The BLACK BOX By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM

pyright, 4915, by Otta F. Wood.)

avenue way."

claimed with a grimace.
The inspector nodded,

description of him."

breathlessly.

however.

"We have had those boys at the

station," he went on, "and we have

questioned them carefully. It seems

that after they had picked up the ball.

a man came out of the side entrance

of the house, saw them reading Miss

Lenora's message, and shouted after

them. The boys had sense enough

to scoot. The man ran after them,

but had to give it up. Here is their

The inspector took a piece of pa-

per from his pocket. They all waited

"Had to drag this out of the boys,

bit by bit," the inspector proceeded

"but boiled down and put into reason

able language, this is what it comes

to: A man of medium height, rather

thin, pale, and after running a

short distance he put his hand to

his heart, as though out of breath.

One of the boys thought his nose was

a little hooked, and they both re-

marked upon the fact that although

he shouted after them he used no

swear words, but simply tried to in-

duce them to stop. This description

"It is a very accurate discription of

The professor looked troubled, also

"Under these circumstances," the

inspector continued. "I have had the

house watched, and I propose that we

now search it systematically. It is

very possible that something may

transpire to help us. Of course, my

men went through it roughly when

we brought Miss Lenora away, but

that wasn't anything of a search to

count if the place really has become

"What about the ownership of the

The inspector nodded approvingly.

"I am making a few inquiries in

that direction," he announced. "I ex-

pect to have something to report very

shortly."
The professor stood drawing on

his gloves. The vague look of trouble

gests to me, I must confess-we are

oing to see the house inspector?"

ing?" he added glancing at Laura.

"We are on our way there now, sir

-that is if the young ladies are will-

"We've been waiting here with our

Whole Staircase Suddenly Began

to Revolve.

your ten minutes out some, Mr.

hats on for the last half hour." Laura

"Tell me again." he begged. "the

still lingered in his face.

it's not a bad neighborhood."

idence is situated?"

house?" Quest asked, as he took up

"Craig," Lenora said firmly.

Craig," Sanford Quest agreed.

SEE THE MOVING PICTURES CORRES PONDING WITH THIS INSTALLMENT IN PALACE THEATRE, FRIDAY AND SATUR-DAY, THIS WEEK.

SYNOPSIS.

Sanford Quest, master criminologist of the world, finds that in bringing to justice Macdougal, the murderer of Lord Ashleigh's daughter, he has but just becau a life-and-death struggle with a mysterious master criminal. In a hidden hut in Professor Ashleigh's garden he has seen an anthropoid ape skeleton and a living inhuman creature, half monkey, half man, destroyed by fire. In his room have appeared from nowhere black boxes, one containing diamonds torn from a lovely containing diamonds torn from a lovel throat by a pair of armless, threatening hands, both with sarcastic, threatening notes signed by the inscrutable hands. H is arrested for the murder of his valet. Ross Brown, and a Miss Quigg, in his rooms. Laura and Lenora, his assistan's. suspect Craig, the professor's valet. Le nora is abducted by the threatening hands, but is rescued. Quest clears him self of the murder charge, but falls to trap Craig. In his rooms another black box appears in the rifled safe and, return-ing the diamonds a second time, the acing the diamonds a second time, the accompanying note tells him he has no chance against the inherited cunning or

SEVENTH INSTALLMENT

THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY.

CHAPTER XVI.

Something in the nature of a conference was proceeding in Quest's study. The professor was there, seated in the most comfortable easychair, smoking without relish one of his host's best cigars, watching with nervous impatience the closed door. Laura and Lenora were seated at the suggest anything to you, gentlemen?" table, dressed for the street. They had the air of being prepared for some excursion. Quest, realizing the professor's highly strung state, had left him alone for a few moments a little perplexed. He said nothing, and was studying a map of New York. The latter, however, was too ill at ease to keep silent for long.

"Our friend French," he remarked "gave you no clue, I suppose; as to the direction in which his investigations are leading him?"

Quest glanced up from the map. None at all. I know, however, that the house in which Lenora here was confined is being watched closely." The professor glanced across to a haunt of criminals." ward the table before which Lenora

was seated. "It seems strange," he continued, "that the young lady should have so little to tell us about her incarceration."

Lenor "What could there be to tell," she asked, "except that it was all horrible, and that I felt things—felt dangerswhich I couldn't describe."

The professor gave vent to an im patient little exclamation. "I am not speaking for fancies," he

persisted. "You had food brought to you, for instance. Could you never see the hand which placed it inside your room? Could you hear nothing of the footsteps of the person who brought it? Could you not even surmise whether it were a man or a woman?

Lenora answered him with an evident effort. She had barely, as yet, recovered from the shock of those

"The person who brought me the food," she said, "came at night-never in the daytime. I never heard anything. The most I ever saw was once -I happened to be looking toward the door and I saw a pair of handsnothing more—setting down a tray. I shricked and called out. I think that I almost fainted. When I found courage enough to look, there was nothing there but the tray upon the floor."

The professor sighed as he turned away. "It is evident, I am afraid," he said, "that Miss Lenora's evidence will help no one. As an expert in these affairs. Mr. Quest, does it not seem to you

that her imprisonment was just a little purposeless? There seems to have been no attempt to harm her in any way. Whoever took the risk of abducting her," Quest pointed out grimly, "did it for a purpose. That purpose wou'l probably have been devel-

opec n course of time. However we look at it, Mr. Ashleigh, there was only one man who must have been anxious to get her out of the way, and that man was Craig. Here comes our friend French. I have an idea that he has something to tell us." They glanced expectantly towards the door as French entered. The in-

spector, who was looking very spruce and well brushed, wished them a general good-morning. His eyes rested last and longest upon Laura, who seemed, however, unconscious of his presence.

"Now, then, French," Quest began, as he returned his greeting, "take a cigar, make yourself comfortable in that chair and let us have your news, As you see, we have obeyed orders, We are all ready to follow you any-

"It won't be to the end of the world,

vering his tone a little. "Had some

nation in about that house I couldn't quite size up. You're looking vell this morning, Miss Laura." Say, who are you guying!" she re agreed.

"I mean it." the inspector persisted "That hat seems to suit you."

as a judge of millinery!"

both with an air of blank astonish-"No need to give me away like that,"

you are ready." anyway," the inspector remarked, as he lit his cigar. "I am going to propose a little excursion down Gayson "Back to that house?" Lenora ex-

grave, almost haggard.

"Mr. Quest," he said, "Inspector a statement to make." They both turned quickly toward

him. The inspector smiled in a conobvious that he knew what was com

"Some years ago." the professor made a present of it to-"

"To whom?" Quest asked quickly "To my servant Craig," the professor admitted with a groan. Lenora gave a little cry. She turned

triumphantly towards the inspector "All recollection as to its locality had escaped me," the professor con tinued sorrowfully. "I remember that it was on the anniversary of his having been with me for some fifteen years that I decided to show him some substantial mark of my appreciation. I knew that he was looking

our ago from a call omce and connection was established. That is to upstairs and get her out of this say, that someone spoke from this devil's house." others pass on, and descended the

"Then if your men have maintained their search properly, that someone," Quest said slowly, "must be in the house at the present moment." "Without a doubt," the inspector

"I am going to search the front room on the first floor before we do anything else," said Quest. "I think case. Laura laughed at the top of her that if you wait here I may be able to show you something directly."

minute contemplatively at a large but it, man, it's open!" Lenora turned and looked at them rather shallow cupboard, the door of ment. The inspector was a little em- with his forefinger upon the back part men came running up from the aveand, drawing out his revolver, delib. ish. he muttered, as they reached the hall. erately fired into the floor, a for it "Now then, ladies and gentlemen, il inches inside. There was a half- | ed. stifled cry. The false back suddenly They took their places in the automobile and drove off. As they Quest's revolver covered him, but the slip." neared the vicinity of Gayson avenue there was no necessity for its use. there was no necessity for its use.

Craig, smothered with dust, his face white as a piece of marble, even his "we hadn't our eyes glued on was the professor began to show signs of Craig, smothered with dust, his face up at last outside the house he gave jaw shaking with fear, was wholly the front door. He must have come a little exclamation. His face was unarmed. He seemed, in fact, incapable of any form of resistance.

"Walk out of the room." Quest or-French, I deeply regret that I have dered, "in front of me-so! Now turn to the right and go down the

They all gave a little cry as they fidential manner at Laura. It was saw him appear, a trembling, pitiful creature, glancing around like a trapped animal. He commenced to descend the stairs, holding tightly continued, "I bought this house and to the banisters. Quest remained on the landing above, his revolver in his

> hand. French waited in the hall below, also armed. Laura gripped Lenora's arm in excitement.

"They've got him now!" she claimed. "Got him, sure!"

On the fourth or fifth stair Craig hesitated. He suddenly saw the professor standing below. He gripped the banisters with one hand. The other he flung out in a threatening gesture.

"You've given me away to these for a demicile for his father and bloodbounds!" he cried-"you, for



He Was: Wearing Craig's Clothes

mother, who are since both deau and I requested a house agent to send whom I have toned and slaved, me in a list of suitable residences. I have followed all over the world This, alas! was the one I purchased."

name of the avenue in which this res. Quest glanced around the place. "I think," he said, "that the profes-"Gayson avenue," the inspector resor's statement now removes any plied. "It's a bit out of the way, but doubt as to Craig's guilt. You are down! You!" sure the house has been closely.

The professor repeated the address watched, inspector?" to himself softly. For a moment he "Since I received certain information," French replied, "I have had the best servant man ever had. If stood quite still. His manner showed helf a dozen of my best men in the you are innocent of these crimes you signs of growing anxiety. He seemed vicinity. I can assure you that no can clear yourself. If you are guilty to be trying to remember something. one has entered or left it during the a dog's death is none too good for "The name," he admitted finally, as they moved towards the door, "suglast twenty-four hours."

> steps and entered by the front door. house was an ordinary framework one of moderate size, in poor repair, and showing signs of great neglect. The rooms were barely furnished and their first cursory search revealed no traces of habitation. There was still the broken skylight in the room which Lenora had occupied, and the bed upon which she had slept was still crumpled. French, who had been tapping the walls down-

They made their way to the piazza

was standing before what appeared to be an ordinary panel. "Look here," he said, glancing out you what I have just discovered."

stairs, called to them. They trooped

down into the hall. The inspecto

revolved, disclosing a small cupbeard fitted with a telephone instru-

"A telephone," the inspector remarked, pointing to it, "in an unoccupied house and a concealed cup- dangerous." board. What do you think of that?" The professor shook his head.

"Don't ask me," he groaned. French took the receiver from its rest and called up the exchange. "Inspector French speaking," announced. "Kindly tell me what is

the number of the telephone from which I am speaking, and who is the He listened to the reply and asked nother question.

"Can you tell me when this instru- away, just in time, nent was last used? . . . When? . Thank you!" The inspector hung up the receiver,

quest. The telephone was used an

whom I have served faithfully with the last breath of my body and the last drop of blood in my veins! You have brought them here—tracked me The professor shook his head sor

rowfully

"Craig." he said. "von have been

Craig seemed to sway for a moment upon his feet. Only Lenora, from the hall, saw that he was fitting his right foot into what seemed to be a leather loop hanging from the banisters. Then a wild shout of surprise broke from the lips of all of them, followed by a moment of stupefied wonder. The whole staircase suddenly began to revolve. Craig, clinging to the banisters, disappeared. In a moment or two there was a fresh click. Another set of stairs, identical to the first, had taken their place.

"The cellar!" Onest shouted as h rushed down the stairs. "Quick!". They wrenched open the wooden door and hurried down the dark steps of the corner of his eye to be sure into the gloomy, unlit cellar. The that Laura was there, "let me show place was crowded with packing cases and two large wine barrels stood in He felt with his thumb for a spring, the corner. At the farther end was he a moment or two a portion of the a door. Quest rushed for it and stood wall, about two feet in extent, slowly | guard. A moment later, however, he called to Laura and pressed his revolver into her hand.

"Stand there," he ordered. "Shoot him if he tries to run out. I'll search in the packing cases. He might be

The professor, out of breath, was leaning against one of the pillars, his arm passed around it for support Lenora, with Quest and French searched hastily amongst the packing cases. Suddenly there was a loud crack, the sound of falling masonry followed by a scream from Laura. French, with a roar of anger, rushed toward her. She was lying on her side, already half covered by falling bricks and masonry. He dragged her

"My God, she's fainted!" he exclaimed.

"I haven't," Laura, faltered, trying "The subscriber's name," he told to open her eyes, "and I'm not going them dryly, "is Brown. The number to, but I think my arm's broken, and replied promptly. "You've stretched is not entered in the book, by re- my side hurts." "The fellow's not down here, any

and found a chair for her in the hall. The inspector swung open the tele-phone cupboard and called for an ambulance. Then Quest, who had been examining the staircase, suddenly gave a little exclamation

"He's done us!" he cried. "Look we shall here, French, this is the original stair after all." case. There's the leather loop. I know it because there was a crack on the fourth stair. When we rushed down the cellar after him, he swung "Say, kid," she exclaimed to Le Quest ascended the stairs and entered a wholly unternished room critical than the inspector nere's setting up the left hand side. He looked for a walked out of the front door. Damn

> They hurried outside. French blew which stood open, and tapped lightly his whistle. One of the plain-clothes of it. Then he withdrew a few feet nue. He was looking a little sheep-

> > "What's wrong?" French demands "He's gone off," was the unwilling

out through that. There's been a motortruck with one or two queers of a steamer there. looking chaps in it at the corner of the avenue there for the last ten minutes. I'd just made up my mind to stroll round and see what it was up to when Jim, who was on the other of river, where a small steamer was side, shouted out. A man jumped up lying.

into it and they made off at once." The inspector's rubicund counter nance was white with fury. His head the sirens directly when they begin kept turning in the direction of Laura, to move down." to whom the professor was busy rendering first aid

"If I never take another job on as long as I live," he declared, "I'll have that fellow before I'm through!"

CHAPTER XVII.

The professor roused himself from what had apparently been a very gloomy reverie.

"Well." he announced, "I must go home. It has been very kind of you, Mr. Quest, to keep me here for so fong.

Quest glanced at the clock "Don't hurry, Mr. Ashleigh," he said. "We may get some news at any moment. French has a dozen men out on the search and he has promised to ring me up immediately he up the anchor of the Durham and

hears anything." The professor sighed. "A man," he declared, "who for twenty years can deceive his master as utterly and completely as Craig has done me, who is capable of such diabolical outrages, and who, when capture stares him in the face, is capable of an escape such as he made of the steamer another tug shot out today, is outside the laws of probability. Personally, I do not believe that I shall ever again see the face of my servant, any more than that in a plain black suit. Quest, with a you, Quest, will entirely solve the little shout, recognized the man at mystery of these murders and the the helm from his long, brown beard. theft of the Rheinholdt jewels. What can we do against men who have re- was in the truck," he declared, "and

scientific eriminal, if ever there was Quest crossed the room towards his gar cabinet, and opened it. His little tart was apparent to both of them. enora laid down the bag which she had just lifted up., The professor leaned forward in his chair

"What is it. Quest?" he demanded. Quest stretched out his hand and icked up from the top of the cigars small black box! He laid it on the

"Unless I am very much mistaken," said, "it is another communication from our mysterious friend." "Impossible!" the professor ex-

claimed hoarsely. "How cam he have been here?" Le-

nora cried! Quest removed the lid from the box and drew out a circular card. Around the outside edge was a very clever pen and ink sketch of a lifebuoy, and inside the margin were several sentences of clear handwriting. In the middle was the signature—the elenched hands! Quest read the message aloud:

In the great scheme of things, the Supreme Ruler of the universe divided am inheritance amongst his children. To one he gave power, to another strength, to another beauty, but to his favorite he gave cunning. They all looked at one another. "What does it mean?" Lenora

pagned "A lifebuoy!" the professor murmured.

They both stared at Quest, who remained silent, chewing hard at the end of his cigar "Every message," he said, speaking half to himself, "has had some sign

nificance. What does this mean-a lifebuoy?" He was silent for a moment. Then e turned suddenly to the professor. "What did you call those men in the motortruck, professor-river pirates?

And a lifebuoy! Wait."

He crossed the room towards his desk and returned with a list in his hand. He ran his finger down it, topped and glanced at the date. "The Durham," he muttered, "cargo cotton, destination Southampton, sails at high tide on the 16th. Lenora, is

that calendar right?" "It's the 16th, Mr. Quest," she answered. Quest crossed the room to the tele-

"I want number one, central," he said. "Thank you! Put me through to Mr. French's office. . . . Hello French! I've got an idea. Can you came round here at once and brine

to the docks-not where the passen Good! We'll wait."

Quest hung up the receiver. "See here, professor," he continued, that fellow wouldn't dare to send this message if he weren't pretty sur of getting off. He's made all his plans beforehand, but it's my belief we shall just get our hands upon him

stop outside and French appeared. 'Anything doing?" he asked.

Quest showed him the card and the The inspector glanced at the clock

Then we've got to make tracks he declared, "and pretty quick, too. She'll be starting from somewher about number twenty-eight dock, long way down Come along, gen

They hurried out to the automobil and started off for the docks. Th latter part of their journey was ac complished under difficulties, for the street was packed with drays and heavy vehicles. They reached dock number twenty-eight at last, however, and hurried through the shed on to the wharf. There were no signs

"Where's the Durham?" Quest asked one of the carters, who was just getting his team together. The man pointed out to the middl.

"There she is," he replied. "She'll be off in a few minutes. You'll hear

Quest led the way quickly to th edge of the wharf. There was : small tug there, the crew of which were just making her fast for th night.

"Fifty dollars if you'll take us or to the Durham and catch her before she sails." Quest shouted to the man who seemed to be the captain

They clambered down the iron lac der and jumped on to the deck of the tug. The captain seized the wheel The two men who formed the crew took off their coats and waistcoats. "Give it to her, Jim," the former ordered. "Now then, here goes! We'll

just miss the ferry." They swung around and commence their journey. Quest stood with his watch in his hand. They were getting from higher up the river came the screech of steamers beginning to move on their outward way.

"We'll make it all right," the cap tain assured them. They were within a hundred yards of the Durham when Quest gave a lit and her siren shricking, the Durham tle exclamation. From the other side away, turning back towards Nev York. Huddled up in the stern, halfconcealed in a tarpaulin, was a man Reeve of Gananoque

"That's one of those fellows who volving staircases and trolley-loads that's Craig in the stern! We've got of river pirates waiting for them? him this time. Say, captain, it's that ou may be a scientific criminologist, tug I want. Never mind about the held on Thursday evening, for general Quest, but that fellow Craig is a steamer. Catch it and I'll make it a business, although the primary object

"We've got her!" he captain ex- resignation of Reeve Darling, which claimed. There's the ferry and the as announced last week, had been first of the steamers coming down in placed in the hands of the Clerk. Right ahead of them blazing with lights, a huge ferry came churning the river up and sending waves in



Quest Stood on Guard. unnaturally large, loomed up the great bows of an ocean-going steamer. The tug was swung round and they

ran up alongside. The man with the beard leaned over. "Say, what's your trouble?" he demanded.

The inspector stepped forward. "I want that man you've got under the tarpaulin," he announced. "Say, you ain't the river police?" "I'm Inspector French from head-

quarters," was the curt reply. sooner you hand him over, the better for you." "Do you hear that, O'Toole?" the other remarked, turning around. "Get up, you blackguard!"

HOW LONG WILL THE WAR LAST?

Ended By "Fruit-a-tives".

East Ship Harbour, N.S.

"It is with great pleasure that I write to tell you of the wonderful benefit I have received from taking Fruit-a-tives'. For years I was a dreadful sufferer from Constipation and Head. aches, and I was miserable in every way Nothing in the way of medicines seemed to help me. Then I finally tried 'Fruit-a-tives' and the effect was splendid. After taking one box, I feet like a new person and I am deeply thankful to have relief from thos sickening Headaches".

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Mrs. MARTHA DEWOLFE. "FRUIT-A-TIVES", the medicine made from fruit juices, has relieved more sufferers from Headaches, Constipation, Stomach, Liver, Kidney and Skin Troubles than any other medicine. 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. At all dealers or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

man rose from e.... oilskin. He was wearing craigs clothes, but his face was the face of a stranger. As quick as lightning Quest swung round in his place.

"He's fooled us again!" he exclaimed. "Head her round, captainback to the Durham!" The sailor shook his head

"We've lost our chance, guvnor he pointed out. "Look!" Quest set his teeth and gripped the inspector's arm. The place the Durham had been anchored was empty. Already, half a mile down the river, with a trail of light behind was standing out seawards.

(TO BE CONTINUED.) Withdraws His Resignation

A special meeting of Council was of the meeting was to consider the

The matters which led the Reeve to take the step were discussed at some length and with some feeling their direction. On the other side, when a resolution setting forth that it was the unanimous opinion of the Council that he should be requested to reconsider his action, was carried. and Mr. Darling asked that he be given 24 hours to think the matter over before giving a final answer. Every member of the Board spoke

> with town matters and promised in dividual support if he would remain in the Council. Yesterday morning Mr. Darling withdrew his resignation and wi fill out the terms for which he w

Work to Re-commence on Madoc Streets

Owing to a break-down on the present crusher it has been decided to have the other county crusher brought to Madoc next week when work will be re-commenced on the village streets. Dr. W. S. Harper, the Reeve, has secured the county steam roller which will be in operation next week rolling the crushed rock already laid. This is the first time this roller has ever been used in this vicinity.

Old Madoc Boy Among New K.C's

Fourteen prominent lawyers of the Province of Quebec, among whom is the name of J. W. Blair, have been made King's Councillors by the Provincial Government.—Review.

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