THE Athens Reporter

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON -BY-

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LOST MAN'S LANE A SECOND EPISODE AMELIA BUTTERWORTH. AUTHOR OF THE LEAVENWORTH CASE ... KATHARINE

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down an old album and began hunting up the pictures I had brought away with me from boarding school. Hers were among them, and I really did exwere among more and a really did ex-parience more or less compunction when I saw again the delicate yet daring fea-tures which had once had a very great influence over my mind. What a tea-ing sprite she was, yet what a will she had and how strange it was that how d. and how strange it was that, ha ing been so intimate as girls, we never knew anything of each other as women Had it been her fault or my fault? Was Had it been her fault or my fault? Was her marriage to blame for it or my spin-sterhood? Difficult to tell then, impos-sible to tell nova. I would not even think of it again, save as a warning. Nothing must stand between me and her childron now that my attention has been called to them again. I did not mean to take them by sur-prise—that is, not entirely. The invita-tion which they had sent me years ago was still in force. making it simply nec-

was still in force, making it simply nec essary for me to telegraph them that I had decided to make them a visit and that they might expect me by the noon train. If in times gone by they had been properly instructed by their moth-er as to the character of her old friend, this need not put them out. I are not a woman of unbounded expectations. I do not look for the comforts abroad I am accustomed to at home, and if, as I have reason to believe, their means are not of the greatest I should only be provoked at any extra effort to make me feel at in the humble cottage suited to their fortunes. So the telegram was sent and my

preparations completed for an early de

But, resolved as I was to make this visit, my determination came near re-ceiving a check. Just as I was leaving the house, at the very moment, in fact, when the hackman was carrying out my trunk, I saw a man approaching me with every evidence of haste. He had a' letter in his hand, which he held out to "For Miss Butterworth," he said.

"Private and immediate." "Private and immediate." "Ah," thought I, "a communication from Mr. Gryce," and hesitated for a koment whether to open it then and here or thrust it in my pocket and read

it at my leisure on the ears. The latter would be far the easiest, for my course would be far the easiest, for my hands were oumbered with the various small articles I consider indispensable to the comfortable enjoyment of the shortest journey, and the glasses witha word were

Suddanly I myself grow still. The Suddanly I myself grow still. The houses wars growing fower on the left hand side of the way, and I new beyond the dark houghs of a pine thickny. We ware nearing Losi Man's lane, we ware abreast of it, we ware-turning into it abreast of it, we ware-turning into it which had led me through that all all me next door had select me again in a way hat mount equal absorption if not equal

emposes The member of small peokages I car-ried gave me chough to think of at the mement of alighting, but as seen as I was safely again on terrs firms I threw a hashy glance around to see if any of Althen's children were there to meet abreast of it, we were turnin I could not repress the ex

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I SAW A FLASH IN ONE OF THE UPPER WINDOWS.

I stepped into the wagon and prepared myself for a ride into town. But it seems I was not to be allowed to enter upon this adventure without another warning. While the old man was engaged in bringing my trunk, the station master approached me with great civility, and with a touch of his hat asked if it was my intention to spend a few days with the Misses Knol-lys. I told him that it was, and, thinking to establish my soeition at sonce in

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deliberately entering its doors as an im-mate allow me at the moment with enth a same of unreality that I decend ed from the carriage in a any of a dream and was making my way impact ith your mother recurred started up—as I always me to any decision, my

which a same of unreality that i descended from the carriage in a act of a dream and was making any way through the set of the gaps in the high antique gaps of the gaps in the high antique gaps of the gaps in the high antique one and pointed out the gats. A did not think it worth while to rapologies, for the broken palings our injug affered as good as entraces as the gas, which think it worth while to ing any my altrice as well as my pack-age would allow and trading ringerly further of the mails and tonds that in your of the mails and tonds that it you and the allow of the path at your of a sound or morement in a dwell not have mid morement, for at that in-the the stand in one of the upper which are ally anonany in the absolute in the way of a ourtain being stati-thy draw and as statishilly its full your and though it gave me the prom-ing to sound the sould the way of the sould not be stating the sould your and though it gave me the prom-ing to sound the ball dones uninvit-ing to anoth the half dones uninvit-ing the source had I done this with

door. But no scener had I done this with what I am fair to thing was my best air than I suddenly collapsed with what must have been a movement of sudden and so me quite comprehensible fear, for, while I do not qual before mes

lor, while I do not quail before mean and have a reasonable fortitude in the presence of mess dangers corporeal and moral. I am not quice myssife in face of a rampant and barking dog. It is my one weakness. I can divnige that much now, and while I usually can, and un-der most circumstances do, succeed in hiding any ontward manifestation of my inner trepidation I always feel that twould be a happy day for me when dogs would be banished from the affec-tions and homes of men. Then I think I would begin to live in good earnest and perhaps enjoy trips into the country which now, for all my apparent bravery, I regard more in the light of a penance than a pleasure.

I regard more in the light of a penaltic than a pleasure. Imagine, then, how hard I found it to rotain my self possession or even any appearance of dignity when at the mo-hent I was stratehing forth my hand toward the knocker of this inhospitable mansion I heard rising from somewhere I never rightly knew where the howl of a dog so keen, pieroing and prolonged that it frightened the very birds over my head and sent them flying from the my head and sent them flying from th

my need and sent them by high rout the vises in clouds. It was the unhappiest kind of wel-come for me. I did not know whether it came from within or without, and when after a moment of indecision I saw the after a moment of indecision 1 saw the door open I am not sure whether the smile I called up to grace the occasion had any of the real Amelia Butterworth in it, so much was my mind divided be-tween a desire to produce a favorable impression and a very decided and not to be hidden fear of the dog who had ormated may awigh with much an omi-

CHAPTER IV. A SPECTRAL HOME. The hall into which I had stepped was see dark that for a few minutes I could see nothing but the indistinct out-line of a young woman with a very white face. She had uttered a sort of

Ty myself as to the cause or her abstraction also suddenly bethought herreall, and throwing epon the door of an ad-joining room she let in a stream of light by which we ware subled to see each other and exchange the greetings suit-

other and exchange the greening sur-"Miss Butterworth, my mother's old friend," she murmured with an almost pitful effort so be cordial, "we are so glad to have you visit us. Won't you— and the dawn?" you sit down?" What did it mean? She had pointed

with me at ence and gave to her very delicate aspect, which up to that mo-ment had not suggested the remotest likeness to her mother, a piquant charm and subtle fascination that were not un-worthy of the daughter of Althea Bur-

The second starting of the start start and the start and the

arasilon if we were not to all in to-lance, "till I happened to hear the of Althea mentioned the other. Thes my whole early friendship your method. by friendship ed to me, and ays do when I ay dear-and

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es that almost forced their way into the open casements of this side of the house: "What a scene for young eyes like yours! Do you never get tired of these pine boughs and clustering shadows? Would not a little cottage in the sum-

Would not a little cottage in the sum-mer part of the town be preferable to all this dreary grandeur?" She looked up with sudden wistful-mess that made her smile pitcous. "Some of my happiest days have been passed here and some of my suddest. I do not think I should like to leave it for our schure extrace. We were not made

do not think I should like to leave it of any stamy cottage. We were not made for bonny homes," said she. "The somberness of this old house suits us." "And of this road," I ventured. "It is the darkest and most picturesque I ever entered. I thought I was entering a wilderness '

to fail after the birth of Lucetta, but as sue had gone unaccompanied by her husband or oblifter there was much that it would be interesting for me to know concerning these events which I' felt that these girls might be willing to tell me, but Miss Knollys, intentionally, or unintentionally, assumed an air so cold at these well meant questions on my part that I desisted from pressing hor and began to talk about mysolf in a way which I hoped would establish really friendly relations between us and a wilderness." She for a moment forgot her cause of anxiety beyond. She looked at me quite intently, and a subtle shade of doubt passed slowly over her features. "It is a solitary one," said she; "quite solitary. I do not wender it struck you as dismal. Have you heard —has any one ever told you that—that really friendly relations between us and make it possible for her to tell me later

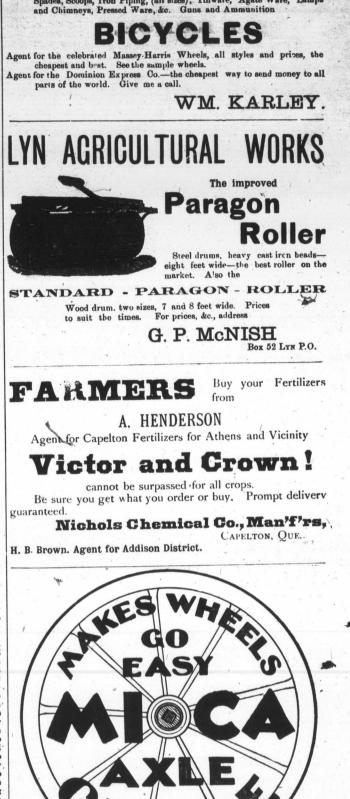
it was not considered as being quite

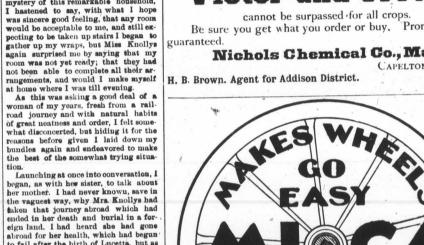
if not at the present moment, what it was that weighed so heavily upon the household that no one could enter into it without feeling the shadow of the safe?" I repeated, with-God for-give me-an expression of mild wonder in my eyes. "Yes, it has not the best of names. secret terror that enveloped it. But Miss Knollys, while more atten Trange things have happened in it, or have been thought to, which is just as bad. I thought that some one might have been kind enough to tell you at



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## greated my arrival with such an omi-nous howl. "Call off the dog!" I oried almost before I saw what sort of person I was addressing. Mr. Gryce, when I told him of this later, said I could not have made a more significant introduction of myself to the

murnur at my words, but for some rea-son was strangely silent, and if I could trust my eyes seemed rather to be look-ing hook and over her shoulder than ining back and over her shoulder than in-to the face of her advancing guest. This was odd, but before I could quite satisfy myself as to the cause of her abstrac

ant look warned me that he would nev-er leave me till I had read the note, so with a sigh I called Lela to my aid, and after several vain attempts to reach my glasses succeeded in pulling them out at last and by their help reading the following hurried lines:

DEAR MADAM-I send you this by a swifter nessenger than myself. Do not let anything messenger than myself. Do not let anything that I may have said last night influence you to leave your comfortable home. The adven-ture offers too many dangers for a woman. Read the inclosed. G.

The inclosed was a telegram from Obadiah Trohm, sent during the night, and evidently just received at head quarters. Its contents were certainly ot reassuring:

Another person missing. Seen to have en-tered Lost Man's lane. Never seen to have some out of it. A harmless lad known as Silly Rafus. What's to be done? Wire ordors. F.

Rufas. What's to be done? Wire orders. F. "Mr. Gryce bade me say that he would be up here some time before noon," said the man, seeing me look with some blankness at these words. ' Nothing more was needed to pull me together. Folding up the letter, I put

it in my bag. "Bay to Mr. Gryce from me that my intended visit cannot be postponed," I remarked. "I have telegraphed to my Intended visit cannot be postponed." I remarked. "I have telegraphed to my friends to expect me, and only a great emergency would lead me to disappoint them. I will be glad to receive Mr. Gryce on my return." And without further parley I took my bundles back from Lela and proceeded at once to the carriage. Why should I show any fail-ure of courage at an event that was but a repetition of the very ones which made my visit necessary? Was I a like-ly one to fall victim to a mystery to which my eyes have been opened? Had I not been sufficiently warned of the dangers of Lost Man's lane to keep my-self at a respectable distance from the place of peril? I was going to visit the children of my once devoted friend. If there were perils of no ordinary nature to be encountered there, was I not all the more called upon to go if only as a moral support to these young people, who per-here thereed there was a more have by face: support to these young people, who per-haps themselves were paralyzed by fear?

Yes, Mr. Gryce, and nothing now should hold me back. I even felt an increased desire to reach the scene of these mysteries and chafed some at the length of the journey, which was of a more te-dious character than I expected. A poor arous contracter than i expected. A poor beginning for events requiring patience as well as great moral courage, but -1 little knew what was before me and cally considered that every moment spent on this hot and dusty train kept me thus much longer from the embranes e thus much longer from the embraces Althea's children.

I recovered my equanimity, however I recovered my equanimity, however, as we approached. The scenery was really beautiful, and the connectourness that, I should soon alight at the moun-tain, station which had played a more or less serious part in Mr. Gryce's nar-rative awakened in me a plaesurable excitement which should have been a sufficient warning to me that the minip

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"Yes," he answered. "One person, a boy, disappeared only two days ago." "That's bad," I said, "but what has

Before taking his seat my driver es-cort gave me a furtive glance as he stooped to tear from one of the spokes a bit of rag that seemed to have been caught there. He was evidently prepar-ing to make a good impression and to do me suitable honor. My companion, who was the shiest man I ever saw, did not speak a word while descending the hill. I talked and endeavored to make him, too, but his re-plies were mere grunts or half syllables which corresped no information what-ever. As we cleared the thicket, hew-ever, he allowed himself an ejacolation or two as he pointed out the beauties of

She it have a

ever, he allowed himself an ejaculation or two as he pointed out the beauties of the landscape. And indeed it was well worth his admiration and mine had my mind been free to enjoy it. But the houses which now began to appear on either side of the way drew my stren-tion from the mountains. We were still somewhat remote from the town, were worldle asymptotic the had of that

tion from the grountains. We were still somewhat renhots from the town, were rapidly approaching the head of that lane of evil fane with whose terrible full. I was so anxious not to pass it without one look into its grewsome ro-cesses that look and began chasting about what I saw. But he had lapsed into his early silence, and only answered by a

out which I cannot read a word were in the very bottom of my pocket under some other equally necessary articles of smaller size. But something in the man's expect-ant look warned me that he would nev-r leave me till I had read the note, sa on you just as it did upon me, and with

ooming to visit them for years, but had never found it convenient till now and that I hoped they were all well and would be glad to see me. Ho made some sort of reply, showing considerable embarrassment, then pluck-ing up his courage said with marked constraint: "Perhaps you have not heard that this village just now is under a cloud." "I harve heard." I said innocently, "that one or two men have disappeared from here somewhat mysteriously. Is

"Yes," he answered. "One person, a boy, disappeared only two days ago." "That's bad." Latd, "but whin has the old woman considered as harmless that to do with me?" I asked smilingly, for I saw he was not at the end of his alk. "Oh, nothing," he cried eagerly" "An 'Gryce. "Oh, Tim not at all timid!" I has tened to ary. "If I were, I abould not have come here at all. Such matters don't affect me." And i spread out my skirts and a stranged myself for my order a block and that have nome here at all. Such matters don't affect me." And i spread out my skirts and a stranged myself for my order a block at made no more impression upon me than induce nomes impression upon me than the set of the formed to as long as we were withen the set of the form and toothless jaws mumbling over a ploce of bread she was engaged in fully justified. "We have not been row the set of the set of the set of the set of the set to defer in a set of the formed that made no more impression upon me than the for another moment in a o unions, lingering way; then he walked off, and to far the set me of the swatter stooped to tear from one of the swatter and to far the set of the shifts one of the swatter and the set soon do there we sidently propar-ing to make s good impression and do me suitable honor. My companion, who was the shifts man I ever saw, did not speak as avort which conveyed no information mater we sole without a site soon addeavored to make kin, too, but his re-ples were mere grunts or half shifts and so the set of the which conveyed no information that set were which conveyed no information the set were which conveyed no information more were in a sub as a set on a distance, and the sole were and the set of the wwith conveyed no information what were in a we descored the thick to, but his re-ples were mere grunts or half shifts and the inlows and the sole or are set signification the sole of the set of the set of the shifts on the sole of the set of the set of the set of the shifts on the sole of the set of the set of the balf fo

ity. Had it not been for the thin circle of smoke eddying up from one of its bro-ken chimneys I should have locked up-on the place as one which had not known the care or presence of man for years. There was a riot of shrabbery in the yard, a lack of the commonest at-tention to order in the way the vines either. I was always small. So was hy mother, you know." She seemed to think she must talk of her mother, though I noticed that the word gave her pain. As forme, no topic could be more agreeable save one. I therefore answered her in a way to pro-

State State Some

There was a gentle sort of sarcasm in the tone; only that, or so I thought at the time. I began to feel myself in a face was turned a way again as if drawn irresistibly toward some secret object of fear. Was there any one or anything at

the top of the dim staircase I could faintly see in the distance? It would not do for me to ask nor was it wise for me to show that I thought this reception a formation into the room sho "Somebody-I suppose it was the sta tion master-did say something to me about a boy lost somewhere in this porto show that I thought this reception a strange one. Stepping into the room abe pointed out to me, I waited for her to follow me, which abe did with mani-fest reluctance. But when abe was once out of the atmosphere of the kall, or out of reach of the sight or sound of what-ever it was that frightened her, her face took on a smile that ingratiated her with me at ence and gave to her very delivate arroot which up to that me tion of the woods. Do you mean that,

wy dear?" Ene normed, giancing again over ner shoulder and partly rising as if moved by some instinct of flight. "They are dark enough," I observed with another look toward the heavily

curtained windows, "for more than one

England is going to spend \$140,000,000 on its navy next year to insure interna-tional peace.—New York Press. In a fight between the Italians and Chi-ness it is hardly to be expected that Irc-land will show much sympathy either way.—Washington Star. Several travelers have just accomplished the feat of erossing Tibet. Modern events move fast, and in a dozen years Tibet may be sliced up by Europe.—St Louis Ulobe-Democrat. The man who was accused of libeling the French army in his book has been ac-quitted. Evidently the "Dreyton scandal satisfied the court that it would be diffi-cult to libel the army.—Baltimore Herald. Mr. Stead's paper, ''War Against War,' in which he champions the czar's policy of disarmament, has been officially prohibited friends as himself and Mr. Stead the czar is sudiently of opinion ''few words suffice.' curtained window, for their recesses." "Yes," she marmured, reseating her-self and eying me nervously while she spoke. "We are used to the terrors they inspire in strangers, but if you''-she leaped to her feet in manifest eagerleaped to her feet in manifest eager-ness and her whole face changed in a way she little realized herself.....'if you have any fear of sleeping amid such gloemy surroundings, we can procure-you a room in the village where ---is evidently of opinion "few words suffice -Chicago Tribune.

to fail after the birth of Lucetta, but as

[CONTINUED.]

OVER THE OCEAN.

England is going to spend \$140,000,000

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