GASTONIA County Seat of Gaston County After January 1, 1911.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1909.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

In the excitement over the Cook Peary dispute and other matters that are engaging the attention of the public for the moment, there has been very little said in the press of lafe about the Panama Canal, which was for months, in fact has been for years, a standing topic for prolonged discussion. We therefore welcome the views expressed by Chief Justice Gudger, who is spending a vacation of some weeks at his home in Asheville, on the progress of the work and the general conditions in the canal zone. Justice Gudger is eminently qualified to give accurate and unbiased information on the subject, having made the canal zone his home since 1897, when he was appointed consul general. In 1894 he was made associate justice of the supreme court of the canal zone and in Jauary of this year was promoted to the post of Chief Justice. He says that health conditions on the isthmus are now good and that the covernment has made the sanitary onditions as good as is possible; that there is practically no diphtheria, smallpox, yellow fever or such diseases; that of course there is some malaria. He expresses a firm belief that the great work of digging the canal will be completed as estimated by the engineers in charge by 1915, and compliments very highly the manner in which the work is being pushed by Colonel Soethals, chief engineer.

The canal is by far the largest undertaking which the government has ever entered into, and while other natters may for the moment withdraw the attention of the people from its progress, it is still a matter in which the whole nation is deeply and vitally interested. Its compleion will mark a great change in our nerce, especially at the South and will most certainly mean, at east in many important respects, a great impetus to our manufacturing and chipping interests.

ms to have struck pretty alton celebration week was a good time to make that long-deferred visto New York City. The World of sterday says that on Sunday night at 9:30 there were two million sighters on Fifth Avenue alone, and the orts indicate that there are more visitors in the metropolis than ever were gathered there at any one time sefore in its history.

What promised to be an episode of at least national interest, when a tate judge in Georgia defled the federal courts a few days ago by refusing to release a prisoner upon habeas corpus proceedings brought before a United States District judge, collapsed into insignificance last night when the State judge yielded and allowed the prisener to be brought before the federal judge. That the whole affair grew out of an attempt to show that the prohibition law was being violated because a United States storekeeper and guager refused to testify before the State court, gave it another element of in terest which has now faded away.

NEW CHURCH FOR SHELBY.

Methodists Let the Contract for Erec tion of Handsome \$3,000 Brick

Charlotte Observer. lby, Sept. 27 .- The Methodists of South Shelby have "swarmed," to use a time honored phrase, and the esult is the early construction of a andsome brick house of worship. "he contract was let today for this new church and when completed it will represent an outlay of \$3,000. he pastor in charge is Rev. Loy D. m, a young minister of ensy and consecration recently ased by Bishop Atkins to this imtant work and it is largely due to ntiring real that the new church

came a possibility.

Abec & Wilkins have the contract or the brickwork while Bronson on were awarded the contract for

The Lure of the Mask

By HAROLD MAC GRATH

Copyright, 1908, by the Bobbs-

CHAPTER III MME. ANDOT.

HREE nights later, as Hillard and Merrihew were dining together at the club, the steward came into the grall room his placid eye over the groups of ciners. Sincling out Hillard, he came solemnly down to the corner table and tald a little letter at

the side of Hillard's plate "I did not see you when you came in, sir." said the steward, bis voice as solemn as his step. "The letter ar-

rived vesterday." "Thank you, Thomas" With no small difficulty Lillard composed his face and repressed the eagerness in his eyes. She had seen; she had written; the letter lay under his hand! Who said that romance had taken flight? True, the reading of the letter might disillusion him, but always would there be that vision and the voice coming out of the fog. Nonchalantly he



He sat there staring.

turned the letter face downward and went on with the meal. "I did not know that your mai came to the club." said Merribew. doesn't. Only rarely a letter

drifts this way." "Well, go on and read it Don't let me keep you from it. Some charmer, I'll wager. Here I pour all my ndyentures into your ear, and I on my side never so much as get a hint of yours

"Adventures, fiddlesticks! The letter can wait. It is probably a bill." *A bill in a fashionable envelope like that?"

Hillard only smiled, tipped the cradle and refilled Merribew's glass with some excellent Romanee Conti. "When does Kitty sail?" he asked after awhile of silence

"A week from this Saturday, Feb 2 What the dence did you bring up that for? I've been trying to forget it." "Where do they land?"

"Naples. They open in Rome the first week in March. All the arrangeneuts are complete." After coffe Merrihew pushed back his chair. "I'll reserve a table in the billiard room you read your letter.'

"I'll be with you shortly." grate-

So with the inevitable black clear between his teeth Merrihew sauntered off toward the billiard room, while Hillard picked up his letter and studied it. His fingers trembled slightly as he tore open the euvelope. The handwriting, the paper, the modest size, all these pointed to a woman of culture and refinement. But a subtle spirit of irony pervaded it all. She would never have answered his print ed inquiry had she not laughed over it, for pinned to the top of the letter was the clipping, the stupid, banal clipping: "Will the lady who sang from 'Mme Angot' communicate with gentleman who leaned out of the window? J. H., Burgomaster club." was neither a formal beginning nor a formal ending, only four crisp But these implied one thing and distinctly-the writer had no de sire for further communication "with gentleman who leaned out of the window." He read and reread slowly: I am sorry to learn that my singing disturbed you. There was a reason. At that particular moment I was happy.

That was all It was enough. She had laughed. She was a lady humor ously inclined, not to say mischlevous A comic opera star would have sent her press agent round to see what advertising could be got out of the incident; a prima donna would have appealed to her primo tenor for the same purpose. A gentlewoman surely; moreover, she lived within the radius, the official radius, of the Madison square branch of the postoffice, for such was the postmark. Common sense urged him to dismiss the whole and laugh over it as "the lady in the fog" had done. But common sense often goes about with a pedant's strut and is something to avoid on occasions. Here was a barmless pastime to pursue, common sense notwithstanding. The vein of romance in him was strong, and all the commercial blood of his father could not subjugate it. He rang for paper and a messenger and wrote; "Mme. Angot There is a letter for you in the mail department of this office." This time his initials were not necessary. Once the message was on its way he sought Merribew, whom he found knocking the balls about in a spiritless

"A hundred to seventy-five, Dan." "For what?"
"For the mere fun of the game, of

"Make it cigars, just to add inter الاستوار ليم عدا

"Cigars, then." But they both played a very indif-At 10:30 Merribew's eyes began to haunt the clock, and Hillard grew merciful for various rea-

"What time does the performance end?" he asked. "At 10:50, but it takes about twenty minutes to scrape off the makeup."

He made off for the coat room. Hillard laughed and went up to the writing room to fulfill a part of his destiny. He took the letter out and read it again. He replaced the letter in its blue covering, and then for the first time his eye met the superscription. Like a man entranced he sat staring. The steward had there brought the letter to him, and in his first excitement this had made no impression upon his mind. He had seen nothing peculiar nor strange. And bere it was, not his initials, but his

name in full.

She knew who he was! In a fashionable quarter of the city there stood a brownstone house, with grotesque turrets, winding steps and glaring polished red 'tiles. was a touch of the gothic, of the renalssance, of the old English manor; just a touch, however, a kind of blind man's buff of a house. A very rich man lived here, but for ten months in the year he and his family fluttered about the social centers of the world. And, with a house like this on his hands, one could scarce blame him Twice a week during this absence caretaker came in, flourished a feather duster and went away again. Sorlety reporters always referred to this house as "the palatial residence."

This morning a woman stood in the alcove window and looked down into the glistening street. The venetiat red of her hair trupped the reflected sunlight from the opposite windows, and two little points of silver danced in her blue eyes Ah, but her eyes were blue-blue as spring water in the morning, blue as the summer sky seen through a cleft in the mountains, blue as lapis lazali, with the same fibers of gold. And every feature and contour of the fare barmonized with the marrelous bair and the wonderful eyes: s beautiful face, warm, dreamy, engaging, mobile It was not the face of worldly woman; neither was it the face of a girl. It was too emotional for the recond, and there was not enough control for the first.

But the prophecy of laughter did not come to pass. The little wrinkles faded. the mouth grew sad, and the silver points no longer danced in her eyes The pain in her heart was always shadowing. She had seen her fairest dream beaten and crumpled upon the reef of disillusion

Yet again the smile renewed itself. She was a creature of varying moods. She twisted and untwisted the newspaper. Should she? Ought she? Had she not always regretted these singular impulses? And yet what harm to read this letter and return it to the sender? She was so lonely here. It was like being among a strange people, so long ago was it that her foot had touched this soil. Was it possible that she was twenty-five? Was there not some miscount, and was it not ofteen instead? Would not this war of wisdom and folly be decided ere long?

She opened the paper and smoothe out the folds. "Mme. Angot-There is a letter for you in the mall department of this office." It was so droll. It was unlike anything she had ever heard of-a personal inquiry column where Cupids and Psyches billed and cooed. The merest chance had thrown the original inquiry under her notice. Her answer was an impulse to which she had given no second thought till too late. She ought to have ignored it. But she was lonely; the people she knew were out of town, and the jest

might amuse ber. This man was in all probability a gentleman, since he was a member of gentlemen's club. But second thought convinced her that this proved nothing. Men are often called gentlemen out of compliment to their ancestors. Still, if this man only saw the affair from her angle of vision, the grotesque bu mor of it and not the common vulgar intrigue! She hesitated, as well she might. Supposing that eventually he found out who she was? That would never, never do. No one must know that she was in America, about to step into the wildest of wild adventures No: she must not be found out. The king, who had been kind to her, and the court must never know. From their viewpoint they would have declared that she was about to tarnish a distinguished name, to outrage the oldest aristocracy in Europe, the court of Italy. But she had her own oninion: what she proposed to do was in itself barmless and innocent. But this gentleman who leaned out of the window? She had seen the match flare in the young man's face. Was ft the face she had seen in that flash of light that interested her sufficiently to risk the note? Against the dark of the night it had appeared for an instant, clean, crisp, ruddy as a cameo The face warranted confidence.

She had sung because she had been happy, happy with that transient happiness which at times was her portion. Could she ever judge another man by his looks? She believed not. How she had run! The man, bareheaded, giving chase and the burly policeman cross the street!

She stepped down from the alcove, wound the gray vell round the riding crop and tossed them into a corner nehow in the daylight the mario was gone from his face, for she had recognized him that first day in the park. He rode well. She touched a

hell A mald appeared. "Bettina, you will go to the office of this newspaper and inquire for a letter

-Contractor J. T. Spencer is now engaged in moving the Adams house corner Marietta and Franklin recently purchased by Mrs. E. C. Wilson, to the rear of the lot. When placed it will face on Franklin avenue instead of on Marietta as here tofore. Mr. Spencer also has the contract to move two houses for Dr. T. N. Dulin in the Bethel neighborhood. He is an expert in this line of business and has probably moved more houses than any other man in this section of the State.

quick fo The make "There w points were dancing again in the blue

"You may go. Perhaps," and Bertina's mistress smiled-"perhaps I may let you read it and answer it after I am done with it. That would be Merrihew put his cue in the rack.

the maid went about her duties, which

paper! Evidently he was not afraid to trust her. But would he amuse her? The contents gave her a genuine surprise. She ran to the window. Italion! It was written in Italian with all the flourishes of an Italian born. She turned to the signature-Hillard. So he had signed his name in full? She ruminated. How came such a name to belong to a man who wrote Italian so beautifully? She looked at the signature again. John-Glovann She would call him Glovannt. She had been rather clever. To have had the wit to look in the library for the blue book and the clu list-not every woman would have thought of that. Then a new inspira tion came to her. She sent Bettina for the card basket. She scattered the contents upon the floor and sat down Turkish-wise. She sorted the card carefully, and, lo, she was presently re warded. She held up the card in triumph. He had called at this house or Thanksgiving day. He was known then, to the master and mistress. Very good. She now gave her full attention to the letter, which she had not yet perused:

sense of dignity when I saw that idiotic personal of mine in the paper. It is my first offense of the kind, and I am really you would ignore it. To find a woman with an appreciable sense of humor is rare. To find one who couples this with initiation is rarer still. How you found out my name confuses me.

Doubtless you have the club list in your Do you know, when the letter was house. Do you know, when the letter was brought me I saw nothing unusual about the address. It was only when I began this letter that I comprehended how clever you were. There are half a dozen J. H.'s at the club. I tell you truthfully over my own name that your voice startled me.

were far away. I was dreaming of Italy where I was born, though there is no here Italian blood in my veins than there

"What made him think that, I won

I therefore write this in a language fo miliar to us both, certain you could not sing Lecocy's songs in Italian if you did not speak and understand it thoroughly. Signora or signorina, whichever it may be, have we no mutual friends? Are you not known to some one who knows means one who will prove the same of the same

Will you not do me that manned there just a little pura, healthy romance waiting to be given life? Your voice haunts me. Out of every silence it comes to me—"She is so innocent, so youthfull"

JOHN HILLARD.

Romance! The word came back to her. With an unmusical laugh she stood up, shaking the letter to the Romance! She was no longer a girl. She was a woman of five and twenty, and what should a woman know of romance? Ah, there had been a time when all the world was roromance; when the night breeze had whispered it under her casement window, when the lattice climbing roses had breathed it, when the moon and the stars had spelled it Romance! She hated the word not less than she hated the Italian language, the Italian people, the country She spurned the letter with her foot and fed the newspaper to the

ATTENTION- FARMERS'.

Read the "Little Housemaid" ad

The Gazette for first-class printing.

rather neat." The slight nod was a dismissal, and were not many in this bouse.

Meanwhile the lady with the ven tian hair toyed with the letter. Club

To the Lady in the Fog:
To begin with, let me say that I, too, have laughed. But there was some degree of chagrin in my laughter. On my word of honor, it was a distinct shock to my first offense of the kind, and I am really ashamed. But the situation was not ordinary. Ordinary women do not sing in the streets after midnight. As you could not possibly be ordinary, my offense has greater magnitude. To indite a personal to a gentlewoman: A thousand pardons: I doubted that it would come under your notice, and, even if it did, I was sure that

"Indeed!" murmured the lady.

I was startled because my thought

not known to some one who knows me-some one who will speak for me, my character, my habits? "It is rather a dull letter so far."

said the lady. You say you sang because at that me-ment you were happy. This implies that you are not always so. Surely with a voice like yours one cannot possibly be



The letter fluttered into her lap. She leaned on her elbows. It was not bad letter, and she rather liked the boyish tone of it. Nothing vulgar peered out from between the lines Did he really love music? He must, for it was not every young man who could pick out the melody of an old. forgotten opera. Rather than tempt fate she decided not to answer this letter. It would be neither wise nor useful.

We are better prepared than ever to gin your cotton and guarantee to give you satisfaction both as to quality and quantity of daily service. Four gins, rewoven and second-hand bagging.

GASTONIA OIL MILL, Gastonia, N. C.

v Openin Grand Display of Fall Goods Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1 and

Lebovitz Department Stores

An assemblage of stylish Millinery for your inspection. You will find hats harming. The new styles are magnificent and attractive. Every lady can easily find just the hat that is becoming to her and the fine quality at such low prices will more than please her. We have beautiful and stylish Coat Sutits in black and all the leading colors. 100 for your selection your choice from \$7.50 to \$22.50. Ladies' ready made Skirts from \$2.48 to \$9.98 such great values have never been seen before. Ladies' Sweaters all colors \$1.98 to \$2.48.

Thousands of other articles too numerous to mention. You are cordially invited to visit our store and inspect the new Fall and Winter styles. Be convinced that we are the Leaders of low prices.

Lebovitz Department Stores

Agent May Manton Patterns 10c.

GASPONIA, N. C.

nd for Andes' marvelous me

and played with strong feeling Presently she began to sing a haunting, melancholy song by Abt. She was mistress of every tone, every shade, The door opened gradually. Crash!

"Bettina? Bettina, are you lister "I am always tistening." Bettina squeezed into the room, "It is beautiful, beautiful! To sing like that! There will be kings and dukes at your

"Enough!" "Pardon, signora, I forgot. But itsten. I bring a message. A boy came to say that the rehearsal will be at 4 this afternoon. It is now after 12."

She went downstairs to the plane

every expression.

The music was over,

So late? We must be off." "And the letter upstairs on the floor?" "Some day, Betting, you will enter the forbidden chamber, and I shall have to play Bluebeard. This time. owever, I do not mind. Leave it there or barn it." Indifferently.

Bettins knew her mistress, ight best to leave the letter where it lay, forgotten for the time being.

(Contined in next issue.)

-Best cotton is bringing 13 cents on the local market to-day.

According to tests made recently on 728 children from the tenemen house section of New York City, 28 per cent. showed signs of tuberculosis either of the joints, glands or lungs.

Election at Blacksburg.

Gaffney, Ledger. Blacksburg, S. C., Sept. 25 .- The election for the issuance of \$15,000 in bonds for electric lights and street improvements resulted in 89 votes for the bonds and 26 against. Attorneys took special pains to see that the most minute points of law there will be no question as to the vote being a legitimate one this time. This is practically the result of the former election which was declared illegal.

Sacrified for Science.

Some statistician has given out interesting data concerning the large number of lives that have been lost to discover the North Pole; lives sac. rificed in fearless manner in order to subserve the ends of science. The list follows:

Lost. Explorer. 1553-Sir Hugh Willoughby .. 62 1553-Richard Chanceller ... 1576-Sir Martin Frobisher . 1585-Captain John Davis 1594-Willem Barents 1606-John Knight 1612-Thomas Button 14 1620-Han Munk 62 1631-Thomas James 14 1633-Isle of Jen Mayen settlers 7 1634-Isle of Jan Mayen settlers 7 1719-James Knight, .. 60 1735—Lassinius 53

1739-Charlton Laptief12 1741—Bering31 1773—Lord Mulgrave B 1776-Captain Cook 1813-Parry, first voyage 1819-Franklin, first voyage ... 1821-Parry, second voyage ... 1825-Franklin, second voyage. . 4 1829-Sir John Ross 1838-Pease and Simpson 6 1845-Franklin, third voyage . . 135

1848-Sir James C. Ross search

expedition 1849—North Star expedition 1849-Ployer and Herald 1851---Rae 1853-Kane expedition 1862-Hall, first voyage 1864-Hall, second voyage 3 1870-B. Leigh Smith 1871-Hall, last voyage 2 1872—Tegetthoff 2 1875-English expedition 4 1879-Jeannette (De Long) \$3 1881—Greely 20

1897-Andree (balloon) 3

Sustained

icines proves thousa TO REALTH AND HAPPINES Try Ander' next time. . FROST TORRENCE & CO., Gastonia, N. C. "And all other good druggists."

IN THE HOME

Gastonia Cotton. These figures represent the pric paid to wagons

Good middling 13e Strict middling 12% Middling 1236

Belmont Items.

Correspondence of The Gazette. BELMONT, Sept. 27.—Miss Mel-va Gullick, who is attending the Presbyterian College at Charlotte, spent Sunday with homefolks.-Mrs. George Hanks is very III.-Messrs. James Armstrong, Andrew Gullick, Frank West and Howard McKee were Lowell visitors Sunday .- Mr. Lee Armstrong, of Gastonia, visited his uncle, Mr. J. F. Leeper, Sunday. Miss Mabel Patrick was a Charlotte visitor Saturday .- Mr. Lee Hanks, of Spartanburg, S. C., is visiting his parents this week:-Miss Margaret Leave Gastonia ... 7.00 s. m. \$1.35 Hall, of Bessemer City, spent Sun- Leave Crowders .. 7.15 a. m. day at Belmont with relatives .- Leave Bowling ... 7.22 a. m. 1.10 Miss Leah Clark visited relatives in Leave Clover . . . 7.34 a. m. 1.00 Lowell Faturday.-Mrs. J. B. Hall Leave Filbert 7.50 a. m. es a Gastonia visitor Saturday.-Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Leeper delightfully entertained quite a number of friends Friday night.

ATTENTION- FARMERS'. We are better prepared than ever

to gin your cotton and guarantee to give you satisfaction both as to quality and quantity of daily service. Four gins, rewoven and second-hand bagging.

> GASTONIA OIL MILL, Gastonia, N. C.

-Attention is called to the adver. tisement of the Lebovitz department stores in this issue announcing their millinery opening which is to take place on Wednesday, Thursday Friday and Saturday of this week,

Williams is doing the busines when it comes to furniture,

The Fall Hat

Should be selected by every lady with great care and taste. We have given this subject of selecting the right hat for the right face and feature a great deal of attention and have a stock that we believe will meet the approval of the careful lady purchaser. We have been here for years and we strive to please our customers by furnishing them hats that will give the best of satisfaction and at the lowest pessible price. The ladies' are cordially invited to take a look at our HATS.

Misses Ruddocl Over the Singer Sewing Machine

Good morning! W time is it? If your wat or clock isn't right its ti to get it fixed. Go to

John Robinson's 10 Big Shows

ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE OC-CASION, THE CAROLINA AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COM PANY WILL OPERATE SPECIAL TRAIN FROM GASTONIA, N. C., TO CHESTER, S. C., AND RETURN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 1909 ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE

AND RATES. Leave Guthries 8.25 Leave McConnella 8.35 Leave Lowrys ... Arrive Chester .. RETURN

Leave Chester Arrive Gastonia . . 9. Special cars for cold be provided.

Tickets will I parties taking General

DISPLAY WAS The following letter has been re eived by the Torrence-Morris Company and speaks for itself: Sept. 17, 1909.

Torrence-Morris Co., 117 Main Street, Gastonia, N. C.

We acknowledge receipt of Se ember 14th issue of "The Gastonia Gazette" and are very much ple to note the nice news item re ing your attractive window disand also your ad on another We think it is very appropri this time, and you might be ested to know that the day t yesterday we received a wholess me sage from Com, R. E. Peary, and are sending you under separate cover copy of yesterday's issue of Wattham Evening News." This especially satisfactory, as the conditions quite so try reme cold and dampt

Thanking you for y and co-operation, we are, Yours very truly,

E. HOWARD WATCH CO

LAND POSTED NOTICES. For sale at the following for 5 cents; 5 for 10 cents; ents; two dozen for 36 ce 60 cents. Mail orders rompt attention. Garette ng Co., No. 236 Main aven tonia, N. C.