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By GASTON LEROUX.

Author of "The Mystery of the Yellow Room"

CHAPTER I—Robert Darzac

the few present is Rouletabille, ger at once. You realize that everythe reporter-detective, who has thing is lost unless you can immedihis doubts about the alleged ately arrange matters so that your absolute certitude! And I found it-a death of Larsan, the government wife shall see Darzac somewhere else. secret service official who is said You quickly resume the mask; you to have been lost in the wreck of hurry out of the compartment and La Dordogne. Mile. Stangerson reach the buffet by a shorter route had married him when she was a rushes there to look for you. She mere girl, ignorant that her Jan finds you standing up. You have not Roussel—his then name—was no even had time enough to seat yourself other than the notorious scoundrel | before she enters. Is everything safe Ballmeyer, now posing as Larsan. now? Alas, no! Your troubles are friend, who is relating this story, that you may be at one and the same decide to go to the Castle of Her- time both Darzac and Larsan will not cules at Rochers Rouges to visit leave her mind. Upon the platform the Rances together with the newly married Darzacs. Rouletabille is revealed as the son of the now Mme. Darzac and Larsan, her former husband. III-Darzac describes how his wife receives a severe shock at seeing must be banished without a moment's the face of Larsan in a mirrow at a railway compartment. IV, V | lady in the care of the superintendent, and VI-Larsan is seen outside and immediately return, closing the the castle at Rochers Rouges, and door quickly, seeking to give the im-Rouletabille establishes guards pression that you, too, have seen Larand fortifies the place against

him. VII-Old Bob, a professor, exhibits what he describes as "the oldest skull in the world". VIII to warn me that something unforeseen and IX-Roulatabille traces Lar- has happened-to send me a dispatch. san and one Brignooles on a mys- | See how clear and plain as the day terious journey. At a luncheon your every act becomes! You cannot Roulatabille and his friend realize the presence of Larsan at the castle and are horrified. X— Rouletabille calls his friends' attention to the haunting odor of the perfume used by "the Lady ing periods of faith in you and of fear in Black," Mme. Darzac. XI-A of you. She gives you her revolver in mysterious pistol shot is heard in a sort of half delirium, which might away by certainty. You are Larsan! the night. XII.—Darzac and Pere sum itself up in some such phrase as Bernier, a servant of Rance's in the dead of night are seen to carry off a quivering body in a bloody potato sack. Rouletabille admits that he believes the body to be Stomach may rest and recouperate.

Our Guarantee. Get a dollar both property will at more return your ments. Den't hesitates any frugriss will sell you foods on these terms the dollar bothle contains 2% times as much as the 50c bottle. Rodo! is Propared at the haboratories of E. C. Dewitt & Co., Chicago.

Darzac killed Larsan. XIV.—
Old Rob disappears. A stable that of Larsan. XIII. - Mme. assure her as to your identity you Old Bob disappears. boy appears with a bloody sack in which the body was carried FREE TRIP to the away. XV—Rouletabille's friend suspects that Darzac is really suspects that Darzac is really

Larsan in disguise, but Darzac convinces him of being mistaken by showing him a peculiar birthmark known to mark Darzac. of the many thousands who want to explore this Wonderland? ??? he exclaims "Frederic Larsan"!

Darzac, which had grown frightfully harsh and strained. The young man

imperturbably went on:
"And, if you had an interest in showing her that Larsan existed elsewhere than in your body, there arose an exigency in which that interest was transformed into an immediate necessity. Imagine-I say imagine, M. Darzae, that you had really brought Larsan to life once-once only-in spite of yourself, in your own rooms, before the eyes of Professor Stangerson's daughter, and you will be, I repeat, under the necessity of bringing him to life again and yet again, outside of yourself, in order to prove to your wife that the Larsan whom she ias seen returned to life is not you! Ah, calm yourself, my dear M. Darzac, entreat you. Have I not told you that my suspicion has been banishedcompletely banished? See, then, where I am obliged to come in considering this hypothesis as realized (these are the procedures of mathematics which you know better than 1-you who are a scholar)-in considering, as I said, as realized the hypothesis that you are the counterfeit Darzac, the one who bides Larsan. According to my reasoning, then, you are Larsan! And I

asked myself what could have happened in the railway station at Bourg to make you appear in the form of

Larsan before the eyes of your wife." He paused for a moment, but Darzac did not utter a word. "As you were saying, M. Darzac," Rouletabilie went on, "It was because of this apparition of Larsan that your cup of happiness was dashed empty to the ground. Therefore, if this resurrection should not have been voluntary, there is only one other way in which it could have happened through ident. And now just let us consider how this latter supposition clears up the entire situation. Oh, I have spent a lot of thought upon the inci-dent at Bourg. You see, I am still reasoning out the problem. You (the you who is Larsan, be it understood) are at Bourg to the buffet. You be-Here that your wife is waiting for you somewhere in the station, as she told you she would do. After having windows of the square tower, standing erect in the prow of Tullio's boat. So, you see, my dear Darrac, how oven those things which appear most complicated would have become entirely simple and logically explicable if by chance my suspicious should have been confirmed." finished your letters you wish to go to your compartment in the car in to attend to some detail of your tollet or to cast a critical eye over our disguise to see if in any point it, night be lacking. You think to yourself, 'A few more hours of this com-edy and we shall have passed the At these words I myself, who had seen and touched "the map of Australia." was unable to repress a shudder as I looked pityingly at Darsac, just as one might look at some poor man who is on the point of becoming the victim of some hideous judicial error.

"But since you no longer have these suspicious moustaur," exciaimed Darsac his integration shagainer calm in the visuge of the other and had not found there and other and had not found there and the looked longer had been as the same had believed longer had been and had not found there and the looked fixed with new life; her sorrowful eyes, which I had so often beheld fixed with nomber gloom upon that other, were shrining upon this one with a joy as glorious as it was tranquil and assured. It was he life was be whom she had believed long-whom she had sought in vain in the visuge of the other and had not found there and tirely alone with me, and I will throw side this mask.' You cast away your assumed character and your disguise. You relieve yourself of the false beard oment the door of the section opens.

"But, since you no longer have these suspicions, monsteur," excialmed Darpor at the sight of Larsan's amooth, such his sutsearion singularity calm in moment the door of the section opens. Four wife, thrown into a spasm of

The Perfume of the

beardless face in the giass, does not and Mile. Stangerson celebrate walt to make any further investigatheir wedding quietly in a Paris screams drowned by the noise of anchurch on April 6, 1895. Among other train. You comprehend the dan-Rouletabille and his best only beginning, for the fearful thought of the station, while passing beneath the gas jet, she casts a frightened glance at you, lets go your hand and runs wildly into the office of the sta-

tion master. "You read her thought as though she had spoken it. The abominable idea delay. You quit the office, leaving the san. In order to ease her mind and also for the purpose of deceiving us all in case she dared reveal her suspicions to any one, you are the first She would go without you. And, since nothing is yet really lost, you have the hope that everything may be re-gained. In the course of the journey your wife continues to have alternatthis: 'If he is Darzac, let him protect me; if he is Larsan, let him kill me! But in pity let me know which he is.' At Rochers Rouges you realized once more how utterly she had withdrawn herself from you, and in order to reshowed her Larsan again. See how in

spite of the fact that his voice was raised, "I should be glad to know, after all this exercise of your talent of reasoning, what could have driven

them away?"

In order to have them driven away, monsieur, one thing was essential—an showed me in a manner complete and mudeniable which of the two manifestations of Darzac was in reality Larsan. That proof, monsieur, was, happily, furnished me by yourself at the very moment when you closed the circle-the circle in which there had been found the body too many!-the time when, after baving sworn that which was the truth, that you had drawn the bolt of your apartment as soon as you had entered your sleeping room, you had lied to us in concealing from us that you had entered that room at 6 o'clock instead of at 5 o'clock as Pere Bernier said and as we ourselves could bave proved. You were then the only person except myself who knew that the Darzac who had entered at 5 o'clock and of whom we had spoken to you as yourself was in reality another man. But you said nothing. And you need not pretend that you did not attach any importance to that hour of 5 o'clock, since it explained everything to you-since it told you that another Darzac than yourself-the true Robert Darzac-had come into the square tower at that time. And, after your false expressions of astonishment, how quiet you kept! Your very silence lied to us! And what interest could the true Darzac have in concealing that another Darzac, who might be Larsan, had come in before you had and was hiding in the square tower? Larsan was the only one who was interested in hiding from us that there was another manifestation of Darzae than the one he himself bore! Of the two manifestations of Darzac the false must have necessarily been that one which

lied! Thus my suspicions were driven And the man who was hidden behind the panel was Darzac!" "You lie!" shouted the man (I could not even yet believe him to be Larsan), hurling himself upon Rouleta-

But none of us stirred a finger, and Rouletabille, who had lost nearly of

THE DOOR OF THE PANEL SWUNG OPEN AND THE FORM OF

accordance with reason such a proceed-

ing would be, my dear Darrac! Every

fact would fit perfectly into every oth-

er under the supposition which I am placing before you. There is not a

single point up to your appearance as

Larean at Mentone, during your jour-

ney as Darrac to Cannes, at the time

when you came to meet us, which can-

not be explained in the easiest way

imaginable. You had taken the train

at Mentone-Garavan before the eyes

of your friends, but you alighted from the train at the next station, which is

Mentone, and there, after a short stay

for the purpose of altering your looks, you appeared in the image of Larsan

to the same friends who were pro-

The following train brought you

Cannes, where you met Sainciair and

myself. Only, as you had on this oc

the lips of Arthur Rance when he met

us at the station at Nice the news the

caught sight of Larsan, you were un

der the necessity that same evening of showing her Larson under the very

Mme. Darrac had not on this occasion

windows of the square tower, stan

carion the vexation of bearing from

enading in the gardens at Mer

his caim demeanor, extended his arm

CHAPTER XXI.

Here is "the Body Too

T was an indescribable scene-

moment never to be forgotten

At the genture of Rouletabilia

poshed by an invisible band

ust as it had been on that terribi

night which had witnessed the myster; of "the body too many."

Clamors of surprise, of joy and of

terror filled the square tower. The

And it was a cry of joy! Two Dar-

sacs before us so exactly similar that

every one of us save the Lady in

Black might have been deceived! But

ing the triumphant conclusion of Rou-letabilie, might have heritated. Her

love and joy, she rushed toward the second manifestation of Darmac-the one which had descended from the panel. Mathilde's face was radiant with new life; her sorrowful eyes, which I had so often beheld fixed with

And the form of a man app

Many."

"He is behind the panel now!"

toward the panel and said:

folly which was akin to madness. As to the man who up to the last moment I had not believed to be guilty

energrore, had accused nerself, during

the weary hours of day and night, of

-as to that wretch who, unveiled and tracked to earth, found himself suddenly face to face with the living proof of his crimes, he attempted yet again one of the daring coups which had so often saved him. Surrounded on every side, he yet endeavored to Then we understood the audaclous drama which in the last few moments he had played for our benefit, When he could no longer have any doubt as to the issue of the discussio which he was holding with Rouletabille he had had the incredible self control to permit nothing of his emotions to appear and had also been able to prolong the situation, permitting Rouletabille to pursue at leisure the thread of the argument at the end of which he knew that he would find his oom, but during the progress of which

he might discover perchance some means of escape. And he had effected his maneuvers so well that at the moment when we beheld the other Darzac advancing toward us we could not hinder the impostor from disappearing at one bound within the room which had served as the bedchamber of Mme. Darzac and closing the door violently. Rouletabille during the scene which had passed had thought only of guard-

ing the door opening into the corridor, and he had not noticed that every movement of the false Darzac as soon as he realized that he was being convicted of his imposture had been in the direction of Mme. Darzac's room. The reporter had attached no importance to these movements, knowing, as he did, that this room did not offer any way by which Larsan might escape. But, however, when the scoundrel was behind the door which afforded his last refuge our confusion increased beyond all proportions. One might have thought that we had become suddenly bereft of our senses

knocked on the door. We cried out. We thought of all his strokes of genius, of his marvelous escapes in the

"He will escape us! He will get away from us again!"

Arthur Rance was the most enraged of us all. Mme. Edith, who was clinging to my arm, drove her finger natis into my hand in a paroxysm of nervous fear. None of us paid any beed to the Lady in Black and Robert Darseemed to have forgotten erythingeven the clamor and confusion around hem. Neither one had spoken a word, but they were looking into each other's eyes as though they had discovered another world-the world which s love. But they had not discovered it; they had merely found it again,

thanks to Rouletabille. The latter had opened the door of the corridor and summoned the three domestics to our assistance. They entered with their rides. But it was axes that were needed. The door was solid and barricaded with heavy bolts. Pere Jacques went out and fetched a beam, which served us as a battering strength, and finally we saw the door eginning to give way. Our anxiety was at its height.

When the door had comm yield, Rouletabille directed the servants to take up their guns, with the order, however, that the weapons were to be used only in case it should be impossible to capture Larsan living. Then Houletabille set his shoulder to the door with one last powerful effort, and as the boards, wrenched from their hinges, fell to the ground, he was

the first to enter the room.
We followed him. And behind him, apon the threshold, we all imited, stuselled by the sight which met our eyes. Largen was there, plainly to be seen by every one. And this time there was no difficulty in recognizing him. He has removed his false beard; he had put aside his "Darrac mask;" he had resumed once more the pale, clean shaven face of that Frederic Larsan whom we had known at the Chateau of Glandler. And his presence seemed to fill the entire room. He was lying back comfortably in an easy chair in the cent of the room and was looking at us with his great, calm eyes. His arm was stretched along the arm of the chair. His bead was resting on the cushion at the back. One would have said that be was giving us an audience and was waiting for us to make known our business. It seemed to me that I could even discern an ironical smile on his lips. Rouletabille advanced toward him. "Larsan," he said in a voice which was not quite steady-"Larsan, do you

give yourself up?" But Larsan did not reply. Then Rouletabille touched the man's face and his hand, and we saw that

Rouletabilie pointed to a ring on the niddle finger. The collet was open and showed a bollow cup which was empty. It must have contained a deadly poison.

Arthur Rance put his head against the man's chest and assured us that all was over. And Roujetabille entreated us to leave him alone in square tower and to try to forget the terrible events which had passed there. "I will charge myself with everything," he asserted gravely. "Here the body too many.' No one will in quire into the disposition which may be made of it."

And be gave an order to Walte which Arthur Ranco translated

"Waiter, bring me the sack which you found at the Castillon yesterday." Then he made a gesture to which we were all obedient—a gesture of dismissal. And we left the son face to face with the corpse of the father.

The next moment we saw that M.
Darrace was ewooning, and we were obliged to carry him into Old Bob's sitting room. But it was only a passing faintness, and soon he opened his eyes again and smiled at Mathilde when he saw her heautiful face bending over him with the look of dread in which we must be feet to be the faint which we must be feet to be the feet of the feet o ing over him with the look of dread in which we read the fear of losing her beloved husband at the very moment in which she had, through a chain of circumstances which still remained wrapped in mystery, found him again. He succeeded in convincing her that his life was not in any danger, and he added his entreatien to those of hims

Edith that she would go away for a little while and try to get some rest. When the two women had left us, Arthur Rance and myself turned over our attention to our friend. For how could a man whom all of us had believed to be dead and who had been with the death rattle in his throat. tled up in a sack and carried away have been able to rise again and step down living from the fateful panel? But when we had opened his shirt and discovered the bandage which aid the wound that he bore in his breast we recognized that this injury was not a very serious one. The ball which had struck Darzac in the midst of the savage fight which he had been obliged to make against Larsan had planted itself in the sternum, causing a bad external hemorrhage and weakening the entire

none of the vital functions. As we finished the task of dressing the wound I heard steps in the corridor and a strange noise-the sound that one hears when a body is carried away on a stretcher. And I thought of Larsan and of the sack which was nolding now for the second time "the body too many."

organism, but fortunately suspending

Leaving Arthur Rance to watch over M. Darzac, I hurried to the window. had not been mistaken. I beheld the sinister funeral cortege in the court

It was nearly nightfull. A gathering gloom surrounded everything.

Moving onward in the direction of the oubliette. I saw Rouletabille and Pere Jacques two dark shadows bending over another shadow-a shadow which I recognized and which on that other night of horror I had believed to contain another dead body. The sack seemed heavy. The two men were scarcely able to lift it to the edge of the shaft. And I could see that the little passageway was open-yes, the heavy wooden lid which ordinarily closed it had been removed and was ying on the ground. Rouletabille leaped lightly over the edge of the onbilette and then made a step downward He showed no besitation. The way seemed to be familiar to him. In a few moments his figure vanished from sight. Then Pere Jacques pushed the sack into the passageway and leaned over the edge, apparently still holding on to his burden, which I could no longer see.

I left the square tower. I went to my own room in the new castle. I stationed myself at the window, and my eyes lost themselves in the depths of the shadows which covered the sea. All at once far, very far off I fancied that I could see in the narrow red band which was all that remaine of the setting sun something that semed more unreal than a vision. into that narrow red band an object entered. It was the shadow of a flab ing smack, which glided over the waters as automatically as though it were propelled by machinery, and as its movements became slower and I saw it emerging from the gloom I recognized the form of Rouletablile. The

. . . .

oars ceased to move, and I saw my friend rise to his feet. I could recogdid as clearly as if be had not been ten yards away from me. His gestures were outlined against the red background of the sunset with a fantastic What he had to do did not take long. He leaned over and got up again, lift-

ing in his arms something which seem ed to mix with his form and become a part of himself in the darkness. And then the burden gilded down into the water, and the man's figure reappeared alone, still bending, still leaning over the edge of the boat, remaining thus for an instant motionless, and then once, more picking up the oars of the bark, which resumed its automatic motion until it had disappeared comed its automatic pletely from the dying glare of the ever narrowing band of red. And then the band of red, too, vanished. Rouletabille had consigned the body of Larsan to the waves of Hercules.

EPILOGUE.

The reader will recall the finding of a scrap of paper with "bonnet" on it, which was banded to Rouletabille. He unraveled its mysterious significance. Sainciair bad picked it up just after be had missed Brignoiles and Larsan on the mountain.

Larsan had schemed to shut up Darsac in a lunatic saylum and so get rid of an obstacle in his way. To do this the signature of a relative is required and of a doctor. Larsen induced Brito give his name and himself forged that of a famous stienist. Rouletabille discovered that Darzac bad actually been confined in the Mount Barbonnet asylum. He forced Brignoiles to confess his crime and through this bit of paper secured Darzac's re-

Rouletabille explained to his friend his purpose when he dropped Itance's cane in front of the supposed Darzac. It was to see whether this Darrace would handle it in Larsan's peculiar way. When in the court he handed it and asked Darzac to loosen the carved stone with heavy blows the real Larsan lost his disguise as he straightened the stooping shoulders of the scholar and flourished the cane with the vigor of a tree bandit. Only one other person noticed the

artiling transformation and allowed Larsan to see that he was recognized. That person was Bernier, and bis lack of seif control cost bim his life in his amazement be stumbled and fell on the fint dagger, which he was carrying, and as he turned over and shricked in his death struggles he drew forth the ancient weapon from the wound with a violent effort that pent it dylog yards distant.

The Wasp.

It is said that the male wasp does not sting, but as the male and female wasps wear the same kind of polo naise and look as much alike as twin the only way to distinguish their sex is to catch one. If it stings it is a female; if not, it is a gentleman wasp.

The Japanese Hist.

When a Japanese andience wishes to express disapproval of a play it turns its back to the stage.

More Necessary.

A wishbone won't do a man much good unless along with it goes a deal of backbone.—Farm Journal.



At Neuse station, on the Seaboard Air Line, ten miles from Raleigh, Tuesday morning a week, tried last week in Raleigh on a Robt. Beville, a flagman who was charge of selling diseased meat flagging a freight train, was run and were convicted, Swift & Co., over and killed by a passenger being fined \$500 and Vaughan train. Beville, it is stated, went to sleep at his post while waiting hog, which had ulcers on it, with for the train to pass.

One Conductor who was Cured.

Mr. Wilford Adams is his name, and he writes about it-"Some ime ago I was confined to my bed with chronic rheumatism. I used two bottles of Foley's Kidney Remedy with good effect, and the third bottle put me on my feet and I resumed work as conductor on the Lexington, Ky., Street Railway. It gave me more relief than any medicine I had ever used, and it will do all you claim in cases of rheumatism." Foley's Kidney Remedy cures rheuma- OFFICE IN SIMMONS BUILDING tism by eliminating the uric acid from the blood Sold by all drug-

The Concord Tribune says that while a party of picnicers were at dinner at Cox's mill, Cabarrus county, Easter Monday, a gun J. was left leaning against a tree. A small child of Mrs. Chas. Simp- GRAHAM, - - - - N. C. son, investigated the gun and the load took effect in Mrs. Simpson's foot, inflicting a painful wound.

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Gov. Kitchin Tuesday a week granted .hree conditional par-dons, the beneficiaries of execu-tive elemency being A. G. Wynn' of Wilson county; Harvey Elkins, of Yancey county, and George Washington, of Franklin, county. Wynn was conbicted in September, 1907, of retailing liquor, and sentenced to two years on the roads. Elkins was sentenced to five years on the roads for stealing a mule, being convicted in September, 1908, and Washington was sentenced in January, 1809, to two years on the roads

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Rev. John Crawford, colored,

charged with shooting at Rev. W. C. McDonald, likewise colored, while the latter was holding services in the colored Baptist church at Waxahaw, some weeks ago, was convicted in "Union county last week was fined \$50 and costs. His victim was not seriously wounded. The shooting took place while McDonald was holding services, the shots being fired through a window. Jealousy over es. All the news-foreign, dothe trouble.

should be provided at all time with a bottle of Chamberlain's Liniment. There is no telling when it may be wanted in case o an accident or emergency. In is most excellent in all cases of rheumatism, sprains and bruises. Sold by all dealers.

Swift & Co., and their local representative, Vaughan, were pus in them.

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