

# THE SWORD OF CONSCIENCE

OR,  
A SOLDIER OF THE RHINE.  
By ST. GEORGE RATHBONE.  
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## CHAPTER XVII. L'EAU TO FIGHT.

It was doubly humiliating for Rhineland to find that he had through the fortunes of war become the prisoner of the man he hated. Hoffman was madly infatuated with the countess, who had been a lady for years, and she had a faculty for doing, that while the dash of adventures pretended to care for him, she secretly served Rhineland.

This combination of circumstances aroused the most evil passions in Conrad's nature, and he simply glared his hatred as if this looked in Paul's face.

"Ah! my most again," he said, and in the heated passion from an epithet that came freely from the lips of one whose name he brought the shame upon Rhineland's family.

Paul promptly knocked him down. "I would have done so long ago," he knew that the next morning sword bayonets would pierce his heart.

No such thing occurred, however. There were men standing there ready to cry "charge" on the fortress, and to blow—men who had no sympathy with one who could insult a prisoner of war, men who might have notified and refused to fight if offered to cut him down.

How strange as it might appear, that he, instead of making a madman of Conrad, seemed to have a little common sense into his head.

When he arose he simply gave a dash to have the prisoner taken to a dark room in the fortress where he had fought so valiantly.

As Paul passed him Conrad himself in his ear.

"The hour is close at hand. I do not forget what I vowed in Heidelberg. This world is too small for both of us."

"My sentiments exactly—make it soon," was the characteristic reply Paul gave.

Rhineland had been in the dungeon since he was captured, summoned from his cell to the presence of the commander.

His conductors led him to a small enclosed space between the ramparts, and here he found Hoffman, with two French officers, awaiting him.

It was to be a duel.

Paul was not astonished—he had made up his mind not to let anything, however serious, take away his cool disdain, his calm confidence, that in an affair of honor he was the one in which he was about to engage.

Most valuable armor with which a man may be clothed.

Paul's words were wasted on the principals.

Hate showed in Hoffman's eyes, and the American's calm smile made his blood boil.

Paul was given his choice of the two swords, and divesting himself of his superfluous garments, he took his place upon the blood-stained turf ready to give the Albanian all the satisfaction his fiery nature demanded.

How Conrad caught a Tartar. He was dragged from a dungeon to being dragged to face an experienced duelist with murder in his heart.

Yet Rhineland accepted the opportunity to oblige Hoffman with an assurance that the other could not fail to observe.

Perhaps a more remarkable engagement did not occur during the brief truce, a sanguinary war between the neighboring nations.

It seemed as though the two swordsmen were alike matched.

Fifteen minutes passed as yet neither of them appeared to have gained a material advantage.

This could not last, as he had before. Undoubtedly the man who obtained his "second wind" in advance of the other would have the game in his hands.

That was where Paul's previous experience upon the plains, breaking ground, chasing wild cattle and enduring the privations of a cowboy existence, served him well.

And when he felt this change stealing over him he expected to see a peculiar, almost savage satisfaction, which the power would speedily be in his hand to complete the business.

Paul fought at another point of view—mercy and spared his antagonist, but he knew full well that to do so now only meant disaster to him in the near future.

# TALMAGE'S SERMON.

## THE BENEFITS OF RELIGION IN ORDINARY BUSINESS LIFE.

In Eloquent Words the Great Preacher Shows How Godliness is Profitable in All Things—Business, Domestic, Social and Spiritual.

(Copyright, 1902, Louis Klopsch, N. Y.)  
Washington, March 16.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage, the great preacher, shows how Godliness is profitable in all things—Business, Domestic, Social and Spiritual.

Then it was he received the shock of a great calamity. He was struck down by a stroke of paralysis, and he lay in bed for many months, unable to move.

For it was this man? The air of mystery surrounding Karl; the quick movement by means of which he expressed silence by pressing his finger upon his lips—these things aroused his curiosity to fever pitch.

"Where can I see you alone, my friend?" he asked.

"You are a man of quick action," he said. "I shall drop down on one knee and thank God for your presence."

"I suppose you are willing to admit that Godliness is important in its eternal relations, but perhaps some of you will say that it is not so in the present life."

"I have a great many people who suppose that if they can get their hands on a few dollars, they will be better off than they are now."

"A thousand pairs of eyes might find something to criticize in the religion which you are now preaching."

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battle, was heard to utter this prayer: "O Lord, I shall be very busy to-day; if I forget thee, forget me not." With this Christian disposition as that man in the department of all circumstances. Religion has turned the wild-natured. It has turned freethinkers into true believers. It has turned the ungodly, and those who were hard and unchangeable and uncompromising have been made pliable and conciliatory. It has turned the selfish into the unselfish. It has turned the selfish into the unselfish. It has turned the selfish into the unselfish.

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# A MALICIOUS MEDDLER.

The Young Woman Did Very Good Work for Her Neighbors.

Two well-dressed and attractive women—business girls, apparently—rushed into a room one morning and took seats. After they were comfortably adjusted, with parcels and umbrellas, the one in the blue coat said to the other:

"Then the girls arose, and took seats at the table, out of range of the two men's eyes."

"What was the matter, Clara?" the other girl asked; "I really truly love you. I don't know him, either."

"No," the first girl answered with a smile; "but that horrid man with the brown hat and overcoat sat near me, and I believe that he is your brother, Laura, and I detest the sight of him."

"I don't know him," commented Laura; "who is he?"

"Why, I don't know him, either," Clara explained; "but I won't sit where I have to look at him."

"Has he ever been rude to you?" asked Laura.

"No," the first girl answered with a smile; "but that horrid man with the brown hat and overcoat sat near me, and I believe that he is your brother, Laura, and I detest the sight of him."

"I don't know him," commented Laura; "who is he?"

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# THE INDIAN IN MODERN ADVERTISING.

Along the line of the Santa Fe, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Indian Territory, and Arizona, the Indian is being used in advertising.

Many of the most successful advertisements in the West are those that feature the Indian. The Indian is being used in advertising.

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