& DOUBLOONS

BY EDEN PHILPOTTS AND ARNOLD BENNETT



ters was in actual veritable danger be- Cotton street. came somehow intensely real to him. He remembered that Giralda, too, had that there was a small circle of faint dered one's own brother—"

great pal of mine."

consult the local police." pen," Mary breathed.

Because I have been thinking there ing. He went up the two steps and may be something in that hidden treas- knocked loud and bold. And if money is concerned-and my opened the door. uncle-" she stopped.

can there be any risk? .Vhy Phil should be carried off to a place like Grenada, I can't imagine. But we'll thick, heavy voice. find him. I tell you what-it wouldn't be a bad plan to get hold of Marse Coco and hear him talk, eh? He might be useful."

"I should like to very much," Mary The voice almost broke.

And Tony, as he called briskly for his hat and overcoat, had a dim, vague sense of the grim quality of the whole such glimpses.

CHAPTER XX. Travels in London.

After quitting Mary Pollexfen in Kingsway, Philip Masters did not reach Poplar on the Sunday evening without a considerable amount of difficulty. his London. He had probably never in his life been further east than Aldgate; it is doubtful if he ever knew the "Three Nuns." He hailed a hansom just north of St. Clement Dane's, and remarked airily to the cabman:

"Cotton street, Poplar, No. 7." The No. 7 was delicious. "Not me," said the cabman. "What's it worth?" Philip inquired,

trying to look generous. "It ain't worth anything," the cab-

d.dn't know even the exterior of the but this impression passed; he might the Corner House. churches, where the streets were full have been almost any age. of trams instead of crawling cabs. It was with a certain sinking of the asked gruffly. heart that he saw his own vehicle vanish. He ought to have been content ing up a dust here. What about?" with a tram, but he lacked skill in

7 on this occasion. And to his despair and disgust the too."

cabman replied, "Not me, guv'nor." "It isn't far, is it?" Philip questioned. somewhat wistfully.

Thas just in the radius." Once more Philip accepted.

The cab penetrated further and further into regions Caesar never knew. It followed a thoroughfare wider than her bundle." anything Philip had seen outside Paris, but, as regards its characteristics, ineffably depressing. And the thoroughfare was eternal. Time after time it had the air of reaching the end of the world, and then it made up its mind to proceed further. Philip had not beheld windows of the cab in thirty minutes. There were plenty of public houses, "Come on." but there was not a single decent re- floundering over lines of rail- arm and then your right. Having done in a peculiar manner?"

to descend again unprotected in the exotic and full of sinister romance. Then your fiu-jitsu tricks. It was a lament- mean?" west. He had heard of Stepney chief- lighted by an oil lamp. ly as a district owning a bishop; he hight have been in Strasburg, Staffa,

or Stornaway. asked the cabman respectfully.

Feplar."

'Is it much further?" "I should say it's a tidy step."

to have boarded at Aldgate. the tram drew up at another large raflway station and a couple of hundred ya.ds further on the conductor tipped time. him a familiar wink.

"'Ere y'are," said the conductor. And Philip had to descend; had to leave his sole acquaintance in that desolate region. The strange Oriental odor of the tram remained with him.

good," she replied, with deep feeling. curious church, and its clock struck 12 prehensive quarrel with the universe. might have killed you at once And suddenly the atmosphere changed just as Philip was hesitating at the Then he began to notice other interest-And suddenly the atmosphere changes just as India Dock road and ing things, as that he was lying on Philip put in. "A murder or so more and went out and shut and locked the

"And supposing you go—we go, what a feeling of manliness. In less than a he could not; then his legs, and he my brother. I meant only to stun him. shall you do when you get out there, minute he stood in front of No. 7. So far as he could judge in the obscurity That will depend. We may have to of the badly lit street it was a house unutterably mean and melancholy. A "I hope nothing terrible will hap- light was burning in the hall, as a light had been burning in the hall of 'Why do you imagine such things?" the Corner House on just such an even-

ure story of the negro Coco's after all. A rather short, firmly built man

"I want to see Mrs. Upottery," Philip "Do you know," cried Tony, "that's said at once. He had no intention of just what I've been thinking-I mean raising the point whether or not Mrs. about the treasure. As for risks. How Upottery lived there, or had lived there, and explains a whole series of differ- of your neck." The man seemed to hesitate. ing facts:

"Mrs. Upottery?" he murmured in a "Yes, Mrs. Upottery." "We don't want any friends of Mrs. Upottery here," said the man in a tone

or finality. "A nice time of night to some waking people up." answered. "He was my poor father's friend, the only friend, the only friend he had, I think." The only friend he had, I think."

to speak to her." "Well, she ain't in."

"When will she be in?" adventure. And he perceived Mary as She turned this house upside down. provide. adventure. And he perceived Mary as she turned this house upside down. Provide.

a tragic and remote figure, far above, She's made forty times more mess than From time to time he made efforts to found out all about his domestic af- on the inside by a nut. He detached to 'Yes, isn't it?" said Pollexfen with indeed so near to Philip that almost not for him, by a sphere of emotions she's worth. And she ain't paid her free his limbs, in vain. not for him, by a sphere of emotions she with. And she affect the shall be involuntarily lend of the shall be involuntari quick!

"See here, mate," said he persuasive-

ly. "If that's any use to you it's yours. him, on board the yacht!

half-crown, and then his fingers closed on it, and he opened the door wider. Philip lay. Without waiting for an invitation, Philip slipped inside the house. A style of a doctor.

the lore of London travel, and loitered only know as she's going as stewardess, highly cultivated accent in a tone that "You doubt me, my dear sir?" Pol- revolver. about for another hansom. Fortune fav- or something on a yacht. But if you was even more than pleasant. If, in- exfen seemed surprised and hurt. ask me, she's a queer lot. What sur- deed, he was Mary's uncle, Mary's "If it was an accident, how came "Cotton street, Poplar," he said to prises me is that the police ain't been lovely voice was not the first of its you to drug young Meredith on the the driver, wisely leaving out the No. after her. If she ain't a jailbird, then sort in her family.

"It's further than I'm going this Etang-damned if I can recollect the just the right place." blessed night," said the cabman. "I'll names. But the old woman's been jabtake you to Stepney Station, if you like. bering about Grand Etang ever since asked, ignoring these observations. she came in tonight."

Philip was immensely interested. "Where is she now?"

"Sne's gone down to the vacht with "Where's the yacht?" "She's lying off Green's wharf, if she hasn't sailed."

Philip thought a moment. "Far from here?" he questioned. "No, not so far."

"Look out," he said at last. "How do I go on from here?" he lay astonishingly before him, with the remarked as he cut the cord. shipping of the world on its broad And the cabman looked down on him bosom. Two steamers were alongside, Philip.

CHAPTER XXI.

Mary stood up. "You are very, very in another hemisphere. Close by was a cross and sickly child that had a com- curiosity should be appeared. I opened it. "Not at all. You know Phil is a been down there all alone, and he radiance in front of him to his right. He tried lazily to move his arms, and fen, "that I didn't, morally, murde could not. Then he renewed the at- Unhappily, I hit too hard-and there tempt with increased force, still with- the old chap was, dead at my feet." out result. This made him angry. He struggled hard, was conscious of pain

> in his ankles and wrists, and muttered. "I'm tied down." wandering pain in his head. The hooligans of Lima, where I met with and uncanny in the night. thought flashed through his brain like it-on the back of my neck. I daresay

"Uncle Pollexfen's at the bottom of this."

that he was in a cabin, and that the cies I am nothing. I never embark on hooks the conveniences of an entire decomposition of animeal matter . another London, with intense and vio- attire. Then I descended by means of then, while staring at the interior of utterly revolted by the detailed con- sponded Pollexfen. "You are coming too "She won't be in. At least I hope not. the wonderful "copy" which he was to noitered. The watchman was my first the brass knob projected through the him, though as a snake is said to fas-

for her, that's what she'd do. And match came into the cabin, followed by ed him that there was an excellent ed by a knock at the door. quick!"

The man was furious against Mrs.

Upottery. He made as if to close the lite to the man against to the post of the port hole, and definitely to the port hole, and the port hole and the dcor, but Philip put his foot in it, at match, dropped it on the floor, and spoiled the desired effect. However, immutable Euclid was against him. In al regret, caused by his talents, and thought it would interest you to hear the common the contain details brown to contain the contain details brown to contain the contain details brown to contain the co the same time holding out half a crown with glinted in the feeble light.

"See here mate" said be parsuagive.

"See here mate" said be parsuagive.

"See here mate" said be parsuagive.

"The I wanted a a frenzy of rage he bent the salver when a man becomes a detective, to man who had led him, who had led him who man who had led him, who had lured against your cabin. I adopted it. I through the hole. He let it fall into be killed is a part of his trade. The also, as I told you at the beginning of the proof the real through the hole. He let it fall into

"Hm!" he murmured, rather in the think?"

"It ain't worth anything," the cabpassage was shiny with grease, and the
man replied. "I'm not going to Poplar
floor was of no special color or subtonight, guy-nor. I'll drive you to
stance Phillip's ever interpreted the tonight, guv-nor. I'll drive you to Aldgate, if you like."

Sudden resemblance to Mrs. Upottery only be called, it Rights words a das-you."

Stance. Philip's eyes interrogated the was too remarkable to leave any doubt to retain their common meaning, a das-you."

The Philip accepted. At Aldgate, where strongly held by an enemy, where he gave the impression of being young. dominated the extraordinary drama of and he knew it not.

"Thanks for the three half-crowns, ately," Pollexfen protested, "You mean roved over the cabin. "What do you want to know?" he I managed it somewhat better this or your ought to mean that I succeed- "When I say I'm on the bunk, I'm

time," said the man softly. "How do I know what about?" struck him that the man had changed affair was an accident," said Philip. "I I preferred to see."

Tompletely. He now spoke with a have my own ideas about that."

He reentered, mak

"Yes, I did hear she was bound for a blow of just sufficient strength, ter. I did not understand young Mer- "To resume," said Pollexfen, ignor- ter my original clumsiness in making enemies could wish you to live." the West Indies - Grenada - Grand neither too strong nor too feeble, in edith, as you call that charming per- ing this definite question. "I got the the captain unconscious permanently

have come to satisfy your legitimate of young Meredith, and for that pur-have used it successfully himself. I dow sash in lowering our poor captain nice to you, to use your own phrase. several times already."

He smiled vaguely. Philip said. "You have not been quite ried. Still, I accomplished enough." nice to me, you know."

Mr. Pollexfen responded. "There is a plied Philip.

derstand what I have said?"

no one to talk to intimately for a long, me tell you-"

ing, if you will. It's in my nature. It's beat of the engines. desolate region. The strange Oriental odor of the tram remained with him.

Just as he had heard of Stepney, so

When his senses became once more in the nature of most great men. And burst out, evidently startled.

When his senses became once more in the nature of most great men. And burst out, evidently startled.

When his senses became once more in the nature of most great men. And burst out, evidently startled.

Suppose you'll not deny, seeing how burst out, evidently startled.

Keeping the muzzle of the revolver day of my arrival at the Corner Hous; on the bunk. he had heard of Poplar, and he was cept a feeling of fatigue and petulance. about me, that I am a great man. Be- in Philip's direction, he moved cauti- I was obliged to find a hiding place "What on earth do you want to kill In His own London seemed to him that he was like a sides, you deserve that your audactous ously but quickly to the door and for male attire and other details, and me for?" he inquired with splendid

"I'm bound to tell you," said Pollex-

"What did you hit him with,"

"This," said Pollexfen, putting penmake much noise; there was no anfound nothing when you feloniously inside half a dozen hours. And such is
searched, my chamber that night, the respect in England for those two knife and cord in his pocket and draw- swer. Below him lay a broad, flat-bot- searched my chamber that night. the respect in England for those two ing therefrom a small, pear-shaped bag tomed pair-oar. It was moored to its Don't deny it-don't attempt to deny Occidental fetishes, the sanctity of proinclosed in a long, narrow net. "It the wharf and it was swaying to and it-I saw at once you had been on the perty and the sanctity of the higher Thenceforward his memory recovered contains a mixture of the smallest shot fro, its painter alternately fell into the prowi." He laughed quietly. very rapidly. He recalled all that had and silver sand. Shot alone would be water and rose dripping; and the sound passed up to the moment of descend- too heavy, and sand wouldn't be heavy of hundreds of drops pattering on the it.

awkwardly placed with my broth- on the top of the mahogany erection rising detective, Mr. Varcoe, who was Philip quietly. "But you're a scoun-And shortly afterwards he said aloud: er's corpse. No doubt everyone by the bunk. He opened the mahog- slight and thin. He lies in repose drel. And I give myself the pleasure of thought the affair a miracle any erection, which in a space of three under the floor of that room, wedged telling you so. Yes, sir," he added, mov-His eyes had grown accustomed to of prearrangement. It was not cubic feet contained with its drawers in between two rafters. His rest will ing forward and becoming a little ex-His eyes had grown accustomed to of prearrangement. It was not cubic feet contained with its drawers in between two latters. The lawe of the cited. "A scoundrel! Not to say a the gloom, and he gradually perceived But if I am not equal to emergen- and apertures and taps and basins and be interrupted . . . the lawe of the cited. "A scoundrel! Not to say a law of the cited."

lent longing. And he thought of the that ladder from my brother's room an empty drawer (lined with news fession to which he was obliged to close. Do you hear?" He advanced his Courier and Lord Nasing, expecting into Little Girdlers Alley, and I recon- papers) he perceived that the screw of listen, and which indeed fascinated revolver an inch or two. annoyance. I chatted with him and front of the drawer and was secured cnate a bird. fairs. I then went up into Holburn, the knob, and with the sharp screw- gentle enthusiasm. "It is astounding. involuntarily Philip slipped back again

dug a neat thing in graves. Then I the boat, and it descended softly on to risks, if not as great as the risks run frankly to some one. A man such as Like many Londoners, he knew not I'd like to have a bit of a chat with Philip made no sign, though his brain climbed back to my brother's room and the neatly coiled tiller ropes. you. I shan't keep you two minutes.
But I've got most particular reasons for meeting with Mrs. Upottery, and I'm him well in a crisis. He had fully ied I put the spade back, and revisited no more a friend of hers than you are." grasped the futility of any kind of pro- the trench just as that idiot of a po-The man's hand fidgetted toward the test, and he was determined to wait, liceman came up. I was back in the "Are you lying on the bunk?" The man, with an air of bland inter- house in no time. The affair seemed to est, bent over the bunk on which me rather distinguished, both in conception and in execution. What do you

> The man spoke in such easy, unafcandle burned crookedly in a pewter
>
> Then he picked up a black bonnet fected tones that Philip, do what he stick on a deal table. The sides of the which was lying near, put it on, gave could, could not retain the ordinary

ed by masterly use of chance."

very night that the accident occurred?" I never seen one. And I seen a few, too."

"The insensibility business," answer-too."

"Oh!" exclaimed Pollexfen. "I see the man. "A few days ago I thought what you are running your head my hand had lost its cunning. It needs against. That was quite another mat- asked. "That's what I want to know." son. But I had my suspicions. Young information that I required out of the instead of temporarily, I only made an "Are you Walter Pollexfen?" Philip Meredith had behaved for several days late captain's pockets. It was quite error. You may guess what that was?" in a way that I did not at all care for. as good as I expected, and it quite Philip shook his head.

"If you'll come out and take me there and its bark. You committed that in- room at a moment when I was watch-

so, lost that he knew not east from house. The man passed along an entry while I was in Yokohama I neglected fen, waving the revolver with a didactic further, I began to have my doubts Upottery and Mr. Pollexfen existed septo study jiu-jitsu myself. Do you un- gesture. "As a philosopher you have about myself; I found out the identity arately at the same time and could not sionate instinct of self-preservation already attained to no mean proficien- of the youth Meredith—the chit resem- therefore be the same person. And look gradually assumed dominion of his Philip saw lights. He stood on a "Perfectly," said Philip. "Go ahead." cy. But you have something to learn. bles her uncle in certain points of how I deceived you. Consider how per-brain and he began to assess the situwharf. The vast and heaving Thames "Your manners please me," Pollexfen The absurd conventional emphasis character; and to cap it all I was feetly, with what admirable sangfroid, ation, to search for ways of escape, to which you put on the phrase 'own bro- compelled to waste precious time in I took you in at Castle street! And in calculate his chances. "I can't return the compliment," said ther convinces me that you have some- dealing with Mr. Varcoe." thing to learn. One does not choose Philip gave a start before he could hundred pound notes for two of yours, before him, and as that image gained from his box. "Any of these trams," and into one of them a Leam crane. In another moment he was free, while one's relatives. Forgive this platitude. control himself. said the cabman. "I don't know as they with an incredible thunderous rattle, Pollexfen stood at the opposite end of But one does not. One owes nothing "I see I am beginning to excite you method of disposing at full price of Walter Pollexfen—an anger which no goss to Cotton street, but they goes to and screech was pouring bulky pack- the cabin, the revolver in one hand and to one's brother. One's brother is a now," Pollexfen observed with an bank notes that the police have put on mere virtuous indignation had been able ages. Men cried to one another be- the penknile in the other. He wonder- mere hazard of life—of no logical con- agreeable and ironic smile. "Admit the Index Expurgatorious? Answer me," to excite—seethed and boiled within tween the ship and the wharf. Philip's ed whether it would be better to make sequence whatever. My brother was one it." 1 guide walked up the wharf to a long, a dash at the scoundrel instantly or to man. I was another. Hence fratri- Masters was conscious of a feeling "It is a pity about that finger mark," Pollexfen? The mere idea of such a He boarded a tram which he ought sloping gangway that gave access to await events. Having reflected upon cide is no worsce and no better (save hardly to be differentiated from terror. Pollexfen mused aloud. "A pity!" the other steamer. Philip observed the Pollexfen's previous exploits, and upon in exceptional instances) than ordinary And yet Pollexfen talked so easily, so The conductor actually knew Cotton name "White Rose" on a dirty gray the kind of person that the hero of homicide. In truth, just as there is no naturally, with such an undeniable street, and Philip, enheartened, regard- life-buoy. A thin smoke was oozing them must necessarily be, he decided Allah but Allas, so there is no homi- charm of manner, that his listener I don't know why I like you, but I do, timate! Only a few hours since, and she ed him as a man and a brother. The from the funnel. A solitary lantern that in all the circumstances it would cide but homicide. In the peculiar ex- could scarcely comprehend his own You are the sort of simple, straight was dining with him and she had decidtram was a leisurely apparatus. The showed from the mast. The guide be better to await events.

entire population of Stepney and Popcrossed the gangplank, Philip at his "Perhaps," he ventured, stretching, a kindness to my brother. I claim no "Where is Varcoe?" he demanded, in lar seemed to get in and out of it heels. And as Philip gained the deck and twisting his legs, and rubbing his virtue for that—it was an accident. a nervous voice. about three times. It passed churches and manufactories. It crossed water by means of bridges, and Philip saw the masts of ships dimly against the might sky. He also saw now and then, the tram stopped posters on the walls in languages of which he could not make out a single character. Then the tram drew up at another large and the possible posters on the walls and manufactories. It crossed water is tarry, oily odor of sits wide water, its tarry, oily odor of sits foolery with me. It the had no friends. He had quarreled to the third day. Yes. . . . All Londo is down to will know to side to a question. If I had not stone, if You had not to voyage in an enterprise in which with even his daughter. He was about the third day. Yes. . . All Londo is down to will know to side to a question. If I had not a water by side to a question. If I had not a water ively. "Today is Monday. This makes the the third day. Yes. . . . All Londo is down to a water by side to a question. If I had not a water with with even his daughter. He was about the third day. Yes. . . . All Londo is down to a water by side to a question. If I had not a water with a water with a with even his daughter. He was about the with even his daughter. He "Down here," the man called, ind; fact rather like a theatrical display. —saved him all that. And you would like Kitchener at Omdurman. He was cating a companion ladder, but he re- You see I'm a theatrical person-kind- like to see me hanged for what I did! guilty of only one mistake. He thought a passion for dactylography—why, then placable watchfulness of Walter Pol-

ing the companion. He put two and enough in such a small quantity. It's black surface of the river each time two ingeniously together, despite a an instrument of attack affected by the the painter rose was strangely clear tain under the floor and left London No! It is said that the devil employs

A notion came to Philip. been emptied. He searched the cabin through the ceiling of the room below, I regret it." for suitable material, and found noth- which would have been awkward! "Just so. I can assure you I was very ing but a salver that was reared up These objections did not apply to the

The knock was repeated.

Making no answer Philip rapidly "I say!" The voice was Pollexfen's.

"Well, kindly lie on the bunk. I'm

coming in." Philip obeyed. By stretching out his hand he could screw the knob home in

"I'm on the bunk," said he. "Well, on the whole I shan't trust

There was silence. Then Philip Philip accepted. At Aldgate, where not extremely so. He wore a cap, and helpless in the presence of Walter Polhe already felt himself in a foreign a leather belt showed under his waist- lexfen, that protean being who, hith- chance," he said, coldly and nonchal- the door, and presently an inch-wide land, or rather in a hostile country hald by an enemy, where he coat. His face was pale. At first he erto unrecognized in his proper person, antly. Sweat broke out on his brow, gouge came through at the height of said Pollexfen. I have some regard for come a M. F. H. in some remote country, "You do not express yourself accur- eye took the place of the gouge, and

on the bunk." observed Philip.

To resume," he said.

CHAPTER XXII.

The Compact. "What are you leading up to?" Philip too late."

long time. I feel the need of Pollexfen broke off suddenly. A throb he entered my room for the battle of prospect."

talking to someone, the need of boast- went through the vessel. It was the Omdurman I was waiting behind the door with my little instrument, and asked me where he is. Well, on the in Pollexfen's voice. He sat up straight

I took up the floor, loosening the amazement. "You've succeeded. You've "Don't try any games," he warned nails under the bed. Nothing is sim- got clear off. Are you possessed by a "It surprises me that you did not," the prisoner, with a menacing accent, pler to a man who has been in all lust for blood?" "I hate blood," said Pollexfen. "Be-

trades, from navying to treasure seekhis back on some soft substance, and or less, especially when one has mur-door. The beat of the engines ceased, ing, including naturally that of a car-sides, there won't be any. And I don't Philip leaped from the bunk, making penter, to arrange nail-heads where want to kill you. I should much prefer straight for the port hole. With dif- nails have been in a way to escape de- not to. But where is the alternative? ficulty he unscrewed its fastening and tection even under a close scrutiny. I I can't keep you in captivity. And the opened it and looked forth. The load- could lift and replace the planks of moment I let you go I am a lost manng of the other steamer was now fin- the floor in a moment. I had quite a or if not lost, a man in a highly danished and not a soul was on the wharf. wardrobe down there. Behold the gerous predicament. The ports of the He called in a low voice; he dared not reason why you and your little friend world would be closed against this yacht forms of animal life, that the British "I am not denying it," Philip put Government would be capable of sending out a torpedo boat destroyer to "Good! I should have put the Cap- look for me with a few twelve-pounders

on the morning after his death; but the energies of the idle, and he has he was unhappily too fat. And more-certainly employed yours. He has

by a miner or a hunter, or a president frankly to some one. A man such as I fair. In this particular instance Mr. cinetly.

Varcoe wanted to get a person named Pollexfen smiled. "And mental solicoe's own decease. I---"

of the lips.

decide on a war. The last cabinet that a dissatisfied person. In another thirty "You say Mrs. Upottery's been kick"What?" Philip curtly asked. It "It's all very well to say that the "So I see," answered Pollexfen. "But does it inone of those tedious, aged frequenters

a dissatished person. In another thirty
did so killed probably about ten thousyears you would have developed into
one of those tedious, aged frequenters preferred to see." and people per head. But does it in one of those tedious, aged frequenters

He reentered, making prominent the terfere with their sleep? Not in the of clubs who go about grumbling that least. What is the matter with you, things are not what they once were and Mr. Masters, if I may say so, is that that the end of the world is at hand. you have never thought; you have And your acquaintances would be wait-

> truly! Upon my soul I was regretting Philip said nothing. your immediate decease a few moments "In the entire complicated affair, af-

"Mr. Masters," said the man. "I So I determined to investigate the case confirmed my view that he could not "I bruised my wrist against the wincuriosity. I am Walter Pollexfen. We pose I caused a drug to be employed. now had various matters to attend to from the window to the alley. That was But you will suffer the minimum of inhave had the pleasure of meeting you However, I was so fully occupied durall at once. I had to pretend to be an accident that might have happened convenience." ing the night that I had no opportun- ill, for reasons of discretion. And your to anyone. But I ought to have washed "Look here," Philip fronted him, leanity to profit by the effect of the drug unfortunate discovery made of that and bandaged my wrist at once. And ing on one elbow. "You've played a "I wish you'd unfasten these ropes," till morning, and even then I was hur- tooth out of my comb made it neces- I did not. I merely licked it. Knowing goodish few comedies this last week. "You accomplished too much," re- I think me to appear at the inquest. the danger of finger marks I merely Are you playing one now?" I think my appearance at the inquest licked it. I was perhaps somewhat nerv- "I am not," said Pollexfen simply. was rather masterly, don't you, Mr. ous and hurried and I could not bring And Philip was convinced that Pol-French provers about the indiscretion of putting one's finger between the tree "You lifted the blind of Meredith's Master's? In the pleasure it gave me myself to stop in order to wash and lexfen was not playing a comedy. Durit rivalled my finest triumphs at the bandage my hand. I did not observe inng the previous hour he had gained in thirty years as many sad-eyed, ill-at once," said Philip, feeling in his discretion. It is rediculous to gird ling from the street. It was just that the wound had been bleeding He had got accustomed to the seducdressed, plain people as passed the pocket, "said rimin, it is radiculous to gird ling from the street. It was just that House in Denver, It was, not to extend the wound had been bleeding He had got accustomed to the seductions." A pity against the consequences of having that started me in my investigations." A pity against the consequences of having that started me in my investigations." "Til do it," said the man promptly. against the consequences of naving that started me in my investigations.

"Come on"

"Then I certainly accomplished too aggerate, immense. You may be inter-slightly. A pity, a pity! Nevertheless, tion of his voice, and to the strange-order to be consequenced as aggerate, immense. You may be inter-slightly. A pity, a pity! Nevertheless, tion of his voice, and to the strange-order to be consequenced as aggerate, immense. You may be inter-slightly. A pity appropriate to the seduction of his voice, and to the strange-order to be consequenced as aggerate, immense. You may be inter-slightly. A pity appropriate to the seduction of his voice, and to the strange-order to be consequenced as a proverb, my dear to be consequenced as a proverb, my dear to be consequenced as a proverb. sir. However, I am willing to release much—for your ultimate welfare, Mr. ested to know that the captain knew that was my error. And instead of be-ness of his sentiments. He had begun all resembling each other so exactly They went outside instantly, and the you. First let me direct your attention Masters." He appeared to reflect, who I was before he died. I had an ing lost in admiration of my courage, to admire Pollexfen. Singular phenothat they might have been bought at man hanged the door He lost to reflect. Who I was before he died. I had an ing lost in admiration of my courage, to admire Pollexfen. Singular phenothat they might have been bought at man hanged the door He lost to reflect. that they might have been bought at men banged the door. He led the way to this revolver and this knife." He "Nevertheless the fact remains both interview with him in his room, stormy, my originality, my skill, my inventive— menon and a remarkable tribute to some wholesale store of public houses down Cotton street. The "Nevertheless the fact remains both interview with him in his room, stormy, my originality, my skill, my inventive— menon and a remarkable tribute to this revolver and this knife." He "Nevertheless the fact remains both interview with him in his room, stormy, my originality, my skill, my inventive— menon and a remarkable tribute to the some wholesale store of public houses admired him. some wholesale store of public houses down there at regular interand put down there at regular interThey crossed Poplar High street penknife from his own pockets. "I will to have given way to my curiosity so have given way to my curiosity vals, signs and everything complete; and soon Philip found himself release your legs first, then your legs first determined to the courage of the courage legs first, then your legs first, then your legs first determined to the courage legs first, then your legs first determined to the courage legs first determined to the ments that I needed, but I failed in tail of my actions since I first deter- of his amazing character. He was not staurant—using the word "decent" in way amid little groups of loaded wa- that. The captain was too suspicious, mined to have a hand in this business ashamed of his instincts. He did not "You lifted it as a man who has kill- that. The captain was too suspicious, mined to have a hand in this business ashamed of his instincts. He did not "You lifted it as a man who has kill- that. The captain was too suspicious, mined to have a hand in this business ashamed of his instincts. He did not Philip's sense—nor a single building gons with a red signal here and there opposite corner of the late captain's without being seek to call things by their wrong that met his eye in a friendly manner. It is a friendly manner to the ultimate altercation. Of of the late captain's without being seek to call things by their wrong that met his eye in a friendly manner. that met his eye in a friendly manner. In the distance. The man walked fast you move off the bunk you will be expected to lift it, Philip answered, course, it ended badly for the captain, struck by my genius. Thus I went back names. He never for a moment pre-Then the mean lights of Stepney Sta- and never looked behind. Then, besides, having to pretend to have to the Obelisk Hotel at Pollexfen after tended that self-interest was not his long appeared, and Philip was obliged. tion appeared, and Philip was obliged over uneven ground; all was strange, this because I have an objection to welfare! What the deuce does he superintend his funeral, I had my I had taken a room at the Corner House sole guide in this sublunary existence. marine arangements to perfect and as Mrs. Upottery, so that there should Yes, Philip achaired him. But at the hostile country. He was geographically some sheds loomed up, and a ware- able fault in my programme that "Excellent young man," said Pollex- complete. And then, to worry me still be circumstantial evidence that Mrs. same time Philip did not precisely see

surreptitiously exchanging two of my and did - not invent an entirely new clearness in his mind an anger against

"You did," said Philip, obediently. "Why? You have succeeded."

"I say it is a pity because I like you. Englishman that appeals to a complex ed to trust him, to rely on him. And person like myself, who owns no na- after that he was to disappear off the tionality, and who always sees two face of the earth according to the whim membered nothing else for quite a long ly lie down on that bunk—and I've had You astound me. You shock me. Let I didn't suspect him. Whereas the contrary was the case. So that when present instant a rather unpleasant the tears up to his eyes. He felt in

"What prospect?" "The prospect of-er-killing you." Philip thought he noticed a tremor Pollexfen meant to kill him!

a scientific discovery that classifies you feel a slight soreness at the back! He examined his pockets. They had over his weight might have sent him ruined your earthly career, and I repeat

the confined space of that cabin, was

"I did not begin to relate to you my required for the whole operation, even share in the affair." Pollexfen re-

of the United States are considerable. is apt to lead a somewhat solitary life." Detectives, know that quite well. It's "I can believe it," said Fhilip, suc-

Bilington to put me to a violent death, tude is apt to get on one's nerves. Our accompanied by every circumstance of little chat has really done me a great shame. I objected, and the inevitable deal of good. To return, however to outcome of my objection was Mr. Var- yourself. Now, just as I performed a service to Captain Pollexfen, so I shall "You may talk till you're black in be performing a service to you. You the face," Philip interrupted the doc- are alone in the world. You've nobody tor. "You know what I think. You've depending upon you. Your sole fortune simply no regard for human life at consists of two hundred-pound notes which you can't possibly negotiate. You Polexfen gazed at him and there was have no profession. You have no career just perceptible lowering of the corner You are not the sort of man who succeeds in England. Either you ought to "You exaggerate, my young friend," have been born a millionaire and bea man's eye and was withdrawn. An human life, though it was not unlimit- or you ought to have emigrated to Caned. For example, I have much more re- ada. Your life would be decidedly a gard for human life than a cabinet of failure. You would gradually lose your ministers who meet before lunch and illusions and your hair, and grow into

never honestly tried to look at things ing with suppressed expectant joy for as they are. Unfortunately it is now news of your funeral. A nice prospect,

ago. I regret it no longer. Only your

Philip asked. "I will not tell you." said Pollexfen. "If I told you, I should not be 'quite

The vision of Mary Pollexfen rose him. Was he to be cut off from Mary possibility was grotesque. It was ridiculous! It was inconceivable! Why! He and Mary Pollexfen had become inthe profoundest depth of his heart that there was only one thing worth living for. And he had found that thing! And

"Life is strange," he thought. TO BE CONTINUED NEXT SATURDAY.