

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

VOL. XLI

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 6 1915

NO. 12

The Million Dollar Mystery

By HAROLD MAC GRATH

Illustrated from Scenes in the Photo Drama of the Same Name by the Thanhouser Film Company

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CHAPTER XXII.

A Night of Adventure.
The federal government agreed to say nothing, to put no obstacles in the way of the Russian agent, provided he could abduct his trio without seriously clashing with the New York police authorities. It was a recognized fact that the local police force wanted the newspaper glory which would attend the crushing of the Black Hundred. It would be an exploit. But their glory was nil; nor did Servan take his trio back with him to Russia.

Many strange things happened that night, the night of the final adventure. Florence sat in her room reading the book "Oliver Twist," not the pleasant sort of book to read under the existing circumstances. Several times she had reached the place where Fagin overheard Nancy's confession—the fancied the door closing softly, but credited it to her imagination. Poor Nancy, who wanted to be good but did not find time to be! Florence possessed a habit familiar to most of us; the need of apples or candy when we are reading. So she rang the bell for her maid, intending to ask her to bring up some apples. She turned to her reading, presently to break off and strike the bell again. Where was that maid? She waited perhaps five minutes, then laid down the book and began to investigate.

There was not a servant to be found in the entire house! What in the world could that mean? Used as she was to heartrending suspense, she was none the less terrified. Something had taken the servants from the house. From whence was the danger to come this time? Where was Jones? Why did he not return as he had promised? It was long past the hour when he said he would be back.

She went into the library and picked up the telephone. She was told that Mr. Norton was out on an assignment, but that he would be notified the moment he returned. She opened a drawer in the desk. She touched the automatic, but did not take it up. She left the drawer open, however.

Earlier, at the newspaper office that night, Jim went into the managing editor's office and laid a bulky manuscript on that gentleman's desk. "Is this it?" "It is," said Jim. "You have captured them?" "No; but there is a net about them from which not one shall escape. There's the story of my adventures, of the adventures of Miss Hargreave and the butler, Jones. You'll find it exciting enough. You might just as well send it up to the composing room. At midnight I'll telephone the introduction. It's a scoop. Don't worry about that."

The editor ruffled the pages. "A hundred and twelve pages, 300 words to the page; man that's a novel!" "It'll read like one." "Sit down for a moment and let me skim through the first story." At the end of ten minutes the editor laid down the copy. He opened a drawer and took out two envelopes. The blue one he tore up and dropped into the waste basket. Norton understood and smiled. They had meant to discharge him if he fell down. The other envelope was a fat one. "Open it," said the editor, smiling a little to himself. This envelope contained a check for

\$2,500, two round-trip first-class tickets to Liverpool, together with innumerable continental tickets such as are issued to tourists. "Why two?" asked Jim, innocently. "Forget it, my boy, forget it. You ought to know that in this office we don't employ blind men. The whole staff is on. There you are, a fat check and three months' vacation. Go and get married; and if you return before the three months are up I'll fire you myself on general principles." Jim laughed happily and the two men shook hands. Then Jim went forth to complete the big assignment. Five minutes later Florence called him up to learn that he had gone.

What should she do? Jones had told her to stay in the house and not to leave it. But where was he? Why did he not come? What was the meaning of this desertion by the servants? She wandered about aimlessly, looking out of windows, imagining forms in the shadows. Her imagination had not deceived her; she had heard doors close softly.

"Susan, Susan!" she murmured; but Susan was in the hospital. "Oliver Twist!" What had possessed her to start reading that old tale again? She should have read something of a light and joyous character. After half an hour's wandering about the lonely house she returned to the library, feeling that she would be safer there than both telephone and revolver were.

And while she sat waiting for she knew not what, her swiftly beating heart sending the blood into her throat so that it almost suffocated her, a man turned into the street and walked noiselessly toward the Hargreave place. He passed a man leaning against a lamp-post, but he never turned to look at him.

This man, however, threw away his cigar and hot-footed it to the nearest pay station. He hung in his soul that he had just seen the man for whom he had been hunting all these weary but strenuous weeks—Stanley Hargreave in the flesh! Half an hour after his telephone message the chief of the Black Hundred and many lesser lights were on their way to the house of mystery. Had they not known!

Now, the man who had created this tremendous agitation went serenely on. He proceeded directly and fearlessly to the front door, produced a latchkey and entered. He passed through the hall and reception room to the library and paused on the threshold dramatically. Florence started back with a sharp cry of alarm. She had heard the hall door open and close and had taken it for granted that Jones had entered. There was a tableau of short duration. "Don't you know me?" asked the stranger in a singularly pleasant voice. "No, you don't know me," she replied. "I am your father, Florence." "I am your father, child!" Florence slipped unsteadily behind the desk and seized the revolver which lay in the drawer. The man by the curtains smiled sadly. It was a smile that caused Florence to waver a bit. Still she extended her arm. "You do not believe me?" said the man, advancing slowly. "No, I have been deceived too many times, sir. Stay where you are. You will wait here till my butler returns. Oh, if I were only sure!" she burst out suddenly and passionately. "What proof have you that you are what you say?"

He came toward her, holding out his hands. "This, that you cannot shoot me. Ah, the damnable wretches! What have they done to you, my child, to make you suspicious of every one? How I have watched over you in the street! I will tell you what only Jones and the reporter know, that the aviator died, that I alone was rescued, that I gave Norton the five thousand; that I watched the windows of the Russian woman, and overheard nearly every plot that was hatched in the council chamber of the Black Hundred; that I was shot in the arm while rescuing the lawn one night. And now we have the scoundrels just where we want them. They will be in this house for me within half an hour, and not one of them will leave it in freedom. I am your father, Florence. I am the lonely father who has spent the best years of his life away from you in order to secure your safety. Can't you feel the truth of all this?"

"No, no! Please do not approach any nearer; stay where you are!" At that moment the telephone rang. With the revolver still leveled she picked up the receiver. "Here, hello! Who is it?" "Oh, Jim, come at once! I'm holding at bay a man who says he is my father. Hold him where he is, say? All right, I will. Come quick!" "Jim!" murmured the man, still advancing. He must have that revolver. The poor child might spoil the whole affair. "So what Jones tells me is true; that you are going to marry this reporter chap?"

She did not answer. "With or without my consent?" "It only he would drop that fearless smile!" she thought. "With or without anybody's consent," she said.

"What in the world can I say to you to convince you?" he cried. "The trap is set; but if Braine and his men come and find us like this, good heaven, child, we are both lost! Come, come!" "Stay where you are!" "At that moment she heard a sound at the door. Her gaze roved; and it

was enough for the man. He reached out and caught her arm. She tried to tear herself loose. "My child, in God's name, listen to reason! They are entering the hall and they will have us both."

Suddenly Florence knew. She could not have told you why; but there was an appeal in the man's voice that went to her heart.

"You are my father!" "Yes, yes! But you've found it out just a trifle too late, my dear. Quick; this side of the desk!"

Braine and his men dashed into the library. Olga entered leisurely. "Both of them!" yelled Braine exultantly. "Both of them together; what luck!"

There was a sharp, fierce struggle; and when it came to an end Hargreave was trussed to a chair.

"Ah, so we meet again, Hargreave!" said Braine.

Hargreave shrugged. What he wanted was time.

"A million! We have you. Where is it, or I'll twist your heart before your eyes."

"Father, forgive me!" "I understand, my child."

"Look! In it!" Braine seized Florence by the wrist and swung her toward him.

"Don't tell him, father; don't mind me," said the girl bravely.

Braine, smiling his old evil smile, drew the girl close. It was the last time he ever touched her.

"Where is it?" screamed Olga.

Every one turned, to see Jones' face peering between the curtains. There was an ironic smile on the butler's lips. The face vanished.

"After him!" cried Braine, releasing Florence.

"After him!" mimicked a voice from the hall.

The curtains were thrown back suddenly. Jones appeared, and Jim and the Russian agent and a dozen policemen. Tableau!

Braine was the only man who kept his head. He floored Norton, smashed

the telephone, and fled. He was seen no more.

So, presently, Hargreave, Jones, Florence and Jim were alone. That smile which had revealed to Florence her father's identity stole over his face again. He put his hand on Jim's shoulder and beckoned to Florence.

"Are you really anxious to marry this young man?"

Florence nodded.

"Well, then, do so. And go to Europe with him on your honeymoon; and as a wedding present to you both, for every dollar that he has I will add a hundred; and when you get tired of travel you will both come back here to live. The Black Hundred has ceased to exist."

"And now," said Jones, shaking his shoulders.

"Well!" said Hargreave.

"My business is done. Still—" Jones paused.

"Go on," said Hargreave soberly.

"Well, the truth is, sir, I've grown used to you. And if you'll let me play the butler till the end I shall be most happy."

"I was going to suggest it."

Norton took Florence by the hand and drew her away.

"Where are you taking me?" she asked.

"Jim going to take this pretty hand of yours and put it flat upon \$1,000,000. And if you don't believe it, follow me."

returned, all his warnings Go that stubborn man. This was the end . . . Russia! The horrors of the cold and the deadly damps of the mines . . . forever!

Jim, still holding the battered conspirator, watched her flight in amazement. "This man is mine," said Servan, he pushed Braine into the library and the vanishing odor assailed his nostrils. What these fumes were he never knew, but they proved to be transitory. Five minutes sufficed to bring all back to their senses. For the while they forgot Olga.

"This man is mine," said Servan, nodding toward Braine.

"He's yours without charge," said Jim.

"I'm an American citizen," said Braine, who, realizing what the future held, readily preferred a long prison term in America to the horrors of Russian exile.

"Your certificate has been destroyed," said Servan, "and the state department considers your papers void because you obtained them under false oaths. You are an undesirable citizen; and the republic is happy to learn that you will be taken off its hands."

"And because," added Norton, "you have laid too many mines in the blackmailing business, and the government does not propose to have them made known to the public through a long and useless trial. It was a long run, old top; but right is right. And by the way, I want you to meet Mr. Jeddson, formerly of Scotland Yard."

He indicated Jones, who started.

"Yes," went on the reporter, "I recognized him long ago."

"It is true," said Hargreave, taking Jones' hand in his own. "Fifteen years ago I employed him to watch my affairs, and very well has he done so. And to you, my stretch," turning upon the haggard Braine, "turning upon a million, and you have been within a foot of it a dozen times. It has been under your very nose. Do you remember Poe's 'Purloined Letter'?"

Under your very nose, within touch of your hand! Now, take him away, Mr. Servan. The police will be satisfied with the prisoners they have."

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She followed.

THE END.

The announcement has just been made that passenger service would be inaugurated on the Mount Mitchell railway this summer.

The program for A. & M. commencement has just been issued from the office of President D. H. Hill.

W. B. Wilson, Secretary of Labor, will deliver the commencement address.

Kinston's celebrated incubator baby, according to a statement by her physician, at the age of seven months weighs 15 pounds, a little in excess of the average seven-month-old baby's avoirdupois.

The money for the Lovelady Township, Caldwell county, road improvement bonds has been received, Terry, Briggs & Slayton, of Toledo, making the purchase. The \$25,000 issue brought a premium of \$325.

Suing J. H. Michael, colored, principal, of the Hill street school, Asheville for damages in the sum of \$5,000. Flora Nichols, colored, formerly employed as a teacher at the school was awarded damages in the sum of \$50.

It was decided at a meeting of the West-Central Commercial Club, to erect at once a tobacco warehouse to cost approximately \$6,000, assuring Whiteville one of the best markets in this section of the state with a full corps of buyers.

Two car loads of sewer pipe reached Southport the past week. Other material will arrive in a few days and work will be pushed on the new \$40,000 water and sewerage plant. It is the plan to have the whole system installed within the next four or five months.



MRS. R. E. JEFFREY

Mrs. Robert Emmett Jeffrey is the wife of the newly appointed minister to Uruguay. Mrs. Jeffrey was Miss Nita Hogg of Hester Springs, Ark., before her marriage to the minister.

SOUNDTEST IN THE WORLD

COUNTRY SMILING WITH PROSPERITY AS RESULT OF NEW BANKING ACT.

Agriculture as a Sectional Problem, Problem, Railroads, Markets, Are Leading Topics Before Congress.

Muskogee, Okla.—The country is smiling with prosperity as a result of the Federal Reserve Bank act and as the system grows older the smile will grow into a laugh, according to Chas. S. Hamlin, governor of the Federal Reserve Board, who spoke before the Southern Commercial Congress here.

Mr. Hamlin pointed out that the Federal Reserve Board holds all the authority of a centralized bank.

"A financial panic such as that of 1907 is now impossible," Mr. Hamlin continued. "In view of financial stringency, a farmer desiring credit can get it. We have a real elastic, a real local, liquid currency."

The Federal Reserve Board is empowered at such times to put out enormous sums sufficient to dispute any idea of panic."

Dr. Charles Brand, chief of the division of markets and rural organization of the United States Department of Agriculture, has realized that the farmer and ranchman has realized the need of being more provident. The time is passing, he said, when products of the farm and ranch are shipped to market and then brought back as foodstuffs.

THE NEW JAPANESE DEMANDS.

President Yuan Has Not Reached Decision Regarding Them.

Peking.—With the new draft of the Japanese demands on China interest is aroused in the nature of the modification of the original document.

President Yuan Shi Kai and his advisers have examined the demands as amended, but no decision has been reached and they are likely to be the subject for further discussions. Group one and group four of the original demands have not been altered from the form to which the Chinese Government already has agreed. Group one relates to the Shan-Tung Province and group four relates to refunding a third Power, any island, port or harbor along the China coast.

Storstad Responsible For Collision.

Montreal.—The Admiralty Court in a decision held the collier Storstad responsible for the collision with the liner Empress of Ireland in the St. Lawrence May 25, 1914, which cost approximately 1,000 lives in the sinking of the liner with nearly all aboard.

No blame whatever was attached to the captain or crew of the liner, the court held.

Kitchener Scores Gas Bombs.

London.—War Secretary Kitchener in the House of Lords referred to the use by the German armies in the West of asphyxiating bombs. He declared that Germany had "stooped to acts which surely will stain indelibly her military history."

Joyner Delivers Annual Address.

Chattanooga, Tenn.—The Southern Conference for Education and Industry held a four days' session here with delegates from throughout the South in attendance. Among subjects under discussion were school work, women's part in the social and economic development of the rural districts and conditions in rural communities.

J. Y. Joyner of North Carolina, president of the conference, delivered his annual address.

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

Take Large Dose of Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Groves' signature is on each box. 25 cents. adv.

Japan's ambition may be to star in the role of the international suspicious character.

Striking modily to the center of the stage, Italy again recites Hamlet's great soliloquy.

INCREASED TAXES ON ALL LIQUORS

IS PROPOSAL OF DAVID LLOYD GEORGE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SOME OF MEMBERS PROTEST

There is Some Opposition to the Measure.—First Division in House Since War Began.

London.—Resolutions Introduced in the House of Commons by David Lloyd-George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to double the duty on spirits, quadruple the duties on wines and to institute an increase by graduated tax on beer—to encourage the use of lighter beers—were strongly opposed and it is generally believed that the new taxes will have to be moderated before Parliament will accept them.

The O'Brienites, as protest against an additional tax on Irish whiskey and beer, brought about the first division in the House since the outbreak of the war, by voting against the provisional resolutions which would bring the taxes into force at once so as to prevent spirits being taken out of bond while Parliament is dealing with the resolutions.

The resolution relating to spirits was passed by a vote of 89 to 50, the minority being composed of O'Brienites. The Nationalists also protested against the measure, but did not vote. The Unionists who withheld criticism until all the facts could be placed before them also abstained from voting.

The provisional resolutions imposing taxes on beer and wine also were passed, the Unionists abstaining from voting and the O'Brienites opposing the beer tax.

Usually these provisional resolutions are carried without division, for should Parliament refuse to sanction the French Ministry of Finance, the number of the crew was not given, but it was believed the warship carried 750. From this it was estimated that about 600 men perished.

While the French communication did not say by what the cruiser was torpedoed an official from Vienna said the warship was sent down by Austria submarine U-5, commanded by Lieut. George Ritter von Trapp.

The communication issued by the Ministry of Marine was as follows: "The armored cruiser Leon Gambetta, cruising at the entrance of the Otranto Canal, was torpedoed the night of April 26-27 and went to the bottom in 10 minutes."

All the officers on board perished at their posts. One hundred and thirty-six members of the crew, including 11 under-officers were rescued by vessels sent out promptly to their help by the Italian authorities.

"The list of survivors has not yet been received at the Ministry of Marine."

GENERAL MANAGER RED CROSS.

Washington.—President Wilson as head of the American Red Cross has appointed Brig. Gen. Carroll A. Deval, U. S. A., general manager of the Red Cross, a newly-created position.

General Deval, now attached to the General Staff, was given three months leave of absence on May 1 to assume his new office and become active head of the Red Cross. He has not determined whether he will remain in the position permanently. To do so he would have to resign from the army at the expiration of the three months leave as he will not reach the age of retirement for several years.

EXPECTS EARLY RECOGNITION.

Washington.—Unofficial advice that General Carranza expected early recognition by the United States at increased attention in official and diplomatic circles here.

Carranza representatives here have been very active recently. The United States, it is said, has been advised in detail of the Carranza plans. It was said at the state department, however, that the question of recognition had not been formally considered.

DAMAGE AT FRIEDRICHSHAFEN.

Geneva, Switzerland, via Paris.—Of the six bombs dropped on Zeppelin dirigible balloons workshops at Friedrichshafen by Allied aviators last night, the empty shells and one struck a building in which was the framework of a new Zeppelin. The French aviator who dropped the bombs was under heavy fire.

Henry W. Miller Vice President.

Baltimore.—Henry W. Miller of Atlanta, assistant to the president of the Southern Railway, has been promoted to the vice presidency of the road, it was announced here.

TOLD HOW HE STOPPED PANIC.

Syracuse, N. Y.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt was excused from the witness stand in the \$50,000 suit for alleged libel which William Barnes has brought against him after he had told his own story of how he ended the panic of 1907 and had identified a letter in which Governor Charles S. Whitman, then District Attorney of New York, wrote that he thought the time was ripe to rid the state of the kind of party control mainly responsible for corrupt conditions.

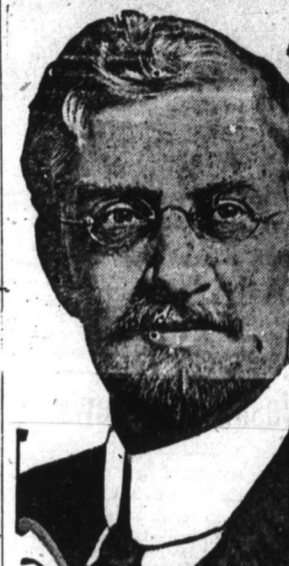
Big Fire at Vancouver.

Vancouver, B. C.—Fire, held by some police officials to be part of a plot to burn the city, started simultaneously in the Cambie and Granville street bridges, connecting the business and residence parts of Vancouver. The loss was \$300,000. Aside from the bridges, however, no attempt at arson was discovered. Thousands of persons blocked on their way to work watched the flames soar from the wood and tar pavement of the Great Bonington bridge at Cambie street. The chief damage was here.

Enzlish Spavin Liniment removes Hard, Soft and Calloused Lumps and Blemishes from horses; also Blood Spavins, Curbs, Splints, Sweeney, Ring Bone, Stiffes, Sprains, Swollen Throats, Conges, etc. Save \$50 by use of one bottle. A wonderful Blemish Cure. Sold by Graham Drug Company. adv.

Manifestly Mr. Barnes would be glad to hear the Bull Moose moved.

April is voted of the feminine gender without a dissenting voice.



CAPTAIN GULLIGHT

Dr. Louis E. Van Norman, who for ten years has been in charge of the foreign department of the American Review of Reviews, has been made editor in chief of The Nation's Business, the official magazine of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

FRENCH CRUISER IS SUNK

AUSTRIAN SUBMARINE SENDS CRUISER LEON GAMBETTA TO BOTTOM.

Cruising at Entrance of the Otranto Canal—All Officers Perished at Their Posts.

Paris.—The French armored cruiser Leon Gambetta has been torpedoed and sunk in the Ionian Sea with the loss of all her officers and all except 138 members of her crew, according to an official announcement by the French Ministry of Marine. The number of the crew was not given, but it was believed the warship carried 750. From this it was estimated that about 600 men perished.

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SUFFERS FROM LONG DROUGHT.

Forty-Year Record Broken.—Truck Crops Suffering.

Washington.—The longest early spring drought in more than 40 years now exists over eastern United States, announced The National Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin.

Cotton and truck crops in the Southeast are suffering.

"In Texas and Oklahoma excessive rains greatly hindered farm work," says the bulletin, "fields were badly washed, bottom lands were flooded, and much land already planted to cotton and corn will have to be replanted, while the wet soil will further delay cotton planting which is generally considered as several weeks late."

"In the principal trucking districts to the eastward of the Mississippi most crops are suffering for rain, especially in the South Atlantic coast districts."

"Early planted corn is coming up, but later planted over the Southern States east of the Mississippi has not germinated well on account of drought."

Labor Must Co-operate.

Muskogee, Okla.—Closer relations between the employer and employee, crop diversification and more liberal treatment for the small farmer were urged by speakers at the Southern Commercial Congress as essential to the commercial development of the South.

Details of Persian Massacre.

New York.—Details of the recent massacre of native Christians at Urmiah, Persia, by Kurds, received by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, state that not less than 800 have been murdered there and that not less than 2,000 have perished from disease. The attacks it would appear, have not been confined to Kurds, but have been made, in at least one instance, by Turkish soldiers. Crucifixes and burials of Christians alive have been revived, missionaries reported to the board.

Meat Prices Are Lower.

Washington.—Prices of meat animals were lower on April 15 than for two years previous, though they still were higher than in 1911 and 1912, the Department of Agriculture announced. Producers received an average of \$6.59 a hundred pounds, compared with \$7.40 last year, \$7.35 in 1913, \$6.30 in 1912, \$5.80 in 1911 and \$7.74 in 1910. Farmers sold beef cattle at \$5.96 a hundred this year, a decrease of 33 cents from last year; veal calves \$7.31, a decrease of 37 cents; hogs \$6.48, a decrease of \$1.22.

Relief in Six Hours

Distressing Kidney and Bladder Diseases relieved in six hours by the "NEW GREAT SOUTH AMERICAN KIDNEY CURE." It is a great surprise on account of its exceeding promptness in relieving pain in bladder, kidneys and back in male or female. Relieves retention of water almost immediately. If you want quick relief and cure this is the remedy. Sold by Graham Drug Co. adv.

TORPEDO STRIKES AMERICAN OIL SHIP

CAPTAIN DIES OF HEART FAILURE AS A RESULT OF THE SHOCK.

FEW OF THE DETAILS KNOWN

Gullight is Struck Off Gully Island.—Washington Believes It Was Accident.

London.—The American oil tank steamer Gullight which sailed from Fort Arthur, Texas, April 10, for Rouen, France, was torpedoed off the Sicily Islands, according to a Central News dispatch.