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to take him to an hotel—the first that came into his head.

Once beyond the range of Lambaire's observation, he leant out of the carriage window and gave fresh instructions.

carriage window and gave fresh instructions.

He was going to see Cynthia Sutton. The difference between Lambaire and Whitey was never so strongly emphasized as when they were confronted with a common danger.

Lambaire shrank from it, made himself deaf to its warnings, blind to its possibilities. He endeavored to forget it, and generally succeeded.

Whitey, on the contrary, got the closer to the threatening force: examined it more or less dispassionately, prodded it and poked it until he knew its exact strength.

He arrived at the house in Pembroke Gardens, and telling the chauffeur to wait, rang the bell. A maid answered his ring.

"Miss Sutton in?" he asked.

"No, sir." The girl replied so promptly that Whitey was suspicious.

"I've come on very important business, my gel," he said, "matter of life and death."

"She's not at home, sir—I'm sorry," repeated the maid.

and death."

"She's not at home, sir—I'm sorry," repeated the maid.

"I know," said Whitey with an ingratiating smile, "but you tell her."

"Really, sir, Miss Sutton is not at home. She left London last Friday," protested the girl; "if you write I will forward the letter."

"Last Friday, eh?" Whitey was very thoughtful. "Friday?" He remembered that Amber had returned on Saturday.

on Saturday.

"If you could give me her address," he said, "I could write to her—this business being very important." The girl shook her head emphati-

"I don't know it, sir," she said. "I send all the letters to the bank, and they forward them."

Whitey accepted this statement as truth, as it was.

Walking slowly back to his taxicab, he decided to see Amber.

He was anxious to know whether

he had read the prospectus.

Many copies of the prospectus had, as a matter of fact, come to Amber's hands.

Peter . . . a dreamer, dabbled in stock of a questionable character. Amber called to see him one morning soon after his return to England, and found the little man, his glasses perched on the end of his nose, labouriously following the adventures of the explorers as set forth in the prospectus. prospectus.

of the explorers as set forth in the prospectus.

Amber patted him on the shoulder as he passed at his back to his favourite seat by the window.

"My Peter," he said, "what is this literature?"

Peter removed his glasses and smiled benignly.

"A little affair," he said—life was a succession of affairs to Peter. "A little affair, Amber. I do a little speculation now and then. I've got shares in some of the most wonderful wangles you ever heard tell of."

Amber shook his head.

"Wangles pay no dividends, my Croesus," he said reproachfully.

"You never know," protested Peter stoutly. "I've got fifty shares in the Treasure Hill of the Aztee Company."

"Run by Stolvetch," mused Amber, "now undergoing five of the longest and saddest in our royal palace at Dartmoor."

"It was a good idea."

"It was a good idea."

Amber smiled kindly.
"What else?" he asked.
"I've got a founder's share in the
El Mandeges Syndicate," said Peter impressively.

Amber smiled again.

"Sunken Spanish treasure ship, isn't it? I thought so, and I'll bet you've got an interest in two or three gold-recovery-from-the-restless-ocean companies?"

Peter podded with

Peter nodded, with an embarrassed

grin.

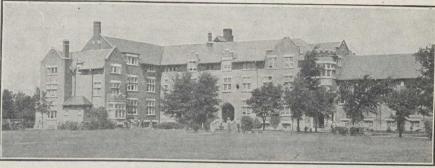
"Let me see your prospectus."

The romantic Peter handed' the precious document cross the table.

Amber read it carefully—not for

the first time.
"It's very i "It's very rum," he said when he had finished, "very, very rum."
"What's rum, Amber?"

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