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OVERALLS. GRAHAM, N. C., Apr. 12, 1907.

DEAR SIR: We beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 11th, enclosing check No. 11 for \$100, the same being in full payment of our claim under policy No. 11, covering insurance on our first heavy duty horse, which died on the night of the 6th inst.

We wish to thank you for the promptness with which your company has handled this loss and will say, in passing, that a company of this character has long been needed in our State, and in view of the small premium asked, no one should be without insurance on their live stock.

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A MAKER OF HISTORY

By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM, Author of "The Master Mummer," "A Prince of Sinners," "Mysterious Mr. Sebnin," "Anna the Adventuress," Etc.

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CHAPTER XXII. DUNCOMBE was out of the room in a very few seconds. The others hesitated for a moment whether to follow him or not. Spencer was the first to rise to his feet and move toward the door. Lord Runtun and Pelham followed a moment or two later. Outside in the hall the house was perfectly silent.

Duncombe reached the library door just in time to find himself confronted by half a dozen of the men and women servants coming from the back of the house. With his hand upon the door knob he waved them back.

"Be so good, Mrs. Wooton," he said to the housekeeper, "to keep better order in the servants' hall. We could hear some girls calling or laughing in the dining room."

"Indeed, sir," Mrs. Wooton answered, with some dignity, "the noise, whatever it was, did not come from the servants' quarters. We fancied that it came from your library."

"Quite impossible," Duncombe answered coolly. "If I require any one, I will ring."

He passed through the door and locked it on the inside. In half a dozen hasty strides he was across the room and inside the smaller apartment where he had left the girl. With a little gasp of relief he realized that she was there still. She was pale, and a spot of color was blazing in her cheeks. Her hair and dress were a little disordered. With trembling fingers she was fastening a little brooch into her blouse as he entered. A rush of night air struck him from a wide open window.

"What has happened?" he called out. "I have been terrified," she answered. "I am sorry I called out. I could not help it. A man came here—through the window. He talked so fast that I could scarcely hear what he said, but he wanted that paper. I tried to make him understand that I had not it, but he did not believe me—and he was rude."

Duncombe shut down the window, swearing softly to himself. "I cannot stay with you," he said, "just now. The whole house is alarmed at your cry. Listen!"

There was a loud knocking at the library door. Duncombe turned hastily away. "I must let them in," he said. "I will come back to you."

She pointed to the window. "He is coming back," she said, "at 12 o'clock."

"Do you wish me to give up the paper?" he asked.

"Very well. I will be with you when he comes—before then. I must get rid of these men first."

He closed the door softly and drew the curtain which concealed it. Then he opened the library window and a moment afterward the door.

"Come in, you fellows," he said, "I scarcely knew what I was doing when



With a little gasp of relief he realized that she was there still.

I locked the door. I fancy one of the housemaids has been seeing ghosts in the garden. I saw something white among the shrubs, but I could find nothing. Come on out with me."

Spencer followed with a perfectly grave face. Lord Runtun looked puzzled. Pelham did not attempt to leave the library. Spencer drew his host a little on one side.

"What a rotten liar you are, George," he said. "I don't think that even Runtun was taken in."

"I suppose it sounded a little thin," Duncombe answered coolly. "Put it this way, then, so far as you are concerned: The shriek occurred in my house. I've no explanation to offer to anybody."

"I like the sound of that better, Duncombe," he remarked. "Hello! What's the matter with Runtun?"

Lord Runtun was calling to them. "You've had a visitor who was in a hurry, old chap!" he remarked. "Send for a lantern."

Duncombe conceded his annoyance. "I don't want to alarm the whole household," he said. "I've a little electric torch in my study. I'll fetch that."

He brought it out. The progress of a man from the road to the small window, toward which Duncombe glanced every now and then despectively, was marked by much destruction. The intruder had effected his exit either in great haste or in a singularly unfortunate manner. He had apparently missed the gate, which at this point was only a small hand one, and in climbing over the fence he had broken the topmost strand of wire. He had

National Capital Notes.

In spite of the circumstantial report that Ambassador Aoki, of Japan, was about to be recalled, official confirmation is lacking. It is known that Ambassador Aoki has a number of enemies at the Japanese court, and he has been put in an embarrassing position, at least it would be embarrassing for a Caucasian, in having to report one thing to his government and see the government give out an entirely different report to the public. This was the case in the killing of the Japanese poachers on the Island of St. Paul and in some of the Japanese troubles that have occurred on the Pacific coast. Since the report of his recall, the Japanese foreign office has kept quiet, neither confirming nor denying the report, and at the Japanese Embassy here, the Ambassador has denied himself to all newspaper callers and explained through his secretary that it is impossible for him to talk on any subject, even the weather.

As matters have developed, the Commissioner of Pensions seems to be doing a very thorough job of cleaning up land bounty grafters who for years have been fattening at the expense of old pensioners. About six months ago, the Commissioner began to be aware of what was common knowledge in Washington for years, that there was a regular business being carried on in speculating in land bounty warrants. As many people do not seem familiar with the law, it may be worth while to explain that soldiers, their widows and their heirs of all the wars prior to 1855, are entitled to a bounty of 160 acres of government land in addition to their pension. This is right enough if the old soldiers or their widows got it. But there have been many pension agents who have made a practice of hunting up pensioners who had not claimed their land bounty, putting the claim through for them and

then buying the warrant from them as cheaply as possible and selling it to the highest bidder. There was a regular market in land scrip, and a warrant for 160 acres was worth from \$700 to \$750. They were mostly sold to the big timber and mineral land companies. The attorneys used to get them from the pensioners to whom they were issued for from \$75 upward. They usually alleged that the bounty was worth nothing after it was obtained, and one firm disbarred last week, was alleged to have made \$100,000 out of dealing in land scrip alone. In fact they did nothing else. There were many pitiful cases unearthed in which old soldiers and their widows had been robbed and in some cases the pension firms would even have executors appointed for dead soldiers who had neither nor widows. Some firms have been disbarred from practice before the Interior Department, and a number of others are now under investigation. Any who have been dishonestly treated by their attorneys can present their cases to the Commissioner of Pensions and they will be fairly investigated.

The officers of the government who are willing to sacrifice themselves on the altar of their country by taking a vacation at the seashore during the hot weather, are beginning to flit out of Washington. Secretary Metcalf of the Navy Department has just started on his summer vacation for the Pacific coast. His home is out there, but he is going to investigate labor conditions and work in the shipyards, so it is quite possible he will be able to charge the trip to the government. There has been trouble about warship building on the Pacific coast sure enough. The price of labor and material has advanced enormously, the former owing to the exactions of the labor unions, and the Union Iron Works which made a world-wide reputation in building the battleship Oregon, has notified the Navy Depart-

ment that it will be impossible for it to accept any more government contracts. This is annoying as it has been intended to have one of the two 20,000 ton battleships built on the Pacific coast. The Secretary intends to inspect the ship yards and will be in a better position then to say if there is any remedy for the present condition.

The trial of Edwin S. Holmes, formerly associate statistician of the Department of Agriculture, is proceeding. Holmes was the statistician under whom the famous "leak" in the cotton crop statistics occurred. According to the evidence now being given in court, it would seem that Mr. Holmes ought to be sent to the insane asylum instead of the penitentiary for not making more than he did out of his information. He was practically in sole charge of the cotton crop report for a long time and manipulated it to suit the needs of his clients who were playing the market. He had a sure thing and if he wanted to be crooked at all, it would seem that he might have made millions just as easily as he made thousands. The testimony shows that he was selling information to three or four New York cotton brokers and taking a rake off on their earnings. He seems to have been a modest young man and was satisfied with a small share of the profits. He made from \$40,000 to \$60,000 at a stroke but this seems mere chicken feed to what he might have made with the information at his command. It looks from the present testimony as though Mr. Holmes had profited from his dishonesty in very homeopathic doses.

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