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For Half a Dollar.

AND IN THAT PRICE VICINITY.

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AND UPWARDS TO A DOLLAR.

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WHAT YOU CAN BUY AT M. R. A.'s

For an Even Dollar

AND THEREABOUTS, JUST NOW.

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WHAT YOU CAN BUY AT M. R. A.'s

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WHAT YOU CAN BUY AT M. R. A.'s

From Two to Three Dollars.

HELPFUL CATALOGUE FOR ALL.

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WHAT YOU CAN BUY AT M. R. A.'s

From Three to Four Dollars.

A FASCINATING COLLECTION.

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From Four to Five Dollars.

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Blk. and Col'd. Dress Skirts, \$4.25 up. Silk Dressing Jackets, \$4.50 up. Luxurious Bath Robes. Three-Piece Suits for Boys. Our "Special" Suit Case, \$4.25.

Hundreds of Other Goods from \$5.00 to \$500.00

AT **M. R. A.'s** LIMITED.

Barlasch of the Guard

By HENRY SETON MERRIMAN

"There is the sun of Austerlitz," said Napoleon to those who were near him when it arose. But it was not. It was the sun of Borodino. And before it set, the great battle by the French had been fought, and eight French generals lay dead, while thirty more were wounded. Murat, Davoust, Ney, Junot, Prince Eugene, Napoleon himself—all were there; and all fought to finish a war which from the first had been disliked. The French claimed it as a victory; but they gained nothing by it, and they lost forty thousand killed and wounded.

During the night the Russians evacuated the position which they had held, and lost, and retreated toward Moscow, but Napoleon was hardly ready to pursue.

These things, however, are history, and those who wish to know of them may read them in another volume; while to the many orderly persons who would wish to see everything in its place, and the history-books on the top shelf, to be taken down and read on a future day—this will never come to such the explanation is due to the battle of Borodino is here touched upon because it changed the current of some lives with which we have to deal.

For battles and revolutions and historical events of any sort are the jugged instruments with which Fate roughs-ourselves, leaving us to shape those as we will. In other days, no doubt, men roughshaved, while Fate shaped. But in these gentle times we are so tender, so careful for the individual, that we never out and slash, but move softly, very tolerant, very easy-going, seeking the compromise that brings peace and breeds a small and timid race of men.

Into such lives Fate comes crashing like a woodman with his axe, leaving us to smooth the edges of the gaping wound and smile, and say that we are not hurt; to pare away the knots and broken slumps, and hope that our woodman, cutting each himself, will have the decency to pretend not to see.

Thus the battle of Borodino crashed into the lives of Desirée and Mathilde, and their father, living quietly on the sunny side of the Franconian in Dantzg. Alphonse Sebastian was the first to hear the news. He had, it seemed, special facilities for learning news at the Weissen Ross, whether he went again now to the evening.

"There has been a great battle," he said, with so much more than his usual self-restraint that Desirée and Mathilde exchanged a glance of anxiety. "A man coming this evening from Dirschau saw and spoke with the Imperial courtiers on their way to Berlin and Paris. It was a great victory, quite near to Moscow. But the loss on both sides has been terrible."

He paused and glanced at Desirée. His creed that good blood should show an example of good blood, and a certain steadfast, indifferent courage.

"Not so much among the French," he said, "as among the Bavarians and Italians. It is an odd way of showing patriotism to gain victories for the conqueror. One hopes," he paused and made a gesture with his right hand, scarcely indicative of a staunch hope—"that the man's star might be setting, but it would appear to be still in the ascendant. Charles," he added, as an after-thought, "would be on the staff. No doubt he only say the fighting from a distance."

Desirée, from the color in the color had faded, nodded cheerfully enough.

"Oh, yes," she answered, "I have no doubt he is safe. He has good fortune." For she was an apt pupil, and had already learnt that the world only wishes to leave us in undisputed possession of our anxieties or sorrows, however ready it may be to come forward and take a hand in good luck.

"But there is no definite news," said Mathilde, hardly looking up from the needle-work at which her fingers were so deft and industrious.

"No news of Charles, I mean," she continued, "or of any of our friends of Monsieur de Casimir, for instance." "No. As for Colonel de Casimir," returned Sebastian, thoughtfully, "he, like Charles, holds some staff appointment of which one does not understand the scope. He is without doubt uninjured."

Mathilde glanced at her father, not without suspicion. His grand manner might easily be at times a screen. One never knows how much is perceived by those who look down from a high place.

The town was quiet enough all the night. Sebastian must have heard the news from some unofficial source, for none other seemed to know it. But at daybreak the church-bells, so rarely used in Dantzg for rejoicing, awoke the burghers to the fact that the Emperor had taken them make merry. Napoleon gave heed to such things. In the churches of Lithuania and farther on in Russia he had commanded the popes to pray for him at their altars instead of for the Czar.

When Desirée came downstairs she found a packet awaiting her. The courier had come in during the night. This was more than a letter. A number of papers had been folded in a handkerchief and bound with string. The address was written on a piece of white leather cut from the uniform of one who had fallen at Borodino and had no more need of sabretash or trapping.

"Madame Desirée Darragon—née Sebastian, Frauengasse 36, Dantzg."

Desirée's heart stood still; for the writing was unknown to her. As she sat at the network of string she thought that Charles was dead. When the enclosed papers fell upon the table she was sure of it; for they were all in his writing. She did not pick and choose as one who has leisure and no very strong excitement, but took up the first paper and read:

"Dear C— I have been fortunate, as you will see from the enclosed report. His Majesty cannot again say that I have been negligent. I was quite right. It is Sebastian and only Sebastian that we need fear. Here they are clumsy conspirators compared to him. I have been in the harmoniously into the room, made the circuit of it, and sought the open again with a hum that faded drowsily into silence."

D'Arragon read the letter slowly from beginning to the unsigned end, while Desirée, sitting at the table, upon which she leaned one elbow, resting her small, square chin in the palm of her hand, watched him.

"Ah!" she exclaimed, at length, with a ring of contempt in her voice, as if at the thought of something unclean. "A spy! It is so easy for you to keep still, and to hide all you feel."

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in a different writing—the writing on the white leather.

"Madame," it read, "The enclosed papers were found on the field by one of my orderlies. One of them being addressed to you furnishes a clue to their owner, who must have dropped them in the hurry of the advance. Should Captain Charles Darragon be your husband, I have the pleasure to inform you that he was seen alive and well at the end of the day." The writer assured Desirée of his respectful consideration, and wrote "Sebastian" after his name.

Desirée had read the explanation too late.

CHAPTER XIII.

In the Day of Rejoicing.

Truth though it crush me.

The door of the room stood open, and the sound of a step in the passage made Desirée glance up, as she hastily put together the papers found on the battlefield of Borodino.

Louis D'Arragon was coming into the room, and for an instant, before his expression changed, he saw all the fatigue that he must have gone through during the night; all that he must have risked. His face was usually still and quiet; a combination of that contemplative calm which characterises seafaring faces, and the clean-cut immobility of a racial type developed by hereditary duties of self-restraint and command.

He knew that there had been a battle and, seeing the papers on the table, his eyes asked her the inevitable question which his lips were slow to put into words.

In reply, Desirée shook her head. She looked at the papers in quick thought. Then she withdrew from them the letter written to her by Charles—and put the others together.

(To be Continued.)

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(Signed) "MARTIN E. WALKER," "Bridgewater."

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