

PRESCIENCE.

Love, hear the burden of my prayer:
"Twill not be always thine to woo,
And lifeless fingers have no care
If laid therein be rose or rue.

Love, hear the burden of my prayer: Give me to-day to hear thee vow How dear my eyes, my lips, my hair, Nor wait for Death to teach thee how.

Love, hear the burden of my prayer: Lock me to-day in thy embrace!

Too late when striving candles flare
To rain thy kisses on my face!

Scoundrels & Co. By COULSON KERNAHAN

Author of "Captain Shannon," "A Book of Strange Sins," "A Dead Man's Diary," Etc.

CHAPTER IX .- CONTINUED.

I am bound to confess that the council did not display the interest which might have been expected. Even so observant a member as myself was conscious of a curious disinclination to come to a nearer acquaintance with the contents of the brown bag; and there was an unmistakable, if unos-tentatious, disposition on the part of my colleagues to gravitate in the di-rection of the door. One member had in fact put a hand upon the latch, when Number Two added, with just a suspicion of a smile:

"And—as I don't want to join Number Three just yet awhile—quite securely packed, I assure you!"

man who had put his hand upon the latch, being thus relieved of his anxiety for the safety of an honored colleague, took occasion to rebuke any tendency towards timorousness on the part of his fellow-conspirators, by remarking witheringly that he'd be glad if the members would leave him room to stand up in, and would not push him against the door. And when the councillor who, upon the production of the brown bag, had displayed most eagerness to edge towards the exit, had relieved his feelings by expressing a wish that the next time "any one had anything to be afraid about he hoped they wouldn't compel him to move by treading upon his toes," and a third councillor had conceded jocose-ly that he was "bound to say he'd had a bit of a start," the meeting resumed its normal aspect.
"Yes, gentlemen," continued Num-

ber Two somewhat inflatedly, "that bag contains the larger portion of the explosive of which you commissioned me to obtain possession. I now leave it to you to decide whether I have or have not failed in accomplishing what I had undertaken."

"Oh, yes, you have scrambled through the business," said a long-faced, rather round-shouldered man, who was, I afterwards learned, Coun-cillor Number Five; "you have scram-bled through it right enough, though at the cost of the life of a fellow coun-

"That was not my fault," retorted Number Two angrily. "It is due to the fact that this council is at present without a head. Number Three was instructed to assist me, but was not enjoined to obey me implicitly. Had it been so he would not have dared to go beyond his instructions, as he appears to have done last night; and then we should not have lost good dynamite and a valuable life to no I pointed out at the last neeting of this council how important it was that some member be selected to take the place of our late leader; and just so long as we remain without a head, just so long may we expect nothing but such unhappy flascos as happened last night."

"The moral of all of which is," put in Number Five dryly, "that you are trying to force the hand of the council order that you yourself may be appointed to the post about which you are so eloquent. But there are others who are quite as fitted to take the reins."

"Yourself, for instance," sneered Number Two angrily. "I had surmised that you were jealous of the fact that I am your senior on the council; but your motives for trying to belittle what I have done are so apparent that the council will know how to estimate them at their proper worth."

"No doubt our fellow councillors are competent to estimate your motives and mine correctly," replied Number Five indifferently. "In the meantime, I inquire how our dead chief's bag came into your possession?

The question had the effect of turneyes, my own included, upon the article referred to. I saw, to my consternation, that it resembled in every way the very bag which, after Number One's fatal fall from the train, and the thing slide down till it reaches the slackest part of the rope, which will, of course, be the center, and so just over the middle of the road. There had taken from the rack where he will be too much going on below for Mad placed it, and had hidden in a may wayrick before paying my first visit festoons along the Strand happens to hayrick before paying my first to the conspirator's wagon. Before have an extra ball; and if they do noleaving Leigh, however, I had regained tice it they'll only suppose that it is possession of the bag, and had carried one that has got out of its place. it with me to my chambers in Buckingham street, where I had locked it on the roof with a pair of sharp steel way, in case I might want it at any pincers, and at the precise moment time as evidence. If Number Five were right, and the bag which Number Two was holding were indeed—as appeared to be the case—the very article falls, and then—well, then I guess we which had belonged to Number One, if must have been stolen from my wipe. How's that for high, gentle-chambers in Buckingham street. But men? I rather flatter myself it's pret-chambers and this implied that one at least of the ty. Anyhow, it'll be the biggest and

vengeance was in store for me.

Number Two's reply seemed to me tence, a cold sweat trickling down my forehead and into my eyes.

"Yes," he said, and I could have killed him for the drawl with which he spoke, "yes, you're a keen-eyed man, my friend, for all your jealousy. It is Number One's bag, isn't it? recognize it, don't you? you be surprised to hear that this is the fellow to his—the duplicate, don't you call it? He and I bought a bag apiece at the same shop and at the same time, so there's nothing very wonderful in the two being of the same pattern. You were clever at mares'-nesting, weren't you, when u were a boy?"

I had been wrought up to such a pitch of suspense that the relief af-forded by Number Two's explanation caused me—I am ashamed to say—to burst out into a silly bleat-like hysterical laugh.

Then suddenly changing his tone to one of business-like directness, Number Two went on, in a hard, cold voice, in which I thought I detected an American twang:

"See here, my friends-I happen to know the address to which our late chief was having his letters sent, and I have taken the liberty, as the senior member of this council, of obtaining them, and bringing them along tonight. There they are, and you will see that there is a tidy sum, which has come to hand in the way of subscriptions, to be shared among us. But I must point out to you that since our leader's death this council has, so to speak, been living on its capital. He was a born organizer; and when he died he had got the machinery of all the various leagues, unions, secret cieties and agitation movements, which he directed, into such excellent working order, that everything has gone on almost automatically ever since. It is a good thing for us that it is so, for, as you are aware, no inconsiderable portion of the money that is subscribed finds its way into our pockets. But since he died we have really done nothing in return for the 'pickings' which come our way, and if subscriptions are to keep on coming in-and on that one point at least we are not likely to disagree—it is high time to do something to let our subscribers feel that they are getting their money's orth. Whatever that something is, ought to be big—something that strike at the throne of England itself, and set every other throne in Europe trembling; something that will delight our friends and terrify our enemies, and set all the rest of the silly world agape like a pack of geese. And I think I've got it. Listen! This jubilee, that is so soon to come off, has done our cause incalcuable damage; it has sent sweeping to the very ends of the world such a wave of loyalty to the throne as perhaps has never passed over our planet before. Even that unutterable monkey on a stick, and poser of posers, who so loves to play at soldiers, and have his portrait taken in uniform—the emperor of Germany—sits securer on his throne to-day because of the jubilee in England. It has strengthened the position of monarchism immensely, and has put back the day of democracy by a good 50 years. The picturesqueness of the thing and the sentiment of itthe queen's being a woman and a widow, and all that-have turned the heads of even thoughtful people, and it wouldn't surprise me if jubilee day saw even the staid members of this council waving their hats and yelling

"Well, gentlemen, to come to business. The Strand, as some of you know, is to be decorated with festoons of colored celluloid balls stretched across the road. This will look pretty in daylight, and prettier at night, as each ball is really an electric lamp, and when they are all lit up the effect will be splendid. I've taken a certain so that people that are nervous about the crowd (and I expect the crowd won't be a bad second to the Day of can sleep there before and after the event, and so see the show in comfort. And if any of you want to see something more exciting than the show, I think I can promise it, and I shall be happy to reserve seats. I've rented the roof of the house with the rest of it, and when it is quite dark I shall go up there on the night before the jubi-I shall take with me a certain celluloid ball, which looks exactly like those used for decorative purposes, but which in reality contains a deadly bomb, so constructed that the slightest concussion will explode it. One end of the wire rope supporting the festoons of celluloid balls is secured to the roof of the house I have taken. This wire rope I shall undo, and slip my own celluloid bomb ball upon it, letting the thing slide down till it reaches the Well, when the show passes I shall be when the queen, surrounded by the royal princes, is passing under the

themselves hoarse with the rest of the

populace.

had played in recent events, and was assassination that history can show aware, too, that I was there that even-ing as a spy, in which case a terrible through, say the word, and I'm your I guess it'll bring the subscrip tions in at such a rate that we shall an age in coming, as I stood there like all be able to chuck conspiracy and rea prisoner waiting for his death senting into private life to spend the tire into private life to spend the pieces. What do you say, gentlemen?"

"There's no need for us to say anything," sneered Councillor Number Five, who seemed determined to maintain an attitude of opposition to every thing that Number Two had proposed. "You talk big enough for a houseful yourself. Don't you think all this blowing off would sound more to the purpose after the event than before it Even a hen doesn't cackle till she's laid an egg.

"If you have formed any plan for striking a blow which is more likely to startle the world and to induce sub-scriptions," replied Number Two, coldly, "I shall be happy to withdraw my

"I thought not," he went on when Number Five shook his head, "then in that case perhaps you will yourself undertake the carrying out of the plan which I have had the honor to submit to the council.'

He stooped as he spoke, and lifting the brown bag, of which mention has already been made, opened it, and taking out a red celluloid ball he held it ing out a red celluloid ball he held it at arm's length to Number Five, who backed uneasily and stood staring at ance. I think that's all; now we can the thing with anything but eyes of

"Won't you take it?" jeered Number Two, advancing a step. "It will be the simplest thing in the world now to carry out the arrangement. All you have to do is to slip the end of the wire through the ring at the top of the ball, and let it slide down till it reaches the slackest part. You see it is made exactly like the other colored balls they are using, and no one could tell, without opening it, that it contained a bomb instead of an electric lamp. You are so anxious to serve the council, and so ready with your criticisms, that no doubt you will be glad to accept the responsibility of stringing that pretty bead on its necklace, and cutting the wire at the critical moment. The man who undertakes the business may of course lose his life in the explosion, or may be detected or arrested, as I fully recognized when I offered to play the part of Guy Faux. But I'm quite willing to resign in your favor, since you are so eager to distinguish yourself. post of honor is always a post of dan-ger—both in war and in conspiracy but you, no doubt, won't count the cost so long as you gain the importance you so covet. Do you accept my of-

"No," said Number Five. "If you succeeds-though I don't think such a lot of it as you do-you'll take all the credit; and if it fails, as I be-lieve it will, I shall have to pay the costs. Much obliged to you! No thanks! When I play Guy Faux, as you call it, it will have to be a plot of my own—not somebody else's planning. You're not the only man on this council with ideas, and if the other members would like me to think out a plan or two I'm ready to do it. But you've dealt out the cards in this little game of yours, and now you'd best play your hand out. All the same, and to show that it isn't funk that keeps me out of it, I'm quite ready to act as your assistant in this jubilee business, and to share whatever risk you run in it.

"It is quite true that I ought to have an assistant," replied Number Two, coldly. "The wire rope which I have to undo will be very heavy, and I shall need some one to hold it for me while I thread the ball; for if by any chance the thing slipped out of my hand the result would be too previous to be pleasant. But if you will pardon my expressed your disbelief in the success of my project; and it does not do to have half-hearted workers in such a business. We are already half-yay to yieldry when expressed your disbelief in the success of my project; and it does not do to have half-hearted workers in such a business. We are already half-yay to yieldry when expressed your disbelief in the success of my project; and it does not success of my project; and my project is not success of my project; and my project is not success of my project; and my project is not success of my project is not suc such a business. We are already half-way to victory when every one conwill be splendid. I've taken a certain house in the Strand for the occasion. I've engaged it for the night before the jubilee and for jubilee night as well, so that people that are nervous about a more representations. The splendide is confident of success, and, the Misses Begg, two elderly maiden ladies who lived in a cozy cottage a few miles from 'auld Kirk Alloway.' I had happened to visit them immediately the splendide is confident of success, and, the Misses Begg, two elderly maiden ladies who lived in a cozy cottage a few miles from 'auld Kirk Alloway.' tells me that your presence on the occasion would bring us ill luck. Is Judgment in the point of numbers) any other member of the council willing to assist me in the great blow I am about to strike?"

Here was my chance. "I am," I said.

As I spoke I stepped forward and raised my right hand in military salute-why, I cannot think, unless th whole thing seemed to me less like real life than a melodrama in which I was sustaining a part. The action, however, appeared to please him.

"That's good," he said. "A soldier, too, and accustomed to act under orders without asking questions. Your

"Number Seven," I replied, prompt-

ly, as if on parade.
"All right, Number Seven. Here's the exact address of the house in question. Can I count on your calling there at nine o'clock sharp on the evening before the jubilee?" You can, sir," I said.

"All right. Remember. Nine o'clock sharp the night before the show. Give three single knocks and I'll open the door to you myself. That's all I need say to you now, I think."

Taking this as my dismissal, I saluted in silence and stepped back

Then Number Two turned to the rest of the company again. "There is one point that I ought to bring to your notice, gentlemen," he said. "It was a rule of our late chief's that the council never met in the same place twice. This is the second time that this wagon has been our trysting-place, and though I have no reason to suppose it is not perfectly safe, I think we should in commemoration of the coronation this implied that one at least of the ty. Anyhow, it'll be the biggest and conspirators was aware of the part I the tidiest thing in the way of a royal a disused shed in some brick-fields ad-

joining the cemetery at Tarborough The town is fairly near London, and there are three different lines of railway. Let us arrange to meet there the night after the jubilee. If the little surprise packet which I have arranged for the queen and the royal facility. family achieves its purpose, and I ceive no personal injury and can slip away in the confusion, I shall be at the shed at midnight the day after to meet you. If I am either killed or taken you'll have read about it in the papers, and must make your arrangements for the conduct of the business without me. One thing I can promise you—that should I be taken, your se-cret will be safe with me. Were I to be captured red-handed in an attempt to assassinate the queen on the one day of all days when the poor fools who call themselves her loyal subjects will consider her person as sacred, the chances are ten to one that I get lynched on the spot. But even if the police can prevent that, and get me safely away, no power on earth can save my neck from the hangman. And rest assured that I shan't try to save it by playing my comrades false. Whoever turns traitor, I shan't. We meet again, fellow-councillors, at Tar-borough, at the place I have told you of, and at midnight on the day after the jubilee. Don't fail to turn up adjourn this meeting and get to bed."

CHAPTER X.

DEVILRY ON A HOUSE-TOP. It was striking nine when on the night before the jubilee I knocked



I KNOCKED THREE TIMES.

three times at the door of the house where I had promised to meet my fellow-conspirator.

I had not wasted the two or three days that intervened between the last council meeting and the great pageant, for in the wide, deep under-pocket of the cape which I wore over my even-ing dress I was carrying a celluloid ball of the same pattern as that which had been shown to us in the gipsy wagon by Number Two. It had not been a difficult matter to discover the maker of these articles. From him I obtained one of the same color as that in the possession of Number Two, and had filled it with sawdust and sand, in the hope that I might find an opportunity for substituting it for the dead-ly weapon with which Number Two intended, as he put it, to "snuff out the entire royal family at one wipe."

ITo Be Continued.1

Grant Kissed Them Both.

Will Carleton, the poet author, was speaking the other day of his last in-terview with Gen. Grant. "I had seen him and met him on various occasions," he said, "but this was the first saying so, I would rather that some other member than yourself volunteered to assist me. You have already expressed your disbelief in the suc-Burns, and with two of Burns' nieces, am not very superstitious, something ately after Grant was there, and they were naturally enthusiastic about the Is great American hero. 'When he went awa',' said one of them to me confidentially, 'he kissed my sister good-by.' But when I laughingly repeated this to the general he said quietly, "I kissed both of them.'"—N. Y. World.

A Cordial Greeting.

Earl is about four years old. He went fishing recently in a small pond in the suburbs.

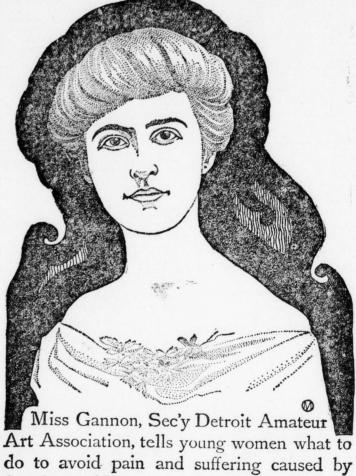
He tied a bent pin to the end of a long string and waited for the unsuspecting minnow to come along and bite. While he was waiting the nursemaid wandered away to exchange greetings with a friendly policeman. When she returned she said:

"Earl, dear, did you catch anything?' "'Es. Maggie," he answered, "I got

a little, cunning fish, and he was so glad to see me that he just wagged his tail like everything."—N. Y. Mail and Express.

Silver Spades.

The spades used by the king and members of the royal family of England on occasions when commemorative trees have been planted are pre served at the royal gardens at Frogmore. Many of them are of silver There are the full-sized spades used by the king and the prince of Wales, and miniature spades used by the little now to be ranged in a glass case, with the date of the occasion on which each was used. The number of trees planted has much increased the collection .-



do to avoid pain and suffering caused by female troubles.

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