d as though physically he were nonsistent.

He wondered what Larmon would
to Larmon alone had the right to
caced the bond. That was the way it
sed been written. Would Larmon resee? He hoped not, because he wanted
to part with Larmon as a friend. He
seed not, though in the final analysis,
a practical way, Larmon's refusal
sust be so futile a thing. Would Larsen laugh at him, and, not knowing,
all him a fool? He shook his head. He
did not know. At least Larmon would
to be surprised. The conversation of
st evening—

John Bruce looked up. He was at
the entrance to the Bayne-Miloy Hotel.
Is entered, nodded mechanically to the
dist clerk, stepped into the elevator,
and went up to his room. There was
to revolver to be got. Afterward he
would go down to Larmon's room.

Smehow, even in the face of that other
thing which he was to do, this interview which was to come with Larmon
bessed him. It seemed to signify
some vital line of demarcation between
the old life and the new.

The new! He smiled grimly, withset mirth, as, entering his room, he
syltched on the light, stepped quickly

John Bruce looked up. He was at the entrance to the Bayne-Miloy Hotel. Be entered, nodded mechanically to the legatic left, stepped into the elevator, and went up to his room. There was to come with Larmon sense. The new! A few weeks, a few months to be signify to be got. Afterward here thing which he was to do, this interest mirth, as, entering his room, he set with the mirth, as, entering his room, he set with the mirth, as, entering his room, he set with the mirth, as, entering his room, he set with the was point to be very little of the new! He subject to the new in the new

seplexed look settled on his face. For the first time he noticed that a letter, somet obviously placed to attract his attention, lay on the center of the deak strange, he had not seen it in-

stantly!

He stared at it now. It was a plain evalope, unstamped, and addressed to him. The writing was familiar, too! arrelope, unstamped, and addressed to him. The writing was familiar, too! He hasn't been here since yesterday morning."

Larmon's! He picked it up, opened it — and from the folds of the letter, as he let it from the envelope, four torn pieces of paper fluttered to the desk. And for a long time, in a dazed way, he gazed at them. The letter dropped from his hand. Then mechanically he letter dropped from his hand. John Bruce brushed his way past her into the hall.

"I will wait for him," he repeated. A door was open off the hallway. John Bruce looked in. It was obviously Crang's office. He went in and bruce, had signed with the quill toothick. It was Larmon's copy of the

Something has come into your life that was not there on a night you will remember in the Southern Seas, and I know of no other way to repay you for what you did for me to-day than to hand you this. I knew from what you said tonight, or, rather perhaps, from what you did not say, that this was in your heart. And if I were young again, and the love of a good woman had come to me, I, too, should try—and fail, I fear, where you will succeed—to play

me, I, too, should try—and fail, I fear, where you will succeed—to play a man's part in life.

And as I bid you good-by, for when you read this I shall be on my way back West. What I lose another will gain. Among even my friends are men of honorable callings and wide interests who need a John Bruce. You will hear from one of them. Godspeed to you, for you are too good and clean a man to end your

The way was clear. There was nothing to connect Gilbert Larmon with the man who tomorrow—no, today—would be in the hands of the police charged with murder. Nothing to bring to light Larmon's private affairs, for nothing bearing Larmon's signature went down, buried in his arms outflung to had ever been kent; it was always destroyed. Larmon was safe—for, at least, they could never make John Bruce talk.

There was a strange relief upon him.

a strange uplift; not only for Lar-mon's sake, but for his own. The link that had bound him to the past was zone, broken, dissolved. He stood free—for the little time that was left; he stood free—to make a fresh start in the narray confirms of a release of the he stood free—to make a fresh start in the narrow confines of a prison cell. He smiled grimly. There was no irony here where it seemed all of irony. It meant everything—all. It was the only atonement he could make. He switched off the light, left his room, and went down to the desk. Here he consulted the directory. He re-

After-Dinner Tricks



No. 117—A Trick With a Spoon To pick up a spoon between the tips of the thumb and second finger, with

the thumb and second finger, with the latter in the bowl, as shown above, will be found difficult by most people. Some practice is necessary to accelle the trick, but if the tips of the thumb and finger are previously rubbed on the trousers, to remove all dampass, the trick will be accomplished at sace.

An easier trick is to lay the spoon with the bowl bottom up and lift it with the finger on the bottom of the bowl.

Comment, 1922, by Public Ledger Comment



"Ain't there nothing in all the world that any of us can do to make you

Again she shook her head.
"I don't know when he will be back.

had signed with the quili tooth-It was Larmon's copy of the the doorway watching him. Finally

she went away.

And again for a long time he stared at it, then he picked up the letter again. He read it slowly, for somehow his brain seemed only able to absorb the words in a stunned way. Then he med it again:

11 P. M.

Dear Bruce:

11 P. M.

Dear Bruce:

Something has come into your life Something has come into your life.

In the stared John Bruce's mind was coldly logical. Crang was not aware that his escape was known to any one except for keep under cover. That was why he had not been home. But he would be home before he went out to be married. Even a man like Crang would have a few preparations to make.

John Bruce's mind was coldly logical. Crang was not aware that his escape was known to any one except for keep under cover. That was why he had not been home. But he would be home before he went out to be married. Even a man like Crang would have a few preparations to make.

John Bruce's mind was coldly logical. John Bruce sat by the window. Oc-casionally the old woman came and stood in the doorway—and went away

> There was no sign of Crang.
> At fifteen minutes of eight John
> Bruce rose from his chair and left the house.
>
> "He was to be at Paul Veniza's at eight," said John Bruce to himself with

> > CHAPTER XXIII

cool precision.

The Best Man

The Bast In In Stopmen

The Wan I I lead of Word was light or that

The Bast suit; he wore his frayed black cra
Take the List hat list shall be on the bast wit; he wore his frayed black cra
Take the List hat list had not been ship, best suit; he wore his frayed black cra
Take the List had he and returned house, and John Bruce had fed into he sidewalk with set, stopy face and unseeing eyes; since, on reaching the Letter in his land.

The Wan was almost ghastly in the best man list was a leave the best man letter and the old head; and the old blue eyes were far sudd The Best Man

black cravat before the cracked mirror.

"I'm the best man," said Hawkins.
Oblivious to the chattering gas jet, he descended the stairs, and went out to the shed in the rear that housed the traveling pawnshop.

"The first in line," said the old cab driver, as he climbed into the seat.

Five minutes later he drew up in front of the one-time pawnshop. He consulted his watch as he got down from his seat and entered the house. It was twenty-five minutes of eight.

He twisted his hat awkwardiy in his hands, as he entered the rear room. He felt a sudden, wild rush of hope spring up within him because there was no sign of Crang. And then the hope died. He was early; and, besides, Claire had her hat on and was dressed to go out. Paul Veniza, also dressed, lay on the cot.

No one spoke.

No one spoke.

Then Paul Veniza's frame was racked with a fit of coughing, and out of a face ashen in pallor his eyes met Haw-

kins' in silent agony—and then he turned his head away.

Hawkins twisted at his hat.

"I came a little early," he said wistfully, "because I thought mabbe you might—that mabbe there might be some change—that mabbe you might not—."

He stopped. He was looking at Claire. Her face was very white, too. Her smile seemed to cut at his heart like a knife.
"No, Hawkins," she said in a low

"Ne, Hawkins," she said in a low voice; "there is no change. We are going to Staten Island. You will drive Dr. Crang. There is a limousine coming for father and me, that will be more comfortable for father."

Hawkins' eyes went to the floor.

"I didn't mean that kind of a change," he said.

"I know you didn't, Hawkins. But—but I am trying to be practical." Her voice broke a little in spite of herself.

"Dr. Crang doesn't know that you overheard anything last night or that you know anything about the arrange-

the man who tomorrow—no, today—
would be in the hands of the police
charged with murder. Nothing to
bring to light Larmon's private affairs,
for nothing bearing Larmon's signature
had ever been kept; it was always destroyed. Larmon was safe—for, at
least, they could never make John Bruce
talk.

There was a strange relief upon him,
a strange uplift; not only for Lar-

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adjustments.

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insurer.

-plus a perfected service

that means quick, prompt

These two features explain

why every car owner insured with us is a satisfied

Cut this out-mail it-and

let us explain our plan.

novels in which burnan problems of sin and wrong were analysed frankly. None of them has the compelling grip, the moving candor of whispered again. 'You are so good to me," she whispered again. 'You are so good to me—dear, dear Daddy Hawkins.'

A wendrous light was in the old cabman's face. He held the slight form to him, trying to be so tenderly careful that he should not hurt her in his strength. He kissed her, and patted her head, and his fingers "lingered as they smoothed the hair back from where, it made a tiny curl about her ear.

And then he felt her drawing him toward the couch—and he became compelions that Paul Veniza was holding out his hands to them both.

And Claire knelt at the side of the couch and took one of Paul Veniza's hands, and Hawkins took the other. And no one of them looked into the other's face.

The outer door opened, and Doctor Crang came in. He stood for an instant surveying the scene, a half ansty, half sarcastic smile spreading over his sallow face, and then he shrugged his shoulders.

"Ah, you're here, like me, ahead of time, Hawkins, I see!" he said shortly. "You're going to drive me to Staten Island where—""

A wendrous flat was in the old cabman's side of the compelling grip, the moving candor of trankly. None of them has the compelling grip, the moving candor of which tells the man's side of a story of wrongdoing and repentance. Watch for it

Saturday

"I have told Hawkins." she said waited, "I have told Hawkins." she said waited, "I have told Hawkins." she said away.

"I have told Hawkins." she said waited, "I have told Hawkins." she said waited, "I have told Hawkins." She said away.

"I have told Hawkins." she said well.

"I have told Hawkins." she said waited, "I have told Hawkins." she said should.

"I have told Hawkins." she said story waited, "I have told Hawkins." she said on the couc



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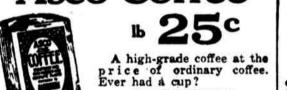
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