

## THE LANTERN OF LUCK

thus claimed his acquaintance, stepped a little to one side.

But for Ulick's precipitate action, indeed, the ex-President would probably have passed on. He could not be certain how they would receive him, and had no intention of making advances which might, and not unnaturally, bring him a public rebuff. But, when Eileen also came forward, with shining eyes and hands held out to his daughter, he felt satisfied that, if only for her sake and Carmen's, he need fear no disconcerting reference to the past, might safely accept her eager invitation to join her party.

She came back across the room on his arm, and Ulick Scarlett escorted the Doña Carmen, meeting boldly a multitude of curious and admiring glances. The other diners also had been much interested in the encounter of that distinguished-looking quartette.

Casado, outwardly casual, indifferent, a little bored, expressed conventional pleasure over the introduction of his hostess's husband and Tommy Judson. But to his late colonel of life-guards he merely bowed, gravely cordial, without offering to shake hands — lest such an offer might not meet with immediate response.

Withal, however, and taking into account all the strange circumstances that had combined to bring