## FRATERNAL SOCIETIES



petation of the employment bureau, pened for husiness last week, demon-

in this city. Although it was known that many members of the order in this city was

is and Fame Lodges.

Is Lodge conferred the second degree in form on three candidates with some of "old-timers" in the harness February 18.

Grand Pierson assumed his old role on eam, to the admiration of the candidates, was honored again by the presence of her "Mat" Wiley and several other visitions of the candidates, who escaped before their names could scured.

E "trail hitters," under the leadership of ain Conway, vinited Metropolitan Lodge Tuesday night and aroused considerable sat in the encampment branch. Metroan had had a successful team, doing dework every Tuesday night, Visiting memalways find a cordial welcome.

if 'orm on three oandidates with some of it's and the control of the great sachem in his last speaking leaf it 'old-timers' in the harmess February 18, and are arranging for the admitted on the candidates, lie was honoried again by the profidate has been controlled the 'Mat' Wildy and are accurated by the profidate has been controlled by the profidate of palefaces on the last council place of the sealed before their names could be 'trail hitters,' under the leadership of paint of the encampinent branch. Metrophan had a successful team, doing deswork every Tuesday night and aroused considerable treat in the encampinent branch. Metrophan had had a successful team, doing deswork every Tuesday night. Visiting mems always find a cordial welcome, representative Wilsting mems always find a cordial welcome, represented and had a live and effective field armory, decorated for the occasion, and were seated. District Deputy Grand Mass. William B. Kline was the toastmaster and reduced the following guests of honor: Past in their various districts for the raising of the chiefs, which takes place the following guests of honor: Past in their various districts for the raising of the chiefs, which takes place the following guests of honor: Past in their various districts for the raising of the chiefs, which takes place the fraising will be held, to which the pale and partiarch F. F. Conway, of Philadelphia, ind Representative Wilson K. Mohr, of Altown, and Grand Patriarch B. H. Pope, of indefinition of the partial proposed to the purpose of the considering some problems that will arrow the proposed the different influence of considering some problems that will arrow the proposed the constituent of the partial proposed to the partial proposed to

Improved Order of Red Men Many of the tribes outside of the hunting



troupe and are now prepared to give entertain-ments at any of the tribes. Several palefaces were adopted last week. This tribe is now sloux Tribe's wiswam was the centre of attraction for the admirers of the Dakotah Association February 18. This youthful auxiliary in Redmarbip is speedily assuming growthere in Redmarbip is speedily assuming growthere in the central to certain to settify displays a solid first in certain to bring great results. The section of the organization by general attended to the organization by general attended in Poore, Great Senior Sagamore Samuel Walker, Great Linier of Records Thomas X. Donnaltey Great

Patriotic Order Sons of America The ailled camps of the 8th district last unday paraded from headquarters, 31st street and Ridge avenue, to Northwest Baptist

Church, 25th atreet and Lehigh avenue, and, through Frederick J. Shower, presented the church with a fag. It was received by the pastor, the Rev. W. D. Cope.

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran

Camp 90 attended a patriotic service in Wes-ey Methodist Episcopal Church, sepviva and funtingdon streets, and presented a flag to be church.

streets, Camp 314 gave a flag.
Camp 326 visited the West York M. E.
Church and were joined by the ladies of Camp

Camp 826 visited the west York M. E. Church and were joined by the ladies of Camp 202, which is connected by blood ties with Camp 820. The Rev. H. W. Hand spoke on the relationship of the fraternal organization to the church. This camp is forming a degree team from the young members and hope to get in working shape soon.

Church and the state of the control of the church on Sunday. There will be a possible of the control of the control of the church on Sunday. There will be a possible of the control of the cont

The Philadelphia-Bucks district annual ban-quet will be held on Saturday at Camp 530, Cornwells, There will be a record attendance, a first-class entertainment and an all-around

candidate for grand treasurer, accompanied by

Brothers Mills and Thorpe, of the same court. All made an earnest appeal for the election of Doctor Daly at the annual convention. The members of the team struggling for first honors in procuring new members are still hard at it and candidates are still pouring in.

The committee having court intending to participate this evening at Court Hamilton Disston when it is expected the final arrangements will be completed. Court Schuyikili has challenged the winner of this three-cornered contest. Brothers Ross and Kennedy, who are looking after Court Fairmount's interests, are beeiged by members wishing to enter.

Brothers O'Toole and Mageo, the delegates to the Combined Excursion Committee, are working hard and expect to carry a large number of

Court Northern Liberties held a smoker lan

Post, No. 18, G. A. R. Hall, 20th and Cariton streets.

Court Northern Liberties held a smeker last Monday evening, which was immensely enjoyed. Bruther John J. Farrell is active in Monday evening, which was immensely enjoyed. Bruther John J. Farrell is active in harranging these affairs for the court, and all the expense of these smokers are borne by the members of these smokers are borne by the members of the Entertainment Committee. This court is in the best condition for a long lime, and everything promises to bring the most successivity year of its carrer. F. J. Green is financial secretary, and resides at 2840 East Sargent street.

Court Olive Branch's reports show the court to be in better condition than ever before. Brother George Kelly is one of the most active members of this court, and much of the success is due to his efforts. The court meets at Sepviva and Norris streets every Thureday evening. Robert Welsh is financial secretary.

Court Girardville, located at Girardville, beld a mock trial and emoker February 2h. Past Supreme Chief Ranger Mace. Supreme Traintee Donahue, Deputy Supreme Chief Ranger Hot. Grand Chief Ranger Seynow, Firley, John J. Farrell, Jr., and Jersey City. William D. Bacon, Stata Senator Eveny Court Grand Chief Ranger Hot. Grand Chief Ranger Hot. Grand Chief Ranger Seynow, Firley, John J. Farrell, Jr., and Jersey City. William D. Partell, Jr., and Jersey City. Which an entertainment and banquet, and the swers made on the good of the order.

Court Sylvan, No. 68 a Pottstewn, celebrated its 28th anniar and banquet, and the members ladded and hydred guests turned out the first manual banders. All the members and the secretary Citymer Missioner William Ash, Raymond Missiner, Ray Hartranft, Lewis I, Keene and Richard N. Sensholts. Financial secretary Citymer Missioner France and Court and S

Order of Independent Americans Red, White and Blue Council heard Brother Peter Kite say some interesting things at last



Red, White and Blue Council heard Brother Peter Kite say some interesting things at last meeting. The sage of the council, Brother George Wilhelm, celebrated his birthday anniversary by surprise to his fellow members in the nature of refreshments. Brother Wilhelm is a taithful worker for the council, The guart of this council has been organized, with Brother Jacob E. Wister as captain, who said it was his desire to bring the guard up to a high state of efficiency, and registered names of many members anxious to join. This council is live and gives visitors a cordial welcome. The officers are: John Knight, councilor: George Greenwood, vice councilor: William Davis, recording secretary; Abert MacNutt, financial secretary; George C. Mangan, treasurer; Benjamin Duakam, George J. Clime and Clarence Halm, trustees; Harman Everhart, assistant recording secretary; George Wilhelm, warden. Clifton Heights Council paid a visit to Edwin A. Shubert Council February IS and performed the initiatory work in a highly efficient manner. The degree team and guard, under Captain Sheeley, were warmly commended. The councilor of the team was H. B. Emery, A Dutch supper was served to about 60 members.

Jr. Order United American Mechan



John R. Markey Contest to for its debating contest to John B. Armstrong Council te consider the John B. Armstrong Council will bold a class in tlation on March 27, and expects to Jan. Spring City Council will hold a class in tlation on March 27, and expects to Jan. Rockdale Council conducted an interaction of the Council conducted at Interacting the regular council meeting last Friday the regular council meeting last Friday and Citars were hard.

Fraternal Patriotic Americana

More than 2000 members at Lu Lu Toast Monday evening witnessed a gene



E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM

onard Tavernake befriends Beatrice Frank-an American pirl in distress in London, prevents her from committing suicide, and s her a position as housekeeper to him, pretend to be brother and sister. Bhortly, Mrs. Wenham Gardner, Beatrice's sister, to make Tavernake tell where Beatrice is, he refuses. Mrs. Gardner is an adven-ing him prisoner in a desolate part of and She offers to finance Tavernake in a catale succulation.

a real estate speculation.

Heatrice gets a position in a musical comedy.

After the first night Tayeranke kisses her for
the first time. He is troubled at the thought
that he kissed her because of her resemblance
to her beautiful sister, Elizabeth, (Mrs.
Gardner).

CHAPTER XIV.

A WARNING FROM MR. PRITCHARD. In the morning, when he left for the city, she was not down. When he came home in the evening, she was gone. Without removing his hat or overcoat, he took the letter which he found propped up on the mantlepiece and addressed to him to the window and read it.

Dear Brother Leonard.-It wasn't you fault and I don't think it was mine. either of us is to blame, it is certainly I, for though you are such a clever and ambitious young person, you really know very little indeed of the world-not so th, I think, as I do. I am going to stay for a few nights, at any rate, with of the girls at the theatre, who I know wants some one to share her tiny flat with her. Afterwards, I shall see. Don't throw this letter in the fire and don't think me ungrateful. I shall never

what you did for me. How I will send you my address as soon as

am sure of it, or you can always write me to the theatre. Good-bye, dear Leonard, Your Sister Beatrice.

Tavernake looked from the sheet of notepaper out across the gray square. He knew that he was very angry, angry though he deliberately folded the letter up and placed it in his pocket, angry though he took of his overcoat and hung It up with his usual care; but his anger was with himself. He had blundered badly. It was absolutely out of harmony with all his ideas. He told himself that he was glad Beatrice was gone. Housekeeping with an imaginary sister in this practical world was an absurdity. Booner or later it must have come to an end. Better now, before it had gone too far-better now, much better! All the same, he knew that he was going to

He could fix his attention upon nothing At last he pushed his papers away, put on his hat and cost, and walked into the

Tavernake hesitated for a moment under the portice of the Milan Court, looking out at the rain which had auddenly com-manded to descend. He scarcely noticed that he had a companion until the man

Way, your name is Tavernake, lan't it?" Tavernake, who had been on the point striding away, turned sharply around, a man who had spoken to him was aring marning clothes of dark gray and and a so.t Homburg hat. His comrates, was a little sallow and he was tis-baved servent for a about black stants. He was anothing a black it and his second was transmitable, strong about his appearance struck strong about his appearance struck stants as being samuely familiar, but not us first recall where he had

at he my name, cortainly." Taxor-

impertinent question," his neighbor re-

"I suppose you can ask it." Tavernake rejoined. "I am not obliged to answer. am I?"

The man smiled. "Come," he said, "that's honest, at any Are you in a hurry for a few

tinued, lowering his voice a little, "I met you with a young lady whose appearance, for some reason which we needn't go into, interested me. Tonight I happened overhear you inquiring, only a few minutes ago, for the sister of the same young lady."

"What you heard doesn't concern in the least." Tavernake retorted. should say that you had no business to

His companion smiled. "Well," he declared, "I have always heard a good deal about British frank-ness, and it seems to me that I'm getting some. Anyway, I'll tell you where I come in. I am interested in Mrs. Wenham Gardner. I am interested, also, in her

sister, whom I think you know-Miss Beatrice Franklin, not Miss Tavernake!" Tavernake made no immediate reply. The man was an American, without a doubt. Perhaps he knew something Beatrice. Perhaps this was one of the friends of that former life concerning which she had told him nothing. "You are not, by any chance, propos-

ing," Tavernake said at last, "to discuss either of these ladies with me? I do not know you or what your business may be. In any case, I am going now." The other laid his hand on Tavernake's shoulder.

"You'll be soaked to the skin," he pro tested. "I want you to come into the smoking-room here with me for a few minutes. We will have a drink together and a little conversation, if you don't

"But I do minu." Tavernake declared. "I don't know who you are and I don't want to know you, and I am not going to talk about Mrs. Gardner, or any other lady of my acquaintance, with strangers. Good-night!"

"One moment, please, Mr. Tavernake." Tavernake hesitated. There was some thing curiously compelling in the other's smooth, distinct voice. "I'd like you to take this card." he said. "I told you my name before I expect you've forgotten it -Pritchard-Sam Pritchard. Ever heard of me before?"

"Not to have heard of me in the United States," the other continued, with a grim smile. "would be a tribute to your respectibility. Most of the crooks who find their way over here know of Sam. Pritchard, I am a detective and I come

om New York." Tavernake turned and looked the man over. There was something convincing about his tone and appearance. It did not occur to him to doubt for a moment

not occur to him to doubt for a moment a word of this stranger's story.

"You haven't anything against heragning telther of them?" he asked.

"Nothing directly," the detactive answered. "All the same, you have been calling upon Mrs. Weshiam Gardner this evening, and if you are a friend of hers I think that you had better come along with me and have that talk."

"I will come," Tavernake agreed, "but I come us a listener. Remember that I have nothing to tell you. So far as you are concerned, I do not know either of those ladies."

Priteined smiled, "I guess we'll let it go at that. All the same, if you don't spind, we'll talk. Come this way and we'll get to the smeking-room through the hotel. It's under gover."

They made their way to the doors of box made their way to the doors of a hotel. As soon as they had salared, vernals apole again.

"You understand that you will only be wasting your time if you are hoping for placed it in his pocket, any information from me?" he declared. "No," he said, "we haven't any photo-"I have nothing to tell you."

The detective nodded.
"I am taking my chances," he said. "You look as though you had common sense, at any rate. There are a few

things you ought to hear." "I am in no particular hurry," Tavernake answered. "What do you want?"

"A few nights ago," the stranger con"I am in no particular hurry," Tavercross the further end of the cafe.
"The detective is constant to the bar, they had to cross the further end of the cafe.
"It isn't my bus tion toward a little crowd of people who were just taking their seats at a round table

'Crooks," he whispered, "every one of them. New Yorkers, for the most part. her. See your friend, Mr. Tavernake?" "V" "Elizabeth!" Tavernake muttered.

Pritchard smiled again.
"Mrs. Wenham Gardner," he continued "Well, we won't say anything about her just yet: Major Post, very well known in the upper circles as 'Jimmy'; Walter Crease, the man with his hair parted down the middle there, and the pale face. He plays at being a newspaper correspondent over here, got a flat on the Adelphia Terrace, but Heaven knows what he really does! And look-there's

Tavernake looked at the round table in blank amazement. His companion's words meant little to him. The three men to whom the detective had alluded were the three men whom he had recently me in Elizabeth's sitting-room. They were all most correctly dressed, and, compared with the other guests in their immediate vicinity, possessed an air of distinction although, as usual, Elizabeth was the dominating figure.

"What are you talking about?" Taver-nake demanded. "You surely don't mean those people who are with Mrs. Gardner?" Pritchard led him on out of sight up the stairs and into the smoking-room. "My young friend," he said, "I am an "My young friend," he said, "I am an old stager at this game, and you're just a trifle green. That class of person knows how to wear its clothes. They'd pass most anywhere, that lot would, better than you or I, I dare say, for they've studied all the tricks. All the same, that very distinguished-looking gentleman with the gray hair came out of Singman with the gray hair came out of Singfrom a doing a five years' sentence, only last month.

"A five years' sentence for what?" Tavernake gasped. "Rebbing a trust company of something over a million dollars," Pritchard an-swered. "They never got the money back,

Tavernake was allent. The thing seemed to him impossible. His companion had ordered drinks and lit a fresh cigar. "You see, Mr. Tavernake," the latter continued, biting the end of his cigar and chewing it thoughtfully for a mo-ment, "London and New York are, after all, a long way a art. The people who come and go in those restaurants are not likely to know anything of the criminal side of our city. As soon as what we call he comes over here. Probably not a soul recognizes him, and there are great fields open always. I am not sure," he continued, "that today the crook doesn't do

better in London than in New itself." Tavernake moved restlessly in his chair. crooks!" he exclaimed impatiently didn't come here to listen to this sort of thing. I am not cure that I believe a word of what you say."

"Why should you." Pritchard remarked, without proof? Look here." He drew a leather case from his packet and spread it out. There were a dozen photographs there of men in prison at-The detective pointed to one, and a little shiver Tavornake recognized at the right hand of Elizabeth.
"You don't mean to say," he faltered.
"that Mrs. Gardior......"

The detective folded up his case and regraphs of your lady friend there, nor of her sister. And yet, it may not be so far off."

"If you are trying to fasten anything upon those ladies,-" Tavernake began,

threateningly. The detective laughed and patted him 'It isn't my business to try and fasten things upon any one," he interrupted. 'At the same time, you seem to be a friend of Mrs. Wenham Gardner, and it is ust as well that some one should warn

"Warn her of what?" Tavernake asked. The detective looked at his cigar meditatively.

"Make her understand that there is trouble ahead," he replied. Tavernake sipped his whiskey and soda nd lit a cigarette. Then he turned in his chair and looked thoughtfully at his com-Pritchard was a striking-looking man, with hard, clean-cut features-a man of determination.

"Mr. Pritchard, I am a clerk in an estate office. My pecple were work-people Charlie Faulkes, out of Sing-Sing last and I am trying to better myself in the month. What a nerve!"

world. I haven't learned how to beat world. I haven't learned how to beat about a subject, but I have learned a little of the world, and I know that people such as you are not in the habit of doing things without a reason. Why the devil have you brought me in here to talk about Mrs. Gardner and her sister? If you've anything to say, why don't you go to Mrs. Gardner herself and say it? Why do you come and talk to strangers about their affairs? I am here listening you, but I tell you straight I don't

Pritchard nodded. "Say, I am not sure that I don't like that sort of talk," he declared. "I know all about you, young man. You're in Dowling & Spence's office and you've got to quit. You've got an estate you want financing. Miss Beatrice Franklin was living under your roof-as your sister, I understand-until yesterday, and Mrs. Gardner, for some reason of her own. seems to be doing her best to add you to the list of her admirers. I am not sure what it all means, but I could make a pretty good guess. Here's my point, though. You're right. I didn't bring you here for your health. I brought you here because you can do me a service and yourself one at the same time, and you'll be doing no one any harm, nobody you care about, anyway. I have no grudge against Miss Reatrice. I'd just a kept out of the trouble that's com-

ing. What is this service?" Tavernake Pritchard for the moment evaded the

"I dare say you can understand, Mr. Tavernake," he said, "that in my profession one has to sometimes go a where you want them. Now we merely stanced at that table as we came I can tell you this for gospel truth-there isn't one of that crowd that I couldn't, if I liked, haul back to New York on some charge or another. You wonder why I don't do it. I'll tell you. it's because I am waiting-waiting until

something that will keep them out of the way for just as long as possible. Do you follow me. Mr. Tavernake?"

"I suppose I do." Tavernake answered, countfully. "You are only talking of the mes, of course?" "My young friend," he agreed. "I am ily talking of the men. At the same me, I guess I'm not betraying any con-

I can bring bome something more serious

moment. If she is associating with these

Pritchard flicked the ash from his

"Well," he said, "every man has a right to his own opinions, and for my part I like to hear any one stick up for his friends. It makes no odds to me. Howto bring before you. Four months ago, down Broadway consisted of a performance by a Professor Franklin and his two daughters, Elizabeth and Beatrice. The professor hypnotized, told fortunes, felt heads, and the usual rigmarole. Beatrice sang, Elizabeth danced. People came to see the show, not because it was and good, but because the girls, even in New York, were beautiful."

"A music-hall in New York!" Taver

nake muttered. The detective nodded "Among the young bloods of the city," he continued, "were two brothers, as much allke as twins, although they aren't twins, whose names were Wenham and Jerry Gardner. There's nothing in fast life which those young men haven't tried. Between them, I should say they represented everything that was known of debauchery and dissipation. The eldes can't be more than 27 today, but if you vere to see them in the morning, either of them, before they had been massaged and galvanized into life, you'd think they were little old men, with just strength enough left to crawl about. cut a long story short, both of them fell in love with Elizabeth."

"Brutes!" Tavernake interjected. "I guess they found Miss Elizabeth a pretty tough nut to crack," the detective went on. "Anyhow, you know what her price was from her name, which is hers went on. right enough. Wenham, who was a year counger than his brother, was the first to Three months ago, Mr. and Mrs Wenham Gardner, Miss Beatrice, and the devoted father left New York in the Lusitania and came to London

"Where is this Wenham Gardner, then?" Tavernake demanded. Pritchard took his cigar case from his pocket and selected another cigar.

"Say, that's where you strike the nail ght on the head," he remarked. "Where is this Wenham Gardner? I don't mind telling you, Mr. Tavernake, that to dis-cover his whereabouts is exactly what cover his whereabouts is exactly what I am over on this side for. I have a commission from the family to find out, and a blank check to do it with."

"Do you mean that he has disappeared, then?" asked Tavernake.

"Off the face of the carth. sir." Pritchard replied. "Something like two months ago, the young married couple, with Miss Beatrice, started for a holiday tour somewhere down in the west of England. A few days after they started. Miss Beat-

A few days after they started, Miss Hea-trice comes back to London alone. She goes to a boarding house, is practically penniless, but she has shaken her sister has, I believe, never spoken with her since. A little later, Elizabeth alone turns up in London. She has plenty of money, more money than she has ever had the control of before in her life, but no husband.

no husband."

"So far, I don't see anything remarkable about that." Tavarnake interposed.

"That may or may not be." Pritchard answered drily. "This creature, Wenham Gardner—I hate to call him a man—was her abject slave—up till the time they reached London, at any rate. He would never have quit of his own accord. He stopped quite suddenly communicating with all his friends. None of their cables, even. were answered." even, were answered."

"Why don't you so and ask Mrs. Gard-er where he is?" Tavernake demanded

only talking of the men. At the same time, I guess I'm not betraying any confidence, or talking you anything that Mrs. Wenham Gardier doesn't know herself, which I say that sho's doing her best to qualify for a similar position."

Tou mean that sho is doing sumstraing are that like it was the one to blame, her husband walked out of the house where they were staying, and sho has not seen him since was quite ready with all the par-

ticulars, and even implored me to help "I cannot imagine," Tavernake said, why any one should disbelieve her."

The detective smiled, "There are a few little outside circumstances," he remarked, looking at the ash of his cigar, "In the first place, how do you suppose that this young Wenham Gardner spent the last week of his stay

in New York?"
"How should I know?" Tavernake re-

plied, impatiently. "By realizing every cent of his property on which he could lay his hands," the detective continued. "It isn't at any time an easy business, and the Gardner in-terest is spread out in many directions. but he must have sailed with something like forty thousand pounds in hard cash. A suspicious person might presume that that £40,000 has found its way to the stronger of the combination.

won't worry you much more," detective answered. "There are a few other circumstances which seem to need explanation, but they can wait. There is one serious one, however, and that is

where you come in."
"Indeed!" Tavernake remarked. "I was hoping you would come to that soon."
"The two sisters, Beatrice and Elizabeth, have been together ever since we can learn anything of their history. Those people who don't understand the disap-pearance of Wenham Gardner would like to know why they quarreled and parted, why Beatrice is keeping away from her sister in this strange manner. I personally, too, should like to know Miss Beatrice when she last saw Wen-ham Gardner alive."

"You want me to ask Miss Beatrice these things?" Tavernake demanded. "It might come better from you," Pritchard admitted. "I have written her to the theatre, but naturally she has not

Tavernake looked curiously at his com-"Do you really suppose," he naked "that, even granted there were any un-usual circumstances in connection with

that quarrel-do you seriously supp

that Beatrice would give her The detective sighed. "No doubt, Mr. Tavernake," he said, "these young ladies are friends of yours,

and perhaps for that reason you are ittle prejudiced in their favor. Their ever, have certainly not been of a strict order. I cannot help thinking that per-suasion might be brought to bear upon Miss Beatrice, that it might be pointe out to her that a true story is the safest. "Weil, if you've finished," Tuvernake declared, "I'd like to tell you what I think of your story. I think it's all d.—d silly nonsense! This Wenham Gardner, by your own saying, was half mad. There was a quarrel and he's gone off to Paris or somewhere. As to your off to Paris or somewhere. As to suggestions about Mrs. Gardner, I think ney're infamous."
Pritchard was unmoved by his com-

anion's warmth "Why, that's all right, Mr. Tavernake," he affirmed. "I can quite understand your feeling like that just at first. You see, I've been among crime and criminals all my days, and I learn to look for a and my days, and I learn to look for a certain set of motives when a thing of this sort happens. You've been brought up among honest folk, who go the straightferward way about life, and naturally you look at the same matter from a different point of view. But you and I have got to talk this out. I want you to understand that those very charming understand that those very charming

some stand that those very charming young ladies are not quite the class of young women you know anything about. Mind you, I haven't a word to say against Miss Beatrice. I dare say she's as straight as they make 'em. But-you must take another whicky and sods, Mr. Tavernake. Now, I insist upon it. Tim. come right over here."

Mr. Pritchard seemed to have forgotten what he was talking about. The room had been suddenly invaded. The whole of the little supper party, whose individual members he had pointed out to his companion, came trooping into the room. They were all apparently on the best of tarms with themselves, and they all seemed to make a point of absclutely invorted Pritchard's presence. Elizabeth was the one exception, this was carrying a tiny Chinces spaniel under one arm; with the fugures of her other hand she held a tortuise shell grounted minode to her eye, and stared directly at the two

men. Presently she came languidly across the room to them.
"Dear me," she said, "I had no idea that even your wide circle of acc ances, Mr. Pritchard, included my friend. Mr. Tavernake."

nake felt confused and angry. It was as though he had been playing the traiter in listening, even for a moment, to thes "Mr. Pritchard introduced himself to

The two men rose to their feet. Taver

me only a few minutes ago," he declared "He brought me in here and I have been listening to a lot of rubbish from him of which I don't believe a single word." She flashed a wonderful smile upon

"Mr. Pritchard is so very censorious," she murmured. "He takes such a very low view of human nature. After all, though, I suppose we must not blama him. I think that as men and women we do not exist to him. We are simply the pegs by means of which he can clim

a little higher in the esteem of his employers."
Pritchard took up his soft hat and stick "Mrs. Gardner," he said, "I will con-

fess that I have been wasting my time with this young man. You are a trills severe upon me. You may find, and before long, that I am your best friend." She laughed delightfully. "Dear Mr. Pritchard," she exclaimed

"It is a strange thought, that! If only dared hope that some day it might come "More unlikely things, madam, are happening every hour." the detective re-marked. "The world-our little corner of it, at any rate—is full of anomalies. There

might even come a time to any one of u three when liberty was more dangerous He nodded carelessly to Tavernake, and with a bow to Elizabeth turned and last the room. Elizabeth remained as though

turned to stone, looking after him as he

descended the stairs.
"The man is a fool!" Tavernake cried. roughly. Elizabeth shook her head and sighed "He is something far more ineffective,"
she said. "He is just a little too clever."
Elizabeth did not at once rejoin bet
friends. Instead, she sank on to the low settee close to where she had been stal

ing, and drew Tavernake down to he side. She waved her hand across at the others, who were calling for her.
"In a moment, dear people," she said.
Then she leaned back among the cushions and laughed at her companion.
"Tell me, Mr. Tavernake," she asked
"don't you feel that you have stoppe into a sort of modern Arabian Nights."

"Oh, I know Mr. Pritchard's weakness." cm, I know Mr. Pritchard's weakness she continued. "He loves to throw giamor around everything he says does. Because he honors me by interesting himself in my concerns, he has probably told you all sorts of wonderfulnings about me and my friends. A veringenlous romancer, Mr. Pritchard, 7 know. Confess now didn't he tell." know. Confess, now, didn't he tell you nome stories about us?"

She might have spared herself the trouble of beating about the bush. There was no hesitation about Tavernake. "He said that your friends were one of them criminals," Tavernake clared, "and he admitted that he working hard at the present moment a

discover that you were one, too."
She laughed softly but heartly,
"I wonder what was his object," in remarked, "in taking you into his top "He happened to know." Tavernake

d, "that I was intimate with 3" He wanted me to ask Beatries? Elizabeth laughed no more. She looks

"And that question?"
"He wanted me to ask Beatrice and she left you and hid herself in London She tried to smile, but not very sec

ceasfully. "According to his story," Taverest continued, "you and Beatrice and husband were away togother somewhere Remething less." in the country. Something has there, something which resulted in it disappearance of your husband. Basic came back alone and has not been a you since. Soon afterward, July came back alone. Mr. Gardier law above seen or heard of "

(CONTINUED TOMOBROW)