Doubloons

By EDEN PHILLPOTTS and ARNOLD BENNETT.

CHAPTER XIV.-(Continued.)

pairs of slips, he joined one of the boy servants on duty in the little office in "What questioned "I must state of mind that amounted almost was in the experiment, so much so that he utterly forgot his promise to Ars. Upottery to attend the Captain's funeral, and contemptuously ignored a telephone message from Sir Anthony to run down to the Devonshire Mansion and discuss the situation.

"What is it?" Meredith repeated his demand.

"I will tell you," said Philip. "The finger mark on this stone was made by the murderer of Captain Pollexfen, and

125 Government St., Victoria, B.C. They exchanged a glance. And that

He was excessively proud of this dedressed him. His throat was so parchthat?" affixing the first two ed that he could scarcely articulate. "What is the matter?" Meredith

"I must speak to you." to glee. His stock of prepared slips lay near him on the table, and the finger marked fragment of pipe was put out of the reach of boy servants on the high mantelline. His whole heart Meredith obeyed, entering the office

sion and discuss the situation.

He waited eagerly for someone either to go out or come in. The whole world of human beings seemed, however, to tave formed a conspiracy neither to not to leave the Corner House, either had the entrance hall been so liet. Even the detactive.

He waited eagerly for someone either to not to leave the Corner House, either had the entrance hall been so liet. Even the detactive.

He waited eagerly for someone either to not to leave the Corner House, either had the entrance hall been so liet. Even the detactive.

He waited eagerly for someone either to not leave the Corner House, strange stream on the opposite side of the desk from Philip, idly and nervous ly pleating a piece of paper into the form of a fan. Then she leaned her head on one hand.

What is you that I have caught.

What?" exclaimed the min on the could not speak. He nodded.

"These cousins of yours," he man-single penny of profit for himself. Tell he's put out of the way of making a single penny of profit for himself. Tell he's put out affectionate uncle, wallength; "they could do the desk from Philip, idly and nervous ly pleating a piece of paper into the form of a fan. Then she leaned her head on one hand.

What have you to say?"

"What?" exclaimed the in on the could not speak. He nodded.

"These cousins of yours," he man-single penny of profit for himself. Tell he's put out of the way of making a single penny of profit for himself. Tell he's put out affectionate uncle, was all ength; "they could do the desk from Philip, idly and nervous ly pleating a piece of paper into the form of a fan. Then she leaned her head on one hand.

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"It was all about "Ye

culty. And I am just as sure as I m of anything that I can help you." "How can you help me?" she stam- Mary. ered timidly, gazing self-consciously

everyone suffers."

"I shall be able to answer that question better when you have talked to me a little. Talk to me. Tell me. I would be willing to do a great deal for you a very great deal. I've no intention of informing you that I would cheerfully sacrifice my life to save your."

"I made two attempts for peace. The first when I was eighteen and the second when I was twenty-one. I saw him once. I insisted on seeing him. It was useless, absolutely useless! Captains been mentioned at sacrifice my life to save your little finger from harm; because if I began in that strain I should feel an awful ss. Still"—he nodded his head sev-ral times quickly as though to emand me." He looked at her steadily.

Her manner of uttering that single word enchanted Philip. In her tone Write for Catalogue of 1907 Farm and Garden Seeds to the Agents and something queen-like. He seemed to see in her at length the worshiped auty of the stage—not at all spoilt incense and homage, but yet aware of the potency of her charm, and accustomed to the vows of devotees. "Really!" he insisted.

idea, but-

He had a strange desire to advise Meredith to run away and never be had not spoken to each other for sevenin England again, but he conquered it.

Whe had quarreled," she said. "We had quarreled," she said. "We had not at all reserve to have the seem in England again, but he conquered it.

Whe had quarreled," she said. "We had quarrele

and fro in the street and gazing at the my small fingers," Meredith said with went on a voyage, and when he came house with mouths open as if to swallow it. But there was no other sign of life. The boy attendant was reading Percival's "Paris Gossip" in the Reference, having finished "Mustard and ever."

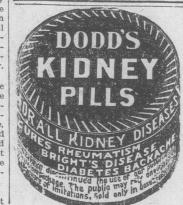
When the standard with curious calm, after he had comprehended the nature of the trap. "Those below must be mine. Look for yourself." His persuasive voice was as wondrous as ever.

When the standard with curious calm, after he had comprehended the nature of the trap. "Those below must be mine. Look for yourself." His persuasive voice was as wondrous as a wretched little company, Mr. Masters, but a wretched little company doing fit-up towns. I hadn't written to my father towns. I hadn't written to my father brother my uncle Welfer Pollowfor.

SUTTONS

Reference in the same was a woman leading to the same which is all lead regarded in limited to the same which is all lead regarded in limited to the same which is all lead regarded in limited to the same which is all leading was a leading to the same which is all leading was a leading to the same which is all leading was a leading to the same which is all leading was a leading to the same which is all leading was a leading to the same which is all leading was a leading to the same which is all leading was a leading to the same which is all leading was a leading to the same which is all leading was a leading was a leading to the leading was a leading was a

a real tragedy nobody is to blame-and



glance established their relations. In live very solitary lives, I think, and He's getting obstinate in his old age. ried to the man he had murdered, and deprecatingly in response to Philip's eye on it. Now, will you tell me why you are here in this disguise?"

"I came to look after my father," said Mary. "I came to watch over him. Perhaps you will say it was a childish idea, but—"

"I show ship. I didn't know why ne had left the old one. I didn't even know if he was alive. That shows said Mary. "I came to watch over him. I fancy most of my friends took will simply make a hash of the ally and physically. I never spoke of him. I fancy most of my friends took will simply make a hash of the business. But he won't see it. I never knew him so obstinate. Now he's just

"That's just what it was," said Mary. "And it often happens that in But father than the had not got it. But father could never refuse him altogether. I firmly believe that until just before the very last my father had a kind of liking for him. You see he was so much cleverer than father, and father must have been a little afarid

'This was the same brother who has been mentioned at the-the inquest?" "Then he's in London now, of

'I'm-I'm afraid so." "But you've never seen him?" "No, but I've heard from him."
"When?"

"About three weeks ago I got a

the brief instant of its duration each that influences them. My poor father's formed a resolve, the one to trust, the prejudice against the stage and me ness, and he's got hold of the greatest about mysterious foreigners and Rus-"We'll male other to shield; and the resolve was momentous, definite and final.

Mary Pollexfen sat down.

"Can we talk here?" she demanded suspiciously, looking at the door.

"Where else can we talk?" Philip asked. "The door is shut. I'll keep an eye on it. Now, will you tell me why you are here in this disease.

"We'll make a thorough search of only increased as he grew older. Our last direct interview, four years ago, of or a pretty long while. He can't manage it himself. I'm just the man to help hlm, but he won't let me. I told him I was starving, and he gave spenious foreigners and Rusmonly increased as he grew older. Our last direct interview, four years ago, of or a pretty long while. He can't manage it himself. I'm just the man drifted apart, as they say—utterly. I told him I was starving, and he gave here, in this disease."

"We'll make a thorough search of this room, eh?" Philip and so for a pretty long while. He can't manage it himself. I'm just the man drifted apart, as they say—utterly. I to help hlm, but he won't let me. I told him I was starving, and he gave me twenty pounds. It isn't a question of twenty pounds, it is a question of his new ship. I didn't know why he had left the old one. I didn't know why he had left the old one. I didn't know why he had left the old one. I didn't know why he want half the prefits agon from the can't make a thorough search of for a pretty long while. He can't make a thorough search of for a pretty long while. He can't make a thorough search of for a pretty long while. He can't make a thorough search of for a pretty long while. He can't make a thorough search of for a pretty long while. He can't him k?"

"If what you say is true," Philip and think?"

"If what you say is true," Philip and the con't make a thorough search of the grad their sign and the sian secret societies. What do you think?"

"If what you say is true," Philip and the can't make a thorough search of the can't make a thorough search of the grad their sign and the sian secret societies. What do you think?"

"I

im. I fancy most of my friends took me for an orphan. Of course, if I am to be perfectly honest, I must admit that I was meddling in his life he would have left the place."

"You were not quite on good terms, was that it?"

Mary Pollexfen agreed with a gestiant. Then I didn't know ture.

"We had quarreled" she said significant said show that admit that I was wrapped up in my own dabut me, you know that candor is my most sublime quality, and I'm candid now. I'm nothing if not candid. You've quarreled with your father, I'm given to understand—or, rather, he's quarreled with you. You'd better go and at Christmas. Then I didn't know where to send them to—and—and don't that I mean business. When I'm desfent at the wistfully, and not at all re-

"P.S.—Your father is, or will shortly be, at the Corner House, Strange street, Had he kn

ould go and see my father. Then I "Yes," said Mary Pollexfen, in a low decided to write, and I wrote. I didn't one, drawing her hand nervously along send him uncle's letter. I thought that

about for two days," said Mary Pollexfen quietly. "Shall I tell you my notion about her?"

"By all means."
"My notion about her is that she is Uncle Walter himself." "Impossible!"

"Impossible!" I went to poor father's funeral this afternoop. Mrs. Upottery was there. Mrs. Upottery and I were the only two people present from this house. It was a dreadful door yielded at once. He pushed it means and by the light from the corrigion. business. And Mrs. Upottery appeared to me to be acting grief with tremend-dor he could see the interior of the cuous gusto. Then, when the creature bicle, and the cubicle was empty. He walked from the grave, I seemed to detect in her gait a sort of resemblance switch, and turned on the electric light.

"When?"

"About three weeks ago I got a strange letter from him. It was addressed to the theatre. That letter was the cause of my coming here. I will show it to you; then you can judge for yourself."

"I have never seen him, unless he is Mrs. Upottery. And I am certain that he is Mrs. Upottery. I feel in my bones that he is Mrs. Upottery!" She stood up, excited. "No one but Uncle Walter to Philip, who opened it and read:

"Dear Mary:—This is from your old Uncle Walter, whom I dare say you have heard of. Your father is a fool, and you had better bring him to reason, or it will be the worse for him."

tect in her gait a sort of resemblance to my father's."

"You know your uncle by sight?"

"I have never seen him, unless he is Mrs. Upottery! She stood up, excited. "No one but Uncle Walter could have planned and worked that crime as it must have been planned and worked that will quieten her!"

worked. And all his evidence at the inquest was pure invention. It would be exactly like him to enjoy disguising himself as a woman, and then to prestend the value and look under the bed. She found nothing there, and laughed.

"I am going up to Mrs. Upottery's room: She—or he—came in just before

CHAPTER XVI.

"Why not?" demanded Mary Pollex- ment is?" said Mary, and she too There was an appeal in her voice, and against her own form. Doubled, her voice was irresistible-or would nearly encircled her. have been irresistible if he had not considered her personal safety to be insaid she, hanging it up again. volved in the question.

"It will be better not," Philip re-

Had he known her on the stage surrounded by the adulation which even of human beings seemed, however, to have formed a conspiracy neither to enter nor to leave the Corner House. Neither had the entrance hall been so quiet. Even the detectives and the journalists had deserted it. A number of Sabbath sightseers were parading to and fro in the street and gazing at t hreat?"

pleased her enormously; she bowed to "I did—must certainly. I thought I it with a feeling of immense relief.

"I did—must certainly. I thought I it with a feeling of immense relief. Certainly she pouted, but the pout a hat, a pair of rather large glo

tow for the was no other sign of the was a worder or the worder or the was a worder or

Mary Pollexfen watched him from the glance, then smiled. corner near her own door. The corridors were otherwise deserted.
"She won't open," Philip called in a whisper, "but I'm going in, all the

"We'll make a thorough search of

And he closed and locked the door, "She must have gone out again," he

remarked gaily, apparently unaware that he stating the obvious. "And we didn't see her go."
"It is to be hoped she—he—didn't otice us together in the office," said Mary

"And if he did-what then?" "Who knows?" Mary answered re-

flectively. The room was in perfect order. Or the bed lay a nightdress case, place in the mathematical centre of the ow. Behind the door, on hooks, hu two skirts and a petticoat turned side out.

"I wonder what the waist r

down the petticoat, and, doubling a stretching tight the waistband, put "It's thirty-seven, if it's an inch,"

"But are there women with thirty-seven inch waists?" Philip demanded naively. "Yes, and forty-seven," said Mary,

'There is no limit.' "Then that proves nothing." And they both felt guilty-nay, crim nal—as they investigated the seve orderliness of the room. Several r of boots lay at the foot of the bed. Bu they were smaller than Philip's bo was naught save a charming affecta-tion. Bible, a hymn book, a

were not yours. It flashed across me then. It is amazing."

He walked up the transverse control of the was clearly astonished as far as Mrs. Upottery's door, and knocked discreetly. There was no analysis and authority of decision. She gave him a puzzled "Since you wish it," she said calmly

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