THE LEAGUE OF TWELVE

BY GUY BUOTHBY.

Author of "Dr. Nikola," "The Marriage of Esthet," "Pharos the Egyptian," "Long Live the King," "My Indian Queen,"

al woman who accompanied him, the evening the Hon. James Ormby, and of the place, calls at Troward proposes marriage to Miss dge, whom he has loved for years, cepted, and leaves, declaring his hot call again next morpha. The group tolks of the place of

Jack Trowbridge stared at the house-keeper completely taken back.

"What do you mean?" he inquired.
"Have you not seen Mr. Ormby since he left for my house the night before last?"

"That's it, sir," the old lady replied.
"He drove away from here in his dog-cart, saying that he was going to dine with you. Williams, the groom, says that he left your house at a quarter to eleven. He was just driving up to our gates when a man stepped out into the gates when a man stepped out into the gates when a man stepped out into the seed on the cart, when a man stepped out into the gates when a man stepped out into the seed on the cart, saying that he was going to dine with you. Williams, the groom, says that he left your house at a quarter to eleven. He was just driving up to our gates when a man stepped out into the gates when a man stepped out into the seed on the cart, when a man stepped out into the gates when a man stepped out into the seed on the cart, as you gind the tackle arrives we shall drag the cheenth an avalanche. She buried her fused to be comforted.

"I though the cushion of the sofa and refused to be comforted.

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"I though the full arrives we shall assistance from the tackle arrives we shall drag the cushion of the sofa and refused to be comforted.

"I though the full arrives to be comforted.

"I though the full arrives to be each other. It is too the myster. The proceeded to his study, where the thren?

T

his going up to London at once."
"You'll excuse me, sir," said the old from town?" woman, "but in that case he would have driven to the station, not walked. No, driven to the station, not walked. it's my belief that something foul has

all are. Oh dear, oh dear! To think that I should ever live to see this day, me who nursed him when a babe in

"For Dot's sake I must take this matter up, and at once," said Jack to him-Then, aloud to the housekeeper,

will you. I should like to put a few

"You are very good to me, sacs, sue dead of those terrible articles were questions to him."

"If you'll step into the master's smoking-room, sir, I'll send one of the maids out for him. He's back from the village I know, for I saw him ride by my window just as your bell sounded. Jack followed her along the hall to the cosy little room at the one of the the was mere troubled by the other's diary seemed the was more troubled by the other's diary seemed the was more troubled by the other's diary seemed the was more troubled by the other's diary seemed to make short cut to Bracks he was more troubled by the other's diary seemed to make short cut to Bracks he was more troubled being a door on the left a such an hour and to throw it it it's very likely they would take the boar to busy all day to bestow a thought of the master's said the qualitative, or Ormby would have invited by the other's a fair seemed so inexplicately the other's and shipping papers and the purple from the three others returned to their observable of the paper in his hand not knowing how that I loved be day of a quarter of an hour he was at lib every to add the paper late of the nearly was at lib over. Then he turned it over and of a quarter of an hour he was at lib every to sud the paper late of the master's smoke they as the paper and how was the analyze, and how was the author, and how was the author, and how was the author, and how was he constructed with the mealows first and the purple day with his affections I feel as the paper late of the paper late of the master's smoke they was that the analyze and the paper late of the paper late

He would follow in a few min- out as I have said," said the sergeant, evening and left the office.

neighborhood."

'In which direction did they walk?" "The way we had come."

"Then the station theory and the trip to London won't hold water," said Jack to himself. Then, addressing Williams,

en one or two tramps, but no one ie- shop two days before. embling this mysterious stranger.

lage, the housekeeper tells me, and have also communicated with the police?"

"Yes, sir, I went down there first thing By the time he reached the Croft he

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAP.

PBIRS. dack Trowbridge, the owner of strengen Castle, near Great: Brackford, has been impoverished by unfortunate specular to know what it all means."

"You may be quite sure I shall do that, sir, I do hope nothing serious has happened to know what it all means."

Pretence of sewing, but it was very little work she accomplished. There was an anxious, harried expression upon the pened to know what it all means." to know what it all meads."

"So would I," said Jack. "Now I'll brother fancied that she had been cry-

"So would I," said Jack. "Now I'll be off to the police station."

He accordingly left the house and, mounting his horse, turned its head in the direction of the village. The police from her seat.

"So would I," said Jack. "Now I'll be off to the police station."

He accordingly left the house and, mounting his horse, turned its head in the direction of the village. The police station was a very small affair, the force consisting of a sergeant and two men.

Seeing Jack "Now I'll brother fancied that she had been crying, but he did not say anything to her upon the subject. On seeing him she rose from her seat.

"What is the matter?" she asked.

"Why does he not come?"

"I'll try to tall soon tale. Her

"Have ridden over to have a few words with you regarding the disappearance of Mr. Ormby. His groom tells me he came down to see you this morning. "In the there is something wrong, she words as the three is something wrong, she may be much be add news for me? Tell me, Jack, for pity's sake."

"It is bad news," her brother replied, "but we mustn't give up hope yet. The

nere by this time."

with them under the seat the gruesome to make further inquiries and to dis-dragging appliances, at which Jack cover whether the police there had re-tell yer. That's enough for the present. largeing appliances, at which Jack cover whether the porter that place with a shudder. Heaven help this friend if those terrible articles were his friend if those terrible articles were said. "You are very good to me, Jack," she necessary for discovering him! Leaving him! Leaving the power that I level the paper in his hand not knowing how of a quarter of an hour he was at liberation. Then the middle the paper in his hand not knowing how of a quarter of an hour he was at liberation. Then the middle the paper in his hand not knowing how of a quarter of an hour he was at liberation.

beggar, or the latter would not have descended from his cart and have walked away with him. He had known the missing man all his life, had been at school and college with him. He was not aware that he had made any enemies, or that he had any particularly undesirable acquaintances.

Presently Williams, the groom, put in an appearance. He was a dapper young the foot of the hill towards a mappearance. He was a dapper young the discovery the discovery the discovery the him since he had described he had spoken to her about his sister and had spoken to her about and the cart rattled down the road in his sister and had spoken to her about and the cart matter to make inquiries.

On reaching the police station he left the district in order that the real culprit might have a chance of escape?

Next morning he showed the letter to his sister, who, without hesitation, declared it to be a trick.

"I don't believe that Jim would act body of the missing man had not been found, nor had they received any information to prove that he was still alive.

They then turned their attention to the river, a stream which wound its way round the foot of the hill towards a mattempt to mare about to begin his devotions.

"Yes, I noticed that," he replied "May like that," she said, her eyes filling with indignant tears. "I will never allow that he would be so base as to tell me that the would be so base as to tell me that the would be so base as to tell me that the would be so base as to tell me that the would be so base as to tell me that the would be so base as to tell me that the district in order that the real culprit might have a chance of escape?

Next morning he showed the letter to his sister, who, without hesitation, declared it to be a trick.

"I don't believe that Jim would act like that," she said, her eyes filling with indignant tears. "I will never allow that he would be so base as to tell me that the district in order that the district in order that the call rulling under the district in order that the district in order that t quaint old mill, a mile and a half from | "We have made inquiries at the railhis present position ever since his master Ormby's house. For the greater part way station," said the official, "but the England a few hours later. You, who of its run it was scarcely more than two people there are all unanimous in de- have known him so long, should surely "Well, Williams," said Jack, "this is a very extaordinary affair. I don't know what to think of it."

"Well, Williams," said Jack, "this is feet deep, but there were a couple of know what to think of it."

"Nevertheless it behoves us," said barely touch the bottom. Here the horizontal properties of the morning following. Scotland Yard

"Nevertheless it behoves us," said Tack, "this is feet deep, but there were a couple of claring that they saw nothing of Mr. Ormby on the might in question, or on the morning following. Scotland Yard

"Nevertheless it behoves us," said Tack, "this is feet deep, but there were a couple of claring that they saw nothing of Mr. Ormby on the might in question, or on the might in question, or on the morning following. Scotland Yard

"Nevertheless it behoves us," said Tack, "this is feet deep, but there were a couple of claring that they saw nothing of Mr. Ormby on the might in question, or on the might in question and the might in drags were brought into play and the is now taking the affair up and inquiries Jack, "not to neglect a single chance of "When the housekeeper told me that Mr. Ormby was not at home at breakfully fast time I give you my word, sir, that fast time I give you my word, sir, that they tried backwards and forwards, all they tried backwards and they tried backwards are thought to the principal sea. fast time I give you my word, sir, that you could have knocked me down with a feather."

"Tell me all you can about it," Jack replied.

"There is not very much to tell, sir," Williams answered. "After we left your house we drove straight home.

When we we also we fifty vards from the give you my word about fifty vards from the give us of the man who stopped the dog give us of the man who stopped the dog give us of the man who stopped the dog cart, and who went away with Mr. Ormby, prevents us doing what we might otherwise have done had we more suit was achieved at the next hole. Afterwards they proceeded to the mill to which I have already referred. The which I have already referred. The work was a should fifty vards from the give us of the man who stopped the dog give us of the man who stopped the dog ont think of it; and then, if they are dispersed to posed to place any credence in it at all, I shall set off for Liverpool and make information to act upon. You do not know, I suppose, how much money he had on him when he left you?"

When Lean set you my work and hear what they tried backwards and forwards, all that was brought to light was a tin can. From this it was evident that Ormby on the give us of the man who stopped the dog give us of the man who stopped the dog ont that own we want away with Mr. Ormby, prevents us doing what we might otherwise have done had we more information to act upon. You do not know, I suppose, how much money he had on him when he left you?"

"Yes I can set you wight there" said when we were about fifty yards from the gate a man stepped out of the shadow of the hedge and held up his shadow of the hedge and held up his flowing under the building at a prodigious rank. Assisted by the miller and his flowing under the building at a prodigious rank. Assisted by the miller and his flowing under the building at a prodigious rank. Assisted by the miller and his flowing under the building at a prodigious rank. Assisted by the miller and his flowing under the building at a prodigious rank. Assisted by the miller and his given had an amicable dispute the excludintly flowing the left you?"

"Your house we drove straight home. It have already referred. The pool itself was of considerable depth, and on him when he left you?"

"Yes, I can set you right there," said lead one to suppose that the authority was in earnest. If I go up to Liverpool to-day I shall be back to-morrow."

According to the activational production of the lead one to suppose that the authority was in which the lefter was delivered must lead on him when he left you?"

"Yes, I can set you right there," said lad on him when he left you?"

"Yes, I can set you right there," said lad on him when he left you?"

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"Yes, I can set you right there," said lad on him when he left you?"

"Yes, I can set you right there," said lad on him when he left you?" hand for Mr. Ormby to stop."

ous rate. Assisted by the miller and his dinner we had an amicable dispute over mon they dragged and re-dragged until a horse he had lately purchased. Bet made, after breakfast Jim drove into

I had just turned round to see if the mill they continued their search down most of which were coppers."

gate was open and that's how I know." stream for another couple of miles and "He may have had more money about ate was open and that's how? Stream for another couple of lines and "Can you give me any idea what the then turned to the small wood on the tranger was like?"

Stream for another couple of lines and him, but, if he had not, that is another said the inspector, "or a very cruel hoax. You will find, if you go to Liverpool, other side. The path to Brackford led stranger was like?"

"No, sir, I am sorry to say that I can't. All I noticed was that he was dressed in a long Newcastle coat that he wore a felt hat."

"I am afraid that won't be of much "I "I am afraid that wou't be of much use to us. But we must do the best we their trouble was not rewarded. A distraction of the station and clump of bracken, have done so. He had the best of all a From the police office he drove on to reasons for calling upon me yesterday the station. He had taken care to bring with it. Did he speak to Mr. used chalkpit on the further side was morning, and I am positive that no busi-

> out as I have said," said the sergeant, mopping his dripping brow. "I don't lt was with a sorrowful heart that he to leave the platform he became aware lt had been taken some three or four know where else we can search in the drove home. His dismal anticipations of a tall, handsome man, irreproachably months prior to his disappearance and had been fulfilled and he had no good dressed, who, as the carriages passed, was an excellent likeness. The manager

"Nor I." Jack remarked, dolefully. ne continued: "Have you seen any make any discovery, he turned his horse homewards, a totally different individual from the happy-go-lucky fellow who had Williams shook his head. There had treated the children in Mrs. Gabbage's

"Poor little Dot," he said as he rode "You have made inquiries in the vil- along, "this will prove a terrible blow

his morning. I hope I did the right made up his mind as to his course of action, and with a heavy heart he rode up the drive and gave up his horse in make further inquiries. If I were you I should keep a quiet tongue in my head and at the same time keep my eyes the drawing-room where he found his sister. She was sitting there making a "You may be quite sure I shall do that, pretence of sewing, but it was very

consisting of a sergeant and two men.

Seeing Jack dismounting the sergeant rose from his seat and saluted respectively.

"I'll try to tell you if you'll sit down,"

Jack began in a faltering voice, "but you must promise me to be calm, Dot."

Have you heard anything fresh since then?"

"No, sir," the sergeant replied. "I have got both my men out searching now, and they are sending me out extra assistance from the town. As soon as the taskle aways we hall dare the

"At any minute, sir," said the sergrant. "They should have been out of the room and did not come down—he room he picked it up, to discover that "Then I think I will wait for them," who sat at his board only two nights to the place it dep, to discover that it was a letter addressed to himself in quite an unknown and uneducated hand-

find him before very long."

A few minutes later a cart made its little Dot from it."

have given anything to have saved poor read as follows:

"If you wants to

ed him to the house. By the same foul play the sooner we put the police beggar, or the latter would not have been a mere beggar, or the latter would not have descended from his cart and have walk
The sergeant whipped up the horse cannot be the first time at the railway station. What an amount of trouble had come upon him since he had described her to his sister and had spoken to her about the district in order that the real cul-

posed. "I take it that you were sitting behind?"

they were tired. The result, however, behind?"

That's quite right, sir, I was; but body was to be discovered. Leaving the behind and rates parenased. Brackford and showed the letter to the body was to be discovered. Leaving the balf-a-dozen coins at the same time, were all unanimously of the opinion that

next visited, but with the same result. ness, save one of life and death, would what he would require during the short



eleven. He was just driving up to our gates when a man stepped out into the road from the path and held up his hand. Mr, Ormby pulled up, then he got down and went away with the gentleman, and we've not seen nor heard anything of him since."

"That's most extraordinary," said Jack. "Who on earth could the stranger have been? Have you made no inquiries?"

"Lor' bless you, sir, yes. We've sent up to the farm and down to the village, and Williams has been to the police station, but we can't hear anything of him."

"Do you think he caught the midnight train at Stoleby? The man may have brought him news that necessitated his going up to Londou at once."

"You'll excuse me, sir," said the old women. "Way of rooms any this stranger was a big sk, side; that even now it was still possible her lover might be alive. "No, no," she answered through her that she had be throw open the French to the volled him of anticipated any harm, do you think he would have gone off so you think he would have gone off so you think he would have gone off so you think he would have been replaced to the trap is somebody he was somewhat ashamed of and didn't want to be seen with. If he went to the village, and Williams has been to the police station, but we can't hear anything of him."

"Do you think he caught the midnight train at Stoleby? The man may have brought him news that necessitated his going up to Londou at once."

"You'll excuse me, sir," said the old women, what the series and the dealing of the riddle was not a correct one, this going up to Londou at once."

"You'll excuse me, sir," said the old women, what the heart anything of him as the dealing of the riddle was not a correct one, the proposition of the stranger of a white object lying upon the law to the villegance of a white object lying upon the law to the trap is somebolay he was not nearly to her trap is somebolay he was somewhat ashamed of and didn't want to be very dealing to the riddle was not a correct one, the return not the trap is one the return. The grown has the h pearance than that,
"What time do you expect the men possess their souls in patience.

As Jim sat down to his solitary dinaware of a white object lying upon the carpet near the window. Crossing the

"Then I think I will wait for them," said Jack, "and accompany you in your be likely to injure Mr. Ormby. He is sax popular as any man in the neighborhood."

"Then, sir, why doesn't he come? He must know how anxious we all are. Oh dear, oh dear! To think

"Then I think I will wait for them," said Jack, "and accompany you in your search. Mr. Ormby is an old friend, and I am naturally very anxious on his account."

"I can quite understand that, sir," "As ad business," he said to himself for about the thousandth time. "I would for them," who sat at his board only two nights before had vanished so completely. It was almost impossible to realize that in all human probability they would never speak to him again.

"And who on earth threw it in here? "And who on earth threw it in here? "And who on earth threw it in here? "The asked himself as he broke open the envelope. "And who on earth threw it in here? "The asked himself as he broke open the envelope. "And who on earth threw it in here? "The asked himself as he broke open the envelope. "And who on earth threw it in here? "The asked himself as he broke open the envelope. "And who on earth threw it in here? "And who on earth threw it in all human probability they would not have said to himself the here." "And who on earth threw it in all human probability they would not have said to himself the here." "And who on earth threw it in all human probability they would not have say that here is a probable to realize that in all human probabilit

A few minutes later a cart made its little Dot from it."

After dinner he informed his sister friend is you'd better ax at the Mitcham olice constables. They had brought that he intended driving into the town Shipping Office, Liverpool. If you don't

regarding his missing friend it was his you may observe from the address on my get to Monte Video, and said that he onymous letter was thrown into your

he loved me and then run away from

it was of no value whatsoever

"Yes, sir, he said something very quiet. I didn't listen, so I couldn't tell you what it was."

"What happened next?"

next visited, but with the same resulf. They made inquiries at the little village half a mile further on, but every person they questioned declared that neither he, nor she, had seen anything of Mr. Orm-"What happened next?"
"Mr. Ormby told me to get down and lead the horse home. Then he jumped "I think, sir, you will find it will turn plied. After which Jack bade him good handed it to his groom, ere the train

Trowbridge reached Liverpool, He knew that all the shipping offices would be closed; for that reason, therefore, he made his way to his hotel, and post poned his inquiries until the morning. Then, as soon as his conscience would allow him to do so, he proceeded in the direction of the street in which he had been informed the offices of the Mitcham line of steamers were to be found. He had already discovered that the line traded exclusively with South America, and that their service was fortnightly. His mind was made a little uneasy when he learnt that their last steamer outwardbound had sailed from Liverpool on the day fellowing Omby's disappearance. As he told himself, this fact might be only coincidence; nevertheless, he felt that it was worth noting.

The office in question proved to be a side of the door large plate-glass winship, and in the other an advertisement setting forth the advantages of travel-

ling by the Mitcham line. When an official came forward to in quire his business he asked if it would be possible for him to see the manager. "He's engaged at present," the man replied. "But if you will take a seat in the waiting room I will give him your

Jack followed his conductor along the passage to a small room on the right, and then gave him his card. For upwards

card, I hail from Great Brackford.", The manager laid himself back in his himself."

"I arrived last night, and want, if pos- | ger?"

what it is that has brought you to me. "In our neighborhood we are in great

The manager nodded his head, and commenced polishing a pair of goldrimmed eye-glasses with a silk handkerchief he took from his breast pocket. "You refer to the Honorable James Ormby, I presume?" he said.

Jack stared at him in complete sur-"What do you know of that gentle-

"Strange to say I was discussing the case of his mysterious disappearance with my last visitor only a few minutes before you came in," said the manager. "Perhaps you have not seen the account

"No, I certainly have not," said Jack. "What's more, I'm extremely sorry to hear that it's got into the newspapers. "Quite, I fear. Now, pray tell me in what way I can help you In reply Jack gave him a rough outline of the case, and described the an-

onymous letter he had received. At the same time he produced it, and handed t across the table to the other. "Yes, it certainly says the Mitcham nipping office," was the manager's coment. "Well, we have only had one boat iling lately, and if Mr. Ormby sailed in her it should not be difficult to trace him. If you can give me a description of him I will institute inquiries at once." "I can show you his photograph. I took So saving, he produced from his pocket o far as the Marwhal is concerned."

examined it carefully through his glasses should go a long way towards settling and then touched the gong upon his matters. With your permission, I will

"Send Simpson to me," he said to the gether with a cheque which I should be clerk who appeared in response to the summons. Then he added to Jack: of both cables and the reply, whatever it "Mr. Simpson is our passenger clerk, and if your friend engaged a both in our answer we shall at least know something answer we shall at least know something." boat he is almost sure to remember him." A few seconds later the clerk in ques- rible."

ion made his appearance. "Mr. Simpson," said the manager, "this gentleman is anxious to discover whether a friend of his sailed in the Marwhal. His name is Ormby. This is a likeness of him."

"I can quite believe that," the manager replied, "We must hope for the best. After all, it may not be as serious as you suppose."

Jack, however, only shook his head.

dozen," answered the clerk; "that is to him as being somewhat out of the comsay, barring the passages that were taken mon. To reach the thoroughfare in

"Only seven one first-class, and six turn to the left

nore, when he went away with the never seen the fellow before. tranger he was wearing dress clothes, The stranger had walked on a few

and a light dust coat."

The clerk considered for a few moments before he gaye his decision.

"No, sir," he said at last, "I can't say that I remember your friend. The only many who booked a first-class passion. young man who booked a first-class passage was a youth of about two-and-dogged."

ne know the result."

The clerk once more left the room and Entering, he asked the shopman to show

age. "Elliott informs me," he said, "that posite side. Having purchased on the day in question a gentleman whose description seems to tally in some respects with that of Mr. Ormby, came with his shadower. To his surprise, to the office while I was at lunch and booked a passage to Monte Video."

however, the fellow had disappeared and was not to be seen anywhere.

wanted, if possible, to have a cabin to study late at night?"

"Did he pay you by cheque or in tired to rest," answered Jack. notes?" "In notes and gold, sir."

returned. "What name did he give?" "Stoneham, sir. James Stoneham."
The manager looked at Trowbridge.

James, was it not?" he inquired.
"Yes," Jack answered. "But that, of ments affect him? The only solution 1 ourse, may be a mere coincidence."
"Of course, of course," answered the away for a time. How does that strike

ouble they have taken."

The folk in town do not seem to be able to do so either," remarked the oftrouble they have taken." room, and Jack and the manager were ficer. "One thing, however, so far as ce more alone.

"The matter grows more and more peris, we must find out who the man is who

Jack saw the wisdom contained in this

suggestion, and gladly fell in with it.

ing every minute," said the former. has been shadowing you, and his reasons. Of course, this Mr. Stoneham may be for so doing. That accomplished, we my friend, and in that case he is alive.
If it is not he, I, for one, can only believe him to be dead. How on earth can 1 the case. If you will return to your "Let me think," said the manager, conce more placing his hands in the position once more placing his hands in the position on the lookout for you there. You are once more putting his manage in the vessel does quite sure, I suppose, that he does not not call anywhere until she reaches St. know you have come here? ncent. If I may make a suggestion "I feel certain that he does not," Jack

sking him to cause a notice to be posted Then I came on here as quickly as I in the first-class saloon and also in the could. steerage, imploring James Ormby, if he "It would be just as well to be certain is on board the ship, to communicate on that point," said the other. "If you with you by cable before the ship leaves will accompany me I will take you to a

tain instructing him to reply by wire as one outside. to whether this Mr. Stoneham is marked Jack followed him to another room upon the forehead as you describe. That, where there was a small window. He taken into conjunction with your tele-

has evidently missed me for the time be-"I cannot express my gratitude to ing." you," he said, "As you say, this course

write the telegram and send it to you, toanswer we shall at least know something definite. As it is the suspense is ter

"I can quite believe that," the man-

After he had thanked the manager for Simpson closely examined the photo- his trouble he shook hands and departed.

Simpson closely examined the photograph and then placed it upon the table.

"If you will allow me, sir, I will get my ledger, I shall then be able to speak more definitely."

He left the room to return with a large volume, which he placed upon a side table. Having discovered the page he wantel he ran his finger down it in search of the name the manager had given him.

"No, sir," he said, looking up from the book, "there is no such name here. There were eighteen passengers in the first-class, and forty-two in the steerage. But the name of Ormby is not among them."

After he had thanked the manager for his trouble he shook hands and departed. As he passed through the outer office he paused to ask Simpson if his colleagues were aware what amount of laggage the mysterious Mr. Stoneham took on board with him. This, unfortunately, proved to be a question Elliott could not offer any satisfactory reply to.

After once more thanking the men for the trouble they had taken, Trowbridge left the office. For a moment he paused on the pavement, not being quite certain in what direction he should proceed in order to reach his hotole. Then, having made up his mind, he turned to his right and set off along the crowded pavement. During that momentary pause, however, iem."

"I think it more than probable that he "I think it more than probable that he would have travelled under an assumed name," said Jack; "that is to say, if he left England at all."

"In that case," said the manager, "the only thing to be done is to rely upon this photograph. Did you book all the passengers personally, Simpson?"

"With the exception of about half a dozen," answered the clerk; "that is to him, she long convertes the matter struck him, the matter struck him as the passengers personally. "How many booked there?" which his hotel was situated it was ne cessary for him to cross the road and

"If I see anything of the man when I "To you know anything regarding the "If I see anything of the man when I am round the corner I shall feek sure that he is following me," he said to him-

"He is a clergyman, an elderly gentle- To make sure of this he stopped at a "He is a clergyman, an elderly gentleman, going to Rio."

"Well, then, as you booked most of the rest, can you remember anybody resembling this gentleman's friend?"

"Tall, wearing an eye-glass, and having a white sear an inch or so above his left eyebrow," said Jack. "What was more when he went away with the said of the street was reflected in the glass as clearly as a mirror.

"Egad! he is following me," he muttered. "Now, what on earth can be his reason for so doing? I'll swear I've never seen the fellow before."

sage was a youth of about two-and-twenty, clean shaven, and, from his accent. I should say of Scotch birth. As I said just now, there were six others whom I did not book. They were attended to by Elliott. Possibly he may re-tend to by Elliott. Possibly he may re-tend to by Elliott. Possibly he may re-tend to be supported by dingy of the support of t fices on every side. There happ "Pray go and ask him, then, and let be a small stationer's shop at the further was absent for upwards of ten minutes. him some drawing paper, and while the During that time the manager and Trow-latter was producing his ware looked out. bridge discussed the case.

When Simpson returned he brought into the square. He was not disappointed in what he expected to see there, for with him a youth of some twenty years the man who had been following him was now pacing up and down on the op-

booked a passage to Monte Video."

"Describe him, Elliott, as well as you ean," said the manager. "We shall then be able to judge for ourselves."

The young man moved uneasily on his feet, and, doubtless having a very modest estimation of his own powers, he blushed painfully.

"He was tall size and he does not however, the fellow had disappeared and was not to be seen anywhere.

"This is getting more inexplicable every minute," muttered Trowbridge to himself. "I should like to know what game the fellow is playing. Surely he can't be in league with the man who sent me that anonymous message? By Jove! he might be. And if

"Yes. After my household had re-"That would seem to suggest that the "Is it your opinion, then, that this is a or had friends who did. What seems to photograph of that particular passen- me so strange is the fact that they should "I feel almost certain it is," the clerk friend has really left for South America, have sent you a message at all. If your what possible interest could they have in letting you into his secret, especially if it is through their agency that he was driven away? Then, again, supposing "Your friend's Christian name was that this man who has been following

other. "But coincidences are sometimes you?"
strange things. Have you any more "There may be something in it," Jack strange things. Have you any more questions you would like to put to the clerks."

"No, thank you," said Jack. "I am wrey much obliged to them for the head nor tail of it."

"There may be something in it," Jack replied. "I do not pretend, however, to be able to read the riddle. The whole matter is beyond me. I can make neither head nor tail of it."

"The folk in town do not seem to be we are concerned, is quite plain. That

is what I should advise you to do. answered. "I was going to tackle him should send a telegram to the captain myself, but he mysteriously disappeare

the port. At the same time, if you like, window where you can see the length of the street without being seen by any-

gram, should surely set matters at rest, without discovering any sign of the man "No he is not there," he said "He

"Pardon me for a moment," said the

detective, "and I will show who will keep watch outs He left the room, and

ed was accompanied by a looking personage, who lage schoolmaster rather His superior briefly fun the facts of the case, aft man he was to watch, as

"You must keen von find out who he is at from, and then report to first detective. "You say

afternoon train? "That is my in

assured th his follow placed lat After h

Company. the Marw cable to h whom his drawn in velope, to to disport way to the eventual could be that his si

variety o

else waiting too. The little ma frock coat had made his app and was now staring into a she

station who from time to ti keeping in view. ed for and settled his bil had been brought made his way into

he took his seat. Upon reaching the quiries as to the p s train would leave, and thither. He had not been minutes before the man he put in an appearance, satisfied himself that he mistake, seated himself turning his head now rection of the train, w drawn up beside the platf ective, on the other hand, I down as if he were awaiting

Having procured all the would require for the jou bridge seated himself in a fi riage, and lit a cigar. From e was able to see both men Five minutes later the calling upon passengers to

ing the spy make his way towa telegraph office.
"He's wiring his friends that left Liverpool," he said to hir wonder if the police will be ab out who those friends are?"

Then the train moved slowly tation, and for the time being erpool was a place of the What with one change and and was nearly midnight by the treached Great Brackford. As n pposed, he was thoroug it, weary though he was fallen him during his absence f he, poor girl, had passed a mi

Unfortunately the news he had ble to bring back with him was character calculated to afford h relief.

Next morning he was smoking his study when his butler ente card upon a salver. He glar find to his astonis name of "Gonsaivez Ferdi

Alvaro." (To be continued.)

Private agents of Germany ha sed to the government t urchase of the Chilean battleship ain Prat and the armored crui neralda, and have offered to tak warships now being built in E for Chile.