

TODAY'S MYSTERY STORY

By PHILIP FRANCIS NOWLAN

Yesterday's Mystery Solution

PAINT is used to cover up things. argued Harvey Hunt in the mystery of the chemist Dunleavy's disappearance in the case of "Eight Kings." It would have been very strange for Dunleavy not to try to leave some message or warning for his sister, hence the probability was that the daub of paint covered such a message, and was put there by some one who had an incentive in preventing that message reaching her.

If he had been kidnapped, and the signs of struggle indicated he had, the kidnapper would have such an incentive. Accepting the kidnapping theory, it was obvious that Dunleavy had broken from the captors and locked himself in the windowless room to prepare the message, that he had chosen some code to which his sister might have the clue, and that finally his abductors had smashed in the door and carried him off after hastily attempting to obliterate the message.

leavy had used a code, the old formula for reading off an arranged pack without looking at the cards. "Eight Kings, threatened (three ten) to save (seven) ninety-five queens, for (four) a (ace) sick (six) knave." Giving the jack, queen and king the numerical values of eleven, twelve and thirteen, and counting backward, since Dunleavy had probably counted forward in coding his message, Hunt decided it in this fashion: S V G X C W Y J P G G O E T R L X 2 3 3 10 2 7 9 5 1 2 4 1 0 1 8 1 3 3 1 0 K id n a p p e d b y A r t l e f n Y l u g e d i s s u b f h b x p l l 2 7 9 5 1 2 4 1 0 1 8 1 3 3 1 0 2 7 9 5 T e l l S e e r e t S e r v i c e

IX Can you solve this point in the case of—

The Substitute Ring

Harvey Hunt was just settling himself for a lazy evening with his books when Jevvins called with a note. Jevvins was Mrs. Caston's Wallis's butler. The note was from Mrs. Caston's Wallis, asking Hunt to call at once in evening dress, ostensibly as a guest, in reality to discuss the emerald ring Mrs. Wallis was entertaining that evening, and she suspected that some

one of her guests had substituted a ring with a paste stone for her \$20,000 emerald. Harvey Hunt accepted the invitation with alacrity. "It must have been stolen while I was down in the kitchen," Mrs. Wallis explained. "I went down for about twenty minutes to give Jevvins and Anna and Florence their final instructions and to make the mayonnaise. I'm very proud of my mayonnaise, you know, and I always make it myself. I had been up to my dressing room a moment before and started to put the ring on, but decided to wait until I had come upstairs again. It was the real ring I left on the boudoir table. It fitted perfectly. "Then, when I came up from the kitchen, I went to my dressing room again and started to put on the ring. It was quite too small, Mr. Hunt, and

when I looked closer at it I detected several little points about the setting which made me quite sure that some one had stolen my ring and left a substitute in its place. For one thing, the inscription on the inside of the band was missing. "I thought it better not to say anything at once to precipitate a scene, so I wrote you that note and sent Jevvins off with it, and came downstairs again and if it was a man he would know that if the announcement of the theft came this would be remembered, wouldn't he?" "Your reasoning is excellent," Hunt complimented her again. "Then it was one of the ladies. Do you know that any of them are in financial straits?" "I can vouch for the social standing of all of them, Mr. Hunt. But some of them might be in need of money, though I really couldn't suggest any." "We'll pass that up then, and try to do without it," mused Hunt. "We can assume that it's a woman's job and an amateur job. I'll tell you what to do. Mrs. Hunt. Go up and put that ring on and come back as though you suspected nothing. I'll try to point out the thief to you. A few minutes later he did. She proved to be a girl who lived next door, with two lumps and a hedge separating the houses. She broke down and confessed when they took her aside. The ring she brought back from the other side of the hedge where she had buried it from the dressing-room window, and Mrs. Wallis agreed there should be no publicity nor prosecution in consideration of this. Can you reconstruct Harvey Hunt's process of deduction in picking out the thief? The answer will appear tomorrow. (Copyright, 1920, by Public Ledger Co.)

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