### **Amazingly Powerful Mushrooms**

SPHALT has actually been lifted bodily from the ground by insignificant looking little mushrooms. Children of a certain public school know it, because they saw it happen in their own playground, which is paved. Other instances are also recorded.

## A Magazine Page For Everyone

That Guilty Feeling.

HELLO CHIEF!

WELL HOW'S

### Collecting Perfume From the Air

THIS is the way it is done. Fresh flowers are placed in a bowl filled with water. A plugged glass funnel is filled with a mixture of crushed ice and salt. Perfumed moisture from the air of the room forms on it and runs off tip of funnel into receptacle.

# THE STRANGER" A Gripping Story of Love Triumphant Over the Plots of a Master Criminal

BY JOHN **GOODWIN** 

#### Agnes Turns On Callaghan, But Is Forced To Admit She Is In His Power and Must Pay His Price.

CHAPTER LXIV. The Chief's Command. Mr. Callaghan lay back in his chair and laughed with unrestrained en-joyment. He laughed till his eyes were bedewed with tears and the gold-rimmed spectacles fell from his

"Dashed funny, isn't it?" growled Orummond, "She wiped the waiter cross the face with her napkin."
"He may be thankful it wasn't the bettle," said Mr. Callaghan, drying his eyes. Drummond

the situation," chuckled Theophilus Drummond to appreciate them. He was rather too near."

'She is an ornament to society indeed," murmured Callaghan, "All the Drummond. "There isn't a woman in London that counts in the least who

London that counts in the least who would ever be seen with her again. She has shut every door that might once," he said. "At this hour?" "Very It was bound to happen sooner

able. Suppose, Agnes, you describe firm of Callaghan does not fear competition; the efforts of amateurs like those are food for derision. They won't do the bank balance of Lady Tallbois any damage that we should regard as serious. Drummond will see to that."

able. Suppose, Agnes, you describe to us this Jacob and his mess of pottage? Was he, do you think, connected with Old Nick for all I know," sneered Agnes, "an' by the look of him, likely a blood relation. But his money was good."

Briefly she related her encounter their conduct, or their clothes or with their conduct, or their clothes or their fakes at the children behave badity because daddy is so negligent... And it seems to me I've heard you mothers talk a whole lot about how much better the children would be if daddy took more interest in them.. But if all are to make a suggestion about their conduct, or their clothes or

"Trespassers," said Theophilus Bell, "will be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law. The Tallbois estate is our vineyard, and when the fascinating Agnes is fairly in possession we shall apply such a twist to ine press as she little expects There are many ways of doing it, and some of your schemes, chief, appeal to me very keenly.' Drummond turned on him almost

savagely to Bell's surprise. "Take care, Bell!" he said, with a dangerous glint in his eyes, "this amiable society, I know, has got me pretty tight. I admit the girl has got to go through it, but I warn you there are some things I won't stand.

sets?" said Mr. Callaghan, looking at him with shrewd eyes. He smiled pleasantly. "My congratulations, Drummond. You were a little appre hensive when the lady first arriveda little coy, But I think you begin to find the role I have allotted to you by no means distasteful. There is charm about her, isn't there? This is just as I would have it. always know what is best for you, my dear Drummond? "I wish I knew what is best for my-

muttered Drummond. "I know

tainly wouldn't be here," replied Callaghan suavely. "I have no use for You realize you have to obey orders. Drummond?" "I realize it," Drummond answered

mmond looked at him sus-

"There is more here than I care yout, tonight," he said acidly. "You found the Lombardy incident funny-I did not. I found it pitlable. That, and what I have got to do now, will cost me such social position as I have,

tracts you," retorted Drummond, "there was one item today wholly priceless, and you may laugh at that h the ineffable Mottisfont e-his wife, mark you!' enough trouble, but we are quits with him at last. Nothing could have rounded off our victory more neatly. "The fellow gave us It's positively gorgeous!"
Callaghan's brows knitted.

commonly little humor in that. It is again.

"That the man should have been such an incredible fool!" murmured len nod. Callaghan, "yet it is only a localized he is otherwise an ex-able and determined man

is a different matter-we have no longer any hold over Joan, and she has gained a powerful and almost certainly a vindictive ally. We shall

rogether aloof from the lawsuit," said Bell. "I have ascertained that."

"The lawsuit!" exclaimed Callaghan impatiently; "he cannot defend the lawsuit, and well he knows

it. Agnes' position is perfectly secure. But he may tackle you and Vaille over those early dealings with Joan, skillfully though they were masked, and since we have lost the strangle-hold we had on her when she was Lady Talibois there will be mis-chief. As if we had not enough risk already in handling that little spit-fire, Agnes. Now, listen to me—"

company of what she calls the high sign to Vaille, who went out at once, steppers. It is a pity in some ways. I should have liked to see her at a drawing-room on a presentation day."
"Don't be an ass," said the goaded tablished. Vaille came back in a few moments.

Agnes Tallbois wishes to see you at

know the difference."

"Exactly. People like Ballyshannon and Major Marker—women like Mrs. Blessington," said Callaghan, "Souls blackballed in perdition. They are just as impressive to a foreigner as the real thing; they dress just as well, some of them are of quite as good lineage. They will do. And you'll have to collect them, Drummond—by no means must the dear Agnes think you are falling her. You are, after her, our chief asset in that direction."

"Hold on" said Valle specking for

that Vaille had changed color. "Do you know, Agnes," said Mr.

who that man is?" been felt.

"Who, then?" said Callaghan.

So that is how the wind expressionless as a board. thought you were," he said ambigu-

"Ah, sharp—sharp as cisely. This is the work of your ex-rival Joan—and of her husband, Philip Mottisfont. And a particulary clumsy and impudent piece of bluff.

"I realize it," Drummond answered sullenly. Vaille and Bell were both smiling. "But—choose your orders with discretion, chief."

"In her chair and glared at nimation of the chair and glared at nimation."

"There's a debt due to me? You robed her of sixty thousand pounds. You did her down, the three of you.

make-weight. It was part of the forgotten." H the shoulder. rot trouble to defend it."
"Yes! He knows you! He said none of you would stick at murder,

cost me such social position as I have, and that position has been one of the most useful things to us all."

"True," said Callaghan, "but one cannot have everything. Think of the compensations, my dear boy," he added soothingly, "keep them always added soothingly, "keep them always strictly in mind."

Callaghan crossed the room, and putting his hand on the back of the putting his hand o

"If the funny side of things at-acts you," retorted Drummond, wicked-looking eyes stared into his. She had feared the tall visitor most when in his presence. But now Callaghan seemed to her no less sinister. A week ago fear had been a stranger

not make any move, and you need not

man Mottisfont. Had he dropped oan Tailbois like a hot coal, as very sane person would have given im fredit for doing, all would be after?" She winced. "Agnes de cell. But his marriage with her now cast a ferred through the gold-rimmed spectacles.

"Where would your case be then?" the said softly, "or where would you be after?" She winced. "Agnes de cell. But his marriage with her now cast a of Salinas and Chicago an ally

ame I fear the admirable Agnes has rather expunged herself from the company of what she calls the high.

A bell rang with a muffled whirm outside the door and everyone looked up sharply. Callaghan made a

Callaghan, his eyes fixed on hers,

"Know? Of course I know!" she said darkly. "Do you think I'm a

"A dead-beat, in the pay of Joan

the way clear for her!

You have hit the mark pre-

him. too!" said Agnes venomously. "I utterly oblivious to its existence knew what sort she was—from the beginning! Gee! but she shall know

thought she was certain to discover

to her.
"That man is a discredited sharp-

fear him." "I begin to think you are a fool ter all," he growled; "there's unsaid Agnes curtly, "if he crosses me

> "Just so!" she muttered, with a sul-His hand tightened on the back of

have to face an attack from a new quarter."

"Mottisfont is holding himself al-

"Message from the branch office:

"Hold on," said Vaille, speaking for the first time. "Surely, chief, you are not going to let the girl's house be filled with such a set of social pirates as that! Some of them will start to pluck her before they have known her two days."

"I have no apprehension on that score," replied the chief smiling. "The

Briefly she related her encounter with the strange visitor, and his chailenge to her. When she had finished. there was dead silence. She noticed

This time the silence might have

bois-to bribe me out of it an' leave A little sigh of relief passed Callaghan's lips, but his face remained "You are just as intelligent as I

Do you not feel grateful to thatproudly or whenever they make too much noise... When a child is nor-mal—the aforesaid fond father seems

"It will be more dignified," said "Will you?" said Agnes. She turned her chair and glared at hims

with discretion, chief."

"I invariably do," purred Mr. Callaghan; "discretion is my long suit. Have no fear, my dear lad—not for anything would I interfere with love's young dream. As I told you I am fidence with which he said it, for they not a sentimentalist."

either, if it came to a pinch!" she

dangerous—dangerous!"

"The police? But on what charge?"
said Callaghan, "you might as well.
my dear Agnes, hand me to the police."

the chair, and she avoided the eyes that peered through the gold-rimmed spectacles.

THE MARRIAGE GAME
As Played to a Decision

Every Day By

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hatton

FOR FOND FATHERS.

have the full say-so about rearing

the children, but it is a laugh to no-

tice that when little Willie is caught

their conduct, or their clothes or

wow-you almost blow my head off

with your insistence that I must not

interfere... Now, there's consistency

Her Counter-Play-Nobody can be

.. I think this is because it requires

about it, fond fathers?

their flakes at the breakfast table-

"At this hour?" said Callaghan frowningly. "Very well. Bell, you go and fetch her."
"Can this be an S.O.S. call?" said

ter? It was bound to happen sooner or later," said Callaghan coolly. "And," he added, "she actually asked you if you could smooth it over and put things right—you, the impotent Drummond! What faith she has in you. And you said you could." "Of course I can find her smart people of a sort," replied Drummond grimly, "the only sort open to her now. They will fill up Knayth and the town house for her—she will not know the difference."

"Exactly. People like Ballyshan—"We are charmed to see you Lad." "We are charmed to see you Lad."

Lloyd-for I won't call her Joan Tall-

so absurd as a father when he is discussing the method that ought to be the paper, or going to the checker club, or attending a lodge meeting, or father notices his youngsters seems to be when he wishes to display them

Do I not happy pair, Agnes?"

for you "I'll show her how grateful—an'

Callaghan, holding up his hand, "to leave that to us. We will pay the debt for you."

of the police?" Callaghan smiled. "Le us talk sense like sensible people—no nonsense, 'like children. I exact to the content of the police?" Callaghan smiled. "Le us talk sense like sensible people—no nonsense, 'like children. I exact to talk the content of the police?" of the police?" Callaghan smiled. "Le certain price for all I do. What then s not the laborer worthy of his hire? "That's true," she said after pause, "I'm not denying it." Callaghan beamed geni

her. He took her hands and raised her from the chair. "There," he said with a bland smile. "I see we are friends again. I is much more comfortable so, not, and eafer? A few unpai the truth. "He told you that as a let slip in an unguarded moment, are forgotten." He patted her kindly or.

'You have me," she said, with ned. "I know I've got to stay by it. "And we will stay by you. Par-ticularly our charming young friend Drummond. It would grieve me to putting his hand on the back of the chair, looked down into her face. have no dealings with him, nor any fear. He cannot harm you."

"I'm goin' to have my money back from Joan though!" said Agnes viciously. "She's had her thieving hands deep in the Tallbois money while she held the pool, I know. I'll get that back if I have to cut it out of her." "No," said Callaghan, "that is for bidden. It will make worse trouble for you than for her. You will leave all that in my hands to arrange. You understand?

barnyard. We are so near that that She looked sullen and made no answer. "Good night, dear Lady Tallbois." said Mr. Callaghan genially. "Good-night—and pleasant dreams. Bell. he won't," said she. bother us at all." "Huh!" exclaimed J will you escort our charming ward to within a reasonable distance of her hotel? Thank you so much." Mr. Bell obeyed. When they were

alone Callaghan glanced at Vaille.
"All's well," he said, "with a little "Slim Jim is busy," answered Vaille, helping himself to a somewhat stiff peg. "A close shave. I don't like it, chief."

"The ground is cut from under him



His Play-A wife insists that she GETTING HER IN THE FAMILY. Jim-Say, Lonnie, I guess here's a relationship? where you and me says good-bye!

STEPPING OFF THE GANG PLANK AS

GOLF BAG THAT

GURGLES!

NONCHALANTLY AS IS POSSIBLE WITH A

fibbing or little Mary is detected going? stealing the jam, mother always de-

Jim-Gosh, it's the same with my Lonnie-You'd think to hear them

go on folks don't know nothing if they ain't seen them Falls! Jim-Well, that's just why I'm go ing-I got to take a slant at them Lonnie-And I guess some blond hustle up your trousseau! Lonnie—Here I am! dame's fell for you and is going along take a look, too!

Jim-Naw-forget it. Lonnie-I bet there's a blond cutle along with you—and handing out her oin for the wedding trip! Jim-Can it! I tell you, I got to Lonnie-I ain't noticed you work ing now! Jim-Listen here! A factory in

Niagara Falls advertised for help and employed in bringing up his children I answered it. Lonnie-It's a lot of help you'll much distraction from reading be to them! Jim-Well, they pays for a guy's ticket up there, so I guess I'll see the

something. .. The only time a fond Falls all right, even if I have to walk back!

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

CHUCK.

he was angry through and through He had been chased into his new

way into that new house. He

"I suppose now," said he to Polly

"Move?" exclaimed Polly Chuck.

Chuck as she joined him, "we'll have

"Did I understand you to say move? Why should we move?"

"Because that dog will give us no peace now," retorted Johnny. "He'll be coming down here every day, and

make it very uncomfortable for us.

good-for-nothing dog will run down

here every time he happens to think

Polly Chuck shook her head. "No

"Huh! Much you know about it! Did

exclaimed Johnny Chuck.

We are too near Farmer Brown's

though he cannot dig us out, h

Who uses wits as well as eyes, Will Find the blessing in disguise.

heard Farmer Brown's Boy

ant sound to hear.

to move.

ing out of one of our other doorways luck with your garden. and watched that whole performance Farmer Brown's Boy made that dog stop digging right away. What is more, he made him go away. If I know anything about it, that dog

Jim-The bird down at the engage-

ment office-a block from here.

Lonnie-Yep, we've started!

Jim-Well, what's the matter.

Lonnie-Hully gee! You're in the

-I ran all the way!

in this car!



understand you to say that Farmer Brown's Boy is one of the best friends we've got?"

Johnny Chuck nodded. "Yes," said

"Didn't he take that dog away at- to our flock, but it is equally as nice er he had driven you up a tree?" continued Polly

you see him chase me the instant fessed Johnny. "Perhaps you are he caught sight of me crossing the right. Goodness knows, I hope you he caught sight of me crossing the Long Lane? Look at our doorstep are.' Long Lane? Look at our doorstep there and see what a mess he has made of it trying to dig me out! I tell you we won't have any peace this ing to prove a blessing. He is going to keep Reddy Fox away. That is make I chose this place for our home.



Lonnie—"Good-bye!" Where're you going?

Jim—I'm headed for Niagara Falls.

Lonnie—Gee! Why, that's the place where pop and mom went on their wedding tour!

Jim—Whada ya know! So did mine!

Lonnie—And say, they ain't through talking about it yet!

Jim—The hind down et the first of the dames go through talking about it yet!

Jim—The headed for Niagara Falls—are you on?

Lonnie—and say, they ain't through talking about it yet!

Jim—The hind down et the first of the dames go to the first of the dames go the first of the fir Dear Cynthia Grey,-I noticed in would almost think that it really were weeping real tears, Lonnie—Then shall I go and see Mrs. at it, with its drooping boughs. If him now and get the ticket in your she is still living at the same address W. G. B. will let me know if her the quilt patterns now, as I was

as she was two years ago, I will send nie! Here's his address—the train goes at six—I'll meet you at the station. You'll have to be suited. Jim-You're game, all right, Lonvery ill at the time her request was You'll have to be quick and them since. Guess my time is much taken up with my dear little, fairreceived, and have neglected sending ticket, Jim! I-I'm all out of breath rived about the same time as the haired, blue-eyed baby girl, who ar-Jim—Here, climb on! Guess we're apologies, Mrs. W. G. B.. Shall have to let you decide how to fix up about Jim-Say, girlie, I guess I'm the guy that's going to get along! A wed-

the pen name. Shall sign, as before WEEPING WILLOW. Shall we call you Weeping Willow ding trip to Niagara Falls at the other fella's expense and the First, so that you may keep your pretty name? I am glad you are writing to the Mail-Box again. I am Lonnie-Quit! Don't put your arm around me! They'll think we're a sure your wee daughter has taken up your time for the last two years couple a newlyweds like all the rest but perhaps you will write often now, and tell us about her. I sent ain't we? When you was copping the ticket, I copped a license and here it

your recipes to Calamity Ann. A Surprise. Lonnie—Gosh! Don't that factory need any female help?

Jim—I dunno—but say, if you was ticket!

In my intimate family they'd pay your (Copyright, 1923, by Public Ledger Responded as I am continually gee: four in the seeds, in the seeds, Erikum, so that was a nice surprise for me. Needless to say, I enjoyed it. The packages of seeds were splendid, as I am receiving more requests for them.

am glad you liked the seeds. Good Returned to the Fold. Dear Miss Grey,-It is such a bright, sunny day, and I have just been reading about the cookbook, so I thought I really must have a recipe

in it. Am I too late? I used to write regularly to your Mail-Box and received two very good correspondents, K. Pistol, and I believe the other one was Modest Maggie. I have lost them both now, however, and the last I heard of the latter she was training to be a nurse in Guelph. Spring is really here now. Our dove, who always makes her home in one of the pine trees, is here again, so that is a sure sign. Our oriole is not

ere yet, though.

Where are all the old correspondents, Mrs. Homebird, Rose of Sharon and the others? I used to enjoy their letters so much. It is about seven years, I think, since I first wrete and three limits, which is the seven years, I think, since I first wrete and three limits. irst wrote, and three since the last time. I am changing my name, but it won't matter, as I have been away so long that I am almost a new-comer Wishing you comer. Wishing you success,
MEHITABEL. Perhaps there is a new one, Me-hitabel, but that must be a secret. I am always glad to see one of the

Johnny nodded again. "Yes," said just a wee bit curious to know who before you changed your "Well, if he has taken that dog name, Mehitabel, so the next time "He won't away twice, doesn't that prove to you that he doesn't intend that that dog than Chuck, about it! Did the instant crossing the right. Goodness knows I hope you are among those Thank you, Rosebud, for the

"old-timers" coming back, as each

one seems to encourage several others. It is nice to add new members

lucky enough to get bulbs. How about a correspondent for a little girl just ten years old? Alec has written for one, and I am sure why I chose this place for our home.
Now let's get busy and fix up our doorstep."
(Copyright, 1923, by T. W. Burgess.)
The next story: "Farmer Brown Discovers the Home of the Chucks."

I was written for one, and I am sure someone would enjoy writing to her. I will send you some flower seeds, Alec, although there aren't any cockscomb seeds in the Mail-Box just at present. Now that you have taken the first plunge, you will write to the Mail-Box again, won't you?

ecipes. I hope you are among those

### THE DAILY SHORT STORY

THE LOVERS' QUARREL. By DORA MOLLAN.

package, wrapped carefully in tissue tioned for them to stay. paper and tied with red and gray ribbons. Lincoln Bates, standing where hearthstone, looked down at her with hearthstone, looked down at her with dark, disapproving eyes. Around his shoulders was a knitted scarf of gray with cunningly wrought border of red.

West room in Saltonstall House had changed in no essential particular for an old, old woman?" glance the girl on the settle, in her in Aunt Sally's honor ultra-modern frock, draped and sleeveless, seemed the only jarring note. But closer inspection showed

to me; she asked that I wear it for their childhood friendship. old time's sake. I promised her I gayly told him that he would have t would. You are the first in my life, for always—you know that, dearie.
Then why should you object?"

"When you have taken that scarf

"Looking from one pair to the other."

Lincoln Bates, why I object, and not

"That I don't intend to do, Sally, slippers she had made from him, 'you o a Bates, a promise is a promise." will not need these! And she three To a Bates, a promise is a promise." will not need these "Then this will go in its stead!" them into the fire. Sally held out the package tied with "He stood right red and grey. "Jane knew what I was making for your birthday. She did this on purpose!" Her cheeks flamed red with temper, and her can be seen to be seen did this on purpose!" Her cheeks —"right there." But the two pairs flamed red with temper, and her soft young eyes saw only a splotch of sun named red with temper, and ner soit journed eyes saw only a splotch of subbrown eyes moistened as they always light on the floor.

The Great-aunt Sallie sniffed a though she smelled something burn straight line, and that stubborn quality which makes martyrs showed in his eyes. did when she was very angry. Lin-coln Bates' mouth set in a thin, straight line, and that stubborn in his eyes.

An ancient clock struck 4. From

ping wood. A bent, little old lady appeared on the threshold, feeling her son! way carefully over the waxed floor with the aid of a cane.

Noisily the ancient clock in the half with the aid of a cane.

Which is a cane in the half street and sale in the half stree

quite sure just what had happened. of misery narrowly escaped. he sprang to assist the feeble (Copyright, 1923, by McClure News

old lady. The red faded from the

cheeks of little Sally as she patte into place the cushions in the corne Sally Saltonstall sat on the end of the settle nearest to the fire. Tightly oned to Lincoln to follow her from the settle nearest to the fire. Tightly oned to Lincoln to follow her from the settle nearest to the fire the settle nearest to th of the settle, for she was very fond gripped in her hands was a small the room. But Great-aunt Sally moys

bons. Lincoln Bates, standing where the polished oaken floor met the hearthstone, looked down at her with something which happened in this

changed in no essential particular for over a century—rugs and hangings duplicated perhaps when necessary—but the maple furniture built to last.

Now the setting sun streamed in with he air of an old, old friend. At first chair nearer the fire. It was a truce

With wrinkled hands tightly grip

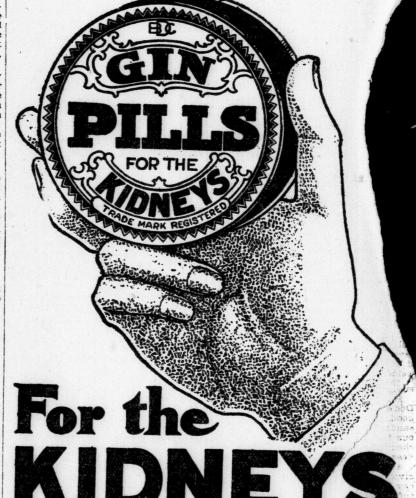
only her dress and coiffure to be anachronistic, for her features were a composite echo of the portraits on the language of the unit eves seeing things visible only to her the wall.

"But Sally"—Lincoln Bates's voice was controlled; he spoke slowly as though explaining something to a small child—"Jane is nothing to me but a friend. We were hard to me when he came to call that afternoon. small child—"Jane is nothing to me but a friend. We were brought up almost like brother and sister, as you know. She made this scarf with her own hands and used my college colors. When she gave it to me she said under the circumstances it would, of course, be her last birthday present of course, be her last birthday present they were worn out in memory

"When you have taken that scarf from around your neck and have thrown it into that fire, I'll tell you, do that dear! To me a promise is

weeks become a smoldering lump. Then he said—he said: I never could An ancient clock struck 4. From the hall came the sound of wood tap-be happy with one who allows her being wood. A bent, little old lady ap-And he turned and walked out

to herself at that time, for far back in her girlhood, it was said, there if ever again we need a warning—" had been a romance—shattered at that time of the year and day in that Lincoln, the bare two feet of space very room. No one now living was dividing them typified endless years. At the demand on his inborn cour- visioned them in terror-and elimination tesy, Lincoln Bates' features relaxed, ated them forever in a close embrace



NEGLECTED KIDNEYS mean a gradual poisoning of your whole system. This poison (uric acid) is the direct cause of rheumatism, neuralgia, lumbago, sciatica and other serious ailments. If you have any symptoms of kidney weakness, such as headaches, dizziness, backache, swollen ankles or wrists, frequent stinging uringtion with brick dust deposits, get Gin Pills im-

They are the greatest kidney remedy in the world and can be taken with absolute confidence that a healthy condition will quickly be restored.

National Drug and Chemical Co. of Canada,

At Your Druggist's -50c.