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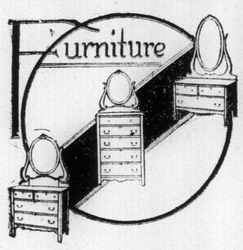

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The Diamond From the Sky

By ROY L. McCARDELL

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CHAPTER VIII.

The New York Society "Belle."

MEANWHILE, desperate and fear stricken, Blair Stanley was endeavoring to forget his peril, present and prospective, in wild and reckless indulgences in Richmond.

While his fugitive cousin lay in humble lodgings, Blair Stanley lorded it at a fine hotel, and every night found him gambling at the exclusive establishment of Abe Bloom. In desperation, finding himself "cleaned out" at Mr. Bloom's luxurious temple of chance, Blair had got that astute gentleman to cash his personal check on the Bank of Fairfax.

In a few days this would be returned marked "No funds," Blair well knew, but he hoped meanwhile to recoup his losses and laugh in Abe Bloom's hawk-like face as he "made good the bum check" out of the winning he expected to gain at Abe's own roulette wheel.

But the $2,000 went the way of the $500 his mother had given him—back into the coffers of the gambling house keeper who had advanced the money on the worthless check.

One desperate chance was left. Blair resolved to pawn his watch and with the proceeds invoke the wheels of chance again and by a streak of luck, who knows, win back all and so square himself and the check when it came back, for Blair found Richmond to his liking. Then, too, he worried over the mysterious visit to Fairfax of Tom Blake, the detective. Who had hired Blake?

There was also the ball to be given by Mrs. Burton Randolph, who was a relative of his mother, and counted upon Blair's presence at her grand ball, the event of the social year in Richmond.

Also Blair thought of Vivian Marston. Glorious Vivian, luxurious Vivian! She had come to Richmond, sworn friend of Mrs. Randolph, who had met her the winter before at Palm Beach. It was known of Vivian Marston that she was a wealthy and dashing young widow, high in the circles of New York's "four hundred."

Blair Stanley had met her at his mother's cousin's mansion, and Blair had been first among those to fall victim of her charms.

* * * * * * *

Arthur Stanley entered the pawnshop of Ike Bloom, brother and some said partner of the redoubtable Abe Bloom, king of the Richmond gamblers. The pawnshop was divided into partition spaces. Arthur saw the vulture eyes of Isaac Bloom gleam when they fastened upon the diamond from the sky, with its antique chain and curious setting.

Only too eagerly did the pawnbroker hand over the $300 Arthur asked on it, and only too eagerly did he hide it in a drawer.

Arthur was about to slip from behind the privacy partitions to the street when he heard a voice say, "I want $50 on this watch." He staggered, half fainting with fear and joy, against the partition.

It was the voice of Blair Stanley! There could be no mistake. In a revulsion of feeling to find he was not a murderer and that Blair was alive and well Arthur threw himself around the partition and into the arms of Blair.

Somewhat surprised, but feigning joy also, Blair repeated his supposed cousin's cries of wild delight. Then he made haste to explain that Dr. Lee had called him to his study and had given him the diamond from the sky and that, having done this, the doctor, who was greatly agitated, had fallen dead in his chair.

"I was afraid I would be suspected of killing him for the diamond. How could I explain when you caught hold of me?" lied Blair glibly. "I did not mean any reflection upon Esther, as you thought I did," he continued. "I only thought any altercation at such a time and the doctor lying dead might jeopardize her good name. I was too frightened to explain, and you were too angry to listen to me.

"I was only stunned and got home all right. But there has been a detective hired, and I believe he will find some clew, and your evidence would only tend to convict me, and I am innocent!"

Arthur reflected that Dr. Lee had known he was the spurious heir and that the diamond did properly belong to Blair in consequence. He did not tell Blair the Stanley secret, that he, Arthur, was but a gypsy changeling. But he resolved to stand by Blair and thus in reparation do what good he could until the time came when he might tell. So for the time being he resolved to keep Hagar's secret—and his own.

Blair was quick to take advantage of Arthur's joyous and softened mood. "I never will be able to prove I did not kill Dr. Lee," he said, with affected sadness. "True, there would not be any proof to convict me, but the suspicion of it would ruin me. You must stand by me, Arthur."

(To be continued.)

HIGH BRITISH COMMANDERS SHOULD GO

Arthur Lynch, M.P., Urges That 70 Per Cent. of Leaders Be Let Out.

WAR MUST BE WAR IN FIELD

Defence of London Against Air Craft Essentially Matter of Coast Defence.

London, Nov. 12.—Resuming the debate in the House of Commons, which was adjourned last night owing to absence of members of the Cabinet, William Joynson-Hicks, member for the Brentford division of Middlesex, drew attention to the condition of the Royal Flying Corps and the Naval Air Service. He said there was great dissatisfaction connected with the Naval Air Service in regard to the organization and the appointment of a chief who knew nothing about aircraft above the heads of those who, in fact, had built up the fabric of the service.

It was important, added the member, that England should have large new aeroplanes for the offensive next Spring in order to meet the new airships and new aeroplanes which the Germans were building. He asked why work on an English Zeppelin had been stopped in January, and whether the Admiralty had dropped the policy of attacking Zeppelins by aeroplanes.

WOULD MAKE CLEAN SWEEP

Arthur Lynch, Nationalist member for West Clare, who fought in the field against Britain in the Boer war, made a strong attack against Lord Kitchener, who, he said, had blundered in not moving to the defence of Liege, again on the question of munitions and once again in Serbia.

"The blunder in the Dardanelles," he added, "was at least a blunder of a man who meant to do something."

He contended that the war was being conducted with signal incompetence, and that unless there was a change the country was moving straight to disaster. He would sweep away 70 per cent. of the higher British command, beginning with Field Marshal French, who had been in command fifteen months and "had made no progress."

In the last offensive, continued Mr Lynch, the allies broke through the German lines, but in the superior command decision was wanting to take full advantage of the moral victory. The Government, he declared, had no plan of campaign. The idea of a successful war of attrition was absurd. The war must be won in the field. The men were good and munitions were there. It was leadership and direction which were lacking.

AERIAL DEFENCE OF LONDON.

Mr. Balfour, replying to the remarks of Mr Joynson-Hicks, said he did not think it ought to be assumed that the Germans had taken the lead in aircraft construction. It was the desire of the Admiralty and War Office to improve the construction of aircraft in strength power and speed for the aerial defence of London. It would, of course, be an enormous advantage to have overwhelming forces of aircraft of the latest design, which could be hurled against the invader and become invaders themselves, and the Government was doing its best to increase the number of aviators and machines for their use.

"We are building," he said, "not an inconsiderable number of lighter-than-air craft at the moment, largely for the purpose of scouting. The question of lighter-than-air and heavier-than-air craft is still undecided. There are many persons who think that Germany chose wrongly in choosing Zeppelins."

Mr. Balfour pointed out that although when the war broke out the air service was relatively in its infancy, it would be found that during the progress of the war it had not fallen behind that against which it was matched. In fact it had outgrown its primitive condition and had to be put under the accepted system of the Admiralty.

COAST DEFENCE

The largest part of the defence of London, continued the First Lord, must be a coast defence, and as they got more of the appliances for this purpose they would more nearly succeed in achieving it. At present the Admiralty were limited by their means of defence, but they were making guns as fast as they could, just as they were making aeroplanes and developing pilots as fast as they could. The anti-aircraft defences were improving daily. They were becoming more formidable, and would be much more formidable than they are at present.

The service was being constantly pulled up by the shortage of men and no fairy waving of hands could put that right. The aeroplane had not yet the range to enable it to proceed from these shores and become a menace. The enemy Zeppelins, which attacked England, came from North Germany, which it was not easy for British aircraft to attack.

With respect to the charges of blundering in the operations, Mr. Balfour said he had no doubt there was much talent in the country which was not finding its best operation; nor did he think that every man in high command was the very best man that omniscience could discover, but nothing could be gained by such a speech as Mr. Lynch had delivered. No practical suggestion had been made except that every man now engaged should be turned out and some unspecified persons put in to direct affairs.

He quite agreed that wherever merit was found it should be promoted, but broadcast criticisms of the soldiers and reckless attacks on the diplomatic service, he declared, did no good to the cause of the country, nor helped those responsible for public affairs.

PASSED VOTE OF CREDIT

After several members had spoken on the various aspects of the war, J. Ponsonby, Liberal, closing the debate for the critics of the Government, said that, while the situation was not so bad as it was painted, there was a limit of endurance, and the chancellor of the Exchequer could but look with the gravest apprehension to the future. After the war, he declared, the Foreign Office would have to be cleared from top to bottom.

Sir Edward Grey, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, assured the House that if the Government had not done as much as it should have liked for Serbia, it had not been from any want of good-will. The French and British Governments had offered to send 150,000 troops to Salonica to enable Greece to fulfil her treaty obligations to Serbia. They had sent the men who were available at once and had begun to make preparations for the transport of troops from other places, but these could not be obtained without due regard for the military exigencies. Then Greece changed her mind. After consultation with France, however, it was decided to continue the despatch of troops to Saloniki. It was due only to the limitations imposed by the war that more had not been sent.

The House formally agreed to a vote of credit for £400,000,000 ($2,000,000,000) asked for by Premier Asquith.

Ottawa Men Commended.

Ottawa, Nov. 12.—The work of the signalers of the 38th battalion, of Ottawa, now in Bermuda, in connection with the wreck of the steamer Pollock-Shields there on September 7th last, is commended in a cable received by his Royal Highness the Governor-General, through the Colonial Office, from Governor Bullock, of Bermuda. Writing of the work of rescuing the crew, Lieut.-Governor Bullock says:

"The signalers of the 38th Ottawa Canadian battalion, now quartered here, rendered, under Lieut. Armstrong, most valuable assistance in keeping up communication by flag and lamp with the ship under very difficult circumstances and the following officers of the battalion worked hard in the water to help the crew ashore. Major McNeil, Lieuts. Bell, Macfarlane and Gardner."

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STORY O SURVI

Woman Doc New York Vivid Tale Sinking of A

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By Special Wire to the Courie

Paris, Nov 13.—Passenge the Italian liner Ancona w pelled to seek safety in while the steamer was sub a cannonade from the Aus marine, according to a gra of the sea tragedy told by L. Griel of New York to correspondent at Ferryville, erican woman escaped only her ability as a gymnast. vainly to find a place in tw but there was no room for saved herself by dropping deck into a launch which al in the sea. Her maid was their cabin by a gun shot.

Dr. Griel's story indicates torpedo which sent the A the bottom, was not fired steamer had been riddled from the guns of the submar

HEARD CANNON

"I was in the dining room first class passengers," Dr. quoted as saying, "chatting w of the voyagers, when we he report of a cannon. There w excitement on deck and m running here and there. I a ship's doctor what was ha and he replied that he did n Then I went on deck myself. through a slight fog a s about a hundred yards distant equipped with two cannon, and after, which were being f idly. I went down to my cab my papers and there found who pleaded with me to sav cannon shot interrupted our sation. A shell entered the through the port hole and k maid. I took my valise an hand bag, containing valuable slowly putting on my hat a and went up to the deck wi belt.

BOATS ALL FILLE

"Boats were being lower completely filled. I sought to one of them and was told the no more room. I went to ano received the same response. crossed the deck and saw a afloat. This contained the chi neer, Carlo Lemberti, two and other first class passenge of the women and members crew. I asked Lembert to be to get in. "Come on," he said same time grasping the side steamer to prevent the sma from moving aff.

"I guaged well the height separated me from the boat, ing well trained in gymnastic not hesitate to let myself fall launch, landing at the place d ed.

NEVER STOPPED FIRI

"During all this time, the su had not ceased bombarding cona, not paying the slightes tion to the women, children a trying to get away. At this

(Continued on Page 4

PARIS NEWSP GREECE MO

Dissolution of Cham —Italy's Aid in and Roumania.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

New York, Nov. 13—A c the Herald from London this says—

Official announcement fro that the cabinet had decided a force into the Balkans to co with the Anglo-French conting a manner worthy of Italy's gre is expected to have much e the attitude of Greece and Ro The report of the cabinet's comes from Rome and Mil from sources which are unders be in the confidence of the ment.

VERY OUTSPOKEN.

Paris, Nov. 13—The papers are to-day more outspoken th have been in the past in their of Greece. Although the diss of the Greek parliament was ed, it created none the less a pression among French ob