## HOW MANY CARDS?

By ISABEL OSTRANDER

other of "The Island of Intrigue," "Suspense," "Ashes to Ashes," etc.

## SYNOPSIS

ndaman Timothy McCarty figure that of an underman protests he had ith what's in dere!" policeman on the demands "what's been trying to ge

but he did in there. a large room on which lies a man in eve-the white scaistenat and Preveting and ck. In another for two, with

which the dead

then the Creveling a mider to give

AND HERE IT CONTINUES ET the house was practically in the The inspector exchanged a significant glance with McCarty, who still hovered quietly in the background.

"Mrs. Creveling usually left home for such protracted periods, and albe buildings which faced on the side

et. Bul Creveling caused that high ak barrier to be creeted on the edge staff?" his property for the purpose of inperty for the purpose of in-solute privacy to the rooms tation and then the valet responded: "No, sir. The staff was usually releded from ourside observation than the others in the neighborhood; season Mr. and Mrs. under the rear have been thus "What other plans?" tawny from prying eyes?

Is mind still busied with the prob-Metarty moved slowly about the Metarty moved slowly about the Metarty moved slowly about the greerived no instructions for the future; the figure between the various distance between the various deseffurnitare until he came to the seffurnitare until he came to the market table between the two long have you been in Mr. Creveling's employment?"

"How long have you been in Mr. Creveling's employment?"

"For eleven years sir." des of furniture until he came to the rts which tlanked the hearth. he pansed and taking the edge of risted strip of inpestry between winger and though began almost

the table top caught his eye and, and an anisprayed throughout the strength of the tape stry hastily aside, he doed a small, highly glazed oblong a which were spots of red. It was a ging eard, the nine of diamonds, but you know where they have gone?"

"They aren't in the house now. Do you know where they have gone?"
No, sir." There was no surprise to the spots of definite the surface of the surface and definite the surface and mosed upon its regular searlet son, unmistakable in their sig-

a marky brown and a smudge which smiled the imprint of a fluger was lay discernible near one side. The likelf was of the most expensive that the same sile-edged, and despite the same sile-edged, and despite the same sile-edged. and placed the eard within it. into his pocket and and exhaustive he did so. How that p of tapestry he could the deck would not be brought

come that he

face of George Alexander tensed visibly as he waited for its reply, but the valet "I do not know, sir."
"You did not remain, then, to wait pon the table?"
"No, sir. As I bemerely shrugged. "I do not know, sir."

"No, sir. As I have said, I went to Mr. Creveling at his club." "You did not return here?" "Not until ten minutes ago." The Not until ten minutes ago. The valet's voice rang out firmly.

"When you saw Mr. Creveling at his club did he mention who was to be his guest here? Did he at any time say anything which would lead you to infer the identity of this person?"

"He did not, sir." Hill's tone was still firm, but for a moment his eyes shifted and then returned as inscrutable as ever to those of the inspector.

Where have you been staying since Mr. Creveling has made his home at his club?"
"Here, sir." It was evident that
the valet intended to render no assistand literal replies demanded of him.

but Inspector Druct persisted. You were acting as caretaker also? 'No, sir. Two of the other servants.
-Rollins and his wife, the butler and cook—remained here for that; the rest of the staff except Mrs. Creveling's

maid were dismissed when Mrs. Creve ling went to the country and Mr. Creveling to his club."

ways dismissed practically her entire Again there was that slinde of hesi-

the absolute proper it? The front tained at half pay when it was intended be bested out upon the bouse again within a short time, but I understand that this season Mr. and Mrs. Creveling had

Once more the valet shrugged. "I cannot say, sir, except that some nention was made of traveling. I have

"For eleven years, sir."

- Inspector Druct suddenly changed the tenor of his questioning.

"The butler and cook are not in the house. When did you see them here

The lifted it a gleam of something is against the age-darkened wood the table top caught his eye and.

"Yesterday afternoon." Frank Hill shifted his weight from one foot to the other, the first sign of nervousness which he had displayed throughout the "Yesterday afternoon." Frank Hill

emposed upon its regular scarlet in the valet's tone, but a sort of defiant reserve beneath the slightly ironic deference which obviously nettled the in

spector. "You knew, however, that they were Carty picked it up gingerly, and that it was torn half across its that it was torn half across its that it was torn half across its the crimson spots were fast turnately the control of t

inster stains had obviously come "I beg pardon, sir." The quiet voice for stalled him. "I meant to say that design printed in rich colors and after the manner of the angain with the staff this season. In a i pid after the manner of the anmanner of speaking, it is never closed
when the caretakers are here, and some
one is always left in charge. I understood that Mrs. Creveling was to return this morning with her maid for a
few days of preparation before starting upon her journey with Mr. Creveling. The butler and cook, Yvonne— the maid—and myself could, of course, have given sufficient service if no enng were contemplated.

The inspector meditated for a mo-"Why did Mr. Creveling give the med playing card hap-been slipped under the per slapestry he could be asked finally. "Supposing the meal athen nor what its significance were to be supplied from a caterer's, the but he feit certain that the why did he not require the services of why did he not require the services of the butler to wait upon the table?"

As though he realized the slip he had made the valet's eyes sought those of Creveling's late partner, but Mr. Alexander avoided them studiously.

sure a set of rare old which he unearthed length. "Mr. Creveling told me nothing beyond my own instructions."

which he unearthed never of one of the law is a final survey of one of the law is a final survey of oil the door to return then just as he did so is, elerical appearing loss across the half so of the stairene. At the question and its implication little color changed, but his eyes once met those of the inspector levelly. The door of the law preceible minimally heard a defertive conventional: "I do not know that Mr. Creveling ever did that, sir; I mean, purposely. He frequently had one or more gentlement here to supper when Mrs. Creveling was away. Sometimes I did. I think he gave Rollins and his wife a boliday before I asked permission to have the might to myself on this organical connection."

Inspector Druct evaded the issue of

Inspector Druct evaded the issue of questions and the valet's own movements during the intender. At hours which had passed since 11 by

McChrty quietly asking:
"Did Mr. Creveling ever entertain "Did Mr. Creveling ever cutertain lades also on these occasions?"

During Mrs. Creveling a absence?"

There was a note of shocked incredulity in the exvant's tones as if he could scarcely believe that he had understood the question. "Indeed, no sir! They were strictly stag suppers.

Who were the gentlemen Mr. Creveling arterialised here, then?" the inspector continued. "What were their names?"

Stollins can tell you that better than

s shot from the partner to the demeanor did appear or brust for Drugt the author. I tank sir '1101 temporized, 'He usually waited upon them. It was only occisionally that I took his place and then the author.

ally waited upon them. It was only occasionally that I took his place and then existent the author of the inquiry, sir!!

It is the man here that the gentlemen were sometimes strangers to me, business acquaintances of Mr.

Creveling:

'You don't know the name of a single gentleman who ever had supper here with Mr. Creve ing above?' The inspector's tone had sharpened.

'Of course, sir, a few of them. They were all persural friends of long standing, those I did know; Mr. O Rourke has been here once or twice, and Mr. Waverly and Mr. Criter. I can't recall them all at the noment, sir.

MeCarty, anable to contain himself longer, coupled with chaborate ostentation, and after a quick side glance at him the inspector modded.

'Mae, show this man where the body was found. No, Mr. Abxander: 'He added the last as the banker started forward nervously.

Then I trust that you will be brief!'

Then I trust that you will be brief!'

here, please.

Mr. Alexander sank back with an air of lopeless vexation.

Then I trust that you will be brief?"
Then I trust that you will be brief?"
Then I trust that you will be brief?"
the snapped. "I know nothing, as I told you in the beginning, which could help you in any way, and this glandly affair has been an inexpressible shock for me. When ay nices arrives I must need her with the news of her trugle becausement and assume control of the situation as the head of the family, and I cannot do so without an opportunity to pull myself together, to—to bear up under my own natural grief—!"

CONTINUED TOMORROW

CONTINUED TOMORROW

THE GUMPS-Oh, Look What Broke Loose!

LOOK AT THE COLOR BIGHT THIRTY-OH WIN, OF IT- ROBINS EGG BLUE THE BELL RINGS THICK - MUST BE GUESS -SOME DOUGH IN ANDY WALKS THIS ONE -A LETTER FROM TO THE MAIL UNCLE BOX AND FINDS THINK IS IN HERE? GIVE A GUESS-AMONGST THE SMELL YOU CAN HAVE BILLS AND ALL OVER PERFUME ADVERTISEMENTS \$ 500.00 A LETTER FROM UNCLE BIM JUST LIKE PROSPECTOR STRIKING . GOLD OIL.

DEAR MRS ZANDER-ARRIVED HOME IN GOOD HEALTH AFTER A VERY LONE SOME JOURNEY- I SAT ALL THE WAY IN THE STERN OF THE BOAT- LOOKING BALK TOWARDS THE STATES

WHERE I LEFT A SHATTERED AND WOUNDED HEART - I EXPECTED MY RETURN TRIP TO BE THE HAPPIEST OF MY LIFE AND THAT I WOULD BRING BACK TO AUSTRALIA THE ONE STAR THAT WOULD LIGHT THE PATH WAY OF MY LONE SOME LIFE -

GOES ANOTHER

TIRE POOR UNCLE PULLED A BONER

THIS TIME

By Sidney Smith

GOT THE LETTERS MIXED

DID TAHW MRS ZANDER GET ? TIME WILL TELL

SOMEBODY'S STENOG-The Boss Will Be Looked After

Conscient 1921 to Public Ledger Co.

By Hayward





The young lady across the way says England is in far more need of a big navy than a great country like this, on account of her insulated position.

THE TOONERVILLE TROLLEY By FONTAINE FOX THREE MINUTES WE ARE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE AT THIS PINT I CACKULLATE T' LEAVE HERE RIGHT The Skipper of the Trolley has discovered a way to get in a little Fishing every now and then even if there do happen to be passengers on board.

SCHOOL DAYS By DWIG AHEN! YOUNE APLATIN OUPLE : TILL P MARALES FOR HEEPS! BUT I'VE QUIT LENDIN-IM AGONHA TELL CHEK POLICHER ONDS ME TWO. BUCH LIPSCOME SKINNED WHAT? GIVE YOU TWENT! AND





