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Graham Udenrwriters Spencer followed with a perfectly grave face. Lord Runton looked pursuled. Pelham did not attempt to leave Agency

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A MAKER HISTORY

By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM,

Author of "The Master Mummer," "A Prince of Sinners," "Mysterious Mr. Sabin," "Anna the Adventuress," Etc.

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excited.

ed steadily.

whole place searched."

one could hide."

grounds."

footsteps lead."

quickly.

ready."

tively. "Ab!"

which were all crushed and downtrod-

"Duncombe," he said, "there is son

Fielding. What became of the girl?"

Duncombe shrugged his shoulders.

"Your servants may know

"I have already questioned them,"

Runton exclaimed. "Let us search the

"Waste of time, Lord Runton," he

answered. "If you really want to dis-

cover the whereabouts of this missing

young lady and she should by any

chance be close at hand, I should rec-

ommend you to taduce Sir George to

let you search the room to which those

"The library," Duncombe interrupted

"The library!" he remarked reflec-

He stooped down to light a ciga-

rette. Suddenly he felt Duncombe's

hot breath upon his cheek. In the mo-

mentary glow of the match he caught

a silhouette of a pale, angry face

whose eyes were flashing upon him.

Spencer was facing the house.

"Search it by all means, if

I have done so myself al-

Peters

thing," Runton suggested,

Spencer shook his head.

Duncombe answered.

"I have no idea." Duncombe answer-

"Of course not," Lord Runton con-

CHAPTER XXII.

NCOMBE was out of the roor 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 Runton 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 funcied that it came from your library."

"Quite impossible," Duncombe answered coolly. "If I require any one, 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 ocen 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 got 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.

per?" he asked.
"No."
"Very well. I will be with you when he comes—before then. I must get rid of these men first." the curtain which concealed it. Then he opened the library window and a moment afterward the decre

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



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

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."

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 Runton was taken in."

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

"I like the sound of that better, Dun-combe," be remarked. "Helfo! What's the matter with Runton?"

Lord Runton was calling to them. "You've had a visitor who was in a nery, old chap?" he remarked. "Send

"I don't want to alarm the whole household," he said. "I've a little elec-tric torch in my study. I'll fetch that." He brought it out. The progress of man from the road to the small window, toward which Duncombe gianced every now and then apprehensively, was marked by much destruction. The trader had effected his exit either in great haste or in a singularly unfortunate manner. He had apparently miss ed the gate, which at this point was THE BANK OF ALAMANCE the topmost strand of wire. He had

ately. They both followed Lord Runton to the library. Pelham was stand-ing in the middle of the room. He had the appearance of a man listening in-

"George," he asked sharply, "what is on the north side of this room?" "The wall!" Duncombe answered.

"And beyond?" "A passage and the billiard room." Spencer seemed dissatisfied.

"I fancled," he muttered—"but I suppose it must have been fancy. Do the women servants use that passage?" "Of course! Upon my word," Duncombe added, with a nervous little laugh, "you all seem to be trying to den, and snapped off a rose tree in the make my house into a Maskeyne and middle. Below the window were dis-Cooke's home of mystery. Let us go tinct traces of footmarks. Lord Runinto the dining room and have a whis

ton, who held the torch, was becoming ky and soda." "Not for me thanks." Lord Runton declared. "I must go back. The real thing which I have not told you yet. I object of my coming here, Duncombe, have had numerous reports in about was to see if the Mr. Spencer who the car and was able to trace it as far called at Runton House today was as Lynn, but they all agreed in saying really Mr. Jarvis Spencer, and if so that it contained only two persons-the to ask him whether he would help driver and the man who called himself

"To what extent, Lord Runton?" Spencer asked quietly. "To the extent of recovering or at

tempting to recover the papers which "But don't you think it possiwere stolen from the Baron de Rothe," ble that-without your knowledge, of Lord Runton said. "The baron was a course-she may be hidden somewhere guest in my house, and I feel the ocabout here? That cry was not like the currence very much. He will not let cry of a housemaid. Let us have the me even mention the matter to the police, but I feel sure that he could not object to Mr. Spencer's taking the mat 'As you will," he answered. "I am ter in hand."

certain, however, that it will be use-"I think you will find," Spencer said, less. There is no place here where any that De Rothe has already placed the matter in the hands of his own people. The German secret service is pretty active over here, you know. I have come in contact with them once or twice." "Come along, Mr. Spencer," Lord

"Nevertheless for my own satisfac tion," Lord Runton continued, "I should like the matter inquired into by you Mr. Spencer."

"I am not quite sure whether I am free to help you or not," Spencer said slowly. "May I come and see you tomorrow morning?" "If you prefer it," Lord Runton said

doubtfully. "Come as early as pos-sible. Good night, Duncombe! I should like to know who your noc turnal visitor was."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Sepp went to market and before go ing home bought a few eggs. In or der to carry them safely he put them in a small bag containing his pipe and tobacco. On his homeward journey he had the misfortune to slip down, and smash went the eggs.

"Heavens, what a fearful mess!" he said, surveying it. "Now I don't know whether to smoke it or eat it."-Flie "This isn't your affair, Spencer. Shut | gende Blatter.

National Capital Notes, then buying the warrant from them

In spite of the circumstantial re- a regular market in land script, and port that Ambassador Aoki, of Ja. a warrant for 160 acres was worth pan, was about to be recalled, offi- from \$700 to \$750. They were cial confirmation is lacking. It is mostly sold to the big timber and intends to inspect the ship yards known that Ambassador Aoki has a mineral land companies. The at number of enemies at the Japanese torneys used to get them from the court, and he has been put in an pensioners to whom they were isembarrassing position, at least it sued for from \$75 upward. They would be embarrassing for a Cau- usually alleged that the bounty was cassian, in having to report one worth nothing after it was obtained. thing to his government and see the and one firm disbarred last week, government give out an entirely dis- was alleged to have made \$100,000 ferent report to the public. This out of dealing in land script alone. was the case in the killing of the In fact they did nothing else. Japanese poachers on the Island of There were many pitiful cases un-St. Paul and in some of the Japan- earthed in which old soldiers and ese troubles that have occurred on their widows had been robbed the Pacific coast. Since the report and in some cases the pension firms of his recall, the Japanese foreign would even have executors appointoffice has kept quiet, neither con- ed for dead soldiers who had neither firming nor denying the report, and nor widows. Some firms have been at the Japanese Embassy here, the disbarred from practice before the Ambassador has denied himself to Interior Department, and a numall newspaper callers and explain- ber of others are now under investied through his secretary that it is gation. Any who have been disimpossible for him to talk on any honestly treated by their attorneys subject, even the weather.

missioner of Pensions and they will As matters have developed, the Commissioner of Pensions seems to be fairly investigated. be doing a very thorough job of

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as cheaply as possible and selling it to the highest bidder. "There was can present their cases to the Com-

The officers of the government cleaning up land bounty grafters who are willing to sacrifice themwho for years have been fattening selves on the altar of their country at the expense of old pensioners. by taking a vacation at the sea-About six months ago, the Commis- shore during the hot weather, are sioner began to be aware of what beginning to flit out of Washwas common knowledge in Wash- ington. Secretary Metcalf of the ington for years, that there was a Navy Department has just started regular business being carried on in on his summer vacation for the Paspeculating in land bounty warrants. cific coast. His home is out there, As many people do not seem famil- but he is going to investigate labor iar with the law, it may be worth conditions and work in the shipwhile to explain that soldiers, their yards, so it is quite possible he will widows and their heirs of all the beable to charge the trip to the wars prior to 1855, are entitled to a governmen'. There has been troubounty of 160 acres of government ble about warship building on the land in addition to their pension, Pacific coast sure enough. The This is right enough if the old sol- price of labor and material has adiers or their widows get it. But vanced enormously, the former owthere have been many pension ing to the exactions of the labor agents who have made a practice of unions, and the Union Iron Works hunting up pensioners who had not which made a world-wide reputaclaimed their land bounty, putting tion in building the battleship Orthe claim through for them and egon, has notified the Navy Department that it will be impossible for it to accept any more government contracts. This is annoying as it has been inteneed to have one of the two 20,000 ton battleships built on the Pacific coast. The Secretary 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 sainnings. 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 This time of the year information at his command. It are signals of warning, looks from the present testimony as though Mr. Holmes had profited pound now. It may from his dishonesty in very homeopathic doses.

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Frank Sechrest, a High Point po-

liceman, was committed to Guilford county jail Thursday evening to answer the charge of killing Oscar Kearns, colored, whose dead body was found in the woods near High Point Sunday afternoon, 16th. Sechrest was in the woods on the day in question looking for negro gamblers and when he saw some negroes running he fired his pistol twice. It seems very probable that the shots fired by him caused the death of Kearns, but whether the killing was accidental is a question. An effort will be made to secure bail for

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