THE BLUE BUCKI

A BAFFLING MYSTERY AND BREATHLESS TALE OF ADVENTURE

By WILLIAM HAMILTON OSBORNE Author of "The Red Mouse," "The Running Fight," "Catspaw," Etc.

(Copyright, 1914, McBride, Nast & Co.) CHAPTER XXIV-(Continued) "What Miami bonds do you mean, Mr. Rutherford?" he asked, his old arrogance

coming to the front to chastise this young man's presumption.

"Why, the bonds belonging to the Ballantyne estate," repiled Craig in the most usual manner in the world. "I have been informed that they are now in your consession."

And who was your informer, pray!" "And who was your informer, pray."
That makes no difference, at present. I am simply trying to trace the history of these bonds. Are they the same ones that you brought from Florida..."
"Mr. Rutherford, this is idle! You know or the public knows—that I have not been out of the city. The Ballantyne bends are intact; and even if these were

they, I would have a perfect right to dis-pose of them, as representing my client's interests."

admit that these are the Ballan-"You admit that these are the Ballantyne bonds?" persisted Craig, still holding to a quiet tone, void of offense.
"I admit nothing—and—and I deny you the right to cross-examine me! What do you know about the Ballantyne bonds—and the Peninsula Bank?"
"It was the Peninsula Bank, then? Glad

to know it!" said Rutherford. Helderman looked nettled at his slight allp, and took refuge in silence. This selfssessed young man was more than his match, today.
"Mr. Ferguson," said Craig, after the

"Mr. Ferguson," said Craig, after the silence had grown perceptible. "I have reason to believe that these bonds have been offered for saie, without the rightful owner's consent. I make no charges against Mr. Helderman here, of course, but I ask you to hold these bonds in our custedy until we can investigate them."
"You will do nothing of the kind," retorted Helderman, calmly, "they are negotiable bonds payable to bearer. I am that bearer; I came to negotiate a sale. You will give them back to me or buy them from me."

buy them from me."
"I may do neither," Rutherford asserted,
"You will do one or the other," Helderman said as positively.

Ferguson grew uneasy.
"Mr. Rutherford, I am not sure but that Mr. Helderman is right. The bonds have come to us through him, and he has offered to sell them to us at a very satisfactory figure. Now, we must either buy them at his price or return them—"

"Correct!" agreed Helderman; while Craig was checked by a warning glance from the cashier, "Mr. Helderman," continued Ferguson, "I will give you a receipt for the bonds, and give you an early decision about them, say, tomorrow morning."

"Till tomorrow, then," agreed Helder-man not altogether pleased with the turn of affairs, though evidently thinking it best not to make any show of distrust. But as he went out the door he could not resist this parting shot. "Your sup-positions are idle, Mr. Rutherford, and you have no proof! If you try any you have no proof! If you try any monkey business with me I'll break your

Craig merely smiled at the vain threat and Helderman left abruptly

"Ferguson, have you heard—any talen-about Helderman these days?" asked Why he is all the time involved in

risky financial speculations—things that the rest of us would not dare tackle—but he always manages to win out with them. What do you mean, Mr. Ruther-ford?" mean just this. Helderman will

bear watching; and, mark my words, he won't last long down here. Up like a rocket, down like a stick! As for these bonds—did you notice how he changed color when I told him where they came

"Yes! How did you know?"
"I didn't-not for sure. I merely
guessed-and I made him tell me some
of it!" replied Craig, with a gleam of
triumph. "Before I get through he is

going to tell me some more!"
Ferguson grinned appreciatively, but
the look was quickly replaced by one of apprehension.

"You did some good detective work, Mr. Rutherford," he said, "but you still haven't evidence enough to hold these

"Nevertheless, I'm going to nold them!" responded Craig determinedly. "Understand, Ferguson, you are not to deliver them back under any circumstances without my consent. I, personally, will be responsible. Put him off pleasantly— but don't give them up!" Ferguson assented, but obviously ill at

reguson assented, but obviously ill at ease. He picked up the bonds and began to examine them again. Suddenly he gave a little exclamation and, without word of excuse, ran out of the office. In a few moments he was back again with a printed list, and again scanned the bonds.

"By George, I. believe you are visit."

"By George! I believe you are right about those Borderline Fives!" he shout-ed. "A big issue of those bonds utterly disappeared some years ago. No one has ever been able to account for them. No coupons, even, were ever presented. These are the missing bonds, and they look as though they had been stuck away in some safe deposit box and forgetten all this time!"

"You are mighty near right!" exclaimed Craig, sharing his excitement. He had made a long shot in accusing Helderman of having taken these bonds from the Florida bank, but the shot was evidently a bull's eve

a bull's-eye.
"Still we have no proof," said Fergu-son cautiously.

eon cautiously.

"We'll set the proof!" Rutherford replied, with a determination as great as though he had not faced the baffling problem of proving Helderman a scoundrel for a good while.

"You spoke about the bonds having been placed in a safe deposit box," said Ferguson. "Now, who can tell you positively what fant box contained?"

"There's just the rub!" responded Craig delefully. "As I understand it, only the man who rented the box knew of its contents—and he is dead!"

"Then Helderman has got you!" said the cashier decisively.

"Then Helderman has got you the cashier decisively.
"No, he hasn't—not by a long shot!" said Craig, "And I'm going to start out on another track right now; that is, if you'll allow your third bookkeeper some time off now and then!"

"I reckon we'll have to—so long as his business concerns million dollar issues

business concerns million dollar issues of bonds!" replied Ferguson facetiously. Rutherford was already at the tele-

Central, please give me 2304 Franklin!"

Ferguson watched him, secretly pleased with the energy and initiative displayed by the future head of his institution. It promised well for the bank, when the young man's incautious entitusiasm should be a second or the second of the second ing man's incautious entitions ould have been incllowed by experi-

"District Attorney's office? I wish to speak to Mr. Brookfield. Helio! Is that you, Monty? This is Craig talking." Then ensued a rapid-tire conversation, which resulted in an appointment for that afternoon for himself, another man and a lady.

and a lady.

"I'm not spoing to drag you or the bank into this," he said to Ferguson, by way of relieving that cautious person's apprehension. "There are two or three matters I want to talk over with my friend Brockfield, and the bonds will be tauched upon only incidentally."

"Well, I'll punch the time-clock for you, and continue to send you your pay savelope so long as you promise not to set the bank into trouble!" said Fersuson.

CHAPTER XXV. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. Rutherford met Miss Ballantyne and her father at the Criminal Court Bulls-ing. It had required some persuasion on his part to make Billis consent to come

"A Tale of Red Roses," George Randolph Chester's sparkling story of love and a traction company, will begin in The Evening Ledger next Saturday, April 3. It is a story of a big man, who happens to be a ward boss, and of a dashing girl, who happens to be the daughter of the traction company's president. There are, besides, a lot of people you will recognize at once—the sort that live right around the corner from you, and there is a promoter who is worthy of being a brother to Wallingford himself. The story is full of humor—the good American sort, and full of action. Read it every day in the Evening Ledger, beginning April 3.

to this awe-inspiring place; not that she | meannesses that you wouldn't believe feared for herself, but her constant thought was of her father and his safety, and it seemed to her that they would be thrusting their necks into a noose to venture thus into the law's domain. Craig, however, had assured them that their identity would be absolutely secret

for the present. They were again to be Mr. and Mrs. Talcott. Mr. Talcott, in fact, was the only name by which Ballantyne was known up at his hotel.
"Mr. Brookfield," said Craig, after he had introduced his companions to the Assistant District Attorney. "I have come to consult you about a matter of considerable importance. It relates to an estate consisting of a large amount of estate consisting of a large amount of negotiable bonds left by will to this lady. She has been defrauded of them by a man high up in financial circles—so you may appreciate the delicacy and importance of our mission."

"Who is the man accused?" asked

Brookfield promptly.
"Do not be astinished when I reply that he is J. Baron Helderman."
Billie saw the hands resting on the at-

torney's chair suddenly grip the wood.
"What do you suspect—what do you know about Helderman. Crais" asked Brookfield, suddenly deserting the formality with which he had opened the interview, and revealing himself a friend of Rutherford's as well as a person who suspected something of J. Baron Helderon his own account.

Rutherford recalled to his memory the episode of the diamond necklace, on which case Crowder was still working and striving to connect Helderman, but thus far unsuccessfully. Then be narrated the sallent points in regard to the flying visit to the Peninsula Bank, and how successfully Helderman had worked his skill to procure the bonds and other con-tents of the box, intended for some one

"I don't know how much or how little you may know about Helderman," he concluded: "but our chief difficulty is to discover the exact contents of that box he rifled, and our next is to overcome the most perfect allbl a mortal man ever invented. I am not sure but that is the biggest difficulty, after all!"

"I quite agree with your last remark— quite!" rejoined Brockfield slowly. "We have already had some experience with this allbi of Heiderman's. What have you already done in this last episode?" Craig rapidly outlined the events of the last few days, beginning his own experi-ences in the South, and telling of Helderman's visit to the downtown bank, that morning, in an endeavor to dispose of the bonds. He dwelt also upon Helderman's arrogant self-possession.

"But you are not sure that these are the same bonds?" asked Monty. "Not positive; but I practically made him admit that they were. I haven't the

shadow of a doubt in my mind, "Are you sure that Helderman went South, at all?"
"I wish I were!" said Craig ruefully.
"But while I am positive I saw him down

there-others are as positive-but not quite-that they saw him up here!"
"And there you are!" commented Brookfield. He had evidently heard this

sort of thing before.
"Only," went on Craig reluctantly, "on that same night Crowder positively saw him—or fancied he saw him—in his home on Riverside Drive."

"Crowder."
"Humph!" growled Brookfield. "Well, what do you think?" asked Crais.
"Only this, that Crowder or some one so near him that he could touch them, is always the one to see Helderman-inno-

"Dou you mean that you suspect Crowder-of-well, of what?" demanded

Rutherford, astounded by the implied doubt in Brookfield's words.

'This Helderman always proves his alibi-how? Crowder and his companion or companions always see him somewhere er companions asways see him somewhere eise. Personally, I don't mind telling you that I believe J. Baron Helderman to be quite capable of all the mischief attributed to him. He is a sort of Dr. Jekyli and Mr. Hyde. His business methods even are so questionable that he is liable to get into serious trouble on that ble to get into serious trouble on that score one of these days; but I leave that aside. He is apparently capable of petty

auchine you need.

possible in a man of his high pretensions I'll give you just one example

"Not long ago, an old broker, Mr. Braine, was knocked down in the narrow corridor of a building in Broad street. He was carrying an envelope-a big brown one containing negotiable securi-ties worth many thousand dollars. The man who knocked him down helped him to get up, handed him his brown envel-ope, apologized and dashed on. It was rather dark in the corridor, and the man's face couldn't be seen. Mr. Braine hurried on the bank to deposit his securities in the safety vault. The next day, he had occasion to take them out and examine them. His brown envelope con tained nothing but blank papers. The man who had knocked him down, the day before, had changed envelopes with That man seems to have been-J.

him. That man seems to have been—J. Baron Helderman!"

Billie gave a little exclamation of surprise and horror. The other two listeners sat spellbound. Much as they had distrusted Helderman, they had not conceived him guilty of—just this!

"What makes you think so?" finally saked. Crair.

asked Craig.
"It was late, after dusk. Two men were trailing Helderman, on another matter. They saw him, and him only, enter. and leave the corridor. The safety vault had been kept open a few minutes over-time to accommodate Mr. Braine; 20 these two men knew exactly the time They are positive that only Helderman went into the place; and no one else either entered or left it, at that time. Braine came staggering by, and explained his mishap, about two minutes after Helder-man had disappeared.

clear that Helderman did Then It's it!" cried Rutherford, exultantly, "By George, that's where he got the cash to buy the bank at Mlami."

"it's clear to the two men who saw Helderman in Broad Street; but it's not clear to Crowder and another man who saw Helderman at the same identical time—on Riverside Drive!"

Rutherford almost groaned.
"Brookfield, we aren't any nearer to catching Helderman than you are, if you are always encountering his double."

are always encountering his double."

Brookfield did not immediately reply.
Billie cast a look of womanly sympathy
at Craig, who sat in moody abstraction,
and she had a sudden, unbelievable, inexcusable desire to put both her arms
around his head, and smooth the wrinkles
out of his brow. She blushed at the
amazing beldness of the thought.
"So you think that Counded his are

amazing boldness of the thought.
"So you think that Crowder is his accomplier." asked Craig.
Brookfield nodded. Rutherford looked at his friend with an expression that said as plainly as words, that he thought him mildly demented.
"If you think I'm crazy now, Craig," said Monty, interpreting the look. "you".

said Monty, interpreting the look, "you'll be sure of it when I explain my theory.

Crowder is a hypnotist—that's my view
He makes the person with him see Helderman—where he isn't'"

"It's not impossible," Rutherford

agreed, seriously.

He was mentally reviewing his own last experience up on the Drive, and the lame explanations the two detectives had given of the banker's sudden disappearance. Against that, however, he was banking his own judgment of people—a pet habit of his—and he could not distrust Crowder, however much this novel theory of Brockfield's might have to commend it. "But I'll bank on Crowder!" he said aloud. "Meanwhile, we will keep each other informed, Brockfield."

The attorney agreed, as he bade them

attorney agreed, as he bade them good-day.

The three callers rode uptown in the same cab; but to Craig's surprise, Ballantyne refused to go with them to the West Tenth Street house.

"Why keep up this elaborate hide-and-seek, air" Rutherford questioned, care-fully disguising his impatience. "I know that you do live with your daughter. I have heard your voice downstairs; and you have reported to me about occur-rences there, in her absence. It seems absurb to suppose that I can be described. absurb to suppose that I can be deceived now. It's rather an insult to my intelli-gence, and somewhat of a-er-well, it would seem to indicate that although you are ready to avail yourself of my services

We Can Furnish Everyone

the Exact Typewriter

He Needs

We alone can do this-because the one Universal Typewriter Line is the

Remington Line

The present-day completeness of the Remington Line is

a thing undreamed of in the typewriter world a few years ago. Machines of every standard design-shifting carriage (Remington), shifting type segment (Monarch), key for every character (Smith Premier), correspondence commander-in-chief only in name! Par on my bluntness, but-"

Rutherford! Mr. Rutherford!' exclaimed Ballantyne, "surely you can-not think so little of us as that!" "Surely you cannot have so little confidence in me as that!" retorted Craig. "Really, Mr. Ballantyne, what difference does it make, now? The fortune is yoursif you can get it away from Helderman. It is no longer necessary for you to carry

out the stipulations of that craxy will-even if you ever did it-and I'm sure I'd be the last to blame you." be the last to blame you."

The older man's face paled a trifle at the younger one's implied accusation. He had opened his lips as if about to make an explanation; now he compressed them firmly. He was a Southerner and not accustomed to being called a liar.

"Mr. Rutherford," he said stiffly, "I live now, as I have lived ever since I landed, at the Monolith. Good afternoon, Good-by, little daughter."

Rutherford climbed back into the cab and shut the door with, a bang. He didn't reliah being told that black is white.

"Well, I'll be—"

"Well, I'll be---"
"Oh! I shouldn't want you to!" Billie protested, her eyes laughing, while her lips puckered into - pout.

"Sometimes I feel as if I'd like to shake rou-hard-and punch the nonsense out of your father's handsome head!" Craig

"It isn't father who has the houselse in his-handsome head," she replied, enigmatically. "I should have told you long ago, but I have been waiting for you to find out. And father has been overcautious on my account—just as I have been, on his. Until this muddle is entirely settled, he will not cease to live absolutely according to the dictates of the will." the will." "But he has been in the 10th street

"But he has been in the 10th street house!" Craig asserted.

"He has not! And if you don't take my word for it, and stop bothering about what is no your anair, !'Il never speak to you again!"

"I realize that I have bothered a good deal about what is not my affair," said Craig bitterly. "I beg your pardon, I am

They were both silent for a moment

They were both silent for a moment; then the girl, with what Craig inwardly called the perversity of her sex—the be-witching lure of a dozen moods rolled into one and utilized without rhyme or reason to drive a man distracted—began to woo him out of his Ill-temper. "You think I'm unappreciative, don't you?" she asked, softly. Craig made no reply. "But I'm not!" she assured herself. "And I just hope with all my heart—""Hope with something you have."

"Hope with something you have," raig suggested.

"Don't you think I have a heart?" she reproached, with a subtle little emphasis n the second personal pronoun. "The selfish interest or motive is usually the strong one. Unless I were to see your heart doing a little work on my behalf, instead of all for your father. I fear I shouldn't have much faith in its existence. We all have to be shown, you street. The two assailants escaped, Wilson was taken to Mount Sinai Hospital In a serious condition,

artlessiy,
Craig's heart—his own member—
thumped furiously at this, but he resolutely kept his face turned away, and
preserved a semblance of his vanished
ill-humor. He didn't want to lose any
of this hard-earned advantage!
"If you really had any heart for me,
you know, it would suggest ways of revealing itself. The mere asking of the
question proves conclusively that—you
haven't!"

haven'i!"
"Why, Craig!" she said reproachfully.
It was the first time she had ever used his first name, and he had never realized until now how good a name it was.
He turned toward her quickly, a world of yearning in his eyes—and just at that moment the cab drew up in front of herbare.

"I would ask you to come in, but-" she began shyly.
"I'm coming in anyway!" he announced determinedly. "Miss Olmstead is a friend of mine. She's not like your former friend, Sophie. Perhaps she'll ask me

"If she doesn't, I shall," replied Billie, "If she doesn't, I shall," replied Billie, dimpling, "The only reason I hesitated dimpling, "The only reason horrid."

dimpling. "The only reason I hesitated was because you were—so horrid!"
"Why horrid?" protested Craig. "I only asked a few natural questions!"
"Which you ought just as naturally to have guessed for yourself!" she retorted.
"Do you mean about your father, or about your heart?" asked Rutherford.
"Of course, about father and the house!" she said, confused. "But here we stand talking it all over on the sidewalk. stand talking it all over on the sidewalk. The driver hasn't been paid his fare, and Miss Olmatead is peeping out of the window. Come in, and I'll show you all the secrets of this wonderfully mysterious house—then maybe you'll be satisfied." (CONTINUED TOMORROW.)

Drexel Estate Property Sold Property belonging to the estate of Joseph W. Drexel, formerly of this city, at 162 Madison avenue and at 25 South 29th street, New York, has been sold to the George Backer Realty Company, including Arnstein and Levy. The purchasers ing Aristein and Levy. The purchasers who acquired the property from the heirs, Mrs. Catharine Drexel Penrose, Mrs. Lucy Drexel Dahlgren, Mrs. Elizabeth Drexel Lehr and Josephine W. Drexel, Intend to creet a 12-story loft building on the alle.

Student Hurt When Hit by Auto Weaver Marston, of Haverford, mem-ber of a prominent Main Line family and student at the University of Pennsyl vania, was badly cut and brulsed when his bleycle collided with an automobile, said to belong to J. J. Leedom, of New-town Square, at Lancaster sycnue and

College Circle, yesterday, Assault Victim Seriously Hurt A brick in the hands of one of two as-sailants fractured the skull of John Wil-son, of Front street, in a fight last night Passyunk avenue and Fitzwater

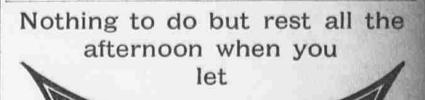
How could I show you? she saked 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RICHMOND'S FALL

> Grand Army Men Who Took Part in Decisive Action of War Celebrate.

Grand Army veterans in this city celeprated today the 50th anniversary of the evacuation of Richmond, Va., April 2, 1865. Seven days later General Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House. Of the Union army which entered Richmond the day following its abandonment only a few hundred men survive. Some of these veterans are in Philadelphia. Other soldiers who were mustered out short time before the turning point at the Southern capital, and those who were

serving their country in other parts. the campaign, apeak now with regret cause they were not "in at the finish. The fall of Richmond was the sequel to the plercing of the defences of Peters burg, 22 miles south, where for nearly ten months General Lee had stubbornly held the key to the capital. The faral break in the Confederate lines was the result which Grant had been anticipating

day after day for a year. Fifty years ago this morning, at I o'clock, the assault was made which sealed the fate of the Confederacy. The men in blue, with irresistible force, swept over the outer intrenchments and swarmed into two of the inner lerts. General Lee telegraphed to Jefferson Davis that the two cities must be abandoned at once. Richmond was set on fire by the retiring inhabitants. On the fellowing marriage April 2 the Union. following morning, April 2, the Union army marched into the blackened and panic-stricken capital of the Confederals



FELS-NAPTHA

soap

do the hard part of your work. It gets right at the dirt and makes it disappear. Be sure to

> We've solved the problem-Fels-Soap Powder A wonder worker that won't hurt hands.

use cool or lukewarm water.



TAVE a fresh delight this Easter-time! Here's a sunny, sweet beverage to welcome the gladsome Spring. Its spicy deliciousness is different from any other. Its healthful fruit juices are stimulating. You'll be amazed at the wonderful new flavor of

HIRES Champanale

The Unfermented Champagne

Let us impress you with the fact that CHAMPANALE is a new discovery—a new beverage. Its basis is rich, unfermented juice of full-ripe Niagara white grapes and grape fruit. With this is infused a trace of pure ginger. Then the beverage is highly carbonated.

CHAMPANALE has been received

enthusiastically by the finest hotels and clubs of the city. We recently were favored with letters of praise from the managers of the Ritz-Carlton, Adelphia, St. James and Bellevue-Stratford, as well as the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. The Manufacturers' Club, Union League and a host of others serve CHAMPANALE to their guests.

You can secure a supply in splits, pints or quarts from your own grocer. Serve in champagne glasses.

The Charles E. Hires Company Bell Phone, Spruce 3643 210 S. 24th Street Keystone Phone, Race 1887

