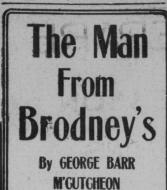
OPY

THE UNION ADVOCASEAUU INOV. 1 1910



1,1908, by Dodd, Mead @ Co

"Yes, Mr. Britt." "Good!" Then he went away, leav-ing the quartet unconsciously de-pressed by the emphasis he placed upon that single word. The nearny was greeting the statu-seque natives with a friendliness that could calculations. It was evident that the meeting was prearranged. There was no attempt at secrecy. The hat the meeting was prearranged in hat the meeting was prearranged in rehabilitating Wyckholme's "nest." The chateau was now under the onference, whatever its portent, had very eye of the enemy. he merit of being quite aboveboard. a the end the tail solicitor, lifting his CHAPTER IX. elmet with a gesture so significant hat it left no room for speculation, turned and sauntered through the ad gateway and out into the forest d. The three servants returned as they had come, by way of the bridle path along the wall.

"The nerve of him!" exclaimed Browne. "That graceful attention was meant for us. I'll have Britt inter-view those fellows at once. Our kitch-n, our stable and our domestic disci-line are threatened."



1)

"I hope you are not forgetting what I said about the American gunboats," said Britt ponderously. "Ah," said Baillo, with a cunning "I don't apprehend"- began Samrs nervously. "Saunders," said Britt calculatingly smile, "our man is also a great Ameri-can. He can command the gunboats, and evenly, "next thing we'll have to begin hunting for insanity in your family. We haven't heard anything from you on this little point, Lord Deppingham." "I don't know anything about Mr. Saunders' family," said Deppingham stiffly. Britt looked at him for a mo-

ment, puzzled and uncertain. Then he gave a short, hopeless laugh and said under his breath: "Holy smoke!" When he finally called the conference adjourned and prepared to de-part he calmly turned to the stenog-

sked Lady Agnes in her sweeter

"Did you get all this down, Miss Pelham? "Yes, Mr. Britt."

THE AMERICAN BAR.

OC'RE wanted at the phone. Mr. Britt," said Miss Pel-ham. It was late in the even-ing a day or two afterward.

Britt went into the booth. He was not in there long, but when he came out he found that Miss Pelham had have the great power. He shows us that he can call upon the English ships as well, for he comes last from Len-don. He can have both, while you disappeared. The coincidence was sig-nificant-Mr. Saunders was also miss-ing from his seat on the window sill have only one. Besides, he says you cannot send a message in the air with in our stable and our domestic disci-dine are threatened." They hastened to the chateau and egaled the resourceful Britt with the Baquieting news. That evening he dragged the relue-ant Saunders into the privacy of the out the wire unless he give_per: sion. He have a little machin catch all the lightning in the s hold it till he reads the me

man is a great man-next to 2 med." paraphernalia. Britt passed his hand over his brow "Say," he said without ceremony, staggered by these statements. "the enemy's in trouble. Bowles just "Say, he's smoother than I thought. Most men would have been telephoned. There's a lot of excite-ment in the town. I don't know what to make of it." "Then why the devil are you break-ing in here with it?" growled Depping-

Most men would have been — fools enough to say that it was all popycock about me sending wireless messages and calling out navies, but not he! And that machine for tapping the air! Say, we'd better go slow with that fellow. Shall I call him up on the phone and head off the strike?" "Anything Mr. Britt to get back ham. "This'll interest you, never fear. There's been a row between Von Blitz and the lawyer, and the lawyer has nnmereifully thrashed Von Blitz. Good Lord, I'd like to have seen it, wouldn't you, Browne? Say, he's all right, isn't he?" "Anything, Mr. Britt, to get back our servants," said Lady Deppingham, who had come up with Mrs. Browne.

When Britt reappeared after a brief stay in the telephone booth he was "What was it all about?" demanded perspiring freely, and his face was redder, if possible, than ever before. Browne "It seems that Von Blitz is in the

"He was very peremptory at first and very agreeable in the end. I said we'd come down at 4:30. He asked habit of licking his wives," said Britt. "Our friend the enemy met him this evening and told him that no white me to bring some cigarettes. Say, he's a strenuous chap. He wouldn't haggle man could beat his wife, singular or plural, while he was around. Von Bilitz is a big, ugly chap, and he nat-urally resented the interference with his divine might. He told the lawyer witing for them under the awning in front second." waiting for them under the awning in front of the bank. He looked a man from the top of his head to the tips of his canvas shoes. Every line of his long body indicated power, vitality, to go hang or something equivalent. The lawyer knocked him down. From the way Bowles tells it he must have knocked him down so incessantly in the next five minutes that Von Blitz's

the next five minutes that Von Blitz's attempts to stand up were nothing short of a stutter. Moreover, he wouldn't let Von Blitz stab him worth a cent. Bowles says he's got Von Blitz cowed, and the whole town is the iron benches. the iron benches walking in circles, it's so dizzy. Well, brawny figure "It's very good of you to come down. If you'li come to my shack I'll mix you a real American cocktail, a mint julep, a brandy smash or anything you

There's a fine mint

bed up my way, just back of the

shan't eatch me napp

lection of The

(To' be continued)

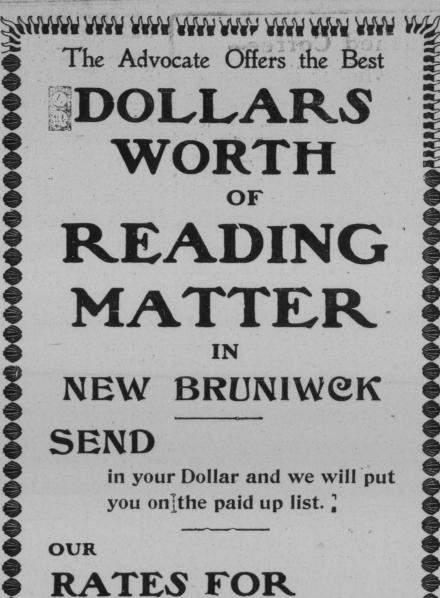
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STRAIN BYF

"Our man is a great man

hammed."

too, sahib. We have told him that you



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hanging garden and deliberately inter-rupted the game of bridge which was

"Ladies and gentlemen," said Mr. Britt, calmly dropping into a chair near by, "this place is full of spies." es!" cried four voices in unison.

Saunders nodded a plaintive apol-

"Yes, sir, every native servant here here for today. I've analyzed the slt-uation and I'm right. Ain't I, Mr. Saunders? Of course I am. He came here to tell 'em what to do and how to report our affairs to him. See? More-over, he's getting the evidence of everybody to prove that Skaggs and Wyckholme were men of sound mind to the hour of their death. He has the depositions of agents and dealers in Bombay, Aden, Suez and three or European cities, all along that He goes over the day's business at the bank as often as we do as agents for the executors. He knows just how many rubles and sapphires were washed out yesterday and how much they weigh. It's our business, as your agents, to scrape up every-thing as far back as we can go to prove that the old chaps were mentally off their base when they drew up that pent and will. Of course if we can prove that insanity has always run through the two families it"--

Good Lord!" gasped Browne nervsly.

-"it would be a great help. If we an show that you and Mrs. er-Lady Deppingham have queer spells occa-

"Not for all the islands in the world, Not for all the islands in "The idea! eet Lady Deppingham. "The idea! ieer spells! Please be good enough leave me out of the insanity dodge, you Americans call it."

ary to make my husband der to establish the fact dfather was not of sound his grandfather was not of sound d?" queried pretty Mirs. Browne, her caluest Boston inflection. t depends on your husband," said t cooly. "If he sticks at anything ch may help us to break that will certainly insane. That's all I've to say about M." Well, I'm hunged if YE pose as an process of the provide

nged if Fil pose as oared Browns. 's hasn't asked me

to make it short, the lawyer has got to make it short, the hawyer has got Von Biltz to hating him secretly, and the German has a lot of influence over the people. It may be uncomfortable for our good looking friend." "If he should be in great danger

bungalow. It's more precious than a ruby mine, let metell you. And yet I'll gladly exchange 300 carats of down there," said her ladyship firmly -perhaps consciously-"we must offer him a safe retreat in the chateau." The others looked at her in surprise. "We can't stand off and see him murmint, Mr. Britt, for a dozen boxes of your cigarettes. Do you know, gen-

tlemen. I made the greatest mit dered, you know," she qualified hastily. The next morning a messenger came of my life in failing to bring a ton of these little white sticks out with me. up from the town with a letter direct-ed to Messrs. Britt and Saunders. It I thought of Gordon gin, both kinds of vermuth, brandy, and all that sort of thing, and completely forgot the staff of life. I happen to know that you have a million packages of them, more was from the enemy and requested them to meet him in private confer-ence at 4 that afternoon. "I think it will be for the benefit of all concerned if we can get together," whote the en-

or less, up at the chateau. My spies told me. I dare say you know that I have spies up there all the time. The messenger carried back with him a dignified response in which the counselors for Mr. Browne and Lady Deppingham respectfully declined to engage in any conference at this time. At 2 o'clock that afternoon the entire force of native servants picked up their belongings and marched out of the chateau. The major domo, suave and deferential, gravely informed Mr. Britt that they were leaving at the in-stigation of their legal adviser, who had but that hour issued his instrucemy in conclusion. The messenger carried back with



tiemen, comprises the entire popula-tion of Japat. Here is where I receive my clients. Here is where they re-ceive their daily loaf, if you will par-don the simile. I sit in the chairs; they squat on the rugs. We talk about rubbes and samphires as if they were es and sapphires as if they wer uts. Occasionally we talk about neighbors. Shall I make three juleps? Here, Selim! The ice,

neighbors. Shall I make three juleps? Here, Selim! The ice, mint and the straws-and the bot-Sit down, gentlemen. This is American bar that Baedeker tells about-the one you've searched ver Europe for, I dare say." eminds me of home, just a little said Britt as the tall glasses out before them. The Englishset before them. The English was still clothed in reticence

eaching the People

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