

The Gunmaker Of Moscow

By SYLVANUS COBB, Jr.

Ruric was not fully assured by this answer. He gazed into Paul's face, and he fancied he detected some show of intelligence there which had not been spoken. But he resolved to ask no more questions at present. He had asked enough, he thought, upon such a subject, and he made up his mind to bother himself no more about it, feeling sure that if his boy knew anything which would be for his master's interest to know it would be communicated in due season. So he applied himself anew to his work, and at noon the pistols were finished.

Toward the middle of the afternoon, just as Ruric had finished tempering some parts of a gun lock, the back door of his shop was opened, and two men entered. They were young men, dressed in costly furs and both of them stout and good looking. The gunmaker recognized them as the Count Conrad Damonoff and his friend Stephen Urzen.

"I think I speak with Ruric Nevel?" said the count, moving forward.

"You do," returned Ruric, not at all surprised by the visit, since people of all classes were in the habit of calling at his place to order arms.

The count turned a shade paler than before, and his nether lip trembled. But Ruric thought that might be the result of coming from the cold into a warm place. However, he was soon undeceived, for the count's next remark was significant: "You are acquainted with the Lady Rosalind Valda?" he said.

"I am," returned Ruric, now beginning to wonder.

"Well, sir," returned Damonoff, with much haughtiness, "perhaps my business can be quickly and satisfactorily settled. It is my desire to make the Lady Rosalind my wife."

Ruric Nevel started at these words, and he clasped his hands to hide their tremulousness. But he was not long debating upon an answer.

"And why have you come to me with this information, sir?" he asked.

"You should know that already. Do you not love the lady?"

"Upon my soul, sir count, you ask me a strange question. What right have you to question me upon such a theme?"

"The right that every man has to pave the way for his own rights," replied Damonoff sharply. "But if you choose not to answer let it pass. I know you do love the lady, and now I ask you to renounce all claims to her hand."

"By St. Paul, sir count, your tongue runs into strange moods of speech! I renounce all claims to Rosalind Valda's hand! Was't so you meant?"

"Aye, sir, precisely so."

"Perhaps you will inform me what claims I may have upon the lady," Ruric returned, with some tremulousness in his tone, for the very subject was one that moved him deeply.

"Ruric Nevel, you shall not say that I did not make myself fully understood, and hence I will explain." The count spoke this as speaks a man who feels that he is doing a very condescending thing, and in the same tone he proceeded: "The Lady Rosalind is of noble parentage and very wealthy. My own station and wealth are equal with hers—my station, at all events."

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Clerking

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She may possess the undivided right to more property than I do; but that matters not. I love her and must have her for my wife. I have been to see the noble duke, her guardian, and he objects not to my suit, but he informed me that there was one impediment, and that was her love for you. He knows full well, as I know, and as all must know, that she could never become your wife; but yet he is anxious not to interfere too much against her inclinations. So a simple denial from you to the effect that you can never claim her hand is all that is necessary. You understand me, I trust. We seek this only for the fair lady's own good. Of course you must be aware that the duke would never consent to her union with you, and yet he would wish to have

EQUITY SALE.

There will be sold at Public Auction in front of the Post Office in the City of Fredericton in the County of York and Province of New Brunswick, on Saturday, the Eighteenth Day of January next, at 12 o'clock of twelve o'clock noon, pursuant to the directions of a Decree of the Supreme Court in Equity, made Tuesday, the fifteenth day of October last, in a cause therein pending wherein Alexander Calder is plaintiff, and William Wilson and William H. Murray are defendants, with the approval of the undersigned Referee in Equity, the mortgaged premises described in the plaintiff's Bill as:

"All that piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the City of Fredericton in the County of York, bounded as follows: Beginning on the southeasterly side of the southeasterly street called Sunbury Street, at the northeasterly corner of a certain gore or triangular lot of land granted by letters patent bearing date the eighteenth January, 1800, to one Duncan McLeod, thence running along the said southeasterly side of said street south forty-four degrees sixty-five feet, thence upon or following a straight line towards or in the direction of the River St. John until it meets the easterly side line of the Block or Waterloo Row so called, in prolongation of the easterly line of the lot of land granted to said Duncan McLeod, at a distance of thirty-eight feet from the lower or easterly corner thereof, thence running along Waterloo Row north to the northeasterly corner of the said triangular lot or gore aforesaid, thence west one chain and forty-six links to the place of beginning, comprehending the said lot of land granted to the said McLeod and a lot of land adjoining on the lower side thereof, conveyed to the said Duncan McLeod by the Governor and Trustees of the College of New Brunswick by deed poll bearing date the first day of August, 1803, and also all that certain lot of land inclosed with the parcel of land before described and situate between Sunbury Street and Waterloo Row, beginning at the northeasterly angle of lot number 12 granted to the said McLeod, thence running by the magnet north two degrees westerly ninety links, thence north forty-three degrees west thirty-four links, thence south forty-six degrees forty-five minutes west one hundred and seventy-five links, thence south one hundred and seventy-five minutes west one hundred and seventy-five links, thence south eighty-eight degrees east one hundred and forty-six links to the place of beginning, being the same lands and premises conveyed to the said defendant William Wilson by Arthur Bully and wife by deed dated the 2nd day of November, 1880."

For terms of sale and other particulars apply to plaintiff's solicitor.

Dated the eighth day of November, A. D. 1901.

ALBERT J. GREGORY, Esq., Plaintiff's Solicitor.

HAVELOCK COY., Referee in Equity for the County of York.

Nov. 13, 1901

your denial to show to Rosalind when he announces his decision. I have a paper here all drawn up, and all that will be necessary is simply your signature. Here. It is only a plain, simple avowal on your part that you have no hopes nor thoughts of seeking the hand of the lady in marriage."

As the count spoke he drew a paper from the bosom of his marten doublet, and, having opened it, he handed it toward the gunmaker. Ruric took it not. He drew back and gazed the visitor sternly in the face.

"Sir count," he uttered in a tone full of noble indignation, "what do you suppose I am? Do you mean to tell me that Olga, duke of Tula, has commissioned you to obtain such a renunciation of me?"

"Stephen," spoke the count, turning to his companion, "you heard the instructions the duke gave me this morning?"

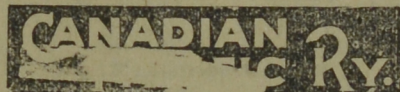
"Aye," returned Urzen, directing his speech to Ruric; "I did hear, and you have stated the case plainly."

"I may be as much surprised as yourself," resumed the count haughtily, "at this strange taste of the duke. Why he should seek this signal from you I can only imagine upon his desire to call up no regrets in the bosom of his fair ward. He knows that she was once intimate with you and that she now feels a warm friendship for you. For her sake he would have this signal from you."

"But how for her sake?" asked Ruric.

"Why," returned Damonoff, "do you not see? Rosalind in the simplicity of her heart may think that you—a—that you might claim her love and out of pure principle grant it to you simply because you were the first claimant."

(To be Continued.)



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6.00 a.m.—Express for St. John, St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Houlton, Woodstock, and points north: Bangor, Portland and Boston. Parlor car Fredericton Junction to Boston.

7.50 a.m.—Mixed for Woodstock, Presque Isle, Edmundston and points north via Gibson Branch. Leaves St. Marys 8.25 a.m.

9.20 a.m.—Accommodation for Fredericton Junction, connecting with Express for St. John and points east, and Accommodation for McAdam Junction.

4.00 p.m.—Accommodation for Fredericton Junction, connecting with Short Line Express for Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and with the Imperial Limited from Montreal for the west, Northwest and Pacific Coast, also with Pullman express for Bangor, Portland, Boston, etc., St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Houlton, and Woodstock. Palace sleeper Fredericton Junction to Montreal and Lewis, P. Q. Pullman sleeper Fredericton Junction to Boston.

7.45 p.m.—Express for St. John and points east, and mixed train for McAdam Junction.

ARRIVE AT FREDERICTON

8.50 a.m.—From St. John
11.50 a.m.—From Boston, Montreal, St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Woodstock and Houlton, etc.

7.55 p.m.—Mixed from Woodstock and points north via Gibson Branch. Arrives at St. Marys 7.34 p.m.

6.45 p.m.—From St. John and east
9.45 p.m.—From Boston, Portland, Bangor, St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Woodstock, Houlton, St. John, etc.

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