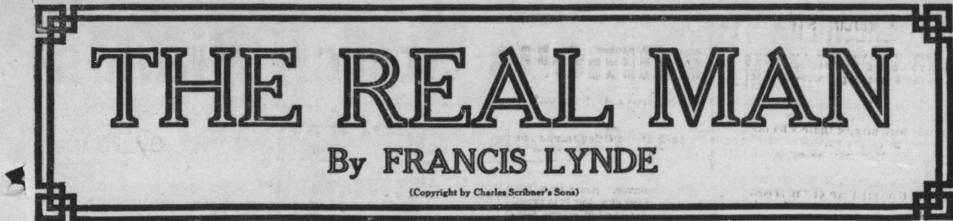
THE CENTRE REPORTER, CENTRE HALL, PA.



CHAPTER XIV-Continued. -11-

Stanton was still wrestling with his problem when the "handsome couple" ity. "That settles it," he mused, with heard him telling Smith today that he night prowling." "She knows more about Smith than gun." anybody else in this neck of woodsand she's got it to tell !"

Stanton began his inquisition for better information the following day, with what to do with him." the bejewelled lady for his ally. Miss Richlander was alone and unfriended in the hotel-and also a little bored. glint in them. Hence she was easy of approach; so easy that by luncheon time the sham | ically. promoter's wife was able to introduce her husband. Stanton lost no moment investigative. For the inquiring purpose, Smith was made to figure as a business acquaintance, and Stanton was generous in his praises of the young man's astounding financial ability.

"He's simply a wonder, Miss Richlander !" he confided over the luncheon table. "Coming here a few weeks ago, absolutely unknown, he has already become a prominent man of affairs in Brewster. And so discreetly reticent! To this good day nobody knows where he comes from, or anything about him."

"No?" said Miss Verda. "How sinfacts.

misinterpreted. I have even heard it as you say; but I'll bet you five to one said that he is an escaped convict."

"How perfectly absurd !" was the smiling comment.

"Isn't it? But you know how people will talk. They are saying now that the category as an alias."

"I can contradict that, anyway," Miss Richlander offered. "His name is really and truly John Smith."

"You have known him a long time, haven't you?" inquired the lady with the headlight diamonds.

"Oh, yes; for quite a long time, indeed."

"That was back in New York state?"

own son-in-law!" "So is Starbuck, for that matter; here that Starbuck found him. and he's in for twenty thousand," said "What?" said the new secretary, returned from the play. The trust Shaw. "And, by the way, Bill is a looking up from his work when Star- grounded window. field captain saw them as they crossed man who will bear watching. He's buck's wiry figure loomed in the doorthe lobby to the elevator and again hand-in-glove with Smith, and he's onto way, "I thought you were once more marked the little evidences of familiar- all of our little crooks and turns. I a family man, and had cut out the

an outthrust of the pugnacious jaw. owed it to the company to carry a

Stanton's smile showed his teeth. somebody with it. Then we'd know

his half-closed eyes had a murderous

"Me, for instance?" he inquired cyn-

"Anybody," said Stanton absently. He was going over the list of stock- mile of the main ditch right of way, holders again and had scarcely heard what Shaw had said.

"That brings us down to business, Mr. Stanton," said the ex-railroad clerk slowly. "I'm not getting money enough

out of this to cover the risk-my risk." The man at the desk looked up quickly.

"What's that you say? By heavens, Shaw, I've spoken once, and I'll do it just this one time more; you sing small if you want to keep out of jail !" limit." Shaw had lighted his cigarette and was edging toward the door.

"Not this trip, Mr. Stanton," he said gular!" But she did not volunteer to coolly. "If you've got me, I've got the original company. Certain state supply any of the missing biographical you. I can find two men who will go rights to the water were conveyed in into court and swear that you paid the old charter, on condition that the "Absolutely nothing," Stanton went Pete Simms money to have Smith sand- project should be completed, or at least on smoothly. "And, of course, his si- bagged, that day out at Simms' place be far enough along to turn water into

> that you'll beat me to it !" And with yoni Ditch to Timanyoni High Line, that he snapped the catch on the locked expires next week. We're petitioning door and went away.

Some three hours after this rather it we shall still be able to back the hostile clash with the least trustwor- water up so that it will flow into the his name isn't Smith; that he has thy but by far the most able of his lower level of ditches by next Thursmerely taken the commonest name in henchmen, Crawford Stanton left his day; that is, barring accidents."

wife chatting comfortably with Miss as that of a millionaire statesman; but John?"

|it!" he rasped; "and he's Fairbairn's | working hour or more at his desk in | anything about you that Stanton could the Kinzle building offices; and it was make use of."

Again the High Line's new secretary turned to stare at the black back-"You mean that she might hear of-

of Miss Corona?" he suggested. "You've roped it down, at least," said

the friendly enemy. "Stanton'll tell Starbuck jackknifed himself com- her-he'll tell her anything and everything that might make her turn loose fortably in a chair.

"I was. But the little girl's run any little bit of information she may "I wish he would; carry one and kill away again; gone with her sister- have about you. As I said a minute Maxwell's wife, you know-to Denver' ago, I'm hoping she hasn't got anything to get her teeth fixed; and I'm foot- on you, John." The spy was rolling a cigarette and loose. Been butting in a little on Smith was still facing the window

your game, this evening, just to be when he replied. "I'm sorry to have doing. How's tricks with you, now?" to disappoint you, Starbuck. What "We're strictly in the fight," de- Miss Richlander could do to me, if she clared Smith enthusiastically. "We chooses, would be good and plenty." The ex-cowboy mine owner drew a closed the deal today for the last halflong breath and felt for his tobacco which puts us up on the mesa slope sack and rice paper.

above the Escalante grant. If they "All of which opens up more talk knock us out now, they'll have to do trails," he said thoughtfully. "Since you wouldn't try to take care of your-

"Yes," said the ex-cowman, thought- self, and since your neck happens to fully; "with dynamite." Then: "How be the most valuable asset Timanyon! is Williams getting along?"

"Fine! The water is crawling up on him a little every night, but with no accidents, he'll be able to hold the flood rise when it comes. The only thing that worries me now is the time

it with dynamite."

"The time limit?" echoed Starbuck. What's that?"

"It's the handicap we inherit from lence about himself has been grossly at the dam! I may have to go to jail, the ditches, by a given date. This time limit, which carries over from Timanfor an extension, but if we don't get

"Yes; with no accidents," mused Richlander in the hotel parlors and Starbuck. "Can't get shut of the 'ff,' went reluctantly to keep an appoint- no way nor shape, can we? So that's ment which he had been dreading ever why the Stanton people have been since the early afternoon hour when fighting so wolfishly for delay, is it? a wire had come from Copah directing John, this is a wicked, wicked world." him to meet the "Nevada Flyer" upon Then he switched abruptly. "Where its arrival at Brewster. The public did you corral all those good looks you Rich-ranches episode there are a knew the name signed to the telegram took to the opera house last night,

**Affect Clothes** 

War Activities

New York .- War relief work has women on every kind of errand bent. given an unusual stimulation to the stopping at restaurants for lunch. clothes industry. The dressmakers shopping in the hottest days for new were not in a happy frame of mind clothes to carry them through the apduring the spring. They felt as if ill pointments of the next month; and the luck were hitting them all along the sewing rooms of those who make their line. There was an offensive against gowns at home are busy preparing the the center and the ends. First, there were the enormous and underwear that this sudden call

prices that had to be paid to the to arms has brought about. French designers for the gowns that were sent to this country as inspira- States steps in also as a buyer of huge tions for new work. Added to the amounts. It is ordering clothes for prices was the serious danger of not the enlisted woman of the naval rebeing able to get the clothes that serve force. Already it has asked for were ordered through the lack of 1,000 blue serge suits, smartly made, transportation that came after this 2,000 white cotton drill suits, 1,000 government dismissed the German am- separate white skirts, 1,000 straw hats, bassador.

The renewed activity of the submarine campaign was liable to make Mr. Ginty and French gowns comrades on

When the prices had been paid by the dressmakers for the spring gowns and the transportation had proved secure, America declared war, and the economy cry was raised.

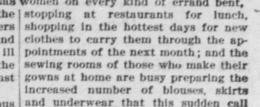
The dressmakers and the shopkeepers who sell clothes had not had sufficient time to realize a profit on their vast expenses for French gowns in March, and the majority of them decided, possibly unwisely, that they would hold sweeping sales in order to clear out whatever they had before economy brought about a crash in commerce. The shops were also compelled to pay their salaries during this troublous time, and they believed that they could do this more easily by holding sales. They would get cash, and they would keep the workrooms busy by alterations.

# New Clothes for Quiet People,

By the time a great many people who deal in women's apparel considered themselves on the verge of nervous prostration through the strain of the spring, there came into the whole clothes situation a glimmer of light that has broadened into a strong ray of sunshine.

It has created optimism in all quarters. It came through war relief activities. That seems an astounding fabrics and two colors. thing to have happened, but it is another phase of the proverb, "It is an ports that it has been necessary to ill wind that blows nobody good."

the history of women's apparel during ing this summer than ever before. The the great war. Something similar to reason is the somersault in the sumit happened in England, not in France, mer regime. Women will not spend



The government of the United and another 1,000 dark blue felt hats.

Government Sets Styles.

The tendency in all the new clothes is toward the silhouette adopted by the government for its enlisted women. Skirts are narrow and of reasonable length, blouses are simple, with wide turnover collars of lace or white wash material, and jackets are short and made on a mannish model, depending on the cut for distinction.

Those who do not care for suits are fitting out their wardrobes with cotton frocks. Even at the smartest hotels in the heart of great centers, fashionable women are appearing in checked ginghams with broad straw hats.

This is a fashion which has never been tolerated in the majority of great American cities. Such clothes have always been kept for the suburban towns and the country, and when a woman found it necessary to go on the street of a great city during the heat of the day, she felt that tradition demanded that she subject herself to the discomfort of a suit. She preferred to pass away from moisture in a blue serge coat and skirt, then roam the streets in a checked cotton gown and white shoes.

Now, the embargo on such costumery is lifted. The only one costume which is comfortable and is yet taboo in city streets is the separate skirt with the white shirtwaist. There must

be a coat or wrap of some kind to cover the sharp juxtaposition of two

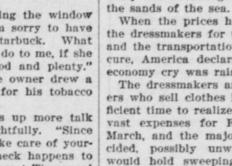
One of the great Western houses reprovide the greatest amount of frocks It makes an interesting chapter in and suits for war work for women dur-



.................

"Stanton Fixed It Some Way."

High Line has, just at present, I've been butting in, as I told you. Listen to my tale of woe, if you haven't anything better to do. Besides the Miss couple of others. Want to hear about Smith nodded. "All right. A little while past dinner this evening, Stanton had a hurry call to meet the 'Nevada Flyer.' Tailed onto the train there was a private luxury car, and in the private car sat a gentleman whose face you've seen plenty of times in the political cartoons, usually with cuss-words under it. He is one of Stanton's bosses; and Stanton was in for a wigging-and got it. I couldn't hear, but I could seethrough the car window. He had Stanton standing on one foot before the train pulled out and let Crawford make his get-away. You guess, and I'll guess, and we'll both say it was about this Escalante snap which is aiming to be known as the Escalante fizzle. Ain't it the truth?" Again Smith nodded, and said, "Go



Stanton slipped in.

"In the East, yes. He comes of an excellent family. His father's people great-uncles on his mother's side was of his life."

"What state did you say?" queried far too wide-awake to let him surprise her.

"Our home state, of course. I don't believe any member of Mr. Smith's immediate family on either side has ever moved out of it."

Stanton gave it up for the time being, and was convinced upon two points. Smith might have business reasons for secrecy-he might have backers who wished to remain completely unknown in their fight against the big land trust; but if he had no backers the



#### "---he is an Escaped Convict."

other hypothesis clinched itself instantly-he was in hiding; he had done something from which he had run away.

It was not until after office hours that Stanton was able to reduce his ther of the two at the car saw the man and stenographer in the High Line in the gloom. Leadquarters, who cleared the air of at least one fog bank of doubts.

"I've been through the records and the stock-books," said the spy, when, in obedience to orders, he had locked stockholders."

Stanton knew it best as the name of a hard and not overscrupulous master. tory. The train was whistling for the sta-

was chief justice during the later years waiting to admit him to the presence when the train came to a stand, and as

Stanton craftily. But Miss Verda was luxurious private car, Stanton got what up there-not the phony kind. But comfort he could out of the thought let that go and tell me something else. that the interview would necessarily be A while back, when you were giving

> changing stop of the fast train. Stanton, ten minutes later, made a

from the hotel. Climbing in, he gave a other one." brittle order to the chauffeur. Simultaneously a man wearing the softest this time without embarrassment. of hats lounged away from his post of "You've called the turn, Billy. She is observation under a nearby electric the other one."

pole and ran across the railroad plaza to unhitch and mount a wiry little cow horse. Having overheard Stanton's was coming." order giving, there was no need to keep the motor cab in sight as it sputtered But I'm going to pull one chestnut out ambled along after Crawford, and through the streets and out upon the of the fire for you, even if I do get the mesa hills on the Topaz trail.

stand in front of the lighted barroom Does that figure as news to you?" of the roadhouse, Stanton gave a waiting order to the driver and went in. added: "I don't understand it." Of the dog-faced barkeeper he asked promoter passed on and entered the private room at the back.

The private room had but one occupant-the man Lanterby, who was sit- little schemes, if she took a notion?" ting behind a round card table and vainly endeavoring to make one of the blackened square of outer darkness pair of empty whisky ; lasses spin in a lying beyond the office window. complete circuit about a black bottle standing on the table.

. . . . . . .

The hired car was still waiting when bet on that, can you?" Stanton went out through the barroom and gave the driver his return orders. And, because the night was dark, nei-

equation to its simplest terms, and it in the soft hat straighten himself up v as Shaw, dropping in to make his re- from his crouching place under the ) ort after his first day's work as clerk backroom window and vanish silently

# CHAPTER XV.

## A Night of Flascos.

Smith had seen nothing of Miss the office door. "Smith is playing a Richlander during the day, partly be- out at the Hillcrest ranch-good-by. lone hand. He flimflammed Kinzie for | cause there was a forenoon meeting of | you !"" his first chunk of money, and after that the High Line stockholders called for it was easy. Every dollar invested in the purpose of electing him secretary High Line has been dug up right here and treasurer in fact of the company. "I never was in love with Verda Richin the Timanyonl. Here's the list of and partly because the major portion lander, nor she with me." of the afternoon was spent in confer-

Stanton ran his eye down the string ence with Williams at the dam. of names and swore when he saw Max- Returning from the dam site quite well's subscription of \$25,000, "Damn late in the evening, Smith spent a hard- hoping now is that she doesn't know his housekeeper."

Smith's laugh was strictly perfunc-

"That was Miss Vera Richlander, an were well-to-do farmers, and one of his tion when Stanton descended from his old friend of mine from back home. cab and hurried down the long plat- She is out here with her father, and on the supreme bench in our state; he form. A white-jacketed porter was the father has gone up into the Topaz country to buy him a gold brick."

"Not in the Topaz," Starbuck struck he climbed into the vestibule of the in loyally. "We don't make the bricks limited by the ten minutes' engine- me a little song and dance about the colonel's daughter, you mentioned another woman-though not by name, if flying leap from the moving train. At you happen to recollect. I was just the cab rank he found the motor cab wondering if this Miss Rich-people, or which he had hired for the drive down whatever her name is, might be the

Again the new secretary laughed-

"H'm; chasing you up?"

"Oh, no; it was just one of the pony. Once in the saddle, however, near-miracles. She didn't know I could bite a nail in two. I happened the mounted man did not hurry his was here, and I had no hint that she to hear the order he gave the shover,

"All right; it's your roast; not mine. backgrounding mesa, its ill-smelling my fingers burned. This Miss Richcourse ending at a lonely roadhouse in folks has had only one day here in When the hired vehicle came to a mighty chummy with the Stantons.

"It does," said Smith simply; and he

"Funny," remarked the ex-cowman. an abrupt question, and at the man's "It didn't ball me up for more than a jerk of a thumb toward the rear, the minute or two. Stanton fixed it some way-because he needed to. Tell me something, John: could this Miss Richgarden help Stanton out in any of his Smith turned away and stared at the

"She could, Billy-but she won't," he answered. "You can dig up your last dollar and

"Yes, I think I can."

"H'm; that's just what I was most afraid of."

#### "Don't be an ass, Billy."

"I'm trying mighty hard not to be, John, but sometimes the ears will grow on the best of us-in spite of the devil. What I mean is this: I saw you two when you came out of the Hophra dining room together last night, and I saw the look in that girl's eyes. Do you know what I said to myself right then, John? I said: 'Oh, you little girl

Smith's grin was half antagonistic. "You are an ass, Billy," he asserted.

"Speak for yourself and let it hang "He told him there was no hope whatever. The chances were his there, John. You can't speak for the woman-no man ever can. What I'm uncle would get well enough to marry

"After number five had gone Stanton broke for his autocab, looking like he and I had my cayuse hitched over at Bob Sharkey's joint. Naturally, I

while I didn't beat him to it, I got there soon enough. It was out at Jeff Barton's roadhouse on the Topaz trail, Brewster, but she's used it in getting and Stanton was shut up in the back room with a sort of tin-horn 'bad man' named Lanterby."

"You listened?" said Smith still without eagerness.

"Right you are. And they fooled me. Two schemes were on tap: one pointing at Williams and the dam, and the other at you. These were both 'last resorts :' Stanton said he had one more string to pull first. If that brokewell, I've said it half a dozen times already, John: you'll either have to hire a bodyguard or go heeled. I'm telling you right here and now, that

bunch is going to get you, even if it costs money !" "You say Stanton said he had one more string to pull: he didn't give it

a name, did he?" "No, but I've got a notion of my own," was the ready answer. "He's trying to get next to you through the

women, with the Miss Rich-pasture for his can opener. But when everything else fails, he is to send a password to Lanterby, one of two passwords. 'Williams' means dynamite and the dam; 'Jake' means the removal from

the map of a fellow named Smith. Nice prospect, isn't it?"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## Sad News.

"The expectant heir to his uncle's millions, anxiously asked the doctor when his uncle was taken ill, if there der one flag. was no hope." "What did the doctor say?"

This extraordinary condition connecting the buying of new clothes and over collar. There are two belts. the doing of war relief work, appears to the apparel people in all the glory of an unexpected Christmas present. The city centers are humming with (Copyright, 1917, by the McClure Newspa



These are lovely frocks for summer days. The first is a lingerie of dimity and lace. The skirt is trimmed in two sections, and the slim bodice has a wide Martha Washington kerchief of white. The small bows on the sleeves are of blue taffeta. The second is of silk with an odd skirt. The material is French blue faille, and the skirt is plaited in an exaggerated manner to a tight-fitting bodice of white crepe which has wide Mandarin. sleeves. The scarf is attached to the back of the waist and is weighted with jet tassels. The third is an apple green frock for open country. It is of georgette crepe trimmed with green and white checked silk. There is a deep white fichu that runs to the waist. The front of the coat is slightly braided and trimmed with buttons and loops.

but the entire thing happened where | their time these months of hot It only could happen, in this tremen- weather as they have done for a cendously prosperous country. tury.

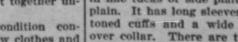
A notable maker of shirtwaist The beginning of the war has been written in chapters of activity on this gowns, on whose books are the names side and fighting on the other side. of women who live in every state in Literally, millions of women insisted this country, says that his workrooms upon doing their bit. The drive of the are deluged and that his fittings tele-Red Cross, which was nationwide; the scope themselves throughout the entire extraordinary grouping together of va- day in 15-minute appointments. He rious units for sane and instant relief; holds that the reason for this, in adthe hospital work, the arrangement for dition to the extraordinary number of providing comfort kits for the navy, clothes demanded by women for their the league work of rolling bandages, new activities, is the reversal to the are merely a few of the dominant acsimplest form of warm-weather costivities which interest women this tumery, which was once the habit of the simple-minded American people,

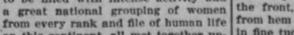
lace and hand embroideries came into

He makes a certain type of gown which Europe thinks is the fatigue uniform of the American people, as the coat suit is the dress uniform. The skirt is plaited or gored, buttons down the front, and often has wide tucks from hem to knees. The bodice is laid on this continent, all met together un- in fine tucks or side plaits, or is quite plain. It has long sleeves, tightly buttoned cuffs and a wide muslin turn-

> He is turning out these costumes by the hundreds, and one sees them on women at all the smart places.

before the extravagant ideas of chiffon, While those who are rich and fashbeing, via Europe. The summer, therefore, is a season to be filled with intense activity and





ionable have put their shoulders to the wheel with tremendous energy and enthusiasm, the appeal for workers has gone into the byways and hedges

of social life.

summer.