A BAFFLING MYSTERY AND BREATHLESS TALE OF ADVENTURE By WILLIAM HAMILTON OSBORNE Author of "The Red Mouse," "The Running Fight," "Catspaw," Etc.

convright, 1914, MoBride, Nast & Co.)

The message he takes is that a valuable the message he takes is being amuggled into discount? An elderly man and a young the count? An elderly man and a young towan are guilty Again ampricton is decreted against the Talcotte, Later Mrs. elderly a stacked by a rufflan, who attained is attacked by a rufflan, who attained is attacked by a rufflan, who attained is smitch the blue buckle from her, or when the smitch the blue buckle from her, was a smitch the blue buckle from her was a smitch the smitch that the smitch the smitc

worsen he loves in several the control of the contr

secontain. They talk about the amugling inclient.
Rutherford ands out that the men who
are attacked both him and Mrs. Talcott,
are employed by a Miss Arany who was
the employed by a Miss Arany who was
the statement of the statement of the statement of the
time of the boat with him. Mrs. Talcott
aliantyine. There are two blue buckles,
fallantyine. There are two blue buckles,
aliantyine to bears half an inscription,
the whole is a clue to a hidden fortune,
a connection with which is a paper freety ber father from suspicion of awinding,
yats, insisting that he will help Miss
whantyne to the fostune which is rightsay, here, confesses his love for her.
Beliseman impersonates a lawyer acting
the firm which has the second blue
socke, and attempts to get the inscription
som Miss Hallantyre's buckle, but is result lawyer appears.

CHAPTER XVIII-(Continued). Sims here saw a young lady enter the besse up there, a little after two. We've aften seen her going in and out. She sems to be a relative, or an accomplice, something. She is Mrs. Talcott-" "Why, you don't know Mrs. Talcott,

keep his voice stendy. "Don't I, though! Sims has known her ver since they came across on the

"cowder!" Craig protested, trying vainly

Sims nodded. "Slender woman," he said. "Graceful, and carries herself well. Has a long may clock and another of blue. Fond of searing buckles. I've often seen her, the came up to the house in a cab, a

is minutes after you heard the clock sirke two, downtown, and Helderman met her at the door. I saw them." The detectives departed, and Craig sank fack upon his bed, as though some one had struck him a deadly blow. So that ras how she had known that he was injured, and had been able to summon ald so quickly! She had learned it from Belderman himself, to whose house she had gone at a quarter after two

Rutherford gave over wondering how Helderman could have known about it, miess there were really a double of his stread, in the agony of this new train of thought. Had he been systematically de-ceived by a woman whose heart and soul were as dark and deceitful as her ex-terior was fair and innocent? The excuse he had made for her when he believed her to be the tool of an unprincipled husbed no longer held. He knew her better tow, and the knowledge destroyed all haver to imagine her the blind instrument of others. She was too sane, too I she were implicated in criminal things.

I was because she chose to be. He felt that he never wanted to see her Main-never so much as hear the sound of her voice. The telephone bell rang-welcome inter-

ption to his painful meditations, Gooley hid placed the receiver in easy reach of the invalid. Craig answered the call, and at the first words, he turned even whiter, If it were possible, than his weakness had

him a trifle uncertainly. She had waited for him to make some overtures of peace, but for two days he had been silent. Now the had swallowed her pride to ask him about a matter of business.
"I called you up to—to make a request,"

he clear voice said. Don't hesitate, if I can serve you." He

mdeavored to say the words easily, but they sounded cold and formal. "Could you—could you find it convenient to call this afternoon? I don't want to but you to too much trouble, but I wanted to arrange to get a certain piece of prop-sity, before I called at the lawyer's—" "I'm very sorry," he replied, "but I am all unable to navigate very well. Even cannot recuperate from treatment such as I have received, at short notice,"

"Oh, plesse don't-make me more shamed than I am!" she cried, her voice "I don't intend to." he answered dryly, smalls in spite of himself to keep his eart from responding to the pleading

"I-I-thought that if you could call, ! would tell you in-how sorry I am. don't mean to be rude, the other evening, after all you have done for me and my father-but your words hurt! I know dreumstances seem against me; and I should not blame you that you cannot keep your faith, in spite of them. Oh. If you only knew how gladly I would tell you all?

Butherford marveled at her. She seemed most concerned about their little tiff of two evenings ago, which he had all but forgotten, while she utterly overlooked the terrible physical treatment he had since received at the hands of her accom-

"It was very good of you to send the surgern!" he said.
"To-what?" she asked.
He repeated his words.
"Send the surgeon! Do you need a surgeon!" There was no mistaking the almost breathless anxiety of her tones.
"Why, you certainly must have known." "Why, you certainly must have known that I was pretty hadly done up, or you would not have telephoned to Doctor Pittchard!" he insisted, vexed at her Posing.

Doing.
"Dostor Richard? I know no Doctor Richard. Tell me what is the matter-

"I said Doctor Pritchard. Didn't you disphone him, about 3 o'clock, night befire last, to come and look after me?"

I did not, Mr. Rutherford. How could know that you needed a physician? If you would only tell me what is the matter? You talk so strangely!"

Rutherford listened in amazement to he anxiety, the uncertainty, the pleading in the mellow voice, and fought nard a ksep from yielding to its seduction ruly, this girl was the most consummate actress he had ever known! What a fortune she could make upon the stage!

I am laid up for several days," he sawered, "Some one entered my room, night before last. In the tusse! I got he worst of it.—"

worst of it-Paused, disgusted with himself, he had let her lead him on into g facts which she must already

I'm so sorry! So sorry!" came the distressed voice. "And I feel as if I have been to blame. Was urgiar".

he get anything" Miss Ballantyne, you needn't in that account. The blue buckle

He was tempted to hang up the receiver, but walted to fire one parting side," she added to herself, "Mr. Leclerc will know me easier by that."

that. By the bye, Miss Ballantyne, what did r. Helderman tell you"
Last night; she asked, wonderingly.
No, the night before, when I was

"I did not see him the night before. I saw him last night, and it was partly about this that I wanted to see you."

"There seems to be some confusion about dates—but you did see him?" per-sisted Crair.

"Why, yes-but how queerly you talk!" "Good by," he said, putting the receiver

back in place.

She admitted, then, having seen Halderman; it was the first time he had cor-nered her! But why dispute that she had een him at the time the secret service man had seen her—and after she had been able to telephone for him? Why, on the other mand, maintain that it was last night, when the banker been away either night, and she had not seen him! He rang the bell for Gooley.

"Mike-for the lave of-your patron saint-mix me something hot-and stiff! My brain's all addled! I wish to sleep!"

XIX

A VELOUR HAT AND A VELVET

Miss Billie Ballantyne had fought a long time with her pride, before she had reached a point where she could telephone Craig Rutherford; and nothing but the exigencies of the situation had finally persuaded her to do so. She sank back in her chair and stared at the receiver. when her words brought no response. It was unbelievable that he had rung off.

Then the curiously ironic way in which he had advised her not to worry came back to her. She had considered trying to get Central again, and ask if she had not been mistakenly disconnected; but not been mistakenly disconnected; but the ring in his words held her back. He had said "Good-by," and without waiting for response had ended the conversation -and it was she who had rung him up in the first place!
And what had he meant by alluding to

her meeting with Helderman? How had he learned about it? He spoke of it as It were a clandestine affair. Surely Mr. Rutherford could not take it upon him-self to criticise her actions constantlyto have an espionage upon her house!

Suddenly she looked down at something which had tallen and lay there glittering before her, on the edge of the big, square desk. It was a tear. She sprang up from the chair and ran upstairs to her room Never had the empty, old house seemed so desolate, so devoid of human com-fort. It had brought nothing but sorrow and misunderstanding to her ever since she had entered it. She was deeply hurt. and intensely angry with herself for being so. Oh, for the luxury of a good 'Father, dear," she whispered tremu-

lously to herself, "I wonder if you will ever realize-not being a woman-just what I am enduring-for your sake! do not begrudge the service-but, oh! if I had mother here she would understand?

In her haste to leave the telephone, she had not picked up her hand-bag. It was lying in plain sight on top of the desk, where Sophie presently discovered it. The erstwhile faithful maid can through its contents with swift and practiced eye, but found nothing of especial interest except a small, folded bit of paper on which was written

"Cowen, Covington & Brown-32 Nassau-Friday at 3. Today was Friday. The maid quickly restored the paper to its receptacle, and hastened upstairs to her mistress.

"Mademoiselle, will you tell me what stume I shall prepare for you today"." The evidence of the girl's constant

faithfulness touched Miss Ballantyne in fathrulness touched Miss Ballantyne in her present mood.
"Sophie, you are always thinking of me!" she exclaimed. "But why should it make any particular difference what I wear today? This is only a business en-

"Ah, Mademoiselle, I always like to see you smart-even at a business engage-ment! I look out the window after you,

ment! I look out the window after you, as you go down the street, and I say with the great pride—"That is my mistress—yes!" And I am not the only one who looks out of the windows. There are the young men, and the old—"
"Nonsense, Sophie, how you talk!" said Billie, flushing. "I have a notion to wear a gingham dress—just to spite you!"

the gingham-even for negligee! Now if Mademoiselle would only let me sug-

What is it, Sophie?" Ordinarily she would not have encouraged garrulity in the maid, but this lonely morning the chatter about dress

was amusing to her. "Why not again the velvet gown, and the velour hat, Mademoiselle? The com-bination is ever suitable for the Avenue, or for the stuffy old business office. Why do persons have to talk so much business, anyway?" Billie glanced at the maid, but her

guileless face expressed nothing but a natural interest and desire to be useful. "Then, just to please you, Sophie—and not because I don't want the glugham-

"Yes, Mademoiselle," returned the maid, smilling.

She withdrew from the room, and could be heard downstairs ainging a French love-song softly to herself, as she put the house to rights. A few minutes later,

she returned to say: "If Mademoiselle will permit, I will

hasten down to the corner drug-store for some little things I forgot yesterday." "Very well, Sophie."
The front door softly closed, as the hald sped down the block on her errand;

and her mistress, left alone, wondered what she would have done in this out-of-the-way corner of the city without some one she knew and could depend

some one she knew and could depend upon, like Sophie.

An hour later, Miss Ballantyne was summoned downstairs by the telephone. The first jangling of the bell set her in a flutter; her nerves were on edge this morning. It might be her father, calling her up, as he did frequently, to counsel and encourage. It might be Craig, explaining his strange conduct.

A strange voice disappointed her hopes. "Hello!" called a man's crisp, business-like tones. "This is Mr. Cowen talking. I wish to speak with Miss Ballantyne, please."

This is Miss Ballantyne-but I do not

recognize the name."

"l'owen of Cowen Covington & Brown."

"Oh, yes," replied Billie, he, heart beating more rapidly than ever. "Did Mr. Leclere tell you".

"Everything is satisfactory, Miss Ballantyne."

I'm so glad-so very glad!"

"Mr. Leclere is not here just now. He a detained on another nutter. He asked to call you up and postpone the meeting slightly. It was to be at three, I understand?"

"Yes, at three, this afternoon."
"I believe he agreed to deliver to you to certain-sentimental article—in which you are interested?"
"Yes—have you it ready?" she asked.

breathlessly, breathlessly,

"Certainly I am merely reheatsing these details, in order that there may be no misunderstanding. Now, Miss Ballantyne, if you will be good enough to postpone your visit until four, Mr. Leclerc will be able to see you."

"Until four? Certainly," Billie agreed;

and the businesslike person at the other end of the line thanked her, and rang off. That day, ever after, seemed the longthat day, ever after, seemed the long-est in the girl's memory. The minutes dragged by like so many hours. She tried busying herself with one duty after another—but always she found her lingers stopping, and her eyes gazing away ab-stractedly, while her mind went over the phrase, "Postpone your visit intil four; postpone your visit until four!"

the rest of that strange inscription. and if she could not make it out. Craig would nelp her-and they together-pshaw! what nonsense! She would never able to read it herself. She would never ask another favor, never, of a man who could not let her get out of his sight without misjudging her!

She bit her lip, and her wandering thoughts took another course. Sae pic-tured the two buckles at last in her possession, and herself presenting them tri-umplantly at the office of some trust company. A mysterious-looking hox would be turned over to her, after she had signed her name, oh! loads of times! She would open the box and glost over its contents. Yes, here were bonds and, maybe, gold or jewels—the family treasores of the Ballantynes—but, best of all, here were papers, formidable appearing exal documents which would restore her father's good name; would make it no longer necessary for him to keep hidden away from the sight of men.

And some day-thus continued her unruly thoughts-she and her father would rive up openly to the Sandringham. They would request Mr. Craig Ruther

ford please to step down to the reception room. Her father would thank him for them both, and explain the few things he had so persistently misunderstood The enlightened young man would, per-haps, beg her pardon, and she would in-terrupt him with, "That is unnecessary, Mr. Rutherford: I understand, even though you did not. I join my father in thanking you for all you've done. We shall always be grateful to you for your kindness. Good-by!" And they would depart from the room and out of Mr. Rutherford's life.

Oh, these thoughts, these thoughts! How we love to dwell on those that leave the bitter taste! Billie rehearsed this little parting scene, over and over, and each time thought of something more clever, more cutting to say. Then, by a sudden revulsion of memory, she pictured Craig at this moment lying iil, wounded, she did not know how serious-ly-and more than likely because she had

enlisted him in her service! Four o'clock came at last; and punc tual to the stroke she presented herself at the spacious suite of offices where Mr. Leclere was to await her. The office boy smiled at her, and without waiting for her to give her name or errand started toward the inner office.

"I'll tell Mr. Cowen." he said. "He was just color, but I don't think he has

was just going, but I don't think he has left the office yet." (CONTINUED TOMORROW.)

Every merchant knows the dollar-and-cents value of good illumination—the public patronizes the

bright, electric-lighted stores. Mazda lamps will give you the best light for the least money. Intelligently used they are less expensive than any other illuminant. Be sure that

your lighting fixtures are equipped with MAZDA lampsnot only do they give three times as much light for the same money as the older types of incandescent lamps, but

they are also the nearest approach to actual daylight. We will design an electric lighting installation for you, or we will advise concerning improvements in your present illumination—there is no charge for this service.

The DHILADELPHIA

## AMERICAN BLOCKADE PROTEST COMPLETED

Note to Britain Declaring Commerce Interference Unwarranted May Be Sent Tonight.

WASHINGON, March 25. The Administration's reply to Great Britain's order in council has been completed and will be forwarded to London tonight.

As already announced, the President has taken the position that Great Britain's declared purpose of blocking America's trade with Germany is an unwarranted aggression, which cannot be accepted by this country without a protest.

The Anglo-French purpose of blocking the trade between this country and the neutral nations adjacent to Germany is placed in the same category.

Great Britain's excuse that American products are being shipped across the borders into Germany, according to the Administration, is a matter to be settled between the Allies and offending neu-

The British Government has advised the State Department that "lenient" treatment will be granted American cargoes purchased in Germany before March . The precise meaning of "lenient" has not been made clear.

Secretary Bryan has announced that tations to Germany as a result of the attack on the Belgian relief ship Elfland by German aeroplanes.

Secretary Bryan said that The Hagus already had laid the facts before the German Government, and that the State Department doubtless would follow the same course.

Information received here today indi-cated that five bombs were thrown from the aeroplane at the relief ship, but with-out effect, after the Germans were fully cognizant of the vessel's mission. Criminal prosecution of the master of the German steamship Odenwald. line German steamship Odenwald, for alleged violation of the neutrality laws, by attempting to slip to sea from San Juan, Porto Rico, without clearance papers, will not be undertaken by the Department of Justice for the present. It was learned that Attorney General Gregory plans to concentrate attention on the proceedings against the Odeswald in proceedings against the Odenwald itself

Mothers' Pension Bill Passed

ALBANY, March 25.—A shrill cheer f applause was given by lundreds of athusiastic women in the Assembly resenthusiastic women in the Assembly res-terday when the Republican majority re-reded from its position of opposition to the widowed mothers' pension bill and passed the measure by a vote of 129 to 8. As the bill has been passed in the Sen-

### FRENCH ADVANCE IN VOSGES, BUT VICTORY IS COSTLY

Battle to Drive Germans From Muel-

hausen Railway Lines. PARIS, March 25,-In the eastern foot-hills of the Vosges Mountains, near Hartmannaweller Kopf, in Alexce, French and German troops are once again locked in the grip of battle. The French have been able to take several lines of German trenches, but the victory has cost them dearly, for the attacking forces had to charge up a billade under the direct fire of well-trained infantrymen and rapid-

fire guns.
French forces are trying to cut through to the railway line which runs into Muel-hausen from the north and serves as the hausen from the north and serves as the chief line of communication for Muchausen. At the same time such a feat would put the French in possession of a considerable portion of the Senheim-Kolmar-Strassburg line. The French forces taking part in this enterprise are part of the army that took Thann and Senheim from the General declaration. the German defenders some time ago.

## JUDGES ASSIGNED

Municipal Court Members Receive Appointments for April,

pointments for April.

The change in the assignments of the Judges or the Municipal Court by Judge Brown, expected as a result of the recent controversy between President Judge Brown and Judge Gorman, of the Juvenile branch of the court, did not materialize today. Judge Gorman will remain in the Juvenile Court, the other assignments for the month of April are:

Judge Bonniwell Criminal Court, Boom.

Judge Benniwell, Criminal Court, Room 678, City Hall, Judge Gfipin, Civil Court (jury trials), Room 201; Judge MacNelle, Civil Court (jury trials), Room 401; Judge greater Prano, Civil Court (cases without jury). Ioom 508, Judge Cassidy, Civil Court cases without jury), Room 285; Judge this Government would make represent Knowles, Civil Court (cases without Jury), Room 680, Judge Wheeler, will hear mo-tions and rules in Room 235; Judge Brown, Domestic Relations Court, Room 650, Judge: Gilpin, Wheeler and MacNeille will comprise the new Trial Court in Room 650 during the month.

GERMANS ABSOLVE RUSSIANS AMSTERDAM, March 25.—Vorwaerts, the Socialist organ in Berlin, has investi-gated a number of alleged Russian out-

rages in East Prussia, especially charges of assaults on women and birning of homes. It has found that almost every case is unsubstantiated and that most of them were invented by German news-40,000 Sign "Dry" Petition Forty thousand men in this city have signed the anti-Saloon League petition, declaring themselves in favor of the Williams' local option bill, and it is the intention of the league to have 100,000 signers by the time the bill comes up

public hearing on April 6 at Har \$1000 Loss in Jewelry Store Fire

An overheated gold-smelting crucible nelted a links in a gass pipe and allowed the escape of gas, which caused \$1000 damthe excape of gas, which caused some dam-age to the levelry manufacturing es-tablishment of Sarmed Z. Korff, on the second floor of a building at the north-west corner of 8th and Sansom streets.

### KARLSRUHE SUNK, SAYS MATE OF AMERICAN SHIP CARIB

Survivor of Carib Brings Circumstanstantial Story From Wilhelmshaven. NEW YORK, March M.-The German cruiser raider Karlsruhe was blown up at sea and the crew have landed in Germany, according to Jesse Boyd, second mate of the American ship Carlb, which was struck by a mine in the North Sea. He returned today on the Ho, land-American liner Rotterdam. Boyd visited the German naval base at Wilbleimshaven and received the information regarding the Karlsruhe.

regarding the Karlsruhe.

"I saw Lieutenant Weddigen, of the submarine U-9, which sank the cruisers Hogue Cressy and Aboukir," said Boyd.

"I also met members of the Karlsruhe crew. They told me the cruiser had been blown up, but would not say where. They said she had been most active."

"The Germans feel, that the United.

"The Germans feel that the United States has prolonged the war by selling large quantities of arms and ammunition to the Allies."

TURKS OFFICIALLY REPORT Ministry Says Fleet Fired on Boats Doing Rescue Work.

ALLIES LOST 1200 MEN.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 25.- The Turkish Ministry of Marine today issued a statement saying that in their defeat in the Dardanelles on March 18 the Allies suffered a loss of 1900 men and 130

"Late reports," it adds, "show our vietory over the enemy's fleet was of even greater magnitude than had been sup-posed. More men would have been res-cued had the enemy not fired upon small: heats when they attempted to pick up

"After two of our bouts had been sunk by shells, the rescue work was aban-

## RUNAWAY GIRL OF 18 SOUGHT BY THE POLICE

Her Disappearance Attributed to Her Fear of Being Sent to an Institution.

The police today began a search for Frances Gloris, an 18-year-old Italian siri, who disappeared yesterday morning from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shipper, of 3313 Baring street.

The girl was last seen shortly before noon yesterday, walking west on Hamilton street, near 54th. She is of medium height and weight, has a delicate olivefinied skin, red cheeks and dark eyes, and is pronounced by Mrs. Shipper to be the ideal type of Italian womanhood

the ideal type of Italian womanhood.

The Society to Protect Children from Cruelty placed Frances Gloris under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Shipper four years ago. Since that time they have had no trouble with her until a few weeks ago, when the siri became restless and somewhat unmanageable. Mrs. Shipper then applied to Judge Gorman for a permit admitting the girl to some Catholic institution. The hearing of the case was to have taken place this morning, and the police believe that the girl ran away to escape being sent away from away to escape being sent away from the city life to which she is accustomed. The girl's mother is said to have been found wandering on the streets of this city about a week ago, but what has become of her since that time is un-known. The girl's father is said to be living in New York city.

Child Dies of Burns

Two-year-old Mary Walker died today at the Eniscopal Hospital from burns received while playing with matches at her

## Luxurious Box Springs

Faultless Mattresses

Box Springs Brass Beds

enable you to "woo the drowsy God" with a success that is almost magical. No other sleeping accessory imparts such a delicious sense of rest. In fact, like all other Faultless bedding, they are master productions. Now is the time to order, especially if we are to make them to fit wooden

Dougherty's "Faultless" Bedding 1632 CHESTNUT STREET



Moving Pictures Taken By Daring Photographers on the Deadly Battlefields of Europe: Real Action Photographs Showing the Marvelous Results of

# The Camera On the Firing Line

All pictures made with authority of the commanding officers of the warring armies.

You See It All—The Great Toll of War—Daring Aerial Maneuvers—Great Offensive Movements and Heroic Stands

German army entering Brussels; field guns in action near Antwerp; the armored train at Arvin firing broadsides as it passes (the daring photographer was standing on the cab of the engine, unprotected, while taking this picture); the bombardment of Ghent; the 42-centimeter guns in action and latest photos of the Kaiser with his troops.

3000 feet of these films have just arrived; they are now being shown for the first time in this country along with the other action photos. Be sure YOU see these pictures; there have been some war photos shown before, but these are real action pictures taken right at the front.

Now Showing at the Forrest Theatre

Twice daily, 2:30 and 8:30 p.m. Admission 25c and 50c.



ONE CENT