

The Man From Brodney's

By GEORGE BARR M'CUTCHEON

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CHAPTER VIII.

THE MAN FROM BRODNEY'S.

It was quite forty-eight hours before the Deppings surrendered to the Browns. They were obliged to humbly admit in the seclusion of their own councils that it was to the obnoxious but energetic Britt that they owed their present and ever growing comfort.

Late in the afternoon of the day following the advent of the Browns, Lord and Lady Deppingham were laboriously fanning themselves in the midst of their stifling Marie Antoinette elegance.

"By Jove, Aggy, it's too beastly hot here for words," growled he for the hundredth time. "I think we'd better move into your grandfather's rooms."

"Now, Deppy, don't let the Browns talk you into everything they suggest," she complained, determined to be stubborn to the end. "They know entirely too much."

"That's all very good, my dear, but you know quite as well as I that we made a frightful mistake in choosing these rooms. It is cooler on that side of the house. I'm not too proud to be comfortable, don't you know."

The next day they moved into the west wing, and that evening they had the Browns to dine with them in the banquet hall. Deppingham awoke in the middle of the night with violent cramps in his stomach.

"Don't say a word to Lady Deppingham," he grunted, sitting up in bed and gazing wildly at his valet, "but I've been poisoned. The — servants—ouch!—don't you know! Might have known. Silly ass! See what I mean? Get something for me—quick!"

For two hours Anpne applied hot water bags and soothing strups, and his master, far from dying as he continually prophesied, dropped off into a peaceful sleep.

The next morning Deppingham, fully convinced that the native servants had tried to poison him, unconditionally discharged the entire force.

Of course there was a great upheaval. Lady Agnes came tearing down to the servants' hall, followed directly by the Browns and Mr. Britt.

"Stop!" she cried. "Deppy, what are you doing? Discharging them after we've had such a time getting them? Are you crazy?"

"They're a pack of snakes—I mean snakes. They're assassins. They tried to poison every one of us last!"

Britt smoothed the troubled waters with astonishing ease. The servants returned to their duties, but not without grumbling and no end of savage glances, all of which were leveled at the luckless Deppingham.

"Why poison?" demanded Britt. "They've got knives and guns, haven't they?"

"My dear man, that would put them to no end of trouble cleaning up after us," said Deppingham loftily.

Meanwhile it may be well to depict the situation from the enemy's point of view—the enemy being the islanders as a unit. They were prepared to abide by the terms of the will so long as it remained clear to them that fair treatment came from the opposing interests. Rasula, the Ararat lawyer, in mass meeting had discussed the document. They understood its requirements and its restrictions; they knew by this time that there was small chance of the original beneficiaries coming into the property under the provisions. Later came the news that marriage between the heirs was out of the question. Then the islanders laughed as they talked. But they were not to be caught napping. Jacob von Blitz, the superintendent, stolid German that he was, saw far into the future. It was he who set the native lawyer unceremoniously aside and urged competent representation in London. The great law firm headed by Sir John Brodney was chosen. A wide awake, representative of the distinguished solicitors was now on his way to the island with the swarthy committee which had created so much interest in the metropolis during its brief stay.

Jacob von Blitz came to the island when he was twenty years old. That was twenty years before the death of Taswell Skaggs. He had worked in the South African diamond fields and had no difficulty in securing employment with Skaggs and Wyckholme.

You Blitz was shrewd enough to see that the grandchildren were not coming to the island for the mere pleasure of sojourning there; their motive was plain. It was he who advised—even commanded—the horde of servants to desert the chateau.

He lived, with his three wives, in the hills just above and south of the town itself. The Englishmen who worked in the bank and the three Boer foremen also had houses up there, where it was cooler, but Von Blitz was the only one who practiced polygamy. His wives were Persian women and handsome after the Persian fashion.

One hot, dry afternoon about a week after the reopening of the chateau, the sleeta of a swarthy population was disturbed by the shouts of those who kept impatient watch of the sea. Five minutes later the whole town of Ararat knew that the smoke of a steamer lay low on the horizon. No one doubted that it came from the stack of the boat that was bringing Rasula and the English solicitor. Joy turned to exultation when the word came down from Von Blitz that it was the long looked for steamer, the Sir Joshua.

(Continued Tomorrow.)

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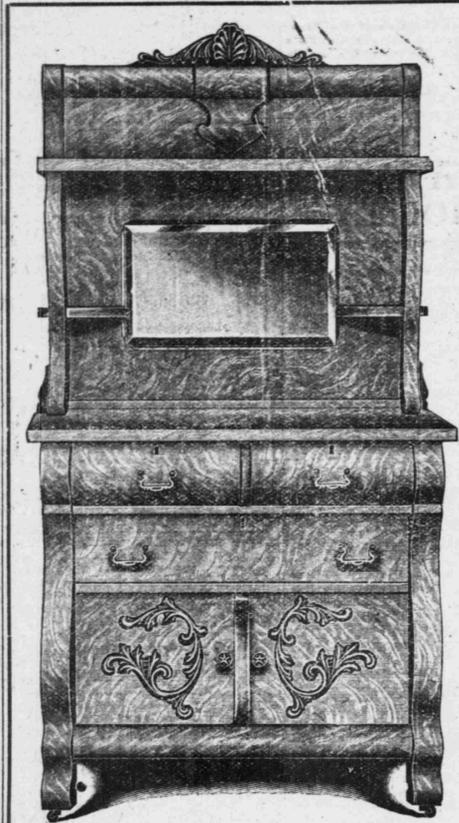
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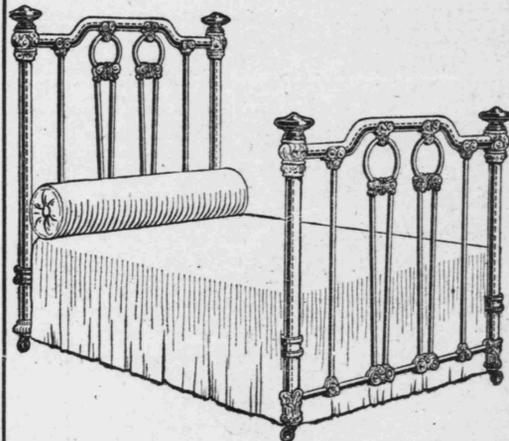
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Come and see whether you buy or not. In this small space it is impossible to give prices and show cuts that would give you even a faint idea of what this sale means, however we give a few that will prove to you that we are after the money and have put a price on the goods that will move them out of our store.

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Shackford Smyrna Rugs worth \$1.50 will go for 75c, Congress Wool Velvet Rugs worth \$2.50 will go for \$1.18. We only have 300 of these rugs.

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FLORIDA

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San Francisco, Nov. 29.—Orders have been received here from Washington to immediately prepare the army transports Logan, which is now at Burford, and Crook, which is at the same point, for use.

(Continued Tomorrow.)

FOR SALE—Cheap, a Rambler bicycle. Call at Star office.

IT'S A CRIME
to neglect your health. The worst neglect that you can be guilty of is to allow constipation, biliousness or any liver or bowel trouble to continue. It is poisoning your entire system and may lead to a serious chronic disease. Take Ballard's Herbine and get absolutely well. The sure cure for any and all troubles of the stomach, liver and bowels. Sold by all druggists.

ALEXANDER FEARS A RAID FROM THE AIR

St. Petersburg, Russia, Nov. 29.—An imperial edict has been published forbidding the flying of airships within ten miles of St. Petersburg or any of the fortifications. This is supposed to be the result of fears that aerial assassins might try to kill the czar who has opposed aviation for years.

If you want a hot drink—one that is really good—go to Troxler's.

ELECTION IN ALABAMA

Fierce Battle Between Wets and Drys will be Ended Today
Birmingham, Nov. 29.—The fight between those who favor the amendment of the state constitution in the interest of prohibition and those in opposition closed at today in a whirlwind finish and today the people will vote on the rejection or adoption of the amendment. The campaign has been one of the hottest Alabama ever experienced.

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