THE SOLITARY HOUSE

Copyright, 1918, by Alfred A. Knopf. Inc. Copyright by the Public Ledger Company THIS STARTS THE STORY

Keith Norton, tramp, makes him-self at home at the Solitary House and there receives a visit from a girl. She asks for her sister and insists upon searching the house. She sees something on the second floor which causes her to faint, but will not tell Keith what it was. Norton that night is awakened by somebody choking him. He searches the house but finds nobody. In the boxroom he finds a box of jewels. Next day he finds the girl unconscious in the woods. He summons a doctor and tells him that his "sister" has been injured by a fall. When the girl recovers consciousness her memory has gone. A nurse from the village her. The nurse's screams attends waken Keith during the night. He finds her fainting on the floor. declares that she has seen the devil.

AND HERE IT CONTINUES

Esme's Questions

CHE crawled back to her bed and Nowould say no more, but lay shaking and moaning as if in an extremity of terror. Nor did she even attempt to do anything for the patient of whom she was supposed to be in charge and whom she had so seriously upset. Esme indeed was trembling violently, and seemed on the verge of fresh collapse. but Keith sat beside her, holding her hand and trying to soothe her. and presently she grew calmer.

Toward daybreak she fell into a sound sleep, and Keith, who was thoroughly worn out, since this was his second night with little rest, lay down ; on the floor across the threshold of the room, and almost at once was overtaken by deep slumber.

When he awoke it was broad day. Esme was still sleeping, but the nurse had vanished. On the kitchen table downstairs was a brief, ill written note to say she had gone and did not intend to return, this house being, in her opinion, she wrote, no place for a Christian. A good deal disturbed by her desertion. Keith went back upstairs and found Esme now awake.

"Is that you, Keith?" she said "Yes," he said: "it's most awfully

awkward, the nurse has cleared off." "Because of-?" Esme asked.

"Because she's a fool," growled Keith, "because of her nightmare last night; her bad dream has seared her out of her silly mind."

"Was it a dream, do you think?" Esme asked slowly.

"Well, I didn't see anything," an swered Keith, "and I don't think there was anything to see, either."

aging as best he could, and fortunately nurse's desertion.

"I never heard of such a thing: it's The doctor came fairly early again, cuses to satisfy her, and he saw her the old man had taken his de. reached the entry I struck the pile of the last case she'll ever get from me." and professed himself well satisfied with looking at him rather oddly once or parture Esme seemed very quiet and quilts I was carrying against the rail

He spent some time with Esme, and

told Keith afterward that while she Esme

A Mystery Story By E. R. PUNSHON

THE BLUE UMBRELLA

By Lizzie M. Peabody

he said. "Make natural references to the past; any little clue may give her the lost thread. But don't worry her about it or let her worry herself with trying to remember; let it come ustu-rally, with as little conscious effort as her Aunt Polly's voice shrilled mootonously on and on. possible.

With a sudden change of mood, the Keith promised to do the best he but at the same time, as he girl stopped the motion of the machine knew absolutely nothing about her past and faced about.

life, he did not see how he was to make "Tis blue umbrella all day long and natural passing references to it during I dream of it at night," she cried out impatiently. "I hated to carry the faded old thing any way and now there "I hated to carry the conversation, as the doctor recom-The next day, as it happened, their has been so much trouble about it 1'll

handmaid failed them also, so they were never carry it again, even if you find alone all day and had to manage as it. "If Annette returned the umbrella, best they could. Esme, who got up dur-

ing the morning, seemed to think this where is it?" she asked with an air of excellent fun, and to Keith the situ- triumph When lending the umbrella to An-

nette, Eileen had whispered : "Return it as soon as possible, dearie, Aunt Polly values it for the sake of bygone as-sociations." And careless little Annette, their neighbor, had promised with a sweet little giggle to return it within twenty-four hours.

DAILY NOVELETTE

Ever since that time she had stoutly maintained that she brought back the umbrella the night of Eileen's candy party, and that she had set it in the such powerful leaps that instead of a dozen steps for him to slow up and by more Billy was waiting for him, corner of the little entry at the foot of covering seventy feet at a stride, he that time he was several blocks away. the stairway

constantly forgetting things of greater importance, always remembered to ask whizz !" they could hear his seventy- springy boots sending him leaping back, awful jar, each time she saw them if the umbrel la had been found yet, and fair-mind-ed Eileen could not blame them for re-the air. Whirr! Whirr! went his "Ho.

maining away, although she missed scimitar, as he slashed menacingly back "Come down and catch us." and forth. Nearer, nearer, nearer, then, "Yah, wait until I stop these plague, whoesh ! Peggy felt the scimitar flash boots, and I'll get you quickly enough." them terribly. When spring came the mystery was as far from being solved as ever.

past her car as Red Beard leaped with- grunted Red Beard, while his piggy eyes Then, one particularly bright and in striking distance. striking distance. "It's all over with us," thought Back and forth flew Red Beard, apwarm morning, Aunt Polly told Eileen that it would be a fine time to put

things to right in the attic, and Eileer gathered pails, brooms, brushes and soap, and sang at her work. She jerked up the cover of the large box in which they kept the extra bedding and, noticing that several comforters had been carclessly placed in the box, pulled them out to smoothly refold them.

as something went crashing to the floor, and with a little scream of joy she seized the old blue umbrella and hugged it closely. No one could complain of

lack of color in Eileen's cheeks now as, clutching tightly the umbrella, she ran and Mrs. Jackson tried her best to make half of them. You see, I never believe swiftly down the stairs to the sitting me enjoy myself. room, where her nunt rocked slowly

back and forth by the window. uncomfortable, for she had so obviously "See what I found in the bedding gone out of her way to prepare a big Easterly's will run?" she shouted joyously, and Aunt spread.

Polly's face turned slowly to an ashy The Merriweathers have a boy about gray, while it in turn expressed surtwelve, and he let the cat out of the , pleasure and-yes-chagrin. prise bag during dinner when he said to me

"Why, Eileen! You have found the "I wished you lived-here, Mr. Flint." 'Why?'' I asked smilling. Eileen answered cagerly, and hurriedly "So we could cat like this all the time. Ain't it swell?" most the entire way to the Plumb house. and pretended not to notice it. Every time Mrs. Jackson caught my began two-stepping around the room eye she treated me to one of those starwith it tling grins of hers. Some of them were

"But, Eileen, where did you find it?" speak," added her worthy father with again, with a slight wrinkling of her again the aver forget those teeth. They "We don't want to get your makers commiss for you, for her to copy them. That's the last thing we for you,

It happened that Stacy came home bite. the next day for a short visit and after Nevertheless, I had a good meal, and the next day for a short visit and after Eileen had told her story he remained ilent for a moment silent for a moment. "Eileen !" he crie he cried at last, "don't at mentally laughing at them.

As we rose from the table Mrs. Mer-riweather said, "If you two men will excuse me I'll wash the dishes. fred's going to help me, aren't you, Alfred dear?

"Alfred dear" ungraciously said, "I thoughtful. She went into the drawing at the foot of the stairway? I dropped gotta.

the last case she'll ever get from me," and professed anished with absolutely his patient's condition and progress, twice, disgraceful." And professed and stayed till afternoon. He spent some time with Esme, and For the rest of the day Keith and was able presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the rest of the day Keith and the presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the rest of the day Keith and the presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the rest of the day Keith and the presently to persuade her for the rest of the day Keith and the rest of a good smoke. Never mind the curtains knocked down the und

(Peggy, scatching a movie show sees Red Beard chasing Billy Belgium and the Bronze Genie, and finds herself suddenly drawn into the pic-(ure.)

RED BEARD GETS A BUMP DEGGY certainly was astonished. Only a moment before she had been safely seated in the movie theatre watching the show and now all of a sudden the picture had become real and there she was on Bronze Genie's shoulders in wild flight before Red Beard.

"Remember Red Beard's powerful nagic," warned Billy, who was racing

on ahead astride of Balky Sam. "Cross your fingers so his spells will not work." Peggy and the Genie promptly obeyed. They didn't want to be turned into stone statues, as had happened to Peggy, and the Bronze Genie swung the Genie when he had defied Red around fiercely to meet the expected nearly ninety feet. Beard in Peggy's defense.

attack. But Red Beard wasn't there Coming down hill in his seventy-foot and his seventy-foot boots carried him his smarting leg, but his springy boots, Red Beard gained speed, taking eighty feet away at one stride. It took sent him flying back toward Billy. he stairway. That was three months ago, and Stacy nd Annette had ceased to visit the Vaverlys; for Aunt Polly, although Vaverlys; for Aunt Polly, although and Annette had ceased to visit the flew fifteen times faster than the swift-Waverlys; for Aunt Polly, although est man could run.

whizz!" they could hear his seventy-foot boots hitting the ground sharply, and once more he went far over their "Ho, ho, ho." roared the Genie, he laughed too soon, for just then t

"Yah, wait until I stop these plaguey speed.

(In the next installment will told how Red Beard gets lassoed a takes a harder fall.

Tell all these women to apply a

Bureau (in their off time of cou

If you will write to the editor

dry goods journals they will, I'm a

tell you where you can buy supplie wholesale, the silks, dolls' heads, fra

I would suggest that you begin

some one to do the work whill

United States Employment

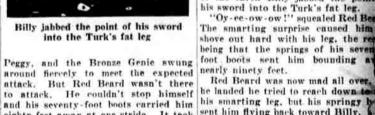
at least pay a living wage.

needles.

DREAMLAND ADVENTURES -- ByDaddy

"RED BEARD'S BOOTS"

Billy jabbed the point of his sword into the Turk's fat leg



gleaming scimitar.

Red Beard tried to jerk missed his footing. Wham ! he las "Clank-whizz! Clank-whizz! Clank- Again Red Beard turned around, his on his side, giving his fat body

parently unable to stop, but present

Peggy noticed that each step back a

his strides over their heads were eigh

feet long, then seventy-five, then se

enty, then sixty-five. Soon Red Beau

would have them so shortened that

would be able to reach them with

Balky Sam's back and ran to whe

Red Beard's next stride would law

Back came Red Beard, raising his scin

itar to cut Billy in two. But Billy didn't intend to be cut

two. He dodged down low and

instant Red Beard's heel crunched i

to the earth Billy jabbed the point

Billy, seeing this, jumped fre

was becoming shorter. At,

"Ho, ho, ho !" roared the Genie. "Ho, ho, ho !" laughed the Genle. up, they saw Red Beard's band horsemen charging toward them at

BRUNO DUKE, Solver of Business Problem By HAROLD WHITEHEAD, Author of "The Business Career of Peter Flint," etc. Her brown eyes widened in surprise THE PROBLEM OF THE OUTSIDE clothes are to be trimmed with fur a small wage. Why you women COMPETITION same as last year.'

ame as last year." there I don't know when there is p "I see. Now were those exclusive of better-paid work to be had. Getting a Line on Easterly MERRIWEATHER JACKSON in-wited me to his home for Sunday "Not all of them-er-not me "Not all of them-er-not more than in running too close to fashion. I like and see if they can't get work that As a matter of fact, she made me feel to get something extreme." "I suppose you have no idea what

He show his head. "Won't get the least idea until they arrive." "You could if you went to their New need right down to silk thread

York store, I suppose." "No, not unless some woman went

"So we could eat like this all the ime. Ain't it swell?" "Could you send one of your girls soliciting business personally an your friends and then get your friends who is really elever on design and who to give your name to their friends has a good eye for style, color and such whom you may call. Then, when you have all the

like? "f course I could," he hesitated, "but you personally can do you should er-I don't know as that would help, hire

commission to go and get more w Good luck to you in your pl fight !

He looked blank and gasped, "Then--why-why-what's the idea ?"

TODAY'S BUSINESS QUESTION What is a Bondsman?

Answer will appear tomorrow. ANSWER TO VESTERDAY'S BUSINESS QUESTION

"Bonded, Warehouse" is building owned by persons approved by the Secretary of the Treasury and who have given bonds or guarantee for the strict observance of the

Ignt : I am coming to you for advice. Will frankly give me your opinion on this may My husband is an expert in his line (siate mortgages, trust funds, etc.), is forty-four and has been in his pre-beneficially and the set of the sta-st about 4:00 a year, and ne set at about 4:00 a fault, yet whenever there en office created or a vacancy to be ful higher up they either bring in some one for bindine or put someone who came long at him in the higher position. He is dreast discouraged, and it has taken the he right out of him. The mas been dread other positions men who know his stering worth, but a vision to him a the forther its succe thing in his to his own loss, financially. Tan you help me diamose this case? work must be satisfactory or he would

Now, what would you do personally

The apparent sincerity of your le

ation would have been perfect beyond box. all dreams had only his mind been just a little more at ease. The following morning the missing handmaid's father arrived to claim her umbrella." she cried faintly. "Yes." wages and to say she was not coming any more. It seemed she had had a most the entire way for the Plumb house fright on the way home; she had seen-or heard-something-or somebody-Little Annette's face registered only exactly what, was anything but clear. pure joy as she seized the umbrella and But anyhow she had been badly frightened and she was not coming again.

impressiveness of their own and pro-

of course it will."

lose my memory.

naturally,"

Came

"Oh, but it will," he assured her

"Keith," she said, "what did that

man mean by saying that ill things happen here?"

"Oh, that was all rubbish." he an-

"My dear child." he protested, "you

talking about it and worrying." "How can I help when you won't

"How can I help," she exclaimed

again, very passionately, "when I don't

know who I am, or why I am here, or

why you say you are my brother when I

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

know very well that you are not?"

he answered evasively.

tell me anything?" she said.

"It's an ill place this, and ill things happen."

"And if I may make so bold as to """. And if I may make so bold as to ""But, Eileen, where did you find it?" so sudden and that her store teeth click-But though he said this his tone on the landing just outside her door. He is any one comes prowling about here But closely he shut this his tone of the and ing just outside her door her but re-lacked conviction, and he felt that Esme was not satisfied. She suggested that she had better get

up to help, but he persuaded her to lie cupboard and ready to spring at once on "They were all fast." he answered happen." still. He got her some breakfast, man- any intruder who should venture to moodily, "that night the nurse said me prowling there. But he heard and saw nothing, save look at her."

it was not long before the doctor ap-peared and showed himself very angry fell during the night on the glass of declared Esme, and went on to ask And indeed Keith would have been very he lay down on the bed and slept for it very difficult, impossible rather, to had he only had the very least idea in answer. He had to make what ex- the world where else to go to. And don't you remember that as 1

on back to

she saw some one open the door and in carnest that his words had an odd

it had done Keith heard her

He was obviously and so thoroughly

was getting on very well physically her somewhat disturbing.

quiet were what she needed, and as soon as her bodily health was completely of good, for she was looking much bet-ter and appeared stronger in every way, see she would soon be all right again. "H re-established it was to be hoped that but Keith's lack of sleep was beginher memory would return.

He went away, promising to obtain in his worn expression and bloodshot He went away, promising to obtain another nurse for them, but when he day he fell sound asleep on a chair on came back late in the afternoon he which he sat down for a moment and brought only a young girl from a cot. only awoke when it was beginning to tage situated four or five miles away. but also one of the dwellings nearest "Poor boy." she said, seeing him

to them. She was to give what help open his eyes, "you must have been she could for a few hours during the quite worn out."

day, but made it quite plain at once that rubbing his eyes. "I didn't know she would not spend the night there. What made you get up? The doctor It was the best arrangement the doctor said-

"I got tired of lying up there," she had been able to make, for strange sto-ries were already in circulation, and no say I wasn't to. Besides, I thought one was at all anxious to have anything perhaps something had happened; it to do with the place or willing on any was all so quiet and you didn't an terms whatever to be found anywhere swer when I called." He felt very vexed and annoyed with

near it after dark.

"Pack of silly fools." growled the much better for his rest. She condoctor, who was in a very bad temper. tinued to question him and managed "I have been telling them what I think to make him admit that he had re of them, but's no good; they're as ob- mained on watch the greater part of stinate as donkeys. The only thing I each night. can advise you to do is to get a nurse down from London. I could telegraph for one, but even so I doubt if she could get here tonight."

Keith hesitated on the score of expense, for he did not quite see where was to get the money from to pay for a nurse. The final arrangement arrived at was that the girl the doctor had brought was to come every morning to help, and that she was to be allowed to depart quite early so as to be able get to ber home well before dark. As for the night Keith and Esme were to manage as best they could, the doctor declaring, however, that he did not suppose Esme would require any attention.

Keith busied himself during the rest of the day making two heavy wooden bars to fit into the slots he placed within Esme's room on each side of the door, so that she could not only lock herself in but could also barricade the or with a security nothing short of a battering ram could affect.

"I don't know what was the matter last night," he said, "and whether that woman really saw something or whether it was just a bad dream she had, but we will make sure that no one can open is door without your knowing." He made up a bed for himself, to

bed. He Once she began question him rather closely, but he bers no harm, for in the morning she room. She stopped at once and turned must have picked it up among the was able to plead the doctor's orders seemed much better and stronger, and toward him.

mental state was still very puzzling and that she was not to excite herself, and the doctor appeared very pleased with she was too tired and feeling too weak her progress when he arrived. She was can play the piano and yet cannot re-

The chief thing he impressed upon to persist. During the night he again so well, he said, that he decided not to member how or where I learned?" with pleasure. "I didn't know-I grin. Brund the was that she was to be kept keept with being being being being her barred and locked and this house was in so lonely and out know you must not worry yourself. The paused, her face flushing, and he said man. quiet, as the effects of the shock she had door, and in the morning she said she of the way spot that it took up a lot of doctor always says that the more you ruefully : sustained still remained. Rest and had slept well and soundly. Her rest his time to get there. He told Keith worry yourself and fret about it, the had evidently done her a good deal that she had made a remarkably good longer your memory will be coming

see she would soon be all right again. "How can one help worrying?" she But there was still no sign of any im-answered impatiently. "It's silly of

THE AMERICAN

"Tis quality; 'tis sterling worth;

Tis where true freedom takes its

Where true democracy has birth.

If John Q. Alden looks with scorn

He surely is, though native born,

f John Gozinsky loves the thing

He's now a true American.

f parlor Bolshevists defame

they plot.

game

Old Glory means to every man. Though once the subject of a king,

The government 'gainst which

While erstwhile strangers play the

Who is it needs the melting pot?

GRIF ALEXANDER.

An alien sojourning here.

On what his countrymen hold dear

America is more than land;

stand :

in his worn expression and bloodshot "Try all you can to stimulate it," is wrong and it never does come back told you so? Just plumb carelessat all?"

would have been prevented."

quilts.

was expected to.

she said, still sobbing.

Lucky Stone.")

was no one else to care for me."

for once. And don't talk shop now although I know it's hard for men not "I am so glad! That must be the to talk business. I do hope, Mr. Flint. she turned to me with that inevitable

with pleasure. "I didn't know-I grin. "that you and that unevitable thought perhaps Aunt Polly-" She Bruno Duke will be able to help my He's deserving of success. and I have gone through a lot together, and now." she straightened up abrupt-"What an awkward bungler I am.

ly. "now I must wash the dishes. Come, Alfred, dear." I suppose any one else would have heard the umbrella fall and all the trouble Jackson lit a eigar with such evident

hesitation that I guessed he was not al-lowed to smoke in his own house. In a Then with a cheerful grin he remarked : "Your Aunt Polly'll say 'I few moments, however, we were both comfortably smoking and talking of general things, which after a time drift-But Aunt Polly received the explana-

eagerly : "there can be no doubt of that; tion very quietly and not at all as she ed to business. "Have you heard yet." I asked. Afterward Eileen "when Easterly's are going to open for the spring showing?"

found her crying softly. "Forgive me, Eily," she sobbed. "Oh, I have been so hateful. I re-member now that I placed the umbrella swered quickly. among the folds of the comforters, in-"Keith," she said again. "I think tending to take it upstairs myself, and it was an ill thing like that made me then I forgot all about it. And, Eily, I thought perhaps you knew where it was and wouldn't tell me. We'll know you only make it much worse by g-g-give the umbrella to the junkman,

"Don't cry, dear," Eileen said softly as she gathered the little trembling old "It is better for it to come back woman into her young, strong arms. "I, too, have been at fault and we'll 'You musn't worry, that's the main keep the umbrella to remind me that it is now my turn to be kind, patient, loving and unselfish, even as you were to me all through the years when there

"What's going to be fashionable this Can you help me?" (Mrs.) S. G. P. (The next complete novelette-"The year, Mr. Jackson?"

revenue laws. These houses are used imported merchandise until the duties are paid or the goods have been advanced. He has no to habits or manners, and when he friend keeps that friend for life. executive ability, because he has leader along religious and other e-shipped without entry.

In this space Mr. Whitehead will answer readers' business questions on was your problem? I shall anxiously watch for your re-and trust you will forgive such a ten epistic from A FOND WIF buying, selling, advertising and employ-He causes me to break a rule never to a

Business Questions Answered

swer anonymous correspondence. ar I have come to you for a little help which I need very much at present and have no one else to go to for advice. I am the wife of a soldier. My husband is a good man and as much of a Vinkee as 1 am both our fathers being American soldiers. He has n insurance to pay monthly, which means

your husband is that he is too en He lets other people impose upon hi our fathers being American soldiers. He has an insurance to paintify, which means about \$10, besides Liberty Bonds to pay monthly. This least Liberty Bonds to pay lars to spend for nesded articles. Now, here is an used of the story. More than six months agained of the story. More silk shade firm. I went to work for a but have never some began at \$8 per week, but have never some began at \$8 per week, but have never some began at \$8 per week, but have never some began at \$8 per week, but have never some began at \$8 per week, but have never some began at \$8 per week, but have never some began to be the stary of the other to be any men any of the other who started with me. And, strange to say, the price of reverse.

""when Easterly's are going to open for the spring showing?" ""Er-yees; Mike Owens tipped me off today that they open on Wednesday, April 16, and close Friday, April 19, They've hired the ballroom at the Hor-ton House for the week, as usual. Mon-day and Tuesday they get ready and Saturday they pack up." "That's just about a month from to-day - today's the 20th." "Yes, Mr. Flint-er-if we are to put on our opening at the same time we'll have to get busy, and I've some re-markable styles, too. Real nobby, ex-clusive designs." His enthusiasm died as a rapidly as it was born. "But it won from Easterly's whatever they of-fer.".

I think it disgraceful that the firm job and take his courage in his I "It looks like fur again. All the you work for squeeze you down to such He metaltic interined to make good i He probably is afraid that if he t on a new job he may not make By CHAS. McMANUS and will lose the job and then nothing at all. But if he has the stuff in him he ought to have confid in himself enough to put it to the t If he is really a good man he sh ask for what he wants and let his f know very plainly that unless they has a future for him he will be look around for something else.

I must warn you, however, that y problem is a very difficult one, when a man has "stayed put," a were, for twenty-five years, it is job to regalvanize his abilities in activities.

Expert Advice

The young man sidled into the j ler's shop with a furtive air. He has ed the jeweler a ring with the mered statement that he wished narked "with some names." "What names do you wish ?"

quired the jeweler in a sympati

"From Henry to Clara," the ye man blushingly whispered. The jeweler looked from the

to the young man and said in a fat manner: "Take my advice, young and have it engraved simply, Henry.' "-Loudon Opinion.

·..., DOROTHY DARNIT—Maybe the Fool Dog, Like Some People, Has Social Ambitions Conveight, 1919, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc. BECAUSE HE THINKS HE'S A WHY? WHAT KIND OF A DOG DO YOU CALL THAT - LITTLE CIRL? WHY DO YOU WHISPER? DONT WANT TO HURT HE'S ONLY A HIS FEELINS JAPANESE SPANIEL MUTT-CHARLES ME MANUS

"You see," he explained, "if there

himself, but had to admit that he was