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PHOTOGRAPHER

Keith & Plummer's Block, Up-stairs

Inventor Left His Secret Guarded Well.

By EVELYN WITWOTH. Copyright, 1910, by American Press Association. "Oh, father, I'm afraid that some day

you'll blow yourself up." "Never fear, sweetheart! There is but one thing combustible about these ingredients, and that I never put in till the last. And it must have been mixed with the others an hour before there can be an explosion.".

This dialogue occurred in old Severance's laboratory between him and his daughter Fanny. She was his only child, and he had no wife, so that, being all he had to love in the world. she was his idol.

"Father," she said, changing the gib ject abruptly, "Will has spoken." She threw her arms about his neck and hid her face in his bosom."

"Has he, chick? I'm glad-for your sake, dearle-but for me"- He finished with a deep sigh: "Oh, father, I will never leave you We will always be together."

"Daughter," said the old man, "1 too, have something of importance to tell you. I have discovered a fulminate powder that will revolutionize warfare. It will treble the cange of a cannon or a rifle. I have been offered \$100,000 by the government for my secret. Now that Will has spoken you may tell him that you will have a fortune for a dowry. He is a fine fellow and deserves it and you."

Peter Gower, a man of thirty-five, whom Severance used for an assistant, was eavesdropping outside the door and heard every word of the conver-sation. Although he had worked with Severance, he did not know that his | death? principal had succeeded in his effort. Severance had made the crowning dis-



covery while working alone at night and had guarded his secret carefully even from his assistant, Gower, like Severance, was a chemist, but was employed simply as an assistant and not entitled to any interest in his in-

m this time forward Severance ing him in order to get the secret The assistant knew the main ingredients of the composition, but the one was incomplete he did not know. One making the compound he saw reflected in a mirror before him Gower's face intent upon him. Severance put in all the ingredients, substituting for the uniting substance another than the correct one. An expression of joy came

After this Severance conceived a dread of his assistant. One day he gave his daughter a bit of paper with Manufacturers a single word written on it and told her to put it away in a little trinket fox she had and to be extremely caretul as to its preservation.

One day Fanny Severance was startled by the sound of an explosion in the laboratory, Every drop of blood left her face instantly. Rushing into

while," he said. But the girl did not hear him. She had swooned. He carried her into the house and ministered to her till she came back to consciousness. Then he

Fanny Severance and William Clarke, her flance, found themselves thus unhad expected at their wedding. But the young man showed no disappointment to the girl he loved, and they were married soon after her father's

Gower put the laboratory in order, shut it up and gave Fanny the key. She saw no more of him till soon after her wedding. Then he called ostensibly to learn of her welfare, but really

put in the uniting substance he had seen Severance use, but notwithstanding that he had tried every known percussion substance he had never been able to get an explosion. Recognizing that he had been foiled and that a for tune had slipped through his fingers, he was about to accept the situation when it occurred to him that Sever ance might have left his secret with his daughter. After making formal inquiries he told her that her father had given him all the elements of his compound but one. If he had left her the name of this uniting chemical she might yet be rich, for he (Gower), having all the rest, with this could manufacture the powder.

When her husband came home that evening Fanny told him of Gower's call and what he had said. Later on. going to her trinket box, she noticed the paper her father had given her Taking it to her husband, she told him of the circumstance attending her re ceiving it and asked him if he knew what it meant. The young man look ed at the word written on the paper It was a curious mixture of letters spelling an almost unpronounceable word. Then suddenly an idea occur red to him. He told his wife that I might be the crowning chemical used by her father for his compound.

"Then," said Fanny excitedly, "all

we have to do is to give it to Mr Gower and we will yet be rich." But William Clarke believed in the adage "Make haste slowly." He slept but little that night, thinking why, if SECOND: We buy for Cash and our customers get the benefit of the this was the required substance, Severance had left it without the other ingredients of the compound. He must have had a reason for doing so Clarke thought for hours upon this reason. Was it that Gower knew the other ingredients and in the event of the inventor's death could go on with the manufacture of the powder in case Fanny would give it to him. If so it meant that Fanny was the real possessor of the secret. But why had not Severance told her that what he had given her was the key and what she was to do with it in case of his

"Fanny," sail the young husband the next morning, giving her the daily parting kiss, "go into the laboratory today and see what you can find there."

Fanny took the key to the building and, with a shudder, going into the laboratory, began to hunt-what for she did not know. There was a tiny safe in the wall that interested her Remembering that she had father keys in the bouse, she went for their and, picking out an odd looking one pped it into the lock. It fitted ex actly, and, turning it, she opened the small door and took out several pa pers. Selecting one, she read it and staggered as if stricken. It read:

Suspecting that my assistant, Peter Gower, will murder me (he thinks he pessesses my secret) I leave this paper in case anything happens to me. I dare not give the secret to any one, even to my daughter, now, but trust this action will insure it to her without the risk that would occur if it left my keeping.

On another paper was a list of the ingredients except one, which the writ er said he had given to his daughter A horrible thought entered the young wife's mind. Her father had prob ably been murdered.

"Bless him!" she exclaimed, kissing the record he had made. "Had it not been for his care a murderer would have robbed me of my rights." The hours dragged slowly till her husband came home, and she told him

of her discovery. He read the paper and, taking his wife in his arms, said: "Sweetheart, it is our duty to avenge your father." "How?"

"There are ways in which Gower could have contrived an explosion. He might have mixed substances that would require a few minutes or a few hours to unite chemically. He might was conscious that Gower was watch- have run a wire underground to the outside of the laboratory and ignited some substance within by an electric spark. He might have tossed a bomb substance without which the union at his victim's feet. Whatever his means, he doubtess removed all eviday while Severance was at work dences of its character, for you left him to lock up the laboratory."

"So I did," she said wonderingly. "But could I have done otherwise? wouldn't have gone there myself on

any account." The next day Clarke took steps to renew the negotiations with the gov ernment broken off by his father-in law's death. The matter dragged, as all matters connected with governments are bound to drag. But Clarke. who had more business ability than the inventor, started negotiations with another country and before long had two nations bidding against each oth er. The result was that he finally received five times as much as was of-

fered Severance. When payment was handed to Clarke scarcely recognizable. Gower followed it triumphantly over his wife's head, exclaiming: "There's your dowry!"

But the wife's joy was subdued by the sad memory of her father's death. "Alas, poor father!" she said, with tears in her eyes. The next day Clarke did the more

melancholy duty of handing the police. the paper incriminating Peter Gower. A warrant was issued for his arrest, expectedly cut off from the dowry they and as soon as he was taken an investigation of the laboratory was made. A tiny hole was found under a workbench through which a wire might line of have been passed to the cellar. To lead it from there to the outside of the building no other hole was needed since it could have been passed through a window. This single hole was the only evidence against the accused, and it was not sufficient to convict him. to see if he could get from her a bit of He was acquitted of the murder by the secret information. He had put to- jury, but not by the public. When gether the chemicals necessary to the freed he disappeared and has never

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