GEORGE RANDOLPH CHESTER

h notel apartments are separa taking these apartments are separated taking these apartments be had led his own door and found it locked. It nevertheless it was this door which to spening.

CHAPTER XVII. TOUCH of bright color and a glittering eye were visible now in the crack of the door in the crack of the door in the apparition which contains proved to be Lillian Breed but exquisitely rounded in the none which revealed her whith and her shanely force. at and her shapely forearms, warning the soft crimson fabric. He my feet were incused in fur edges rs of red felt. Her hair and he ned blacker than ever. He color of abundant blood. Her iriet lips were curved in a smili if of mischief and half of delight.

"Lillian!" gasped Kelvin.

Her eyes sparkling, she put her fin
ers upon her tips and noiselessly clos
d her own door, then Phillip's, behin hen advanced to him with out-hed hands. He took them in his n as a matter of course, but beld er at arm's length.

What are you doing here?" he de "What are you doing here?" he de-anded. "Have you gone mad?"
"Not at all." she taughed gayly. "I'm tite sane and sensible, thank you. It as tonesome at Forest Lakes, so I rought Mrs. Rensselaer up to chap-on me for a week's shopping, and just we, after making sure that you would contre alone for the rest of the even-

be quite alone for the rest of the even-ing, I have merely dropped in to have a chat with my old triend."
"Mrs. Rensselaer? Where is she?"
asked Phillip.

te of mine, with the bathroom be d to that all right, you may be sure lou don't seem at all glad to see me and she pouted with much

you must move to some other r or I shall. No; you must go to

"I shan't move from the hotel," she
id, looking up into his eyes and
ughing as she shook her head. "I
an't move from these apartments. I shan't move from this room even mill I get ready to go. Phillip, I have been ordered around like a child since I can remember to have poing to have hings I want, right or wrong, as no them I'm going to have you!

among them I'm going to have you?"

"Lillian!" he gasped and drew back from her. And yet he could not look down upon her fushed cheeks, upon her moist, red lips, upon the rounded column of her throat, with revolt.

"You are a conqueror," Lillian went on, drawing closer. "Your hand is the hand of might, the hand that could grasp and wield with relentless power either sword or scepter. You do not know how I, too, love power and all that represents power. I love it all that represents power. I love it so much that I could worship it even while it crushed and destroyed me.

Her own arm had slipped up and iid around his neck, and suddenly he had clasped both of them about m and clung to him. For a mornger he resisted, and then he y crushed her to him and rained upon her smooth brow, her eyelids, her burning cheeks, her



Kelvin met Mrs. Rens Han at breakfast, and they talked of the opera and gowns, of automobiles and an international wedding. After breakfast he bought the political conof an entire state with the litiga-re clientage of a thousand miles of firead. He met in the hall of his-or Elsie White, and whatever an-tish it gave his soul to meet how is girl who had loved him, and loved

at Forest Lakes. He let a contract 1,000,000 worth of grading and at sidewalks. He saw Sam and cy laughing in the servants' eleva-understood Sam's hilarity of the ght before and had an inkling of his door had come to be unle ed. He went to the theater at night with Mrs. Rensselaer and Lillian, and after they had returned and Mrs. Rensselaer had retired a soft footed man listened to the low voices in Phillip's apartments and sent a cipher in the message to George Biagg, who was hollow eyed and pale with suffering—

On the following day Phillip, alone with Sam in the wilderness of Long

sland, was shot at. Scarcely had the report sounded when Sam, crouching low to the ground like an animal and unning with neck and head and gorilrunning with neck and head and gorlin-like arms outstretched, plunged into the woods. He was gone fully an hour and rejoined Phillip at the station. His eyes were bloodshot and he was panting, while his lips twitched back over his teeth now and then, but he was smiling. Phillip, studying his face curiously, asked him no questions, and sam volunteered no information.

At the end of the week Lillian went back to lonely Forest Lakes. Where Kelvin and Rollins and Herbert Rensselaer had helped to enliven the huge

selaer had helped to enliven the huge empty house and the immense acre-age, it, too, empty except for the small army of gaunt and grizzled woodsmen, who, with guns slung com-fortably in their arms, kept close sentry, now there remained but Henry Breed and George Blagg and Dr. Zel-Zelphan met her first as she came up on the porch, peering at her through his thick glasses with the same curious regard that he would ave given to a strange and brillian colored insect. Suddenly his eyes lighted as they caught her glance. For an instant these two looked into each other's souls, and Lillian felt her cheeks burning. But in an in-stant more she had closed those por-tals of her inmost consciousness and bestowed upon him a stare of willful

Lillian stopped for a mo dim old library, where Henry Breed sat in absorbed contemplation, his old. well thumbed Bible open before him. "Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath." he solemnly intoned, "'and behold every one that is proud and Look on every one that is proud and bring him low, and tread down the wicked in their place." As he finished a took of inten

malignity overspread his emaciated features. The girl was shocked at the during her one week of absence.
"Grandfather." she said, swee

toward him with the quick decision that characterized her, "you are spending too much time in this stuffy m, since there is no one he but Zelphan. It is perfectly glori-outdoors. The car is still outside. want you to come and ride with me."
She had put her hand upon his shoulder, and the touch seemed to arouse him instantly. He gazed at her with a slow return of his habitually shrewd expression.
"You are looking charming," he com-

mented. "Your wip has done you good. agerness in the question.
"Yes, indeed," she replied.

omplishing wonders."
"I know," be said and glanced at pile of wireless telegrams strung up a desk hook that lay at his right has "He's a marvelous young man that. He is the instrument of Providence, placed in my hands against the day of chastisement and purification and of

"I don't know about that," returned Lillian dryly. "I am rather inclined to think that you are the instrumen

"The tail cannot wag the dog," sai Breed, smiling: "The things Kelvin want him to do for my own ends, and if he ever gets too big for me I'll break him as I would any other efficient but dangerous tool. But tell me about him."

"Wait until I run up and get into omething more comfortable than hese traveling clothes, and then I'll nd through the go out and drive arou park with you and talk."

where she found Elsie White stand-ing before a photograph of Phillip. Lillian smiled cruelly as she viewed this tableau and stood silent until Elsie, feeling her presence in the room, turned slowly. a flush of crimson ating to her brow as she met Lil-

"He's a handsome fellow, isn't he?"
Lillian observed carelessly as Elsie began to smooth out her hair.
"Who?" asked Elsie quietly.
Lillian glanced sardonically at Elsie

in the glass, but the girl back of her had her eyes bent steadily upon her

built like an Adonis and muscled like a young Hercules, but the touch of his hands, strong as they are, is like vel-vet." She was keeping her cold eyes now steadily fixed upon those other eyes veiled beneath their down lids and that cruel smile sat fixedly on her mouth. "His lips"—she lin-red over the item with a relish, still watching that pale face—"his lips are cool and firm"—the hands busily enraged with her black tresses trem slightly-"but suddenly they are like fire. I think I shall marry him! Elsie! You hurt me dreadfully that time! You are becoming more and more clumsy every day. I am afraid that I shall have to discharge you." And, having inflicted all the pain that she could, she went down the hall singing blithely. A stranger hearing her would have thought that there was nothing

She stopped in at Blagg's office. He had heard her coming. He was receiving a message at the time and the light of the tubes gave to his emaciated face a ghastly wanness. As she entered no enly glanced up with smoldering hate. at that black look. She knew that whe had never been more beautiful than in the absence of more entertaining prey she had toyed with him as a cat does with a captured and wing broken

"You don't seem half glad to see me, Mr. Blagg," she remonstrated. "No!" he answered her, and his voice

was tense and strained. "I wish you had never come back. I wish that you had died." "Oh. tut, tut," she said, laughing though a glitter came into her eyes. She was forewarned. "That is not a very cheerful reception. It seems to

"I am," he asserted. "Lillian"-"Miss Breed, if you please," she corrected him.

"Indeed!" she said pleasantly, realising for the first time that there was announced the formation of a monster had often given her of a powerful or- care of all the freight and passenger ganization of which he was the head. transportation entering New York and spect I ever had for you is swept served upon every miserable dweller away. Whatever of love I felt is in the congested tenement districts dead, now that I know you for what that he had purchased. Thousands you are, now that you have made upon thousands of families were ren-

yourself common"—

"Be careful," she warned him. "It b
is not safe to talk that way to me." "Safe or unsafe." he cried, "what do I care? I have died a thousand deaths in the past week, and I cannot be further harmed."

"Too bad," she murmured in mock sympathy. "Deaths among the lower orders of the animal kingdom seemed quite common last week. They just found one poor fool in the Long Isand woods this morning. He looked like a workingman. A revolver was by his side, but he had not been shot. He had been strangled. That's a bad place down there. Somebody shot at Kelvin there earlier in the week, but it was a foolish waste of ammur Kelvin bears a charmed life. By the way, you have not yet stated what has made this alleged tremendous change in you." She looked at him mockingly, a half smile upon her tips.

"Are you daring me?" he cried, his nervous tension increased to the break-ing point by her recital of the failure of his plans, the first news he had re-

ceived of it.
"Tell me," she defied him. "Have you not made yourself Kel-

vin's mistress?'

He had expected to overwhelm her with this, to meet her indignant denial, to have to brave her fury. Instead she let her half veiled eyes rest cruelly upon him and walked toward

"Yes," she said. He recoiled as though she had struck im a mortal blow. Rigid and i able as he would ever be in death be sat, and from the stairway there float-ed up to his numbed ears a gay little song that Lillian lightly hummed as she tripped down to the library.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE nomination of Kelvin an Rollins came as an ast surprise to the public, for their names in connection with the presidency had been carefully suppressed throughout, though Senator Sawyer's publicity bureau had kept the papers full of both men in other ways. They were the new commercial philan thropy. They were the new justice They were the new foe of the oppr and friend of the poor. Kelvin, indivally, had forced Henry Breed to rec the price of bread permanently from 5 to 4 cents a loaf. That was the story that touched every man's tearful con-

cern for the poor man's pocketbook.

A dozen favorite sons were first put in nomination at the convention, and then Senator Killan, recounting the story of the breaking up of the Stock Exchange and of the capture of the railroads, the smashing of the trusts and the reduction of the price of bread, put up Kelvin's name for considera tion. Pandemonium broke loose as per ile, one of those carefully arthe nomination of Kelvin as candidate for the high office of president of the United States, the youngest man ever to achieve that honor, became but a mere counting of long since ar ranged for ballots, after which the

One-half of the public received those two names with gasps of gratitude the other half received them with snarls of scorn, and the campaign was on. Kelvin, refusing to make a mounte-bank of himself, let his managers fight it out, for he was busy. Out upon his vast stretches of Long Island waste there now sprang up a long success of residence blocks, each surrour with its cement sidewalk, each containing neat little cement houses mold ed after the Edison idea, and each house set in a generous plot of ground Water, light, sewerage, parks, schools all were provided as if by magic, and the whole was made easily accessible by the new and wonderful transporta-tion system that Rollins had inaugurated at the same time.

ntion much more calmly and ra-

tionally proceeded to nominate Rol-

28 soon as the work had begun to assume form its magnitude could not escape the newspapers. Their first two questions were "What is this?" and "Who is doing it?" To both of these queries Kelvin's publicity bureau had a ready answer-light and air and cleanliness and life for the working-

man at a cheaper price than he paid for darkness and poisoned atmosphere and dirt and death. Kelvin, appealed to, curtly pointed out that the scheme had been projected long before his name had been men

tioned for the nomination and that it was merely one of Henry Breed's plans for the use of his enormous wealth in ameliorating the condition of mankind. Nor did he deny that the undertaking as expected to pay a legitimate rate of interest upon the outlay. He was entirely practical, he stated, and the inference was that he would make an entirely practical president; also a working president, for he was busy right up to the time of election

As if arranged by Providence, chance to display his vigorous practime that you are becoming old and cality came just a few days before election. One Pellman, remembered as a once forceful man of Wall street, then as a "has-been," had sudder "I'll call you by a less formal name than that if I like," he flared. "I know every step that you took while you were away." block after block in extent. Now he some basis for the hints that Blagg terminal company which should take Her calmness angered him. "What the erection of huge structures coverever of awe I ever had for you is ing blocks in extent. Immediately folgone," he declared. "Whatever of re- lowing this notices of eviction were dored homeless and every newsnaper "It blazed with the wholesale oppression.

Who then came to the rescue? Why, Kelvin, Keivin the disburser of Breed's billions. Kelvin the annihilator of the Stock Exchange, Kelvin the breaker of trusts. Kelvin the reducer of the price of bread, Kelvin the poor man's friend, Kelvin the candidate for president of the United States! He would furnish them free transportation for themselves and their goods and chattels. He would at once install each homeless family in a separate little home of its own free of moving cost. and to avoid any suffering that might be attendant upon the confusion would stock each house with a week's provisions. Would a summer and fall of campaign speeches have beaten that? Countless thousands of dazed and

helpless families thrust suddenly homeless into the streets attached themselves in pitiful home instinct each to a distressful little pile of battered and



cratched and splintered and ragg goods and merely waited in num

This tremendous dislodg with the early dawn. Nearing no moving vans, and arrived at the first breastworks of household effects the leader of that procession announced briefly to those nearest him the terms of Kelvin's offer: "Would they go?"

A cheer answered that question, a cheer of mighty relief, as of famished men in sight of water, as of lost souls that had found the gates of paradis Then began the most amazing hegira in the history of civilization. Out to the new cement cities they were car-ried into fresh air and clean surround ings and a new life, away from squalor and disease and degradation. and though dazed by the change they were different people and better for it. Through the day and the night for more than two weeks this treme exodus went on. Only Patsy McCalken, bereft of his leadership because there was no one to lead, put his

stubby finger upon the facts. "He said he'd take it away from me and he done it, dash him:" excisimed Mr. McCalken, half indignantly and half admiringly, his red face puffing redder and curious little wrinkles form ing upon both sides of the mole on his "Them three districts would 'a' beat Kelvin in this election, and now there won't be enough voters left in the whole abattoir to wedge a come-on in a vestibule. And the whole game's a frameup. Breed's money's back of Kelvin, and it's Breed's mo that's back of Pellman, and Breed gets his all out again by sellin' all this property Pellman bought to the rail-roads. It not only don't cost a cent to make all this election grand stand play from here to Frisco, but it makes money! Think of that, will you? If turned Phillip.

kelvin frames up this dear he's a l "You're a most unsatisfactory lov-

body, bowever, paid any attention

to Patsy McCalken.

Election night found Henry Breed, as eager in his interest as any child could have been, in New York for the first time in years, and with him came Lillian. Mrs. Rensselaer, Dr. Zelphan and the usual servants. Two splendid suits on Kelvin's floor at the Esplanade were secured, and the common meeting point for all of them that night was a mag-nificent drawing room upon the corner overlooking the entrance to the park and also overlooking a moving picture bulletin which an enterprising newspaper had established there. Breed surveyed Kelvin and Rollins in turn with paternal delight, but he studied both men shrewdly and ended by putting his hand on Kelvin's shoul-

"My boy, you are made of the right stuff." he announced in his shrill voice. "Here's the man"-and he turned to the others-"fitted to sustain a world's crisis. There is no nervousness here, ing, face straight ahead. Fine boy, this Kelvin." no energy wasted in worry, no flinch-

"Really." put in Mrs. Rens "we are all intensely interested. and even absorbed, in your campaign, Mr. Kelvin. We think it has been very cleverly conducted indeed."

"I thank you," said Kelvin to Mrs. Rensselaer, who he knew hated him. "But we all have to remember that, while the campaign is over, our election is not yet assured by any means. Mr. Rollins and Mr. Breed and my self as monopolists and malefactors and capitalists of great wealth and a few other reprehensible things have come in for some hard scorings in the past few days, and just how much effect that is going to have on the attitude of the public it is hard to

"Huh! It isn't worth considering. said Breed. "Politics is too thoroughly organized for that. Get the leade who own the little leaders, who in turn own the minor workers clear down to the ward thugs, and you have the country."

"I cannot agree with you." broke in Rollins. "The man who disregards the tremendous, resistless force of public sentiment reckons without the mighty power which has made every impor tant change upon the maps since history began."

"Mercy," cried Lillian, "how vitally serious we are becoming! When and where are we to have dinger?"

"Right in this apartment, I think, if Mr. Breed will allow it," said Kelvin, with a laugh. "Suppose we scatter and make ready for dinner as quickly as we can. I ordered it rather early, and the butler would probably be glad to have this room."

Breed walked out into the hall with Kelvin. "I will be glad when the night is over, so I can go back to Ferest Lakes," he confided to Phillip. "1 cannot get out of my mind the fact of all that money there-alone. It-it

calls to me, Phillip."

"Nonsense," replied Kelvin, glancing at him curiously. The old man was prone to pass from normality to abnormality and back again with pet, only surprising but discomforting swiftness. "No one knows about it." and an army could not force the | Blagg caught his breath sharply and

"It isn't that," Breed half whispered "It—it calls to me, I say. I hear it in tongues of silver and of gold and in soft, silken rustlings when I try to sleep away from home. As for safety, it's safe enough, but it-it calls menot for protection, you know, but for company—just company—not that it's afraid. It knows that I have guarded it well. I have doubled my force of watchmen around there, did you know? I have almost a regiment ignorant fellows that I have brought up from the mountains, men who know nothing but how to handle a gun. I have a solid line of them all around the house and all around the walls and all around the drives, with nstructions to shoot the first man that nes near." His voice sank to a per. "They have shot two in the past month. They dragged them away and buried them at night." Kelvin turned to Breed, shocked and horror stricken. The old man's eyes were plazing, and his hand as he laid it upon Phillip's arm was trembling, not with fright, but with some more lust ful passion. "Mine is the appointed hand." he went on. "Mine is the apsinted hand. From the just wrath of the Most High there is no escape."

"No. I presume not," admitted Kelvin, with calmness at least in his voice. "There is not so much to guard as there used to be," he suggested. "No," admitted Breed, shaking his head, "that's true." He seemed quite cast down about it for a moment, then suddenly he chuckled shrilly. "But we'll get it all back, Phillip. It's only

an investment, and when you become president and we get a senate and congress that we can handle my vault will receive every cash dollar in the United States. Then we'll see what we shall see." And he bobbed his old bald head like a toy mandarin.

"We shall see what we shall see," repeated Kelvin enigmatically and turned abruptly toward his suit.

Lillian, sweeping down the hall after them, called to Phillip. He waited at his door for her.

"I've a crow to pick with you," declared Lillian, drawing up closely to Phillip and putting her hand upon his "And what is it?" he asked, frown-

ing slightly and making no atte to conceal it. "Now, don't be cross," she rallihim playfully. "You haven't been down to see me in a month, and you have never written me a single letter." "I never put myself on paper," re-

gger man than Dick Croker, sure he | er." she charged, shrugging her shoul-

Biagg, gaunt and emaciated, passed them with a look of concentrated fury: his eyes, sunken deep in their cavities, looked like wells of blackness. Lillian smiled at his malevolence, but Kelvin shook his head.

"I don't like that fellow," he observed. "He's a dangerous man to have around. He's a fool and a fanatic, and

there is no telling where and when he will break loose."
"I don't know," Lillian mused. "I believe that all you say about him is true, but I rather like to play with

fire, don't you?" "No." replied Kelvin shortly—"not unless there is a definite end to gain

by doing so."

When the company sat down to dinner Keivin found at his plate the early bulletins. They were all highly favor able to the election of Kelvin and Rolfins and had the effect of starting the dinner with much lightness of spirit. At 10 o'clock, however, unfavorable bulleting began to come in, one after the other, and Senator Sawyer, worried beyond measure by the unexpected development, came bustling into the

"I don't understand it," he declared "It would look as if the labor vote had suddenly switched." Lillian, watching Blagg, saw his face

light with a malignant smile.
"I cannot understand how the labor vote should have been estranged," commented Kelvin slowly; "but, after all, what does it matter? The thing in which I am chiefly interested just now is not cause, but result. We can an

alyze the situation afterward."

Blagg, still smiling, left the room, returning a moment later with still other depressing news. The table had been cleared, only wine and cigars and cigarettes remaining, and Breed's company alternated nervously between the balcony and the table, sitting outside at times to watch the big fluminated screen across the street. The most of them were inside when, at the end of an hour of almost continued bad news, Blagg brought in a particularly unfavorable telegram, one purporting to come from the national committee and conceding the possible defeat of Kel-

vin by a narrow margin.
"I'm bound to confess that it looks bad." Kelvin was forced to admit, "but I'm like you, senator; I can't understand it. I don't see what element could have worked against me."
"I can tell you." suddenly broke in

the voice of Blagg, a voice that was shrill in its long suppressed triumph. "I did it. I am at the head of an organization of a quarter of a million men, each one sworn with his life against the principles you represent. sent them out the word immediately after your nomination and once week since to vote against you and to work against you noth and nall, and they have done it. You owe your defeat to me." And he beat both hands upon his chest in his madness of exul-

Kelvin eyed him coldly. "You were not asked for any comments or expla-nations, Mr. Blagg." he observed. "For the remainder of the evening you will kindly and without unnecessary conversation attend to the duties which

trembled. His hands clinched convul sively, but suddenly he wheeled and strode from the room

A cheer, the first hearty one in a half hour, attracted them to the balcony. The bulletin across the street was displaying a highly favorable mes-sage, which proved to be the turning of the tide. Lillian went into Blaggi room to telephone for Elsie White Blagg was in a chair in the corner, with his handkerchief to his mot and there were red stains upon it. He

rose as Lillian entered. "You may go get that cigar now," he said to his assistant, who was at the key. "What did I tell you?" he demanded, turning to Lillian as soon as the operator had gone. "Who has shown the greater power-Kelvin or myself? He is through, and it is 1 who have defeated him. It is only the start of the things 1 am destined to do, and with your help I can con-worlds. Lillian, come with me." caught her by the shoulder. know where there is a billion and a half dollars in cash. With this money we can overturn the entire rotten so-cial and financial and political system of this country and sway the might-lest empire in the world to our will. I've talked of this phase first because you have not let me talk of love, but now I must speak of it, Lillian. I am dying for the love of you. Come right now, while you have a chance, and we'll go to Forest Lake immediatelytonight. I've a thousand men where I can mass them in an hour. Come! Kelvin will cast you off like a broken toy."

CHAPTER XIX. LOWLY, holding his eyes with her own, Lillian's hand placed

the point of a pin upon one of Biagg's knuckles and twirled it. Our of all the devilment that lay in her she had selected this trifling action as being the most contemptuous within her invention, and, laughing in within her intention, and the property of the forest and sent a page for Elsie. She rejoined the others upon the balcony, laughing from sheer light heartedness, and nested down in a chair close by Phillip. In the dimness she even rested her fore arm across his knee and shared with the others their increasing pl in the returns from outlying districts, where the vote had be most to a man for Kelvin and Rollins.

By 1 o'clock the election of Kelvin and Rollins was assured beyond all possibility of a doubt, and telegrams of congratulation began to pour in, and, tired, but exultant, the watchers came in from the balcony. Rollins as

be entered the room turned and shook hands with Kelvin.

"Well, we've won," said he. "It seems that Mr. Blagg's organization of patriots was not so powerful after all." "Blagg!" exclaimed Senator Sawyer and laughed heartily. "Wasn't that a curious thing? I shall always remember your man Blagg."
"Yes, you shall remember Blagg, all

of you!" shrieked a voice, and, turning, they saw the tall, thin form of the



SOMETHING GLITTERED IN THE LIGHT AS HE BAISED HIS ARM.

wireless operator standing in the door way. Before any one could divine his intention he had sprung at Phillip.

Something glittered in the light as he raised his arm and flashed as he brought it down, and Kelvin dropped to the floor. Blagg sprang for the door to the hall, but met Sam coming in, and Sam, seeing Philip lying upon the floor, required no explanation. In an instant, for the second time in their lives, his hands were about Blagg's throat, and he bore him to the floor. Horror stricken, Sawyer and Rensselaer and Zelphan and the attending butler rushed to drag Sam away from his victim, while Rollins turned his attention to Phillip. It had all happened in an instant-the stabbing of Phillip, Sam's assault upon Blagg and the piling of the other men upon Sam -and in that instant Elsie White had shricked and thrown herself upon her knees beside Phillip's prostrate form.

"Phillip!" she cried in anguish, and in that cry the secret of her heart was made known. All the pentup love that she had felt for him and had hidden revealed itself in that wailing call

upon his name. Lillian Breed, her face inflamed with sudden passion, leaned over the girl and, grasping her by the shoulders, shook her violently, discharged her and called upon a page to have the girl thrown into the street.

In the meantime a hills had spened

his eyes and a moment later raised himself to his elbow, feeling at his "Are you badly hurt?" asked Rollins. "No. I think not," replied Phillip, dazed. "I think I was only stunned by the force of the blow. I doubt if I even have a flesh wound." And, taking Rol-

lins' hand, he rose to his feet and sat in a chair. It was in that moment that Rollins w Lillian raise her hand to strike Elsie, and he sprang in between them, putting a protecting arm around Elsie's

Lillian laughed shrilly. "It seem hat my clever little maid has arouse the gallantry of more than one of my

friends," she charged.
"No." returned Bollins calmly. "I aly love her, and I'm going to call a and send her over to my mother at

the Hotel Spuyten."

The disturbance rose anew in the group about the door. Rensselaer and Dr. Zelphan had Sam on the floor on his back. Senator Sawyer and the at-tending butler had raised Blagg to his feet and stood with him near the door. He was ashen white and was quiver-ing all over. His hands were at his ing all over. His hands were at his throat, and he was gasping for breath.
"Send for a policeman," the butler ordered the bewildered page.
"No," interposed Kelvin. "Don't do that. Let the man go. It is not good policy to have this known."

Sawyer, panting for breath, nodded his head vigorously. "You are quite right. Mr. Kelvin." said he and steped away from Blagg's side.
"You are letting me go at your own
peril," warned Blagg, gasping out the

"If you stay it will be at yours," re-turned Phillip and got upon his feet.

As he did so something heavy and metallic and bright dropped to the floor. Blagg took a step forward, stop-ped, laughed bitterly and tottered out nto the hall.

Kelvin stooped and picked up the

object that had fallen. It was the

neavy paperweight dagger that Blagg and stolen from Phillip's desk a year pefore. Phillip held it up by its tip.
"That's twice this thing has threatened me," said he, "and each time it has failed. I think I shall keep it as my

emblem and my talisman."

An unusual commotion arose in the street, and there were loud cheers and calls for Kelvin. He looked inquiringly at Sawyer.

"It's none of my doing," declared the enator. "You'd better show yourself and say a few words, I guess."

Kelvin advanced hesitatingly to the window and held out his hand for Rollins to come with him. Before he emerged upon the balcony he turned and once more held up the dagger. He noticed as he did so, however, that it stood in the shape of a cross, and he immediately reversed it with the glittering point in the air.

TO BE CONTINUED

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