"The Man Who Disappeared."

CHAPTER 1.

Mr. Larcher Goes Out in the Rain (Continued.)

It was a number and street in the same part of the town with Larcher's abode, but east of Madison Avenue, while his own was west of Fifth. But Barry Tompkins, which proved to be Avenues, and directed to the third an old building on Broadway; a room the dark stairs swiftly, with his by day, for Mr. Tompkins, though he as to which floor he had attained. At sought pleasure and forage under the banners of literature and journalism, owned to no regular service but that be inferred from the oldness of his er than himself peered out. clothes and the ricketiness of his office. There was a card saying 'Back for Mr. Murray Davenport." in ten minutes' on the door which he opened to admit Larcher and himself: and his friends were wont to assert that he kept the card 'working overtime,' himself preferring to lay down | the law to companionable persons in ble clients in his office. When Tompkins had lighted the gas, Larcher saw a cracked low ceiling, a threadbare carpet of no discoverable hue. an old desk crowded with documents and volumes, some shelves of books at one side, and the other three sides simply walled with books and magazines in irregular piles, except where stood a bed-couch beneath a lot of prints which served to conceal much

of the faded wall-paper. Tompkins bravely went for the magazines, saying, 'You begin with that pile, and I'll take this. The names of the illustrators are alawys in

a matter of glancing down that,' After half an hour's silent work. Tompkins exclaimed, 'Here we are!' tween the two windows and evident Story by James Willis Archway. Il- old gray-black garment of the square lustrated by Murray Davenport. Page cut "sack" or "lounge" shape. Books filled the mantel, the flat top of a 38.'" He turned over the leaves. trunk, and much of the table, which and disclosed some rather striking held also a darwing board, pads c the different illustrations.

"That isn't bad work," said Tomp kins. "I can recommend 'M.D.' with a clear conscience. His women are beautiful in a really high way,-but they've got a heartless look. There's an odd sort of distinction in his men's faces, too." "A kind of scornful discontent,

ventured Larcher. "Perhaps the story

"Perhaps; but the thing I mean seems to be under the expressions intended. I should say it was unconscious, a part of the artist's conception of the masculine face in general before it's individualized. I'll bet the chap that drew these illustration isn't precisely the man in the street even among artists. He must have queer outlook on life!" I congratu late you on your coming friend!" A which Mr. Tompkins, chuckling, lighted a pipe for himself.

Mr. Larcher sat looking dubious Murray Davenport was an unusual sort of man, the more wonder that a

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girl like Edna Hill should so strange ly busy herself about him

CHAPTER II.

One Out of Suits With Fortune. a sunny afternoon, Mr. Thomas Larnow his way was to the residence of way between Madison and Fourth a shabby room on the fifth floor of story ack, whither he was left to find serving as Mr. Tompkins's sleeping thoughts in advance of his body, he chamber by night, and his law office suddenly checked himself, uncertain a hazard, he knocked on the door a the back of the dim, narrow passage he was in. He heard slow steps u on the carpet, the door opened, an of the law. How it paid him might a man slightly taller, thinner, and old

> "Pardon me, I may have mistaker the floor," said Larcher. "I'm looking 'Myself and misery know th man." replied the other, with quie: indifference, in a gloomy but not un-

pleasing voice, and stepped back to allow his visitor's entrance. A little disconcerted at being re ceived with a quotation, and one o neighboring cases rather than to possi- such import,—the more so as it came from the speaker's lips so naturally and with perfect carelessness of wha effect it might produce on a stranger

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carpet, the wall-paper, the upho stery of the arm-chair, the cover of the the table of contents; it's simply the small iron bed in one corner, that of the small upright piano in another and that of the table which stood be served as a desk, were all of advance and took a magazine to the desk, at age, but cleanliness and neatness prowhich both men sat down. "'A vailed. The same was to be said o Heart in Peril,' ' he quoted; "'A the man's attire, his coat being a pictures in half-tone, signed "M.D." drawing and manuscript paper, and Two men and two women figured in the paraphernalia for executing upon both. Tacked on the walls, and standing about on top of books and elsewhere were water-colors draw ings in half tone, and pen-and-in) sketches, many unfinished, besides few photographs of celebrated paint ings and statues. But long before h had sought more than the most gener al impression of these contents of the room, Larcher had bent all his obser

vation upon their possessor. The man's face was thoughtful and melancholy, and handsome only b' these and kindred qualities. Long an fairly regular, with a nose distinguish ed by a slight hump of the bridge, its ingle claim to beauty of form was n the distinctness of its lines. The complexion was colorless but clear the face being all smooth shaven. The slightly haggard eyes were gray rather of a plain and honest than brilliant character, save for a ting light that burned far in their depths The forehead was ample and smooth as far as could be seen, for rather longish brown hair hung over it, with a negligent, sullen effect. The general expression was of an odd pain wearied dismalness, curiously warm

ed by the remnant of an unquench-"This letter from Mr. Rogers will explain itself," said Larcher, handing

"Mr. Rogers?" inquired Murray Davenport.

"Editor of the Avenue Magazine." Looking surprised. Davenport opened and read the letter: then, without diminution of his surprise, he asked Larcher to sit down, and himself took

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this stuff of mine," and Larcher brought forth the typewritten manuscript from under his coat.

"It's so unprecedented," Davenpart, in his leisurely, reflective way of speaking. "I can scarcely help thinking there must be some mis-"But you are the Murray Davenport

that illustrated the 'Heart in Peril "Yes: I'm the only Murray Daver port I know of; but an offer of work

to me-"Oh, there's nothing extraordinar extraordinary about that. Editors often seek out new illustrators they hear off."

"Oh, I know all about that. You don't quite understand. I say, an offer to me-an offer unsolicited, unsought, coming like money found. like a gift from the gods. Such a thing belongs to what is commonly a thing that never by any chance ha fallen to me before; never from th -Larcher stepped into the room. The eginning of things to the present , in spite of my senses I'm naturall; bit incredulous in this cause." This was said with perfect seriousness but without any feeling.

Larcher smiled "Well, I hope you incredulity won't make you refuse

to the pictures.' "Oh, no," returned Davenport, inlolently. "I won't refuse. I'll ac cept the commission with pleasurecertain amount of pleasure, that is There was a time when I should have danced a break-down for joy, probably, at this opportunity. But a piece of good luck, strange as it is to me, doesn't matter now. Still, as it has visited me at last, I'll receive it litely. Inasmuch as I have plenty time for this work, and as Mr Rogers seems to wish me to do it, 1 should be churlish if I declined. The money too, is an object-I won't conceal that fact. To think of a chanc to earn a little money, coming my way without the slightest effort or my part! You look substantial, M:

Larcher, but I'm still tempted to thin. his is all a dream." Larcher laughed. "Well, as to e ort." said he, "I don't think I should be here now with that accepted manu script for you to illustrate if I hadn' aken a good deal of pains to press my work on the attention of editors. "Oh. I don't mean to say that you prosperity, and other men's, is due t having good things thrust upon you in this way. But if you do owe all to your own work, at least your worl does bring a fair amount of reward your efforts are in a fair measure successful. But not so with me. The greatest fortune I could ever hav asked would have been that my pain should bring their reasonable price as other men's have done. Therefore this extreme case of good luck, smal as it is, is the more to be wondered at The best a man has a right to ask i freedom from what people call habit ual bad luck. That's an immunit I've never had. My labors have been always banned - except when the work has masqueraded as some other man's In that case they have been blessed. It will seem strange to you Mr. Larcher, but whatever I've done in my own name has met with wretch

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"I'm glad to meet you. Mr. Larcher. "I'm lead to meet you. Mr. Larcher." He said, conventionally; then, with a change to informality, "I'm rather mystified to know why Mr. Rogers, or any editor, for that matter, should offer work to me. I never had any offered me before."

"Oh, but I've seen some of your work," contradicted Larcher. "The fillustrations to a story called 'A Heart in Peril."

"That wasn't offered me; I begged for it," said Davenport, quietly.

"Well, in any case, it was seen and admired, and consequently you were

Larcher. "What can account for it?" "Do you know what a 'Jonah' is, in the speech of the vulgar?"

"Yes; certainly." "Well, people have got me tagged with that name. I bring ill luck to enterprises I'm concerned in, they say. That's a fatal reputation, Mr. say. That's a latal reputation, the Barnes, Chas. J., late Curling Elsworth, Moses, slip beginning, but now that I have it, see how the reputation itself is the cause of the apparent ill luck. Take this Barnes, Capt. D. thing, for instance." He held up a Braker, Aggie, card sheet of music paper, whereon he had evidently been writing before Larcher's arrival. "A song, supposed to e sentimental. As the idea is somewhat novel, the words happy, and the tune rather quaint, I shall probably get a publisher for it, who will offer me the lowest royalty. What thought you might like to illustrate then? Its fame and sale-or whether it shall have any-will depend entirely on what advertising it gets from being sung by professional singers. I have taken the precaution to submit the idea and the air to a favorite of the music halls, and he has promised to sing it. Now, if he sang it on the ost auspicious occasion, making it the second or third song of his turn, having it announced with a flourish on the programme, and putting his best voice and style into it, it would have chance of popularity. Other singers would want it, it would be whist led around, and thousands of copies sold. But will he do that?" "I don't see why he shouldn't," said

archer. "Oh, but he knows why. nembers I am a Jonah. What comes from me carries ill luck. He'll sing the song, yes, but he won't hazard any auspicious occasion on it. He'll use it as a means of stopping encores called good luck. Now, good luck is when he's tired of them; he'll sing it hurriedly and mechanically; he'll make nothing of it on the programme he'll hide the name of the author for fear by the association of the names some of my Jonaship might ex-

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