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By MOEDAUNT HALL.

A PICTURE that possesses something original is always a relief. Hollywood villains are invariably patterned after the old stage types, without a redeeming virtue. In a German picture called "Aftermath" there is an emphatically engaging villain, a dandy, who looks as if he had his uniforms and his patent leather boots made in Paris. He knows how to wear a monocle and he is not averse to a suspicion of perfume. This Zeremski is a quite powerful specimen of humanity and obviously a fellow without fear.

"Aftermath" deals with a mythical country, in 1919, that suffers through the effects of the war to the extent of virtually being controlled by pillaging bands of desperadoes led by Zeremski. It is a fantastic yarn with some extraordinarily good scenes. Like its villain, it is different, and for that reason it holds the attention. Not many bandits travel with their mistresses, but Zeremski does, and this young woman, known as Nadja, is quite a fascinating creature, as fearless and perhaps as heartless as Zeremski.

Zeremski's bandits invade Louise von Wilkuhn's estate, and during their stay they insist on the best of viands and wines. Louise is forced to attend the dinners presided over by Zeremski, and in some chapters even the new Governor, who has more muscle than brain, sits at the festive board. This Governor becomes quite enamored of Nadja, or he pretends to be. Unfortunately he is somewhat handicapped through the fact that he has made the slight error of appearing on the scene without any troops and of letting Zeremski know that his only way of communicating with headquarters is through his chauffeur.

It is only natural that before the end of this story comes both Nadja and Zeremski have to be killed. Louise and her son are then left to set their house in order.

Hans Adalbert von Schlettow, who appeared as the Prince in "The Last Waltz," is capital as Zeremski. He has an ease of manner and a distinct personality. Olga Tschechowa, who often reminds one of Pola Negri, does extremely well in the rôle of Nadja.