A Powerful

and

Fascinating Serial Story.

ting Serial Story.

cles or any sort to be reckoned and yet, as I neared the corner, to a full stop. As I stood there and I felt my heart beating, I possessed by a curious nerve failby breath came quickly. I felt thumping against my side I y breath came quickly. I felt thumping against my side. I ll and listened. Down on the I could hear the sea come ag in with a loud incessant roar, onotonously away at regular in-I could hear the harsh grinding sebbles, the backward swirl of wes thrown back from the land. I the wind come booming he waste lands, rustling and amongst the few stuated trees rounds of Braster Grange October 1. amongst the few strated trees rounds of Braster Grange. Of sounds there seemed to be none, ige ahead was dark and silent, of the house fronting the road k and desolate. It was a lonely nely hour. Yet as I stood there with nameless apprehensions, solutely certain that I was controlly some hidden danger.

oment or two, I am thankful to courage returned. I struck a d lit a cigar, one of a handful y had forced upon me. Then I tealthily to the other side of and felt for the hedge. I y hands badly, but after feelfor some moments I was able or myself a reasonably thick ith this in my right hand, and tech-box under my left arm I

atch-box under my left arm I on my way.

er warily, and when I had to the lane which passed the to Braster Grance I walked iddle of it instead of skirting which enclosed the grounds. I e entrance gates, and had only enty yards farther to go before dupon the open marshland. enty yards farther to go before d upon the open marshland, darkness was almost impener the lane narrowed. The the left was ten or twelve feet on the right were two long clasped my stick tightly, and most stealthily. I felt that if ome safely to the end of these lings I could afford to laugh at

y my strained hearing detect-had been listening for all the ere was a faint but andible in the shrubs overgrowing the ay left. I made a quick dash tripped against some invisible tretched across the lane, and gering sideways, struggling to my balance. Almost at the nent two dark forms dropped shelter of the shrubs on to the y side. I felt the soft splash electh upon my cheeks are account. orm in my nostrils. But al-had regained my balance. I myself free from the arm, and mly blinded by the glare of a stric hand-light within a foot snly blinded by the glare of a stric hand-light within a foot e. I struck a sweeping blow a my stick, and from the soft seemed to me that the blow a descended upon the head of assailants. I heard a groan, the shadowy form of the serpring at me. What followed I believe, cowardice on my ny blood was up and my sense ne. I dashed my stick straight troaching figure, and I leaped nd ran. I had won the hunand the quarter of a mile at nd I was in fair training. I to get off fast, and after the yards I felt that I was safe, eps which had started in purd in a few minutes. Breath-rith the despatch-box safe unm, I sprinted across the marsh paused till I reached the road, ooked back and listened. I or hear nothing, but from one rooms in the Grange a faint light was shining out.

CHAPTER XXI.

the only breath of fresh air ad allowed myself all the though the dazzling sunlight it west wind had tempted me and now, as ill luck would had welked straight into the had walked straight into the fine one person in the world ished most earnestly to avoid. standing on the edge of the ands behind her, gazing sead though I stopped short at her, and for a moment envild thoughts of flight, it was fe for me to carry them out. It is many the standard of th

e forward at once, and for n or other I knew that she She smiled upon me almost

sunshine has even tempted fir Hermit," she exclaimed. good to feel the Spring com-

ul," I answered. le you are!" she said. " too hard, Mr. Ducaine." down from London by the ght," I said. "I saw Colonel linner with him, in fact." led, but asked me no ques-

" she said abruptly, "that coming down here in a few ard from my father this

been very unfortunate, Lady said. "Your father is disting in the said. "Your father is disting I should have been disterday." out—the Prince of Malors?" na low tone.

I was forced to tell what I

I was forced to tell what I ated for a moment, then she ulsively towards me. re right to tell them, Mr. Dusaid. "I have hated myself the other night when I seemfainst you. There are things out us which I cannot fathmetimes I have fears, terribut your course at least is a Don't let yourself be turny any one. My father has which might lead him intorors. Trust Colonel Ray—Yours is a dangerous positis a splendid one. It means and independence. If there a time even—"

e off abruptly in her speech, that she was agitated, and I at I knew the cause. I said slowly, "would ossible for you and Colonel rayade Lord Blenavon to go

By E. Phillips Oppenheim Author of A Prince of Sinners, Etc.

THE BETRAYAL