## BLACK HAND SECRETS REVEALED BY CHIEF OF SECRET SERVICE

## The Baffling Mystery of the Barrel Murder By William J. Flynn

energy and intelligence.

points scattered over the United States. At the desk sits William J. Flynn, and all things which are of a special interest to Uncle Sam. Here is an intellectan almost superhuman force-literally touching and controlling every thread of this wonderful spider web organization. A quick nod from the chief, the nervous | Chief Flynn will divulge for the first clicking of a telegraph key and one of the filaments of the web is galvanized into activity and a criminal or a band of lawbreakers is hopelessly entangled.

Imagine this and you will gain a Secret Service Bureau and you will un- He will describe it in his own way. derstand something of how Chief Flynn in the Treasury Building, Washington, common sense. He should also be pathe criminals for whom the web is ready. | cents. These operatives are men of many nationalities. Sometimes they communicate with Washington by telephone, a case under pressure of a new matter. sometimes by letter, less often by tele- Reserve a place for it in the back of the graph in code. Many of these operatives | head. Think of it. Hammer away at are unknown to one another. They may it, here a little, there a little, until the sit at table together and not know it. | men you are after are either apprehended They may travel together for hours, ex- or dead. changing stories and cigars, but neither knows that the other is engaged upon the business of the spider web.

Chief Flynn is the only living person who knows them all. He has their names and addresses, but in the files of the service they are only known by number. The chief often sees and talks with his operatives. but should one of them see him in conversation with another he would never guess of what the two were talk-

chief of the United States Secret Service -who will tell, in a series of ten articles, written expressly for us, more than has ever been revealed of the workings and the exploits of the Secret Service. There are many things which Chief Flynn cannot make public. A little slip of the tongue, a word too much emphasized, and he would hopelessly doom a score or more faithful agents of the service to a horrible death. Not only this, but he must in no way impair the competency of the bureau of which he is chief.

For a year and a half he made such a phenomenal record that John Wilkie, then Chief of the Secret Service, sent | him to Pittsburg as head of the Western district of Pennsylvania. So promptly government in Washington questioned and decisively did he clean up this discounterfeiters, that Wilkie made him Chief of the Department of the East

Mr. Flynn has been engaged in almost a constant battle of wits with counterfeiters for more than fifteen years, most Hand in America? of the time in New York, the busiest centre for the making of spurious notes

It is not a figment of fiction, not the Black Hand goes on. test the credulity of the American mind.

such a band of criminals actually exists hurl bombs to destroy the property of in America, wishing to know the truth those who refuse to submit to blackmail, so that they might lend their aid in any to kidnap little children, to steal horses, effort put forth for the purpose of sup- to poison the animals of their enemies, pressing and removing from our midst the to make counterfeit money and to com-

Wolf, leaders of the society, languish be- dize the lives of men who serve the govhind bars in the federal prison in Atlanta, ernment unknown to society, unknown Ga. Comito, the Sheep, whose confession | even to one another, identified in the files helped to put them there, is in the Argen- of the United States Secret Service meretine, where he has reason to feel secure ly by numerals. Should I divulge the against the vengeance of the band, know- nemes of these men-and I am the only ing that were he killed many Black person who knows them - THEY Handers would lose their lives for his. Many of the men who were once power- the present I must show you why I make ful in the society are slain or have been the categorical statement, "There is a placed by less violent means where their | Black Hand Society." RS. FRANCES! Mrs. Connors stepped to the barrel,

CONNORS left her | lifted a corner of the garment and peered

mal woman and seen. Some one ran for a policeman, an with a generous grew. share of curiosity.

avenue D and Eleventh street, she lance surgeon arrived he announced noticed a barrel standing near the curb. what all had known. The man was the burnt stubs of cigars and a quantity An overcoat was thrown over the head dead. A strip of gunnysack had been of onion peel. of the barrel. It was a decent looking wound around his neck, hiding a dozen Also there was a note in the handcoat, not ragged enough to be thrown away, and Mrs. Connors' curiosity grew. | caused death. The neighborhood was lines were legible and the Italian words | Elizabeth street cafe was just around Why should any one, even a wealthy in a panic. The Police Department was person, throw away an overcoat which at sea, and the entire city of New York l'urgenza" could be made out. The trans- in the rear of which Giuseppe Morello was not worn out.

She paused in her walking and re- from the shock of her discovery. garded the barrel. Her interest increased.

MAGINE a monstrous spider web. In this work Chief Flynn pitted him-In place of filaments all but ethereal self against the mighty power of the each slender thread of the web is a Black Hand and its murderous leaders, living organism electrified by human and it is chiefly of his desperate fight against this organization that he will The web spans all directions, its tell in his own way in these articles. centre being a certain desk in the city of Many stories will be related for the first Washington, and radiates to a thousand time, and several mysteries which have long baffled the police of New York and other cities will be cleared up. If there through his eyes the United States Se- is any doubt in your mind that the cret Service, of which he is chief, sees Black Hand exists you should read these articles. Chief Flynn himself says that its organization and methods tax to the utmost the credulity of the American mind. It is difficult to believe that such a body of men can flourish in matter of fact America, yet it does, and time the very ritual of the society, the secret ceremonies they hold, and the way in which they plot murder and execute their schemes.

There was a sent appealer of these proper, that he tradited in the hope they was point The second secon

How does the Chief know this ritual? glimpse of the scope and potency of the That would be telling the story too fast.

"A detective," he says, "should have works. Each day there come to his desk some natural ability and a whole lot of reports from operatives scattered all tient and industrious. False whiskers over the country, informing the head of and rubber boots belong to the melothe bureau of the movements in detail of drama-best seats in the house thirty

"Steady hammering-that's my doctrine and advice. It doesn't do to drop

That is what Chief Flynn did with the Lupo-Morello band, as you shall seeread in all its astounding and dramatic details, which reveal facts never before made public.

Mr. Flynn was born in New York City forty-five years ago. After being educated in the public schools of the city he went into the plumbing business and cwned a large establishment before he entered the Secret Service. If you were to ask the chief why he deserted plumb-This is the man-William J. Flynn, ing for his present profession he would probably tell you :-

"Oh, I got tired of working so hard and seeing my men do the same. I might have become a promiscuous plumber had I stuck to the job, but I am glad I followed my bent and am now a detective."

There are a score of stories of his fairness and kindliness. An instance is the treatment he accorded to Comito-the Sheep-whose confession will be detailed in the subsequent articles. This, by the way, is another of the things described for the first time, and it plays upon the keyboard of all the emotions and passions that go to make up humanity.

Recently a man high in the federal the existence of a Black Hand organization. For several nights Chief Flynn was closeted with this official, telling high and receding, covered with thin | The shoes were so worn that any marks | talked a fourth man, whose face was him just what he is going to tell in this newspaper.

Do you doubt that there is a Black

This official no longer doubts. Here Chief Flynn begins to tell you

By William J. Flynn, Chief of the United States Secret Service. THERE is a "Black Hand" Society. | activities are harmless, but the work of

the invention of a reporter adept in | The headquarters of the Black Hand the coin of phrases, but a group of men Society are in New York city, and it is banded together by such obligations and there its members are most active in preyfor such detestable purposes as to readily ing on their countrymen, robbing the unwary and living up to their pledges to I have had men in authority ask me if grow wealthy by terrorizing Italians, to

Giuseppe Morello and Ignazio Lupo, the must not tell, for to do so would jeopar-WOULD MEET CERTAIN DEATH. But that is quite a story in itself. For

little room in an in. A cry of terror broke from her lips. east side tenement | She dropped the coat back over the house early on the grizzly thing she had seen and staggered, morning of April pale and shaken, away from the barrel. 12, 1903, to go to Other persons had seen her strange the bakery for rolls actions. In a moment a little group, also for breakfast. Mrs. | fired by curiosity, coilected. The fright-Connors was a nor- ened woman stammered out what she had

thereby endowed ambulance was sent for, and the crowd Meanwhile a policeman drew the body passed in of a man from the barrel into which front of the New York Mallet Works, at it had been jammed. When the ambu- tained sugar, and in the bottom was a wounds, any one of which would have writing of a woman. Part of two ton street east of the Bowery. The

At the Union Market police station it | Inspector George W. McClusky, then It had been drizzling all night, yet the was determined that the man had been chief of the detective bureau, of New overcoat was scarcely wet. It couldn't dead at least two hours. He seemed York, took personal charge of the case have been lying there very long. She about forty years old and well set up. and directed the work of his men. Every glanced up and down the street. No His complexion was swarthy and his art known to the police was employed. who were present in the store were Anone was in sight. Perhaps the coat was ears were pierced for the rings, after the The entire uniformed force was put on tonio Geneva and Domenico Pecoraro, placed there to keep the contents of the manner of many Sichlans. His clothing the lookout for charge clews, and photo- both of whom I knew well as members barrel dry. That was strange, to use a was of good quality and from his gen- graphs of the mandered man were discoat for such a purpose. There would eral appearance it was judged that he tributed in the hope that some policeman three men stood in the rear of the shop Duca's butcher shop.



curly hair of a light brown tinge. His of identification by which Burt & Co. strange to me, stood alone on the sidemustache was streaked with gray. On might have determined to whom they walk near the door close to the flickering the left cheek were two old scars which were sold had disappeared. The hand- glare of the street light smoking. The formed an inverted letter "V." Photographs of the man were made

promptly and compared with pictures in the rogues' gallery at Police Headquarters, but the victim was not to be identified in that way. The police investigation of the circumstances of the crime was pushed to the utmost. Every detail of the man, his clothing and the barrel was recorded.

It was determined that at least two weapons had been used by the murderer or murderers. A wound directly below the left ear had been inflicted with a narrow two-edged blade and the incision was three inches deep. It takes a strong wrist and a heavy lunge to drive a knife in so far at that point. A wound above the "Adam's apple," which penetrated sheer to the spinal cord, had apparently been made with the same weapon. There account, but a deep gash across the a band of Sicilians whom I suspected of them, and the suit of the dead man was lowing. The writer was evidently afraid throat, literally from ear to ear, had evidently been made with a heavier and more clumsy knife.

All this resulted in nothing. A search through the clothing of the dead man out a number of details in the hands of the police. The most striking object found was a small brass crucifix, the like of which is not often seen and which to my knowledge was common to no particular locality. It was of foreign make and bore a Latin motto on the scroll work above the figure of the Saviour on the cross. At the base of the cross was a skull and crossbones. Since that time I have come

across the same type of crucifix. In the dead man's overcoat were two handkerchiefs, one small and delicately perfumed. But the only identification making a personal expedition into their mark on the clothing was "Burt & Co., Opposite Produce Exchange," stamped on the part of thieves, had gained the conthe shoes, which were well worn and had been patched.

Stencilled on the bottom of the barrel were the letters "W & T," and on the sides "G 233." It had evidently conlayer of sawdust, mixed with which were

"Giorne che venite \* \* \* subito the corner from Ignazio Lupo's saloon, was agog before Mrs. Connors recovered lation is, "Day that you come \* \* \* suddenly the urgency."

be so harm in gentlights her containly, was not a history. The forehead was much recognite him. None did

kerchiefs told nothing. Not a pawnshop three men were evidently arguing and in the city had sold a crucifix similar to presently they hung up a piece of bagthe one in the possession of the mur- ging as a curtain at the door to the dered man, nor had any of the regular street. While I knew the men to be dealers in such articles.

The markings on the barrel led to no discovery of value. The letter, which was regarded as perhaps the most promising clew, turned out to be only tantalizing. Half a dozen more words unobliterated, perhaps only a single word, might have told so much. There was a tendency on the part of many to attribute the crime to a woman or at least to find in a woman the motive, because of the letter. However, as the identity of the victim was not established, there was no woman toward whom suspicion might

I was at that time watching in New York | same features exactly as I remembered certain crimes of which I shall treat later. In short, as long ago as 1903 I was convinced in my own mind of the existence of a Black Hand organization. From descriptions of the murdered man likely. and from photographs it seemed to me that I had seen him. I could not quite place him, yet I was certain that I had seen the man.

I shut myself up with a cigar and pondered the matter. The murder was brought to my attention on April 14. Only two nights previously the band which I had under surveillance had exhibited unusual activity.

On the night of April 12 I was in the possession of sufficient information in regard to this band to feel justified in stronghold. Certain of my men, playing fidence of some of the lieutenants of Lupo and Morello and I was shaping up evidence enough to arrest them on a charge of counterfeiting.

On the evening in question I picked up the trail of several members of the band and followed them from their counterfeiting headquarters in the café at Elizabeth and Prince streets to the butcher shop of Vito La Duca, in Stanconducted a restaurant.

In Vito La Duca's meat store I saw Morello, whom I had arrested four months before with a gang of counterfeiters, but who had been acquitted, though all the others were convicted. Two others

still talking, a covered wagon stopped in front of the shop and two men left it

and Pecoraro. All this on the evening of April 12. Now, as I sat smoking and pondering the whole thing two nights later the feeling grew that the stranger I had mous letter telling him to keep off the seen in the little butcher shop and the case and describing the murder as a the Black Hand, and I learned that a man who was found in the barrel might "Vendetta," which seemed to the writer man to accomplish this must be from be one and the same person. Yet the of the letter sufficient reason for the Corleone, or he must come recommended

came out almost immediately and drove

fore meeting his death, but this was not I could not eliminate from my memory | thinking out a plan of procedure, I sug- my men were working into the confidence the covered wagon I had seen two nights before. It seemed to possess me. Finally I gave myself up to finding a reason for its presence and the unusual conduct

of its drivers. The more I thought the more I believed that it was the means by which the dead man had been transported from the place where he met his doom to the pavement in avenue D. The men were Italians and associates of the Black Handers. Then, again, the fact that the men in La Ducais had been afraid of being seen and had hung the bagging over the glass door, and the stranger standing apart on the street just outside the door, where he could not hear the talk, all strengthened my suspicions that the man in the barrel was the man I had seen. I knew much of the inside workings of the gang and felt that in some way the stranger had incurred the hatred of the Black Hand.

The murder was not within my province, yet I wanted, if possible, to solve it, partly for my own satisfaction, partly because every fresh fact I learned regarding the organization I was after brother-in-law. could be used by me to advantage.

It was in a peculiar, slanting ray of light that I had seen the stranger and I determined to reproduce to the best of my ability the same lighting effect, and the men who had slain his relative by followed him and the long arm of Uncle make certain of the man before com- marriage. When he was calmer he con- Sam hovered over him, ready to strike mitting myself. Accordingly, I went to vinced Petrosino beyond reasonable What happened to "Petto the Ox" and the Morgue and viewed the body in the doubt that he had identified the victim how I finally solved the mystery of the same kind of light in which I had first | correctly. seen the face. I was no longer in doubt. - He described a watch chain which had was never solved by the police, I will tell

ing to Bertillon methods. Still the man fication. Benedetto, he said, was a sone had not been identified, nor did his meas- cutter and lived in Buffalo. For s urements correspond with any record in | months he had been out of work, and

I was positive I was correct in my statement that I had seen the man as in New York. This, of course, was the described, but I was troubled by the fact | Lupo-Morello gang, but De Priema that the clothing was blue instead of reasons of his own, would not tell too brown, as I had seen it. Finally, with much. Nor would he tell, if he know the aid of my men, I rigged up a light in who was likely to have committed the my office such as I had seen the man murder. His was vengeance, and he did standing near on the night of April 12. not intend to aid the law to take over his The clothes were brought from the Morgue and placed under the light. Sure enough, they looked brown instead of guilty man or men. blue. I was then sure I was right and that the man had been a victim of the Black Hand.

I at once notified Inspector McClusky, and his men, working in conjunction with certain of mine, arrested eleven of the gang. They were Giuseppe Morelle, Ignazio Lupo, Messina Genova, Vito La Duca, Pietro Inzerillo, Domenico Pecoraro, Lorenzo Lobido, Giuseppe Fanara, Giuseppe La Lamia, Nicola Testa and

All these men were Sicilians, and most of them when arrested were armed with scribed the watch which her husband had knives or revolvers. On Morello the police found a .45-calibre revolver and a pawned was procured and it tallied in knife tucked in the waistband of his every particular with the woman's de trousers. A cork fixed on the point of scription. She was certain, when it the blade prevented it scratching his leg | was shown to her, that it had belonge and allowed him to bring it into play with a single motion of the wrist, much I described certain markings and engravmore readily than had he carried it in a | ings which could have been known only

Luciano Perrino, known as "Il Bove" or "Tomasso Petto, the Ox," carried a Ox" was indicted by the Grand Jury for pistol in a regulation holster and a murder in the first degree. The other stilleto in a sheath. Most of the men suspects had been held on a charge of arrested were in the possession of per- murder without bail, but as the evidence mits to carry revolvers, issued by the was not sufficient to hold them Magis-Police Department of New York. It was this round-up of desperate men, most of Secret Service continued to watch the them armed, which did much to bring about the passage of the law forbidding the carrying of dangerous weapons.

Now, while it was established beyond reasonable doubt that the man whose body was found jammed into the barrel was the stranger I had seen in Vito La Duca's meat shop, we were still at a loss to identify him.

The eleven prisoners were taken to the Morgue, and each one separately was confronted with the murdered man and questioned as to his acquaintance with spent freely in a campaign for his re-

When Morello, whom I had seen walkbody he showed not the slightest sign of rorized Italians, some of it was body he showed not the slightest sign of recognition or of agitation, though my members of the gang. Every Sicilian mals do their prey. He shrugged his has two "compari," and they are bound men and detectives watched him as anishoulders and volunteered the statement "Don't know."

Domenico Pecoraro, whom I had also in efforts to accumulate evidence against seen with the victim when he left the Petto. The watch which he had pawned butcher store, was quite as loquacious. butcher store, was quite as loquacious. He shrugged his shoulders as only an Italian can, and varied the formula by had murdered Benedetto, and reports unttering the words "No understand." from my The other nine prisoners denied all

acquaintance with the victim of the murder. None of them had ever seen him, We then hoped that relatives or friends

would claim the body and thus establish the victim's identity, but for all we could tell after days of waiting he had died without a single friend, with no relative that I learned a great deal about the to care whether he went to Potter's and entered the store. One of them Field or not. away. Shortly after eight o'clock the

going toward the Bowery with Morello new line, which was run down to no Palermo that Joseph Petrosino was later purpose, left the case more baffling. Joseph Petrosino was at that time in the Italian squad of the New York De- York Police Department. tective Bureau. He received an anony- I was seeking to get one or more of Of all this I read in the evening papers. De one and the same person. Let the barrel crime. Petrosino showed this letlet to me. Here was a clew worth fol- from Corleone or lived there at present. to divulge his name, even to the police, months awaiting trial. During this time described as blue while I remembered him to be clothed in brown. Of course out of fear of the vengeance of the terhe might have changed his clothes be-

man's identity.

It seemed as if it was to be the same story over again, but at last Petrosino | the crime. showed the photograph to Giuseppe De Priema, and without telling him of the which that could be accounted f murder asked him if he knew whose Petto's lawyer asked that the prisoner likeness it was. De Priema glanced at the detective

the likeness of the murdered man's face. conviction. The "Ox" was released. "That is Marueno Benedetto, my brother-in-law," he cried. "What has happened?" The detective told him that Benedetto the crime was discharged by the court was murdered. Giuseppe De Priema because there was not sufficient evidence against him to make a conviction even

anger. He cursed the murderers in his failed. cell, he shook his fist against the bare walls and he swore a vendetta against

and described the curious crucifix which chain of evidence against the Black To grove this wake different matter, and been found with the body. He to'd Hand

Several of my men went with me to the of the scar on the murdered man's a Morgue. We measured the body accordand other unmistakable marks of idea Priema believed he had recently

operating with a band of count prerogative. He steadfastly denied that he had the slightest idea who was the At last it was learned who the barrel

victim was, and Petrosino returne New York. Together we went to Police ters and papers taken from the men arrested as suspects in the case. Among "Petto the Ox," I found a pawn ticke for a watch which had been pledged in a Bowery pawn shop for one dollar on the day of the murder.

We sent to Buffalo for Benedetto's wife. To the minutest detail she worn. The one which "the Ox" had to her husband. Before seeing it she to a person familiar with it.

With the evidence in hand, "Petto the trate Barlow turned them out. The men, however, and what developed from this surveillance will be the subject of later chapters.

At this time came fresh evidence of the existence of the Black Hand organization. "Petto the Ox" was apparently penniless and counsel would have been provided for him by the State, but sud denly, apparently from nowhere a grea fund was raised.

High priced counsel were engaged by fight his case in court and money was lease. This money for the greater part was contributed by members of the soing with the murdered man, viewed the

Meanwhile the police worked tirelessi

From information in my possession 1 was certain the Black Hand organization was furnishing the funds to conduct Petto's defence. It was to my interest to find out just who were in this organization and just where the money came from, for I knew the band to be engaged in counterfeiting. It was at this time organization of the Black Hand. While Petto was in the Tombs I ascertained The police redoubled their efforts, but that every member of the band was from visitors to La Duca's place left. They to no avail. Every clew, and there were Corleone, a town about twenty-seven few enough of them, led to nothing. Each miles from Palermo, Sicily. It was in murdered while executing a mission for Commissioner Bingham, of the New

"Petto the Ox" was in the Tombs four

rible Black Hand. I knew of no man so evidence against him which would hold well qualified to handle the case as in court. Meanwhile the Black Hand Petrosino himself, so after carefully was raising money for his defence and gested that he go to Sing Sing prison, of the Black Handers. Nevertheless, where several of the Lupo-Morello band scarcely a piece of evidence which would were serving terms for counterfeiting. have held for a moment in a court of law Petrosino took with him a photograph was unearthed by the police. Petto of the barrel victim and showed it to steadfastly denied his guilt, of course. several of the convicts whom he knew to There was no witness to the crime be identified with the Black Hand. Petto had not been seen with the victim They professed ignorance of the dead by any person who was available as a witness, and the watch was the only slender clew which connected him with

There were a dozen different ways in be released on his own recognizance on the ground that there was not sufficient and alarm showed in his face. He evidence upon which to bring the acclutched at the pasteboard on which was cused to trial with any fair hope of

The barrel murder was more of a mystery than ever. The one man to whom circumstance pointed as guilty of torted his features. He knew the power possible. The police tried other clews. that was behind the knife that had slit They worked once more upon the theory the throat of Marueno Benedetto, his that there was a woman in the case. They tried to find some person with a He overcame his fear and it turned to grievance against Benedetto, but they

Petto disappeared from his accustomed murder of Maruena Benedetto, which 10 Pages

FORTY-FOURTH

A Civil War break is Fe by Governmen

Gravest Concer Held as to V **Outcome Will** 

[By Special Wire to the Co LONDON, April 28.—] standing yesterday's emphat apparently well based st that not a single fresh sold yet moved towards Ulster ments are under orders a non
on brief notice. The fartse
be that as yet the government ra
yet undecided what cour
After replying to nu After replying to nu tions in the House of regard to Ulster, especence to the gun-running quith visited the King he attended a meeting which lasted nearly th adjournment was th this morning. The the meeting without taken is ascribed to regard to the smug Ulster.

Major-General G of the Adjutant-G command of the Belfast district aid

ered his officers to redouble tac on Tampico and apprehe erals responsible for affronts United States at that port might be tried by a rebel co was reported that Carranza h asked for a statement of his a clear up questions arising fro

sibly faulty translation of issued after the seizure of Ver American's Ill-treated While fears over the safety eryicans in Mexico City wer ally dissipated by Secretary announcement that Huerta and Rear Admiral Fletcher ranged for the departure o States citizens for the Federal Consul Canada, reported th than a score of American among them United States Schmutz had been hauled train at Aguas Calientes, Mexico City and imprisone occured several days ago. T sut's informant said Federal

made the arrests. (Continued on Page 4

## 11 POUNDS IS LIN FOR MAIL PACK

Organization of Parcel Service Has Bee Completed.

OTTAWA, April 27.-The I

fice Department has issued a pointing out from numerous received from the public on ject of parcel post it would s sirable to emphasize the fact restrictions as regards weight livery have been removed. -Parcel post packets may mailed up to the limit of w eleven pounds. It had been tention to limit the weight of post packets to six pounds du organization period, but as the ization of the parcel post was completed, heavier parcels ha been handled for some time, i been determined to give the the full benefit of this. Par packets may, therefore, be m

to the limit above stated. The additional fee of five which was at first charged on mailed for local delivery in where the letter carrier de in operation has also been all and this additional fee is charged.