Democratic Matchman. Bellefonte, Pa., January 30, 1914.

turned to the deck. THE the sunny side of the ship the steamer chairs were filling. Two old men were



Author of "The Spoilers," "The Barrier," "The Silver Horde," Etc.

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SYNOP515.

Kirk Anthony, son of a rich man, with college friends, gets into a fracas in a New York resort. A detective is hurt. Jefferson Locke insinuates himself into the college men's party.

Locke, aided by Kirk's friend Higgins, who thinks it a joke, drugs Kirk and puts him aboard a ship bound for Colon. Kirk is on the passenger list as Locke.

"Broke" and without baggage, aboard the ship Kirk makes the acquain Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Cortlandt. ship Kirk makes the acquaintance of

[Continued from last week.] Once in his own stateroom search showed Kirk that even his watch was gone and that his only asset. evidently overlooked by the hilarious Higgins and his co-partner in crime, was a modest three stone finger ring. He had neither baggage nor money. He was regarding his ring speculatively when the purser knocked, then entered at his call.

"I've just heard that there's a mistake about your ticket." the newcomer began. "It is made out to 'Mr. Jefferson Locke.' but the doctor says you insist your name is something else."

"That's right. My name is Anthony." "Then how did I get this ticket?" "I'm sure I don't know."

"Have you any baggage?" "I don't know."

"What is your destination?"

"I don't know. You'll pardon my limited vocabulary?" "But I don't understand."

"Neither do I. But I must have some luggage. I need a clean shirt and collar."

"If you are not Mr. Locke the ticket

is no good." "Hurrah! Put me off."

ood. but

leather upholstery, was Mr. Cortlandt, the funny part; I'm still sick. What I other company than a long glass and a as pale, as reserved and as saturnine can't understand is this: It took all my siphon. as at breakfast. He was sipping money to pay for the supper, and yet

Scotch and soda, and in all the time that Anthony remained he did not speak to a soul save the waiter, did not shift his position save to beckon lem play." for another drink. Something about "You say you were sick afterward?" his sour, introspective aloofness dis-

Kirk turned his eyes upon the speakpleased the onlooker. who shortly reer mournfully. "My head isn't right The day was warming up. and on

> "By Jove!" He straightened up in his chair. "I'm beginning to see. It

One day when Kirk had begun to wake up with a first class ticket to feel that his acquaintance with Mrs. Panama and in possession of one of Cortlandt win well established he said the best suits on the ship. It's a probto her:

"Stein told me today that your hus band is in the diplomatic service." "Yes," said she. "He was consul general to Colombia several years ago, and since then he has been to France "You were drugged." said the woman. and to Germany."

"Are you diplomating now?" "In a way. We shall be in Panama for some time. Colonel Jolson will be

interested in you." "I don't see the point."

"Your father is one of the most powerful and aggressive railroad men in the country. Perhaps you know something about the railroad opposition tc the canal?"

Kirk smiled. "Well, to tell you the truth." said he, "the governor doesn't consult me about his business as much as he ought to. He seems to think he can run it all right without me, and we've only been speaking over the telephone lately."

"One of the strongest forces the government had to combat in putting through the canal appropriations was the railroads. Colonel Jolson has no reason to love your father.

"By the way, when are you going into business with him?" "I? Oh, not for a long time. You

see, work doesn't really appeal to me. anyway. I suppose if I had to hustle I could, but what's the use?"

Mrs. Cortlandt let her eyes dwell upon him curiously for a moment. Then she said:

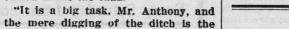
"Have you no ambition? Is there no -girl, for instance? Have you never been in love?"

"Oh. see here, now!" Anthony blushed in a manner to excite the envy of any woman. "I don't like 'em. I'd rather play football."

"You lack stimulus. If you should meet the right woman"- Then, seeing the amusement in his face: "Believe me, I know what I am talking about. I know what a woman can do. Your life has been too easy and placid. You need some disturbing element to make it ferment."

The Santa Cruz was now rapidly drawing out of the cold northern winter and into a tropic warmth. The nights were perfect, the days divine. The passengers responded as if to a magic draft, and Kirk acknowledged to a reluctant enjoyment of the change and found himself less eager to go back.

Mrs. Cortlandt joined him as usual on deck after dinner, and they did a mile around the promenade, chatting idly of many things. The evening was too glorious to permit of early retiring. and a late hour found them leaning over the rail, side by side, while Anthony bewailed the fact that he knew nothing of the country just beyond the dark horizon ahead of them. They talked about the canal



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Shoes.

ago. I barely made it, but I did get through." "And you have never been to the tropics? "Not since I had my last row with the governor. Have you?"

back.'

"Many times. It will prove an interesting trip for you. At least you have that consolation."

"What is it like?"

Evidently the artless effrontery of the young man had not offended, for his neighbor talked freely, and in a short time the two were conversing as easily as old acquaintances.

"Is he your father?"

was Locke. That's how I got his name

This is his ticket. Oh! There's going

to be something doing when I get

"You did not impress me as a college

"I'm not. I graduated four years

When at last she rose, after an hour that had swiftly sped, she was gratified at the look of concern that came smallest part. There is a great deal love my little room. and I think I'll into his eyes. She looked at him with more to be done. You see, as men atkeep it. Please don't be peevish. I genuine approval as he bowed and want you to do me a favor." He resaid: moved the ring from his finger and,

chair, saying. "One dollar, if you "I haven't got a dollar." The steward laughed, as if to humor his passenger. "I'm afraid, then, you can't have the chair." "So I must stand up all the way to

Panama, eh?" You are joking, sir. I'll have to pay

it myself if you don't." "That's right. Make me as uncomfortable as possible. By the way, what size collar do vou wear?"

age, sir?" asked the deck steward.

"Anthony, suit A. third floor front."

a card and fitted it to the back of the

"Very well, sir." The man wrote out

"I'll put your name on it."

"Yes, I think so."

"Sixteen."

out.

please.

Kirk sighed. "Send the purser to me, will you? I'll fix up the chair matter with him."

While he was talking he heard the rustle of skirts close by and saw the woman he had met earlier seating her-

self next to him. It annoyed the young man to realize that out of all the chairs on deck he had selected the one near

est hers. Then the purser appeared. "Did you send for me?" he inquired.

"Yes. There was a strange man around just now, and he wanted a dollar for this chair." "Well?"

"I want to establish a line of credit."

The purser grunted. "And, say!" Kirk ran on seriously. "I've been all over your little ship, but the passengers are boys' size. I can't

student," said the stranger. wear this collar any longer." "And I can't find any baggage of yours. I've seen the captain about that ticket matter," he went on, "and he says you must buy another. If you are joking you've carried this thing far enough. If you are really strapped, as you say you are, how does it happen that you are occupying the best suit on the ship?"

"It is a long story." "Humph! You will have to give up those quarters and go forward."

also a safety razor"

Locke."

A

time:

terest.

"Why? You have your money for that ticket?"

"Yes, but you're not Mr. Locke." "Well, sir, now that I come to think "You don't understand-the ticket is it over, I believe my name is Locke.

this, 1 presume. Very well, 1 will

see what can be done for you, .Mr.

CHAPTER IV.

New Acquaintances.

watching him with amused curiosity.

Feeling a sudden desire to confide in

some one, he turned his eyes upon her

with such a natural, boyish smile that

she could not take offense and began

quite as if he had known her for some

"These people are money mad, aren't

they? Worst bunch of gold diggers 1

ever saw." Surprised, she half raised

her book, but Kirk ran on: "I hope

you don't mind my speaking to you.

I'm awfully lonesome. My name is

Her face showed that the name car-

"I understood you to tell the purser

your name was Locke." said she in a

very low pitched, well modulated voice.

"But it isn't really; it's Anthony. I'm

the undignified heir to the stocks and

"Darwin K. Anthony?" questioned

she quickly. "Is he your father?" Her

"It's funny, isn't it, with all his cred-

"No. indeed. I didn't intend to take

this trip. I didn't even know I had

it that I can't get a shirt until I put

"You are joking, are you not?"

"Really? How did it happen?"

the world. I'm not easily shocked."

Hope I don't shock you.'

face lighted with a flash of genuine in-

bonds of an old party by that name

'I couldn't help overhearing."

Anthony. Kirk Anthony."

ried no significance.

who lives in Albany."

Kirk nodded.

up a diamond ring?"

he turned away Kirk be-

came conscious that the wo-

man in the next chair had

let her book fall and wag

He grin fter all

casting quoits; a noisy quartet was playing shuffleboard. After idling back and forth on deck for a time Kirk selected a chair and stretched himself "Do you wish this chair for the voy-

"Pardon the personal nature of the question-but-what size shirt do you wear?"

"Seventeen."

"Saved! Let me have about six, will you?"

"Certainly not," returned the other. "I need all I have. I'll have a look for your baggage. Mr.-Anthony, and I'll see the captain about this ticket also. I'll look you up later."

He departed, shaking his head as if this were a form of insanity he had never before encountered. A moment later Kirk followed him and made a round of the deck, staring at each man he met and mentally estimating the girth of his neck. Then he made his way toward the smoking room, determined to enlist the help of his new acquaintance. Stein.

Midway aft he paused. A girl had emerged from the deckhouse schead of him. whose appearance was sufficiently striking to divert him, momentarily at least, from his quest. She was well above the usual height, quite slender, yet of an exquisite rounded fullness. while her snug fitting tailor made gowr. showed the marks of taste. Kirk let his eyes follow her, then retraced his way around the deck in the hope of meeting her face to face.

But when they had met and passed he went his way vaguely disappointed Instead of a girl, as the first sight of her youthful figure had led him to expect, he had seen a woman of perhaps forty. She was certainly not so handsome as he had imagined from a distance. Yet the face was attractive. The eyes were wide set, gray and very clear. the mouth large enough to be expressive. Her hair shone in the morning sun with a delicate bronze luster like that of a turkey's wing.

He dismissed her from his thoughts and continued his search for a number seventeen shirt and collar to match. But he did not fare well. He found Mr. Stein in the smoking room, but discovered that his size was fifteen and a half, and there was no one else to whom he could apply.

For a second time Stein importuned sailed. When I woke up I thought him to buy a chance on the ship's run. and, failing in this, suggested that they this was a hotel. I've got no more have a drink together. Had not Kirk baggage than a robin." realized in time his inability to reciprocate he would have accepted eagerly. for his recent dissipation had left him curiously weak and nervous. At the cost of an effort. however. he refused. Stein laughed. "Don't get sore. All ships are alike. We have to talk about something. Sorry I can't help you with the shirt question. Deuced careless of them to lose your luggage."

"Yes. It makes one feel about as comfortable as a man with a broken arm and the prickly heat. Something's got to be done about it, that's all." He glared enviously at the well dressed, men about the room.

Over in a corner, propped against the

handing it to the purser, said: "I want "Thank you for the pointers about Panama. I hope 1 may have the you to get me two diamonds' and a ruby's worth of shirts and collars and pleasure of talking to you again." When she had disappeared he mur-The officer managed to say, with mured admiringly: dignity: "You wish to raise money on

"Jove! She's a corker! And she's not so old. after all. I wonder who she"- He leaned over and read the card on the back of her steamer chair. "Mrs. Stephen Cortlandt, Suite B," it was lettered. Straightening up, he grumbled with genuine disappointment: "Just my blamed luck'. She's married."

By pledging his one article of jewelry Kirk became possessed that afternoon of several shirts, collars and handkerchiefs, likewise a razor, over which he exercised a sort of leasehold privilege. The purser made it plain, however, that he had not sold these articles, but merely loaned them. holding the ring as security for their return. and this arrangement allowed Kirk no spare cash whatever. Even with all his necessaries paid for, it surprised him to find how many channels remained for spending money. He suffered most, perhaps, from the lack of tobacco, but even in the matter of cigarettes he could not bring himself to accept favors that he could not return

Kirk was of a peculiarly sanguine temperament that required much to ruffle and looked upon the whole matter as a huge joke. It was this perhaps that enabled him to make friends in spite of his unsociable habits, for the men liked him. As for the women, he avoided them religiously, with the exception of Mrs. Cortlandt, whom he saw for an hour or two morning and afternoon as well as at mea! times. With her he got on famously. finding her nearly as entertaining as a male chum, though he never quite lost his dislike for her husband. Had she been unmarried and nearer his own age their daily intimacy might have caused him to become self conscious. but under the circumstances no such thoughts occurred to him. and he began to look forward with pleasure to their hours on deck.

The Santa Cruz was four days out "Well, to be perfectly honest, I got before Cortlandt joined them, and drunk-just plain drunk. I didn't think when he did he merely nodded casualso at the time, understand, for I'd nevly to Kirk, then, after exchanging a er been the least bit that way before. polite word or two with his wife, lapsed into his customary silence, while His new acquaintance shrugged her Mrs. Cortlandt continued her conversashoulders. "I have seen something of tion without a second glance in her husband's direction.

"Well, I was perfectly sober the last The man evidently possessed a wide remember, and then I woke up on knowledge of current events, a keen the Santa Cruz. You see, it was a big understanding of men and things, yet night-football game, supper and all be never opened up. He listened, that. I remember everything up to a spoke rarely and continued to spend certain point, then-curtain! I was nine-tenths of his time in that isolated 'out' for twelve hours and sick. That's corner of the smoking room, with no

tain culture, they require more than mere food and drink and bedding, and in the same way, as nations attain to greatness, they require more than mere territory-they reach out and absorb power and prestige. Our decision to build the Panama canal is like the landing of another Columbus: the conquest is to follow. After that will come-who knows what? Perhaps more wars, more pillage, more injustice, just as in the old days of Central and South America."

"You talk like a man." Anthony said admiringly. "I had no idea you looked at things in such a big way."

Mrs. Cortlandt hesitated slightly as she changed the subject. "I heard you tell the purser the other day about your financial troubles, and it occurred to me that Mr. Cortlandt might assist you.'

"Thanks. awfully," Kirk hastened to say, feeling himself flush uncomfortably. "But I sha'n't need anything. The old gentleman will wire me whatever I ask for. Does-Mr. Cortlandt know how I am fixed?" "No."

"Please don't tell him. I-I'm a little bit ashamed of myself." Mr. Cortlandt was awaiting his wife

and rose courteously as she entered their suit. "Did you send Annette for me?" she

inquired. "Yes. I thought you had forgotten

the hour. We rise at 6." "My dear." she returned coolly, "I

was quite aware of the time. I was talking to Mr. Anthony.' "By the way, some of the passengers

are remarking about your friendship for him."

Mrs. Cortlandt shrugged. "I expected that. Does it interest you?' The man favored her with his wintry

smile. "Not at all." "If he should need assistance while in Panama I should be obliged if you would accommodate him."

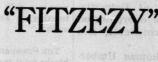
"Don't you think that is going a bit too far? You know I don't fancy him.'

Mrs. Cortlandt frowned slightly. "We won't discuss it," she said. "I assured him he was at liberty to call on us for anything, and naturally that ends the matter."

"Naturally." he agreed, but his colorless cheeks flushed dully.

When Kirk came on deck early the following morning he found the Santa Cruz nosing her way into Colon harbor. A land fog obscured his view somewhat, but through it he beheld a

low, irregular line of mountains in the background and close at hand a town. The ship came to anchor abreast of a point upon which he descried a squat little spider legged lighthouse and long rows of frame dwellings half hidden [Continued on page 7, Col. 1.]



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