BY DAVID CHRISTIE MURRAY.

Thursday came and with it came Lady Mabel, attired for the Archbishop's garden party. She sailed into Inthia's room, beaming with good humor.

"My dear," she said, holding both hands behind her, and tiptoeing over Inthia as she spoke, "I am quite fascinated by our new lion. I have been hunting everywhere to get a portrait of him, and only ten minutes ago I succeeded. I was driving through Ebury-street when it occurred to me to try once more at Downey's. The photograph was not for sale and I had to wheedle for it. Isn't he a superb creature—the lion? Doesn't he carry the airs of his deserts with him?"

She drew the photograph from its envelope, and held it aloft in her delicately-gloved fingers, gazing at it with a drell affectation of rapture. Inthia reached out a hand for it, but her ladyship waltzed away.

"No ne I Lean't next with my lion."

method by the property are not for asks and I had to make that has I have been for the protection of t

is not experimente—he has not learned the value of his name."

Lady Mabel's rooms as yet gave but a half promise of the condition of fashionable crush they were destined to reach an hour later, and Inthia had not been in the house five minutes when she found Ronald Morton bending over her. He was asking for a dance, and she felt like a raw girl on her first intreduction to the world. She had prepared herself for this, and had meast, if the request were profiered, to meet is with an excuse the moment might meant, if the request were prohered, to meet it with an excuse the moment might afford, and almost before she knew it she had accepted, and was pencilling Mr. Ronald Merten's name upon her card with trembling fingers. She had not even enough of the self-protective instinct left to put him far down on the list in the hope of accepting before the time came. She was a

escaping before the time came. She was a little surprised to discover that the desire to escape had vanished.

Humphrey Frost came te claim her for a quadrille, and this gave her time to steady herself a little, but she had never known the dance to mass with security and the state.

her, and took her hands in his.

"I had not meant to speak to-night." he said, "but I could not help it. I should have told the world to-morrow, and you first of all. I had a reason for the delay. I stayed away seven years to make an honorable life for myself. When I came home I found I had assumed the alias of a rascal, a thief and forger. But the hand of heaven was in it. He belonged to the very gang which brought about my ruin, and when they learned that Ronald Morton was in London the scoundrels took me for their old companion. I encouraged their belief, and to-night shall have in my hands the actual proof of their last villainy. I shall punish the heartless rascals that parted you and me, and I shall do a service to the world at large. I am expecting every moment the message which will call me to them."

As if the words were the cue for Lady Mabel's entrance she came into the conservatory at that moment, and caught sight of the couple sitting hand in hand. She started back for a mere second, and then advanced with an unusual frigidity of manner.

"Mr. Morton," she said icily, "your

"What has all this to do with the Asiatic "What has all this to do with the asiatic lion?" her ladyship demanded. "It sounds terrible," said Frost. "It re-minds one of Barrington and the days of the Regency. William Reid, dear ladies, is no other than Ronald Morton."

other than Ronald Morton."

"We have a prettier story than that," said her ladyship. "The career of the Asiatic lion shall come to a more agreeable close. From whom did you get this charming narrative, Mr. Frost?"

"I got it," said Frost gravely, "from an unimpeachable source. It came to me a quarter of an hour since only from M. Vergueil, a member of the detective staff of Paris, who has hunded this man and his comrades for seven years, and he will have

Service of the first of the control of the control

man, and at once brought his own driver to a halt. He sprang from the cab, and advanced with both hands outstretched.

"My dear old Wynne?" he said. "Welcome back again. Lady Mabel has told me everything."

"Then Lady Mabel," said Harry, "has committed an indiscretion. I am heartily glad to see you, but I must leave you now. You can tell me to-morrow how you came to follow me. I have an engagement of the utmost importance."

"I know that too," Frost answered. "I must come with you. You are putting yourself in danger."

"I anticipate no great danger," said Harry. "Iam armed, and I think I know my men."

"The house," Frost answered, "is to be surrounded by the police. You were to have been arrested with the others."

This tickled the returned wanderer, and he langhed aloud.

"There may be a melee," Frost went on "One of the scoundrels is known to be desperate."

"What brings you in it? How did you would be the police of the scoundrels is known to be desperate."

"What brings you in it? How did you will be the police of the scoundrels is known to be desperate."

"What brings you in it? How did you will be the police of the scoundrels is known to be desperate."

chain, and the face of an elderly woman peered round it."

"Who is it?" she asked.

"Mr. Ronald Morton."

"All right, sir. Wait just half a minute." She closed the door for the removal of the chain, and then re-opening it to no greater width than was necessary for the admission of the visitor, secured it anew behind him. "This way, sir. It's dark, but the road's quite level. The gentlemen's expecting of you."

The whole quartette awaited him. "You're punctual, William," said Gilead, "and so are we. The flimsy's ready, old pardy."

Sitting in his wheeled chair beside the table, he made a motion with his hand, indicating a neat pile of paper which lay beside him. Mr. Butterfield laid a pair of caressing palms upon the upper sheet, and smiled.

The drew towards him a soiled envelope which all you note table, and made a precise of pencilling casual lines apon it.

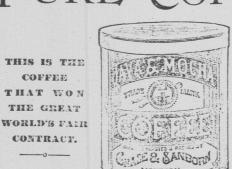
"One along, stranger. Don't be habitate the control of the contro

he emptied its contents from a height is the head of the unconscious man. "I me here!" He tore the shirt collar a and dashed water in double handfu Harry's face. "Bring more water?" of the plain clothes' men rushed out an empty bucket towards the mews. returned with it almost instantly. In meantine Frost had made waterless of meantime Frost had made another of men mount the table, and was handing

agony.
"He is dying," said Vergueil,
"No!" said Frost. "He is saved!"

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