaker than the offender, and therefore not have a fair chance in a personal fight, so I say that unless you and are sure of an equally favorable "Stop!' said the most respectable of position, the chances are just as unfair.

* Strict Yan-Ky idiom.

*The nether integuments of Yan-Ky.