

# North Carolina's Recent Progress

W. H. Richardson in Review of Reviews.

State-wide constructive policies were unknown in North Carolina as late as 1901, when Charles B. Aycock, then Governor, who died a dozen years later while making an educational address in Birmingham, launched an offensive against ignorance. Until this movement took definite shape and began to show results there was nothing to give the State any favorable distinction. On the other hand, it remained one of the most backward states in the Union in almost every particular.

Measured in terms of dollars and cents, North Carolina's progress is not strikingly different from that of other States, as the entire nation entered upon a new regime following the World War.

A study of causes and effects shows that the State has worked out its own agricultural, educational and industrial salvation by the utilization of forces within itself. In other words, its people have sought happiness under their own vines and fig trees. This is due largely to the fact that this State has, in spite of the country's former liberal immigration policies, remained homogeneous. Of the 2,559,000 enumerated in the 1920 census fewer than 8,000 were foreigners. This may be attributed to two outstanding causes. In the first place, there are no large cities in the State, and in the next place the large industries that have been built up utilize domestic labor almost entirely. Even in the smaller enterprises preference is always given native born Americans.

North Carolina is perpetuating itself both in population and domestic policies. It has the highest birth rate in the Union.

It must be admitted that the Negro is and will always be the greatest barrier against the importation of foreign-born stock, and that if North Carolina is to remain 99 1/2 per cent. American, as it is today, the Negro must be held. So far the State has lost only 25,000 Negroes in the exodus, according to figures compiled by the United States Department of Labor; and it has been asserted that for nearly every Negro who has migrated to the North, there has been another from farther South to take his place.

Support for the Public Schools. The State's educational policy, students of the situation declare, is the foundation on which all other causes contributing to progress rest. Nothing has done more toward lifting North Carolina out of its backward tendencies. Revaluation of education has placed new values on all other forward movements and tendencies.

Yet experience shows that the people were at first unwilling to pay the price. It took money, of course. In addition to this it was necessary to pass laws releasing children from industry. Education won no real victory until a compulsory school attendance law was passed. It is said to the credit of the mill man, however, that he was in no way specially responsible for the tardiness of this reform. Instances have been cited where heads of families moved into cotton factory centers, and put their children to work while they remained idle and subsisted on money earned by those who should have been in school.

However, the leaves continued to work. Aycock did not live to see the formative educational policies which he so ardently advocated put into full operation, but it is only just to say that the gospel he preached laid a large part in building the groundwork upon which the State's present endeavors rest. The year he was elected Governor less than one million dollars was spent for all educational purposes. In 1910 expenditures had increased to \$3,178,950, and during the present scholastic year they will exceed \$23,000,000. The value of public school property has risen from \$5,862,969 in 1910 to over \$35,000,000 now.

During the past year, according to information furnished by Secretary of State W. N. Everett, local communities of their own volition have invested \$21,000,000 in public education, and during the past three years have erected new school houses worth \$25,000,000. In addition to outstanding appropriations, the last General Assembly authorized a bond issue of \$3,000,000 available January 1, 1924, the money to be loaned to counties for a period of twenty years, at a 4 1/2 per cent. interest. No school house of less than five rooms can be built from money thus received by the counties.

Consolidation of rural schools, now playing an important part in the State's educational scheme, has been placed on a scientific basis which is supervised by a committee from the staff of the Department of Public Instruction.

No consolidation is authorized in any case until a county-wide plan has first been mapped out and approved by the State Board of Education. The progress of consolidation has been greatly advanced through the establishment of a State highway system. Transportation is no longer a problem. Six hundred motor driven trucks transport 23,000 children daily.

Public school teachers are better paid today than ever before. And no large rural school is considered well equipped until a teacherage has been erected and furnished. Development of the public school system has naturally taxed institutions for higher learning to their capacity. However, they are receiving ample appropriations for the carrying on of their work. The State University recently adopted an extension policy that will put it into closer touch with the people than it has ever been. Correspondence courses counting toward degrees and teachers' certificates are being sent to all sections of the State. Consequently the passion for higher learning that burns in the breast of the remotest mountaineer may be satisfied.

Agricultural and Technical Training. No institution is meeting its obligations to all classes with more success than the University at Chapel Hill, which has a present appropriation of \$1,650,000 for expansion. This is included in the \$7,044,000 voted by the last General Assembly for permanent improvements at all the institutions for higher learning, including the State College of Agriculture and Engineering at West Raleigh, the North Carolina College for Women at Greensboro, the East Carolina Teachers' College at Greenville,

the Negro Agricultural and Technical College at Greensboro, three Negro Normal Schools at Elizabeth City, Fayetteville and Winston-Salem, the Cherokee Indian Normal School at Pembroke, the Appalachian Training School at Boone, and the Colowhee Normal and Industrial School at Colowhee. For their maintenance there is an annual fund of \$3,490,000.

Increased interest in agriculture, which was brought about largely through the efforts of the State College of Agriculture and Engineering, has also increased the responsibilities of an institution that is now in the midst of a program of expansion involving \$1,250,000. This college has now taken over all educational features connected with agricultural development, and the teaching of agriculture is being made more practical by the study of results obtained inside the State, rather than depending upon statistics which are of little value to the "dirt farmer."

This policy is being developed through the establishment of test farms, or experiment stations. There are now six of these, in various sections of the State, being the one located at the college. Local farmers are being made more practical by the study of results obtained inside the State, rather than depending upon statistics which are of little value to the "dirt farmer."

Dr. E. C. Brooks, formerly State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was made president of the agricultural college. He was reorganized last summer. His successor, as Acting Superintendent is Prof. A. T. Allen, formerly his chief clerk. The appointment of Prof. Allen was made by Governor Morrison, who based his choice upon the desire to see Dr. Brooks' policies continued in the public school system.

Negro Education. It is known that the educational advantages North Carolina has afforded the Negro are largely responsible for his remaining here. The Negro has always played an important part in the State's development and always will. Yet it cannot be denied that he has been the object of prejudice. However, North Carolina has largely overcome this, and is now dealing with the Negro in a different manner. The belief prevails here that education helps not only the Negro, but the white man as well, as education makes a better citizen out of him and promotes a friendly feeling between the races.

So North Carolina is now spending approximately \$4,000,000 a year on Negro education, including nearly \$2,000,000 in salaries for teachers and \$1,000,000 for new and better school houses. This does not include money used for the support of Negro colleges and normal schools.

Expressing gratitude for what the State has done for members of his race, Dr. James B. Dudley, president of the Negro Agricultural and Technical College, which has an appropriation of \$455,000 for permanent improvements, said: "The effects of agricultural and technical training are rapidly gaining the appreciation of the Negro. Twenty-seven years ago, when I became president of the college, industrial training was coveted by most of the Negro institutions of the State. This was the only institution at that time devoted exclusively to industrial training and that boldly championed every Negro institution. Practically every Negro institution now gives some form of industrial training. The best Negro families are turning to agricultural and technical training for their sons."

Appreciation of the Negro's gratitude for economic protection is voiced in a letter received by the Governor after he had dispatched troops to Spruce Pine to prevent expulsion of Negro laborers, following an alleged crime that infuriated this mountain community.

It is not necessary to give the name of the writer. But he is one of the best known Negroes in the State. He said:

I wish to thank you for your prompt action in moving to protect Negro laborers in Mitchell county. Crime can never be condoned. I hope the guilty culprit will be found and punished by due process of law. Your courageous stand that everybody shall be protected in the exercise of his rights, and that Negroes shall be allowed to work, gives us all increased assurance and a greater love for our beloved State.

Such a letter would never have been written in the days when lynchings were condoned or winked at.

Adult Illiteracy. The problem of adult illiteracy for a long time challenged the best thought of educational leaders, but it has been met with marked success through the establishment of schools in industrial centers and in many rural districts throughout the State. Mrs. Elizabeth Kelly, supervisor and writer at one who has twenty years old. The incentive that prompted her was a desire to read the Bible. These schools have a total enrollment of over 12,000.

Adult illiteracy, like Negro education, is handled through a division working under the direction of the Department of Public Instruction. Since the adoption of this method, the percentage of illiteracy has been reduced from 35.6 to 15.1. This demonstrates the result of intensified efforts, or, to express it differently, of specialization. Also the best results in dealing with the Negro have been obtained since the establishment of the Division of Negro Education, at the head of which is Prof. N. C. Newbold. Through this separate division strict supervision of teaching as well as of expenditures is now being maintained.

An increasing tendency to read, especially on the part of the rural population, is nearly shown in reports coming from Miss Mary B. Palmer, secretary and director of the North Carolina Library Commission. During the year now drawing to a close the commission, whose work is largely rural, has circulated 165,000 volumes, reaching every county in the State except one. Nearly 700 traveling libraries, each containing from 25 to 40 volumes, have been sent to 470 places, including 167 new stations. Fifty-eight libraries have been loaned to county summer schools and 535 volumes to 217 rural schools. Debating societies have received 2,302 packages of reference material.

Mrs. Palmer interprets all this to mean, and has so stated at national library meetings, that a rural population, once shown the importance of reading good books and magazines, will demand them. North Carolina remains a rural State. It has, according to the latest federal census, only two towns of over 40,000. On the other hand, there are fifty scattered townships, the State with over 2,000 population. In addition to the facilities afforded by the Library Commission, there are located at various points in the State sixty-five public libraries.

Agricultural Resources. Two natural advantages have contributed materially to North Carolina's agricultural advancement, these being climate and soil. The latest killing frost on the coast occurs a month earlier than that in some mountain counties, while the annual mean temperature ranges from 62 degrees at Wilmington to 54 degrees at Asheville. This, of course, means a long harvest season for the State, taken as a whole, and it will be readily seen, is conducive to diversification.

Many varieties of soil are found over the State, but these are divided into three principal classes, coincident with the grand divisions—sandy loam in the east, cecil clay in the piedmont and darker clay in the west. This also encourages diversification.

While tobacco can be grown in each of the one hundred counties of the State, it is one of the principal crops in less than forty counties, lying principally in the piedmont and central sections of the State. On the other hand, cannot be raised in high altitudes, yet it is one of the principal crops in about forty counties, also in piedmont and coastal North Carolina. Wheat is grown in every piedmont county and in many mountain counties, while peanuts, from which farmers also realize millions of dollars annually, are grown principally in the southeastern corner of the State. Sweet potatoes thrive best in the east. Corn is grown with success in every county.

The growth of the sheep industry in mountain counties is noteworthy, while in the east there are large plantations on which are grown thousands of hogs. As a matter of fact, there is more livestock than ever before being produced throughout the State. This is possibly due in large measure to the fact that more feed is now being raised.

Industry, like agriculture, is confined in no one section, yet the piedmont leads in the number of factories, centered around such towns as Charlotte, Gastonia, Greensboro, High Point, Lexington, Concord, Winston-Salem and other points. In Gaston county, near Charlotte, there are now over one hundred cotton mills.

The beautiful mountain sections of western North Carolina have contributed liberally toward making this State a tourist center, especially during the summer months, while Southern Blue Ridge draws many winter visitors. Until the establishment of a State-wide highway system, however, many mountain sections were inaccessible, except by means of horses. But this handicap has been removed and there is now a road leading to the top of Mount Mitchell—6711 feet—the highest point east of the Rocky Mountains. Some of the richest farming land in the State is found in the mountains, where fruit and other products are raised.

Deforestation has proved a menace and in some sections has done much to mar the natural beauty of the mountains. But this is now being corrected. The establishment of the Pisgah National Forest, which lies in more than half dozen counties and covers hundreds of thousands of wooded acres, will go a long way toward checking deforestation.

Farming Problems. An abundance of home-grown raw materials, such as cotton and tobacco, has given rise to the establishment of large industries in North Carolina which have a combined annual output worth a billion dollars. However, agriculture is still the backbone of the State. In other words, North Carolina is primarily an agricultural State. This is demonstrated by the fact that it ranks fifth in the value of crops, and fourth in the value of livestock and products. Its products in 1922 brought farmers \$342,637,000. Figures for 1923, when completed, are expected to show an increase over this. But this does not mean, though it shows progress, that North Carolina has solved all of its agricultural problems. It has not. Yet its farmers, with the help of a well-organized Department of Agriculture, at the head of which is William A. Graham, active at eighty-three, State College of Agriculture and Engineering, are turning their attention more and more toward improved machinery. They are seeking to get all out of the soil it is capable of producing, by diversification.

But as yet 43.5 per cent. of the farms are operated by tenants and croppers numbering 117,459 of whom 33,917 are white and 83,542 are negro. The average amount of land cultivated in the State is less than eighteen acres per family. This means there is still much waste land. Attempts to reduce the percentage of tenantry have so far borne no fruits. However, definite action is pending. The General Assembly of 1923 appointed a committee composed of three members of its own members and of Dr. C. C. Taylor of the faculty of the State College of Agriculture and Engineering, and Dr. E. C. Branson of the faculty of the University of North Carolina. The purpose of this commission is twofold: To investigate plans of group and community settlements, and to consider the advisability of State aid to landless tenants and croppers. The commission will report to the Legislature in January, 1925, unless there is a session called earlier. It has, in addition to its investigations in North Carolina, visited States as far west as California and is now summing up its preliminary findings.

In two or three counties it was found that 99 per cent. of all land tilled by tenants and croppers was planted in fertility-exhausting rather than in land-improving crops. Tenants and croppers in piedmont and coastal North Carolina were found to be planting tobacco and cotton almost exclusively. Landless farmers, it was learned, have less livestock than land owners, produce less food for home consumption, and enjoy less smaller cash income.

A survey of one mountain county showed that the average cash income of white tenants and croppers was less than ten cents a day per individual. Only one cow was found for every 158 acres worked by white croppers, and one for every 277 worked by negroes. Sixty-five per cent. of landless families took no newspapers or magazines, and only 7 per cent. took daily newspapers. The average family in this class attended less than two recreational events in 1922.

Intensified Agriculture. Experiments conducted by Hugh McRae, of Wilmington, N. C., afforded the commission an interesting study. Mr. McRae conceived the idea that small tracts devoted to intensified farming would not only encourage the planting of a variety of crops, but would yield returns sufficient to enable owners to buy more land without incurring debt. So he provided for seven colonies, financing the project and turning the land over to the settlers ready to cultivate five of these succeeded. One was a partial failure and one a complete failure. But the net result was convincing.

From what is known as the Castle Hayne experiment, a Hanover county truck worth \$625,000 was shipped during the first half of 1923. From April to June, inclusive, seventy-eight car loads and enough packages to fill twenty-five additional cars were marketed.

Mr. McRae's plan is not a money making project, but an experiment. He reported that the land he utilized in the formation of colonies for farm settlers yielded only \$10 a year in taxes before cultivation. It now pays into the county treasury \$35,000. Thus, the county was benefited as well as the farmer. It is claimed that similar developments all over the State would net the counties enough money in taxes to enlarge their school systems materially. This view seems reasonable.

That large farms are by no means necessary to successful cultivation is the opinion held by Frank Parker, agricultural statistician for the State. Recently two farmers met in Mr. Parker's office. When one learned that the other was cultivating only ten acres, he asked in amazement: "Can you make a living in ten acres?" The reply was: "If I can't make a living on ten acres, I know I can on five."

Diversification of Crops. According to Mr. Parker, under whose direction tax lists are prepared to take a farm census in every county, diversification is on the increase. Although cotton, worth \$104,370,000 in 1922 and probably more in 1923, continues to be the State's leading money crop, its last complete tobacco crop netted \$95,000,000, which gave it the lead over Kentucky and made it the first State in the value of this product.

However, Mr. Parker's statement as to diversification seems to be amply justified by the following list of other North Carolina crops and their values: Corn, \$44,063,000; hay, \$21,221,000; sweet potatoes, \$9,044,000; wheat, \$7,491,000; apples, \$4,557,000; peanuts, \$4,547,000; soy beans, \$2,574,000; oats, \$2,504,000; sorghum syrup, \$2,352,000; peaches, \$1,775,000; cowpeas, \$1,432,000. This totals only the staple crops that yield over \$1,000,000 each, in addition to which there are about forty others, including truck and other spring vegetables, also large quantities of strawberries, grown in the eastern part of the State.

There is always a shortage of farm labor, due to the fact that factories offer better wages. No solution for this situation has been found. "All of our reports," says Mr. Parker, "inform me that public works and factories are continually drawing on farm labor and especially from the ranks of the unskilled."

The average farm hand receives \$28 a month with board and \$37 without. By the day he receives \$1.43 with board and \$1.75 without. On the other hand, cotton mills, which employ nearly 100,000 workers, pay as high as \$4.75 a day. Tobacco factories, employing nearly 25,000, including thousands of Negroes, pay as high as \$5.04 a day, while furniture factories, which furnish employment to between 8,000 and 10,000, offer as much as \$5 a day. In addition to these, miscellaneous industries, employing many thousands more, have wage scales ranging from \$1.70 to \$4.64.

Thus, it will be seen at a glance that industry is agriculture's keenest competitor. Yet, both show progress and, after all, neither is the other's economic enemy.

Highway Progress. Until 1921 mud was the farmer's greatest barrier against progress. There was scarcely a dependable highway in the State. This condition was also a serious drawback to education in that the winter months roads in many sections were impassable. The State kept children from school. During the summer months the farmers were the greatest sufferers, being unable to market their crops over the so-called highways, except under favorable weather conditions. Of course, there were exceptions, but bad roads were the rule.

However, the ultra-conservative spirit that had kept North Carolina from adopting a State-wide highway policy was broken down completely in 1921, when, following the advice of Governor Morrison and other leaders in this forward movement, the General Assembly authorized the issuance of \$50,000,000 bonds and provided the necessary legislation for taking over 6,200 miles, of which 2,500 will be hard surfaced, and 3,700 built of durable rock and soil substance. Every county seat has been connected, and trunk lines now connect North Carolina with every adjoining State. An additional bond issue of \$15,000,000 was authorized this year without opposition.

Internal economic needs led to the construction of this highway system. The advertising the State would get out of it did not figure in the motives of those who advocated it. Yet it has advertised the State and has brought many tourists. Last winter a count showed that 500 automobiles bearing license tags of other states were entering North Carolina every day!

The same General Assembly that voted the initial good roads bond issue adopted a new State tax system. Under it there is no levy on real estate or personal property for State purposes. This form of taxation is left with the counties. The State's operating revenue comes principally from incomes, while interest



NEA SERVICE, INC. 1923

CHAPTER I  
A Client for Paul Harley  
SOME of Paul Harley's most interesting cases were brought to his notice in an almost accidental way. Although he closed his office in Chancery Lane sharply at the hour of six, that hour by no means marked the end of his business day. One summer's evening when the little clock upon his table was rapidly approaching the much-desired hour, Harley lay back in his chair and stared meditatively across his private office in the direction of a large and very handsome Burmese cabinet.

Harley's office was part of an old city residence, and his chambers adjoining his workroom, so that now, noting that his table clock registered the hour of six, he pressed a bell which summoned Innes, his confidential secretary.

"Well, Innes," said Harley, looking around, "another uneventful day?"

"Well," replied Innes, laying a card upon the table, "I was just coming in with it when you rang."

Paul Harley glanced at the card. "Sir Charles Abingdon," he read aloud, staring reflectively at his secretary. "That is the osteologist?"

"Yes," answered Innes, "but I fancy he has retired from practice."

"Ah," murmured Harley, "I wonder what he wants. I fancy I had better see him, as I fancy that he and I met casually some years ago in India. Ask him to come in, will you?"

Innes retiring, there presently entered a distinguished-looking, elderly gentleman upon whose florid face rested an expression not unlike that of embarrassment.

"Mr. Harley," he began, "I feel somewhat ill at ease in encroaching upon your time, for I am by no means sure that my case comes within your particular province."

"Sit down, Sir Charles," said Harley with quiet geniality. "Officially my working day is ended; but if nothing comes of your visit beyond a chat it will have been very welcome. Calcutta, was it not, where we last met?"

"It was," replied Sir Charles, placing his hat and cane upon the table and sitting down rather wearily in a big leather armchair which Harley had pushed forward.

Sir Charles evidently was oppressed by some secret trouble, thus Harley mused silently, as taking out a tin of tobacco from a cabinet beside him, he began in a leisurely manner to load a briar.

Sir Charles slowly nodded his head, and seemed in some measure to recover confidence.

"Briefly, then," he said, "I believe my life is in danger."

"How?" said Harley, replacing the tin in the cupboard and striking a match.

"You are naturally anxious for the particulars," Sir Charles presently resumed. "They bear, I repeat to say, a close resemblance to the symptoms of a well-known form of hallucination. In short, with one exception, they may practically all be classed under the head of surveillance."

"Surveillance," said Paul Harley. "You mean that you are more or less constantly followed?"

"I do."

"Anything else?"

"One very notable thing, Mr. Harley. I was actually assaulted less than a week ago within sight of my own house."

"Indeed?" he said. "Tell me of this, Paul. Harley became aware of an awakened curiosity."

"I had been to visit a friend in the neighborhood," Sir Charles contin-

ued, "whom I am at present attending professionally, although I am actually retired. I was returning across the square, close to midnight, when, fortunately for myself, I detected the sound of light, pattering footsteps immediately behind me. I turned in the very instant that a man was about to spring upon me from behind. He was holding in his hand what looked like a large silk handkerchief."

"What did you do?"

"I turned and struck out with my stick."

"And then?"

"Then he made no attempt to contest the issue, but simply ran swiftly off, always keeping in the shadows of the trees."

"Harley," mused Harley, "a very alarming occurrence, Sir Charles. It must have shaken you very badly. But we must not overlook the possibility that this may have been an ordinary footpad."

"His methods were scarcely those of a footpad," murmured Sir Charles. "I quite agree," said Harley. "They were rather Oriental, if I may say so."

Sir Charles Abingdon started.

"Does this suggest a train of thought?" prompted Harley.

Sir Charles Abingdon cleared his throat nervously. "It does, Mr. Harley," he admitted, "but a very confusing train of thought. It leads me to a point which I must mention, but which concerns a very well-known man. Before I proceed I should like to make it clear that I do not believe for a moment that he is responsible for this unpleasant business."

Harley stared at him curiously. "Nevertheless," he said, "there must be some date in your possession which suggest to your mind that he has some connection with it."

"There are, Mr. Harley, and I should be deeply indebted if you could visit my house this evening, when I could place this evidence in evidence. It may be called, before you. I find myself in so delicate a position. If you are free I should welcome your company at dinner."

Paul Harley seemed to be reflecting.

"Of course, Sir Charles," he said presently, "your statement is very interesting and curious, and I shall naturally make a point of going fully into the matter. But before proceeding further there are two questions I should like to ask you. The first is this: What is the name of the 'well-known' man to whom you refer?"

"And the second? If not he then whom do you suspect of being behind all this?"

"Isn't this a pretty slow railroad?" said Brown. "That depends on circumstances," replied Green. "The only time it seems in any great hurry is when you happen to be running to catch the train."

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Sir Charles' perplexity and embarrassment grew more and more marked.

"The one matter is so hopelessly involved in the other," he finally replied, "that although I came here prepared as I thought with a full statement of the case, I should welcome a further opportunity of rearranging the facts before imparting them to you. One thing, however, I have omitted to mention. It is, perhaps, of paramount importance. There was a robbery at my house less than a week ago."

"What? A robbery? Tell me: what was stolen?"

"Nothing of the slightest value, Mr. Harley, to any one but myself—or so I should have supposed. The speaker coughed nervously. "The thief had gained admittance to my private study, where there are several cases of Oriental jewelry and a number of pieces of valuable gold and silverware, all antique. At what hour he came, how he gained admittance, and how he retired, I cannot imagine. All the doors were locked as usual in the morning and nothing was disturbed."

"I don't understand, then."

"I chanced to have occasion to open my bureau, which I invariably keep locked. Immediately—immediately—I perceived that my papers were disarranged. Close examination revealed the fact that a short manuscript in my own hand, which had been placed in one of the pigeonholes, was missing."

"A manuscript," murmured Harley. "Upon a technical subject?"

"Scarcely a technical subject, Mr. Harley. It was a brief account which I was vaguely contemplating publishing in one of the reviews, a brief account of a very extraordinary patient whom I once attended."

"And had you written it recently?"

"No; some years ago. But I had recently added to it. I may say that it was my purpose still further to add to it, and with this object I had actually unlocked the bureau."

"New facts respecting this patient had come into your possession?"

"They had."

"May I suggest that your patient and the 'well-known man' to whom you referred are one and the same?"

"It is not so, Mr. Harley," returned Sir Charles in a tired voice. "Nothing so simple. I realize more than ever that I must arrange my facts in some sort of historical order. Therefore I ask you again: will you dine with me tonight?"

"With pleasure," replied Harley promptly, "I have no other engagement."

CHAPTER II  
The Sixth Sense

PAUL HARLEY stepped into his car in Chancery Lane. "Drive in the direction of Hyde Park Corner," he directed the chauffeur. "Go along the Strand."

Glancing neither right nor left, he entered the car, and presently they were proceeding slowly with the stream of traffic in the Strand. "Full up as the Savoy," he said suddenly through the ladies' glass.

The car slowed down in that little bay which contains the entrance to the hotel, and Harley stared fixedly out of the rear window, observing the occupants of all other cars and cabs which were following. For three minutes or more he remained there watching. "Go on," he directed.

Again they proceeded westward and, half-way along Piccadilly, "Stop at the Ritz," came the order.

The car pulled up before the colonnade and Harley, stepping out, dismissed the man and entered the hotel, walked through to the side entrance, and directed a porter to get him a taxi cab. In this he proceeded to the house of Sir Charles Abingdon.

"Mr. Paul Harley?" said the butler, tentatively.

"Yes, I am he."

"Sir Charles is expecting you, sir. He apologizes for not being in to receive you, but he will only be absent a few minutes."

"Sir Charles has been called out?" inquired Harley as he handed his hat and coat to the man.

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