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contents, provided, of course, there is an opaque object in it—opaque, that is to say, to the X-rays. If there is a metal spring or button it will be sufficient Williams metal spring or button it will be sufficient. Would you like to try it here or at your own place?"

"At my own place if it would not be too much trouble."

"No trouble in life. The apparatus packs up readily. In ten minutes I'll be ready."

"Am I wanted, doctor?" asked Mc-Carrer.

Carver.
"I don't think so."

"I don't think so."

"Glad. I want to eat my dinner, and I have an important engagement for the evening. Good-bye, doctor, good-bye, Limner; you will both dine with me to-morrow night at the Club.

Eight, what?"

Before they could get out an ac-

ceptance or an apology he was gone.
Dr. Allman, as he set up his dismembered apparatus in Hugh's studio, was not less excited than Hugh himself at the novel use to which it was

to be put.
"This is a detective adventure," said, "the most interesting of all. That big eye of mine has up to this only searched out broken bones and bullets."

"That was exciting enough, I should think," said Hugh, "when the stake was a human life."

"That may be; still novelty has its charms. I suppose it's some old-fashioned desk we have to look into?"

"No, it is that picture frame straight before you."

before you."

"A picture frame," said the other in surprise. "What a queer hiding place, but it will be easier to search than a desk. That seems a beautiful picture, Mr. Limner."

"It is a beautiful picture, doctor—a very valuable one. But the owner of the picture, and he was a good judge, once said that the frame was even more valuable. Now I want to find out why he said it."

"I'll find out for you," said Dr. Allman.

He set the wheels whirring, and the beautiful yellow green light—the mystical unmistakable light of the X-rays

—glowed in the great glass globe.
Dr. Allman took the cream-coloured square in his hand.
"Now," he said, "if you will move the frame slowly round between me and the light, I will look through it."
Lifting the picture on to a chair, Hugh made the frame revolve slowly between the faintly lit globe and the screen through which Dr. Allman peered. peered.

T WO sides of the frame had been turned slowly in dead silence when Dr. Allman suddenly dropped his opaque spy glass.

ped his opaque spy glass.

"There is something there," he cried excitedly, "but I cannot make out what it is for the moment. It is small and square. Is it a jewel you are searching for, Mr. Limner? Here, take the screen. I will hold the frame steady, and you can look for yourself."

Hugh looked and saw a small black blotch about half an inch square. He could make nothing of it at first. Then somehow the curious shape struck him as familiar.

"Is sealing wax opaque to the rays?"

'Is sealing wax opaque to the rays?"

he asked.
"Why, certainly."
"Then this is a seal on a letter. It was a letter I expected to find."

"I believe you are right—that is certainly the shape."

certainly the shape."
"How did it get in?" queried Hugh,
"and how are we to get it out?"
"That's what we have to discover.
Will you hold the picture and let me
look again? Oh, I think I have it!
There is a tiny little black dot and
something that looks like a spring at
the right of the blotch. I missed it
at first, it is so small. Now hold the
frame steady for a moment."
He put his right hand inside the

He put his right hand inside the screen and watched the bone of his finger-tip hover over the black dot. Then he pressed down firmly, and felt the point he pressed yield to his finger. A slim slip of wood flew back,

and an edge of paper showed itself at the opening pushed out by a spring. Dr. Allman pulled a sealed letter from the aperture, and without a word or a glance at seal or address handed it to Hugh

to Hugh.
"That is what you wanted, I think,"



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