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## Played for a Kingdom

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

in front of me; but somehow I did not

a kindly, gentle people, whose hand

closed more readily around a pipestem than a swordhilt-not out of want of

valer, you understand, but because they

are genial, open souls, who would rath

er be in good terms with all men, I did not know then that beneath that home-

ly surface here lurks a deviltry as fierce

and far more persistent than that of the Castillan.or the Italian,

And it was not long before I had it

shown to me that there was something

more serious abroad than rough words

and hard looks. I had come to a spot

where the road runs upward through

a wild track of heatherland and van-

ished into an oak-wood. I may have

been half way up the hill, when look-

ing forward I saw something gleam

under the shadow of the tree trunks,

and a man come out with a coat that

was so slashed and spangled with

He appeared to be very drunk, for

reeled and staggered as he came

wards me. One of his hands was

handkerchief, which was fixed to

I had reined up the mare and

looking at him with some disgust,

show himself in such a state in broad

ward, stopping from time to time and

swaying about as he gazed at me. Sud-

out his thanks to Christ, and, lurching forward, he fell with a crash upon the dusty road. His hands flew boward

it seemed strange to me that one

wore so gorgeous a uniform si

denly, as I again advanced, he ser

that he blazed like a fire in the sunlight,

up to his ear and clutched a great red

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fAfter the disastrous retreat of the Army of Napoleon from Moscow, Brigadier, take it very much to heart, for the Ger-lerard was sent through German terri-mans had always seemed to me to be y, nominally friendly, but really ripe revolt, to raise troops in France. On his way he has observed with some dismay the black looks of the hostile peasmay the black looks of the hostile peas-ants, who in one place drank a mysterious toast to the leter T. A little later he is warned of his peril by a terror-stricken man hidden by the road side. "It means death to me if I am seen helping you," the "Death! From whom?" asked the briga-

CHAPTER II.

"From the Tugendbund. From Lutzow's night-riders. You Frenchmen are living on a powder magazine, and the match has been struck which will

"But this is all strange to me," said, still funfbling at the leathers of my horse. "What is this Tugendbund?" "It is the secret society which has planned the great rising which is to drive you out of Germany just as you have been driven out of Russia." "And these T's stands for it?"

They are the signal. I shauld have told you all this in the village, b'ut l dared not be seen speaking with you. I galloped through the woods to cut you off, and concealed both my horse

"I am very much indebted to you," said I, "and the more so as your are the only German that I have met today from whom I have had common civil

"All that I possess I have gained through contracting for the French armies," said he. "Your emperor has been a good friend to me. But I beg that you will ride on now, for we have talked long enough. Beware only of Lutzok's night-riders!"

"All that is best in Germany," said "But for God's sake ride forward, for I have risked my life and exposed my good name in order to carry you this warning."

Well, if I had been heavy with thought before, you can think how I felt after my strange talk with the man among the faggots. What came home to me even more than his words was his shivering broken voice his twitching face, and his eyes glancing swiftly to right and left and opening in horror It was clear that he was in the last in my direction and came slowly onwhenever a branch creaked upon a tree extremity of terror, and it is possible I had left him I heard a distant gunshot and a shouting from somewhere be man hallooing to his dogs, but I never again either heard or saw the man who had given me my warning.

gain either heard or saw the man who ad given me my warning.

I kept a good lookout after this, rid-strous wound, which had left a great ing swiftly where the country was open gap in his neck, from which a dark and slowly where there might be an bloodclot hung, like an epaulette, upon It was serious for me, his shoulder.

I laid him among the heather and

green and peaceful, with nothing living in sight save only the mutilated

"Who has done this?" I asked, "and what are you? You are French, and yet the uniform is strange to me." "It is that of the emperor's new guard

of honor. I am the marquis of Chateau St. Arnaud, and I am the ninth of my blood who have died in the service of I have been pursued and wounded by the night-riders of Lutzow, but I hid among the bushwood yonder and waited in the hope that a Prenchman might pass. I could not be of me, and that I might reach it more sure at first if you were friend or for that I must take the chance.'

"Keep your heart up, comrade," said I. "I have seen a man with a worse wound who has lived to boast of it." "No, no," he whispered, "I am going He laid his hand upon mine as fast. he spoke and I saw that his finger nails were already blue. "But I have papers here in my tunic which you must earry at once to the prince of Saxe-Felstein at his eastle of Hof. He is still true to us, but the princess is our deadly enemy. She is striving to make him declare against us. If he does so it will determine all those who are wavering, for the king of Prussia is his uncle, and the king of Bavaria his cousin. These papers will hold him to us if they can only reach him before he takes the last step. Place them in his hands tonight and perhaps you will have saved all Germany for the emperor. Had my horse not been shot I might, woundam-" he choked and the cold hand tightened into a grip which left mine as a brave soldier would wish to go.

bloodless as itself. Then with a grean his head fell back, and he had gone as Here was a fine start for my journey home. I was left with a commission of which I knew little, which would lead me to delay the pressing needs of my hussars, and which at the same time was of such importance that it was impossible for me to avoid it. I opened the marquis' tunic, the brilliance of which had been devised by the emperor in order to attract those young aristoerats from whom he hoped to raise these new regiments of his guard. It

## was a small packet of papers which I WORKS

In curing torturing, disfiguring, humiliating humours of the Skin, Scalp, and Blood when all else falls.

"My God!" I cried, as I sprang to his aid, "and I thought you were drunk!" dressed to the prince of Sexe-Felstein. In the corner, in a sprawling, untidy thank Heaven that I have seen a French officer while I had still strength own, was written "pressing and most own, was written pressing and most of the clouds of earth that flew from my darling's heels. We struck the road once more as the light was falling, and galloped into the little village of Lobenstein; but we had those four words-an order as clear as poured some brandy down his throat. if it had come straight from the firm All round us was the vast country side, lips, with the cold gray eyes looking into mine. My troopers might wait for their horses, the dead marquis might lie where I had laid him amongst the heather, but if the mare and her rider had a breath left in them the papers should reach the prince that night.

I should not have feared to ride by learned in Spain that the safest time to pass through a guerilla country is after an outrage, and the moment of danger is when all is peaceful. When I came to look upon my map, however, saw that Hof lay further to the South

Girth Deep in Heather.

directly by keeping to the moors. Off I set, therefore and had not gone 50 vards before two carbine shots rang out of the brushwood and a bullet clear that the night riders were bolder in their ways than the brigands of Spain, and that my mission would have ended where it had begun if I had kept to the road.

It was a mad ride that, a ride with a loose rein, girth-deep in heather and in gorse, plunging through bushes, flying lown hillsides, with my neck at the mercy of my dear little Violette. But she-she never slipped, she never faltered, as swift and as sure-footed as if she knew that her rider carried the fate of all Germany beneath the buttons of his pelisse. And I-I had long borne the name of being the best horseman in the six brigades of light cavalry, but I never rode as I rode then. My friend the Bart., had told me of how they hunt the fox in England but the swiftest fox would have been captured by me that day. The wild pigeons which flew overhead did not take a straighter course than Violette and I below. As an officer I have always been ready to sacrifice myself for my men, though the emperor would not have thanked me for it, for he had many men, but only one—well, cavalry leaders of the first-class are rare. But here I had an object which was indeed worth a sacrifice and I thought no more of my life

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hardly got upon the cobblestones when off came one of the mare's shoes, and I had to lead her to the village smithy. His fire was low and his day's work done, so that it would be an hour at least before I could hope to push on to Hof. Cursing at the delay. I strede into the village inn and ordered a cold chicken and some wine to be served for my dinner. It was but a few more miles to Hof, and I had every hope that the road through the wood, for I had I might deliver my papers to the prince on that very night, and be on my way for France next morning with dis-

patches for the emperor in my bossom.

I will tell you now what befell me it

the inn of Lobenstein. The chicken had been served and the wine drawn, and I had turned upon both as a man may who has ridden such a ride, when I was aware of a murmur and a scuffling in the hall outside my At first I thought it was some brawl between some peasants in their cups and I left them to settle their own affairs. But of a sudden there broke from the low sullen growl of the voices such a sound as would send Etienne Gerard leaping from his death-bed. It was the whimpering cry of a woman in pain. Down clattered my knife and

my fork, and in an instant I was in the thick of the crowd which had gathered outside of my door. ' (To be continued.)

A Professional Nurse Afflicted with Bright's Disease of the Kidneys Finds a Cure. (From the Buffalo News.) Mrs. A. E. Taylor has resided in Buf-falo for over forty years, her address is 2.0 Herkimer avenue; as a professional

nurse she has nursed back to health many a sufferer. Disease in all its varied forms have become as familiar to her as to the regular practitioner. Her occupation is one that taxes the strongest constitution, but the fatigue of long watching and nursing at last brought her to a bed of sickness, Mrg Taylor speaks of her complaint and cure as follows: "After being confined to my bed for some time my dis-ease assumed such a serious aspect that a doctor was called in. He pronounced my ailment Bright's disease of the kidneys in the third degree and a the kidneys in the third degree and a very bad case. My limbs swelled up so that I could not walk across the floor, or, indeed, help myself in any way. My face bloated up and my eyes swelled so that the sight was badly impaired. This condition continued for nearly two months without any marked improvement from the doctor's treatment. I have taken quarts of buchu and juniper. I tried battery treatment, but all without any lasting benefit until I felt like finally giving up in despair. but all without any lasting benefit until I felt like finally giving up in despair. Hearing of Doan's Kidney Pills I gave them a trial, and after taking three boxes I was able to get up without assistance and walk, something I had not done in months. I continued to steadily improve with their use. The swelling in my leg left, the color returned to my face, changing from a chalky color to a healthy bloom. I now consider myself entirely cured and I shall never rest praising the little pill that saved me.



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